

293

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS (Cont'd.)

These are important meetings and it is hoped that as many people as possible will attend to elect their Churchwardens and members of the Parochial Church Council, and to hear reports of what has been done and is being done for their Churches. The P.C.C.s really do need all the support and encouragement they can get, particularly in the forthcoming year, so surely it is not too much to ask you to turn out on one evening in the year to show you support them.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Bekesbourne Church 'May Fayre' will be held this year on Saturday, May 1st.

SOME VILLAGE NOTES

II. Bridge. In 1793 Zechariah Cozens wrote: "The parish of Bridge is but small and the soil in general is but chalky and barren producing at several places heath and coppice wood and from the hills surrounding the village we have a most delightful view of the vales which are thickset with villages and the neighbouring heights which are adorned with many Gentlemen's seats and other picturesque objects."

A few years later in 1815 Dr. Haddy James Assistant Surgeon to the first Life Guards and one of the first Presidents of the British Medical Association wrote on return from the Battle of Waterloo "It was three in the afternoon when we quit Dover and we then faced a cold march of fiveteen miles to Canterbury and stopping at Bridge I was much impressed by the mode of agriculture and the excellence of their hospitality." \*

The 'Gentlemen's Seats' must have indeed been an impressive sight. There was Bifrons not yet occupied by the Conynghams until 1820 but lived in by the Brook Taylors, the father of the family who had been vicar of

Patrixbourne from 1734 to 1739 and the former residence of the Bargrave family. Here was Bridge Place the former home of Sir Arnold Braemes who had so astutely manipulated the harbour rights at Dover in his favour and built the largest country house in Kent at the end of the seventeenth century, much of it constructed in Dutch brick, with its aviary and deer park; further down the valley was Howletts the home of Sir Edward Palmer, Comptroller of the Navy; another house was Higham, now Highland Court and Renville shortly to be bought by the Crippen family; nearer Bishopsbourne was Charlton Park and at Littlebourne Lee Priory recently modelled on Walpole's 'Strawberry Hill' at Twickenham.

\* Quoted from "Surgeon James Journal" edited by Joan Vansittart. A portrait of Dr. James may be seen in the main hall of Exeter General Hospital.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### BIBLE READING AND DISCUSSION GROUP

The meeting on March 4th at 8 p.m. will be held at the home of Mrs. Meigh, 37 Haywards Cott. Union Road and the meeting on March 18th at 8 p.m. will be held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Rose, Church Cottage, High St., Bridge. We are continuing our study of St. John's Gospel and anyone interested will be most welcome.

#### WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The March meeting will be on Tuesday, 16th March at 7 p.m. in the Village Hall, Bridge. There will be a talk by Mrs. Knowles on "Introducing Patchwork". The competition will be a 24 inch necklace made from buttons.

#### WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FRIDAY MARCH 5th

There will be a service in St. Paul's Church Canterbury on Friday, March 5th at 3 p.m.