

The development and the conclusions of Dickens' novels were, in the light of the suspense appeal in the part publications, closely guarded secrets which explained how it was that the frontispiece and the foreword or preface were bound at the end of the later-published full volume. A careful study of the frontispiece would reveal vital aspects in the denouement of a story. Here again Miss Stevens gave interesting details of the artists engaged in the illustrations of Dickens' novels, "Phiz", of course, doing the major work. The importance of illustration was demonstrated with a copy of "Vanity Fair". With quotation and gesture she made her point with charm and humour.

I did not take notes of the address (actually, I was too interested), so my picture lacks coherent fact, and may be subject even to minor correction. I did note, however, that the Turnbull collection was not equal to the many editions referred to. There are serious gaps, even the "Pickwick" parts are built up with some reprint numbers. Also, as pointed out by Miss Stevens, one or two copies lack the advertisements. (I wonder have we a copy of Bernard Darwin's "The Dickens Advertiser", published by Elkin Mathews about 30 years ago?—Yes, says the library catalogue.) These matters might engage the attention of the Friends, for Dickens' firsts have not yet reached the millionaire-collector pocket realm, and should be watched for before it is too late. Perhaps Miss Stevens would guide us in this respect.

At the conclusion of the talk there was no awkward pause, just spontaneous applause. A member of the Dickens Society spoke a few fervent words of thanks.

MR. E. A. EARP ENDOWMENT FOR THE APIARY COLLECTION

Many years ago Mr. E. A. Earp, formerly Chief Apiarist of the Department of Agriculture, presented his collection of books on bees to the Library. It was described in the "Record" No. 9. Recently Mr. Earp made a further proof of his goodwill by providing an endowment fund of £300 for the development of the collection. In view of the fact that the value of honey production in the country is about £1,000,000 annually, the usefulness of this section of the Library could prove important.

The original library and the present endowment are a memorial to his wife. The money has been vested in the Turnbull Library Endowment Trust, which now stands at over £9,000.