

PEDIGREE B.—THE SMYTHIES OF ESSEX AND SUFFOLK,

Descended from Palmer Smythies and Elizabeth, *née* Brazier, his second wife.

(B 1) John Smythies of Colchester, son of Palmer Smythies (A 31). The Rev. Robert Bashford, Master of King James' Hospital, Colchester, writing 26 March 1903, says: "All his successors . . . owe to the Mr. Smythies, Master in 1805, a debt of gratitude for his plucky and successful law-suit on behalf of the Master's income and statutory obligations. The present hospital dates from King James 1st reign, and originally it was a leper hospital, founded by Count Eudo de Dapifer in the reign of Henry 1st."

Two identical portraits of John Smythies, painted in oils (artist not known), are in existence, one the property of his great-grandson Mr. Arthur Smythies, and the other of his great-great-granddaughter Miss Mary Peachey.

Elizabeth (*née* Longcroft), wife of John Smythies, was on her father's side a member of an old Hampshire family, and on her mother's was descended from the Bearcrofts of Mere Hall, Worcestershire. This property was possessed by the Bearcrofts in lineal male descent from 1337 to 1822, when it passed to an heiress, whose heirs assumed the name and arms of Bearcroft. (See Burke's "Landed Gentry," etc.)

(B 2, 3, and 4). See pedigree.

(B 5) Elizabeth Smythies married the Rev. Thomas Twining, who, in a bicentenary record of the Twinings of Devereux Court, Strand (published 1910), is thus described: "An erudite classical scholar, an acute critic, a brilliant letter writer, a musician of great ability, and an accomplished linguist. His translation of Aristotle's 'Poetics' is still spoken of with respect." "He was a friend of Johnson, Garrick, Burke, and Burney, formed part of Mrs. Thrale's 'charmed circle' at Streatham, and, on his death in 1804, was made the subject of an eloquent epitaph by the great Samuel Parr."* See also the "Dictionary of National Biography"; "A Country Clergyman of the XVIII. Century" (Murray, 1882); "Papers of the Twining Family" (Murray, 1887), etc. A portrait of Rev. T. Twining was painted by J. J. Hales and reproduced in mezzotint by C. Turner.

Thomas Twining, the founder of the well-known house of tea merchants and bankers, when he first came to London at the end of the seventeenth century lived in the parish of St. Giles's, Cripplegate, and there, in all probability, became acquainted with William Smythies (A 10). If so, the friendship then started would account for the fact that Richard Twining, grandson of Thomas, having taken his eldest son Thomas into his business and finding him unfitted for it, asked Palmer Smythies, grandson of the above-mentioned William Smythies, to take Thomas into his family and prepare him for the university. It was in this way that Thomas Twining the younger became attached to Elizabeth Smythies, the daughter of his preceptor, and subsequently married her. A second marriage took place between the two families in the next generation (see B 6, below), when Richard Twining, nephew of the Rev. Thomas Twining, married Elizabeth Smythies (B 6), his wife's niece. Their son was the next head of the house of Twining, and their daughter Miss Louisa Twining, who is still living, is well known for her valuable work in the cause of education and philanthropy.

(B 6) Elizabeth Mary Smythies married Richard Twining, the second head of the "House of Twining" of that name (see B 5, above). He was educated at the Norwich under Dr. Samuel Parr, was Chairman of the Committee of Bye-laws at the East India House, a Fellow of the Royal Society, and a Member of the Society of Arts. A good portrait of him exists, painted in oils, by Mrs. Carpenter. It is now at Devereux Court, Strand, in possession of his descendants.

* Who succeeded Palmer Smythies as Master of the Royal Grammar School, Colchester.