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THE speech of Mr. BRIGHT on the motion for the second reading of Mr. COWPER-TEMPLE'S Medical Act Amendment Bill, affords a curious illustration of men's notion of a measure of justice which should satisfy women. Lord SANDON, while expressing a hope that Mr. COWPER-TEMPLE'S Bill would not be pressed to a division, intimated the assent of the Government to a Bill introduced by the Right Hon. the RECORDER OF LONDON, to enable the Corporations and the Universities, if they chose, to admit women to the profession. Lord SANDON was careful to explain that none of the Universities would be obliged to admit women unless they liked; and that, if women were admitted to the register, they should not be necessarily qualified to take their seats on the boards. Mr. BRIGHT, whose name, we believe, is on the back of the Recorder's Bill, said there was only one sentence in Lord SANDON'S speech to which he took exception, and that was when he discouraged the notion that the Bill could be passed in the present session. Mr. BRIGHT said the House of Commons had a wonderful power of doing anything it liked when it pleased, and that it was clear that the prevailing opinion of the House was in favour of the resolution. He was the more anxious to impress this opinion on the House because every year in which the matter was delayed a really serious injustice was inflicted upon women. There were many meritorious women who were approaching the time for practising, and there were a great many women who were suffering who would be glad to have the assistance of medical officers of their own sex, and for the sake of meritorious women who were studying, and for the sake of women who were suffering, he thought that the House, if it had once made up its mind to the principle of this legislation, could not do a wiser thing than to do what it had to do at once.

We have no doubt that in spite of this eloquent appeal the prediction of Lord SANDON will be fulfilled, and that Parliament will not find time to pass a measure this session for the benefit of the unrepresented half of the people. Mr. BRIGHT once said that you could not drive six omnibuses abreast through Temple Bar, and the difficulties of the coaching are not diminished by the

circumstance that the particular vehicle whose passage he now urges has no horses. Votes are the motive power of legislation, and women have no votes wherewith to support the efforts of those legislators who are striving to pass measures of justice for them.

Not only are the chances of passing women's Bills through Parliament indefinitely postponed through the absence of responsibility of legislators to women, but the character of the Bills introduced is materially influenced through the same cause. Men are very much afraid of being too much in the right in dealing with the interests of women; and in proposing measures for the improvement of women's education or status, they almost invariably assume an apologetic tone. They assure us that they are not advocates of women's rights in general, and they carefully explain that the particular measure they recommend falls short of the standard which such advocates might be supposed to desire, and that it does not place women on an equality with men. Thus, both Lord SANDON and Mr. BRIGHT, in recommending the Recorder's Bill to the House, laid especial stress on the fact that none of the bodies concerned would be obliged to admit women unless they liked. Last session a Bill was introduced by Mr. COWPER-TEMPLE, the object of which was "to remove doubts as to the powers of the Scotch Universities to admit women as students and to grant degrees to women." The Scotch Universities strenuously protested against having such powers extended to them. The LORD ADVOCATE pertinently asked why was this Bill permissive and not compulsory, and why should it be confined to Scotland? This session the local limitation has been discarded, and the principle extended in the Recorder's Bill to the United Kingdom; but the measure still remains permissive and not compulsory, and in that form it would be a mockery of justice to women students of medicine. Mr. BRIGHT appears to imagine that the examining bodies are animated by a burning desire to admit to the profession the women students who are eagerly seeking instruction and examination, [and bravely enduring the heart-sickness of hope deferred, and that the sole obstacle to their mutual

satisfaction lies in a flinty-hearted Parliament, which refuses the necessary sanction to their union. He pictures to himself the happy condition of things when this legislative bar shall have been removed through his intervention in the House of Commons, when the examining bodies and the women students shall metaphorically rush into one another's arms, while he himself in the background, in the character of the heavy father, utters the appropriate sentiment, "Bless you, my children."

We may doubt whether this happy conclusion would be attained by the Recorder's Bill when we consider that the powers proposed to be conferred are already possessed by some of the Corporations which refuse to employ such powers. The Society of Apothecaries can examine women, and it is in virtue of a license from that body that one of the two women who have a legal title to practise in this country derives her right to be inscribed on the medical register. But as soon as the Society of Apothecaries discovered that a woman might qualify for examination under their regulations they altered their rules, so as to exclude women for the future, and this exclusion would be wholly unaffected by the passing of a merely permissive Bill. The College of Surgeons seems desirous to escape from more stringent provisions. They are not only permitted but bound by law to examine all candidates who may present themselves, whether men or women. These ladies accordingly presented themselves for examination, but the examiners resigned rather than comply with the law, and the College have not appointed others in their room. Mr. COWPER TEMPLE remarks that probably the College might be forced by *mandamus* to perform their duties, but the Recorder's Bill would not allow this remedy to excluded candidates.

The general tone of medical opinion on the subject may be assumed to be represented by the words of the Medical Council quoted by Lord SANDON,—“The Council were not prepared to say that women ought to be excluded from the profession.” But the Council do not profess to be actuated by any desire to admit them, and in the absence of such expressed desire, it is difficult to imagine how any member of Parliament can delude himself with the belief that a permissive Bill is adequate to meet the necessities of the case. In the discussion on the Agricultural Holdings Bill, passed last session, it was pointed out that the measure would be practically inoperative, because the landlords could contract themselves out of its obligations. In the same

way the Recorder's Bill may be wholly inoperative, inasmuch as it is recommended to the Legislature on the express ground that the corporations which have shown themselves averse to admit women to the profession will have power to exclude them if they like. What is required is some measure which shall secure to women medical students the means of education in their own country, and make provision for the examination and registration of such of them as shall pass required standards. Any measure short of this will, to use Mr. GLADSTONE'S expression, do “less than justice to women,” and the passing of an imperfect measure may lull the imperfectly-awakened conscience of Parliament, and retard the settlement of the question on a sound and just basis.

A SIGNIFICANT sign of the times, with regard to the representation of women, was afforded at a meeting recently held in London for the reorganisation of the Reform League. The meeting was composed of delegates from trades and other organisations, representing in the aggregate over 20,000 members, and the requisition was signed, among other societies, by members of the Adult Suffrage League. The chair was taken by Mr. B. LUCRAFT, who was supported by several leading democratic working men. In a “Statement of reasons for the reorganisation of the League,” laid before the meeting, it was urged that since the dissolution of the League, eight years ago, “no movements of political importance have taken place; but recently, through an assemblage of nearly 1,000 delegates from all parts in favour of the county franchise, its rejection by the House of Commons has convinced many earnest workers in the old Reform League that the time has arrived for a renewed agitation for registered manhood suffrage.” The CHAIRMAN said this movement had been spoken of for a long time, and it was now ripe for being commenced. He was in favour of universal suffrage, which would include women. There was an absolute necessity for a continuous reform organisation in London, not for the purpose of holding “demonstrations,” but for keeping the question alive. After a discussion a resolution, affirming the necessity for reorganising the Reform League, was passed, and an organising committee appointed.

It would be foreign to the scope of this *Journal* to enter on any discussion of the general question as to whether the present household or ratepaying qualification, or what is called “manhood suffrage,” should form the

basis of any future extension of the franchise. The advocates of the right of women to vote in the election of Members of Parliament are no more agreed on the question as to what should constitute the qualification for a vote than they are agreed on other political, social, and theological questions. But though they do not all agree as to the qualification which should entitle a man to vote, they unite in supporting the principle that whatever be the prescribed qualification, a woman who possesses it should be entitled to vote. It is of the utmost importance to obtain the recognition of this principle from all political associations formed for the object of obtaining an extension of the franchise.

We appeal to those who are satisfied with the existing limitations as to qualification to remove the disabilities under which women otherwise duly qualified at present lie; and we trust that ere long, perhaps before the country shall be ripe for any change in the electoral law, the existing household suffrage qualification may be impartially applied. We ask those who seek to extend the household qualification to the counties to include in their programme the women as well as the men householders, and an amendment to this effect was adopted at a large representative meeting held last year at Manchester by general consent. Should the Reform League be reorganised it must be the duty of all advocates of impartial representation to take care that the programme is settled on the same comprehensive terms, and the declaration of the Chairman at the preliminary meeting may be taken as an indication of the progress of opinion in this direction. We trust that the Organising Committee will recommend the substitution of adult for manhood suffrage. There is no logical basis on which those who claim the suffrage as a right of humanity can deny to women the privileges they ask for themselves, or on which those who deny the right of their rulers to make laws for them without their consent can assume the right to govern women on these terms. In such an assembly as the Reform League “MILL'S Logic” should prove irrefragable, and we do not doubt that its force will be recognised when the time comes for decision of the question.

THE frightful deeds now being perpetrated in the Turkish provinces cannot, we should imagine, be thought of without painful interest and horror, even by women who profess the creed that politics and the affairs of nations are things which lie out of their sphere, and which ought, therefore, to be utterly indifferent to them.

Still less can women whose sympathies have a wider range than the four walls of their own sheltered homes, let the suffering and the nameless horrors endured by their helpless sisters in the East pass as matters with which they have no concern. It was a woman, Miss ADELINA PAULINA IRBY, who, repudiating this policy of “non-intervention,” proceeded to the Bosnian frontier in the autumn of last year, arriving about the beginning of December, to supply clothing and shelter to the unfortunate Bosnian and Herzegovinian refugees, whose houses had been burnt down, and whose crops had been destroyed by the Turks. Miss IRBY is an accomplished traveller and writer, and fully capable of doing effective service in her benevolent mission. A recent letter of hers to the *Daily News* sounded the first striking note which told of the atrocities in Bulgaria; it was copied widely in the provincial press, and had a large share in arousing the attention of the nation to the inhumanities therein portrayed. Can it be the duty of Englishwomen to remain unmoved by these details, to be indifferent as to whether the policy of the Government be directed to prop up the rule of the barbarous Turk, or to mitigate as far as it is possible the suffering of the defenceless women and children who are now being daily outraged, murdered, and sold into slavery? Mr. FREEMAN, in a recent letter to the *Daily News*, says that a correspondent of the *Times* suggests, naturally enough, that the women of England should raise a cry against the doings in Bulgaria. But he says there are some crimes which are protected by their own foulness, and the favourite crimes of the Turk are among these. There is, however, no need to go beyond the published newspaper reports for reasons to induce women to raise a protest against permitting their country to become an accomplice in the guilt of these crimes. Miss IRBY, in her letter, described the soldiers as playing at ball with the heads of Christians; other correspondents write of the Bashi-bazouks as boastfully parading cartloads of the heads of murdered women and children. Again, we read of the raid upon a village of a horde of these destroyers. A shriek of horror and despair arises from the helpless women within—this fades into the silence of death as the murderous work is done.

The BISHOP OF MANCHESTER, in a spirit-stirring letter to the *Times*, says it is time the country should express its real and profound feeling on the subject of the manner in which the Ottoman Government is putting down the insurrection in Bulgaria; the nation does not wish its magnificent fleet to be regarded as giving even the sem-

blance of support to the perpetrators of such deeds. If the nation thinks so, as his Lordship believes 19 out of 20 men do think so, let it say so. There seems to him no graver moral responsibility resting on the English people than that in this matter, and without delay, it should declare its mind.

We claim for our sex a share in this moral responsibility for the action of our country. The question suggested by the BISHOP OF MANCHESTER, that Malta may be as good an anchorage for the fleet as Besika Bay, may be one for the naval authorities. But the policy which that fleet shall support, wherever it may be anchored, is to be determined by the mind and heart of the nation at large, on broad principles of justice and humanity which can be understood of the people, and in this judgment women have a right and a duty to bear their part, which they cannot abdicate nor men deny.

WE present to our readers a few more instances taken from the month's list of cases of "hostility between the sexes." From a Plymouth paper we learn that a man named THOMAS ELLICOTT, who had been drinking, found his wife in a public-house. Nothing angers your reprobate more than to find his womankind showing a disposition to imitate his example. It gives the opportunity for a fine outburst of virtuous indignation, which can be indulged without inconvenience to himself, and sets him on a high moral platform. Actuated possibly by this motive, THOMAS ELLICOTT struck and pushed his wife; she fell, and received a fatal blow. The judge, though he appeared to sympathise with the injured husband in his domestic troubles, said violence was not the way to remedy them, and that he would "make a serious example" of the prisoner, which he did by awarding him six months' imprisonment. In the next case, however, a marine-store dealer was sentenced to seven years' penal servitude for receiving four fleeces of wool which had been stolen. At the Lincolnshire summer assizes MARTIN PINCHBECK, chimney sweeper, was indicted for attempting to kill and slay CATHERINE PINCHBECK by throwing her out of a railway carriage on the Hull and Grimsby line. The woman remained for weeks insensible, and is now a confirmed idiot. The jury found the prisoner guilty of a common assault, and he was sentenced by Mr. Justice MELLOR to twelve months' hard labour. At the Preston Police Court, ANDREW M. KEARNEY, a powerful fellow, about six feet high, was charged with killing and slaying his wife. From the evidence, it ap-

peared that the woman was engaged in frying some meat for her husband's dinner, when they began to quarrel. The man pushed her down and then kicked her; the poor woman cried "Oh, MARGARET ANN, he's killed me." A neighbour came in, and soon after the father went out. The doctor was called in; he found the woman pale, almost pulseless, and scarcely breathing, her under garment saturated with blood. She died in a few minutes. When the man was apprehended he remarked, "I never thought about it, I only pounced her a bit." He wore strong boots at the time. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of wilful murder, but the magistrates committed KEARNEY for trial for manslaughter. A Manchester newspaper, in a paragraph with the somewhat sensational heading of "A Fiendish Husband," records a recent case of wife assault at Chorley. A railway brakesman, named EDWARD ADDISON, on Saturday morning, after he had been in bed with his wife about two hours, suddenly got up and seized her by the throat, while he pressed his knees into her chest. She screamed out, whereupon he struck her savagely in the face with his fist, and not content with that he procured a rolling pin, with which he struck his wife's arms, and otherwise tormented her. The complainant, it appeared, had kept him for six months, and has even begged to procure him food, although she said he was a sober man. The magistrates said it was the most brutal and inhuman assault they had ever heard, and sent the prisoner to gaol for six months with hard labour. It would seem as if those whose minds are justly exercised over the atrocities in Bulgaria might with advantage turn some of their thoughts to Lancashire. Similar examples of the "refining and harmonising influence which is begotten of the respect and deference which now the stronger sex invariably pays to a woman" under the present system of absolute and irresponsible government are continually arising, but they are too common to excite the indignation of the community among whom they occur; and the lamented death of Colonel EGERTON LEIGH has removed from the House of Commons the one member who thought it worth while to trouble that august assembly by any question or remonstrance on behalf of women who suffer these hideous outrages. The subject is painful and unpleasant. The perpetrators of the assaults have votes, while the victims are denied representation; it appears therefore to be one of those questions which may in the estimation of Parliament be conveniently allowed to slumber.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, *Wednesday, July 5th.*

MEDICAL ACT AMENDMENT (FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES) BILL.

THERE has just passed from among us the living presence of one who was not only pre-eminently the political woman of the century, but prominent among the political writers and thinkers of the time. HARRIET MARTINEAU ended her long and useful life on June 25th. She was born in 1802, and had the advantage of being educated with her brothers at a period when the education usually accorded to girls was directed with the intention rather to starve than to develop their intellectual faculties. She made good use of her opportunities, and employed her powers in the elucidation of subjects which were at that time considered to be beyond the boundaries of the conventional "sphere" for women.

The list of her published works includes 25 volumes of Illustrations of Political Economy, five volumes of Illustrations of Political Taxation, four volumes on Poor Laws and Paupers, three volumes Forest and Game Law Tales, Future Governors of India, 164, two articles in the *Daily News*, and numerous contributions to other periodicals. Besides these purely political writings, she wrote many books and papers on theological, historical, biographical, and general subjects, including travels and works of fiction. It is needless to state that a woman so gifted could not acquiesce in the degrading doctrine that women were unfit to take part or interest in political affairs. She was an early and firm adherent and exponent of the necessity for the political representation of women, and remained a warm and sympathetic friend to the cause till the close of her life.

From the infirm condition of her health in her later years she was unable to take any active part in the movement, but her sympathy was freely given. She signed the memorials from women of the United Kingdom which were presented to Mr. DISRAELI and Mr. GLADSTONE in 1873 and 1874 in support of the Bill to remove the electoral disabilities of women, and year after year she signed the petition for the same object. She was a pioneer for her countrywomen who live after her, and she takes her place amongst those who have helped to mould the thoughts and the course of the men of her day and generation.

At the recent examination for exhibitions in connection with the Salford School Board, the list of candidates in the order of merit was headed by a girl, Isabella Cookson, aged 12, of Christ Church Upper School. Seven exhibitions were offered but only six were awarded. The clerk stated that the best arithmetic paper was one by the first girl on the list. The exhibitions are of the value of £25 each, tenable for three years. They are open for competition among the children at public elementary schools within the borough, and are to enable the successful candidates to pursue their education at higher schools.

Mr. COWPER-TEMPLE said this Bill was intended as an exceptional remedy for an exceptional grievance existing among a class of persons especially deserving of consideration. As the House knew, certain ladies had endeavoured to qualify themselves for the medical profession, but, while every facility was given to men who wished to enter that profession, admission was absolutely barred against women. This result was not intended by the Legislature. The Medical Act of 1858 applied to "persons" without distinction of sex, and under its operation one or two ladies were admitted and their names appeared upon the register. A change, however, soon occurred. By an alteration in their rules, the Apothecaries' Company made it impossible, as far as they were concerned, that any women should enter the profession, for they provided that if any part of the education of the students were privately conducted, these students should not be qualified for admission. The door of the Apothecaries' Company being thus closed against them, the ladies tried to get in by means of the University of Edinburgh. After some time, however, though they were admitted, they were not allowed to complete their course, and the decision of the Court of Session in their favour was not upheld on appeal. Next, the ladies tried to establish a hospital and school of medicine in London, and as far as these institutions went they were a success. The hospital, however, was not recognised by the profession, and the instruction given in the wards did not count towards examination. Then an attempt was made by three ladies upon the College of Surgeons, whose charter required them to examine any candidates. The College of Surgeons saw there was a legal claim, and the ladies came up for examination, but then there arose a new impediment. The three examiners resigned their situations rather than examine the lady candidates; there occurred, in short, what in trade union language would be called "a strike." This dilemma still existed. The College were bound by law to examine, but they had no examiners, having appointed none to replace the gentlemen who had resigned. Probably the College might be forced by *mandamus* to discharge their duties, but meanwhile these persevering and energetic ladies, having tried every means open to them, were unable to enter the profession. They had knocked at the doors of such of the nineteen medical corporations and Universities as they thought they had a chance of entering, but all these doors were closed, and some were slammed in their faces. At home there remained no means of attaining the object of their ambition. They therefore had to look abroad, and there they found a much more generous and tolerant feeling in the medical profession. In the University of Paris there were now 20 lady students, of whom 12 were British subjects, and several had passed with honours. At Jena the University authorities had passed a resolution admitting women to study just as men did. At Leipzig there were many female students, and at Zurich there were 20, while many had taken their degrees and become M.D's. In America similar facilities were given; and Russia, which was regarded as the youngest European nation, had gone beyond England in what was a special mark of civilisation—the fair and generous treatment of women. Great facilities were given at St. Petersburg for the study of medicine by Russian women, these facilities originating in the demand for female doctors among the Asiatic subjects of the Czar. It was not necessary to discuss the physiological question, raised by some

persons, whether women had such a proportion of brains as fitted them to acquire the knowledge necessary for the study of medicine. There was the fact that at Paris, at Zurich, in America and elsewhere, women had passed not only a theoretical but a practical examination, and had received diplomas certifying to their knowledge and skill. Nor need the House discuss whether female doctors would have patients, because three or four who were now practising in this country had patients; and in the female hospital in the Marylebone Road and the female dispensary at Bristol there were as many patients as could be satisfactorily prescribed for. It was a great hardship that female doctors should have to practise in this country, if at all, without legal sanction. To remedy it, the Bill proposed that if women could show by the diplomas of certain foreign Universities that they were qualified to practise medicine they should be allowed to do so. One objection was that if you admitted women to practise in this country on the authority of foreign diplomas you must admit men also. (Hear, hear.) But it was hardly consistent in one breath to urge that you must have equality between the sexes in respect of foreign degrees, and then in the next breath to refuse equality in the grant of medical degrees at home. (Hear, hear.) All that women said was, "If we are competent to practise, admit us to the register;" and at present the only way of proving their competency was by studying and taking their degrees abroad. Another objection to the Bill would be that foreign qualifications could not be admitted in England, because the Medical Council could not control examinations abroad. But the Bill did not apply indiscriminately to all foreign Universities. It merely selected a small number of acknowledged reputation—those of Paris, Berlin, Vienna, Berne, Leipsic, and Zurich. The real objection to the admission of women to the medical profession was the fear of competition by male practitioners. But this danger was much exaggerated. Women-doctors would be consulted by a large number of their own sex who now were reluctant to apply for advice, and did not apply to men. Then there was a vast field for female practitioners in India, which would of itself absorb more women-doctors than were likely to present themselves. There were in India 50,000,000 Mahomedan and Hindoo women who would never allow a man to come into their apartments to prescribe for their ailments. And the want of women-doctors was felt so strongly by the Indian Government that at Madras and Bareilly various attempts had been made to educate a body of native young women in order to give to their own sex the benefit of surgical and medical treatment. What a wide field for practice would be open to Englishwomen there! And it was not merely that better medical treatment would thus be obtained for native women in British India, but there would be great opportunities for enlightening and enlarging the ideas of the native women if a body of Englishwomen with high qualifications were to engage in this great work. If the opportunity were given, large numbers would avail themselves of it, and no question of competition with men would arise. The Bill would open this field. It would also enable women who were now practising in England to do so legally, whereas at present their certificates were irregular, they were not acknowledged by the profession, and, whatever their education and training, they were classed with the most ignorant quacks. The Medical Council could not deny the justice of admitting women, but were averse from interfering with the functions of the examining and licensing bodies. They therefore proposed a new examination, distinct from any now in force, and a new class on the register. Such a plan, though now merely suggested, might be effectual, and if the Government would undertake to bring forward a Bill he would withdraw this measure. Another plan proposed was to enable examining bodies to treat their

charters and statutes as though they applied to both sexes. This, however, was merely an enabling, not a compulsory power, and experience showed that such a plan might not, after all, attain the object which was desired. The Bill recognised the wish and the right of women to enter a profession for which they were pre-eminently qualified, and it would do something to remove what was really a discredit to the medical profession. He did not deny that there were difficulties in the way of the admission of women. It might, for example, be necessary to establish separate classes. But the examining bodies had shown no desire to overcome difficulties: they had simply met the wish of women students for instruction by a silent, dull, dogged, obtuse refusal. He regretted that the attitude of the medical profession generally had been so hostile and so unsympathising. In some way or another women ought to receive fair play in this matter, and the Bill of which he now moved the second reading offered us a means of remedying the injustice. But some day, he hoped, they would no longer be sent abroad to obtain, with great trouble and cost, through a foreign tongue, the instruction which was denied to them at home. (Cheers.)

Mr. WHEELHOUSE moved that the Bill be read a second time that day three months, the chief ground of his opposition being that it would establish a distinction between male and female medical practitioners, and would give to the latter exceptional advantages in procuring registration. If women were allowed in this way to slip into the profession, every branch of the public service would be in danger of being over-flooded with candidates to whom no objection could be made on account of their sex. The general feeling of all medical bodies was that it was not consonant with English ideas to allow women to attend the sick as accredited physicians or surgeons, and it had not been shown that there was any necessity for the change in the law which this Bill proposed.

Dr. WARD seconded the amendment, objecting to the delicate morality of women being subjected to the ordeal of the dissecting room, and suggested that the effect of the measure would be to bring into the medical profession a large number of imperfectly qualified practitioners.

Mr. HENLEY wished briefly to state the reasons why he would support the Bill. (Hear, hear.) He found that, according to the census of 1841, the number of physicians in England was 1,112, and the number of surgeons 14,767, making an aggregate of over 15,000. It also appeared that the population, which was, in 1841, 16,000,000, had, in 1871, increased to 23,000,000, while in that year, as compared with the former, there was an actual decrease in the number of duly-qualified medical men on the register. Now, he regarded this as an unsatisfactory state of things, seeing that our death rate had remained stationary during the last thirty or forty years, and that it was in a great degree upon the exertions of properly qualified medical practitioners we must rely for its decrease. That was shortly the reason why, without going into the petticoat argument—a laugh—he should vote for the Bill, for he believed it might do some good in promoting the health of the people, and was thus a step in the right direction, although it would not, he was afraid, open the door to a very large number of female candidates. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. LUSH supported the Bill, being unwilling to deny to women that which they had so energetically struggled for. He entertained the opinion that the provisions could be so modified as to limit their medical practice to children and females.

Lord ESSLINGTON supported the Bill on the broad ground that he would be no party to throwing artificial impediments in the way of women obtaining a status as medical practitioners if they wished it. (Hear, hear.) We had placed them by the harshness of our laws in a position of disability, and we ought

not, he maintained, to refuse to enable them by their own efforts to extricate themselves from that position. The Bill, indeed, simply proposed to give them a small modicum of justice which it would, in his opinion, be extremely unfair to deny, and there was no branch of science in which they could be employed to greater advantage than in the medical profession. The value of the tender aid of women at the sick bed was well known, he might add, to our medical men, and with that tenderness it would, he thought, be a great advantage if a certain amount of medical skill were combined. (Hear, hear.) As to the question of morality, that was a point on which women were quite able to protect themselves. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. CAMERON was in favour of the admission of women to the practice of medicine, and pointed to the rapid growth of opinion in that direction. At the same time, he trusted that the motion before the House would not be pressed to a division if the Government would give an assurance that facilities would be afforded for the passage of the measure introduced by the Recorder of London.

Dr. PLAYFAIR also expressed a preference for the Bill of the Recorder, which, he explained, would enable the licensing bodies of the kingdom to admit women as well as men to practice in medicine or surgery.

Mr. STANSFELD would vote for the Bill under discussion, because an enabling Bill would not admit those who had already taken degrees in foreign universities.

Lord SANDON said the discussion had shown that the subject was one of general interest, and that the substantial proposal was one that the House was not at all in the humour to scout entirely. It was not necessary for him to discuss the fitness or unfitness of women to enter the medical profession, but he desired to enter his personal protest against some opinions that had been expressed as to the injury it was supposed the female character would sustain from being mixed up with surgical and medical matters. He could not forget the services rendered by women of the greatest delicacy and refinement at the time of the Crimean war, nor, as representing Liverpool, could he forget the reorganisation of its workhouse infirmary by Miss Jones, while it was well known that some of the best surgical nurses in the country were women; and he had never heard that the delicacy, refinement, moral sense, and higher feelings of these women were injured by their engaging in these works of mercy. As to this particular Bill, the Government could not concede the principle of admitting women with foreign qualifications to practise without extending it to men, and on that point the Government were neither prepared nor called upon to express an opinion. That the Government were not neglectful of the question was shown by the fact that they referred the Bill last year to the Medical Council as an important body representing the profession of the three kingdoms, and it was impossible to ignore the force of the reply of the Medical Council, which was that they were not prepared to say that women ought to be excluded from the profession; but if they were admitted the Council desired to make certain recommendations, one of which was that it was desirable that the education and examination of female students should be separately conducted. The Government further consulted privately several leading members of the profession and also the ladies who had prepared themselves, and who were well qualified as individuals to adorn any profession. The Government then became aware that the Recorder proposed to bring in a Bill to enable the Corporations and the Universities, if they chose, to admit women to the profession. That was referred to the Medical Council, who still adhered to what they had formerly said, did not object to the Bill itself, and proposed two or three amendments in it. The Government then came

to the conclusion that it was their duty to assent to the Bill of the Recorder, taking care to make it clear that it was permissive and not compulsory, and that women were not to be admitted to the governing bodies of the Corporations or the Universities. He was afraid there was no chance of passing the Recorder's Bill this session; but, as the Government were prepared to support it, he hoped the measure now before the House would not be pressed to a division.

Mr. BRIGHT said: Having heard the speech of my noble friend, there is only one sentence in it to which I would take exception, and that is where he rather discourages the notion that the Bill of the right hon. gentleman the Recorder for London could be passed in the present session. Now the House has a wonderful power of doing anything it likes when it pleases—(hear, hear); and, to judge from a discussion to-day, it is clear that the prevailing opinion of the House is in favour of the resolution. (Hear, hear.) We have had it stated on the authority of the noble lord and my right hon. friend near me (Mr. Stansfeld) that the Medical Council is in favour of the Bill introduced by the right hon. gentleman the Recorder for the City of London. The question is not in the least a difficult one; it does not require much detail; it is merely a Bill to enable those different medical bodies, if they choose, to make such arrangements as are proper for the purpose of admitting women to the study of medicine, and, after they have studied, to register them so that they may commence practice. Therefore, the object is a very simple one, and the House is so far agreed that I have no doubt, if the noble lord will only look on it with a favourable view, that the Bill may pass during the present session. I am the more anxious to impress this upon the House because every year in which this matter is delayed a really serious injustice is inflicted upon women. (Hear, hear.) I have no doubt there are many meritorious women who are approaching the time for practising, and there are a great many women in this country who are suffering from diseases who will be very glad to have the assistance of medical officers of their own sexes. Therefore, for the meritorious women who are studying, and for the sake of women who are suffering, I think that the House, if it has once made up its mind to the principle of this legislation, could not do a wiser thing than to do what it has to do at once. (Hear, hear.) I have not the least doubt that in the three or four weeks left of this session the Government will bring in some measure that we have not yet seen; but if they will pass the Bill of the Recorder of London, we will get rid of a sensible injustice in the minds of many excellent persons, and at the same time add to the character of Parliament. (Cheers.)

Sir H. JACKSON also urged the Government to take up the Recorder's Bill and pass it this session, and quoted a report written by one of the ladies attached to the hospital for women to show that further delay and uncertainty would seriously prejudice the existing arrangements for study and hospital practice, which ladies could not afford to avail themselves of while there was any doubt as to their being allowed to practise when their education was completed.

Dr. O'LEARY said at the proper time he would adduce good reasons why ladies should not be allowed to qualify at all.

Mr. COWPER TEMPLE was much pleased with what the noble lord had said. It made his Bill no longer necessary, and he would therefore propose to withdraw it.

The amendment and the motion for the second reading were by consent withdrawn.

The *National* of Berne states that Mdlle. Isola Van Diest, of Louvain, has been appointed assistant professor of chemistry in the University of the Swiss capital.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

A few meetings were held during the spring, notices of which were postponed owing to the crowded state of our columns at that period, and are given now.

LONDON.

On April 24th, a meeting, promoted by the London National Society for Women's Suffrage, was held at the Athenæum, Camden Road. Mr. Hare presided. The meeting was well attended. After a few remarks by the chairman, the Rev. Mark Wilks said that was the first occasion on which he had spoken on this subject in that hall, but he had great pleasure in appearing as the advocate of a measure which had his entire concurrence.

BRECON.

A public meeting, to discuss the question of extending the Parliamentary franchise to women householders, was held in the Town Hall, Brecon, on Thursday, Jan. 27th. Addresses were delivered by Miss Sturge and Miss Beedy. The chair was taken by H. Powell, Esq., J.P., supported by the Revs. Herbert Williams, R. Price, J. D. Williams, D. W. Davies, D. B. Edwards, E. Goodison, W. J. Evans, Mordecai Jones, Esq., J. P., Joseph Joseph, Esq., J.P., Wm. Games, Esq., ex-mayor, Professors Morris, D. Rowlands, and Wm. Oliver.

BRIDPORT.

A crowded meeting was held on April 21st, in the Town Hall, Bridport. The Mayor presided, and there were present Mrs. Helen Bright Clark and Miss Beedy, as a deputation, and the Rev. R. L. Carpenter, F. J. Austin, J. T. Eames, J. Davies, Alderman Reynolds, Mr. C. Edmunds, Messrs. H. Kendall, G. A. Samson, R. Reid, J. Monteith, S. Whetham, &c. The usual resolutions were passed, and the meeting terminated with votes of thanks to the Mayor and to the deputation.

Miss Craigen has addressed meetings on June 20th, at ULVERSTON, Mr. Briggs in the chair; on June 26, at CRAWSHAYBOOTH, in the open site of the Old Manor House, Mr. Thomas Fenton in the chair; on July 5th, in the Congregational Schoolroom, CLITHEROE, Mr. Alexander Roberts in the chair. Petitions were adopted at all these meetings.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.—In Professor Hunter's class of Roman Law, the prize was awarded to Eliza Orme, who in previous years had won the prizes for Jurisprudence and Political Economy. The third certificate of honour for Roman Law was gained by Mary Eliza Richardson.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WOMEN AND NAVIGATION.

To the Editor of the Women's Suffrage Journal.

Madam,—My attention has been drawn to a paragraph in your issue of March 1st, 1876, in which the name of Mrs. Taylor is mentioned. While I was in command of the "Briton," East Indian, I left my chronometer* at her establishment in the Minorities during the ship's stay in London, in 1853. I always used her lunar tables when taking lunar observations, and preferred them to any other. I consulted her on one occasion on the subjects of variation of the compass as laid down on the charts, &c., and was surprised and pleased at the knowledge she evinced on the subject, though I had then been in command of a ship 20 years. That lady, Mrs. Janet Taylor, would have been able to navigate a ship round the world, aye, and far better than many captains I have known. What an anomaly for such a woman to be thought incapacitated for a vote?

Briton Cottage, Barnsley. J. BUFHAM.

* It is the custom of all ships to send their Chronometers on shore during their stay in London, in order to be safe, and also to be rated anew.

To the Editor of the Women's Suffrage Journal.

Dear Madam—Apropos to "Women and Navigation," the following, taken from an American paper of 1873, will be interesting—I think it was the *Woman's Journal*:—"A nautical school presided over and conducted by a lady, who has herself, within the last ten years, educated in navigation and astronomy, and fitted for active service at sea, more than two thousand young men, the most of whom were officers in the United States navy during the rebellion, is now in active operation, under the personal supervision of Mrs. Captain Brownlow, late principal of the New York Nautical School, established by her father, Captain William Thomas, more than twenty years ago."—Yours sincerely, CAROLINE A. BIGGS.

BETTER THAN LIFE INSURANCE.

There is something a man can do now, to provide for his wife and children, in the event of his death, better than getting his life insured for an amount, the interest of which would scarcely pay the house rent and buy the children's shoes. It can be done, because it has been done. It is to instruct his wife in some good business; if his own is appropriate, so much the better. There is now in Boston a female paper-hanger who served her apprenticeship to her husband. He was a skilled workman, and she was a tall strong woman, and in a short time became as efficient as her tutor. Not long ago her husband died and she stepped into his work, and has since had all the orders she could attend to. She has a fine circle of Beacon-street patrons, and other aristocratic residents at Newport, Swampscott, Cambridge, &c. She is credited with having a woman's taste wedded to a man's skill and strength. There is still another another example that I have in mind of husband and wife connected in business relations. He had a partner, and they were doing a commission business in furniture. They did not agree very well, and finally one, who was a German, proposed to his wife that she should take his partner's place. At first she demurred and pleaded her inability, but he was confident and persistent, and at last persuaded her to try. They formed a legal partnership. The wife has now her office here in the city, and receives orders, makes purchases at the wholesale houses, contracts for freight by rail and water, keeps her books, and carries on an extensive correspondence. The husband travels in the middle states, attending to the trade there. They consider that their success dates from the day of the partnership.

PETITIONS.

SEVENTH REPORT (continued). 9-10 March, 1876.

WOMEN'S DISABILITIES REMOVAL BILL—In Favour.

Table with 5 columns: NO., DATE, PLACE, PRESENTED BY, NO. OF SIGNATURES. Lists petitions from various locations like HOLESTONE, WHITEHOUSE, DOAGH, GARISKEER, CLIFTON, etc.

Total number of Petitions 279—Signatures 126,586

EIGHTH REPORT. 13-14 March, 1876.

Table with 5 columns: NO., DATE, PLACE, PRESENTED BY, NO. OF SIGNATURES. Lists petitions from locations like PLUMSTEAD, WOOLWICH, ANNA SWANWICK, etc.

Total number of Petitions 314—Signatures 134,040

NINTH REPORT. 15-17 March, 1876.

Table with 5 columns: NO., DATE, PLACE, PRESENTED BY, NO. OF SIGNATURES. Lists petitions from locations like BATH, MANCHESTER, LOUTH, BIDEFORD, etc.

Total number of Petitions 363—Signatures 155,423

TENTH REPORT. 20-21 March, 1876.

Table with 5 columns: NO., DATE, PLACE, PRESENTED BY, NO. OF SIGNATURES. Lists petitions from locations like BATH, AYR and WALLACETOWN, SLATFORD, etc.

Total number of Petitions 314—Signatures 134,040

Table with columns: NO., DATE, PLACE, PRESENTED BY, NO. OF SIGNATURES. Includes entries for Helen M'Lean, Margaret Richardson, Mary Miller, etc.

Total number of Petitions 399—Signatures 162,517

ELEVENTH REPORT. 22—24 March, 1876.

Table with columns: NO., DATE, PLACE, PRESENTED BY, NO. OF SIGNATURES. Includes entries for Twyford, Montrose, Southsea, etc.

Total number of Petitions 434—Signatures 172,914

TWELFTH REPORT. 27—31 March, 1876.

Table with columns: NO., DATE, PLACE, PRESENTED BY, NO. OF SIGNATURES. Includes entries for Crab's Cross, Lawrence Kirk, Bath, etc.

Total number of Petitions 503—Signatures 199,163

THIRTEENTH REPORT. 3—4 April, 1876.

Table with columns: NO., DATE, PLACE, PRESENTED BY, NO. OF SIGNATURES. Includes entries for Manchester, Edinburgh, Eglis, etc.

Total number of Petitions 540—Signatures 213,324

FOURTEENTH REPORT. 5—7 April, 1876.

Table with columns: NO., DATE, PLACE, PRESENTED BY, NO. OF SIGNATURES. Includes entries for Dolarbeg, Bath, Newton Saint Loe, etc.

Table with columns: NO., DATE, PLACE, PRESENTED BY, NO. OF SIGNATURES. Includes entries for M. Buchanan, Margaret Auld, Sarah White, etc.

Total number of Petitions 601—Signatures 234,292

FIFTEENTH REPORT. 10—25 April, 1876.

Table with columns: NO., DATE, PLACE, PRESENTED BY, NO. OF SIGNATURES. Includes entries for Deptford, Bath, Dunfermline, etc.

MANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS, JULY, 1876.

	£	s.	d.
Executors of the late Mr. Thomas Thomasson	200	0	0
Mr. W. Mather	2	2	0
Mrs. Wm. Grey	2	0	0
Mrs. Charles	1	1	0
Mr. W. Garnett Bennett	1	1	0
Mr. J. B. McKerrow	1	1	0
Mr. James Barlow	1	1	0
Mrs. Henry Taylor	1	1	0
Miss Ramsbottom	1	1	0
Mr. Thos. Cooper (Congleton)	1	1	0
Mrs. Mc.Culloch (Lecture Fund)	1	1	0
Mrs. Mc.Kinnel	1	1	0
The Hon. Mrs. Thos. Liddell	1	0	0
Miss Mary Dick (Lecture Fund)	1	0	0
Miss L. A. Bowling	1	0	0
Miss Mabel Sharman Crawford	1	0	0
Mrs. N. Pearce Sharman	1	0	0
The Dowager Lady Lytton (Lecture Fund)	1	0	0
Miss Sargent	1	0	0
Rev. J. Black (two years)	1	0	0
Mr. Edwin Barton	0	10	6
Mr. W. Scott Brown	0	10	6
Mr. G. W. Woodruff	0	10	6
Mrs. J. M. Sawyer	0	10	0
Miss R. Allen Olney	0	6	0
Mrs. Fuller	0	5	0
Mr. F. E. Kitchener	0	5	0
Mrs. F. E. Kitchener	0	5	0
Misses Cogan	0	5	0
Miss M. A. Evans	0	2	6
Miss Dunkin	0	2	6
Mr. James Sherratt	0	2	6
Mr. W. Dale Brittain	0	2	0
Miss E. B. Prideaux	0	2	0
Miss Martin	0	2	0
Mrs. H. A. Withall	0	1	0

S. ALFRED STEINTHAL, Treasurer. £225 13 0

Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made payable to the Treasurer, Rev. S. ALFRED STEINTHAL, and may be sent either direct to him at The Limes, Nelson-street, Chorlton-on-Medlock; or to the Secretary, Miss BECKER, 28, Jackson's Row, Albert Square, Manchester.

AN AMERICAN VIEW OF MR. BRIGHT.

Englishmen, it must be noted, are taking up the American Jeremiad over the pollution of politics; and "scarce a man," Mr. Bright tells us, "looks back upon the method of gaining his seat in Parliament, without a blush." If it be permitted to offer an illustration from housekeeping experience—and government is only housekeeping on a grand scale, the present May-time season has one patent to the occasion. When a woman, at this time in the year, is made aware that cellars, store rooms and kitchen offices need purifying and thoroughly cleansing, she does not wring her hands and moan about it; neither does she "blush;" neither does she in calm acceptance turn the key on the noisome places and let matters go on for another year. She sets to work with soap and water and lime; she lets day-light into the cellar, and has the accumulated rubbish carted away. She would "blush" indeed, were she not equal to the occasion.

In view of the impulsive tendencies of women, their propensity to gushing and emotional bias in action, a confession of Mr. Bright is worthy of note. In 1867, in company with Mr. John Stuart Mill, and others, he voted for woman suffrage. It now appears that he did so under considerable doubt, but influenced by "sympathy" for his friend. Could a woman have said it better?—*The New Century for Woman.*

CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FROM JUNE 21st TO JULY 20th, 1876.

	£	s.	d.
E. A.	50	0	0
M. P. T.	50	0	0
Mr. Ashurst	10	0	0
Mrs. Thomas Taylor	5	0	0
Miss Williams	5	0	0
Rev. A. G. L'Estrange	1	1	0
Mrs. R. Crompton Jones	1	1	0
Mrs. Lynch	1	1	0
Miss Simcox	1	1	0
Mrs. Sterling	1	1	0
Miss Swanwick	1	1	0
Miss Anna Swanwick	1	1	0
Mrs. Henry Taylor	1	1	0
Mrs. Hensleigh Wedgwood	1	1	0
Mr. and Mrs. Beveridge	1	0	0
Mrs. Bolton	1	0	0
Emancipator (Highgate)	0	15	8
Miss Reeves	0	10	0
Miss Hamilton	0	5	0
Mrs. Mc.Cance	0	5	0
Mrs. Paterson	0	5	0
A Friend	0	2	6
Mr. Paterson	0	2	6

£133 14 8

ALFRED W. BENNETT, Treasurer.

64, Berners Street, London, W.

BRISTOL AND WEST OF ENGLAND SOCIETY.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS RECEIVED SINCE

MARCH 21st, 1876.

	£	s.	d.
The Misses Ashworth	100	0	0
A Friend	50	0	0
B. C. L.	40	0	0
Mr. W. Sommerville	4	0	0
Mr. H. P. Powel	3	0	0
Mrs. Holroyd	3	0	0
Mr. Herbert Thomas	2	2	0
Mr. Sholto Vere Hare	1	1	0
Mr. C. H. James	1	1	0
Mrs. Thomas Thomas	1	1	0
Mr. J. G. Grenfell	1	1	0
Mrs. J. G. Grenfell	1	0	0
Mrs. Browne	1	0	0
Mrs. Carslake	1	0	0
Mr. Bartlett	0	10	6
Mrs. Bartlett	0	10	6
Mr. F. James	0	10	6
Lady Bowring	0	10	0
Mrs. Evans	0	10	0
Mrs. Linton	0	10	0
Miss Ann Lloyd	0	10	0
Mrs. Miller	0	10	0
Mrs. Sibley	0	10	0
Mrs. Shipley	0	10	0
The Misses Southall	0	10	0
Miss Campbell	0	6	6
Mrs. Newell Price	0	6	6
Mr. Branth	0	5	0
Mr. Thomas Brewin	0	5	0
Mr. William Brewin	0	5	0
Mr. Alan Greenwell	0	5	0
Dr. Lynes	0	5	0
Miss Parnall	0	5	0
Mrs. Phillips	0	5	0
Mr. Rosser	0	5	0
Mr. John Summerhayes	0	5	0
Miss G. Thomas	0	5	0
Miss Lillie Thomas	0	5	0
Rev. J. S. Thomas	0	5	0
Rev. Thos. Wilkinson	0	5	0
A. R.	0	2	6
Mrs. E. F. Grenfell	0	2	6
Mrs. Hunt	0	2	6
Mrs. Adams	0	2	0
Rev. E. S. Bayliffe	0	2	0
Rev. A. Norris	0	1	0

£219 8 0

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