

# WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE JOURNAL.

EDITED BY LYDIA E. BECKER.

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## MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

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## PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

**M**ANCHESTER NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.—The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held in the Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Manchester, on Friday, November 2nd, 1888, to receive the Report and Financial Statement, and to elect the Executive Committee for the ensuing year. The chair will be taken at three o'clock, by the MAYOR of MANCHESTER (Alderman Sir J. J. Harwood). Further particulars in future announcements. The attendance of Members and Friends is invited. Doors open at 2-30; entrance, Princess-street. Admission Free.

**L**ONDON.—A Lecture will be delivered at a meeting of the London Dialectical Society, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet-street, on Wednesday, Oct. 3rd, by Miss FLORENCE BALGARNIE: "Should Women have the Vote?"

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THE RETIREMENT OF THE EMPRESS DOWAGER OF CHINA.

The *Pekin Gazette* of July 27th contains two decrees, one by the Empress Dowager, the other by the young Emperor, relating to the retirement of the former from public life. The Empress announces that when the Emperor first assumed the reins of power she could not refuse him her advice and assistance in his doubts and difficulties, and, therefore, she constrained herself to comply with the prayers of the Ministers, and to instruct him in the art of governing. But now the Emperor has applied himself with such zeal and success to the task that he is able of himself to decide and regulate the affairs of State as they come before him. As soon as his marriage has been celebrated he would assume complete control of the Empire, and the Board of Astronomy is desired to select an auspicious day in the second month of the coming year for the inauguration of the Emperor's unaided rule. The Emperor himself dwells on the unexampled manner in which the Empress Dowager gave herself to the severest labour, toiling day and night and knowing no rest. Seeing now that she is about to retire, his heart is filled with mingled sentiments of gratitude and distress, but he dare not disobey the Empress's commands. With awe and care he will give his whole heart to the multitudinous affairs of the nation, hoping to repay the love of her Majesty, his holy mother, who nurtured and instructed him. But as in these times of difficulty the weight upon his shoulders will be doubly heavy, he hopes and trusts that the officials, great and small, will share his feeling of responsibility and continue unwaveringly to afford him their most loyal assistance. In conclusion, he desires the officers concerned to consider carefully what ceremonies should be performed on the occasion of his assumption of sole power.

CONFERENCE AT COPENHAGEN.

A conference of the representatives—men as well as women—of the Women's Union for Progress was held in Copenhagen in July. "Women's Suffrage," "Peace as a Woman's Question," "Temperance," "Co-Education," and the "Condition of Workwomen" were the subjects discussed.

On the first question the following resolution was carried unanimously:—"As woman as well as man forms part of the nation, as women have to bear their equal share of taxation and other national burdens, as women have not proved inferior to men in their capacity to manage public affairs, as women are more especially fitted for managing the education of children, nursing the sick, and other humane duties, the legislature should consequently give them the power to vote in these matters, and thereby wipe out the stain that exists through women having hitherto borne equal burdens but not enjoyed equal privileges with men. And as the nation cannot afford to lose the support of half its members, it is hereby resolved that this association use all its means to obtain complete franchise for married as well as single women, both as regards Imperial as well as municipal matters."

The Congress approve of—1, the abolition of all work by children in mills, &c.; 2, limitation by law of the hours of work for both men and women; 3, combination of women by means of Trades Unions; 4, the right of women to every kind of employment; 5, their right to obtain the means of education equal to that of men, fitting them to earn a living. The details of women's wages in the Scandinavian countries point the moral of the third and fourth resolutions, as they are extremely low. In Finland, for instance, servant girls have no wages, only food and second-hand clothes.

REVIEWS.

WOMAN: HER RIGHTS AND DUTIES. By Minerva. London: Jarrold and Sons, 3, Paternoster Buildings. Price, One Shilling.

This is a reprint of some articles contributed from time to time to the *Norwich Daily Press*. The little volume is prettily got up and easy to read, and will prove useful and acceptable as an introduction to those who have not hitherto given much attention to the subject of the franchise and other branches of the question.

THE BACON-SHAKSPERE QUESTION. By C. Stopes. T. G. Johnson, 121, Fleet-street, London. 1888.

Mrs. Stopes explains in her preface that the great Shakspearean scholars consider it beneath their dignity to answer the assertions of the Baconians. Hence she has thought it not in vain to put together the main results of her own studies in order to aid Shakspeareans to give a reason for the faith that is in them. Those who take an interest in the subject will find much curious and varied information in Mrs. Stopes' pages.

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ENGLISHWOMAN'S REVIEW.—Published on the 15th of each month. Price 6d., or 6s. per annum. CONTENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 15TH, 1888.

1. Public Housekeeping.
2. Women's Suffrage Meeting in South Australia.
3. Adverse Decision in Washington Territory.
4. Queen Nathalie of Servia.

Passing Notes:—Is Marriage a Failure?  
Correspondence.

Notices of Books and Magazines.

Record of Events:—Intermediate Education, Ireland; Queen's College, Belfast; Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examinations; Aberdare Hall. The Registrations. The British Association in Bath. Case under the Property of Married Women Act. Young Women's Classes. A Lady Keeper of a Town Hall. Women in the Post Office. Approaching School Board Election. The Queen at Glasgow. The Institute of Journalists. Miscellaneous.

Foreign Notes and News.

Paragraphs:—Tapestry Designing for Women, Pundita Ramabai.

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ALTHOUGH the Act which gives protection to the earnings of a married woman has been in operation eighteen years, its provisions appear to be as yet imperfectly understood, if we may trust the published reports of proceedings last month, at the Westminster Police Court, in regard to two pitiful cases which came before Mr. BIRON. In one case the applicant begged the magistrate to give her protection from her husband, who had left her six months ago, and who had now re-appeared with the expressed intention of selling up her little home, which she had got together by her own industry since he went away. Mr. BIRON asked: "When were you married?" The Applicant replied: "In Yorkshire, eighteen years ago." Mr. BIRON: "Your husband can take everything you have, and sell it." Applicant, weeping: "It cannot be so cruel. To think my home should be sold up by a man who will not work." Mr. BIRON: "That is the law, even though you are living apart from your husband."

Another woman begged Mr. BIRON to help her, stating that her husband was selling up the home she had got together, and had actually pulled her poor children's bed from under them, and sold it for five shillings. She had been married eighteen years. Mr. BIRON: "Then if he chooses to sell the furniture, no human being can stop it." The Applicant, crying bitterly, said she saw no prospect for herself and her children but the workhouse. She bought the furniture, and if her husband could sell it it was a bad law. Mr. BIRON: "The law has been altered, but it does not protect you. It only affects women married since the commencement of 1883."

These extraordinary utterances naturally did not escape public comment. Mr. OSBORNE MORGAN, who had charge of the last Married Women's Property Act in the House of Commons, wrote to the papers pointing out that the law gave full protection to property acquired by wives after the passing of the Act irrespective of the date of marriage. Other legal writers also pointed out that earnings had been similarly protected since 1870.

These expositions produced some effect. A few days afterwards one of the women appeared again before Mr.

BIRON, and said she did not think he could have understood her last week, because she had seen in a newspaper that the law would give her protection.

Mr. BIRON then is reported to have said that his remarks had been interpreted in a sense he never intended them to convey. The Act gives every woman, whether married before or after the passing of the Act, the same civil remedy and redress, and subject to some limitation applying only to her husband, the same remedy and redress by way of criminal proceedings for the protection of her property as if she was a single woman. The applicant could sue her husband. The Applicant: But I have no means, sir. Mr. BIRON: Precisely; you cannot bring an action against your husband, not because you are not entitled to do so by law, but because you have no money. A poor woman like you cannot take proceedings in equity for the same reason, and therefore it all comes to what I summarised perhaps a little too tersely when I said you had no remedy.

If these remarks are correctly reported by the London papers, it would appear that justice has still been denied to the applicant. The magistrate might have told her that if her husband, who had deserted her, came back and took her property, she had the same remedy against him as against any other person, and that she could have given him in charge to the nearest policeman, who would have been bound to deal with him as with any other person who had been caught in the act of taking her things.

THE Women's Liberal Association of Fulham has had a somewhat remarkable inaugural meeting. We learn from the *Hammersmith Reporter* that the meeting was held last month at the Fulham Liberal Club. There was a numerous attendance of ladies, and two or three gentlemen. The first remarkable circumstance appears to be the nomination of one of the gentlemen as chairman. The hon. secretary read the rules defining the objects of the Association, which are reasonable enough, and include such items as "to spread a clear knowledge of Liberal principles among the resident women of Fulham; to

promote just legislation for women, and to protect the interests of children; to explain how women may use their influence to secure the best possible representation in Parliamentary, municipal, and parochial elections, and how to use the power they now possess; to endeavour to obtain further suffrage for women." To these was added the provision that they were to work in conjunction with and under the guidance of the officers of the borough of Fulham Liberal Association in all matters appertaining to Parliamentary representation and registration of voters.

THE ladies who adopted these rules appear to have been under the impression that some of their representatives would be placed on the Executive Committee of the Liberal Association, and thus be admitted to a share in the deliberations of the party. But this idea was speedily dispelled. The chairman explained, in reference to the last paragraph of the rules, that it meant that the ladies were not to attempt to set their opinions against those of the men's association in the choice of candidates, and similar matters. Another gentleman said that one of the greatest difficulties men had in carrying on a political association was in getting money. It had been probably thought by those connected with the men's association that they were going to have great assistance from the funds of the ladies' association, but there appeared to be nothing in the rules to that effect. It would be too bad on his part to move a resolution, but he desired to mention it. The chairman said the gentleman who had spoken would be glad to receive all the money the ladies could give him, and he believed they would be only too pleased to give him all they could spare. Though the rules gave the members of the women's association the option of being elected on the Executive Council of the Borough of Fulham Liberal Association, he had come to the conclusion that they would be objected to on that to-day. After these utterances, it is not to be wondered at that a lady got up and protested, "If they won't allow us to do anything, they won't get any of our money, mind!"

WE trust that the spirit of this protest may be carried out, and indeed we have too much faith in the public spirit and intelligence of women's political associations generally to believe that they will ever permit themselves to become mere unreasoning tools in the hands of party managers. But until women have votes, and thereby women's political associations come to represent actual electoral forces which can neither be overlooked nor set

aside, there will always be some danger, unless they take care to withstand influences which would bind them helpless to the wheels of political machinery, that they may find themselves somewhat in the position of the subject of CANNING'S charade—

"My whole's a kind of wandering throne,  
To woman limited alone,  
The Salic Law reversing;  
But when th' imaginary queen  
Prepares to act the novel scene,  
Her royal part rehearsing,  
O'erturning her presumptuous plan,  
Up jumps the old usurper—Man!"

WE are on this side the Atlantic unfamiliar with the notion of the Acts of the Legislature of a country being invalidated by the law courts of the same country. But in the territories of the United States of America this sometimes occurs. For the second time the Act of the Legislature of Washington Territory extending the suffrage to women has been overthrown in the law courts of the Territory.

The Women's Franchise Act was first adopted by the Legislature of Washington Territory in 1883, and came into operation in the elections of 1884 with eminently satisfactory results. But in 1887 the opponents raised a technical question in the law courts, and an adverse decision was given on the ground that the title of the Act was not printed at the head of each page. Immediately after this decision was pronounced, a fresh Bill, in which the technical defect was amended, was introduced and carried in the Legislative Assembly. This distinctly declared that citizens, male and female, were entitled to the suffrage. The Bill was ratified by the Governor in January last, and thus it was believed that the question had been finally set at rest.

But the opponents had another weapon in reserve. Changing their ground of attack, they now alleged that the Act of Congress which empowers the Territorial Legislatures to regulate the franchise does not authorise them to enfranchise women. A test case was prepared in the interest of this contention. At a recent election at Spokane Falls, the vote of a certain Mrs. NEVADA M. BLOOMER was refused. Many other women voted in the same election, but none of these were objected to, consequently none of these had a ground of action at law. It is supposed that Mrs. BLOOMER acted under the inspiration of the opponents of women's suffrage, and that these took care not to refuse the vote of any woman who would

defend her right in earnest, and carry the appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States.

The decision of the Court of Washington Territory was to the effect that in 1852, when the Act of Congress was passed, the word "citizen" was used as a qualification for voting and holding office, and that the word then meant and still signified male citizenship, and must be so construed.

As the nominal plaintiff positively refused to allow the appeal to be carried to the Supreme Court of the United States, the women of Washington Territory are again disfranchised without power to help themselves, and without either the Legislature or the people having any power to help them. They seem likely to remain in this condition until Washington Territory shall be admitted as a State into the Union, when it will have the undisputed right to do justice in the matter of the franchise to all its citizens, men and women alike.

#### COLONIAL INTELLIGENCE.

##### THE VICTORIAN WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

The fourth annual meeting of the members of the Victorian Women's Suffrage Society was held in the Bourke-street Coffee Palace, Melbourne, on July 30th; the president, Dr. Bromby, in the chair. The following report was presented:—

"The committee of the Victorian Women's Suffrage Society beg to present to members the following report of the work of the society during the past year:

"The society has held twelve executive meetings during the year, and the committee desires to place on record its great obligation to F. J. Siscock, Esq., whose kind permission to hold meetings at his office has been a great saving of expense to the society.

"The society has held three public meetings in the following suburbs: Newmarket, Brighton, and South Melbourne. At these meetings the speakers on the side of women's suffrage displayed great argumentative power and enthusiasm, and carried their hearers with them as to the justice of the cause, while the opposers generally were not strong in argument, merely answering thereto with weak and well-worn ridicule. The resolution affirming the desirability of women's suffrage was carried at all the meetings with the exception of Brighton, at which some objection was raised as to the manner in which the meeting was convened by the Mayor.

"A member of the committee, James Sutherland, Esq., read an essay, in favour of extending the suffrage to women, before the Dialectic Society of Trinity College, in June last, for which he obtained the prize; afterwards an interesting debate on the subject took place at a meeting of that society, at which His Excellency the Governor attended. Mrs. Webster, of our committee, made a very able speech, and other ladies followed. The occasion gave opportunity for the exhibition of much promising elocutionary display on the part of the young collegians, but as they voted against the affirmation it is to be hoped that the habits of thought which influenced them will yield, when age gives them the reflective faculties, to reason and justice.

"A grand step towards obtaining governmental representation for women has been recently made in England by the passing of the County Local Government Electors Act, which received the Royal assent on May 16th. This Act places women on equality with men as to voting, and may be regarded as an affirmation of the principle of, and an instalment towards, the complete enfranchisement of women in England.

"At Washington, in America, the women's congress of seventy-three delegates, from all parts of the world, met to advocate the enfranchisement of women. It is to be regretted that the funds of the Victorian Society did not permit of sending a delegate there

also. Two women in America, Mrs. Salter, of Argonia, and Mrs. Lowman, of Askaloosa, Kansas Territory, the latter with a town council composed entirely of women, have been elected mayors of municipalities, and, it appears, discharge the duties with great satisfaction to their electors.

"The press of Melbourne and the country districts are favourable to the cause of women's suffrage, with one exception, a newspaper of small circulation and little political influence.

"Following the lead of England, where women have been elected to the school boards with the best results, Mrs. Steel, of our committee, became a candidate for the North Melbourne School Board of Advice. Mrs. Steel polled well, considering the strong opposition, and it is to be hoped that she may again become a candidate.

"The committee have to report with regret the resignation of Mrs. Ballou and the Rev. George Walters, on account of leaving Melbourne. There are several vacancies in the executive committee, which you are now called upon to fill.

"The list of membership shows a steady increase of members, and it is interesting to note that Adelaide, S.A., is starting a woman suffrage society, showing that women in other colonies are aware of the importance of the movement.

"Since the society commenced work, now four years ago, many converts have been made to the cause, and a more correct knowledge now prevails as to what object the movers have in furthering it. It is beginning to be understood that the agitators of women's suffrage do not desire a position of antagonism to men, but wish to acquire the power of a just right to rectify laws bearing hardly upon them as women, and that the goodness and ability in women may help legislatively the goodness and ability in men, to the regeneration of their common humanity.

"CATHERINE ELLIOTT,  
"Chairwoman Executive Committee."

It was also reported that the number of members was increasing, and the finances were in a satisfactory condition, there having been an expenditure of £48. 7s., whilst the receipts amounted to £65. 15s. The report was adopted, and the following office-bearers elected for the ensuing year: President, Dr. Bromby; vice-presidents, Mrs. C. Elliott and Mrs. Langdale; hon. secretary, Mrs. Smyth; auditors, Messrs. J. H. Boag and J. Wing; executive committee, Mr. Brunton, Mrs. Elliott, Mr. Elliott, Mrs. L. Steel, Mr. J. Sutherland, Mr. J. Wing, Mrs. Devenport, Miss Thompson, Mrs. Gracie, Mrs. M'Naughton, Mrs. Robertson, Mrs. Maclean, Mrs. Langdale, and Miss Simmons.

At the conclusion of the ordinary business, papers were read by various members on women's suffrage, and Dr. Moloney also gave a short address in which he cited instances of the ability displayed by women in various ranks of life, which, he maintained, entitled them to be placed on an equality with men. During the evening it was announced that his honour the Chief Justice had forwarded a subscription to the society. The meeting closed at about ten o'clock with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

##### SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

##### MEETING AT ADELAIDE.

An important meeting of those favourable to the extension of the franchise to women was held at the Victoria Hall, Gawler-street, Adelaide, on July 20th. Dr. STIRLING, who introduced the Women's Franchise Bill in the last Parliament, occupied the chair.

The CHAIRMAN said he was, unfortunately, not now in a position where he could render very great assistance to the movement, as he no longer had a seat in the House of Representatives, but there were others there who were able and perfectly willing to do the work which, he thought he might say, he had begun. At the present moment, a Bill had been introduced into the House of Assembly by Mr. Caldwell, which, he thought, would entirely meet the wishes of those who had been recently moving in the matter. Roughly speaking, it proposed to extend the suffrage to all women, whether married or single, who had reached the age of twenty-five years, as laid down at a previous meeting. Dr. Stirling proceeded to give an address on the general question, and concluded by placing his efforts as a private individual entirely at the disposal of the promoters of the movement.

The Rev. J. C. KIRBY moved that a Woman Suffrage League be now formed in order to obtain legislation giving women the franchise on the principles adopted at the meeting of ladies and others

held at Gawler Place, on July 13th. Mrs. O. LAKE seconded the resolution.

Mr. J. Z. SELLAR moved an amendment that the suffrage for women be the same as for men, which was seconded by the Rev. R. M. HUNTER. After some discussion the amendment was withdrawn, and the motion put with reference to age left out, and carried unanimously.

The Rev. S. F. PRIOR moved that Dr. Stirling be president of the League, Mr. H. McLennan and Mrs. M. Lee hon. secretaries, and the following the executive committee, with power to add to their number: Mesdames Hill, Dunn, Birks, Robin, Roberts, Maughan Lake, Lambert, Wilkinson, Cohen, Miss Chewings, Messrs. J. C. Stevens, G. S. Fowler, C. Birks, B. Gould, M.P., B. A. Moulden, M.P., the Revs. S. Prior, E. Rowe, J. C. Kirby, H. H. Teague, S. F. Prior, J. Lyell, J. Haslam.

Mr. B. GOULD, M.P., seconded the motion, and expressed himself heartily in favour of the movement. In his place in the House he would move to fix the age at twenty-one years.

A vote of thanks to the chairman was adopted, and it was decided to call on the women of the colony to petition Parliament on the question.

#### WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN AUSTRIA.

We hear from Vienna, says the *Droit des Femmes*, that the question of women's votes for the election of the Landtag is coming on. A Bill will be brought forward shortly proposing to give the right of voting to unmarried women and widows belonging to the rank of great proprietors. The proposal they say has a fair chance of success.

#### REVISION COURTS.

LEEDS: A WOMAN'S GRIEVANCE.—The revision of the lists for South Leeds was concluded on September 24th at the Town Hall, before Mr. T. S. Soden, revising barrister. Mr. Warren, solicitor, and Mr. Overend, agent, appeared on behalf of the Conservatives; and Mr. Harrison, solicitor, and Mr. Finnie, agent, for the Liberals. The monotony of the formal proceedings at the morning sitting was relieved by an amusing incident arising out of the claim of a woman to have her name put on the municipal list. In answer to Mr. Harrison, who asked her if she was a widow, she replied: "No, I am a deserted woman;" adding that her husband left her three years ago. Thereupon the Revising Barrister informed her that she was not entitled to a vote, an intimation which appeared to considerably surprise the claimant, who replied in tones which were heard all over the court: "Well, if I cannot have my voaat I will stop my taxes, because a taxpayer has to be a voter. Vooots only relates to them 'at pays taxes.'" The Revising Barrister: "You can continue that outside. As she was about to leave the court, the woman shouted vehemently: "There shall be an Act brought before Parliament that all deserted wives shall pay no taxes if they munno voaat. I pay every tax. If a woman munno voaat when she pays her taxes, we'll see who shall voaat. I'll tell you straight; if I cannot have my voaat I shan't pay my taxes." With some difficulty the aggrieved lady was persuaded to depart.—*Yorkshire Post*.

#### PEERS AND WOMEN ELECTORS.

At the North Lambeth Revision Court, No. 3 list, consisting of women and peers, who are only entitled to the County Council franchise, was revised. On that list the name of the Archbishop of Canterbury appeared, the qualifications of His Grace being Lambeth Palace. This is probably the first occasion on which the Primate of All England has figured on any published list of voters compiled by virtue of an Act of Parliament.

#### ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

##### BOSWORTH DIVISION, LEICESTERSHIRE.

Mr. Charles McLaren, late member for Stafford, has been adopted as the Liberal candidate for the Bosworth division of Leicestershire in succession to Mr. James Ellis, M.P., who has announced his intention of retiring at the end of the present Parliament. Mr. McLaren is a well-known supporter of the enfranchisement of women.

#### THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION AT BATH.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

The fifty-eighth meeting of the British Association commenced on September 5th, under the most enjoyable auspices, in the Queen City of the West. No more agreeable environment for a scientific holiday could be found within the four seas of Britain than that afforded by the ancient and beautiful city in which the association has passed the brief period of what may be likened to the butterfly stage of its existence. For, although the association comes visibly before the eyes of the general public only for one week in each year, it would be a grave error to conclude that during the remaining fifty-one weeks it is extinct or inactive. As soon as one meeting is over the preparations for the next are begun. The various committees which receive grants for investigation in different branches of science patiently continue their labours, and the reports in which the results of these labours are recorded begin to be slowly elaborated. The organism is fully alive during each year's preparatory stages, and thus becomes ready to burst forth with renewed energy into the bright and brilliant *imago* period during which it disports itself in gay array and busies itself in laying the foundation for a future harvest of scientific gains and achievements.

Bath does not possess the great industries which show the latest triumphs of the application of mechanical and chemical science. But it offers great attractions for the geologist and the archaeologist. The hot spring is, according to Sir Charles Lyell, unique in Europe for the heat and volume of its waters, considering the distance from the nearest volcanic region. The varied attractions presented drew a large number of the permanent members of the Association to the recent meeting.

The president, Sir Frederick Bramwell, delivered the opening address, one of the principal features of which was to insist on the value of the next-to-nothing, namely, the extreme importance of attention to minute detail, and economy of minute quantities in securing great results. The most attractive feature in next day's session was the exhibition of Mr. Edison's phonograph, and of a similar machine named the graphophone, also of American invention. On Friday there was a discussion on socialism, in which Mrs. Ashworth-Hallett and Miss Becker took part, both ladies speaking strongly on the anti-socialistic side. Mrs. Hallett said that state interference with individual liberty had been called grandmotherly legislation, but she protested against that designation, because women had nothing to do with it. Saturday was devoted mainly to excursions. Favoured by brilliant weather, and by the admirable arrangements of the local committee, the excursions to various places of beauty and interest in the district will long be remembered with pleasure by those privileged to take part in them.

The papers contributed by ladies were fewer than usual. Miss A. W. Buckland read papers on necklaces in relation to pre-historic commerce, and on King Orry's grave, Isle of Man, and Miss Helen Blackburn read a paper on Irishwomen's industries, in which Mrs. Hallett and Miss Sharman-Crawford took part. Mr. G. Watherston on the same day read a paper on the industrial education of women abroad and at home.

In the Chemical Section, on the report of the committee on the teaching of chemistry, the President (Professor Tilden) commented on the fact that the wording of the report seemed to contemplate the teaching of boys only, and urged that girls should also receive the benefits of instruction in chemistry.

Miss Lydia Becker called attention to the fact that in Manchester girls participate in the advantages of chemical education, and had been at the head of the subject in the local science classes. This, she urged, was an example which ought to be followed by other places.

In the Anthropological Section, the Rev. B. Danks gave some interesting particulars of marriage customs in New Britain and New Ireland. In one of these islands it seems that girls are put into cages made of broad leaves so arranged as to admit no light and very little air. In these cages they remain four or five years. There is only room for the girl to sit or lie down in a crouched position on the bamboo platform, which forms the floor, and her feet are never allowed to touch the ground all the time she is in the cage. Great marriage feasts are provided for these girls when they are taken out of the cages.

The Chairman (Lieut.-General Pitt Rivers) said the paper was interesting in more than one respect. It showed that in New

Britain, as in other parts of the world, young ladies required a good deal of looking after. It also showed that there was a distinct tendency in the direction of increased freedom and more unrestrained action on the part of the female sex.

A very lively discussion occurred on a paper contributed by Professor C. S. Roy and Mr. J. G. Adami, on the physiological bearing of waistbelts and stays. The advocates of "dress reform" mustered in force, probably expecting to be gratified by a counterblast against these supposed noxious articles of attire. But they were grievously disappointed. Instead of condemning the use of waistbelts and stays, the learned professor spoke in favour of their use, in moderation of course. They have lately been making some pathological experiments, and had found a slight pressure upon the abdomen resulted in the giving out of considerably increased quantities of blood from the heart in a given time. A good deal of the blood stored uselessly in the abdominal veins was by this placed advantageously at the disposal of the muscles, brain, and skin. This explained how men, as well as women, instinctively employed some method of abdominal compression, wearing waist-bands or belts, or the more elaborate corsets, at periods of increased activity. No doubt fashion had sometimes led to the distortion of the female figure by means of stays; but, if not laced too tight, the modern corset, by clasping the waist and supporting the bosom and back, constituted a convenient combination of the different forms of girdle which had been found useful by the women of all civilised nations from the remotest times. Of course, during sleep they are put off, but during the hours of exertion, social or otherwise, reasonable tight-lacing is fitted to increase mental and physical activity. They, however, cautioned young ladies against carrying this to an injudicious extreme.

This deliverance was the signal for an avalanche of wrath and denunciation. Dr. Wilberforce Smith and Mr. Lavis spoke against the paper.

The Chairman (Professor Schäfer) said the most interesting discussion which he had ever heard on this subject was between two ladies on the voyage with the Association to Montreal. One of the ladies approved and the other denounced the wearing of stays. As the question was a ladies' one, he asked whether there were any ladies present who would give their views.

Mrs. Stopes, in a few sentences, said there was no habit so prejudicial to women as that of tight lacing. Women knew that by tight lacing they were doing wrong, and so not only did they do themselves physical but moral harm also. (Cheers.) Women who laced tightly were unable to move about as actively, or to perform their duties as well as those who wore loose stays, or no stays at all. She threw much of the fault for the prevailing system upon dressmakers, who educated their customers to believe that they should carry the weight of their clothes from the hips, instead of from the shoulders, and this it was said could not be done without aid of corsets. She entirely disagreed with this view, and attributed much of the ill-health among women to the fact that they carried the weight of their dress from the hips, instead of from the shoulders.

A lady in the body of the room, who said she was fifty years of age and did not wear stays, strongly condemned the habit of tight lacing.

Dr. Beverly attributed a large number of diseases amongst unmarried women to tight lacing.

Mr. Hoyle observed that ladies did not think themselves properly dressed, "unless they rendered themselves slightly uncomfortable." (Laughter.) From all points of view he condemned the wearing of stays.

Miss Becker spoke in favour of wearing stays—rigid and not elastic stays—comfortably laced. Generally speaking, she said, she was in favour of that style of dress which her sex had chosen to adopt, and she thought that if girls went in for dress reform, as advocated by certain lady reformers, they would be only laying up for themselves a great deal of discomfort and a great deal of disease. Compressing the figure by tight lacing was an abuse of tight lacing, and not tight lacing itself. She strongly condemned the principle of suspending the garments from the shoulders, and contended that the weight of the clothes should be thrown as much as possible on the hips.

The Chairman said his own opinion was that the weight of clothes should be supported from the hips rather than from the shoulders.

Mr. Adami said that in framing the paper physiological results were mainly considered, and Professor Roy and he had come to the conclusion that the wearing of waistbands and stays not too tightly laced was of advantage, and the history of clothes showed that belts and stays had been worn by every nation which had outgrown the barbarous stage.

After further discussion on the same lines, Professor Roy briefly replied.

At the concluding general meeting the President (Sir Frederick Bramwell), in commenting on the deficiency in the number of persons present at the meeting as compared with those who attended in 1864, is reported to have said that "the reduction in numbers was largely due to the deficiency in the number of ladies attending on this occasion. Without wishing to be uncomplimentary, he thought he might say that, so far as the scientific work of the association was concerned, the value of that work depended on the number of members and associates who attended, especially members, rather than upon the number of ladies, however much they might add to the pleasure of the meeting."

These remarks, whatever be their general bearing, appear to be based upon an entirely erroneous estimate of the deficiency in the number of ladies present as compared with those present in 1864. The error doubtless arises from the misleading manner in which the tables of attendance are classified. In reading out the numbers present, the president gave them as old life members, 216; new life members, 36; old annual members, 339; new annual members, 100; total number of members, 691; associates, 640; ladies, 509; foreigners, 35, grand total, 1,985. The corresponding numbers for 1864 are, members, 612; associates, 1,119; ladies, 1,058; foreigners, 13, grand total, 2,802—deficiency, 817. The error lies in confusing the number of ladies' transferable tickets sold with the number of ladies present at the meeting. At the time of the meeting of 1864, these numbers were practically identical; the ladies contented themselves with the anonymous transferable tickets, and did not enrol themselves as members and associates. Now that is changed. It appears from the published list that of the 691 members present this year, 81 were ladies; of the 640 associates, 271 were ladies; of the 35 foreigners, two were ladies. These, added to the 509 ladies' transferable tickets sold bring the number of ladies present at the recent meeting up to 863, as against 1,058 in 1864, a deficiency of only 195, as against a deficiency of 622 in the number of men.

We also demur to the assumption of the President that the function of the ladies is merely to add to the pleasure of the meeting, and that they are less capable than the men of profiting by or contributing to scientific discussion. That they derive pleasure and profit from the discussions is a matter for their own consciousness—that they would be capable of equally sound work we do not doubt, if they received the same assistance and encouragement as is given to men. The action of such great educational institutions as Owens College in closing its science classes to women is a type of the discouragement which was absolute some years ago, but which is now slowly beginning to yield to more enlightened views. We do not despair of seeing even the conservative crust of the British Association undermined and broken up by the upheaval of the active forces within. In substantial matters they have not as yet shown a disposition to advance, but there are one or two symptoms in minor matters which point in the right direction. Among the list of "foreigners" who receive personal recognition as honorary members we this year observe the names of two ladies, Madame Parlow, of Moscow, and Madame Stefanescu, of Bucharest. It appears to be a new departure that the wives of distinguished persons who accompany their husbands on these occasions shall receive personal recognition, for some years ago, when the Emperor and Empress of Brazil attended the meeting—we believe the one at Glasgow in 1876—the Emperor was included in the list of "foreigners," but the Empress was not recognised even as an associate, but came in with the crowd as the undistinguished holder of a "ladies' transferable ticket." We believe that if any Empress were to signify her intention of being present at Newcastle next year she would not now be relegated to the unnamed crowd of transferable ticket holders, but would receive that personal recognition and welcome which we hold that the association should extend to every woman, whether Empress or student, who manifests a desire to support its efforts and take part in its work.

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