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THE WOMAN'S

A Weekly Record and Review devoted to the interests of Women in the Home and in the Wider World.

Edited by
MRS. FENWICK MILLER.

SIGNAL

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&c., &c., &c.

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THE WOMAN'S SIGNAL

A WEEKLY RECORD AND REVIEW FOR LADIES.

A BOOK OF THE HOUR.

A NEW NOVEL.*

Miss Brooke made a distinct sensation with her earlier novel—"A Superfluous Woman." In these crowded days, that was no small matter. The present work has not in it the same measure of startling "situation" as the previous one involved; but it has both in style and substance a degree of originality that is rare, and those who care for "strong meat" in fiction will find in it much to their taste.

The action takes place in a country town, where a lady lives in a villa under the shadow of the castle of her absent husband's titled elder brother, and by this proximity and the sufficient amount of attention that she receives from these great relations keeps the tongue of rumour silent on the subject of her marital separation. To her home comes her daughter Rosalie, who has been curiously brought up in a wild, open-air life, by her supposed father—her mother's absent husband—on the rancho where he has hidden himself. He has now died, and the untrained, unconventional, beautiful and strong Rosalie is placed in the heart of the provincial circle where the Hon. Mrs. Trelyon is so well received.

There is another girl there, the daughter of the residents of one of the "good" houses in the neighbourhood, whom we at first supposed to be the destined heroine. She is an interesting and distinct personality, this red-haired Eliza, and we rather resent that she has after all but a scrubby part to play, and an eminently unsatisfactory ultimate career sketched out in the last few pages of the book. There is another character on whose presentment much pains are expended, and who finally turns out to be of no importance to the tale—the aged John Armstrong, cousin to Eliza's father. The canvas is crowded with figures; in unconscious strength of characterization the author spends more lavishly than she needs on each. But they are all dramatic entities—no one can for a moment be confounded with another—each has a character in accordance with which he acts, and as a consequence of which he acts as he does. That the final result will be better if Miss Brooke will concentrate this undoubted power more closely, keep her subordinate characters in vaguer outline, and reduce the number of chief personages in her future works, we think there is no doubt.

Rosalie is the heroine, so far as there is one. But circumstances are not kind to her. The wild thing of the rancho is not with impunity caught and caged in the small provincial circle. She instinctively struggles for a wider existence, and the best thing that could have happened to her would have been to have had to earn her living, but the leisure and idleness of mind of her actual situation lead her into foolish hunts after a greater future. A true, young lover, Evan, turns up for her, but he does not per-

* "Life the Accuser," by E. F. Brooke, author of "A Superfluous Woman," 3 vols. William Heinemann.

sonally please her, and he has no position, no apparent prospect. Rosalie pants for prominence.

"By the time that Lady Susannah issued her cards of invitation, Rosalie had been for three months an inmate of her mother's house. Her father was her god and her standard; she tried all men by it; his treatment of her as a woman was the treatment she exacted from all. 'My father' ran on her tongue with frequency, and with a pretty unquestioning pride that was winning. Mrs. Trelyon listened with lowered lids. Rosalie quoted his views on Colonial policy, and believed them to be the ultimate wisdom. Colonial matters were prior in her view to home and foreign affairs. She burned with ardent partisanship on topics that drawing-room politicians knew nothing of. England was a trifling item in the great Imperial Empire. She thrilled responsive to the beat of waves on the distant edges of another hemisphere; and the talk she heard tinkled in her ears like domestic cattle bells.

"One day, shortly before the party, Lady Susannah inadvertently kindled a small fire of interest.

"You must talk of these things with Mr. Dayntree one day," said she, stealing a well-bred glance at the easy-fitting school-girl gown in which Rosalie could without impediment have climbed a tree; 'people so often indicate him as a future Secretary for the Colonies—he has all the knowledge.'

"But this suppressed existence of stays and sofas! How was she to run a scarlet thread of interest within a dun-coloured material? The two words 'Colonial Secretary' suggested that at least in the neighbourhood was one man who could talk; her need for adventure and for touching the moment with skilled appropriating handling, brought about a second suggestion for creating secret amusement out of Lady Susannah's party.

"She determined to undertake for that evening the role of decorum and fashion and play it off on the local inquisitors."

It is at this party that she meets Norman Dayntree, the man as to whom her curiosity is already aroused. The servant announces "Mr. and Mrs. Dayntree" at the moment that Lord Warrenne is talking to his young relative. Rosalie looks at the man who enters, and feels that he is worth her notice. "Who is Mr. Dayntree?" she asks Lord Warrenne.

"Dayntree? Well, he is lord of the manor, and a prince amongst merchants, and the handsomest man in the county, and married to the best of women, and old enough to be your father," spoke Lord Warrenne.

"Introduce him, please; someone called him the future Colonial Secretary."

Mr. Dayntree, it will be perceived, has a wife, Constantia Dayntree, "a handsome woman of thirty-nine; if she had lost the beauty of early youth, she had taken on new beauties." She is a proud and absolutely devoted wife of twenty years standing, and a perfect mother to her three children. This loving and believing wife, whom early in the second volume we find repelling with perfect confidence the first breath of suspicion against her husband—fingering off the warning that Eliza feels obliged to offer, with "a passion of proud, unquestioning clear-eyed trust"—is but a little while after finding the painful truth of her husband's

infidelity forced upon her by the evidence of her own eyes. Certainly the most subtle and most interesting part of the book is the study of the wife on whom, after years of absolute confidence in her own position as the one woman in her husband's life, as he is the one man in hers, the knowledge is forced that her trust has been a foolish weakness, her faith a fond delusion, the purity of her home a whitened sepulchre, and that the heart and mind that she has supposed to be consecrated to herself have been the habitation of vice and deceit.

At first it seems so strange to her that her husband looks the same, addresses her in the same affectionate and familiar manner, seems not to be conscious himself that he is unfit to be her husband. "So had he looked and borne himself in all the years of her life with him. The thing best known to her had never been really seen—her world had all to be relearned from the beginning. Her heart cried out, 'Where is my husband—where am I?'" She says nothing at first, for the passionate pain that she endures, she feels, blinds her judgment. What can she do? Break up her own life, and have not only the misery of her heart in secret, but the added wretchedness of the public scorn and pity, to bear? And yet her conscience tells her that to remain silent, to be wilfully blind, is to make herself an accomplice.

"The same inexplicable confusion and partial obfuscation of her senses which had attacked her in the bedroom remained with her when she returned to the drawing-room. She paced the room slowly, raising the handkerchief more than once to her damp brow. Every sign of her habitual life and habitual happiness was about her; she felt that this mere habit of life was a sluggish stream that threatened to efface her individual will and conscience; and before she had forced from her mind a clear idea, Norman was back. He carried the evening papers in his hand, and brought into the room with him the usual sense of vigour, masculine will, and complete self-possession. She realised acutely how restful was this atmosphere, and how completely her own nature had, during the years of their life together, settled into comfortable subordination to his. And now the parting of the ways had come?"

"Norman handed her the papers to choose from, and took those she left. He seated himself on the sofa, threw one leg along it, and leaned lazily against the cushions. Seated opposite, the paper dropping from her hand, she studied the familiar form and face; and thus looking at him she experienced more and more a weakening of her nature, a monstrous temptation to condone everything, shuffle everything by, for the sake of the sweet intimacy which, for the first time in twenty years, was threatened; to be party to his failure, accomplice of his lapse, for the sake of retaining the warm peace of the nest of love in which she had existed so long.

"For there was still peace. In what had his manner differed during this day from what it had always been? In what had his affection towards her and the children diminished? As long as he remained unconscious of her discovery—as long as she stifled her agony—the old life might go on. How should she reach, out of these twenty years of merged existence, a separate individuality strong enough to set into

opposition to his. The scare of it appalled her.

"Why," asked she, in spiritual terror, 'should I attempt this scission? Why say a word? Why risk the outward peace which at least I can retain?'

"The spoken cowardice acted as a goad to her torpid brain; she was startled back into self-consciousness. She found herself, as her gaze concentrated more and more upon the unconscious careless ease of Norman's attitude, in the throes of a supreme debate; and in the anguish of it, her very passion revived out of the long years of secure and satisfied love which had laid it to rest. She began to tremble at his presence, to shudder at the thought of his touch, at the sight of his hand holding the paper.

"What disorder was this life? For it was disorder. Her deepest consciousness of the something which encircles all emotion and is greater than the emotion itself, taught her to distinguish amidst the distresses of the moment, and to refuse to be blinded by any sophistry of the conventions.

"Just as outside the pale of man's law and in defiance of it, sexual emotion may be not only guiltless, but true to the highest and most elevating that man can touch, so within the pale of man's law, and permitted by the bond of marriage itself, may sexual emotion defile the discernment, and ruin the moral power and break the individual will.

"Of all such feeling, the ultimate criterion is the fruit in the character and life; the machinery of the law and of convention does not affect the higher balance of the judgment.

"Her starting-point was consistent with the simplicity of her character. She had no conception of a method of action other than what was based on sincerity and a complete recognition of the truth; mere skilful management of the position was meaningless to her, and she could see nothing lying between some sheer definition of her own standpoint or the surrender of her nature to her husband's.

"Her first temptation left her conscious that the thing warring most against the bit of clear individual judgment necessary to the event was her practice of self-surrender as a wife. There is nothing in the constitution of things to ensure us against being entrapped by virtue itself when it has become habitual. It made no difference that her surrender had ever kept within itself the possibility of reserve and denial, that the gift had been in strength and not in weakness, a choice and deliberate exercise in affection. In spite of the acquittal of conscience in this review of higher emotions, she knew that if treachery was there to entrap her, it lurked within her habit as a wife, tempting her to fall with the fallen rather than accept the scission which the retainment of her own moral standpoint required. Herein was the uttermost poignancy and inwardness of the sorrow.

"But if anything less than clear reading of this fact of sorrow was impossible to her, so was the idea of revenge. It even troubled her to be so beaten by a storm of personal pain as to be unable to reach a vantage-ground of thought.

"But grief is many-sided, and there were days when her self-respect swooned before the blow it had received. Day after day it might be so; day after day she seemed to strive with a burden she could not lift. The blow had been double-edged, and cut the springs of joy in two places. Not only had she failed to keep her heart's love, but she was palsied by the feeling that she had bestowed her own unworthily; the father of her children had fallen from her respect. And if anyone knew it! Against this dread she could not rise—the eyes of the world upon it, upon him! She shrank before imagined words, and her eyes caught pictured glances."

This painful problem could not be presented, probably, with more vigour or insight, though we think there are some elements of bitterness in such a cup that Miss Brooke has omitted—one of them being the state of the law that does not permit a wife to divorce her husband for this cruel and degrading wrong, but forces her to carry on through all her future the humiliating chain of the continued relationship

with an unfaithful husband, and thus deprives her even of the consolation of the exercise of the noble grace of forgiveness by compelling her to endurance. Moreover, in our story, the husband returns to his allegiance to his wife when the choice between her and the mistress is forced on him—forced not by his wife, whom the state of the law referred to deprives of any power to compel a choice—but by the foolishness of Rosalie herself, who insists on the selection being openly made. Rosalie, conveniently for everybody, dies off under the disgrace that she has brought on herself. Death is so obliging in novels! In reality, alas! to wish, to actually urgently need, to die, seems to be a sure preservative of life. But Rosalie dies, making Evan miserable, and leaving her baby to be brought up by the devoted Eliza, under the patronage of Mrs. Daytree. Amidst the tangled threads of the novel, there are many we have not touched. This class of "problem novel" is not for everybody, but in its genre this one takes high rank.

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

COLORADO SPEAKS FOR HERSELF.

THE Woman's Journal of America prints the following authoritative and conclusive testimony:—

Denver, Col., Dec. 18, 1896.

False rumours are circulating in other States concerning the results of equal suffrage in Colorado (where men and women possess all votes on a perfect equality with each other), and therefore we desire to present a truthful and unprejudiced statement of facts. The signatures of men and women who have official positions are appended to this statement, in order that the office may give weight when names are unknown. The signatures include prominent society women, as well as those distinguished in intellectual and philanthropic work. The list might be indefinitely prolonged, were more than a representative number desired.

"We, citizens of the State of Colorado, desire, as lovers of truth and justice, to give our testimony to the value of equal suffrage for men and women.

"We believe that the greatest good of the home, the State and the nation is advanced through the operation of equal suffrage. The evils predicted have not come to pass. The benefits claimed for it have been secured, or are in process of development. A very large proportion of Colorado women have conscientiously accepted their responsibility as citizens. In 1894, more than half the total vote for Governor was cast by women. Between 85 and 90 per cent. of the women of the State voted at that time. The exact vote of the late election has not yet been estimated, but there is reason to believe that the proportional vote of women was as large as in previous years.

"The vote of good women, like that of good men, is involved in the evils resulting from the abuse of our present political system; but the vote of women is noticeably more conscientious than that of men, and will be an important factor in bringing about a better order."

Signed: Albert W. McIntire, Governor of the State of Colorado. John Evans, ex-Governor of the State of Colorado. John L. Routt, ex-Governor of the State of Colorado.

Alva Adams, Governor-elect of the State of Colorado.

H. M. Teller, U.S. Senator for Colorado. Edwd. O. Woolcott, Senator for Colorado. John F. Schafer, Member of Congress. John C. Bell, Member of Congress.

N. P. Hill, ex-Senator. Charles D. Hayt, Chief Justice Supreme Court.

Luther M. Goddard, Associate Justice Supreme Court.

John Campbell, Associate Justice Supreme Court.

Gilbert B. Reed, First Judge of State Court of Appeals.

Charles I. Thompson, Judge of State Court of Appeals.

Julius B. Bissell, Judge of State Court of Appeals.

Owen E. LeFever, Judge Dis. Court. C. P. Butler, Judge Dis. Court.

P. L. Palmer, Judge Dis. Court. Geo. W. Allen, Judge Dis. Court.

E. H. Webb, Sheriff, Arapahoe County. T. S. McMurray, Mayor of Denver.

A. B. McGaffey, Secretary of State. H. E. Mulnix, State Treasurer.

C. C. Parks, State Auditor. Mrs. A. J. Peavey, State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Lucy E. R. Scott, Assistant State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

B. L. Carr, Attorney-General. James H. Baker, President, University of Colorado.

William F. Slocum, President, Colorado College.

James B. Gregg, D.D. James H. Ecob, D.D.

And nineteen ladies, each one of whom possesses some important and responsible standing, being Presidents of women's clubs, members of the School Board, the Board of Agriculture, holding a medical degree, or having some similar guarantee of position.

It would be impossible to imagine any list of signatures more important and imposing, or any language stronger and more definite than the above. It will be remembered that the Times allowed Mr. Goldwin Smith to assert that Women's Suffrage had been a failure in Colorado, that respectable women did not use the vote, and that only the lowest men who bought bad women's votes rejoiced in it. This aspersion was widely copied in the Press. We now ask publicity for the truth, as shown above.

LET WOMEN THINK FOR THEMSELVES.

THE remedy for ignorance is not deeper ignorance, but knowledge. Let women at first take counsel with their husbands, as the Scripture recommends, or inquire of their fathers or brothers; but if these high authorities differ, as they probably will, let women try to find out for themselves which is right. As for its leading to domestic differences, they have already established the right to think for themselves about theology—a matter which has led to much fiercer wars than were ever caused by mere business or politics—and if so, why can they not also think for themselves about these lesser matters?—T. W. Higginson.

WHO MAY NOT VOTE.

MAN, in the aggregate, says in his might that certain classes of persons shall not vote, and specifies paupers, convicts, idiots, and women; and these classes are excepted for the good of society—all except the women. An idiot, even, might see why a pauper and a convict should not vote, and if he is an honest idiot he might have a glimmering as to why he himself should not; but it would puzzle him (as much as it would a wise man) to tell why a woman should be put in the same class with himself, the pauper, and the convict.

MONTHLY REPORT OF THE CENTRAL NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

FOUNDED 1872.

THE object of the Society is to obtain the Parliamentary Franchise for Women on the same conditions as it is or may be granted to men.

The Society seeks to achieve this object:—

- 1. By acting as a centre for the collection and diffusion of information with regard to the progress of the movement in all parts of the country.
2. By holding public meetings in support of the repeal of the electoral disabilities of women.
3. By the publication of pamphlets, leaflets, and other literature bearing upon the question.

Treasurer—Mrs. RUSSELL COOKE.

Subscriptions and donations should be sent to Mrs. CHARLES BAXTER, Secretary, Central Office, Albany Buildings, 39, Victoria-street, S.W.

Subscribers are entitled to receive the Annual Report and copies of all literature.

The Monthly Report of this Society is now published in the WOMAN'S SIGNAL, which will be sent to Subscribers the first week in each month. We hope many of our members will take this paper in every week.

Cheques or Post Office Orders may be made payable to the Treasurer or the Secretary.

LECTURING CAMPAIGN FUND.

The following donations have been received since last month's report:—

Table with columns for Name, Amount (£ s. d.), and Total. Includes Mrs. Morgan-Browne, Mrs. Biddle, Miss Beatrice Cust, etc.

MR. FAITHFULL BEGG'S BILL.

THE all absorbing topic as we go to press is Mr. Faithfull Begg's Bill, which is in the first order for Wednesday, February 3rd. The result of the private members' ballot having placed Mr. Begg's name eighth on the list, it was expected that a Wednesday early in April would be secured for our Bill. Our opportunity, however, has come sooner than was anticipated. Mr. Begg, knowing that the lamps of the Women Suffragists were trimmed and ready, gladly took the early day which had been left vacant owing to the other Bills which preceded ours not being so well advanced. The Bill is backed by the following members:—Mr. Begg, Mr. Charles McLaren, Mr. Atherley Jones, Mr. Justin McCarthy, Mr. Wyndham, Mr. Courtney, Mr. Jebb, Mr. Macdonna, Mr. Rankin, Mr. Maclure, Mr. Griffith Boscawen and Mr. William Johnston.

It is confidently expected that a division will take place. The wording of the Bill is precisely the same as Mr. Begg's Bill of last year. The

time before us being so short, no public meetings or demonstrations of a like nature have been possible, but all that could be done in the shape of sending letters and circulars to political organisations and private individuals, urging them to use their influence with Members of Parliament, has been done.

From our combined committees a whip has gone to the constituencies, and a letter signed by a number of representative women, including such names as Lady Frances Balfour, Miss Balfour, Lady Henry Somerset, Miss Davenport Hill, Mrs. Temple, Lady Grey, Lady Trevelyan, Lady Knightley, Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. P. Bright McLaren, Mrs. Spence Watson, Mrs. Garrett Anderson, Mrs. Wynford Philipps, and Miss Priestman, &c., has been sent to all Members of Parliament, whether in favour of Women's Suffrage or not. A whip to Members of Parliament known to be favourable will also be sent by the combined committees and another from Mr. Faithfull Begg and Mr. Wyndham.

Circular letters have been sent to the Members of the Executive Committees of Liberal Associations in England and Wales, to the Women's Liberal Associations, and to the British Women's Temperance Associations:—

To the Members of the Executive Committees, and to the Local Secretaries of Liberal Associations in England and Wales. Gentlemen,

I am instructed by my Committee to call your attention to the fact that a Bill for the Extension of the Parliamentary Franchise to Women has been introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Faithfull Begg, and is the

FIRST ORDER ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD.

The Bill is backed by the following members: Mr. Begg, Mr. Charles McLaren, Mr. Atherley Jones, Mr. Justin McCarthy, Mr. Wyndham, Mr. Courtney, Mr. Jebb, Mr. Macdonna, Mr. Rankin, Mr. Maclure, Mr. Griffith Boscawen and Mr. William Johnston.

Though this Bill is in no way a party measure, yet my Committee earnestly press it on your attention as another step in the great Liberal movement for the better representation of the people which has gone on since 1832. It is impossible for those who have supported the principles of the Reform Bills of other years to consistently withhold their support from Women's Suffrage.

The enfranchisement of women is earnestly desired by the Liberal women of this country. The Women's Liberal Federation has constantly passed resolutions urging, not merely that such a measure should be passed, but that it should be taken up and passed as a Liberal measure by the Liberal Party.

The following are their resolutions for the last four years, passed at their annual council of about 900 delegates, representing nearly 500 associations and over 80,000 Liberal women:—

1893.—"That this Council is of opinion that the time has now come when the extension of the Parliamentary Franchise to women should be included in the programme of the Liberal Party, seeing that this measure is one which is based on essentially Liberal principles; and this Council further instructs the Executive Committee to work with persistent effort to achieve this object, whilst not making it a test question with Parliamentary candidates."

1894.—"This Council earnestly urges the Liberal Government, to introduce a Bill for the enfranchisement of women, so that any further extension of the franchise may be granted in a purely democratic spirit and in accordance with the principles of Liberalism."

1895.—"That this Council requests Her Majesty's Government, in introducing any Bill dealing with registration reform or the electoral franchise, to include a clause, instructing registrars to place upon the register, the names of all women who possess the same qualifications as do, or may, entitle men to be registered as Parliamentary voters."

1896.—"That this Council is of opinion that the time has come when women should be placed on an absolute equality with men in

regard to the Parliamentary suffrage, and expresses its profound regret that a principle so essentially Liberal has not received a larger measure of support from professing Liberals."

A similar letter was sent to the secretary of every Women's Liberal Association, and to the secretary of each branch of the British Women's Temperance Association in England and Wales, in the latter of which attention was asked to the fact that "the British Women's Temperance Association has pronounced strongly in favour of Women's Suffrage, both as an act of justice to women and as a necessary step for gaining Temperance Reform. The present Bill has the warm support of the leaders of the temperance cause in the House of Commons, and my committee urge you to strengthen their hands by working for the passing of the Bill."

On Wednesday, January 20th, in Committee Room No. 13 of the House of Commons, an important meeting, under the presidency of Mr. George Wyndham, M.P., was held. The object of the meeting was to confer as to the best means by which the Women's Question could be advanced in the present Parliament. A number of Members of Parliament were present and the combined Sub-Committees were represented by Lady Frances Balfour, Mrs. Sterling, Miss Morden, Miss Gray Allen, and the Hon. Mrs. Alfred Lytton for the National Society for Women's Suffrage; Mrs. Russell-Cooke, Mrs. Chas. McLaren, Mrs. Bamford Slack, Mrs. Bateson, Mrs. Bevan, Mrs. Montefiore, Mrs. E. O. Fordham, Mrs. Morgan Browne, Miss Agnes Slack and Miss Spicer, for the Central National Society; Mrs. Arthur Francis and Mrs. Ashworth Hallett, for Bristol and West of England Society, Miss Louisa Stevenson for the Edinburgh Society, Miss Roper for the Manchester Society, Mrs. Philip for the Birmingham Society. The co. Sligo Society was represented by Miss Gore Booth. The secretaries of the combined committees were also present.

It was resolved to sink minor differences on questions of reform, e.g., the lodger and service franchises, and to co-operate with all M.P.'s who might be willing to take the necessary steps for eliciting the opinion of the House on the principle of extending the franchise to women. In view of the large demands now made upon the time once allotted to private members, it was also decided to proceed by way of resolution, unless a position were secured in the ballot so exceptionally favourable as to ensure an early Wednesday for the consideration of a Bill.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

On December 14th Mrs. Charles Mallet, of South Kensington, delivered a lecture on behalf of this Society at the Windsor Liberal Club, the title of which was "Women's Suffrage in England, and Russian Political Women." It was illustrated by specially prepared lantern slides, shown by Mr. W. Fountain, Windsor. Mr. M. C. Roberts occupied the chair.

Mrs. Mallet delivered a long and interesting lecture, which was illuminated by many humorous touches. Women of the 19th century were asking for equal votes with men; and they were asked this for the benefit of the country. More than 3,500 years ago, the legend told them that the name of the beautiful city of Athens was called by that title by the universal vote of both men and women, and the deciding vote in favour of the name of "Athens" was given by a woman. Coming down the stream of history, the lecturer referred to Boadicea—some 2,000 years ago—and stated that with the Early Britons the women were equal with the men. Women were in the Parliaments of the Saxons and the Normans, and they were the keepers and custodians of castles. They were, further, high sheriffs, high marshals, and justices of the peace. It was

therefore no new thing for them to say, "Let us vote on equal terms with the men." Women were so careless in bygone days, however, that they let the matter of voting slip by. Women were, she affirmed, not legally disfranchised until the year 1832, when the great Reform Bill was passed, and when, by Act of Parliament, only male persons were to vote. In 1835, the Municipal Corporations Act followed the pernicious precedent of the Reform Bill, and the word "male" was put before "person." This state of things went on until the year 1869, when Mr. Jacob Bright got up in the House of Commons, and argued that the word "male" should be left out before "person," and there was not a single dissentient when the matter was put to the vote. Thus, after 34 years, women were allowed to vote in municipal matters—such as Parish Councils, Boards of Guardians, Vestries, &c. It was only idle women that did not want the vote. Several societies—numbering thousands of persons—had been striving for the past 25 years to obtain the franchise. Some said women did not care about politics, but she argued that on such subjects as temperance, factory inspection, local option, Sunday closing, housing of the poor, &c., women had interested themselves in, and had laboured incessantly for; surely these subjects were something to do with politics (hear, hear). On the subject of the housing of the poor, she averred that a woman was the first to take it up, viz., Miss Octavia Hill, who began the work in the Metropolis, which the London County Council were now following up. Some said if women had the vote it would unsex them. That is not so. Would it unsex a woman to walk quietly down the road to a schoolroom and put a cross to a name? They wanted the vote to protect women against unequal laws and unfair wages. The lecturer then went on to refer to the unfairness to women of the divorce and desertion laws. She asked them to go home and think about what she had said, and to work for Women's Suffrage—equality among all human beings, and equality of opportunity. She would now move the following resolution, which she would ask some one to second at the end of the meeting:—"That in the opinion of this meeting, it is of urgent importance, for the best interests of the nation, that the Parliamentary vote should be extended to women upon the same terms as it is or may be granted to men." (Applause.) Mrs. Mallet next proceeded with the second part of her lecture—"Russian Political Women."

Mr. Ryland seconded the resolution submitted by the lecturer, and on putting it to the meeting, it was unanimously carried.

On Tuesday, December 15th, Mrs. Mallet lectured at the Ideal Club, when the following resolution was carried by a large majority:—"That this meeting is of opinion that it is of urgent importance for the best interests of the nation, that the Parliamentary Franchise should be extended to women on the same terms as it is, or may be granted to men."

On Monday, 18th, Miss I. O. Ford, of Adel Grange, Leeds, lectured in the Temperance Hall, Swansea.

Miss Isabella Ford, in the course of her address, spoke of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, stating that a clause had been brought forward to remedy the provision under that Act that a girl should have no protection from her father. Three members blocked that clause, but if women had votes, would those three men have dared to have thus acted? The lecturer alluded to the work done by the women in New Zealand, where they enjoyed the franchise. In conclusion she spoke in congratulatory terms of the prominent part which the women in Swansea took in these questions.

The following resolution was passed at the conclusion of Miss Ford's address:—"That in the opinion of that meeting the time has now come when the question of Woman's Suffrage should be brought into much greater prominence at elections than had hitherto been the case."

On Wednesday, January 20th, Miss I. O. Ford delivered a lecture in the Assembly Rooms,

Merthyr Tydvil. The meeting was held under the presidency of Mrs. Gwilym C. James, president of the Merthyr and District Women's Liberal Association. Miss Ford, in a telling speech, pleaded very earnestly for the grant of a woman's vote, stating that under the present system of government very many much-needed social reforms were impossible, because the direct influence of women was so small. In proof of her position she referred to the divorce laws which placed ill-treated wives under great disabilities, the Factory Acts, and the temperance question. Miss Ford evidently felt very strongly on the subject, and pleaded the cause of her sex with considerable eloquence.

The following resolution was passed:—"That in the opinion of this meeting the time has now come when the question of Women's Suffrage ought to be brought into much greater prominence than has hitherto been the case at Parliamentary Elections."

On Tuesday, 19th, Miss Ford addressed a meeting at Mrs. Lister Jones's house. The following resolution was passed:—"That in the opinion of this meeting it is inexpedient to work at elections for Parliamentary candidates who are not in favour of Women's Suffrage."

MARIE LOUISE BAXTER,
Secretary.

THE FUTURE OF WOMEN WHO WORK.

By EDITH A. BARNETT.

V.—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

THE number of friendly and benefit societies open to women increases year by year; yet it is scarcely too much to say that within the memory of the youngest of us, there was a time when a working woman could with difficulty assure herself against destitution in old age or sickness. I have now lying before me a copy of Canon Blackley's well known book, "Prevention of Pauperism"; it is dated 1880, and on page 106 I find him meeting an objection that National Insurance would be impossible in the case of women; the reason alleged being that "at present there are no data in existence from which tables could be drawn up for a female club." Yet, so true is it that to see and state a need is the first step towards fulfilment, that so soon after as in 1885 a table was drawn up by Mr. Reuben Watson, actuary to the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows, and on his calculations were based the rules of the Suffolk Sisters' Friendly Society (Suffolk Unity), founded by the Rev. J. Frome Wilkinson, Long Melford, Suffolk.

In Baernreither's well-known book on English friendly societies, published in 1889, he says: "There are societies for women as well as affiliated societies—Female Foresters, Female Druids, Female Gardeners, Female Rechabites, Odd Females, Odd Sisters, Ancient Shepherdesses, and others," which list I give on his authority; it seems to include the names of most of the best known and soundest friendly and benefit societies. He goes on, however, to argue that friendly societies for women are neither flourishing nor needful.

But now, in 1897, side by side with Canon Blackley's little book, I have the rules and scales of contributions of five benefit societies for women only, and I have also, by the very kind courtesy of Mrs. Watkin, secretary of Court Victoria of the Ancient Order of Foresters, London United District, figures showing that by the end of 1895 there were no less than 103 "female branches" of Foresters alone, with 3,686 benefit members, 408 honorary members, and funds to the amount of £2,594. The number has since then greatly increased, but I am not able to furnish figures.

Not for worlds would I hinder the working women of England in perpetually "asking for more," yet I think it is as well to look back sometimes, and to remember how much we have gained in the last 20 years. When Canon Blackley wrote, the Friendly Societies Commission, whose report was published in 1874, was not yet an old story, and the Friendly Societies Act, which with successive amendments controls our present action in these directions, was still recent, and in practice almost untried. Friendly societies had had a bad name, and had not yet time entirely to outgrow it. There had been a good deal of fraudulent management, and a good deal more of unbusinesslike habits and well-intentioned muddling. And everyone who has extensive acquaintance among the working classes can tell of individual cases of men who, during a long and laborious life have denied themselves to put by for their old age in some friendly society, only to find that when old age came the society had gone bankrupt, and that all their savings were lost.

It is often thought that when a friendly society is described as registered under the Act, the Government guarantees the solvency of the society; but that is by no means the case. A society "registered pursuant to the Act" may be insolvent, though it is less likely to be so.

The maximum benefits for which a member may be assured in any or in several societies, must not amount in all to more than £50 annuity, or than £200 down, so that membership of a benefit society, whether for women or men, is useful chiefly to those whose provision for future needs falls within such a sum.

Friendly and benefit societies, no doubt, in the beginning were founded, and now are valued by their most enthusiastic supporters, chiefly on account of the friendliness and good comradeship kindled and fostered among the members. The money part of the business is not all. Members meet together for business or for recreation; they are glad or sorry for the success or the misfortunes of others; they know what is befalling those with whom they work and live side by side. And no one will contend that social and mutual assistance is already among the working sisterhood worked for all it is worth. We might seem to lose time or money by turning aside to share in another woman's life, but in the long run the cause of women would gain enormously more than by any isolated action, however successful. Anyone who doubts this may study the history of the men's friendly and benefit societies, seeing there how by united action the working men have grown to their present power.

Friendly and benefit societies offer many and various advantages. Provision for burial was probably the oldest benefit desired, because it used to be thought that life after death depended on the disposal of the human remains, and perhaps that belief inspires some folks now. At any rate burial societies of one sort or another are said to be traceable as far back as historical records go. And they still form one of the most important parts of the work of benefit societies. Next, relief or maintenance in sickness is given. It is easy to see that this is a much more complicated affair, because there comes in the whole question of shamming or malingering. A member may sham sickness, but no one can easily sham death. Besides, no woman can die and be buried more than once, whereas some may never be sick and others never well. Besides these maintenance or relief benefits in sickness, there may be a promise of maintenance in old age, and even "out of work" pay, though I

have not so far come across any scales of contributions for "out of work" pay for women demanded as a right. It is, however, not uncommon to find that a fund is set apart out of which members can be helped during seasons of special distress, if the case commends itself as worthy to the committee. One woman's benefit society gives a "marriage gift" to its members. And another provides a doctor and medicine, acting, in fact, as a provident dispensary in addition to sick pay and burial club.

The question is, how far membership of a benefit society is likely to be helpful to those working women of the educated classes, who have been in my mind as I wrote these few articles. What the benefit societies offer more particularly is sick pay, so many shillings a week during a greater or less number of weeks of sickness. To begin with, some societies offer their membership only to those persons whose earnings are under 80s. a week, or sometimes a less sum, while others welcome all women, leaving each member to decide whether the benefits are worth her while to buy. Again, some societies offer full sick pay for 26 weeks and half pay for 26 more, while other papers that lie beside me reckon the contributions on the basis of only eight or nine weeks' full pay, with four weeks half pay to follow. Everything has to be paid for, and, on the supposition that both scales of payment are reckoned on sound actuarial principles, there certainly should be very much more to pay in the one case than the other. But when one comes to consider the practical bearing of the matter upon the life of such women as I have been thinking of, one cannot help seeing that the shorter times of illness are for many women covered by the terms of their engagement, or at any rate by the customs under which they live. Where a woman is engaged by the year, and at three months' notice on either side, she would probably draw her pay during any short illness; indeed, one is glad to remember, for the credit of many employers of educated women, that the pay has still been forthcoming during a long illness. These benefit societies, allowing short sick pay, are more useful to weekly wage-earners, and especially for those weekly wage-earners who are liable to a week's dismissal, and whose places can be filled at a moment's notice by workers equally good. The thirty shillings a week limit would exclude only the happy few of such wage-earners, for anything over thirty shillings a week is generally only paid to those wage-earners who cannot easily be replaced, and whose employers, finding it worth while to guarantee themselves against sudden loss of a valuable servant, both give and require a long notice. For weekly wage-earners, whatever their status in life, the power of drawing sick pay during illness seems to me an enormous benefit. Only those who know working women well know how often they break down for want of a timely rest; and how often a small ailment gets magnified into a bad illness for want of that ease of mind and of those homely luxuries which only money can buy. Of course it will be said that the sums offered during sickness by most benefit societies are so small that they would not suffice to keep a sick woman of the more luxurious classes alive, let alone in comfort; but half a loaf is better than no bread, even a few shillings a week is better than nothing, or than hanging on private charity, and there is no reason why, if a suitable society be chosen, the sick pay may not be a reasonable sum, limited only by the depth of the buyers' purse.

As far as doctors and medicine go, most

working women have already found out that doctors are of all men the most liberal in giving their advice gratis to the poor. And women who would think it a disgrace to accept charity from another hand, see no harm in taking gratuitous advice from any medical man who is willing to give it; while those who do not look forward to accepting such friendly advice, intend, as soon as they are ailing, to go to the nearest hospital as out-patient, and even maybe to occupy in case of need a bed in the public wards. It is not quite fair, for doctors find it no easier to live under present stress of competition than the rest of the world.

But here I touch what is, without doubt, the most thorny and difficult question connected with woman's benefit societies, and one which it is quite unnecessary to enter upon here. It is enough to say that those women who wish to ensure against sickness can decide what they wish to buy and are able to pay for. And from the purely commercial point of view it is, of course, the best policy to join a society which gives exactly those benefits, and no more than the benefits which the insurer believes herself likely to claim. That there are a large number of women who join benefit societies for the good of their neighbours and the society, and who pay for benefits which they never intend to claim, is known to us all, but that would have to be considered under the head of charity, and a most excellent form of charity, rather than as provision for the future of working women.

The Southwark and Newington Women's Benefit Society, 44, Nelson-square, S.E., and the Blackfriars Provident Dispensary for Women and Children, 98, Blackfriars-road, S.E., are worked both of them in connection with the Women's University Settlement, 44, Nelson-square. The Provident Dispensary already counts 700 members, in spite of such near and formidable rivals as St. Thomas's, Guy's, and the Evelina Hospitals. But the hon. secretary reports that the Benefit Society has not yet taken strongly hold of any class. The earnings range about 9s. to 15s. a week, and a few are not wage-earners, but married women, living at home. The secretary expresses an opinion that benefit societies are more likely to succeed amongst a higher class, and that the bulk of poor women in that neighbourhood are not yet educated in the principles of co-operation; a reproach that might with some justice be levelled against other classes of women and in most neighbourhoods.

The Church of England Benefit Society admits "All persons above 16 years of age whose trade or occupation is not generally dangerous to health, whose health is sound, who are of good character, who do not lead idle or dissolute lives, and who can produce a satisfactory medical report." The payments necessary to secure weekly sick pay from 4s. to 12s. are set down in the book of printed rules to be procured of the secretary, Dean's-yard, Westminster. The burial allowance is from £4 to £12.

The Oxford Working Women's Benefit Society has its registered office at 37, New Inn Hall-street, Oxford, and admits as members persons between 16 and 50, who may reside anywhere. Neither of these societies allow sick pay during confinements, a very serious consideration in the case of some women, though scarcely of those whom I have first in my mind.

The Courts of Female Foresters have the great advantage of being affiliated with the Ancient Order of Foresters, founded in 1745, and contesting with the Manchester Unity of the Independent Order of Oddfellows the place of

honour as the oldest of English working men's orders. I quote from Mrs. Watkin's letter before-mentioned, "We take women in if they produce certificates of good health, from the age of 16 to 39, and they pay according to age for the benefits. We have in most branches three tables, from 4s. to 8s., or in others from 5s. to 10s. We have no wage limit; anyone who wishes to join can do so. All members must attend once to be initiated into the Court, after which, so long as they send their contributions it does not matter where they live, and they can always pay the doctor's money into even a male Court nearest to where they reside, instead of paying the same amount into their own Court for medical attendance. Again, if a lady wishes to join a Court a mile or miles away from where she lives and there is a male Court held anywhere near, not held at a public house or where drink is sold, she can be initiated there, and her money and name would be sent to the female Court she wishes to join. Female Forestry is recognized by the district, which means that our funeral moneys are paid in there each quarter, and then the District would meet all claims at any time, whether one or twenty. We give £6 and £12 at death. Should you at any time know of any one that would like to join, I should like to have their address, or to hear from them," which very kind permission I pass on to my readers. Mrs. Watkin's address is 2, Queen's-place, Essex-road, London, N. I see in the rules of Court Victoria, of which Mrs. Watkin is secretary, that four weeks' sick pay during lying-in is expressly provided for.

The Cripplegate Benefit Society, Cripplegate Institute, Golden-lane, besides "marriage gifts" and "funeral gifts," provides for its members a "lying-in gift" of 30s., over and above sick pay for sickness and inability to work due to other causes than childbirth.

A benefit society specially intended for middle-class single women is the "Work and Leisure Court of the United Sisters' Friendly Society," the address of which is 7c, Lower Belgrave-street, London, S.W.

It has not been possible to give anything like a complete list of women's benefit societies. But in conclusion it should not be forgotten that widows and children of members are provided for in the men's benefit societies, and that to make such provision for those dependent upon them was a prime cause of the foundation of such societies. Yet of late years, there being so many unmarried women dependent on their own earnings, some provision more than this has been clearly needed, and it is satisfactory to think that the need has to some extent been met. There is obviously a great difficulty in women joining men's societies, inasmuch as women, by the Registrar General's Reports, are shown to have an average sickness unlike that of men, falling into different age periods; and an average duration of life somewhat longer than that of men, having their periods of special danger to life at unlike times.

THE END.

In 1890 the National census of the United States found women employed in 360 out of 369 occupations, and discovered, besides, that there were but four times as many men earning a living as there were women. This change was due primarily to the invention of machinery that assumed the work formerly given to man's superior physical strength.

KINDLY words, sympathising attentions, watchfulness against wounding men's sensitiveness—these cost very little, but they are priceless in their value.—F. W. Robertson

THE WOMAN'S SIGNAL.

A Weekly Record and Review of Woman's Work and Interests at Home and in the Wider World.

Editor—MRS. FLORENCE FENWICK MILLER.

Corresponding Editors—THE LADY HENRY SOMERSET and MISS FRANCES E. WILLARD.

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SIGNALS FROM OUR WATCH TOWER.

With startling and unexpected rapidity the Woman's Suffrage Bill has come forward this Session. Mr. Faithfull Begg would have had a place for it somewhere about April, had the chances of the ballot been followed, and that in itself was very good fortune. But it has so happened that the half dozen members who were yet more lucky than this in the ballot for places for their Bills had not got their measures ready drawn so as to be able to introduce them at once; and as the Woman's Suffrage Bill was ready, it stepped into the vacant place, and obtained first position on Wednesday, February 3rd. Mr. Radcliffe Cooke at once gave notice to move the rejection of the Bill.

As our readers know, the WOMAN'S SIGNAL is published at eight o'clock on Thursday morning, and this means that it has to be all ready too long before that time for us to be able to give the result (which will not be known till late on Wednesday afternoon) in this week's issue. But next week we shall give a full report of the debate.

Speaking at Chelsea on Saturday, Sir Richard Temple justified the omission from Mr. Faithfull Begg's Bill of women lodgers, and women having the service franchise, and the enfranchisement of women householders and property owners only, by the argument that the great danger of giving too much freedom in this matter was that vast national expenditure might be incurred through the votes of those who would not have to pay the cost. He thought that the opinions of those who had "a stake in the country" should have more weight than those of the very poorest, and that there should be an educational qualification of a simple kind, so that the absolutely illiterate and ignorant should not vote. He pointed out that women of taxpaying and intellectual capacity were now excluded, while the poorest and most ignorant men exercised the franchise. The masses certainly had their rights, and should be helped, but neither they nor the classes should have everything in their own hands. He hoped, for the sake of national duty, that the opinions of those qualified citizens now excluded on the ground of sex alone would in future be counted.

Amongst the reports of meetings of the past week we have to note those of every opposing section of women in politics. A Union of Women's Liberal Associations has held an important conference in Glasgow, the Women's Liberal Unionist Association has met to hear Mr. Courtney on the new Irish grievance, the Primrose League has held an election of its officers, and the Home Rule women have had a gathering in Belfast. These are, be it understood, meetings having a sort of corporate character, representing large sections; every week brings numbers of reports of local meetings of all the various shades of political "colour." The moral that is to be pointed from the reference is the absurdity of pretending that women will all or nearly all be on one side in general politics. They differ amongst themselves on the wide questions of general politics as much as men do, and the opinions are formed and governed by the same class of causes in either sex.

At the annual meeting of the Bristol W.L.A., Miss Priestman in the chair, the report was read by Miss Tanner, the hon. secretary, and a portion of it stated that—

"The greater and more important the questions at issue, the more did the committee feel that the continued political disability of women was a national misfortune, leaving a country which boasts of its representative Government still most imperfectly and partially represented. The exclusion of women from the franchise was not only a disability but a pressing danger. During the present lull in progressive legislation was the time for pressing more urgently than ever the claim of women to the vote. Again and again had they been asked to stand aside until some great question should be decided. Now, amongst many there was no single one to which all others must yield. There was no longer any excuse for delay, and it rested with women to be insistent and urgent, and at the same time consistent and logical, in their demand."

Miss Susan B. Anthony, the grand old leader of the American Women's Suffragists, expressed during the recent election there, a strong view on a topic much

agitated amongst us—namely, whether women who are anxious to secure Woman's Suffrage do wisely to unite themselves to and work for party political success. Miss Anthony was entirely in opposition to this course. She said:—

The only thing which a woman can rightly and wisely work for now is the right to vote to help the political party of her choice in all elections in the good times to come. Of course, each of the political parties, old and new, would be glad of the help of the women throughout this campaign, but who can fail to see that the women who should join one alliance would thereby lose their influence with the men of each of the other parties. They would at once be adjudged partisans, working for the interest of the party with which or to which they were allied. Women, you cannot keep the goodwill and win the good votes of all the good men of all the good parties of the State by allying yourselves with one or the other or all of them! You must stand as disfranchised citizens—outlaws—shut out of "the body politic," humble suppliants, veriest beggars at the feet of all men of all parties alike.

Mrs. Massingberd's long suffering is a last stilled by death. She underwent an operation for the removal of an internal cancer several weeks ago; but though she passed successfully through the ordeal, her strength was too far exhausted for her to recover. There has been a little hope from time to time, and she has all along been fully conscious and able to think about and write to her beloved "Pioneers"; but she gradually sank and passed away on Thursday. She was the wife of Mr. E. Langton, to whom she was married in 1867, and by whom she has a family; but she resumed her own name on coming into her father's estate in Lincolnshire ten years ago.

Her own particular work was the foundation of the Pioneer Club. Her object was to draw together the women who care for the advance of the public welfare in every way, and for the improvement of the position of their own sex above all. The magnificent premises of the club in Bruton-street were her provision, the membership of the club not being sufficiently large to support such a fine home. But even more important to the club than the pecuniary responsibility that she took was her own remarkable personality. She had a wonderful power of attracting and holding other women. That she was equally vigorously disliked "goes without saying," for a strong personal magnetism must always repel as powerfully as it attracts, the difference being in the nature of those upon whom its influence is exercised. But no woman was ever more enthusiastically beloved by others, and the "Pioneers" who truly appreciate their club and all that it stands for will mourn deeply and long for the passing away of her brilliant light and tender warmth.

Mrs. Massingberd had (as I think unfortunately) adopted a very mannish style for her dress, in which she was copied by a great many of the members of the club. She wore her hair short, and parted at one side; a little soft felt hat, almost unadorned, was placed on it, and when she rose to speak in a public meeting, if she had had her hat on till the moment of rising, she would then take it off in a gen-

tlemanly manner. A loose "morning" coat and an evening broadcloth one, just like a man's in both cases, was worn over a vest and shirtfront and tie, the whole having a masculine appearance that was very misleading as to the truly feminine, loving, and tender heart that it all covered. Mrs. Massingberd was a strong anti-vivisectionist. As a temperance woman, her views were so decided that she gave up all licenses, even the hotel licenses, on her own property, and turned the public-houses all into coffee-taverns and temperance hotels. She donated a cottage to the Duxhurst village homes for inebriate women, and gave other generous aid besides to the same enterprise. Many women's causes had liberal assistance from her. But it was the "Pioneer" that was her own and cherished effort. In her last letter to the club, at the New Year, she said that every day she saw more clearly that the suffrage was the groundwork for all improvement, and begged the members to make every effort to obtain it. This dying message should stimulate those who loved her to earnestness in working for the vote.

The New Truck Act has caused an outburst of dissatisfaction in many trades, and amongst others, in the linen manufacturing industry of the North of Ireland. Under the new Act the masters are obliged to put up in a conspicuous position the causes for which fines will be exacted, and must not levy any other than those so notified. The masters state that the list agreed upon is not essentially different from that which has always been in use, but that they have had to make it a little more stringent in appearance, as they are now deprived of the possibility of dealing somewhat more harshly with confirmed "black sheep" than with the ordinary hands. However, the workers, the great majority of whom are women, went out on strike as a protest against the rules, which they maintain are far more harsh than the old customs of the trade.

Fortunately, Belfast possesses a standing Board of Conciliation, and a temporary agreement has been arrived at for the resumption of work for a fortnight while the Board discusses the matter. The Board consists of twelve workers and twelve employers, and if they should be equally divided, the Board of Trade is empowered to appoint an arbitrator to settle between them. Such efforts after settlement of labour disputes by peaceful methods

instead of by war, are as much to be gloried in, and their success is as ardently to be hoped for, as in the case of disputes between nations. The sufferings of the field and the sacrifices of the public in war may appear more imposing and are certainly more awful, but the miseries and losses of a strike on a large scale are really little less terrible to the sufferers concerned.

According to the *Belfast Weekly News*, the Factories' Act is being put in operation there, with, as might be expected, painful and distressing suffering to the unfortunate small laundry proprietors and their workers. In England, on the other hand, it is complained by the advocates of this harassing legislation that it is not getting put into force. In Belfast, according to our authority, the poor women "have just held a private conference among themselves to talk over the situation, as their worst fears are being realised. The big capitalist has crowded in on what is essentially women's work, employing men instead of women because there is no interference with men's work, and there is not the constant worrying of inspectors bound to drive employer and employed alike frantic. The women complain that the large hotels, being exempted by the Act, have taken the work from the women and do it at all hours, and under all conditions, for themselves. One large employer, who used to divide £1,000 a week in one district alone, has now managed to evade the Act, and gives out no washing. Also, he combines with other employers, who kindly oblige each other in emergencies, and so manage to call themselves owners of private laundries, with free hours and exemption from annoyances. Some of the hard-working women have inherited their business from their mothers, and my informant, with tears in her eyes, went back on her grandmother's experiences as a proprietor, and to her mother's, and complained bitterly that she had nothing before her but the workhouse. So much for faddist legislation."

We much regret to have to state that Lady Henry Somerset has had a slight relapse since her carriage accident, and a surgical operation was considered necessary. She is progressing as favourably as possible, but prolonged rest is imperative, and all her engagements are for the present cancelled. She has even been forbidden to attend to her correspondence for a time.

"Man" has come forth but badly in the law courts this week. A whole page of our papers has been taken up with the accounts of how one miserable lad, being heir to a moderate fortune, became a drunkard at the age of sixteen, and from the moment that he came into possession of his property gave himself up to alcohol and all sorts of folly—and of how another young man of means was so under the influence of a friend that he was compelled to buy an engagement ring for the girl the friend chose, and was soon after put into a cab and taken to buy his own wedding license without the least idea of what was going to be done. Without copying the foolish way in which men ascribe all the follies and failings of any one woman to her sex, we may fairly call attention to the simultaneous occurrence of these cases, as the latest proofs of the incapacity of many males for the government of money; and suggest that it is time an arrangement was obtained in this country similar to that in France, called the "Family Council," under which the control of the money, and to some extent of the actions of a man, who is conducting himself foolishly, is made over on the application of his family to a guardian. That even this does not prevent the very numerous men too weak to bear the responsibility of money from ruining themselves is shown by the recent deplorable career and death of Max Lebaudy, the Paris millionaire's son and heir. But it is a certain safeguard against the extremes of folly of which men are capable, and many a man and his nearest relatives have been saved from ruin thereby.

Miss Priestley, the young lady journalist, who did for the *Sun* newspaper the unpleasant but necessary task of ferreting out the truth as to the common and easy methods of getting rid of new-born babes in our midst, is to be congratulated on the success of her work, as she recounted it in the witness-box. One of the wretched creatures, whose doings she unearthed, is undergoing a sentence of two years' penal servitude for her offences; another has run away, but is wanted by the police, and a third has also come to condign punishment. A woman called Graham, however, brought a libel action against the paper in which Miss Priestley's experiences and discoveries were recounted. Happily, the admissions in the witness-box of the plaintiff and the medical man who aided her in her business were sufficient to induce the jury to find for the defendants at once. It is deplorable to

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know that the man concerned was on the medical register, until Miss Priestley's action and courageous speech drew the attention of the authorities to his position.

Dr. Rentoul, the great enemy of midwives, has been elected to the General Medical Council mainly on the ground that he will endeavour to interfere with the practice of this branch of the medical art by any women except the few who are on the medical register. A dinner was offered as a congratulation to him at the Holborn Restaurant, and in the incaution of the after-dinner hour he stated that "he would never rest till he had secured that no person who did not hold a full medical diploma should be allowed to attend such cases." It is thus time for women to awaken to the fact that such animus is growing up in the medical profession, and to realise all that is at stake. Such a law as Dr. Rentoul desires, and as medical men have put him on the governing body of the profession to advocate, would mean that a great number of poor women would have no attendance at all in this hour of great need for help, and that a profession eminently suitable for educated women would be closed against them. Such a law as Dr. Rentoul advocates is one of those things that are allowed to be done by general apathy, and that can only be amended when many sacrifices have been made, and public notice is at last arrested thereby.

Great indignation is being caused amongst nurses by Mr. Hall Caine's new story, in which he professes to give the experiences of a nurse. It is singular that he should apparently have made no effort to acquaint himself even with the *locale* of his tale. To those who know the size and structure of a hospital operating theatre, the following description of one, and of a scene in it, is amazing in its impossibility, its wild inaccuracy:—"The ball is held in the operating theatre of the hospital, a great circular hall with a gallery running round its walls, which were now festooned with flags, and roofed with a glass dome from which coloured lamps were hanging. Some four hundred girls and as many men were gathered there; the pit was their dancing-ring, and the gallery was their withdrawing-room. The men were nearly all students of the medical schools, the girls were nearly all nurses, and they wore their nurses' uniform. There was not one jaded face among them—not one wearied look or tired expression. . . . The great doctors and the matrons were gone by this time; only the nurses and the students remained, and the fun was becoming furious. Somebody lowered the lights, and they danced in a shadow-land; somebody began to sing, and they all sang in chorus; then somebody began to fling about paper bags full of tiny white wafers, and the bags burst in the air like shells, and their contents fell like stars from a falling rocket, and everybody was covered as with flakes of snow."

There is something so grotesque about the wild impossibility of not only this, but all the rest of Mr. Hall Caine's hospital scenes, that hospital nurses should be content with laughing at it; though it will be difficult for many of them, amidst the fatigue and earnestness of the reality of their daily life, to help being angry at so glaring a travesty of it. More serious,

however, is Lady Priestley's attack on trained nurses in the *Nineteenth Century*, which I note is to be answered in the same magazine by the editor of the *Nursing Record*, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, than whom no more capable defender could be wished by the nurses. In a future number we will give some extracts from Lady Priestley's assault and Mrs. Fenwick's defence; and also a very interesting reply to Lady Priestley, specially written for the *WOMAN'S SIGNAL* by Miss Waddington, matron of the Bootle Corporation Hospital.

Can any reader remind me of any other instance than Charlotte Brontë's "Professor," in which a woman novelist has written her story in the form of an autobiography of a man? Male novelists are continually adventuring on this enterprise—writing as though they were women—and, as it seems to me, with conspicuous failure. As in "The Merry Wives of Windsor," we spy the great beard under the muffler! Sir Walter Besant is trying in the *Illustrated London News* to be a girl, and actually a Quaker girl! The great beard waggles in every paragraph—the girl talks as no girl ever did about men in general, and her own lover in particular. Well might the famous woman novelist above-named, who herself tried the reverse of the experiment, declare that men's heroines are "artificial as the rose in my bonnet," and then, she added, "to hear them praise each other's creations!"

A heroic-sized figure of the Saviour has just been completed for Lady Henry Somerset by Mr. Percy Wood. It is to be cast in bronze, and will be erected in a central position in the temperance village at Duxhurst. The figure represents our Lord with His hands outstretched, as if inviting the sorrow-stricken to come to Him. If we are not mistaken, says the *Daily Chronicle*, this will be the first statue of Christ erected in a prominent position in any English town or village since the Reformation. The *Daily Chronicle* is, however, mistaken; there are at least two other "images" of the kind of modern erection.

Queen Boadicea's statue, it appears, will certainly be set up in London. The committee who have the matter in hand are anxious to set it up as a celebration of the Diamond Jubilee, and inform the London County Council that Mr. J. I. Thornycroft, the son of the sculptor, who has offered to present the group to the Council, will give the order at once for the casting of the model, and pay the money when required, he relying upon the Council to repay him if and when it obtains parliamentary powers, or upon further subscriptions being secured, or finally standing any eventual loss if it cannot be otherwise made up—a most generous offer.

The different departments of the Women's Work Section in the Victorian Era Exhibition are to be under the direction of different members of the committee. The Countess of Warwick undertakes all arrangements connected with women's work in education, Lady Jeune industry, and Mrs. Normand (Henrietta Rae) fine arts. The Duchess of Devonshire will probably undertake history and literature.

Current News FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

At a largely attended meeting of the North of Ireland Women's Temperance Association and Christian Workers' Union, the matter of a memorial to the late Miss Tod came up for consideration. Several suggestions were made and fully considered, and the following resolution, proposed by Mrs. Forster Green, seconded by Mrs. N. E. Smith, and supported by Mrs. Potts, was carried:—"That as throughout Miss Tod's public life in Belfast, devoted as it was to the uplifting of women, she always recognised education as the greatest factor to that end, and while we wish to act in concert with the other committees of women, of which Miss Tod was an honoured and influential member, it is our opinion that an Isabella M. S. Tod scholarship, open to women and confined to those who require aid in pursuing their education, is the most in accordance with Miss Tod's life-work."

SOCIAL PURITY ACTION AND ITS RISKS.—The Central News says it will be remembered that at the meeting of the Licensing Committee on the London County Council last autumn Mr. Charles Cory Reed and Mrs. Edith Mary Reed, of the Social Purity Society, opposed the renewal of the license of the Oxford Music Hall on this ground, among others, that Miss Madge Ellis, the leading variety artiste of America, who was at the time starring at the Oxford, appeared on the stage of that hall with bare legs. The lady subsequently commenced an action for slander against the Reeds, claiming £500 damages. As it promised to be the first time in the history of British jurisprudence that a witness before a public body was sued for slander contained in the evidence given to that body, the hearing of the case was looked forward to by the legal profession with great interest. The Central News, however, is in a position to state that the action was settled yesterday by the defendants agreeing to all the terms imposed by the plaintiff, including a public apology, the payment of all costs, and a substantial sum, which is said to amount to about £300. In the apology signed by Mr. and Mrs. Reed they state that they "exceedingly regret that they should have made a statement which has caused annoyance to Miss Madge Ellis, and desire to withdraw their statement and to express their sorrow that they should have given evidence upon this point, which they are now satisfied was incorrect." Miss Ellis is at present singing at the West-end halls.

Viscountess Knutsford on Thursday last urged the claims of the Children's Happy Evening Association to a crowded drawing-room meeting held at Broghill, Wimbledon. Mrs. Richmond Ritchie, in presiding, said much could not be done to prevent sorrow, but all could give happiness, especially to children. Mrs. Albert Rutson, Hon. Mrs. Holland, Mrs. William Grantham, the Misses Heather-Bigg, and Mrs. Montague Barlow represented the Central Association.

Mrs. Nansen, who will accompany her husband to this country on his lecturing tour, has received an invitation to sing before the Queen some time while she is in England. Mrs. Nansen is the daughter of the late Professor Sars, of Christiania University, and studied music under the composer Grieg. As a vocalist she is well known in Norway and Sweden, and also in Germany, and she appeared at several concerts during the period when Dr. Nansen was away on his Polar expedition.

At the London School Board Mrs. Maitland (for the vice-chairman) moved the following resolution:—"That, when the Board and the Education Department have approved the proposal for the fitting up of a room in the Bow Creek, Poplar, School, as a combined cookery

ABERDEEN LADIES' UNION.

NATIONAL COUNCILS OF WOMEN.

and laundry centre, an experiment should be tried of giving the boys attending this school (subject to the parents not objecting) a course of lessons in cookery." It was stated by the committee that many of the boys who attended the Poplar schools when they left went to sea, and the committee were of opinion that a knowledge of cookery to such boys would be very useful. Mrs. Maitland added that, alike in the Army and at sea, boys who knew something about cookery had a better chance of doing well. Mr. F. Davies, in moving the previous question, asked what was the proportion of the boys who went to sea. Education did not consist in teaching trades to children, but in "expanding the mind and enlarging the character." Do not let them give boys the tasks of girls. He supposed they would be giving boys needle-work next. The resolution was lost. The "splendid scorn" of men for women's avocations is worth noticing.

A very singular suit has just been decided in the law courts of Philadelphia. Miss Julia Marlowe, a well-known American actress, made a contract with the manager of a theatre in the city mentioned to play an engagement. Having done so, she exercised the right which clearly belongs to every woman, of marrying the man of her choice, Mr. Robert Taber, the leading man of her company. When the time came for fulfilling her engagement she had herself billed as Julia Marlowe-Taber. The engagement was not financially successful, and the manager declared that the actress's new name was the cause of the failure. He, therefore, brought a suit to recover damages, but the judge decided against him. It is obvious, however, that "Mrs. Marlowe-Taber" will find her own financial interests suffer if she persists in giving up the "trade-mark" of her known name.

Mrs. Booker T. Washington, the wife of the principal of the Institution for Coloured Youths at Tuskegee, Alabama, is no less earnest in her work among the women of her race than is her husband among the negro farmers, whom he has taught and helped for years past. Inspired by the resolutions made at the first conference of these men, in 1892, she determined to devote herself to raising their wives, and giving them a broader idea of life. She began her labours in a shabby upper room, where she and six other women discussed ways and means. To-day there is a weekly conference of over 400 women, some of them walking 16 miles to be present. There are talks on useful subjects, there are classes and a library for the children, and the whole neighbourhood has become elevated and improved by the influence of this one coloured woman's missionary spirit.

The annual meeting of the Aberdeen Ladies' Union was held on January 21st, in the Music Hall, Aberdeen.—Mrs. Foster Forbes, Rothiemay, vice-president, in the chair. Mrs. Clark read the thirteenth annual report of the Union for 1896, of which the following is a summary: As usual, the Lily Band classes have been most successful. Each year they increase in numbers, so much so that the class-rooms at Marischal-street are taxed to their utmost to hold them all. This year there are over 450 members. The large quantity of material, £145 worth, that has been sold speaks well for the amount of work done in the classes. The sum of £132 11s. has been received from the girls during the eight months in which the classes meet, and it is very rarely that a girl fails to pay for her material. The work is not allowed to be taken home until it is all paid out. It is only in visiting the homes of the girls that the good done by these classes can be fully appreciated. Onward and Upward Association progresses satisfactorily. Miss Ker reports that there is nothing new to tell about the Girls' Club. The work is carried on as in former years. The girls continue to enjoy the musical drill for which one of their number now undertakes the playing on the piano. The Working Girls' Home at 19, Marischal-street has been quite full all through the past year. A branch of the Travellers' Aid Society has been formed in Aberdeen in connection with the Ladies' Union. The committee desire to return their heartfelt thanks to all who have helped in the work of the Union. They miss very much the kindly presence of their president, Lady Aberdeen, and her helpful advice in all that concerned the work of the Union, but they look forward to the time when they may again have her Excellency presiding at their meetings. Mrs. Foster Forbes then gave a short address, in which she discussed some of the things to be borne in mind by Christian workers in their efforts, such as the necessity of love, patience, courage, tact and discretion, and self-forgetfulness. Miss Wilson, Haddo House, who was called on to move the adoption of the reports, said she was very proud of having been called to serve on the committee of the Union. It was the thirteenth year of the Union's existence, and that being so, they were in the proud position of being the pioneer of a movement which was now taking shape all over the world. They were the first union of women workers started in Great Britain. There had been a movement in the same direction in the United States. In 1888, a National Union or Council was formed there, and the result of that was the formation of the great international congress which took place during the World's Fair at Chicago in 1893, when it was resolved to hold an international congress every five years, the next congress to take place in London in the summer of next year. Lady Aberdeen was appointed president for the present five years. The women present at the Congress from different parts of the world were asked to forward the movement in their own countries. It had been her (Miss Wilson's) privilege to be sent by Lady Aberdeen to different countries in Europe to investigate the progress of the movement. She had found that there was an excellent council of women in Germany. There was also one in France, which, however, was hardly so successful. A council had been formed in Sweden, and movements in the same direction were taking place in Finland, Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, and Italy. Eighteen months ago the National Union of Women Workers in Great Britain was asked to become a national council for this country, but declined, and accordingly a national council was formed, with Lady H. Somerset at its head. She, seeing how identical were the aims of the two organisations, approached the National Union with a view to amalgamation, and the matter was now under the consideration of the Executive Committee of the Union, which would shortly call a meeting of the General Committee in London, at which, it was to be hoped, the Aberdeen Union would be represented either by a delegate or by some London friend who would vote in accordance with the opinion of the local Union on the matter of amalgamation. Miss Wilson then proceeded to deal more particularly with the Canada National Council, with which she was most intimately acquainted. The movement there was taking root just when Lady Aberdeen went out, and it was natural that she should be the leader of it, being appointed its president. The Canadian Council was the most fully-developed of any of the councils now existing. Many people thought that Canada was, of all places, the most easy to start a council in. She (Miss Wilson) thought the contrary, because there were many difficulties to overcome in Canada, difficulties arising from the difference of race and religion between the British and French colonists. The Council took the initiative in women's work, but it did not start any propaganda in which all women could not join. It was thought by many that there was no work in which all women could join, but the experience of the Canadian Council disproved that, because among its members were Roman Catholics, Protestants, and Jews, and persons representing all shades of religious opinions. Amongst the work that had been undertaken by the Canadian Council during the three years of

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FOR WINTER NIGHTS.

its existence up to now was the organisation of charities. In Montreal it was found that some people were receiving aid from as many as fifteen different charities. That has been put a stop to. Then women had been placed on school boards, a thing previously unknown in Canada. Manual instruction had also been introduced into schools, and hospitals and women's work exchanges established in some places.

Miss Ella Ker seconded the adoption of the reports. She suggested that the Aberdeen Union might do something in regard to the coming School Board election. They might try to put forward several ladies as members of the Board.

The reports were then unanimously adopted. The officials of the Union were reappointed as follows:—Lady Aberdeen, president; the Hon. Mrs. Douglas, Aberdeen, and Mrs. Foster Forbes, vice-presidents; Mrs. Clark, honorary secretary; Miss Anne Macdonald, honorary emigration secretary; Miss Gillan, honorary secretary branch Travellers' Aid Society; Mrs. Mackenzie Davidson, president branch, Onward and Upward Association; Mr. D. M. M. Milligan, treasurer of the Union.

TREASURES AND TROUBLES.

A DOMESTIC SCIENCE STORY FOR YOUNG MOTHERS.

CHAPTER VII.

Mrs. BURTON went on—"The first point is to choose a good sort of feeding-bottle."

"There are many kinds, are there not?" asked Mrs. Wynter.

"There are many trifling variations, but an enormous number of them have the same sort of defects. I shall show you those which I consider the best, and which Mr. Burton always recommends when his advice is asked, and you will see from them what are the points of disadvantage and of excellence in feeding-bottles."

Mrs. Burton had pulled the bell as she spoke, and now requested the housemaid to go down to the surgery and ask the dispenser for the specimen feeding-bottles.

"I wish doctors would give advice more often on such points," said Bertha, while they waited the housemaid's return.

"Well, but, after all, it is not a doctor's business. We women must learn things for ourselves about our own special duties. I have sometimes wished that we possessed household academies, where girls could study for a year or two that science of domestic matters which rule of thumb can never teach. But, failing such schools, we have books. Still, doctors might often do good by pointing out what should be guarded against in a feeding-bottle."

The housemaid returned with two bottles on her waiter, and placed it beside her mistress.

"Mr. Burton keeps these specimens," said Mrs. Burton, "chiefly on my persuasion, in order to show them to anybody who asks his advice. But few mothers do, I believe, especially amongst the poor. They just go to the chemist, and often ask for the cheapest kind of bottle they can have. The chemist, in the natural course of business, gives them the one on which he makes most profit at the lowest price. The consequence is that they are likely to get one with all the bad points that such a thing can have. Now, let us look at these, and then you will see what I mean by good and bad points."

Mrs. Wynter looked at the feeding-bottles rather vaguely. Not instructed as to possible dangers, she could not at a glance appreciate

the arrangements made to avoid any ordinary drawbacks to this method of feeding an infant.

"The great danger attending the use of feeding-bottles comes from the tendency of milk to go sour," said Mrs. Burton. "The smallest portion of sour milk left clinging in a bottle will 'turn' in a very short time any quantity of pure milk that may be put with it."

"Milk is something like yeast in that respect," observed Bertha.

"Exactly," said Mrs. Burton; "'a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump,' and, in precisely the same way, a trace of sourness in any part of a bottle will quickly make the whole of the food sour."

"Then, of course, it is very important to keep a bottle from ever getting thoroughly dirty."

"But as difficult as it is important," said Mrs. Burton. "In the night, for instance, if the weather be at all warm, it is almost impossible to prevent a little milk going sour in the bottle, however careful the nurse may be. The only thing to do is to be very careful to get a kind of bottle which can be thoroughly cleaned."

"I should think cork was bad," observed Bertha. "I see you have no cork in either of your two specimen bottles—have you?"

Mrs. Burton took hold of the waiter and moved it in front of her.

"Quite right," she said. "There is no cork for that very reason. I will show you these two bottles, and tell you what are the special features that commend them to me. Understand, I do not say that there may not be other makes with the same advantages. But these Mr. Burton gets from the largest firm of instrument and medical-appliance makers in the world, S. Maw, Son, & Thompson, and they seem to me so near perfection that I recommend them to anybody who asks my suggestions. Now, this is considerably the more expensive of the two."

Mrs. Wynter took the bottle in her hand and examined it. It was flat-shaped, and had a metal cap to fit over the top of the bottle, taking the place of the cork frequently used to close the bottle's mouth. The elastic tubing fitted on to this metal top. When the cap was removed, a piece of metal, somewhat pear-shaped, was found to be fastened inside it, so as to go down into the bottle. A small piece of elastic tubing connected this metal portion with the piece of glass-tube which is put into the milk.

"Pass it back to me, dear," said Mrs. Burton. When she had it, she proceeded to show Bertha that the pear-shaped portion unscrewed, and so came apart from the metal cap. She then shook the small piece, and Bertha heard a sound as though a metal pea were dancing about.

"Whatever is it?" she cried.

"Peep in, and you will see," said Mrs. Burton, handing the piece back.

Bertha looked, and saw a small ball of metal confined beneath a metal bar.

"That is a valve," Mrs. Burton went on. "Its purpose is to keep the milk always up in the tube. The ball draws up with each suck, so as to allow the milk to pass by it up the tube. But, the moment the child ceases sucking, the column of milk which remains in the upper part of the tube falls back upon this ball, and cannot get down past it. Thus the milk is kept always in the tube, after the baby has once filled it by a suck or two, until the bottle is empty."

"Oh, I can quite see the advantage of that

at once," said Bertha. "I remember, when I was at home, we once had a little puppy given to us to try to bring up by hand. We got a bottle for it, and it was quite pitiful to see the poor little thing labouring at it. The milk would get about half-way up the tube, and then the poor little animal would pause for a second, and down it would all go again. I suppose it is the same with a weakly baby?"

"It would be with a very weak infant," said Mrs. Burton; "but, in most cases, the great use of the valve is to prevent the child from having to swallow a mouthful of air out of the tube before it gets any more milk, each time that it ceases to suck for a moment. Babies do not suck violently and continuously, unless they are over-hungry."

"No," said Bertha, with a smile; "I often think, when I am nursing Maggie, that after she has had her first dozen or two mouthfuls, she takes her ease, like a gentleman sitting over his wine. She is in no hurry, and she does not see why she should be hastened."

"Well, as I think I have said before this evening," continued Mrs. Burton, "we should follow the indications of the natural method of feeding infants as far as ever we can. Now, in that method, the child does not have to gulp down a mouthful of air after every rest, and so I should always use a feeding-bottle which gave the same advantage."

"No doubt it is an important point," said Bertha.

"You observe that the cap is metal, and has no cork in any way connected with it; and the next special thing is this, which is called the union or junction, the piece that joins the teat on to the tube of the bottle. In most bottles, this is a narrow pipe, which is very difficult to clean. In these, you see it is an earthenware tube, of large size, fitting outside the india-rubber tube, so that it can be moved up and down on the rubber-tube with ease, and, as the milk does not go through it, but through the rubber beneath it, this junction cannot get foul. This bottle is called 'The Fountain Feeder'; but this junction and the teat that goes with it, and slips off and on so easily to clean, can be had with other kinds of bottles."

"Is 'The Fountain' easy to keep clean?"

"Now you have alighted upon one of 'The Fountain' feeder's drawbacks. It is perfectly easy to keep it clean, but it requires more care to do so than a simpler make. It needs, therefore, more supervision from the mother in its use than one which gives the nurse a trifle less trouble to clean."

"Still, it all comes to pieces, does it not?"

"Oh, yes! and there is really not the smallest difficulty about cleaning it, only a little more trouble; and what a trifle that is to balance against the advantages, provided you can ensure that the trouble will be taken. But remember the great source of danger in feeding-bottles is the possibility of sour food, and, therefore, every care must be taken to ensure the cleanliness of the bottle; and the greater the difficulty of ensuring scrupulous cleanliness the greater the baby's danger, unless the mother constantly looks after it. Another point is—though I suppose it will not matter in your sister's case—that the 'Fountain' is an expensive bottle."

"How much?" asked Bertha.

"This quality are half-a-crown each, and the separate parts are dear in proportion, when they have to be replaced. Of course, this is no consideration where there is money enough to afford the best."

(To be continued.)

HOME GARDENING FOR LADIES.

By MRS. E. L. CHAMBERLAIN, F.R.H.S.
CHIEFLY ABOUT BULBS.

In a very short time the first spring bulbs should be in flower out of doors. The winter aconite and the lovely blue "glory of the snow" (*Chionodoxa Lucilla*) should appear in January, unless King Frost is in the ascendant; and then follow in February, snowdrops, and scillas, and crocuses.

Neither these bulbs, nor the more costly hyacinths, tulips and narcissi, which follow them, can be expected to make an effective show unless some pains are taken about them. Most people make a hole in a garden bed, or in a flowerpot full of soil, poke a bulb in, and leave it to its fate. Under such circumstances the bulb (if it were a good one) will duly flower, but it will not be so showy and satisfactory as if a little help had been accorded. The garden bed should have a covering of cocoa fibre; this is not expensive, it can be bought at 9d. to 1s. per bushel, and that goes a long way when spread out one inch thick over the surface. This prevents the ground freezing above the bulbs, so that it does not get hard and check their growth. When frost comes the fibre should be gently stirred just round the crowns of the bulbs, so that when a thaw sets in no moisture may collect there that may otherwise soak down and rot the collar of the plant. This stirring must not be performed in such a manner as to draw the protecting fibre away from the top of the bulb, but with a view to change the position only, so that if that immediately close to the springing hyacinth or tulip be damp it shall be exposed to the air and dried.

One great element of success in bulb growing is to guard against checks to the growth. This is one reason that market gardeners or nurserymen use fibre almost entirely for forcing bulbs, as it does not cake with watering and get hard, so there is no undue expenditure of vigour on the part of the plant in pushing up to the surface through its compost.

The Dutch, who are the champion bulb growers of the world, are always particular, whether out of doors or in, to keep the soil in which their favourites are growing well stirred, loose, and open.

I have known persons buy bulbs from nurserymen, and afterwards declare they had been supplied with some of an inferior quality because those they see flowering in the nursery are so far better than their own. They forget it is the nurseryman's interest to make the very best of his stock, and he spares no trouble or material to do so. Perhaps it has been no one's business to attend specially to their bulbs, or she who did it had no knowledge of the treatment required. In the nursery not only was proper soil, loose and open, provided, but light and temperature were regulated, and regular weak doses of some stimulating food applied. Of course a plant with such care does better than one that has merely "tumbled up."

A few weeks ago a lady asked me to get her some bulbs of the "Chinese sacred lily" to grow in a bowl of stones and water. Yesterday she saw mine, tall and strong, and the flowers almost ready to open. She admired, peered round them in a dubious manner, and finally remarked in a decidedly injured tone that she thought I could not have sent her such good bulbs as I got for myself. Assuring her they were precisely the same, I inquired how she grew hers, and where? "On a window ledge; she thought the more light they had the better. Hey—what, wasn't it so?" "From the very first?" "Yes, from the very first, was it wrong?" At any rate it was not the way mine were grown; they had a fortnight to three weeks in utter darkness, so had time to form strong roots before they began to make top-growth; and when they were brought out to the light, they went away like an arrow from a bow. Those put in the light to begin with, were—so to speak—burning the candle at both ends. They would grow a little at each end, and not very well at either.

THE EVILS OF TEA DRINKING.

A Really Nourishing Beverage Offered Free.

To the sedentary brain-worker who sits hour after hour in a stuffy room, coining his thoughts into current literature, to the lawyer poring over his brief, or reading hard, to the quill-driver, we say, take Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa. Give up drinking tea which, even if properly infused, is only a stimulant, and not a nourishing beverage. As usually decocted it United Kingdom with such remarkable effect, is the experience of hundreds of thousands of people. Mr. Caselton, in the first place, wrote from 16, George Street, Greenwich, London, S.E., as follows:—"I have derived so much benefit from the excellent Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa that I feel I must write and tell you. I have been for years a martyr to a very bad form of headache, which attacked me nearly every day, sometimes quite prostrating me. I was advised to give up drinking tea entirely, and take cocoa as a beverage. I decided to try Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, which I commenced taking some months ago, and I am glad to say that since then I have been quite free from my dread enemy, headache. I find nothing picks me up so quickly as a cup of Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa after I have had a stiff day's work in school. You are at liberty to make what use you like of this letter, and I shall be glad to testify personally to anyone what a real boon your excellent food-beverage has proved to me."

*I am a
Yours faithfully
Leonard Caselton*

Now it should be remembered that the man or woman with the strongest nervous system wins in the battle of life for the nervous system controls and directs all the powers of a vigorous existence. This being the case, the duty of all is to strengthen this controlling power, and it has been proved by the experience of Mr. Caselton that nothing has been so effective in doing this as Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa.

Another letter just to hand from this gentleman says that all his friends whom he has induced to give Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa a trial have invariably "stuck to it," as have many thousands of others. Hence the phenomenal success of this wonderful Food Beverage. I am a representative would like an interview with me I should be happy to grant same, as I feel I could tell him much more about my case and the happy results of taking on Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, and you would be at perfect liberty to use any information I might give him. I am constantly being questioned—I might say "heckled"—as to the bona fides of my unsolicited testimonial; but in every case I think I have succeeded in convincing my friends. I am sure you would be of the same opinion as myself did you but know all I have suffered in the past.

The replenishing of the system from the wasting of tissues which is going on every day can only be accomplished by the proper assimilation of food. It cannot be done with medicine. It can, however, be accomplished with a perfect flesh-forming, palatable, and agreeable Food Beverage. Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa is such a Food Beverage, possessing, as it does, wonderful nourishing, strengthening, and stimulative powers, unsurpassed by any other Food Beverage. Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa is not a medicine. It does simply what it is claimed to do, and its strengthening powers are being recognised, as we have said, to an extent hitherto unknown in the history of any preparation. Merit, and merit alone, is what is claimed for Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, and the proprietors are prepared to send to any reader who names the WOMAN'S SIGNAL (a post card will do) a dainty sample tin of Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa free and post paid. Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa is made up in 6d. packets, and 9d. and 1s. 6d. tins. It can be obtained from all chemists, Grocers, and Stores, or from Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa (Limited), Suffolk House, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

The following unsolicited testimonial from the well-known Evangelist, H. POWERS, the "English Moody," 1, Fountain Villas, Fountain Road, Hull, confirms the above statements:—"I desire to add my testimony to the splendid qualities of Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa. For many years I have been taking tea three and four times daily, but for several months I have taken Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa in the place of tea, with the result that my nerves are stronger, and I am better able to do my work, and with less fatigue. I hold, as a rule, three services every Sunday, and preach almost every night in the week, and since I began to take Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa I can do my work with perfect ease. I can highly recommend Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa to ministers, evangelists, and all public speakers. I take Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa only."

DRUGS WON'T DO.

FREE TRIAL OF SOMETHING THAT WILL DO.

You would be perfectly astonished if you were made aware of the many thousands of pounds absolutely thrown away from year to year upon so-called curatives that are foisted upon a public only too willing to believe the specious arguments laid before them.

Even the hard-earned shillings of the very poor are wasted in this way; in fact, it is to the ignorant, anxious to rid themselves of the various ailments which handicap them in the race for life, that such arguments are too often addressed. Now, strength and muscular activity, rosy cheeks, plumpness, and health can be obtained without medicine.

The replenishing of the system from the wasting of tissues which is going on every day can only be accomplished by the proper assimilation of food. It cannot be done with medicine. It can, however, be accomplished with a perfect flesh-forming, palatable, and agreeable Food Beverage. Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa is such a Food Beverage, possessing, as it does, wonderful nourishing, strengthening, and stimulative powers unsurpassed by any other Food Beverage. Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa is not a medicine. It does simply what it is claimed to do, and its strengthening powers are being recognised to an extent hitherto unknown in the history of any preparation. Merit, and merit alone, is what we claim for Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, and we are prepared to send to any reader who names the WOMAN'S SIGNAL (a post card will do) a dainty sample tin of Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa free and post paid. There is no magic in all this. It is a plain, honest, straightforward offer. It is done to introduce the merits of Vi-Cocoa into every home. Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, as a concentrated form of nourishment and vitality, is invaluable; nay, more than this: for to all who wish to face the strife and battle of life with greater endurance and more sustained exertion it is absolutely indispensable. Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa is made up in 6d. packets, and 9d. and 1s. 6d. tins. It can be obtained from all chemists, grocers, and stores, or from Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa (Limited), Suffolk House, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

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Suffolk House,
Cannon Street,
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[Please mention this paper.]

Our Private Advertisement Column.

READ CAREFULLY.

TERMS:—Sixpence per insertion for the first twelve words, and one penny for each further four words; four insertions for the price of three if no change made in words. Figures count as one word, if in a group. Advertisements should reach us by Monday morning for the same week's issue. We reserve the right to refuse any advertisement without giving a reason.

In replying to an advertisement in this column, when the advertiser's own address is not given, but only an office number, write your letter to the advertiser and enclose it in an envelope: close this, and write (where the stamp should go), on the outside, the letter and number of the advertisement, and nothing more. Put the reply or replies thus sealed down in another envelope, together with a penny stamp for each letter you want sent on, loose in your envelope to us; address the outer envelope "WOMAN'S SIGNAL Office, 30 Maiden Lane, Covent Garden, London, W.C.," stamp to the proper weight, and post. We will then take out and address and forward your replies to the advertiser, and further communications will be direct between you both. Postcards will not be forwarded.

Dress.

A. 242. **HANDSOME** Beige Guipure Collar, worth 9s. 6d., accept 5s. Three black real ostrich feathers, worth 37s., accept 6s. the three, all never worn.

Private Lodgings.

C. 123. **A LADY** wishes to let her Bed-Sitting Room in York-street Chambers till May.

Miscellaneous.

F. 113. **MAID**, disengaged, wishes to take a maid's place to one lady. Can travel. Dressmaking. Three years' reference.

Our Open Columns.

[The Editor does not hold herself responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents. Discussion is invited on the subjects here written upon.]

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE AND WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATIONS.

To the Editor of the WOMAN'S SIGNAL.

MADAM,—As president of the Women's Liberal Association in Prestwich, I wish to make some observations *re* the remarks in your last week's issue. In the first place the meeting was not one of a Women's Franchise Association, but of a Woman's Liberal Association, the primary object of which is the spread of Liberal principles, and to give all aid possible to the Liberal party in the district. As Mr. Cawley was one of the few Liberal candidates who at the last General Election turned defeat into victory on a field where so many of the bravest bit the dust, at a meeting of committee we decided to invite Mr. and Mrs. Cawley to our annual meeting (which I am glad to say was a large one). Having done so, we could not do otherwise than give them a cordial reception. The association, although young, is strong and vigorous, and we wished Mr. Cawley to see for himself our strength and energy, and I think we acted wisely. Before the end of the evening Mr. Cawley admitted that what he had seen and heard had considerably modified his feelings with regard to the enfranchisement of women.—Yours respectfully,

HELEN D. JACKSON.

Tiverton Lodge, Prestwich.

DEAR MADAM,—Two ladies having now promised £5 each to add to mine, and there appearing to be no more "fivers" forthcoming to help to make the Suffrage a test question on

MISS SADLER,
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SPECIALITY: ABDOMINAL CORSET

"One of the most popular Corsetières of the present day is Miss SADLER, of 211, Oxford Street. She thoroughly studies the peculiarities of each individual figure, but is specially successful with ladies who are inclined to be stout."—*Sunday Times*, May 3rd, 1896.

211, OXFORD STREET,

the W.'s Lib. Federation, I write to say I will agree to give mine on condition that the remaining £10 be made up in subscriptions of £1 each.—Yours truly,
M. F. SALES,
17, Rue d'Etigny, Pau,
B. Pyrenées.

THE VACCINATION QUESTION.

To the Editor of the WOMAN'S SIGNAL.

DEAR MADAM,—Jenner's claims for vaccination were, that vaccination was an absolute protection against small-pox for life, that one mark or puncture was quite sufficient, and that re-vaccination was unnecessary, all of which claims are summarily disposed of by the Royal Commission in their statement—"That the claims of Jenner can no longer be maintained." Jenner also stated that there was *real* cow-pox and *spurious* cow-pox; that "the real life-preserving fluid" was horsegrease cow-pox. He was also the author of the theory that this real cow-pox was small-pox of the cow. This false theory of cow-pox being the small-pox of the cow is the basis on which the vaccination doctrine has been built. The foregoing identity theory has, until very recently, been accepted by the majority of the medical profession, and Dr. Simon, the high priest of the vaccination cult, in his "Papers on Vaccination" voiced the opinion of his brethren when he stated, "the new process (vaccination) of preventing small-pox is really only carrying people through small-pox in a modified form. The vaccinated are safe against small-pox, because they have, in fact, had it."

This pseudo-scientific claim for vaccination is, by the report of the Royal Commission, swept away for ever. For better or for worse, vaccination to-day stands forth as a pure piece of empiricism or quackery. Professor Crookshank and Dr. Charles Creighton have proved conclusively that there is no real analogy between the diseases of cow-pox and small-pox, that they are two distinct diseases. These eminent medical men further prove that the only disease that they can find, at all analogous to cow-pox, is syphilis. From this point we naturally follow on to calf lymph, which is one of many things into the history of which I have not space to enter here. Suffice it to say that, as generally understood, calf lymph is made from the matter or pus taken from the diseased udder of a cow (cow-pox), and this is inoculated on the belly of a calf. This inoculation is allowed to suppurate, and when the vesicle is full and ripe the pus, or matter therein contained, is then squeezed out and put into tubes. This filthy outcome of a vile cattle disease is then known as *pure* calf lymph, and it is of the effects of this violent virus that Dr. Cory, the principal of the calf lymph station, in his official evidence before the Commission, says: "It is my belief that we get a larger number of children back with sore arms at the calf lymph station than we get at the humanised lymph station." I would ask your special attention to questions 4,474-5. (1) 4,474. "You stated, I think, that in two cases out of eight, death had followed, one from cellulitis and

one from erysipelas; these were the only two deaths out of eight that were fairly attributable to vaccination?" Answer, "Yes." (2) 4,475. "In these cases the children had been vaccinated with calf lymph?" Answer, "Yes, all the cases were cases where calf lymph had been used." Let us hope for the children's sake that the calf lymph recommended by your correspondent, Dr. Alice Vickery, as it is "made in Germany," may prove somewhat milder than that at present in use in our own country.

I do not know why our pro-vaccinist friends will keep going to Germany for knowledge *re* vaccination. Surely we ought to have sufficient data concerning the doctrine in the land of its birth. However, if they will insist on going to Germany, I would ask them to give the statistics from 1885, the year in which vaccination was made compulsory in that country. Nobody denies that there is less small-pox in Germany since 1874, as there also is less in England since the same date. At the Sanitary Congress of 1895 it was stated that since 1870 £100,000,000 (one hundred million pounds) had been spent in England and Wales by the various Corporations on sanitary improvements. It is since the Franco-German War (1870) that the same sanitary improvements have been taking place in Germany. Small-pox is a filth disease, sanitation (I use the word in its broadest sense) means cleanliness, and this is the key-note to the absence of small-pox both here and in Germany. With regard to the statistics your correspondent gives, I would point out that there is not a gradual fall from 1874 as one might naturally expect to find if vaccination were *really* the cause of the absence of small-pox. In 1876 the death-rate given is 3.1 per 100,000. It then suddenly falls as low as 0.3 in 1877, but from that year it gradually rises until it reaches 3.6 in 1881-2. This does not look like vaccination controlling small-pox. As I pointed out in my former note, the *general mortality* rate of Austria is almost double that of Germany, so that Austria is by that fact alone proved to be in a most insanitary condition, and no fair comparison can therefore be made between the two countries.

Compare the German statistics with those of London, as set forth in paragraphs 471, 472, 494 and 495 of the majority report of the Royal Commission. The Metropolitan Asylums Board, since 1885, by sanitation and isolation, have reduced the death-rate from small-pox in the Metropolitan area from 42 per 100,000 in 1888-82 to 1 per 100,000 in 1888-94, and this in spite of a gradual yearly increase in the vaccinal default from 4 to 19 per cent. of the births. The Royal Commission's report states that "it is impossible not to be struck with the fact that it is since the year 1885 that the metropolis has presented so satisfactory an aspect as regards smallpox mortality."

Consideration for your space compels me to close, but before doing so permit me to thank you for the opportunity that you have given for the discussion of so vital a question.—Yours, &c.,
ALICE TURTLE.

SMALL-POX AND VACCINATION IN GERMANY.

To the Editor of the WOMAN'S SIGNAL.

MADAM,—Referring to the letter of Dr. Alice Vickery in the WOMAN'S SIGNAL of January 14th, having failed to substantiate the prophylactic virtues of vaccination in this country, it is the fashion for pro-vaccinists to point to Germany as an example of the beneficent results of the enforcement of Jenner's reputed discovery, but a stronger proof of its impotence to ward off small-pox could hardly be conceived. Vaccination was made compulsory in Germany by an Order in Council of Frederick William III., dated August 8th, 1835, and yet in 1871-2 an epidemic of small-pox carried off 124,948 of the inhabitants. In Berlin there were 17,088 vaccinated cases and 2,884 vaccinated deaths. Of these, 2,240 vaccinated children, under 10 years of age, were attacked with small-pox, and 736 died; 1,503 cases of these occurred in little ones under five, or on an average within two years of their vaccination, of whom 573

died. The rate of mortality from small-pox in Berlin in 1746, before vaccination was discovered, was 2.3 per 1,000 living; in 1871, with compulsory vaccination, it had risen to 6.2 per 1,000, nearly three times as great. Much capital is attempted to be made by the vaccinists from the present comparative immunity from small-pox in Germany, which they attribute to a compulsory law passed in 1874, but this legislation did not come into force before April 1st, 1875, and, as children in that country are allowed to the end of the calendar year following the year of birth before being vaccinated, it could not begin to have any effect before 1876, if then. Previous to that year small-pox had begun to decline. The deaths from small-pox in Prussia, which had been 243 and 262 per 100,000 of the population in 1871-2, fell to 35 in 1873, to 9 in 1874, and to 3 in 1875, as a result of the great sanitary improvements after the Franco-Prussian war. It may here be observed that M. le Fort, Professor of Surgery in Paris, in an address before the Académie de Médecine, said that "from 1877 to 1882 the number of deaths from small-pox in Prussia steadily increased until they reached the alarming total of 1,007 in the latter year. The following year a fresh Government ordinance was issued, enforcing more stringent isolation as follows:—"The local police are to isolate not only the apartment, but the whole house in which the small-pox patient is, this isolation to be continued after the removal of the patient to the hospital. Any intentional violation of this regulation will be punished by imprisonment." After the new isolating regulations came into force deaths from small-pox gradually declined, until in 1886 there were only 143 deaths."

The Germans are not in love with vaccination, as is shown by the fact that in 1891 there were 2,951 petitions before the Reichstag, signed by 90,661 persons, in opposition to its enforcement, and amongst the signatories were many eminent physicians who had become opposed to the practice through witnessing its deleterious effects on the human system. There are now not wanting signs that Englishmen are determined to shake off this monstrous and despotic usurpation of their parental rights, and it will be more just and politic for the Government to carry into effect the unanimous recommendations of the Royal Commission on Vaccination, than drive these otherwise law-abiding citizens into open rebellion.—Yours faithfully,
JAS. R. WILLIAMSON.

42, Stibington-street, London, N.W.

(This subject is now closed.)

A MAN WANTED.

As shown by a recent advertisement, the number of "incurables cured" by the well-known and popular medicine, Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, had reached the total of 5,499. Clearly another incurable is badly wanted to make up the fifty-five hundred. There are a sufficient number of disorders to choose from: for the published cases prove the cure by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills of all such diseases as arise from weak nerves and overstrain, such as paralysis, locomotor ataxy (the latter always incurable by ordinary medicine), sciatica, St. Vitus' Dance, spinal disease, nervous headache, and heart disease; also of disorders arising from weakness and impoverished blood, such as anemia, consumption, rheumatism, indigestion, shortness of breath, hysteria, female disorders, and pale and sallow complexion. These Pills are genuine only when sold in a wooden tube-shaped box, almost two inches long and as big round as a shilling, with a pink wrapper bearing in red letters the full name "Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People." Substitutes sold loose or from glass jars are worthless. In case of doubt it is best to send direct, enclosing the price, 2s. 9d. per box, or 18s. 9d. for six boxes, to the Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, who also offer honest advice to all enquirers, as to whether Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are suitable to a particular case. If not suitable they will say so. The address is Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, 46 Holborn-viaduct, London, E.C.

SIGNALS FROM FRIEND TO FRIEND.

"MAIDSTONE," after expressing the interest with which she and her friends are reading Miss Barnett's papers, makes the following enquiry:—

"Do you mind telling me in the SIGNAL please if you consider a Post Office annuity to be perfectly safe? My brother-in-law says if there was a big war, and England lost, annuities would go to the wall."

Nothing in this world can be said to be absolutely safe, but the credit of the British Government is probably the most stable fact in a shifting universe. It would be too much to say that it is absolutely impossible that 40 or 50 years hence annuities bought from the State through the Post Office would not be paid because there had been a great war; but it is so highly improbable that "Maidstone" may dismiss any apprehension on that score from her mind.

EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCE OF A GARDENER.

A REPORTER of the *Warrington and Mid-Cheshire Examiner*, having been informed of the astonishing escape of a gardener, in the vicinity of Culcheth, set out the other day to hear from his own lips an account of the affair, Mr. James Parker, of High Lodge, Culcheth,



was at his work—a genial and highly intelligent man, who immediately expressed his willingness to let the press and the public know the full particulars of his escape from the jaws of death.

"It is," began Mr. Parker, "about seven years since I first began to suffer from spinal disease. For five years I was unable to work, and three years of that time I was treated at one of our leading hospitals. I was so badly paralysed that I could not move a foot, and got worse instead of better at the hospital. I came home, believing, as I remarked to my wife, that 'I had come home to die.' I had all the usual symptoms of paralysis—loss of power, inability to stand in the dark, and great pain in the limbs and back. The pain was intolerable at times, and medicine appeared to do me no good. While in bed a friend sent me a Northampton paper containing particulars of a case somewhat similar to my own. This patient was known to my friend, who could vouch for the truth of his remarkable recovery through the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. I decided to take the Pills as a last resort, though the doctor at the hospital had told me I was incurable and should never walk again. Well! I procured a box of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. I took three daily and afterwards increased the dose to six a day, taking two after each meal. When the first box was finished I was able to move my toes, which I had been unable to do for months. When I commenced it would be about August, and by March of the following year I was walking nicely, to the surprise of everyone. For the last eighteen months I have not needed medicine of any sort, and I can now walk miles."

Cadbury's cocoa

"Represents the standard of highest purity at present attainable in regard to Cocoa."—*Lancet*.

Far superior to tea or coffee for nourishing and strength-imparting properties, and for Breakfast, Luncheon, Tea, or Supper—whenever wholesome refreshment is necessary—may be safely and beneficially resorted to.



UNFERMENTED.

This Wine is highly approved and frequently prescribed by

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Dr. NORMAN KERR,

Dr. J. J. RIDGE,

Etc., Etc.

Prospectus giving full particulars of Dose, etc. Post free on application.

A Sample Half-bottle free by Parcel Post for 2/9.

Specially recommended in cases of GENERAL DEBILITY, INDIGESTION and NERVOUS EXHAUSTION.

Also as an excellent non-alcoholic tonic and restorative after Typhoid, Scarlet, and Rheumatic Fevers, Influenza, etc.

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The "WOMAN'S SIGNAL" is sent direct from the office, 30, Maiden Lane, Covent Garden, London, W.C., post paid, for three months, from any date, to any address at home or abroad, for 1s. 8d., for six months for 3s. 3d., or for one Year for 6s. 6d.

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