

THE WOMAN'S SIGNAL, MAY 6, 1897.

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THE WOMAN'S SIGNAL

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

Edited by
MRS. FENWICK MILLER.

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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, 80 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.

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E. 141. **WHAT OFFERS?** 4 Vols. Cloth. Cassell's Household Guide, new, illustrated. Cost 24s.

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be seen inside and going and coming. In one a neighbour held a baby while its mother voted. There was occasionally a woman inspector. At an appointed time my friend gave up her carriage to the use of a sick lady who was determined to get up from her bed to go to the polls, and helped by three of her friends, she made the effort without being injured. Other instances of women prizing their vote came to my notice afterward. On the train leaving Denver after the election, I heard women talking about having delayed their departure in order to vote. I saw no disorder or disturbance of any kind, although we were careful to drive through the very worst parts of the city. The polling places in these parts were as quiet and respectable looking as any other. The city was much quieter than on ordinary business days, as many of the firms closed part of the day and their employes went to their suburban homes to vote. Country traffic and the railroad travel were very light. Everybody stayed in his own place to vote, and Denver, the bustling metropolis of the Rockies, wore almost a Sunday aspect. It would require the magic of Aladdin's lamp to conjure up anything disagreeable or injurious as accompanying or arising from the voting of women in Colorado, and the testimony of those who have been able to compare elections before and since proves that much of the present good order is the result of their voting, and of the good regulations which have been made in view of their presence at the polls. So much at least there has been of direct gain to the community.

"Then there has been an immense gain to women themselves. Their leading women have ceased to be pre-eminently society women, and have become conscious of their citizenship with all its obligations. The Woman's Club numbers over 600, and its conduct is systematic, parliamentary, considerate and dignified. The members are becoming strong and self-poised. They look on life with a broader outlook, and to their freedom all the past seems to have contributed, and, therefore, it is as full of vital interest as the present is pregnant with significance and the future is radiant with hopes of better conditions that will surely come to the race that is to be born of an untrammelled, awakened, developed motherhood."

The writer then gives particulars of an important philanthropic business enterprise carried through by the Woman's Club, and continues:—"This redeems an hundred families from pauperism, and withal establishes sympathetic relations between those who help and those who are helped. The legal department of the club spent the whole of last season in studying three Bills which they wished presented to the Legislature, and the manner in which they made themselves master of the provisions of the Bills and of their possible out-

INDIAN CHILD WIVES.

Attention has been called in several numbers of the SIGNAL lately to the terribly awful curse to our Indian Empire caused by its child marriages. Having spent some months in that unhappy country (not in trotting about seeing the sights, but with sympathetic heart and discerning eye, trying to ascertain something of the sorrows and needs of its myriad peoples), and being favoured with the company of a lady doctor who had spent many years there practising the "healing art," and had therefore seen the inner life of its Zenanas and homes, I wish to voice her opinions, and express their agreement with those of that devoted friend of the "little wives of India," Dr. Emily Brimerd Ryder. That lady, by her writings and lectures in the Australian and New Zealand Colonies, has been most energetically and disinterestedly spreading information, and enlisting sympathetic help for our little suffering dark sisters. She has presented with "burning words" and "eloquent wrath" well authenticated facts which cannot be read without excitement and indignation. A paper published in Madras says, "Dr. Ryder takes us into the very inferno of this land and makes us gaze at the blackest section of Darkest India. She combats many of the errors in our Western ideas concerning this matter, one of which is that child marriage is a religious tradition sanctioned by the Hindu religion. Infant marriage is no part of the religious system of the Hindus, but was introduced at the time of the Mohammedan invasion about two hundred years ago as a sort of protection of the girls from the lust of the marauders. Moreover, other customs which were so wrought with

their religious observances, such as suttee, hook-swinging, infanticide, human sacrifices, &c., have been suppressed by British rule, so this outrage on humanity might, by the same potent influence, be abolished. In future papers, I will go into more details of the subject, and now say, in the words of Dr. Ryder, "Tune your ears to hear the perpetual wail that comes up from India's 20,000,000 little girls. Let the sighing of the winds, and the sobbing of the ocean in the stillness of the night hours, bring it to your woman's heart, and let it strengthen you to press on to victory."

M. S. W.

THE MOTHER'S RELATION TO THE RACE.

DR. MARY PUTMAN JACOBI, one of the first women physicians of America, has been pointing out to a large audience of ladies that motherhood was in the past undervalued because of physiological ignorance. In the days of their fanciful ignorance, men supposed that the father was the only true parent, and that the mother merely received and nursed the life that came wholly from the male element. This we know now to be an entire mistake. Dr. Jacobi traces the influence of this blunder on the position of women as follows:—

"In the dim, earliest times, religion was based on the worship of dead ancestors. The eldest male member of a family reproduced the ancestors' bodily presence upon earth, and was endowed, therefore, with the most solemn privileges and responsibilities in the primitive society. Women were supposed to have only an indirect and subordinate share in bodily ancestral inheritance, and on this account were excluded from the privileges which belonged to the direct lineal transmission. Political life and status developed out of the religious, which for a long while existed alone; and the relative positions of men and women in the second stage of social evolution simply followed those in the first. And thus was perpetuated a state of things which had no reason in the actual relative capacity for government of men and women.

"But it is now known that the entire basis of the theory consisted in a physiological mistake. Those who had the pleasure of listening to Professor Wilson's brilliant exposition of the present condition of knowledge regarding cell development, at Cambridge, a few weeks ago, will have vividly in mind the extraordinary provisions that have been made by nature for securing an absolutely equal distribution of the essential portions of two uniting cells in their product. It is natural to expect that the exclusion of women from public affairs, which is on every other ground at present an anachronism, will not survive the loss of its physiological basis."

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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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If a stamped and addressed wrapper be attached to a manuscript offered for publication, it will be returned if declined; but the Editor cannot be responsible for the accidental loss of manuscripts, and any not accompanied by a wrapper for return will be destroyed if unaccepted. Space being limited and many manuscripts offered, the Editor begs respectfully to intimate that an article being declined does not necessarily imply that it is not considered an excellent composition.

SIGNALS FROM OUR
WATCH TOWER.

There is not much of interest or importance in the Budget. A mere trifle of £200,000 is to be flung away light-heartedly in a demonstration of our military strength in South Africa. The increased prosperity of the nation has shown itself in drinking more and smoking more; trade has revived, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer does not know but that we are now "on the crest of the wave," but just as the individuals composing the nation are spending their increased gains in alcohol and tobacco, so the nation as a whole is hastening to get rid of its unexpected wealth. The Post Office is the channel chosen for the Chancellor of the Exchequer's generosity. The weight of a letter that will go for a penny is to be increased to four ounces, and at that rate samples and books are also to be conveyed. There is also to be some decrease, which the Chancellor did not make quite clear, in parcel post rates; and residents in the country are to get their telegrams delivered more cheaply. Not much to either praise or dislike.

Mr. Balfour, in reply to a question as to whether the House of Commons would attend a religious service in state at St. Margaret's Church on June 20th, in honour of the Jubilee, replied that it was still uncertain whether the House would be sitting at that date, or would be having holiday. It is very important for the Woman's Suffrage Bill that the holiday should not extend over that week, and we hope that Mr. Balfour will manage to secure the Wednesday's sitting for us. Letters and petitions to members will no doubt help in keeping the day at liberty.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has gone in person to Athens to supervise and direct the work of the English nurses in the war hospitals, of whom there are now 17 engaged. Mrs. Fenwick was for seven years matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, having received that important appointment at an unusually early age; previously she was the "Sister" in charge of one of the wards of the same institution, so that she is abundantly qualified by training, as well as by her rare ability and energy, for her present generous and beneficent undertaking.

Mr. McLaren's candidature for Crewe is deferred. The Government did not want an election just now, and persuaded the sitting member not to resign at present. It is to be inferred that Mr. McLaren's return was considered sure.

There cannot be great eagerness for temperance amongst the Liberal party while so many of its members act in the opposite direction that during the past year no less a sum than £10,250 has been spent in the National Liberal Club on intoxicants! Another point. A large profit is made on the sale of such liquors. Can a woman's club, such as the Pioneer, from which all alcoholic beverages are rigidly excluded, be ever made to pay its way without that source of revenue? The Pioneer did not pay, as everybody knows, and now that the financial support of Mrs. Massingberd is removed it will either have to find some other rich patron, or move to a cheaper locality and be reorganised on a smaller scale of expenditure, or give up its temperance rules. But no man's club "pays" in such a neighbourhood and on such a scale of comfort with so small a subscription and with the added financial clog of being "teetotal;" so a woman's club cannot be reasonably expected to do so either.

The Countess of Jersey, chairman of the Children's Happy Evenings Association, and the Hon. Lady Northcote, newly elected president of the Notting-hill Branch, visited St. Clements-road Board School on Wednesday, when Lady Northcote assisted for the first time at a typical happy evening. These "evenings," at which bright young ladies aid the poor children to play, have been a great success in London. Miss Heather Bigg, Radnor-terrace, Hyde Park, is the hon. secretary.

Miss Leinster has given the munificent donation of £2,000 to Charing-cross Hospital for the erection of a chapel. The treasurer of the same hospital has also received £500 from the Baroness Hirsch, to be added to the Special Appeal Fund, and this lady has further given £1,000 to a convalescent home at Brighton.

Amongst the features of the Queen's reign is the immensely increased personal freedom for women. There is an interesting "Woman's Column," superior to the common run of such, in the *Manchester Evening News*. The writer proclaims herself as an old lady, but if this be the case she has a singular faculty for adopting modern views, and it is in the course of an energetic advocacy of the knicker as against the skirt for cycling and other exercises that she gives us her reminiscences of bygone oppositions to dress reforms:—

"Thirty years ago the coal scuttle bonnet was taken in hand by the mild dress reformers of that day. Those old ones will remember how revolutionary that departure was considered, and how some were horrified, when, going one better, the leaf was docketed of its overshadowing proportions, and a snug little capote, with a modest cap frill, took its place. On one occasion in Scotland a pew of daughters in the established kirk in a certain orthodox "Thrum" appeared with this pretty and genteel capote. At the close of the sermon there was a grave rider on the frivolity of town fashions, and the irreverence of youth in departing from the example of their forebears. Another drastic change exercised these old-style matrons, and that was fastening gowns in the front instead of behind. Many voted it indelicate! Corsets were also brought out about the same time with springs to fasten in front. One mother, known to the writer, forbade her daughters to adopt it, as she said it was an encouragement to idleness. The present generation may not be aware that the mode of fastening corsets then was by herring-boning two long laces."

Women still in early middle-life can remember when ladies who bathed in the sea were compelled to keep each under the shelter of an overhanging hood that covered the steps at the back of the bathing machine and enclosed a few square yards of water. Ladies coming out of that sheltering, decent shade, and fearlessly swimming right out to sea, was a boldness and immodest display unthought of; and so was the wearing of the only dress in which it could be really decent and proper to come out of the pen or pound, and swim in the sunshine, and enjoy oneself, and gain health and vitality in doing so. When trousers for swimming in were first introduced, they met with fully as much disapproval as knickers for cycling do to-day. And again, it is a very few years ago, indeed, that the first women to wear riding habits so short as to show their boots as they sat in the saddle, were regarded as very bold-faced personages! Miss Cobbe tells us that she well remembers when it was disreputable for a woman to ride alone in a hansom; and Sir Algernon West, in his "Recollections," published in last month's *Nineteenth Century*, reminds us that forty years ago a lady could by no means dine out at a restaurant, and even in hotels, husband and wife were subject to be refused dinner in the coffee-room, unless a second lady was of the party! What a wonderful gain is made in personal freedom for woman.

Be it borne in mind that, as Sir Algernon observes, this has been coincident with a vast improvement in the manners of men in most respects, and not with a decline. He concludes his article with these observations:—

"Looking back over the long vista of forty years, I see improvements everywhere. Men's morals, and certainly their language, have improved; excessive drinking has become unfashionable and almost unknown in the society of gentlemen; cigars and cigarettes have replaced the filthy habit of taking snuff. Everybody is clean, and it would be difficult to find a man or woman in society who is not engaged in some good and useful work, or some endeavour to help others in the sorrows and struggles of life."

Turning to moral changes, here is an interesting contrast—not, however, of sixty years, but only of twenty-five. Early in "the Seventies," Mrs. Anderson, M.D., sought admission to a medical society, and the members by almost unanimous vote refused to have her for one of their number. In the discussion, I find, Dr. Charles Taylor said, "I have mentioned the matter to several members, and the universal opinion is that the Society would be very greatly damaged if we admitted lady 'fellows.' I believe a large number of men would decidedly withdraw from the Society." He was followed by Dr. Wiltshire, who said, "I do not hesitate to say from what I have heard from many 'fellows,' that there would be a very large secession of 'fellows,' and I think we had better amend our laws so that the possibility of ladies being nominated shall not occur again."

Well, now, the British Medical Association—the largest "doctors' trades union"—admits lady practitioners, and Mrs. Anderson is actually this year's president of one branch. Again, in papers recently received from Melbourne, I find a report of the annual meeting of the Medical Society of Victoria, and I read in the retiring President's address:—"Allow me, in the first place, to be permitted to congratulate the Medical Society of Victoria, and myself, that we now have the honour and pleasure of seeing our lady professional coadjutors assisting at a retiring president's address. It is with all heartiness and goodwill that we welcome them to the society, and I feel sure that our deliberations and the discussion of our work will gain much by their presence amongst us. Already, although ladies have been members of this society for a very short time, one of the most interesting surgical cases of the year has been shown by a lady member. The year which has just closed also witnessed the admission of ladies as resident surgeons at the Melbourne Hospital, where, I am proud to say, they have been a decided success. It is not only individually that ladies have come to the fore, but also collectively, for the lady practitioners of this city have, with most commendable zeal, established a new hospital. This, beginning modestly and with much prevision on the part of its originators, has a large sphere of usefulness before it in the immediate future."

That enterprising South American State, the Argentine Republic, has decided that Malthus and Charles Darwin were unscientific blunderers, and that Argentine young men and maidens must marry in spite of all their theories of "over population" and "natural selection." A law has been enacted under which any young man or woman who shall refuse an offer of marriage without some legitimate motive must pay

the sum of 500 piastres for the benefit of the person refused. It is, of course, quite possible that the courts will take an extremely broad view of what constitutes a legitimate motive. Is a wooden leg or a glass eye a legitimate excuse, and false teeth or a chignon permissible? The young people of Argentina must anxiously hope that a very liberal interpretation is to be given to "legitimate motives."

As the weather will soon be warm enough for swimming, it is time to call the attention of ladies who, either themselves or through their husbands or fathers, have influence in the management of towns, to the generally inadequate arrangements for the use of the public swimming baths by women. Possibly more male persons swim than female, though there is no reason why this should be so. But the opportunities offered to the female portion of the community to use the baths to which they have to contribute is by no means commensurate with the numbers who certainly want to use them. I should be glad if correspondents in large towns would let me know the times weekly during which the public rate-supported baths are open to men and women swimmers respectively. I know that in many, if not all, the state of the case is much the same as that which exists in the London parish in which my own home was till recently situated. Out of very heavy rates, we supported two large public baths. At one, the swimming bath was open to ladies only for three hours on a Saturday morning—the absolutely most inconvenient hours in the week for a housekeeper, and for so short a time that the bath was more crowded than many a public meeting. A real good swim from end to end was impossible, and the whole conditions were uncomfortable because of the crowding caused by the short time allowed. But the other bath was even worse managed. In that case Wednesday afternoon was the time, but ladies were admitted only to the *second class* bath, for which they were charged first-class price for the first three hours, and then second-class price; but all through had only the dark and most uncleanly dressing-rooms that were all the rest of the week at the disposal of the poor dirty lads and men who paid but a penny for their use! So do men, the chivalrous protectors, look after the interests of women! Yet it is often more from want of thought than unkindness. Now, in local government, women have representation, and ought to bestir themselves to amend such matters. Swimming is at least as important for girls as for boys, and as girls can less readily than boys bathe out of doors in rivers and lakes, it is the more needful that they shall be provided for with some approach to fairness in the rate-supported institutions.

Count Ito, Chancellor of Japan, has persuaded the Empress to wear European dress. His object in doing so is to help to secure for Japanese women a higher social position. At present they have assigned to them an inferior place in society, and Count Ito's notion is that by dressing like Europeans their standing will be raised. In a lecture on the position of Japanese women, given to the Japan Society in London by one of the native members of the Legation here, the speaker stated that

so strong is the influence of European dress, and the association which it has in the minds of the Japanese men with the treatment that they know to be accorded by European men to women, that the very same husband who will require his wife while she wears her native dress to stand back while he goes out of the room, and not to eat until he has finished, will alter his conduct completely on such points immediately she takes to wearing the dress of a European lady. It seems at first a pity that the Japanese women should give up their national dress, which looks so picturesque, and so suited to their tiny, graceful figures; but they need not grudge a sacrifice of the picturesque for the sake of such a great improvement in their social standing.

It is interesting to know that the influence of European ideas upon Eastern races is thus considerable. The Japanese, in the course of the wonderful progress which they have made in the last 25 or 30 years, have frankly accepted that influence, and availed themselves of it in every possible way, with the result that they have now a great number of young men educated in the highest European knowledge, both in science and the practical arts, and that their social organisation is in some ways much improved by these influences. In India, too, there is a large part of the population quite indifferent, and another portion hostile, to English influence, but there is also a very considerable portion which is sensitive to English opinion, as we learn by the complaints which are made against them by those native journals which make a speciality of aggressive dislike to European ideas and abuse of the British ruling power.

That very abuse and dislike, however, is in itself a proof of the force which English ideas are exercising upon the slow-moving native Indian races, and it is because this influence does exist that we feel it to be a duty to speak strongly, whenever opportunity offers, against the evil customs of the Hindoos, which make the lives of their women so often miserable. A correspondent has written to remonstrate about what she called "the unkindness" of the observations on the Hindoo religion, and its effect upon the position of the Hindoo women, in the review which appeared of "Charaka Puja," in our issue of April 8th. "Would it not be better," suggested our correspondent, "to recognise the good in the Hindoo religion and speak kindly about it, instead of hurting the susceptibilities of those who believe in it by speaking of it so severely?" It is to be hoped that our correspondent has no knowledge of the true state of affairs for the little girl wives, as revealed by our lady doctors, about which she thinks it would be proper to speak in gracious terms of approbation.

It matters very little what are the abstract theories of a religion if it works out in practice into giving a religious sanction to enormities which in properly civilised countries come within the range of the criminal law; nor can we for a moment admit that such wickednesses ought to become entitled to be treated with respect by giving themselves the name of religion. Any influence that European women can possibly exert upon the opinions of the Indian natives should be strongly and entirely, and in every instance, devoted to

pointing out to them the essential evils and immoralities of the practices towards women which are associated with their religion; and for a woman who has herself been born under the happier conditions of Europe, to give any sort of support or countenance to a faith which involves such horrors to women and children as are involved in religion as understood in India, is even more blame-worthy than are the men directly guilty in the case, because she "sins against knowledge."

Our Short Story.

A MOUNTAIN ROSE.

"I RECKON it's true that there is at least one romance in every life. From personal knowledge I can only cite my own case, but I'll venture that there was never a good, strong story written that did not find its inspiration in truth."

The author of this oracular deliverance sat with his children and his grandchildren on one of those great, vine-shaded verandahs that belong to every pretentious country home in Tennessee. He was a giant, slowly going down under the weight of years, yet to live in the past was to recall some of its vigour. Now his eyes brightened, his form straightened, his broad shoulders went back, and his voice was without a quiver.

"You look the picture of her," he said to the little tot on his knee as he stroked her curls. Then it took a request for the story to recall the old man from his dearest memory. "In those days," he began, "there was more family pride in the South than there is now. Perhaps I should say that family prejudices were stronger. We had a caste as well defined as that in India. For one to marry in a 'lower' class was social suicide, and my folks, being of the so-called aristocracy, were among the stalwarts of the stalwart in upholding this intolerant creed. I became something of a heretic while in the north completing my education, but it takes time and experience to get rid of a strong hereditary bias.

"We were fairly well off for those times, but I had an ambition to do something more than cumber the world as a mere consumer. This inclination troubled the family, but after numerous consultations it was reluctantly admitted that I might superintend the development of some coal and iron interests that we had in a mountainous section of the state and still maintain my social prestige.

"I went at the enterprise in earnest, bringing a lot of men from Pennsylvania that understood the work, and founding a primitive village of log cabins in a region as desolate as any encountered by the original pioneers. The miners had their families with them, and all supplies had to be brought 50 miles over the mountain roads. The foreman was a big-hearted but shrewd and fearless Scotch-Irishman, who was just to the men and loyal to my interests. His home was looked after by a daughter who had lost her mother years before. The men used to call her the Mountain Rose, for she had all its delicate colourings, and was just as fresh and dainty and graceful. Though strong and lithe, because of the manner of her life, she looked the patrician from head to foot and had an innate refinement of character that no culture can supply. Her voice was musical, and to me her simple songs were more charming than the usual efforts of a prima donna. Her education was of her own

acquiring, and was strangely out of the conventional lines. Her knowledge in some directions only surprised you less than her tact in acquiring information in others. But I would never tire of talking of her.

"After our rough colony had become settled and was progressing finely, undesirable characters were attracted to the vicinity. Some men put up a shanty just off my land and stocked it with 'mountain dew.' Numerous rough-looking characters came there for the ostensible purpose of hunting and fishing, pitching their tents in our vicinity. I heard stories of gambling, and the men were not as regular at their work as they were before these interruptions. Rosser, the foreman, wanted to adopt heroic measures for getting rid of these pests, but I saw no way but to wait for some breach of the law and then secure the intervention of the authorities.

"Our pay day came every two weeks, and I brought the money from the nearest bank, in a town some distance away, having two good men go with me as a guard. On one occasion Nettie, the foreman's daughter, met us ten miles from the settlement, guiding us in a circuitous route, for she had learned through a wild young girl at the drinking den that there was a plot to waylay and rob us. Nettie had promptly pushed her way through the dangers of the mountain paths to warn us, fearing that delay in securing some other messenger might be fatal to us, and at the same time endanger her informant. On the way I learned more of the girl and her life than I had ever known, and she aroused that interest which is so likely to eventuate in love.

"It was a month later before we were freed from a snow blockade, and the next time I went to the bank it was for double the usual amount. I took more men, and we returned without accident. Even this did not give me the pleasure afforded by the joyous welcome of the girl who had so evidently been in dread while I was gone.

"It was just coming dark when I tossed the canvas bag containing the money to the foreman, for he was the custodian, and would pay off at the noon hour next day. I never felt afraid when he was on guard. That night the storm was on us again, and, with a view to making some arrangements for the better protection of the mines, I sent for him. I never thought of the money till he appeared at my door, shortly before 11 o'clock, covered with dripping snow. Then he assured me that the treasure was safe with Nettie, as no one would think of injuring her.

"We had been talking nearly an hour when there was the sound of a muffled cry and a body falling against the door. Rosser reached it with a spring and threw it open, to find a woman stretched across the step. Quickly he lifted her in his strong arms and laid her gently on the rough couch I had pulled before the blazing logs. It was Nettie, unconscious and apparently more dead than alive. Her long, waving hair was loose, dishevelled by the wind and wet with snow that melted to glittering drops in the warm glow of the room. Her upturned face, with its perfectly chiselled features, had the unattainable beauty of the artist's dream. Through all that terrible storm she had made her way for half a mile without a wrap or even the slippers in which she sat while awaiting her father's return, for they had been lost in the first few steps. As I grasped her pretty hands to chafe them they tightly clutched the canvas bag to her bosom, and only when the half-crazed Rosser forced some

brandy down her throat did she relinquish her hold.

"Trying to rise, she said, rapidly: 'Hurry, father, hurry. It was Black Joe. He's locked in the strong closet. I brought the money. You said you knew I would protect it. There it is. How Black Joe did curse and swear to kill us both! But I captured him.' And her unnatural laugh told how intense had been the strain upon her nerves.

"We found the villain vainly trying to batter his way out, and in due time along sentence put him out of the way. He had stolen in upon Nettie shortly after her father left. No threats could induce her to betray the hiding place of the money till she suddenly devised a scheme to keep both it and the robber. Appearing to yield, she told Joe to look behind the chest in the closet which Rosser had built of strong oak planks as a place of safety for his few valuables. He made her hold a candle while he searched. As he leaned over the chest Nettie summoned all her strength and courage, threw the door shut, clapped the hasp over the staple and closed the hook that was attached. This she strengthened with an iron poker, and then, seizing the bag from under the hearthstone, hurried from her prisoner and his blood-curdling threats.

"I loved her and told her so. But she was as courageous morally as physically. She was not fitted for my station in life. We must wait two years and see if I still wanted her. Her father was going to send her away for a time. I protested, but she went, and I only heard occasionally, through her father, that she was well and happy. One night some eighteen months later I was at a pretentious social gathering in Memphis. I was not a society man, but had gone as an old friend of the family. Some one sang, and I thought it the divinest music I had ever heard. As the singer rose from the piano I got a view of a regal beauty, who seemed familiar to me, but I only knew her when that voice I had learned to know so well in the mountains responded to an introduction. It was Nettie, who had been getting her education, and never had woman accomplished more in the same length of time. She was the belle of the aristocratic circle in Memphis, but when I had drawn her apart she laughingly admitted that I had the refusal of her and that she was just the same honest girl she used to be. I protested so vigorously that we cut the probationary period short. And she was your beautiful grandma, little one."

CROSSING THE BAR.

SUNSET and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea.
But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out the boundless
deep
Turns again home.
Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;
For tho' from out our bourne of time and place,
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face,
When I have crossed the bar.

* * *
A. Tennyson.

HOPE smiles on effort. Whatever your present self may be, resolve with all your strength of resolution never to degenerate thence. Be jealous of a shadow of falling off. Determine rather to look above that standard and to strive beyond it.—Charlotte Brontë.

UNEMPLOYED GENTLE- WOMEN: A PARALLEL.

BY EDITH A. BARNETT.

UPON another matter the report gives suggestive information. These are the days of specialists, and it is said, and no doubt with truth, that no man or woman may hope to gain a living unless he or she is trained to do some one thing well. But when we see that out of 144 "out-of-works" only four had tried any other kind of work than that for which they were in the first instance trained or half-trained, and for which there was (as the circumstances plainly prove) no present demand, we are brought face to face with another set of problems. In the shifting conditions of the social state, it must constantly happen that the demand for a certain sort of work is lessened, or transplanted, or even superseded. New products, improved machinery, changes in the law, make that superfluous which once was necessary. Such things are known to happen to handicraftsmen. They may easily, in the very near future, happen to considerable classes of working gentlewomen, and they do now, in the actual present, happen continually to isolated workers here and there, who from any cause, are unable to find work of the sort that they have done hitherto. But how many of the women whom one knows could, if they were turned out of their present employment, take up at once and successfully with another trade? Few, or none of those who go about the world, asking this or that or the other acquaintance to find them a job, which must be exactly to fit their fancy or they will have none of it. Few, very few, of those who have got themselves trained or partly trained for the one calling that they thought they should enjoy following, and who now, for want of money, or health, or time, are bidden with stern necessity to turn round and take up with a job that looks to them less attractive. But, on the other hand, all of the best workers in whatsoever profession or calling. Is it not a common experience for the capable and energetic to hear themselves called from this side and that, because everyone says to them, "Oh! we want you; you would have done my sort of work so excellently well, it is exactly women of your stamp that we want for my work; and we have so few of them."

Far be it from me to formulate any charge against the modern system of girls' education. It is, no doubt, an enormous improvement upon that which was in vogue half a century ago. Yet it is not without its characteristic dangers, not less grave, perhaps, than the dangers of the old plan. We used to be taught a little of everything and nothing much of any. And if we could not do anything particularly well, there were a great many things that we could do somehow; and to many diversified interests we were genuinely alive. Nowadays, even in our school work, we begin very early to specialise, and if we have any marked talent, the specialisation thereof begins all the earlier. And at the end of our girlhood there is one subject that even already we know something of; and so long as our subject engages the public interest, or so long as our speciality has not been taken up by a great many other people, we fare remarkably well. But the more we specialise, the narrower is the field of our employment. Even if we are super-excellent, there may be no call for our services. And not being super-excellent, there is urgent necessity that we should have another string to our bow lest the first should suddenly snap.

HOLD FAST.

HOLD fast to love, though men should rend your heart,
Let them not harden or embitter it.
Through pain, repulse, defeat, hold fast to love.

Hold fast to truth; through clash of creeds and men,
Eternal truth still holds her battlements.
Through doubt and fear and strife, hold fast to truth.
To love and truth hold fast, though all else fail.
Through broken dreams and efforts all in vain,
To love and truth hold fast; to truth and love.

Elizabeth Porter.

THE SINGLE WOMAN.

BY "JENNY WREN."

I KNOW that woman's crown of joy is motherhood divine,
That her most glorious mission is to make man's life sublime;
That she has thoughts beyond his ken, which angels whisper low,
That only the sweet mother's soul can ever fully know.

I recognise the queen of earth in wife and mother true,
I see her noble mission, her loving work to do;
Yet still there dwells another thought within my secret breast,
For only some are wedded, and what about the rest?

Are there not some of them who tread the earth like angels fair,
Whose tender ministries of love the poor and sinful share?
Whose thoughts are not for self, or love, or home and children dear,
But who live for all Earth's children, their daily cross to share?

These uncrowned lives around whose brows dear angel hands entwine,
Immortal wreaths of spotless deeds and Ministries divine;
These for whose gentle presence the sick and troubled cry,
While the dark forms of want and crime crouch low as they pass by;

These women of our age whose names may pass away,
But tender thoughts and memories can never know decay;
The souls who love the truth of God, and seek to make it known,
The helpers of our world midst those who wear a lily crown.

Their thoughts are scattered far and near, in many a distant land,
And many a soul is saved by touch of noble woman's hand;
Though neither wife nor motherhood has crowned her patient brow,
Yet she has souls by labour saved whom only angels know.

Where'er such noble woman treads, the earth grows rich with flowers,
Her presence fills this weary life with Heaven-illuminated hours;
And who can tell what jewels shall gleam within her maiden crown,
In that sweet day when the dear Christ with joy makes up His own.

MAGGI'S SOUPS.

MESSRS. COZENZA & Co. have received the following valuable testimonial to the value of the Maggi Consommé and Soups:—

"Jeaffreson Farnham Arctic Expedition, April 7th, 1897.
"Gentlemen,—Last year inside the Polar Circle, when every ounce of food was worth more than its weight in gold, having no means of transport, I found your speciality the most sustaining I have ever used. It is just the thing for Arctic work, when the greatest amount of nourishment in the smallest space is a desideratum.—Yours gratefully,
(Signed) W. B. FARNHAM, M.A., F.Z.S."

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To well sprinkle the floor near the fireplace and kitchen cupboard last thing at night with
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SOMETHING FOR NOTHING.

I AM a great admirer of pluck, hence I can't help appreciating the very confident manner in which the proprietors of Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa are advertising. So certain is the management that Vi-Cocoa is the best of good goods that they are putting down some thousands of pounds in advertising free samples of their product. So if you want to see if Vi-Cocoa suits you, and is as good an article as it is claimed to be, all you have to do is to drop a post-card to the offices, Suffolk House, Cannon-street, London, and in return, "free, gratis, and all for nothing," you will receive per post, and in due course, a dainty little sample tin of Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, amply sufficient to make a couple of good breakfast cups of this capital breakfast beverage. Oh! there is just one little thing I omitted to tell you, and that is, when writing you must mention the name of the WOMAN'S SIGNAL as a guarantee of good faith. Surely, two big cups of Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa are dirt cheap at the cost of a postcard, so take my advice and send in.

ECONOMICAL COOKERY.

By Miss Lizzie Heritage.
(First Class Diplôme Cookery and Domestic Economy; Author of "Cassell's New Universal Cookery," &c., &c.)

A FEW NOVEL SAVOURY DISHES.

As a nation we are very conservative in the matter of cookery; take veal by way of illustration, out of the endless ways of preparing it are not a matter of half a dozen dishes the most that the average middle class housewife aspires to? Yet from its very insipidity it is peculiarly adapted for cooking in piquant forms.

Some years ago I made the acquaintance of a loin of mutton treated something after the following fashion; the precise amounts of the different ingredients to which it owed its excellence were not given to me, but anyone may carry out the recipe according to common-sense, given an ordinary knowledge of the art of seasoning. The first thing is to free the meat from most of the fat and all the bone; have ready a forcemeat, consisting of bread crumbs, from four to six ounces, about half as much lean ham or bacon, nearly the same weight of minced sultanas, and a liberal seasoning of curry powder, parsley, lemon rind, salt and pepper, a little cayenne, and thyme and marjoram, or other herbs of the class; a morsel of bay leaf is a very nice addition. The whole is to be made into a moist paste with beaten eggs and a spoonful of cream.

After spreading the meat with this, some strips of raw bacon, rather fat, are to be laid on, and the meat rolled up and secured with tape, or take a needle and some thread or thin twine, and make it secure. It is then to be roasted or baked, well basted, and served very hot. Remember that meat boned and rolled takes longer than the joint in its native simplicity, and the cooking should be rather slow after the first quarter of an hour. The name of this is

MUTTON, TURKISH FASHION.

And, if suited to mutton, is it not far more suited to veal? Those who may put it to the test will agree with me that it is, I feel sure.

But there are certain adjuncts that go far to make the dish the novelty it is. A little good brown stock is to be added to the gravy, together with a slight thickening, and it must be very brown; a morsel of glaze or extract of meat will bring this about. A teaspoonful of red currant jelly is an optional, though very desirable, addition. Lemon juice is essential. A dish of rice ought to go with it, and this is got by cooking the rice in weak stock, adding it a little at a time as it is absorbed, until the rice is well done; Carolina is the sort, and take care to wash it first. A small onion fried first, and chopped, is to be cooked with it; some sultanas (about a quarter of a pint for a large dish) are to be simmered separately in stock to

cover, then halved, and added with a good seasoning of salt and pepper, nutmeg and cayenne. Butter is used sometimes to enrich the rice, but is really not needed; various articles, such as chillies, almonds, &c., play a part in the garnishing; but in the plain form the dish is all sufficient. When cold it will be found as good as when hot, and to get something fresh in cold joints is surely worth a venture. For example, for

A SIMPLE SALAD,

what could be nicer? Trim the meat into neat pieces, and arrange them down the middle of a dish, then put any greenery at the sides; lettuce, a hint of onion, some thinly-sliced radishes, and sprigs of endive will meet most tastes; but there are cucumber and cress, and other good things at this season, all suitable. The "dressing," owing to the tasty nature of the meat, need be of the plainest only, so long as the green stuffs be thoroughly dried, after any necessary washing. If an outer garnish of sliced, hard-boiled eggs be used, the dish is more calculated for a substantial meal. Tomatoes too would be suitable, but it is better to form a row of the slices separately than to mingle them with the rest, unless it can be done at the last moment, for tomato juice does destroy the crispness of any salad stuffs if left long before consumption.

A VENETIAN SAVOURY,

made from tomatoes, will commend itself. Some of the pulp must be taken from some large ripe tomatoes, after cutting them through. Some well flavoured, thick, white sauce, chopped ham, chopped parsley, bread crumbs, and a generous seasoning of pepper, form the mixture for filling up the hollows; indeed, it should be piled up, but made quite smooth, and for this sort of cookery a palette knife works wonders in the way of expedition and neatness of finish. Now go over the surface with some grated cheese; a good proportion ought to be Parmesan, but even a little, with any other of good quality, is not to be despised. A little oiled butter for the top, and a quick oven for the baking, some lemon juice put over at the moment of serving, then given quick service and hot plates, there is a dish fit for a king! Those who have hitherto tried tomatoes filled with a dry stuffing and voted them not worth the trouble, may alter their opinion if they will test this moist mixture, for it makes such a difference. But one caution. The sauce must be smooth and savoury. The acme of perfection is reached if each half tomato is dished on a piece of fried bread, a little larger.

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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.

Now, strength and muscular activity, rosy cheeks, plumpness, and health, can be obtained without medicine.

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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 this journal (a postcard will do), a dainty sample tin of Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa free and post-paid.

Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, 6d., 9d., and 1s. 6d. It can be obtained from all Grocers, Chemists, and Stores, or from Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, Limited, Suffolk House, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

This struggle is not, in reality, between women and men, but between women and life. The aim is not to take things and places, the one from the other, but to have in the character the sort of qualities on which possession depends.—E. Brooks.

HOVIS BREAD

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WHAT TO WEAR.



E 7,920.—SMART AFTERNOON DRESS, with trimmed skirt. Pattern from this office; price, 1s. 1½d. post free.

E 7,920.—*Toilette de ville*, which would look well made in a plain material. The lower part of the skirt is shaped out over an underskirt of plaid silk; the plain skirt is trimmed with fancy silk braid round the edge; at the back the material is pleated into the waist. The loose-fitting bodice is of the plaid silk, which is gathered into the waist front and back; the upper part of the bodice is covered with a very short tight-fitting bodice of material to match the skirt, and it is edged round with braid and a frill of silk muslin; the waistband is of the plain material covered with a fulness of the silk muslin; plain neckband of material; close-fitting sleeves ornamented on the shoulders with epaulettes of material edged with braid, and with a frill of silk muslin; at the wrists the sleeves are finished with a frill of the muslin and with an edging of the braid. Quantity, of 44 in. material required for this costume, 6½ yds. 21 in.; plaid silk, 4½ yds.

VEXED mother: "James, how many more times must I tell you to stop making that noise?"

James: "I'll leave that to your own judgment, ma."

TOMMY: "Pa, may I ask you a question?"

Pa: "Certainly, my child."

Tommy: "Well, where is the wind when it doesn't blow?"

LOST child (to policeman): "Please, sir, have you seen a man without a little boy? 'Cause if you have, I's that little boy."

SIGNALS FROM FRIEND TO FRIEND.

A. WALLACE wishes to find a home, private or public, for an old lady over 80 who suffers from rheumatism, but is active in mind and body, and who cannot afford to pay more than £35 to £40 a year. She requires very little waiting upon, and has her own furniture. If any correspondents know of a comfortable home for such a person will they please let us know.

ELIZABETH SATTERTHWAITE.—No addresses of bootmakers in London who make sandals have been sent to us, but no doubt if you were to write to one of those in the country, whose addresses were given, they would be pleased to let you see a pair on approval.

The daughters of the Prince of Wales could swim before they could read, and are now among the best swimmers in the Royal family.

Outdoor exercise has not only made girls' feet larger, but has tended to make girls larger and stronger in every way. Girls cannot cramp their feet in tight boots and enjoy athletics. I am told by one who knows a good deal about such matters that at dances you don't see nearly as many dainty feet as you used to.—*The Shoemaker.*

The only conclusive evidence of a man's sincerity is that he gives himself for a principle. Words, money, all things else, are comparatively easy to give away, but when a man makes a gift of his daily life and practice, it is plain that the truth, whatever it may be, has taken possession of him.—*James Russell Lowell.*

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"Thanks for sending the 'KALS' so quickly, they fit splendidly."—E. D.—LEE, Mar. 14, 1897.

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McCALLUM & CO.,
47, Stonehouse, Plymouth.

*Kindly send a pair of ss. 11d. thick serge Knickers. I was highly delighted with the others, and was surprised at the quality and style for the low price."—A. J. M.—BURTON-ON-TRENT, Feb. 23rd, 1897.

What Can Our Daughters Do for a Living?

POST OFFICE SORTERS.

The "female sorters in the General Post Office in London," as the official documents describe them, have one year's more time wherein to compete than the clerks have; their age on the day of the competitive examination must be not less than 15 nor more than 18; their height must be not less than 4ft. 10in. without boots; they, too, must resign their appointments on marriage. The hours of attendance are eight daily. The wages commence at 12s. per week, increasing annually by 1s. per week to 14s., then by 1s. 6d. per week annually to 21s. 6d. Promotions to vacancies in the higher classes depend on merit. The examinations are usually held about May and December, but they are fixed with a view of providing for the vacancies of the next six months. At the last three examinations only six were made at each. Applications for examination form are to be made to the Civil Service Commissioners, Cannon-row, S.W. The fee is 2s. 6d. The date for these examinations is advertised in the London Gazette and in some of the principal London newspapers, in which it usually appears on a Thursday.

SUBJECTS FOR EXAMINATION.

The five subjects of examination for sorters are: Reading and copying manuscript, handwriting, spelling, arithmetic (first four rules, simple and compound) and geography. Candidates who fail in any one or more of these will not be eligible. Where a technical institute is within reach, it is most desirable to attend the preparatory classes there (if any). Where a candidate is thrown on her own resources, she would do well to procure from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, 9 East Harding-street, Fetter-lane, E.C., a reprint of the last examination papers which will cost 6d.; and for practice in reading manuscript, such books as Clarke's Exercises in MS. (Simpkin, Marshall & Co., Price 1s. 6d.). It is not mere illegibility which the student has to accustom herself to—most of

us who have any correspondence at all have to do that—but a variety of contractions such as anor. for another, circes. for circumstances, abt. for about, and other abbreviations which, without knowing the context, might be interpreted in more than one way. The sorter's work is of such a character that intelligence and rapidity in deciphering handwriting are essential.

In arithmetic great attention must be bestowed on neatness in working, as well as accuracy in adding. The figures must be very clear, and the lines, (for which a ruler should not be used) not too long. It would be well, also, to spend a regular time a day adding cross tots, being careful, too, not to waste one's time saying, "9 and 7 are 16;" instead of this, pass directly from figure to figure, thus: 9, 16.

In geography it is important to make one's self acquainted with the position of every town of any importance in Great Britain and Ireland; to know something of the industries connected with them; to be acquainted also with the principal lines of railway.

The sorters are employed in two offices; there are 195 in the Savings Bank Department in Queen Victoria-street, and 183 in the Postal Order Branch at the General Post Office, St. Martin's le Grand, E.C.

It is quite possible to rise from a sorter to a clerk by working for the higher examination after office hours. In reckoning age for competition persons who have served two full years in any Civil service situation may deduct from their actual age any time not exceeding five years which they may have spent in such service.

The toad beneath the harrow knows Precisely where each sharp tooth goes. The butterfly upon the road Preaches contentment to the toad.

Rudgard Kipling.

LADY (to her husband, who is a commercial traveller, who is rather cold to her)—"John, the kisses you give me now are not up to the sample you gave me when you asked me to be yours. It isn't business."

FORTHCOMING SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION.

There will shortly be two scholarships of £40 a year for three years, available for women at Holloway College. One will be given to the woman student who wins the highest place in the Honours List at the London Matriculation Examination in June, on the condition that she goes into residence in October and reads for honours. The second goes to the most successful competitor in the Oxford and Cambridge Higher Certificate Examination of next July. All information will be given by the Secretary, Royal Holloway College, Egham.

Advertisement for Mason's Extract of Herbs, featuring an illustration of a man and text: "Good! it's Mason's MASON'S EXTRACT OF HERBS FOR MAKING NON-INTOXICATING BEER. The most palatable, thirst-quenching, refreshing, animating tonic drink producible. For every OPEN AIR WORKER and all employed in Shops, Mills, Manufactories, and Mines. IMITATED BUT NOT EQUALLED. Agents Wanted. One 6d. bottle makes 8 gallons. Of all Chemists & Stores. Sample Bottle Free 9 Stamps. 2 for 15 Stamps. NEWBALL & MASON, NOTTINGHAM. MASON'S (NOTTINGHAM) COFFEE ESSENCE (THE BEST MADE)"

ANOTHER COCKBURN TEMPERANCE HOTEL

13, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, Bedford Street, Strand, LONDON.

Telegrams: "PROMISING," LONDON

Mrs. A. D. PHILP, appreciating the very liberal patronage hitherto accorded to her at Cockburn House, 9 and 10, Endsleigh Gardens, and regretting her inability to accommodate many intending patrons for lack of room during the past two seasons, is pleased to announce to the public that she has secured the above Hotel premises, containing large and numerous public rooms, and accommodation for 150 guests, by which she hopes to cope with the expected large influx of visitors to London during the coming season, due to Diamond Celebrations. Bedrooms very quiet.

It will be newly and comfortably furnished throughout, and open for reception of guests early in March. Owing to its excellent position, in close proximity to the Strand, Trafalgar Square, Westminster, New Law Courts, Lincoln's Inn Fields, and all Places of Amusement and Railway Stations, Mrs. Philp hopes by her close personal attention to the comfort of guests, combined with Moderate Tariff, that she will continue to receive the very liberal patronage hitherto accorded to her. Large Halls for Public Dinners, Meetings, Concerts, &c.

It will be the finest, largest, and only well appointed HOTEL IN LONDON built from the foundation for the purpose, conducted on strictly Temperance principles. New Passenger Elevator, Electric Light, Telephone, and latest improved Sanitation. Telegraphic Address: "Promising," London.

Mrs. Philp will give her general superintendence to all three of her Hotels, and will spare no effort to make all her patrons comfortable and at home.

NOTE.—In connection with, and under same management—

COCKBURN HOUSE, 9 & 10, ENDSLEIGH GARDENS, opposite EUSTON (Telegrams—"Luncheon," London) and COCKBURN HOTEL, 141, BATH STREET, GLASGOW, and COCKBURN TURKISH BATHS.

Everyone interested in Nursing Matters should read

The NURSING RECORD.

Edited by Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK.

Published every Saturday. Price One Penny.

Contains all the Nursing News of the week; Articles by well-known Medical Men and Nurses;



Notes on Science, Art, Literature, and the Drama; Hospital News; Discussions by Matrons in Council, etc., etc., etc.

11, ADAM STREET, STRAND, W.C.

THREE CASES OF CONSUMPTION CURED BY DR. WILLIAMS' PINK PILLS.

A PATIENT WHOSE FATHER DIED OF CONSUMPTION.

ANOTHER WHO BELONGED TO A CONSUMPTIVE FAMILY.

A THIRD WHO WAS DISCHARGED FROM THE NAVY AS CONSUMPTIVE.

CURES CERTIFIED BY HOSPITAL DOCTORS AND RAILWAY EXAMINING PHYSICIANS.

"I HAD given myself up. Thinking my work in this world was at an end, I had begun to prepare for the next. I had intended to get married, but broke off the engagement. The knowledge that I was to be a victim of consumption was a terrible blow to me."

So spoke a healthy-looking young man the other day to a newspaper representative who chatted with him. The young man, Mr. F. Joyce, of 5, Brown's-buildings, West Pottergate-street, Norwich, had an interesting tale to tell, which was vouched for by his mother. That he was thoroughly earnest was evident.

Up to August last he had enjoyed fairly good health, but then a change came over his condition. He felt sick and languid, unable to move about and to follow his usual occupation, and he lost interest in the ordinary affairs of life. Every morning he raised phlegm which was streaked with blood; his face was blanched, and he lost over a stone in weight. His breathing, too, was short and painful, and there was every apparent justification for the verdict of his friends that he was "booked." This judgment Mr. Joyce himself fully concurred in, his apprehension being increased by the fact that his father had died of consumption.

He went to two doctors, but without benefit. Then one morning, to use his own words, "In the Norwich Eastern Daily Press, I read a case of a consumptive young man who had been spitting up blood like myself, and having night sweats, who was cured and restored to robust health and strength by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. I procured a box of these Pills myself, and followed the directions as to taking them, with the result that after three boxes I felt as well as I ever did in my life."

But while feeling so well Mr. Joyce had an uncomfortable impression that he might be still in a consumption, so he submitted himself for examination at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. The doctors of that great institution declared him to be in a sound state of health, and refused to supply him with any medicine or enter him upon the books. "The change," said Mr. Joyce, "was due entirely to Dr. Williams' Pink Pills."

Mr. Joyce has done his best to extend to others the benefits he has enjoyed. He has advised several ailing friends to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and has had the pleasure of seeing good results follow. It will suffice to mention two of the cases. A man named Daynes, of Bull Close, Norwich, whose brother died of consumption, recently feeling unwell, consulted a medical man, who told him his right lung was affected. He took some physic without good result, and finally resorted to Dr. Williams' Pink Pills on Mr. Joyce's recommendation, two boxes of which made him feel like a new man. Another young fellow, a friend of Joyce's, was recently discharged from the Navy, on the ground that he was in a consumption. He took a few boxes of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and has just passed the medical examination to which persons who wish to enter the service of the railway companies are subject. These facts speak for themselves. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People are shown by evidence equally well authenticated, to have cured numerous cases of rheumatism, sciatica, neuralgia, paralysis, locomotor ataxy, St. Vitus' dance, nervous headache and indigestion; also diseases of the

blood, such as scrofula, chronic erysipelas, &c. They are a splendid tonic, and a specific for all troubles peculiar to the female sex. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are sold by all chemists, or may be had direct from Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, of 46, Holborn-viaduct, London, at 2s. 9d. per box, or six boxes for 13s. 9d. They are never sold loose, and any substitutes so sold are useless; the wooden box must be in a pink wrapper bearing the full name, Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People.

Current News FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

LADY COOK, writing on "Women's Work and Wages," observes:—"In the year 305 A.D. Diocletian, the persecutor of the Christians, fixed the rate of wages for the whole of the Roman Empire. Women, however, do not appear to have been recognised in the classification of workers. In the year 1400 the nominal annual wage in England of a shepherd was 16s., of a labourer 12s., and of a woman 8s. a year. A woman's wage was thus exactly half of a shepherd's. Within fifty years after it had risen to three-fifths; but within another century it had lost one-fifth. The year 1600 saw a rise in the comparative value of her labour, for it was then five-ninths. After many fluctuations, it was again, in 1800, exactly one-half. Statisticians inform us that two wars only—the Napoleonic and the Crimean—cost England, France, and Russia 1,555 millions of money and 2,385,000 male lives. And the war bill for 257 years to England alone, ending 1857, was no less than 1,359 million pounds, besides the fearful destruction of British soldiers. From these and other causes the ratio of women to the whole population considerably exceeded that of the men. Women's work was, therefore, more or less a drug in the labour market and the severe competition among themselves still further reduced its value. Thus we find that in 1880 the nominal value of a woman's wage had fallen to five-twelfths of a shepherd's, and was only one-half that of a labourer. Nevertheless, Professor Leonie Levi ascertained that the joint earnings of women of the working classes in the United Kingdom have risen from 102 million pounds in 1867 to 129 millions in 1884. In both periods females under twenty years of age averaged one pound per head per annum more than the males of the same class under twenty. But over twenty the disparity in the power of wage-earning is very great, and entirely in favour of the males; in 1867 it averaged £50 for males and £29 for females; in 1884, £56 for males and £37 for females, so that at the latter date women's annual average earnings had increased in seventeen years nearly twenty-eight per cent., while the men's had only increased twelve per cent. This is a very hopeful sign. It coincides with the new educational era for girls, and points to a future period when the wages of men and women will be wholly or nearly equalised where equal work is effected."

The following inscription has just been placed on the house formerly occupied by the late Mrs. Rundle Charles, the gifted authoress, Combe Edge, Branch Hill, Hampstead:—"Elisabeth Rundle Charles Lived Here, 1874-1896." In semi-circular form at the top and bottom of this record are the words, "Author of 'Chronicles of the Schönberg-Cotta Family.'"

In France women have a monopoly of book-keeping in restaurants and cafes. They are well paid and have few expenses, their meals being furnished by the restaurant, and a plain black dress being all that is required in the way of toilet during working hours.

The number of members enrolled in the Primrose League now amounts to 1,367,854. During last month over 5,000 new members were admitted.

It has been proposed by the authorities that Queen Anne's statue opposite St. Paul's should be removed for the Jubilee thanksgiving service, in order that the view might not be obstructed. When this proposal was submitted to Her Majesty she refused to sanction it.

Miss Ada E. Bayly (Edna Lyall), has just resigned her post as hon. secretary of the Eastbourne Women's Liberal Association, but has consented to act as a vice-president of the Association.

Another new club for ladies has been established in London. It is called the Empress Club in commemoration of the sixtieth year of the Queen's reign. The club rooms are handsomely appointed, and include 14 bedrooms for the convenience of country members.

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.]

CO-OPERATION FOR WORKING WOMEN.

To the Editor of the WOMAN'S SIGNAL.

DEAR MADAM,—Re the very excellent and suggestive articles headed "The Future of Women Who Work."

These lead me to hope that a further suggestion may not prove untimely or unwelcome, as by it an additional saving for the workers might be obtained. I once saw in print that twenty thousand women and girls were employed in the factories and warehouses between the Mansion House and St. Paul's. If this statement is correct, what must the whole of London workers number? But suppose, for starting, only 20,000 could be got to unite for the supply and purchase of their own clothing. £1 from each would give a starting capital of £20,000. This would suffice for a beginning, as the purchases would be for ready-money, and if the management took somewhat the form of that sketched in the book of Bellamy's "Looking Backward," an economy upon usual management might be easily effected. The goods would clear the average profits of the current market. But the profits accruing therefrom would return to the purchasers; for instance, a woman spending at the rate of £14 annually, would, supposing the profits to result in about 20 per cent., get returns of £1 8s. a year, which would more than recoup for the life share in the capital, which share could be paid either by lump sum or by weekly instalments. The profits might be returnable to shareholders at the end of the year, or go to form annuities, &c. Nor would the advantage cease here. The premises rented for the purpose would give a commercial status to women generally. It could also be a general agency for women workers, and some portion of the premises could be utilised at night for lectures and the discussion of subjects of general importance to women, and so become the mainspring of intelligence for the systematic control of woman's part in the affairs of life. Such a scheme would be free from the weights so often pressing upon the so-called co-operative companies instituted by men chiefly for promoters' or shareholders' interests. The shares would be for life, and should not be subject to fluctuation. It should be free for women of all ranks as purchasers or shareholders, the larger the number the wider the sphere of usefulness. And under ordinary care there could be little fear of disaster, since drapery and all the departments for women's clothing are very much now under female management, the chief difference being that they work for wages under men, and again spend their earnings so that the profits of their purchases return again to the coffers of men. Submitting these thoughts for your perusal and consideration as to whether worthy of insertion.—I remain, yours truly, (Mrs.) C. LANGDALE.

CEREBOS

TABLE

SALT

"Day by day, grain upon grain, the subtle Nature-Builder deposits a store of strength in the skeleton and the tissues of the body, but we must supply her with the materials, or she will not build the highest and best."

REPORT FROM

SIR CHAS. A. CAMERON, M.D., D.P.H. (Cambridge)
F.R.C.S.I., M.R.C.P.I., F.I.C.,
PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY, R.C.S.I.,
Medical Officer of Health for Dublin, City and County
Analyst.

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CEREBOS TABLE SALT is used at every meal by thousands of **DOCTORS** and their families because it adds strength to all the food in which it is used, and by the upper ten thousand **LADIES** on account of its dainty appearance and fine quality. It has been adopted and is exclusively used at all the **Gordon Hotels** at home and abroad, the **Hotel Cecil**, and all the other highest class **HOTELS** everywhere, because it is the nicest, driest, best Table Salt; economical in use, and requiring no crushing or preparation.

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STORES IN LARGE LINED TINS.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THE EDUCATION OF GIRLS AND WOMEN IN GREAT BRITAIN.

By C. S. BREMNER. With a Preface by Miss E. P. HUGHES, of Cambridge. 4s. 6d.

This book is the first attempt that has been made to examine the whole field of women's education. It briefly surveys the agencies in existence both before and after the Reformation, the share that women and girls had in such agencies, and shows the effect of the Reformation on their education. The great development in the education of women and girls, inaugurated in the middle of the nineteenth century, is treated at length. The field divides itself into four sections: Elementary, or Primary, Secondary, Higher, Technical-Professional.

A chapter on Scottish education is appended, the work of Mr. G. Alexander, Clerk to the School Board of Glasgow, and Miss Jane Galloway, of Queen Margaret's College.

THE TIMES.—"A valuable repertory of information."

THE SCOTSMAN.—"A clear and full account of the historical development and present state of the organisation by which girls and women are taught in this country. Well founded in a wide and philosophic knowledge of its subjects, the book is an interesting record of the progress and results of a movement the importance of which is every

day more and more recognised. Without the least trace of controversial partiality."

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JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.—"A full and able survey of women's education in England and Scotland."

SWAN SONNENSCHN & CO. LD., LONDON.

A BOOK FOR LADIES.

The information contained in this book ought to be known by every Married Woman, and it will not harm the unmarried to read. No book is written which goes so thoroughly into matters relating to married women. Some may think too much is told; such can scarcely be the case, for knowledge is power and the means of attaining happiness. The book can be had in envelope from Dr. ALLINSON, Box Z, Spanish Place, Manchester Square, London, W., in return for a Postal Order for 1s. 2d.

JUST PUBLISHED. DISEASES OF CHILDREN.

By DR. ALICE VICKERY.

Price 1/-

HENRY RENSHAW, 356, Strand, W.C.

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"THE WOMAN'S SIGNAL."

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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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