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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

No. 206, VOL. VIII. REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER.

DECEMBER 9TH, 1897.

Every Thursday, ONE PENNY WEEKLY.

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FACTS AND SCRAPS.

NEW AUSTRALIAN STAMP.—The Australian mail in this week bore a new stamp. It is of a deep violet, ecclesiastical mourning colour, with a cameo head of the Queen in her Jubilee head-dress, and the Southern Cross forming a halo round it. On the left of the head is, in very plain lettering, "New South Wales—Postage 2½d."

There is a little branch railway in Ireland on which the running of the trains is very capricious, and a local wit is circulating a petition to have it suppressed on the ground that its trains are games of chance.

THE CHURCH MAID.—The up-to-date New York City churches now employ a church maid. One who enters a sanctuary there nowadays may see a slender figure in a plain black gown with white cap and apron moving around among the pews. She will come forward, answer your questions, direct you to the sexton, tell you the minister's hours, or advise you to whom you should apply for other information than she may be able to give. It is part of her duty to remain respectfully near visitors, for strangers have been known to "lift" anything that strikes their fancy and walk off with it. The maid also cares for the minister's study, and gives to the edifice many touches of which the janitor is incapable.

What is the beginning? Love. What the course? Love still.
What the goal? The goal is Love on the happy hill.
Is there nothing then but Love, search we sky or earth?
There is nothing out of Love hath perpetual worth;
All things flag, but only Love, all things fail or flee;
There is nothing left but Love worthy you and me.
Christina Rossetti.

HONESTY.—When the spiritual faculty assumes tyranny, when it is allowed to enslave the understanding, to trample on the love of beauty or the love of love—it is one of the most hateful of all the oppressors of the soul. It wraps us up in self by pretending that it wraps us up in God.—*Stopford A. Brooke.*

"HERE'S another case of a young man's becoming a victim of cigarettes." "Of course," replied the man who hates the habit: "it's the same old story. He persisted in the practice in spite of the advice of friends and physicians. He became a nervous wreck and lingered painfully until the fatal termination came." "No. The fatal termination was there, but he didn't linger. He smoked them in a powder magazine."

WOMEN'S PIONEERS.—"It is almost impossible to understand now what it meant when I was twenty-five for a young lady to announce that she should forthwith approve and further the enfranchisement of her own sex. Seen beside the really great martyrdoms and dedications of the 'causes' which throb through our modern life, this seems an episode only large enough to irritate a smile. Yet I do not to this hour like to recall, and I have no intention whatever of revealing, what it cost me."—*Elizabeth Stuart Phelps* (Author of "The Gates Ajar").

ANGLING one day for trout in a Highland stream, a minister came across some boys "guddling" with their sleeves and trousers rolled up. "I say, boys," exclaimed the minister, "are you not ashamed of yourselves to be catching the poor trout in that way, groping for them with your hands under the stones? You know that is not a fair way of catching them." The boys looked up in astonishment, and one of them bolder than the rest, replied "Go away, mon; it's yersel who should be ashamed, trying o' cheat 'em wi' sham fees."

THE WOMAN'S SIGNAL

A WEEKLY RECORD AND REVIEW FOR LADIES.

Vol. VIII., No. 206.]

DECEMBER 9, 1897.

One Penny Weekly.

A Book of the Hour.

THE LIFE OF MISS ANNE J. CLOUGH.*

MISS ANNE J. CLOUGH was personally known to a great many of the early workers for the higher education of women, and yet more were well acquainted with her name from the fact that she was the first Principal of Newnham College. It is not quite easy for young people of the present day to realise how very experimental was the beginning of University education, and, indeed, of every form of higher intellectual training, for girls. The "Life of Miss Clough," written by her niece, who was her assistant at Newnham in her later years, will be of permanent value to the historian of the Woman Movement, as showing very clearly how gradually the opportunities which are now enjoyed were evolved from small beginnings, and how much devotion and anxiety went to the making of what is already accomplished.

One reason against the suggestion lately put forward by the Bishop of Stepney that the education of women in connection with the University of Cambridge should be abandoned in favour of a special University for women, is that the labour of the pioneers is materialized at Cambridge to some extent. The fine buildings which have been put up there, and which have cost a great deal of money, and also a great deal of labour and effort, are a very sufficient reason why the education of young women University students should remain in that spot. Apart from this strong material reason there is the deeper one that the University education of women there was begun with all the caution and all the anxious desire to conciliate public opinion that the early workers found to be necessary. Like conditions can never be repeated, and no one who really cares for the progress of women, and who has a clear judgment as to how it is to be promoted, is willing that all the valuable traditions and all the settled regulations which have grown up at Cambridge should be thrown over for any new beginning.

Miss Clough was already fifty years old when she became the first Principal of Newnham. Its foundation grew out of lectures which were organized by a joint committee in the great towns in the north of England. Miss Clough appears to have been the person who initiated the scheme for these co-operative lecture arrangements, and as Newnham was ultimately the direct outcome of that Council and the lectures which it organized to be given by University men in the associated towns, it is fair to look upon Miss Clough as in a sense the founder of this important College.

Her biographer says:—"Miss Clough had clearly made up her mind to try and find some active occupation, and in the autumn of 1866, after this article had appeared, she determined to see what she could herself do to get some of her plans carried out."

* "A Memoir of Anne Jemima Clough." By her Niece, Blanche Athena Clough. Edward Arnold, 37, Bedford-street, Strand, London. Price 12s.

She decided to go to Liverpool, for, as she said, she had a general acquaintance with the place, and knew to whom to apply; and she provided herself with letters of introduction to some of the principal inhabitants, who, she hoped, would take up her suggestions.

"Her first idea was to form an association of managers of schools and others, and she drew up a scheme for this. This association was to arrange for classes taught by better paid teachers, lectures for older pupils in schools and ladies from private families, lectures on teaching, drilling classes, and a library for the associated schools. But she evidently found that the only part for this for which there was any hope at present, was the plan of lectures for the elder schoolgirls and others, and accordingly she set to work on that. . . . She spent two anxious and laborious months in Liverpool, visiting people who might be interested, and trying to arrange that a course of lectures should be given there that winter by some one from one of the Universities. But



Miss A. J. Clough.

in the end the plan had to be dropped for a time, and, as she wrote, she 'went away to the South discouraged.'

"But the efforts which she and others had made in Liverpool had made her ideas known, and had attracted the attention of some whose help was likely to be valuable. . . . In March, while still at Combe Hurst, she received an invitation to go to Manchester, to read a paper to the Schoolmistresses' Association there, and to meet some ladies from other northern towns. She accordingly went, and read a paper which was in substance the same as that written for the London Association. It expounded her proposal, that a number of schools should combine to secure various advantages, and, in particular, to organize classes or lectures on advanced subjects, to be attended by pupils both from schools and private families. It also proposed that the schools which combined for this purpose should form an association, and that this association should elect a council, which might devise plans for

improvements in education, and, if they were approved by the association, carry them out; this council to include, if possible, besides the elected members, one or two inspectors of schools, or other men of experience in education.

"The Manchester Association and the ladies from Leeds and Sheffield were much interested in these suggestions, and it was decided to aim, not only at co-operation within one town, but at a combination between several towns. It was agreed, in the first place, to try to arrange for lectures in several towns the following autumn; and, in the second place, to draw up a scheme for a council to be elected by the schoolmistresses' or educational associations already existing in several places, and to submit the scheme to these various societies. Both these plans were successfully carried out. Mr. James Stuart, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, was induced to deliver a course of lectures on Astronomy in the four towns—Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield, and Leeds—and a council, called the North of England Council for Promoting the Higher Education of Women, was formed, and met for the first time at Leeds in November, 1867.

"The North of England Council only continued in existence for seven years, but during this time it accomplished results which were of value in themselves, and which formed the starting point for enterprises of far-reaching importance. . . . The Council was in the main her creation; she took a large part in its undertakings, and contributed much to their success, and this work was not only her chief interest and occupation for some years, but it led directly to her later work at Cambridge."

Miss Clough, though not rich, was at the time here referred to in possession of a larger income than she required to spend upon herself. This was not, however, the case during her earlier years; she had passed through comparative poverty. She was born in 1820 at Liverpool, and was one of four children, of whom another was the writer of some beautiful poetry—Arthur Hugh Clough. Very soon after Anne's birth the family removed to Charleston, South Carolina, and there her childhood was spent. When she was sixteen they returned to England, and, her education being supposed to be finished, she took up as an interest in life voluntary teaching in a Welsh children's school, and to a class of older girls whom she gathered around her in her mother's house. She also visited the poor, though she seems to have had a reserved disposition and a stiff manner, which made this a difficult task. Though her formal education was not continued far on into her teens, she was, we are told, always hard at work learning a variety of subjects on her own account. A diary which she kept from her twentieth year onwards for the next four or five years contains frequent references to studies which, in her youth, were very uncommon for girls, and a voluntary devotion to which on her part indicates an active intelligence and a great desire for learning, such as must in too many cases have been utterly suppressed in the women of the past. In May, 1840, for instance, she writes:—

"This month I want to do over one book of Euclid, as far as the 80th page in the Greek grammar, translate Book II. of Virgil from the

end of the plan had to be dropped for a time, and, as she wrote, she 'went away to the South discouraged.'

German, read 2nd and 3rd volumes of Milton's 'History of the Jews,' Milton over again, and the second volume of Wordsworth. Working hard at these things may perhaps be of no particular use to me so far as knowing these things goes, but I may at least hope to acquire industrious habits and strength of mind, which I lack terribly. I am very much wanting in the power of expressing myself clearly about anything. I might improve myself, perhaps, in this particular by telling the children stories and writing definitions of words.

"Up to 6, Euclid and Greek; German, off to school 9; visits at the schools; want of exertion and too cross."

Apart from this indication of the desire for knowledge there is nothing at all remarkable in the diary, which is very self-conscious and full of introspection, and altogether very much the same kind of thing that hundreds of good but not exceptionally brilliant girls are writing to-day. There is much of this sort of entry.

"Just come home from walking in Bold-street. Have been giving way to all sorts of nonsense, proud and swaggering thoughts, thinking everybody was remarking me. How grand it would be if I could have a season at the Wellington room balls! I would carry myself very high . . . in short, cut a regular dash. . . . But I know better too. This won't do; all these wild fancies must be quelled, and so they shall, or I am ruined."

"What has all this wildness come from? I know, at least, partly. I have been busy at the school and the children. I have been thinking a good deal about what I have done and am going to do, and that this one thinks well of me and the other. In short, I have grown fearfully proud, and my thirst for praise has revived again in full force. Then I have been thinking a good deal about marrying, not so much myself as others."

"I want deep, steady study, particularly in Euclid: I always find when I study Euclid my mind is much stronger and better, and I am not troubled with so many idle thoughts and wandering fancies."

There is no doubt the diary was perfectly candid and revealed without affectation what she really thought and felt at the time, and it is curious and rather touching to see how much the mind of one to whom lifelong celibacy was ordained ran upon love and marriage. There is, however, no hint anywhere in the book that love ever came into her life. When she was a little over twenty her father became involved in business difficulties. They had to remove and live in a very quiet way, and it appears from one of Arthur Hugh Clough's letters to his sister that she did nearly all the cooking. After her father's death, she and her mother lived first at Liverpool and then at Ambleside in the English Lake district. Characteristic in the following anecdote:—

"She had one pleasure quite her own; she had found it out and arranged it all herself, and we thought it was the chief joy of her life. Whenever she could get a spare afternoon, she hurried to the workhouse school, and persuaded the authorities (rules in such places were not then very cut-and-dried or definite) to let her take some twenty of the little girls for a walk. My husband and I often met them exploring the banks and the hedgerow ditches of the few country lanes about Everton and Edgehill for the few flowers growing there, both she and the children looking supremely content and happy. It was the pleasantest sight to be seen in those somewhat dreary regions, and always sent us home refreshed. We had a true admiration for her, and felt hers was a character of rare child-like simplicity, combined with a beautiful perseverance in well-doing."

Miss Clough was thirty-two when she went to live with her mother at Ambleside, and she remained there for ten years, at the end of which time her mother's death both placed her

in possession of the small independence above referred to, and left her free to go out into the world again and undertake wider work. The quiet years spent at Ambleside were not, however, wasted ones as regarded her training for educational management. There was no school for middle-class girls in the village, and the parents of such, the tradespeople and well-to-do farmers, objected to sending their children to the free charity schools of the locality, so that, in many cases, girls of this class grew up almost without education. The pathetic appeal of the mother of a large family induced Miss Clough to try what she could do for that class of children. The school which she started, and carried on for several years till she left Ambleside, never numbered more than between twenty to thirty scholars, and barely paid its own expenses. Miss Clough personally taught in the school most of each morning, and called it her "beloved school." But she afterwards referred to this time as one of great unhappiness; her life in the lake-side village was so narrow and cramped. Her biographer says:—

"She was now well over thirty, she was full of aspirations and of pent-up energy, and it is clear from some of her brother's letters that she had for years ardently longed for greater scope for her activities, for the opportunity of giving practical shape to the ideas which were always seething in her mind. Long after this, in speaking of the many new openings for women, she referred more than once to the women who in earlier years had longed for these opportunities and suffered for want of them. Some of them, she said, had been stirred by the awakening of thought around them, by the new interest in social reform, and 'they grew restless, they were like caged birds, with their strong passions intensified by the want of action,' and it was evident that these things were made vivid to her by her own experience."

When her mother died in 1860, and her brother Arthur in 1861, Miss Clough gave up the management of her "beloved school," arranging, however, for its continuance, and for the next eight or nine years she lived with relations in and near London. It was during this time that she founded the Association for lectures to women in the northern towns, as described above; she became thus acquainted with those who were interested in similar enterprises and ideas, and that fact in the long run led her to the work of the rest of her life at Newnham College.

(To be concluded next week.)

WHAT MARY GAVE.

SHE gave an hour of patient care to her little baby sister, who was cutting teeth. She gave a string and a crooked pin and a great deal of good advice to the three-year-old brother who wanted to play at fishing. She gave Ellen, the maid, a precious hour to go and visit her sick baby at home, for Ellen was a widow and left her child with its grandmother while she worked to get bread for both. She could not have seen them very often if Mary had not offered to attend the door while she was away.

But this is not all that Mary gave. She dressed herself so neatly, and looked so bright and kind and obliging, that she gave her mother a thrill of pleasure whenever she caught sight of the young, pleasant face. She wrote a letter to her father, who was absent on business. She gave patient attention to a long story by her grandmother, and when it was ended, made the old lady happy by a good-night kiss.

Thus she had given valuable presents to six people in one day, and yet she had not a shilling in the world. She was as good as gold, and she gave something of herself to all those who were so happy as to meet her.

MARY WOLLSTONE-CRAFT'S

"VINDICATION OF THE RIGHTS [OF WOMEN]" (Published 1793).

CHAPTER V.—continued.

ANIMADVERSIONS ON SOME OF THE WRITERS WHO HAVE RENDERED WOMEN OBJECTS OF PITY, BORDERING ON CONTEMPT.

To render women completely insignificant, Rosseau adds: "The tongues of women are very voluble; they speak earlier, more readily, and more agreeably, than the men; they are accused also of speaking much more; but so it ought to be, and I should be very ready to convert this reproach into a compliment; their lips and eyes have the same activity, and for the same reason. A man speaks of what he knows, a woman of what pleases her; the one requires knowledge, the other taste; the principal object of a man's discourse should be what is useful, that of a woman's what is agreeable. There ought to be nothing in common between their different conversation but truth."

"We ought not, therefore, to restrain the prattle of girls, in the same manner as we should that of boys, with that severe question: *To what purpose are you talking!* But by another, which is no less difficult to answer: *How will your discourse be received!* In infancy, while they are as yet incapable to discern good from evil, they ought to observe it, as a law, never to say anything disagreeable to those whom they are speaking to; what will render the practice of this rule also the more difficult, is, that it must ever be subordinate to the former, of never speaking falsely or telling an untruth."

To govern the tongue in this manner must require great "address" indeed, and it is too much practised both by men and women. Out of the abundance of the heart how few speak! So few, that I, who love simplicity, would gladly give up politeness for a quarter of the virtue that has been sacrificed to an equivocal quality which at best should only be the polish of virtue.

But to complete the sketch. "It is easy to be conceived, that if male children be not in a capacity to form any true notions of religion, those ideas must be greatly above the conception of the females: it is for this reason, I would begin to speak to them the earlier on this subject; for if we were to wait till they were in a capacity to discuss methodically such profound questions, we should run a risk of never speaking to them on this subject as long as they lived. Reason in women is a practical reason, capacitating them artfully to discover the means of attaining a known end, but which would never enable them to discover that end itself. The social relations of the sexes are indeed truly admirable: from their union there results a moral person, of which woman may be termed the eyes, and man the hand, with this dependence on each other, that it is from the man that the woman is to learn what she is to see, and it is of the woman that man is to learn what he ought to do. If woman could recur to the first principles of things as well as man, and man was capacitated to enter into their minutiae as well as woman, always independent of each other, they would live in perpetual discord, and their union could not subsist. But in the present harmony which naturally subsists between them, their different faculties tend to one common end; it is difficult to say which of them conduces the

most to it; each follows the impulse of the other; each is obedient, and both are masters.

"As the conduct of a woman is subservient to the public opinion, her faith in matters of religion should, for that very reason, be subject to authority. Every daughter ought to be of the same religion as her mother, and every wife to be of the same religion as her husband; for, though such religion should be false, that docility which induces the mother and daughter to submit to the order of nature, takes away, in the sight of God, the criminality of their error." As "they are not in a capacity to judge for themselves, they ought to abide by the decision of their fathers and husbands as confidently as by that of the church."

What is to be the consequence, if the mother's and husband's opinion should chance not to agree? An ignorant person cannot be reasoned out of an error—and when persuaded to give up one prejudice for another the mind is unsettled. Indeed, the husband may not have any religion to teach her, though in such a situation she will be in great want of a support to her virtue, independent of worldly considerations.

"As authority ought to regulate the religion of the women, it is not so needful to explain to them the reasons for their belief, as to lay down precisely the tenets they are to believe; for a creed which presents only obscure ideas to the mind is the source of fanaticism, and one which presents absurdities leads to infidelity."

Rousseau would carry his male aristocracy still further, for he insinuates that he should not blame those who contend for leaving woman in a state of the most profound ignorance, if it were not necessary in order to preserve her chastity and justify the man's choice in the eyes of the world, to give her a little knowledge of men, and the customs produced by human passions. She might employ enough understanding to dress like Sophia. "Her dress is extremely modest in appearance, and yet very coquettish in fact; she does not make a display of her charms, she conceals them; but in concealing them, she knows how to affect your imagination. Every one who sees her will say, 'There is a modest and discreet girl;' but while you are near her, your eyes and affections wander all over her person, so that you cannot withdraw them; and you would conclude that every part of her dress, simple as it seems, was only put in its proper order to be taken to pieces by the imagination." Is this modesty? Is this a preparation for immortality? Again, what opinion are we to form of a system of education, when the author says of his heroine, "that with her, doing things well is but a secondary concern; her principal concern is to do them neatly."

Secondary, in fact, are all her virtues and qualities, for, respecting religion, he makes her parents thus address her, accustomed to submission—"Your husband will instruct you in good time."

After thus cramming a woman's mind, if, in order to keep it fair, he has not made it quite a blank, he advises her to reflect, that a reflecting man may not yawn in her company, when he is tired of caressing her. What has she to reflect about who must obey? and would it not be a refinement on cruelty only to open her mind to make the darkness and misery of her fate visible? Yet, these are his truly sensible remarks; how consistent with what I have already been obliged to quote, to give a fair view of the subject, the reader may determine.

"They who pass their whole lives in working for their daily bread have no ideas beyond their

business or their interest, and all their understanding seems to lie in their fingers' ends. This ignorance is neither prejudicial to their integrity nor their morals; it is often of service to them. Sometimes, by means of reflection, we are led to compound with our duty, and we conclude by substituting a jargon of words, in the room of things. Our own conscience is the most enlightened philosopher. There is no need to be acquainted with Tully's offices, to make a man of probity; and perhaps the most virtuous woman in the world is the least acquainted with the definition of virtue. But it is no less true, that an improved understanding only can render society agreeable; and it is a melancholy thing for a father of a family, who is fond of home, to be obliged to be always wrapped up in himself, and to have nobody about him to whom he can impart his sentiments.

"Besides, how should a woman void of reflection be capable of educating her children? How should she discern what is proper for them? How should she incline them to those virtues she is unacquainted with, or to that merit of which she has no idea? She can only soothe or chide them; render them insolent or timid; she will make them formal coxcombs, or ignorant blockheads; but will never make them sensible or amiable." How, indeed, should she, when her husband is not always at hand to lend her his reason, and when they both together make but one moral being. A blind will, "hands without eyes," would go a very little way; and perchance his abstract reason, that should concentrate the scattered beams of her practical reason, may be employed in judging of the flavour of wine; descanting on the sauces most proper for turtle; or, more profoundly intent at a card-table, he may be generalizing his ideas as he bets away his fortune, leaving all the minutiae of his children's education to his helpmate, or to chance.

But, granting that a woman ought to be merely beautiful, innocent, and silly, to render her a more alluring and indulgent companion; what is her understanding sacrificed for? And why is all this preparation necessary? Only, according to Rousseau's own account, to make her the mistress of her husband for a very short time. For no man ever insisted more on the transient nature of love. Thus speaks the philosopher. "Sensual pleasures are transient. The habitual state of the affections always loses by their gratification. The imagination, which decks the objects of our desires, is lost in fruition. Excepting the Supreme Being, who is self-existent, there is nothing beautiful but what is ideal."

Children, he truly observes, form a much more permanent connection between married people than love. Beauty, he declares, will not be valued, or even seen, after a couple have lived six months together; artificial graces and coquetry will likewise pall on the senses: why then does he say that a girl should be educated for her husband with the same care as for an Eastern harem?

I now appeal from the reveries of fancy and refined licentiousness to the good sense of mankind, whether, if the object of education be to prepare women to become chaste wives and sensible mothers, the method so plausibly recommended in the foregoing sketch be the one best calculated to produce those ends? Will it be allowed that the surest way to make a wife chaste is to teach her to practice the wanton arts of a mistress?

The man who can be contented to live with a pretty, useful companion, without a mind, has lost in voluptuous gratifications a taste for more

refined enjoyments; he has never felt the calm satisfaction that refreshes the parched heart, like the silent dew of heaven—of being beloved by one who could understand him. In the society of his wife he is still alone, unless when the man is sunk in the brute. "The charm of life," says a grave philosophical reasoner, "is sympathy; nothing pleases us more than to observe in other men a fellow-feeling with all the emotions of our own breast." But, according to the tenor of reasoning by which women are kept from the tree of knowledge, the important years of youth, the usefulness of age, and the rational hopes of futurity, are all to be sacrificed to render women an object of desire for a short time. Besides, how could Rousseau expect them to be virtuous and constant when reason is neither allowed to be the foundation of their virtue, nor truth the object of their inquiries?

But peace to his manes! I war not with his ashes, but his opinions. I war only with the sensibility that led him to degrade woman by making her the slave of love.

— "Curs'd vassalage,
First idoliz'd till love's hot fire be o'er,
Then slaves to those who courted us before."
— Dryden.

The pernicious tendency of those books in which the writers insidiously degrade the sex whilst they are prostrate before their personal charms, cannot be too often or too severely exposed.

Let us, my dear contemporaries, arise above such narrow prejudices! If wisdom be desirable on its own account; if virtue, to deserve the name, must be founded on knowledge; let us endeavour to strengthen our minds by reflection, till our heads become a balance for our hearts; let us not confine all our thoughts to the petty occurrences of the day, or our knowledge to an acquaintance with our lovers' or husbands' hearts; but let the practice of every duty be subordinate to the grand one of improving our minds, and preparing our affections for a more exalted state!

Beware then, my friends, of suffering the heart to be moved by every trivial incident: the reed is shaken by a breeze, and annually dies, but the oak stands firm, and for ages braves the storm!

Were we, indeed, only created to flutter our hour out and die—why let us then indulge sensibility, and laugh at the severity of reason. Yet, alas! even then we should want strength of body and mind, and life would be lost in feverish pleasures of wearisome languor.

But the system of education, which I earnestly wish to see exploded, seems to presuppose, and take for granted, that virtue shields us from the casualties of life; and that fortune, slipping off her bandage, will smile on a well-educated female, and bring in her hand an Emilius or a Telemachus. Whilst, on the contrary, the reward which virtue promises to her votaries is confined, it seems clear, to their own bosoms; and often must they contend with the most vexatious worldly cares, and bear with the vices and humours of relations for whom they can never feel a friendship.

There have been many women in the world who, instead of being supported by the reason and virtue of their fathers and brothers, have strengthened their own minds by struggling with their vices and follies; yet have never met with a hero, in the shape of a husband, who, paying the debt that mankind owed them, might chance to bring back their reason to its natural dependent state, and restore the usurped prerogative, of rising above opinion, to man.

(To be continued.)

LADIES AS MASTERS OF SHIPS.

THE subjoined correspondence has passed between the Board of Trade and Lady Ernestine Brudenell-Bruce, who desired to be allowed to sit for an examination for a yachtmaster's certificate:

T. W. Moore, Esq.

Sir,—In reply to your letter, addressed to the Examiner of Masters and Mates at Liverpool, I am directed by the Board of Trade to state that the law does not require the master of a yacht to possess a certificate, or to pass any examination. There is a voluntary examination, on the result of which voluntary certificates are sometimes granted, but no application for such a certificate has been received from a lady.—Yours, &c.,

WALTER J. HOWELL.

Board of Trade.

The Assistant Secretary, Board of Trade.

Sir,—With reference to your letter, I beg to state that my inquiry as addressed to the Examiner of Masters and Mates at Liverpool was whether "providing that she had the necessary qualifications, a lady would be permitted to sit for a yachtmaster's certificate?" I should be obliged for a reply at an early date, as the lady in question—Lady Ernestine Brudenell-Bruce—is desirous of at once making arrangements for the same.—Yours, &c.,

T. W. MOORE.

T. W. Moore, Esq.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 6th instant I am directed by the Board of Trade to inform you that the admission of ladies to examination for certificates of competency is not contemplated by the regulation, and that they regret that they cannot permit a lady to be examined for a yachtmaster's certificate.—Yours, &c.,

WALTER J. HOWELL.

Board of Trade, August 11th, 1897.

The Assistant Secretary, Board of Trade.

Dear Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 11th instant to Mr. T. W. Moore, I now beg to ask that the Board of Trade will accord me special permission to be examined for a certificate as yachtmaster. As the certificate in question is purely voluntary, and only entitles me to command my own property, I would submit that the position is somewhat different to my applying for an ordinary certificate of competency to enable me to serve in any ship, and therefore I would consider it unfair to be debarred by reason of my sex from obtaining a certificate which cannot be of any pecuniary benefit to myself, and the non-possession of which would not prevent me from holding command of my yacht. I would also point out the action of most ruling bodies in granting certificates and degrees in various professions to ladies, and I trust that your Board may give this application their favourable consideration.—Yours, &c.,

ERNESTINE BRUDENELL-BRUCE.

The Lady Ernestine Brudenell-Bruce.

Madam,—I am directed by the Board of Trade to acknowledge receipt of your ladyship's letter of the 16th inst., applying for special permission to be examined for a certificate as yachtmaster, and, in reply, I am to state that the Board regret they are unable to give effect to your wishes.—Yours, &c.,

WALTER J. HOWELL.

Board of Trade, August 25, 1897.

The Assistant Secretary, Board of Trade.

Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 25th inst., and regret to note the unfavourable nature of its contents. As there is no rule or regulation which stipulates that a lady may not present herself for examination, I should be obliged if your Board would kindly favour me with their reasons for refusing to allow me to obtain this voluntary certificate for yachtmaster.—Yours &c.,

ERNESTINE BRUDENELL-BRUCE.

The Lady Ernestine Brudenell-Bruce.

Madam,—In reply to your ladyship's further letter of the 27th ultimo, relative to your desire to be examined for a certificate as yachtmaster, I am directed by the Board of Trade to state that they have always considered and held that a master's certificate clearly implies that it is confined to men.—Yours, &c.,

INGRAM B. WALKER.

Board of Trade, September 7th, 1897.

It is interesting to add that Lady Ernestine Brudenell-Bruce is by no means discouraged by these official replies. Her contention still is that there is no regulation debarring ladies from presenting themselves for examination.

TWO WAYS TO WIN.

By FRANCES E. WILLARD.

"I wish to learn the violin," said she, "and to make myself famous."

She spoke to a philosopher who slowly lifted his tranquil eye and said: "There are two ways. The first and truest is, get the best master that you can, go by yourself and put in several years of practice under his instruction. The second best is, get a fairly good instructor, learn something about the violin, and then go to all your friends and ask them to buy tickets to your entertainment, and get the newspapers to say that you play well. For awhile the last succeeds; but if you have really mastered your instrument, these social and advertising methods will not be needed, for you will have become like Orpheus, who had but to put his instrument in motion and even the wild beasts of the forest gathered to listen."

The young lady looked at him with widening eyes.

"I know a case in point," continued the philosopher. "Two young men graduated from our best university. They were presentable, fine fellows, one of them particularly handsome and both determined to succeed. I was present at a dinner given by the dean one night, a few years later, and the chief justice was there. The handsome young fellow who wished to get on, helped him with his great coat, carried the shawl of a lady of distinction and made himself useful and delightful to every one. When I went down from the dinner I heard the voice of the other young fellow (he had not been asked to the dinner), who was talking with a group of working men on the pavement. They were returning from a meeting that had been addressed by him, and he was answering some of their questions. Nobody connected with the dinner gave any thought whatever to Number Two; but ten years later the handsome young fellow was still carrying a lady's shawl and helping a man of fame with his great-coat. He was charming to have about and had made a hit in society; but the other had got to his work in a more thorough and solid way. He had gone to Congress, and was the author of standard works on Political Economy, and everybody says he will yet himself be the chief justice."

The young lady rose and said to the philosopher, while her face glowed, "Good-bye and thank you; I am going by myself to practise the lesson given me on the violin by a great master and another lesson just given me—by a greater."

Our Short Sketch.

THE AMERICAN SERVANT GIRL COMPARED WITH THE ENGLISH MAID.

ONE of the first criticisms of foreigners visiting the United States is that we have no real servants. After I had lived four years in England and returned to my native land, I realized the truth of it. I had not been an hour in New York when the assertion was brought forcibly to my mind.

At my hotel I rang for a bell-boy and an ebony-hued person made his appearance. To his knock I had answered "Come in." Then he stood in my doorway and glared at me as though I had committed a crime in ringing for him.

I was awed and frightened, but I managed to say modestly and timidly, "I would like some writing paper and envelopes, if you please." Then he glared still more darkly, slammed the door, and a few minutes later returned, threw some stationery down on the table, left the room and slammed the door again. "Thank you," I said to him when he had laid them down, but he did not condescend to address me.

Then my thoughts ran back to the first day I had arrived at a London hotel. The maid-servants and the men-servants trod softly over the floors. I asked for a glass of water and they thanked me for taking it off the tray; they thanked me when I helped myself to the dishes they passed me in the dining-room; they opened the door for me, and when I passed out they thanked me for doing so, and again when I returned they thanked me for returning; the elevator man, or "lift" man as he is called, thanked me when I stepped into the lift, and he thanked me for leaving it.

"A letter, if you please, Miss," said the bell-boy as he handed me a silver tray. "Thank you, Miss," he said when I took the letter.

And afterwards, when I grew to know England and visited in London homes, I found this politeness among the servants almost universal. A trim, smartly-dressed parlour-maid would open the door at the houses where I called. She was always arrayed in a nicely-fitting black dress, a spotless white apron with embroidered epaulettes, a chic cap with flowing streamers, and broad white Eton collar and cuffs tied with black ribbons.

"Thank you," she would say, when I handed her my card, "be seated in the drawing-room, if you please, Miss, while I see if my mistress is at home."

And how is it when one goes to call on a friend in New York, a friend who lives in a nice brown-stone house in one of the best neighbourhoods?

You are met at the door by a capless, cuffless female. She seems from the first to view you with suspicion. She glares at you when you ask if her mistress is at home, and, five times out of ten, goes upstairs, leaving you in the hall. If you want to go into the drawing-room you can go of your own accord; she will not condescend to conduct you there. When she returns she will announce ungraciously, "Down in a minute!"

The other day I stood in the hall of a New York millionaire. I had gone to him as a representative of a newspaper, and at first I thought that I was left standing in the hall because of my reportorial state of being, but

while I stood there another lady rang the bell, and when she entered I saw that she was a prominent member of the Four Hundred.

"Is Mrs. Blank at home?" she asked. The girl, arrayed in a black dress, but wearing neither cap nor apron, said briefly, "I dunno; I'll see," whereupon she left the society lady—a lady whose private carriage waited outside for her—standing in the hallway for at least ten minutes. When the girl returned she said, "Yes, she's in. Come upstairs!"

It is so all over the country. One day last winter in Washington I entertained and instructed myself by calling at the houses of twenty-five of the highest officials, including members of the cabinet, senators, judges, &c. In every instance the door was opened by a shabby-looking man-servant or maid-servant (I beg pardon, I mean "help"), who, though I was well-dressed, went in a brougham, and handed my card to be given to the mistress of the house, received me ungraciously, used neither the title "Miss" nor "Ma'am" in addressing me, and treated me as though I were an intruder. At a large number of the houses I was left standing in the hall while my card was carried to the lady of the house. In Washington this extreme independence of the serving class may be due to the democratic atmosphere of the national capital.

So much for the politeness of the English servant and the rudeness of the American servant; so much, also, for the manner in which they garb themselves.

Now, in the matter of accomplishing results in the way of household work, the English servant is as much the inferior of the New York servant as she is the superior in politeness and appearance. A house that in New York would require but two servants—a cook and a chambermaid—to keep it in apple-pie order, would require at the least five servants in London. In the first place, the London servant moves about less briskly than the New York servant, and in the next place she has a larger space to move over than does the New York girl. Three times a day the London girl must climb four or five flights of stairs to carry hot and cold water to the different bedrooms; she must also go up at night to "turn down the beds" and distribute the candles; then, too, she must be continually cleaning up the grates of her employers.

When a London servant goes out place-hunting one of the questions she asks her prospective mistress, in all politeness and humility, be it remembered, is:

"How much beer money and wash money do you allow me, ma'am?"

I shall never forget the astonishment I felt and expressed when, on engaging a servant in London, I had this startling question put to me. I had never before heard the terms, and it was with interest and amazement that I listened while the housemaid, applying for a situation, explained their meaning to me. In England, so she told me, it was taken as a matter of course that the "lower classes" (she herself used that term in referring to those who did domestic work) should drink beer, and when a girl took a situation as servant, she expected always to be provided with a certain allowance of beer per day, or a certain amount of money with which to buy it. Three half-pints of beer a day was considered a reasonable allowance. The sum of 1s. 6d. a week, judiciously expended, will provide this amount of beer.

"Wash money" is money to pay for the washing and ironing of the servants' clothes. Think of it, you New York women, who have your cooks attend to the washing, not only of their own clothes, but that of the whole family, down in the basement laundry, every Monday morning! But in London all the family linen is sent out to be laundered at a steam laundry, and the mistress has her choice of sending that of her servants along with that of her family, or providing them with a weekly allowance for having it done at some cheaper laundry.

While in London I came personally into contact with a cook who informed me that in order to put the two shillings weekly wash money allowed her into the Post Office Savings Bank to swell the fund she was accumulating "against the time when she should marry her young man," she secretly washed her linen in the kitchen dish-pan and then boiled it over the fire in the copper soup-kettle, wherein was daily prepared the family soup! The London kitchen is not provided either with wash-tub or clothes boiler, so the dish-pan and the soup-kettle were the only resource of the economically-minded cook.—Elizabeth L. Banks in the New York World.

CHEERFULNESS, AS A MEDICINE.

CHEERFULNESS is a potent factor in the cure of all diseases, especially those of the stomach and liver, as these organs are dependent on the healthful circulation of the blood for their large supply of secretions in order to insure good digestion. The quality and quantity of these secretions are materially influenced by a happy mental state, whilst the opposite, as occasioned by fear, anxiety, or anger, is destructive in dis-ordering the digestion, increasing or stopping the flow of bile, irritating the heart and brain, and rapidly exhausting the nervous system. These emotions, more than anything else, tend to a disordered state of circulation.

I have in my mind a family under my care who adopted the plan of being merry at meals, conjoined with good healthful living, for the sake of one very delicate member, with astonishing results, which were evidenced by all. In many cases considered hopeless, hope and a cheerful state have been the starting point. We begin to see that those of olden time had some use for the merry-making clown at the dinner table. A merry, hearty-looking man stated to me he was never sick, and he supposed the reason was that he was very moderate and took everything easy, never worrying or anxious about anything. This, seemingly, would not suit most of us, who look at life in a careful practical way, but no doubt many of us would be much benefited by adopting more of this cheerful, happy-go-lucky state.

Who does not enjoy the company of the laughing man or woman who is continually taking nature's "Swedish movements"? Some may say this is all very well, but our temperament is not of the cheerful kind. True, but we can cultivate the habits of body and mind most conducive to this state. Let the mind take in cheerful impressions and close to what is gloomy. Of course, it is not a cure-all. One may be cheerful and happy and yet suffer, as in severe cases of organic trouble, but if agreeable emotions can be started, they set in motion nervous currents which stimulate, if ever so feebly, the blood, the brain, and nervous system, into healthy activity, making a good starting-point for the careful physician to use treatment, which should be as nearly allied to nature's methods as possible.

Let us be sociable, and do not give up to gloomy thoughts of our future, and pictures of want and misery in our old age, but pluck up hearts gracefully, and go about our daily task rejoicing.—W. D. H. Brown, M.D.

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Table with 3 columns: Duration, Price, and Unit. 12 months for ... 6s. 6d. 6 months for ... 3s. 8d. 3 months for ... 1s. 8d.

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Published Every Thursday, Price One Penny. THE TRADE SUPPLIED By MARSHALL AND SONS, 125 Fleet Street.

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SIGNALS FROM OUR WATCH TOWER.

Mlle. Chauvin is a French lady who has passed the preliminary stages to become a barrister in the High Court at Paris, and has gone beyond the requirements of the law for the purpose, having taken at the University a degree as Doctor of Laws, which implies a breadth of knowledge not exacted from men candidates for admission to the bar. Nevertheless, Mlle. Chauvin's application for formal admission to public practice has been refused. The judgment states that, under the old law, the profession of advocate was restricted to the male sex, and that such restriction is implied in modern legislation. In certain cases, moreover, an advocate has to act as substitute for the judge, and the profession has the greatest affinity to the magistracy. But a woman could never be a judge. The applicant had urged that her exclusion would be contrary to modern manners and

civilization, but it is for legislation alone to alter old laws or make new ones, while the judicature has simply to interpret and carry out the law. Mlle. Chauvin was not present when this judgment was delivered, though she had previously attended and made her formal application to be sworn in person. She then urged that no law existed to prohibit women from following the legal profession, and that such a disability could only be justified if an actual statute existed, and in the absence of such statute she must be admitted by the President of the Court. This view not having prevailed, Mlle. Chauvin can appeal to the higher Court, and intends to do so.

The United States of America is the only country where, up to the present, women have been freely admitted to the practice of law. It is some thirty years since women first began to gain admission to the Bar in the States of America. The newer States admitted them readily, the older ones with some reluctance, and finally, in 1879, a federal law gave them access to the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States. There are a considerable number of women lawyers, now in practice, in America; many of them are said to have good businesses, and one is a public official—assistant Attorney General of the State of Montana. In Canada, the first lady barrister has just been admitted, after six years' effort to secure a free course; and in India, the first cause ever pleaded by a woman barrister was won by her a few months ago. But in every European country, now that France has joined the list, women have in vain challenged the male monopoly of the administration of the law. Russia, Switzerland, Italy, Belgium and England had all previously refused to allow suitors the chance of committing their causes to lady advocates.

It is only the other day we were congratulating France on having shown more generosity—or rather, justice—in allowing the weaker sex a full and free access to the field of the battle for existence, the matter then in point being the veterinary surgeon's profession. France was one of the first countries to place the medical schools at the disposal of women, and in most other fields it has been equally honourably distinguished by fair play to women industrially, though the Code Napoleon is very bad in regard to legal disabilities. But now France must be added to the evil list in the matter of the law. It is in India, certainly, that the need of a lady lawyer is the most obvious, for the same reason that a lady doctor is required—to see and consult with the imprisoned ladies of the harems and zenanas. But in every land justice demands that men shall not alone make and administer the laws that control women. Alas, how much is still needed to be altered to make this a fair world for the girl and the boy children who come into it, with the same needs and the same powers wherewith to satisfy those needs! Women need food, clothing, shelter from the rude elements, fuel, intellectual interests, and hope in a future, just as men do; women are to some extent handicapped by Nature in the struggle for life involved by these needs, as compared with their brothers; how cruel it is to look around and see in how many directions men have further erected a wall against

women around the fields in which the means to meet those wants can be obtained by the exercise of the gifts of Nature. The bodily and mental powers whereby the human creature must find the means to meet the wants of life are all too small in many cases to ensure a safe and reasonably happy existence. Alas, that to the possible poverty of natural powers women find added artificial obstacles in life everywhere set, by the tyrannical and arbitrary selfishness of the stronger sex!

A deputation from the Trades Unions has seen Mr. Ritchie, President of the Board of Trade, on a variety of subjects, some of which are interesting to working women. For one thing, the deputation inquired if the powers of the lady Inspectors of Factories were not circumscribed by the alteration made on the resignation of Mrs. Tennant, who held the position of "Superintendent Inspector," while the lady who took her place is only called "Chief Lady Inspector?" Mr. Ritchie admitted that the lady inspectors are by this alteration deprived of the power of initiating prosecutions without obtaining the sanction of the head of the male inspectors. Another point put to him by the deputation was as to a Bill shortening the hours of domestic service. Mr. Ritchie said, "It was impossible to deal with the hours during which domestic servants should work. No Minister would be prepared to introduce a Bill on the subject." The deputation then asked for an extension of the number of trades at which women are forbidden to work on the ground that they are "dangerous trades." It is impossible to gather on what grounds women are forbidden to work at the businesses which are liable to cause diseases in the workers, and are obliged to hand these occupations over to men. Are not the lives and the health of the male workers as valuable to the community as those of the women? It is deplorable that there should be such trades, but, as a fact, many businesses are highly dangerous. Those which are exceptionally so, however, never find any difficulty in getting workers, because they pay a larger rate of wages than the safer ones. The law should insist on every possible precaution for health being taken in white lead factories, match-makers, steel-grinders, and similarly risky works; but when this is done, surely the proper function of law ceases, and it should be left to individuals to choose if they will take the greater risk for the higher pay. But where there is good money to be earned, the efforts of trade union men to oust women workers are ceaseless, and as they have the power of the vote, while their rivals have not, they generally succeed. Thus, though there is no reason why the State should refuse to let women, any more than men, choose in this matter as individuals, one is not surprised to hear that Sir Matthew White Ridley, in his reply, said: "The Department had already included more trades under the head of dangerous and unhealthy trades in the Factory Acts, and they would go on inquiring into other trades."

This is one point in which the sympathies and the judgment of middle-class women for their poorer sisters seem to me to fail very often. They hear of "phossy jaw" for the match-makers, or strangled breath for the fur-pullers and the like, and they say at

once: "Poor things! yes, let them be prevented from working at such unhealthy trades." But the women who have always been maintained by the labour of the men of their families do not realise, unless they have great sympathy, the position of the poor woman who has to earn every necessity of life for herself, whose training and powers are small, and who therefore must gladly take any means that she can see to supply the daily needs of life. To such women it is cruel to be deprived of a wage-earning occupation, which, however little desirable in itself, finds bread and shelter and fuel for herself and perhaps two or three children. Each trade closed to women on any pretext means a greater pressure on those that are left, and thence less work to get and lower wages for each worker. How easy it is to do harm under the guise of charity!

Here, for instance, is a case that means the closing of another trade to women. It is unfortunate that under any circumstances any worker should have to toil on for so long a period, yet it is often necessary, and now and then may willingly be endured in view of the long blank times when there is no work, and, consequently, no money. The legal obstacle to women being allowed to work thus when needed does not mean that the work will not be done—it must be done, in order to prevent the large catches of herrings or haddocks, which the fishermen have gained by their dangerous and hard toil, being wasted. The decision simply means that men, who are free to work as long as they can and will in emergencies, will be taken on for the labour instead of women.

William Mitchel, fish curer, was summoned at Yarmouth to-day for employing women contrary to the Factory Act. It was admitted that once a week women were employed for twenty-four hours at a stretch, with one hour interval for meals. It was urged for the defence that as fish were perishable, curers were exempt from the Act. The magistrates, however, inflicted a fine of 5s. in each case. Fish curers hitherto considered themselves absolved from the Act.

There is so much of this sort of oppression under the guise of philanthropy going on, too, at present, with results of sorrow and ruin to girls and women that will never be tabulated or clearly understood. An instance came under my own notice in regard to the stitching of the SIGNAL. When it was not, as now, folded for the reader to cut, but sent out ready cut and wire-stitched, men had to be employed to do the work of folding and stitching—a light easy occupation most suitable for girls—because "the law" forbade the girls to work at the time of night at which it was needful for the work to be done in order to catch the morning despatch of papers to the provinces. I inquired if it was with the will of the women that they were thus deprived of so much regular work and pay, and was assured that they resented it highly—that they were very ready to work in the early morning, some of them being widows or married women compelled to earn for their families, who had been even extremely pleased to get their wage-earning work over in the early morning so as to be at home while the children needed them most. But the tyrannical philanthropy that the trades

unions initiate in men's interests, and kindly but short-sighted women aid, prevented the workers from thus earning their much-needed wages.

What was termed a Conference on this subject, but was a meeting from which persons of another way of thinking were excluded, called by the "Women's Industrial Council," an association of those who wish to extend the legal power of interference with the work of the untrained and poorer sort of working women, has been held in London. Mrs. Creighton at this meeting asked for the abolition of the freedom of women to do work for wages in their own homes. This would of course mean that all occupations must be carried on in factories, and would apparently destroy even the little dress-maker who makes a few dresses all alone in her own workroom. The meeting declined to go so far as this, but agreed to propositions for bringing under the Factory Act as workshops "all places where any one is employed in manual labour by way of trade or for purposes of gain"; asking that the clauses of the Factory Acts imposing on the giver-out of work the responsibility for the conditions under which his work was done should be strengthened so that all persons giving out work to be done elsewhere than on their own premises should be made responsible to the law in the same way as if the work were done in their own factories and workshops; and that lists of out-workers should be kept in all trades included under those Acts. The effect of all this would, if carried into effect, be much the same as Mrs. Creighton's desire. Hundreds of thousands of women, wives (with families) of deserting husbands, or of invalided men, widows, daughters with sick mothers, those who are semi-invalids themselves, and others, would be reduced to want and deep despair if such laws were not merely made, but really enforced. Home work, in which the hours at which the work is done, the other duties that can be interspersed, and the assistance that can be obtained, are all at the option of the workers, is the only manner in which some can work, and is infinitely the best method at the command of others. It is devoutly to be hoped that women will soon obtain the Suffrage, so that the inarticulate illiterate poor creatures who can hardly keep life in themselves and their dependants by their labours may be able to protest and protect themselves in the only effectual manner, against no doubt well-meant, but as I strongly believe most injurious, interference with their already feeble powers of earning a living.

It is so easy to forget in the complex conditions of modern life—easy for those comfortably placed, that is to say—that the struggle for life is a reality, and it is a cruel struggle too for the masses. If those who wish to everlastingly "prohibit" to women some form or other of wage-earning, or to so cripple their freedom in labouring that the work will be taken from them in the natural course of things, were to propose to maintain at the public expense all those thus deprived of the means of keeping themselves, we should, at any rate, understand that they had grasped the case of those with whom they interfered. But no resource but imprisonment in the obnoxious work-house is open; and, as regards the wives

who work, the benevolent ladies who would take away their work have no word of suggestion for compelling the drunken, the lazy, the neglectful husbands and fathers whose duty it is to supply the needs of wife and children, but who absolutely refuse to perform their duty, to fulfil it, more or less. Much of the discussion of these matters is carried on as if we lived in an altogether different world from that which in fact we occupy. Let thoughtful readers ponder, for a deeper insight, on the meaning and indications of the following two paragraphs from this week's newspapers, and see how far the "Women's Industrial Council's" resolutions touch the harsh facts and true causes of poverty at the present day:—

"Shame on you, you blackguard!" was the ejaculation of a juror at the Hackney coroner's court last week, on hearing in evidence that the father of twin children who had died from starvation and neglect had been found sitting in a semi-drunken state by the fire, and on being asked what he was doing, said, "They are murdered, murdered, and I'm enjoying myself." It was further stated that the father was in regular employment, that though he was receiving good wages he gave his wife so little that she had often to go out to earn a few pence for food, and that he came home drunk every night.

The magistrates at Birmingham yesterday had revealed to them a shocking case of overcrowding. A single woman was charged with neglecting her illegitimate child, and in the hearing of the case it transpired that in a three-roomed tenement no less than eight adults and nine children lived. There was no furniture in the house, no beds or bedding, the men and women sleeping indiscriminately together on the floors.

There are a few persons whose approval is a guerdon of value beyond estimate or expression in words. In such a light do I regard the illustrious and noble-minded pioneer of the woman's cause, whose efforts, ever ready and powerful for all good causes, are now consecrated chiefly to the most difficult task that she perceives, the help of the tortured animals. As she is a great journalist, no less than one of our women's leaders, I regard Miss Frances Power Cobbe with a very special respect, and am "more than common" proud and glad to be honoured by help and praise from such a heart and mind as hers. She writes:—

"3rd December. "My Dear Mrs. Miller,—Thank you very much for writing those excellent paragraphs in the WOMAN'S SIGNAL. They are very valuable, as, indeed, everything you write on the subject of vivisection is sure to be, because you really understand the controversy, and take your stand on the only firm ground, which is the highest. I beg to enclose £20 as my tribute to your paper, believing it to be of the greatest value to those causes which I have most at heart, and greatly admiring the ability, force and spirit wherewith it is conducted. —With cordial regards, believe me, dear Mrs. Miller, yours always, "FRANCES POWER COBBE."

Miss Cobbe gives permission for the above letter to be printed, in a brief memorandum sent at the same time. The gift to the paper's work is peculiarly timely, as the Free Circulation Fund was £10 in debt.

Public Meetings.

BRITISH WOMEN'S TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

"COMING OF AGE" CELEBRATIONS—CONVENTION IN NEWCASTLE.

Under the auspices of the Durham and Northumberland Union of the B.W.T.A., a series of important meetings in connection with the above event were held last week in Newcastle.

At the opening session, Mrs. Knox Lylal (President of the Union), occupied the chair, and referred to the fact that this was the coming of age celebration, the association having been initiated at Newcastle, twenty-one years ago.

The Secretary read the Union's Report, and the financial statement was presented by Mrs. Nicholson, showing a balance of £15.

Mrs. David Richardson moved: "That we declare our continued hostility to anything in the nature of State regulation of vice, seeing that it involves the degradation of women and much injustice, and must necessarily lower the moral standard wherever enforced by giving vice a legal status." Mrs. Richardson said they were exceedingly sorry that their president (Lady Henry Somerset) did not see with them in this matter. They wanted a clear expression of the association against having anything whatever to do with regulation of vice. It was all the more necessary, as the feeling of the association was necessarily confused in the public mind with the feeling of their honoured president. Mrs. Crawford Smith seconded. The resolution was unanimously agreed to.

After considerable discussion, the Conference decided by 51 votes to 10, to form an "Anti-State Regulation of Vice Department." Mrs. Spence Watson was appointed superintendent.

A vote of condolence with Mrs. Spence Watson, because of the loss of her only son, was passed.

A resolution was passed protesting against the practice of supplying intoxicating drink to children under thirteen years of age.

The honorary officers were elected, also superintendents of departments, and the Conference adjourned.

Next morning Mrs. Pumphrey presided.

The President, who had been the first secretary of the Newcastle branch, gave an interesting account of the movement in this city. She said the local outcome of the conference held in Newcastle in 1876 was that the existing Ladies' Temperance Society merged itself in the B.W.T.A. Much valuable work had been done. The Tuesday night weekly meetings were one of the chief features of the early work of the organization in Newcastle. Meetings in drawing-rooms, and some of a more public character, were also held. In 1882 the secretaryship passed into other hands.

Mrs. Athey, of Barnet, National Superintendent of Purity Work (Educational), read a paper on "Organized Mother-Love in the Purity Movement." It might be taken, she said, that the mottoes of the B.W.T.A. were "For God and home in every land," and "For organized mother-love." They were met to consider how they could carry those mottoes into their work for purity. A great deal of fighting had already been done, and lately their forces had been defeated. Should that defeat become a rout? No; the mothers of England and the mothers of the world must come to the rescue. They must organize the mothers and bid them go forward. Having spoken of the scenes nightly

observed in our streets, Mrs. Athey said the ignorance of women on this subject, which concerned the life and existence of the English race, was sad beyond measure; and perhaps the saddest part of it was that many thought their ignorance was something to be proud of. They confounded ignorance with innocence.

Dr. Coley (Newcastle) gave an address on "Medicated Wines." He said men's drinking was generally done in company and for the sake of company. It was nearly always different with women. Women, as a rule, drank alone, and generally it was begun with a hope of relieving some kind of pain or physical discomfort. The unwise recommendation was made sometimes by the doctor, but a great deal oftener by those amateur doctors who, when they want to show their wisdom by prescribing for some one, prescribed some form of alcoholic stimulant purely and simply because it was the only remedy that they knew the name of. Very often disastrous results followed. He was not going to say that alcohol in some forms was not capable of relieving many pains and uncomfortable sensations, such as the sinking feeling people sometimes had, and so on. It did relieve those things, and that was the worst of it. It relieved them for the time, and rather favoured them coming back again, and so the remedy was taken oftener and oftener, and that was really the way in which, as a rule, women—and ladies who deserved to be called ladies—fell into the terrible slavery; and fell into it utterly unawares. He wanted to draw their attention to a form in which that danger had of late very greatly presented itself. He referred to some mixtures which were called medicated wines. He wanted specially to warn them against the use of anything of the kind. Those things were specially recommended because they relieved the trouble of those who were overworked, mentally or physically. The worst of it was that they did feel as though they had that effect. These things were quite capable of making a victim of those who resorted to them for the sake of health.

Dr. Coley, in reply to questions, said the ordinary mild faint recovered easily enough of itself if the patient were laid down with her head low. People who were subject to serious attacks of faintness arising from organic disease should have something adapted to their own case, and this would be a matter for the consideration of their own doctor. Preparations containing alcohol were peculiarly dangerous in the case of nervous people. People who had what was called the nervous temperament were those who were more than others in danger, if they made use of the false help that alcohol gave.

Miss Gorham spoke on behalf of the Duxhurst homes for female inebriates, and the morning sitting terminated.

The Conference was resumed at three o'clock, Mrs. Tomkinson, Tarporley, Cheshire, presiding, when the Hon. Mrs. B. Russell gave an address on "Girls' Clubs."

Mrs. Tomkinson gave an address on "A Safe and Happy Christmas." One great essential in "a safe and happy Christmas," she said, was that no alcoholic drink should mix in the festivities. They should endeavour to spend Christmas in such a way that they could look back upon it without regretting anything they had either said or done. To do that they must shut the door upon alcoholic drink even in moderate quantities. She believed many people would spend Christmas in a different way if they talked of it as Christ's birthday. Could they spend their Saviour's birthday in a more

horrible manner than by getting drunk? Yet it was a common thing in this Christian England. It was a dreadful travesty on our Christian religion that the one idea of keeping Christmas was to get as much as they could to drink. The idea which seemed to prevail in Boards of Guardians that the inmates of the workhouses must have something alcoholic to drink at their Christmas dinner showed how deeply rooted in their nature was the superstition that alcohol must have something to do with Christmas. She hoped all present would do their utmost to abolish the idea that alcohol was necessary at Christmas.

A discussion followed. Mrs. Emmett read a paper on "Women as Citizens," written by Miss Bertha Mason, national superintendent of work among women voters, &c. Miss Mason, in the course of a comprehensive paper, explained the immense good women could do for the cause of temperance by their taking part in municipal affairs.

Miss Moffatt (Newcastle), spoke of "Women as Municipal Voters," urging strongly the necessity of their endeavouring to return representatives of their own opinions in the various wards of the city, taking a few in hand each November.

The proceedings then closed.

PUBLIC MEETING.

In the Town Hall, a public meeting was held, under the chairmanship of Councillor H. Crawford Smith. There was a large attendance.

Mrs. Bamford Slack moved "That this meeting expresses its conviction that public opinion throughout the whole of the country is ripe on the question of Sunday closing, and calls upon all friends of the movement to be firm in pressing the demand for a comprehensive measure which will at once extend the blessings of entire Sunday closing to the whole of England."

Mr. J. Robinson Souttar, M.P., seconded the resolution, and in doing so said they should have their ideas clear as to the precise way in which they ought to deal with the evil of strong drink. He thought the ground was firm in two directions. In the first place, it was firm in the direction of local option, and in the second place it was firm in the direction of Sunday closing. (Applause). He believed they could get both of these and keep them if they were united. (Applause).

The Hon. Mrs. Russell supported the resolution, which was carried, and the proceedings closed with votes of thanks.

A reception to delegates by Mrs. Scholefield and Mrs. David Richardson was held in the Masonic Hall, which was prettily decorated. On the platform were five of the original members of the association.

A paper was read by Mrs. Steel, of Dundee, on the "Origin of the B.W.T.A.," followed by addresses from Mrs. Pearson, daughter of the founder (Mrs. Parker), Madame Woyka, and Mrs. Blakie. Miss Slack gave an interesting account of the Convention of the W.W.C.T.A., held in Toronto. There were violin solos by a little girl, Miss Daisy Richardson, and song by Miss E. Pearce, of Maidenhead, music, &c.

A luncheon was given by Mrs. Knox Lylal, Mrs. Wilton Jones, and Mrs. Davison (officers of the Durham and Northumberland Union) to the National Executive Committee, when Mrs. Scholefield was presented with an exquisite piece of Derbyshire China by Mrs. Boden, and a silver jubilee spoon from Mrs. Drysdale, of Liverpool.

NURSES OF GREAT BRITAIN



AND Merit, and Merit alone, has made the Food Beverage, Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, a Proved Success, and the remarkable unsolicited evidence from Nurses in all parts of the country, herewith published, supports our statement that its merits have been recognised to an extent hitherto unknown in the history of any preparation. One thing is certain. Nothing has ever been discovered that can approach it in giving lightness of heart, joy of life, busyness of foot, and that general feeling of comfort which only comes from a full capacity to enjoy every pleasure, moral, intellectual, and physical.



THE DAILY TELEGRAPH.

Mr. Thomas Christy, F.L.S., estimates kola paste as being five times more sustaining than cocoa, and states that it contains over 2 per cent. of pure caffeine. It neither creates biliousness nor sets up nervous excitability, qualities which seem to proclaim its utility as an aid to the breakfast table. Specimens of the fruit and seeds, from the Society's Museum, and a large growing plant were exhibited at the meeting. Dr. R. Boxall was in the chair, and a good muster of members included Lord Suffield, Lord John Cecil, and Colonel A. E. Ray.—From "London Day-by-Day."

MEDICAL TESTIMONY.

The LANCET says: "Vi-Cocoa must be assigned a place in the front rank of really valuable foods, since it is the embodiment of the numerous principles contained in malt, hops, kola, and cocoa..." of distinct value as a restorative and stimulating food." The BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL says: "Vi-Cocoa is a very palatable beverage of great stimulating and sustaining properties."

THE MOST REMARKABLE TESTIMONY EVER PUBLISHED Nurses and Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa.

A REAL PICK-ME-UP.

Nurse F. GEORGE, Devonport-hill, Conington: "I have tried Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, and think it is a real 'pick-me-up,' and intend to use no other."

GIVES GREAT SATISFACTION.

Nurse WILKINSON, 30 Russell-street, Clitheroe: "Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa gives every satisfaction, and I shall not fail to recommend it to my friends and patients."

BOTH MEAT AND DRINK.

Nurse WEAVER, The Parsonage, Rickmansworth, Herts: "My brotner has tried Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, and thinks it is both meat and drink."

GREAT BENEFIT TO INVALIDS.

Nurse VILLAGE, Linton, near Maidstone: "I have proved Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa to be of great benefit to invalids, as it is so easily digested."

REFRESHING, STIMULATING, PLEASANT.

Nurse SUNDERLAND, Shewview Villa, Cheam-road, Sutton, Surrey: "I have tried Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, and find it a refreshing, stimulating, and pleasant beverage. I shall have pleasure in recommending it to my friends and relations."

FOR EXCELLENCE.

Nurse GILKES, 11 St. Paul's-square, Southsea: "I think Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa is excellent, and very good for those who suffer from indigestion. This I know practically."

NO PRAISE TOO HIGH.

Nurse SAFFREY, The Cottage, Hoddesdon-road, Belvedere, Kent: "I am pleased to say I think more of the merits of Dr. Tibbles' than even the praise already bestowed upon it."

FOR PHYSICAL & MENTAL SUFFERING.

Nurse CLARE, "The Laurels," Langley: "I have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the value of Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, as I find it most beneficial to persons suffering physically and mentally. It is most nutritive and extremely pleasant to take, and I shall strongly recommend it to my patients."

NOURISHING AND STIMULATING.

Nurse HARRINGTON, Coxhoe, Durham: "Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa possesses good nourishing and stimulating qualities. I shall certainly recommend it to my patients and friends."

INVALUABLE FOR NIGHT DUTY.

Nurse WILCOX, Bradford-street, Birmingham: "I always take a cup of Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa when on night duty."

HIGHLY PLEASED WITH IT.

Nurse ROBERTS, Ryecroft Villa, 20 St. James's-street, Southport: "We are highly pleased with Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa. I think it possesses good nourishing and stimulating qualities. I shall recommend it to all my patients and friends."

THE BEST EVER TASTED.

Nurse E. BOWEN, 8 Evershot-road, Tollington-park N.: "I consider Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa the very best cocoa that I have tasted. I find it more refreshing and invigorating than any other. I have been giving it to my patients, and shall certainly recommend it to both my patients and personal friends."

FINDS IT EXCELLENT.

Nurse SCHOFIELD, Rathgar, Dublin: "I have tested Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa and find it excellent, and will recommend it to my patients and friends."

FOR SICK ROOM AND BREAKFAST TABLE.

Nurse E. BEASLEY, 31 Blenheim-gardens, Reading: "I wish to say that I have found Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa of great value both in the sick room and on the breakfast table. I use it myself, and can honestly say that it is the most genuine and superior cocoa that can be obtained. I always advise my patients to try it, and when they do they find that it is better and suits their digestion better than any cocoa they have ever tried. I shall always have great pleasure in recommending Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, as I am sure it has no equal."

LIKES IT VERY MUCH.

Nurse SESSIONS, Cotteswold-house, Cirencester: "I have tested Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa and like it very much. I shall have pleasure in recommending it to all my patients and friends."

REFRESHING AND NUTRITIOUS.

Nurse GUTHRIE, 37 Broadhinton-road, Clapham, S.W.: "I like Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa very much, and must say that it is most refreshing and nutritious, and I shall certainly recommend it with great pleasure to any patients and friends."

WILL ALWAYS USE IT.

Nurse A. STUART, Atkinson Morley's Hospital, Wimbledon, S.W.: "It is excellent. I will always use it, and will recommend it whenever possible."

USES WHEN ON NIGHT DUTY.

Nurse READ, 16 Parkhill-road, Hampstead, N.W.: "I shall continue to take Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, as I find it most sustaining, especially when on night duty. I will not fail to recommend it to all my patients and friends."



IS APPRECIATED BY MILLIONS, and

AS A WINTER BEVERAGE IS UNEQUALLED.

IT CAN BE TESTED FREE, AND THOSE WHO TRY IT BUY IT.

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DR. TIBBLES' VI-COCOA, Ltd. (60, 61 & 62, BUNHILL ROW, LONDON, E.C.)

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MIDLAND UNION OF LIBERAL WOMEN.

The annual conference of the Midland Union of Women's Liberal Associations was opened on December 1st, in the Lecture Hall of the Mechanics' Institute, Nottingham, when 130 delegates from 54 associations were present, a much larger representation than was the case last year at Leicester. In the absence of Lady Trevelyan, who is travelling abroad, Lady Foster presided, and was supported by Countess Alice Kearney, Mrs. Ostler, Miss Disturnal, Miss Peckover, Mrs. S. Alcock (hon. treasurer), and Mrs. E. O. Fordham (hon. secretary). The President observed that the great event of the present year's politics, especially referring to women, had been the action taken by all political parties on the question of Woman's Suffrage. (Applause.) She referred at length to the "devious course" which had been pursued in Parliament with regard to that burning subject, and said that justice and principle were being swallowed in expediency. It was gratifying to women to see that so many women stood for School Boards in this year's contests, and that a fair number had been elected. The result of the bye-elections of the last two years, especially those that had lately taken place, showed a marked increase in Liberal views that boded well for the future. Barnsley, with its largely-increased Liberal majority, and Middleton, Liverpool Exchange, and Deptford, with their greatly reduced Tory majorities, all tended to show which way the tide was flowing. What they looked at in elections was the steady growth of Liberal votes. That was the significant feature in the elections of the last two years.

WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE.

Mrs. William Smith (Ilkeston) introduced the question of woman's suffrage, and moved the following resolution:—"That this conference is of opinion that the time has come when women should be placed on an absolute equality with men in regard to Parliamentary suffrage. She remarked that that seemed such a righteous claim that one would think there would not be a dissentient voice in either of the political parties, but unfortunately experience had taught them otherwise. It was a question that affected many classes of women, and as they held that it would benefit the sex in general, it was their duty to get the suffrage granted and political recognition gained for all fully qualified women. As to whether women would vote more Tory than Liberal, they must be content to leave that, simply being desirous of getting justice shown to their righteous claims. It was time that men and women became equal in the State as they were in the sight of God, and that public recognition should be made of that fact. She did not say that political recognition would make all things right, but responsibility and recognition of equality must elevate and deepen thought. Miss Finney (East Worcestershire), in seconding, said she thought the enfranchisement of their sex would come at no distant date,

and it lay more with the men's associations than with the candidates and members of Parliament. There was scarcely a member who dared to fly in the face of his local political organization, and if they would only work side by side with the men's Liberal associations there would lie the real source of their enfranchisement.

Mrs. Gittins also spoke in support of the resolution. It was to her a perfectly scandalous idea that women should be called upon to contribute to the expenses of a member of Parliament who did not in the least represent them, and to the expenses and the salary of the officer whose business it would be to put all the men's names on the register, and to keep the women off. (Applause.)

The resolution was adopted amidst cheers. The Education question was introduced by Miss Disturnal, Miss Guildford, Mrs. Holden Byles, Miss Gittens, and Miss Varo. Mrs. Tilly contributed a paper on the Corrupt Practices Act.

SECOND DAY.

The Conference was resumed next morning. Mrs. King Roberts moved:—"That for the promotion of closer union between men and women's Liberal associations it is desirable that they should have power to elect members on each other's committees." There could be no question, the speaker observed, that the tendency in these days was to bring the associations once more into union, and it was a tendency that became more marked as the slave position of women was abandoned. She only asked that women should do in reference to their associations what the nation was gradually seeing the wisdom of doing in respect to all legislative and administrative bodies. The resolution was carried with three dissentients. On the motion of Miss A. L. Browne, attention was called to "the fact that, so long as the Municipal Corporations Act is not amended, women, in growing urban districts, are in constant danger of being deprived of their right to stand for election as councillors, by reason of such urban districts applying for charters of incorporation as boroughs, since, as the law stands, when an urban district has been constituted a borough, only male persons are eligible as councillors. Moreover, this conference points out that when an urban district becomes a borough married women are disfranchised in respect to election on the Council." Discussion on "Poor Law Children," opened by Mrs. George Cadbury; "Classification in Workhouses," introduced by Mrs. Hazzledine; and "State Regulation of Vice," against which a strong resolution was passed, terminated the proceedings.

ATMOSPHERE.—Everyone carries an atmosphere about him. It may be healthful and invigorating, or it may be unwholesome and depressing. It may make a little spot of the world a sweeter, better, safer place to live in; or it may make it harder for those to live worthily and beautifully who dwell within its circle.—*J. R. Miller, D.D.*

WHAT TO WEAR.

BAZAR PATTERNS.

(Hints by May Manton.)



6886—Ladies' and Misses' Knickerbockers.

These practical garments are made of black flannel serge with machine stitching as a finish. The upper portion cut in the form of a circular yoke is fitted at the waist by small darts or pines. Closing of the yoke is effected in centre-back with buttons and button-holes. To the lower edge of this yoke the knickerbockers are joined permanently to position in front, while the back and sides are provided with buttons and button-holes for convenience in adjustment. The shaping is accomplished by the usual centre, inside and outside leg seams. The legs are gathered at the lower edge and finished with calf bands that fit closely below the knee closing with buttons and button-holes, the knickerbockers drooping over the calf bands, which may be substituted for casings and an elastic drawn through to regulate the fulness.

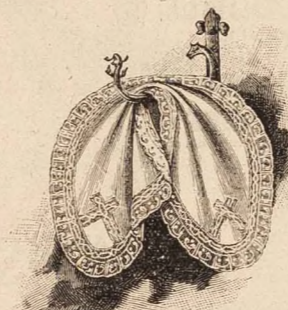
The garment may be used in connection with a cycling suit, for shopping, travelling or general utility wear. To the business woman the knickerbockers will be found indispensable, and when worn beneath a skirt of heavy weight, petticoats may be altogether discarded. A skirt of three-quarter length, knickerbockers, leggings or bicycle shoes form an admirable rainy-day costume. Thus equipped the "up-to-date" young woman can well defy the elements.

To make these knickerbockers for a lady in the medium size will require two and one-half yards of 44-inch wide material, and for a miss in the medium size will require two yards of the same width material. The pattern No. 6886, can be had in sizes for ladies of 22, 24, 26, 28 and 30-inch waist measure, and for misses of twelve, fourteen and sixteen years. Pattern will be mailed on receipt of 6d. in stamps by the English Agency (Department W.), Bazar Pattern Co., Belper.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS AT MR. GREGG'S.

The useful is always appreciated, and Mr. Gregg has borne this fact in mind when preparing his display of articles suitable for Christmas gifts. Nothing tawdry or useless is to be seen at 92, New Bond Street, every article is in good taste, and destined to be of use to its fortunate recipient. A pretty neck tie, or a fan, is always acceptable to girls; nice handkerchiefs also belong to the category of articles of which no one can have too many. The novelties in handkerchiefs are specially notable this year, Mr. Gregg having procured a number of new

coloured flowers are carelessly scattered over the sides. Blue cornflowers with green stalks will be embroidered on a handkerchief with a green or mauve border, and blue forget-me-nots look charming in company with a pink hem. Handkerchiefs, all in pale tints of colour—mauve, water-blue, or *eau de nil*—are also destined for jabots, and a very nice handkerchief has a coloured border with a shield to match on which the owner's initials may be worked. Handkerchiefs of Irish linen may also be had in many varieties, commencing from as low a price at 7½d. Some are in fine lawn trimmed with insertions and border of hand-run lace at 1s. 9d. each, others (at 2s. 11d.) are trimmed with needle-run Mechlin. Then there are borders of tiny tucks, scalloped borders, initials made by drawn threads (very strong and useful) and others embroidered in imitation of the signature of the owner. Every possible variety of handkerchief can be had at Mr. Gregg's, and the designs are not to be seen elsewhere.



designs from Paris. These *mouchoirs* are chiefly intended for wearing as a jabot tucked in the front of a blouse, and the designs are quite the prettiest I have come across as yet. Some have a coloured border only about a quarter of an inch in depth, and sprays of



Fans have always been a great speciality at 92, New Bond-street, and those prepared for Christmas gifts are incredibly cheap. I fail to understand how a red Empire fan spangled with gold and silver, or enriched with a Watteau medallion in the centre, can be produced for 1s. 11½d. It is really an excellent imitation of an antique. Fans covered with

spangles in two different colours are extremely cheap at 3s. 6d. and 5s. 11d., the combinations of colour are most artistic, gold gaining an added brilliancy from steel, whilst heliotrope and steel produce the effect of mother-o'-pearl. The combinations just described are generally used with a white crepe ground, but gold and steel is also effective on black, whilst emerald and steel on black is quite the latest thing. Hand-painted fans can be had in many varieties, and at every possible price, those painted by Miss Vasey being specially noteworthy. A nice present for a widow is a black crepe fan, embroidered with small jet sequins. Mr. Gregg is very successful at renovating fans, and he can make an old black lace fan look quite new by mounting it on a coloured lining—red or orange for choice. Small Empire fans are still fashionable, and large ones are seldom seen except in feathers.

Gloves make excellent presents when the giver is in doubt what to bestow, and there are beautiful sachets in which to offer them, either hand-painted or embroidered in chenille. Nice veils are usually acceptable to young ladies, and there is a large choice of veilings at Mr. Gregg's, including the becoming brown tulle, with black spots. As for the neckties, they are both pretty and cheap, narrow ones in satin for making the "Tom Thumb" bow at 1s. 6d., and plaid "Windsors" at 2s. Dessert d'oyleys, painted by Miss Vasey, are most tasteful and quite unique; there are hunting scenes, cupids, Watteau subjects, all exquisitely painted on white satin and edged with the finest lace. Ladies who are looking out for presents for the men of the family cannot do better than pay a visit to Mr. Gregg's, the hunting-scene d'oyleys would delight a bachelor party, whilst there are many novelties in riding and driving gloves which would be pleasing to brother or friend.

CHIFFON.

J. S. GREGG, FAN SPECIALIST.

Exclusive Veil, Hosiery, Glove and Handkerchief Manufacturer.



Hosiery of English, Irish, and French Production, from 1/11½ per pair. Gossamer Veilings in all Shades. Gloves for every occasion, of exquisite cut and quality, from 2/6 per pair, may be fitted previous to purchase.

THE QUEEN SAYS:—"GLOVES for hard wear and perfect fit, I have found none equal to those supplied by J. S. GREGG, Specialite Glove Depot, 92, New Bond Street. 'Dab, Grey and Brown Shades wear decidedly the best.'"
THE COURT JOURNAL:—"Mr. GREGG'S extensive stock of Gloves and hosiery need not be described; ladies will find here every variety of and the delicate gant de suede to the celebrated 'Khiva' glove for riding and driving or country wear."
THE LADY:—"The kid and suede gloves are made from carefully selected skins, and many of the tints cannot be procured elsewhere. There are the loveliest shades of pale biscuit, stitched with black, of the delicate true dove colour, that is so rare, and of a unique tone of beige."

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Honey Comb Quilts, 4/11, 6/11, 8/11. Toilet Covers, 1/0½, 1/4½, 1/9½.
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Morning & Evening Gowns. Walking Costumes. LADIES' OWN MATERIALS MADE UP, FROM 25s. INCLUSIVE.

Tailor-made Gowns from £2 2s. complete. Country Ladies fitted from Pattern Bodice.

For INFANTS

and INVALIDS.

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When Prepared is similar to Breast Milk.

Samples post free from Mellin's Food Works, Peckham, S.E.

MESSRS. GARROULD'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR.

MESSRS. GARROULD'S Christmas bazaar is now in full swing, and all manner of pretty novelties are to be seen at the famous establishment in the Edgware-road. The bazaar is held in the light and spacious department upstairs, which is generally devoted to millinery, so the shopping is done under agreeable conditions, as there is plenty of air and light. Everything is extremely cheap, the toys in particular; beautiful dolls, which open and shut their eyes, being procurable at 1s. 0½d., and elaborate mechanical toys for even less. The motor-car is one of the novelties of the year, and it looks absurdly natural as it goes whirring round in a circle. This clever toy can be had for 10½d., and the more old-fashioned hansom cab, with pneumatic tyres, for the same price. A cat on a bicycle is amongst the comicalities, and an excited fireman climbing a rope will be a great favourite in the nursery. Trains and engines of every description are also to be found at Messrs. Garrould's, and a practicable signal-box will be a pleasure to boys. Quite delightful is a little fiddler, who stands upright on his feet and plays the fiddle with energy; he is not attached to any stand or case, and he does not fall down, though his whole body quivers with excitement. The price of this little person is 1s. 1½d.; two or three together look very quaint, as if they belonged to an orchestra. Cracker bon-bons and "lucky stockings" have a counter to themselves, and there are some amusing card-board boxes for sweets, in the shape of cleverly-imitated hot cross buns, mince pies, lobsters, frogs, and penny loaves. Grown-up people are not forgotten in the bazaar, for there is a large choice of articles suitable for gifts for those who have come to years of discretion. Workboxes, albums, letter cases, purses, pincushions, &c., can be procured in all the latest styles at prices which are remarkably moderate. It would be possible to buy acceptable and charming presents for all one's relatives and friends without going out of Messrs. Garrould's bazaar.

QUEENS THAT WORK HARD.—Royal women are the busiest women in the world. Queen Victoria has for years attended to State affairs; yet at her present age she does not consider she has finished her education, and, although acquainted with half a dozen European languages, grapples daily with the difficulties of Hindustani. The Empress Frederick of Germany still pursues the study of music and painting with the zeal of a young girl. The Queen of Italy usually spends the morning hours in studying languages and stage plays. The Belgian Queen long ago took up the study of literature, and the Austrian Empress that of Greek. The Dowager Empress of Russia and the Princess of Wales are devoted to the arts of embroidery and painting in water colours, and are wonderful adepts at millinery.

FIRST WOMAN ARBITRATOR.—Miss Clara J. Fisher is the first woman to act as arbitrator between strikers and their employers, and she performed her duty most satisfactorily. Miss Fisher worked in a straw-hat factory for a number of years, but afterwards became a stenographer. When her former fellow-workers in the factory had difficulty with their employer Miss Fisher was unanimously selected as arbitrator.

RECOMPENSE.

THE Lord shall recompense thy work, dear child
Of God; a full reward be given to thee,
Sometime, somewhere! God's husbandmen
are ye
Who sow beside all waters. Many a wild
Hides water-lilies; keep them undefiled
For God. Cast wide His grain, lest famine
be:
God's life-words vibrate through eternity
In souls to wisdom's paths of peace beguiled.
Sow then, beside all ways and waters: sow
In early morning when the light is dim,
With faith unclouded; day ariseth slow
But surely. Leave the vast results with Him
Who giveth increase larger than we know,
To swell the gratitude of Heaven's glad
hymn.

Annie Clegg.



WHEN YOU GIVE YOUR PARTY
Be sure and have ready for your Guests and the Children some of the Delicious Non-Alcoholic Fruit Wine which can only be made from

Mason's Wine Essences.
6s. will buy a bottle which will make 60 glasses in 6 minutes.

TRY THEM FOR CHRISTMAS.
IN ALL FLAVOURS.
Try the GINGER or ELDERBERRY. THESE ARE SPECIAL FAVOURITES.

A Free Sample Bottle of Mason's Wine Essence, sufficient to make, according to instructions, a large Wine Bottle full of Delicious Wine, will be sent to all applicants who name this paper, and who apply on or before December 18, 1897.

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Makers of Mason's Extract of Herbs and Mason's Coffee Essence.
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HUGON'S "ATORA" BEEF SUET
THE ORIGINAL AND BEST FOR PUDDINGS, FRYING, COOKING. NO CHOPPING, NO WASTE. 1½ EQUALS 2½ RAW SUET.
It supersedes Raw Suet, Lard, and Cooking Butter.
Ask your Grocer for it, but if he does not keep it send 8d. in stamps to the Sole Manufacturers:—HUGON & CO. LTD., PENDLETON, MANCHESTER for a sample 1 lb. box and book of recipes. Be sure also to give the name of your dealer.

TAE "OKTIS" CORSET SHIELDS
DOUBLE THE LIFE OF YOUR CORSET
1/0 1/2 PER PAIR.
... FROM YOUR DRAPER or OUTFITTER... GET BE SURE YOU...
"PATENT" "OKTIS"

Our Private Advertisement Column.

READ CAREFULLY.
TRADE AND INSTITUTIONS' announcements are not received for this column, which is for Private Readers use only.

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.

Miscellaneous.
B. 106. **HAND-PAINTED Christmas Cards** from 3d. each. Selection sent for choice, or customer's own wishes followed.

SPECIAL OFFER.—Raphael Tuck's Choicest Xmas Cards, 25 for 1s.; 20, superior quality, for 2s. 6d., post free. Profits devoted to educating three orphans, children of a minister. Who will help the children? Hon. Secretary, Ministers' Help Association, 20, Oak Bank, Harpurhey, Manchester.

E. 147. **LOVELY Curb Bangle**, cased 18 carat gold, 26; Fine Necklet and Heart, 1/9; Brilliant Necklet, 2/-; Exquisite long Chain, 2/-; Gold Keeper, 7s.

Dress.
A. 260. **MOURNING.**—To be disposed of 4½ yards of handsome steel sequin net, black, in lengths of 3 and 1½ yards, sufficient for evening bodice with long sleeves. Cost 7s. 6d. per yard, will take 6s. 6d. Also white, striped blue, flannel bodice, lined throughout, ordinary size, navy blue velveteen collar, cuffs and belt, never worn, 10s.

THE MOST NUTRITIOUS.
EPPS'S COCOA
GRATEFUL—COMFORTING.
BREAKFAST AND SUPPER.

SIGNALS FROM FRIEND TO FRIEND.

LUISE GUTTMANN.—The President of the National American Woman's Suffrage Society, Miss Susan B. Anthony, may be addressed simply Rochester, N.Y., U.S. America.

Mrs. TRUSCOTT WOOD suggests that a Children's Column, containing puzzles, prize problems, tales, etc., should be added to the SIGNAL. Any suggestion from so good a friend deserves careful consideration, but I am inclined to think that as this paper is a genuine newspaper for women, treating of all their interests, a children's column is, for obvious reasons, not desirable. If many of my readers think it would be a suitable addition, I will re-consider the subject.

ETHEL.—I am sorry to have kept you waiting for an answer, but I have asked the greatest authority on social customs that I know before replying, and I am to tell you that it will be considered quite suitable for you to send Christmas cards, although you have comparatively recently sustained the loss of your dear mother and are in mourning, but it would be in best taste for the cards to convey only kind wishes for the season, and not to be of a comic or too gay character. Thank you for what you say of the paper. It is very sweet of you.

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.]

TRUTH AMONGST WOMEN.

To the Editor of the WOMAN'S SIGNAL.
DEAR MADAM,—It would give me much pleasure to know the opinions of some of the readers of the WOMAN'S SIGNAL upon the supposed mendacity of women, as the belief in same appears to be prevalent amongst men. The enclosed cutting is from the Weekly Sun, and from the pen of Mr. T. P. O'Connor, a man notably appreciative of our sex as a rule. That women are greater liars than men I myself deny; but I should be glad if, in your Open Column, the subject could be discussed.—Believe me, dear Madam, yours sincerely,
S. WOOLCOTT.
22, Woodstock-street, Bond-street, W.

[EXTRACT.]

IV.—FEMINE MENDACITY.

One of the saddest discoveries from the study of the records of criminal trials is the extraordinary mendacity of which women are capable. It is the knowledge of this which justifies to some extent the apprehensions which experienced counsel and judges have of the severer laws which are suggested by the admitted and grievous wrongs of women. There is always the danger of fabrication of charges, and women are much more likely to carry off a fabricated story than a man—partly, perhaps, because they have to give their evidence before men, are seen by men, heard by men, tested by men only. It would probably be a good modification of our law if in certain cases the tribunals had the advantage of women as jurors and even as assessors. There are cases, as everybody knows, where the matron may sit on a jury; but these cases are so exceptional as not to count. It would probably be much more difficult for a hysterical, neurotic or vindictive woman to impose on a jury of her own sex than on the ignorant and un-subtle men before whom she tells her story.

MANNER.—We need to study the art of living as to its manner. By the way one says "Good morning" one leaves either a pleasing and an inspiring impression, or casts a chilling shadow over a gentle life. We need to train ourselves to thoughtfulness, kindness, sweet Christian courtesy; not effusiveness, not exaggeration of appreciation, for these are marks of insincerity and weakness, and are almost worse than rudeness; but to sincere affectionateness in our bearing toward all.—Rev. J. R. Miller, D.D.

WHEN DOES A MAN GROW OLD?

ARISTOTLE AND OTHERS REPLY.

"THE forty-ninth year," says Aristotle, "is the acme of the human faculties;" and the theory has been confirmed by many. Within a little of that age, Wellington won the battle of Waterloo, and Nelson died victorious at forty-nine. Yet there have been many exceptions. With Mr. Gladstone's example, it is clear that some men's powers do not begin to decline at fifty, and there are many men of sixty or seventy capable of good work. One of these exceptional men is Mr. Benjamin Haigh, 53, Milton-avenue, East Ham, London, who at sixty-five is every whit as vigorous as he was twenty years ago. Near the end of 1896, Mr. Haigh was looking into the



Mr. Benjamin Haigh.

grave: to-day he is hale and hearty. The Eastern Counties Chronicle, published in Mr. Haigh's neighbourhood recounts his history. Mr. Haigh was formerly subject (as he admitted) to the penalties of his age, having suffered from rheumatism for years, and had also had that deadly disease, rheumatic fever, which nearly always leaves heart disease behind it. In October, 1896, he caught a severe cold, accompanied by a cough, followed by a return of his old malady, rheumatism. The first attack seems to have been similar to those which he had experienced before, the pain being confined to his limbs. Then it settled in his back; "and," said Mr. Haigh, "I never remember having anything like it. The pain was at times so severe that I was forced to call out; I was scarcely able to do anything except crawl into my office, which is at the back of this house. I continued to get worse, and thought it was a case with me. The pain was such that I could not turn in bed, and could get no sleep. I saw that something must be done, and that very soon. I had heard of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, and determined to try them. I obtained a box, and knowing that my wife would laugh at me for trying a fresh medicine, I went into the office and took one of the Pills there. In an hour's time I could stand straight up and do my writing. I continued to take the Pills, and the next day the pain was gone out of my back; in fact, I felt as well as ever. As far as my case is concerned the Pills were magic—that is exactly what they were. I have not had any rheumatism since, although this is the time of the year when I am troubled with it; the Pills warded it off!"

A narrative so remarkable as this would not be accepted without corroboration. It reads like a fairy-tale. But as it happens, a witness of unimpeachable integrity saw the whole thing. Mr. Haigh's statement was confirmed in every detail by Mr. George Hull, of 48, White Post Lane. So weak had Mr. Haigh been (Mr. Hull said) that two men had to hold him in the workshop lest he should fall. Knowing that his friend had suffered from rheumatic fever, Mr. Hull was naturally apprehensive on the score of heart failure. "I should not have been surprised any minute," he said, "to see him drop down dead. He was so ill that I can tell you it made me feel very uncomfortable to see him come into the shop. After working with a man, you naturally don't care about the prospect of seeing him fall dead before your eyes. I can quite confirm what Mr. Haigh has told you about the marvellous rapidity of his recovery." Those who know what it is to watch a "heart" patient will appreciate the load that has been lifted from the shoulders of Mr. Haigh's friends by his cure. Faulty action of the heart, so often occurring in rheumatic and

anæmic patients, has many times been cured by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. They are not like ordinary medicine, as it is at the root, not at the mere symptoms of disease that they strike, and thus it is that they have cured so many different disorders of the blood and nerves, such as rheumatism, sciatica, anæmia, heart disease, palpitations, debility, consumption, asthma, St. Vitus' dance, neuralgia, spinal disease, paralysis, and locomotor ataxy. The Pills, which are sold by chemists, are genuine only with full name, Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. In case of any demur, do not accept a substitute, which will do no good, but obtain them post free from Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, 46, Holborn-viaduct, London, at 2s. 9d. a box, or six for 13s. 9d.; they act directly on the blood, nerves, and spine.

FRUIT AS A FOOD.

"A GREAT social change," says a medical authority, "may be traced in the host of shops that have lately sprung up for the sale of sweets, tea, and fruit. All of these point with unerring finger towards a millennium, far off though it be, of temperance, of simple food, and of a more equal distribution of purchasing power. But of all the three commodities mentioned, none is so great a boon to the masses as a cheap and plentiful supply of fruit. Here, in September, fine ripe water-melons could be bought for sixpence each, and many other fruits have been just as cheap. What can equal a fine English apple or pear, except, perhaps, it be a peach, ripened off on some sunny orchard wall out in the open? Then there are our walnuts and Kentish cobs and filberts, which are excellent, and, spite of all tales to the contrary, most readily digestible to the healthy stomach. One thing that has never really fallen to a reasonably low price is the English tomato, which can never be bought at less than eightpence or tenpence a pound. The fruit can be readily grown, and there is no apparent reason why the English farmer should not fill the markets with hundreds of tons of tomatoes; but perhaps railway freights and middlemen stand between the farmer and the consumer. Curiously enough, rates do not keep away foreign fruit, for never were the people of this country more blessed with a plenteous supply of this wholesome food from over the sea. Apples, nuts, oranges, bananas, melons, grapes, and many other luscious fruits of the earth are poured into this country in a vast and ever-increasing stream, as the result of free trade, refrigerating or 'chill' rooms, and quick transit. It seems a pity, however, our farmers do not grow more home fruit, unequalled as it is for fine flavour and quality all the world over."

AGES AT MARRIAGE.

A STATISTICIAN has published the results of his investigation of the relative ages of husbands and wives in the various capitals of Europe. He discovered that marriages are most frequent where the husband is two or three years older than the wife. Women under twenty years of age, however, usually take unto themselves husbands six or seven years older than themselves. The cases in which the man was a year younger than the woman were almost as numerous as those in which he was six or seven years older. The first condition was true of 6·7 per cent. of all married couples, and the latter condition of 6·4 per cent. The cases where the husband was six or seven years younger than the wife were almost just as numerous as those where he was thirteen or fourteen years older. Only two cases were discovered where the husband was thirty-five years the senior, one case where he was forty-six years older, and one case where he was the older by forty-seven years. One case was discovered where the wife was thirty-four years older than the husband. Twelve and three-tenths per cent. of all men who marry women under twenty years of age, according to the statistician, are between twenty-six and twenty-seven years old.

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"The Standard of Highest Purity."—Lancet.

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DISEASES OF CHILDREN.

By DR. ALICE VICKERY.

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L. N. FOWLER & CO., Publishers, 7, Imperial Arcade, Ludgate Circus, London, E.C.



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.

"OVARIOTOMY AVERTED," post free 2d., by MARY J. HALL-WILLIAMS, M.D. (BOSTON), is to show women how they may get rid of their sufferings without undergoing this dangerous operation. 5 ROBERT STREET, GROSVENOR SQ., LONDON, W. Where also apply for Consultation Appointments.

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