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**THE WOMAN'S SIGNAL**

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

Edited by  
**MRS. FENWICK MILLER.**

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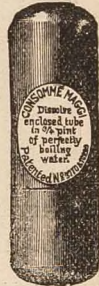


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**FACTS AND SCRAPS.**

**A WOMAN MINE MANAGER.**

Mrs. M. A. ALLEN, of Idaho Springs, Col., is a successful miner. Her husband was for many years a practical miner, and at the time of his death he had found some rich ore in the General Thomas mine, which he owned. At no time, however, had the pay streak been found permanently, and the cost of developing the property consumed about all the proceeds. For three years Mrs. Allen has been managing the mine, giving it her personal attention, visiting the mine nearly every day, inspecting the formations as they were exposed by the workmen, attending to the many details of the work with all the energy and skill of a practical mine manager. She looked after the sales and shipments, settled with the mills and smelters, making necessary purchases of supplies for the mine, besides looking after her home duties and interesting family. From the proceeds Mrs. Allen has saved enough money to build a new shaft-house, larger equipment of machinery, including a small stamp mill, while she has continued the steady development of the mine through the shaft, and several drifts and levels. Rich veins were found recently, and a fortune is apparently in sight.

**DOCTORS' BEARDS.**

The habit of wearing beards, in vogue amongst some physicians and surgeons, is one which is open to much criticism, and it is obvious that it is fraught with a considerable amount of danger to their patients. If, however, they feel constrained to cling to these undesirable appendages, the least they can do is to attend to their efficient sterilisation, before performing an operation, or dressing a wound. In our opinion it would simplify matters considerably if all medical men were clean-shaven. We learn that in America physicians who have beards protect them with gauze guards, and do not allow them to come near to a wound. It is to be hoped that these guards are not made of sal alembroth gauze, or a nervous patient might on entering the operating theatre encounter an apparition not calculated to inspire her with confidence in the surgeon in attendance, and unpleasantly suggestive of a certain bogey of her childhood—to wit, Mr. Bluebeard.

Nursing Record.

A SCHOOLBOY habit of placing upon a question some literal meaning other than intended by the examiner often leads to answers as curious as unexpected. Thus a teacher asked a lad what were the chief ends of man, and he replied: "His head and feet." Another youth, questioned as to where Jacob was going when he was ten years old, replied that he "was going on for eleven."

HERE is the testimony of Mr. Carroll D. Wright, U.S. Commissioner of Labour, who can hardly be called a fanatic on the temperance question:—"I have looked into a thousand homes of the working people of Europe; I do not know how many in this country. I have tried to find the best and the worst. And while, as I say, I am aware that the worst exists, and as bad as under any system or as bad as in any age, I have never had to look beyond the inmates to find the cause; and in every case, so far as my own observation goes, drunkenness was at the bottom of the misery, and not the industrial system or the industrial conditions surrounding the men and their families."

If a great change is to be made in human affairs, the minds of men will be fitted to it; the general opinions and feelings will draw that way. They who persist in opposing will not be resolute and firm, but perverse and obstinate.

Edmund Burke.

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**THE WOMAN'S SIGNAL**  
A WEEKLY RECORD AND REVIEW FOR LADIES.

VOL. VIII., No. 201.]

NOVEMBER 4, 1897.

One Penny Weekly.

**NATIONAL UNION OF  
WOMEN WORKERS.**

**THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE.**

THIS Association held its Annual Conference at Croydon, in the George Street Hall, from October 26th to 29th. At the opening meeting an address of welcome was given by the President of the local Committee, Mrs. Temple, wife of the Archbishop of Canterbury, whose country seat is near Croydon. This was followed by a brief inaugural address by the President of the Union, Mrs. Creighton; after which the first paper was read on

**THE EARLY CARE AND TRAINING  
OF CHILDREN UNDER THE  
POOR LAW.**

By Mrs. FRANCIS RYE.

This lady is the Hon. Sec. of the "State Children's Association." We give extracts from her well-informed and interesting paper.

"Here, in England, are between two and three hundred thousand children, many of them without homes, fathers or mothers; with one parent, but a parent who cannot support them; and many in a worse position still, with parents who disown them and leave them to shift for themselves; and all dependent on the rates. Their sole responsible parent, then, is the State.

"How shall the State bring up her numerous family? In undertaking the charge what aims has she in view for their benefit?"

"The State as parent would wish that their development should be natural; that their education should be much like that gained in family life, where every day children have small sacrifices to make for the sake of the comfort of some other member of the family, denials which become gifts, and which enrich and steady the temperament and form the character. In a family, children learn something by the movings, the turnings-out, the cleanings, the washing days; and more deeply by the sicknesses, the accidents, the deaths, births, separations, and losses or gains of income—in a word, the changes of all sorts. These are the things that shape the personality and give it its direction in life. These make the individual ready and adaptive, create or quicken the sympathies, and give backbone to conduct.

"The State, then, should strive to give to her children, as largely as possible, these conditions of home-life; and to give them because she wishes to make her children, from the basis of being good members of the family, to grow to be good and unselfish citizens and true and loyal patriots, ready to serve the State, their mother, from feelings of devotion and gratitude.

"Would she not begin by distributing them over the length and breadth of England, to make every English man and woman feel that they were the nation's children?"

"She certainly would not put them out of sight and hearing in huge buildings. This way of treatment is the least troublesome. It is easier to deal with one's fellow-creatures in groups than in units. Units give a lot of trouble; groups are more manageable. Individuals are sentient, and as a consequence have rights. It is possible to forget this when arranging for groups.

"Of course it is far easier to pull down entirely and to reconstruct than it is to amend, especially when the system to be amended has grown gradually, taken root slowly, and been generally accepted and taken for granted for a generation.

"The Poor Laws date back as far as Queen Elizabeth's reign, the earliest statute enacted bearing date 1601—by which statute Overseers of the Poor were appointed. In earlier reigns very severe enactments dealing with the poor were passed, but there was no State system of relief. In Henry VIII.'s reign parish officers were empowered 'to take up all idle children above the age of five years, and appoint them to masters of husbandry or other craft or labour to be taught; and if any child should refuse the service to which he was appointed, or run away without reasonable cause being shown for it, he might be publicly whipped with rods, at the discretion of the justice of the peace, before whom he was brought.' The old statutes, however, are mainly concerned in managing the grown-up vagabond.

"The modern system of poor relief was not established till 1834, when the Poor Law Amendment Act was passed.

"Till 1844 the children of paupers were housed in workhouses and unions, but in that year the district schools were established, parishes and unions combining into school districts, with boards of managers representing the various parishes. This is how what are called the barrack schools came into existence. Though they were a vast improvement on the former workhouse conditions, yet they met with some opposition from advanced educationalists of the time, Sydney Smith speaking of them when they were first suggested with strong disapproval, and alluding to them as 'immense pedagogues, where 'everything may be taught yet nothing learned,' adding 'that systems planned with care and executed with attention may evaporate into unmeaning forms, where the imagination is not roused or the sensibility impressed.'

"Most people who have had much to do with children brought up in the large schools know that this prophecy, uttered twenty-four years before the district schools were built, has proved pretty literally true.

"Besides the placing of children in district schools there are five other ways of dealing with them employed by various boards of guardians:—

"(1) Boarding out, by which the children are placed in the homes of cottagers, who undertake the responsible position of foster-parents to the child, subject to inspection.

"This plan has the advantage of giving the child a home-life in a family. With very complete inspection and supervision this should be a successful way of dealing with the children, but only a limited number can be placed out in these homes.

"(2) Cottage Homes, or Village Communities, where the children live in cottages, about fifteen or twenty in each with a matron or master in control; but the cottages are grouped together.

"(3) The Sheffield Isolated Homes.

"(4) Training Ships for Boys.

"(5) Emigration.

But these five methods deal with only a small portion of the children that have to be maintained and educated by the State.

"Those who have helped to make the school system are, of course, inclined to view it in its

most favourable light, and are not always able to see the burning need of any radical reform. In urging forward these reforms, therefore, it is almost impossible not to wound the susceptibilities of workers inside the system, who naturally think they know more about it than any one else.

"Still it must be generally conceded that under the present system full scope is not given to the faculties of the children, and that better results might be obtained under different conditions.

"With the view of obtaining individual treatment for children under the guardianship of the State, in January of this year the State Children's Association was founded, with the Right Honourable Viscount Peel as chairman, and having a large and influential Committee and Council of Reference.

"The objects of the State Children's Association are three:—

"(1) To obtain the dissolution of large aggregated schools, so that children may be brought up when possible in families, or in small groups where they will be in daily touch with the various interests and activities of social life.

"(2) To dissociate the children from all connection with the workhouse and the officials who have to deal with a pauper class.

"(3) To obtain for the State further powers of control over neglected children.

"There are many points on which Guardians are in full accord with us, and I believe there would be many more if our views and aims were more fully known and realized.

"As long as the children are brought up as they now are, under the present system, they cannot help feeling themselves marked and as 'a class apart.' If they were dissociated from all connection with the workhouse their chances of developing habits of independence and self-reliance would certainly be vastly improved.

"Our Association would like to see the Poor Law children better educated; it would like to have them in the Board Schools of England, learning their lessons under the same conditions as other children of the poor. It would like also to see a great change in the methods of training the boys and girls for trades. It asks for special training schools, that the children thus bereft of natural parents may at all events be fully equipped industrially, and may be able to rely on their own efforts to become self-supporting.

"In accordance with our Object No. 3, which seeks to obtain for the State further powers of control over neglected children, on July 30th Mr. Ernest Flower, in the House of Commons, introduced a Bill (drafted under the auspices of the State Children's Association) as an amendment of the Poor Law Act of 1889.

"By this Bill it is sought to give the Guardians control over orphans and children of persons unfit to have control over them, and that the period of such control should last until the child is eighteen years of age; and if after that age he or she should voluntarily ask to continue to be under such control in order to protect themselves from the molestation of vicious relatives, they may obtain the further control until they reach the age of twenty-one. But if at any time during the period of the Guardians' control the parents are able to prove that they have become fit and proper persons to resume their responsible position towards their children, they may apply to a magistrate and get back the guardianship of their children.



"So that the Bill will do nothing to weaken the natural tie between parent and child, but will give parents an additional stimulus to help them in self-government, if they possess any affection at all for their children, while at the same time by the provisions of the Bill the child of worthless parents will not suffer so much from the bad habits of its father or mother, and will be preserved from that interference which, as all Guardians have cause to know, arises not from a desire for the child's good, but to make some personal gain from the temporary withdrawal of the child from the Guardians' control.

"Parents who are dead to all sense of responsibilities should not be entrusted with the care and bringing-up of their unfortunate children, who can learn no good from them, and are often worse off in many respects than if they were actually orphans. In cases of bad parents the State should mercifully step in and save the children.

"One of the objections to our desire for individual treatment is that if too much is done for Poor Law children we sin against the children of the deserving poor.

"Too much cannot be done for them if the aim in dealing with them is to make our State children self-respecting and self-supporting. The State has its duties as a parent; it must fulfil them to the uttermost, without regarding what is being done by other parents with other children, except to mark where their rearing and training are successful.

"A right form of discipline teaches self-control. The discipline that proceeds from officialism is often stupid and cruel, and teaches not self-control, but abject dependence on the will of others.

"Children understand individual punishments, not society ones. They learn best from personal contact with grown-ups whom they can love and cling to. They are mostly deficient in expression; they are ignorant of any wrongness in their environment. All this has to be discovered for them, and their various natures drawn out in many different ways according to the needs of the individual child and its potential abilities.

"To understand how false to the proper development of child-nature the life in many district schools is, one must know by experience what is the true and right way of bringing up children.

"Few women who are not themselves parents or teachers, and fewer men, have studied this subject. They take the surroundings of a child for granted, and look for certain results. They often give less consideration to the necessary means for calling out what is best in a boy's or a girl's nature than they would give to the proper conditions necessary for a plant to thrive and grow healthy in.

"Nor is it surprising that this is the case. It is always the few who have insight, who are able to see things as they really are, and to grasp situations, because the capacity to do this goes with larger sympathies and deeper knowledge than it is given most persons to possess. But it is just this possession of wide sympathy, knowledge and insight, which makes the practical and effective difference between persons, and 'the future will be with those who have most of these attributes.'"

THE HON. MRS. A. T. LYTTETON  
read a paper on the same subject, pointing out how difficult it is to find suitable foster mothers for so large a number of children. She observed:—

"When it can be well carried out, undoubtedly the best method of bringing up the children, especially the girls, is boarding out. It is obvious, of course, that this can apply to only a certain number of children, as 'ins and outs' cannot be boarded out; nor is it desirable to board out older girls, as they are often made into drudges. It has been said that boarding out offers to the children the best means of enjoying the benefits of family life, of which they have been deprived, of receiving the training best suited to fit them for their places in the world in after life, and of learning to overcome

the difficulties and temptations which may beset them.' Now, with all this I entirely agree, provided the family life we provide for the children be really of a sort calculated to train them for their place in the world, and to teach them to overcome difficulties and temptations. But we must remember that it is possible to make mistakes in boarding out children, and that when mistakes are made they are most serious. One has only to read the reports published by Miss Mason, the inspector for the Local Government Board, to understand what may happen.

"It is so difficult to believe," says Miss Mason,\* 'that a child one may see constantly, even daily, with a clean, tidy outside, and a rosy, smiling face, and boarded out with a well-known and trusted neighbour, may, under its nice frock or suit, hide a skin encrusted with dirt of months or even years' standing, or be beaten black and blue.' Yet Miss Mason tells us that she has found such cases over and over again. I was for many years President of the Cambridge Boarding Out Committee, and I can speak from personal knowledge of the difficulty of finding good homes. Certain conditions are needful, not to say essential. The foster parents should be in such a position that they do not depend on the children's payments for a living. There should not be more than five children in the house, including the boarded-out children. There must be sufficient bedroom accommodation. Houses where lodgers are received are undesirable; and further, it is not usually a good plan to place girls where there are young babies, as they are apt to be used as drudges and nurses rather than treated as children of the home. Nor is it wise to place boys with widows or single women. When all these conditions are fulfilled, it is necessary further to consider whether the foster-parents will be both kind and firm; whether the children will be treated with love and with discipline. For their welfare in after life one is as important as the other. And after we have found homes which fulfil all these conditions, a careful, thorough and constant supervision is required, if those who are responsible for the children's welfare can rest assured that these children are in their foster homes in reality 'enjoying the benefits of family life.'

"Now, possibly I may be told that in the children's real homes these conditions are often lacking: that there are often more than five children in a home, that older girls have to nurse babies, that lodgers are constantly taken, and that widows often have to bring up boys. Unfortunately this is true. If we could alter much of it we certainly should do so; but, as things are, the homes from which these Poor Law children come, and in which countless other children not under the Poor Law are at this moment living, undoubtedly do not fulfil our conditions. But in the first place we must remember that boarding out is not the only possible means of bringing up the children, and that we are therefore bound to compare the advantages and drawbacks of one system with those of others, and to consider whether a good district school is not preferable to an inferior home. In my opinion there is no doubt whatever on the point. No bringing up can be worse than that of a bad foster home. And secondly we must not forget that it is a foster home—that is, an artificial home, and not a real home. There is something mysteriously sacred about the natural relations between human beings; and often in ways which we do not understand, and in the most unexpected manner, the natural affection works for good even when the surroundings are almost all evil. But there is nothing sacred about a foster mother and a foster home, and there never will be; and in a bad foster home there is therefore nothing to counterbalance the drawbacks. I have said a good deal of the danger of boarding out, and I should like therefore once more to repeat that when the proper conditions are fulfilled, when the homes are properly chosen and the inspection is thorough, it is without doubt the best method of training Poor-Law children, especially girls.

"The system under which by far the largest number of the children are brought up is that of large schools. These at present are of two kinds—those commonly called 'barrack schools,' in which all the children are gathered together in one large building; and the 'district schools,' or schools built as cottage homes, in which from fifteen to thirty children are placed in small homes each under the care of a master or matron. These cottages are grouped together, and the children attend a school of their own. The advantages of this system are obvious. The difficulty here, however, lies in the proper supervision of the foster parents. It is on the character of the foster parents, and on their fitness for their task, that the whole success of the Cottage Home system depends.

"Now, a great deal has been said lately in condemnation of barrack schools, and it is held by some that they should at once be swept away, because it is said that the evils which undoubtedly have existed in them in the past are inherent in the system, and cannot be removed. These evils fall into two main classes—monotony of life, and ill health. I know personally the Swinton Schools, in Lancashire, and I think they entirely disprove this assertion. I shall be told that they are the best schools of the kind in England, and I believe it is true. But what can be done there can be done elsewhere, and I venture to think that the Swinton record shows that these barrack schools, although their day is over, need not be at once done away with. No new ones will be, of course, built, nor have any been built for some time. At Swinton, out of 700 children there were last January 21 sick, of whom 9 only had ophthalmia—not 1½ per cent. In September 36 children were sick, of whom 12 had ringworm, and only 4 ophthalmia—not 1 per cent. These ophthalmia and ringworm cases are as a rule among the children who have recently been admitted, and who bring them from outside. This does not look as if ophthalmia need necessarily be, as it has been called, 'the curse of these institutions.' With regard to monotony, the same may be said. Undoubtedly it has existed to an indefensible extent in the past, but there is great improvement, and in all sorts of ways now the children receive special and individual training. They can be broken up, for instance, when out of school into groups of from four to twenty under the officers, cottages can be built for infants, who can be partly looked after and cared for by the older girls, and so on."

Amongst those who took part in the discussion were Miss Clifford, Miss Lidgett, Miss Davenport Hill, Mrs. Brown Sinclair, and Dr. Jane Walker.

#### TEMPERANCE

was the topic of the afternoon meeting, at which little that was new was elicited, and the discussion languished because all present were of the same mind. The leading paper was on

#### THE MEDICAL ASPECT OF THE TEMPERANCE QUESTION.

By MRS. CLARE GOSLETT.

In the course of her remarks she said:—

"I am persuaded that nothing better could be done than that lecturers should go about the country instructing people upon the hygiene of the subject, teaching them of the evils, not of drunkenness, the results of which they can see around them, but the harm of drinking habits, the risks and disadvantages to multitudes of the daily use of alcohol as we see it commonly around us. In our Bands of Hope, at mothers' meetings, at guilds, by the fireside, in those talks which the district visitor so often is able to manage, could we not do more to definitely instruct and to disseminate those scientific facts which are so convincing and powerful?"

"Let me remind you of a few of these points. People want to be taught to think more accurately of alcohol itself, to understand and regard it in its true light as a poison, one amongst many poisons which injure man's body and mind and prepare both for disease. Some write of it as a sedative or narcotic, others as a stimulant, but whichever is true—and pro-

\* "The Best Methods of Boarding Out." South Wales Poor-Law Conference, May, 1897.

bably both are—all agree that alcohol, that strange 'subtle essence' as the name implies, spirits of wine, is a poison just as truly as opium or morphia, arsenic, chloroform, or many a berry or root to be found in the country lanes and hedges. It may be useful in the doctor's hands as a remedy in disease, just as other poisons are; but then it must be prescribed, measured, taken for the time ordered, and abandoned, exactly as we should treat a course of arsenic, or a series of sleeping draughts, which the doctor may think fit to prescribe.

Another principle to be urged upon parents, and all who have to do with the young, is that for them especially alcoholic drinks are dangerous. Even those who write in favour of alcohol for adults, agree in saying that children never need it, that the young are injured, prepared for the attacks of disease, by its use. It cannot feed or nourish or help in that important period of growth and development, but on the contrary it is likely to check development and stunt growth, because one of its actions is distinctly to interfere with the healthy proper waste which should go on in order to counter-balance repair and nutrition. Food is what is wanted; and the ignorance and incapacity of housekeepers, the monotony of the diets they arrange, the omission of so much that could be easily and cheaply obtained, and would feed and satisfy, is largely responsible for a great deal of drinking. Let us bring about a better understanding in regard to the choice, storage and preparation of food (one important department of hygiene), the importance of change and variety, however simple the things may be, the value of vegetable as well as animal food, the good of soups, porridge, potatoes, beans, peas, wholemeal bread, and all sorts of fruits.

"Then the habits of the young in regard to times of taking food are of great consequence. Whenever opportunity occurs let us impress on people the exceeding value of the habit of drinking nothing between meals. Alcoholic drinks are—as we well know—a thousand times more dangerous and powerful if taken on an empty stomach; it is then that their action is most irritating, most unhygienic, but also most apparent and great; and hence the danger of odd drinks at odd times. All habits of self-control are valuable, but no more so than that of never touching anything between meals. It is a real kindness, and one for which they will thank us in after years, to teach boys and girls to control their thirst after exercise, games or heat, and to accustom themselves to wait patiently as a matter of course for their next meal. After all it is only a matter of habit, as many of us who have acquired it can testify, and after one or two battles with one's self the contest is over.

"There are prejudices to be fought against in regard to the value of alcoholic drinks which will never depart until people are definitely instructed in facts which prove their fallacy. One of the commonest of many that will occur to your minds is that alcohol is of use when we are tired. Let us teach the real error of such a belief by explaining how fatigue is one of nature's kindly warnings—the cry of the body, or of a special part of the body, for rest; and only rest will get rid of that fatigue and fit us for work again. Alcohol will only give us imaginary strength by deadening the sense of fatigue, just as chloroform deadens the sense of pain; and if we use alcohol to supplement energies and powers already exhausted we do it at our peril, and must pay the penalty in suffering and disease.

"Other things will help dispel fatigue for a time besides alcohol, and with far less risk. Coffee, tea, the sipping of very hot water, warm beef-tea, warm milk and water, are often of great use; but after all the great need is rest, and that alone is the true remedy for fatigue.

"A fully suggestive was one paragraph in the recently published report of the Inspector of Retreats for Inebriates, where the opinion of the committee of the Grove Retreat, near Manchester, is quoted—stating their conviction that the number of habitual drunkards existing in English society is strangely underestimated by most writers on the subject. And those of us whose work brings us much in contact with

the world can testify to the immense amount of injury done to themselves by numbers of people—men and women—who could not possibly come under this heading, but who are merely 'habitual drinkers.'

"In view of this dire need, the self-indulgence, the ignorance, the prejudice that still exists, we are bound to use every lawful argument, every worthy weapon, even though it may seem to be a less noble and lofty one than those we have been accustomed to use in the past.

"To see it down in figures on a page, Plain, silent, clear, as God sees through the earth

The sense of all the graves,—that's terrible  
For one who is not God, and cannot right  
The wrong he looks on. May we choose indeed

But vow away our years, our means, our aims  
Among the helpers, if there's any help  
In such a social strait."

Other speeches on this topic were delivered by Dr. Annie McCall, Miss Orme, Lady E. Biddulph, Hon. Mrs. Eliot Yorke, and Mrs. H. J. Wilson.

The evening meeting was devoted to the training and work of elementary teachers, on which the WOMAN'S SIGNAL is now giving its readers original articles that fully cover the ground.

"A YOUNG LADIES' MEETING"  
was held in a smaller hall, presided over by Mrs. Alfred Booth, and a paper was read on

#### "THE DANGERS OF THE LUXURY OF MODERN LIFE."

By LADY FREDERICK CAVENDISH.

"The first thing that has to be done is to define the word. Luxury: what is it? Without attempting to dig down to its Latin derivation, and confining ourselves to its common use, we may perhaps define it as 'indulgence of our lower tastes at the expense of the higher'; and I think this definition will at all events give us real practical guidance at the outset. It at once brings to our mind the impossibility of making universal rules on the subject, inasmuch as, owing to the endless varieties of human character, and also of human circumstances, an indulgence which would sap the moral strength of one person would have no ill effect whatever upon another. This consideration must entirely prevent any one of us from sitting in judgment upon another in the matter; but for that very reason it imposes upon each one of us, with the more imperative force, the duty of sitting in judgment on ourselves, and most especially in these dangerous days, to realize and to hold fast that principle, and to draw from it practical rules of life for ourselves.

"Dangerous days," I said. Not that I would take the common pessimist view that our days are more dangerous than the days of our forefathers. We don't know, we can't know, if they are or not. It is impossible to compare with anything like accuracy the weight and urgency of the dangers of one period with those of another. To do so, we should need to know many hidden things.

"I am quite willing to allow that in some respects lives are less luxurious—that is, among the upper classes—than they were in former times. There is not the same mass of food and multitude of dishes required at dinner-parties. It is no longer considered disgraceful to travel second or even third-class. Ladies' maids and men-servants are less indispensable; no magistrate is expected to drive about with four horses, and some are to be found that don't keep a carriage at all. On a visit, one is not expected nowadays to be provided with light grey kid gloves to come down in to breakfast, or to wear nothing indoors but silks and satins. All the world knocks about London by underground railway, and ladies of high degree meet inside and outside omnibuses. A contrast indeed to the days within my own recollection, when to travel second class would have been considered almost equivalent to dining in the house-keeper's room, and for a lady to go alone in a

hansom cab, let alone an omnibus, was quite indecorous.

"I am afraid religious or even moral principle has had little to do with the matter; and as long as this is the case the love of luxury will not so much decrease as be diverted into new channels. And it remains as needful as ever to be on our guard against it.

"Now, am I wrong in saying that one of the dangers of the day is the total ignoring, on the part of many people, of there being anything at all in luxury of the nature of sin? And does not this state of mind lead, in spite of the changes of fashions that I have noticed, to an indefinitely extending area of luxury, so that many things formerly considered as luxuries have come by degrees to assert themselves as necessities?"

"It is really not open to a Christian to deny that in luxury, as I have defined it, there is danger—nay more, there is sin. If we are to deny this, it can only be by the process of leaving out a large part of the New Testament, and giving up all attempts to follow the example of our Lord and Master.

"When once we have acknowledged that in luxurious living sin lurks, more than half the battle is won. There remains only for each to make up his own mind where, for him, innocent pleasure, recreation, joy, refinement, grace and beauty cease, and self-indulgence at the cost of better things begins. It we are perfectly honest with ourselves this can hardly be an impossible task; the difficulty will be—(who does not know it?)—not in knowing what is right, but in bringing our lazy, or greedy, or extravagant, or cowardly, in short, our selfish natures into subjection to the higher rule of life which at heart we know to be God's will concerning us.

"I would venture to give a few instances of what I mean.

"Take five o'clock tea. Far be it from me to class it among luxuries! The small minority of fanatics who still denounce it seem never to bear in mind that the lateness of modern dinners is a good reason for this most cheerful refreshment; not to speak of the advantage to many—women at all events—of a light dinner. There are curious differences between the male and the female digestion. Men, in general, are afflicted with what may be called a prophetic appetite, and are sometimes unable, therefore, to enjoy a cup of tea for fear of a prospective spoiling of their dinner, however remote may be dinner-time. A woman has no scruples on this score, and can calmly face the risk of an eight o'clock dinner, lightened by the memories of five o'clock tea. Granted, then, the legitimate claims of tea, I would only deprecate its insidious advances, in the direction of unlimited and lavish varieties of cakes both hot and cold, potted meat and anchovy sandwiches, &c., and would suggest some rule of moderation, each for herself. Next, have not luncheons a tendency to become to all intents and purposes dinners? and are two dinners a day advisable? And then the early cup of tea and slice of bread and butter—doubtless most needful for many, but surely quite superfluous for most, when an English 9 or 9.30 breakfast is impending. Consider the amount of trouble given to servants by this fashion in a household of guests.

"I am now verging perilously near to a temperance digression; but I must go so far as to warn healthy people, who can eat their regular meals, against intermediate pick-me-ups, especially an alcoholic sort; and this not on mere anti-drink grounds, but on the wide ground of general self-discipline. During some months' stay in South Africa, in tropical heat, I soon learnt the folly of drinking even pure water *ad libitum*, and generally restricted myself to plenty of it at meal times only. I think all who are members of temperance societies should strive far more than is usual to raise the standard, really implied by the very title, of all-round self-control, remembering that what we are to aim at is not one-sided virtue, but 'the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.'

"The same principle applies to dress. If we are to be guided *only*, as some would be satisfied to do, by what we can afford, we may be



led to forget, as I once heard it put, that even if we have each of us £10,000 a year, it does not follow that we have ten backs apiece; while it is certainly well to remember that, as long as there are so many backs insufficiently clothed, there must be better ways of spending money than in heaping costly clothes on our own. But if we raise the higher, that is the Christian, standard, we shall know where and when and how and why to deny ourselves in the matter of dress, as in everything else. Pray, do not suppose I am in favour of dowdiness: I believe in glory and in beauty of clothing, as of other branches of art; but I preach the principle of self-control and of moderation, and the courage of making your own rule in the matter and sticking to it.

"We can easily see how this principle of all-round self-discipline may be brought to bear on all the pleasures of life: on amusements, sports, London seasons, travelling, novel-reading, Sunday relaxations, and I know not what besides. And here I venture to mention one means of self-discipline which, sad and strange to say, has been voted out of court by a general, though not universal, consensus of Protestant opinion, but which is most certainly recommended to us by our Lord Himself, both by example and precept—namely, fasting.

"In the course of the very right and indeed blessed reaction from the old severe régime, what an opposite extreme we are running into in the management of children! Because we have repented of cruelty and repression, it seems a pity that all that is hard, disagreeable, or requiring an effort, should be smoothed away. If we leave children with nothing to pull against, nothing to call upon their better energies or to arouse their will to brave action, what hope is there of their learning hereafter to endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ, to face difficulties, dangers or privations in any great cause?

"And are we not beginning to see the harm of this? If it is true that even in the games which have so long been the pride of the English people, there is a growing fashion of employing professionals to play, while the crowds look idly on, interested only in betting on the result, is it not clear that our young men are getting to prefer unwholesome excitement to manly play? If the standard of living rises steadily higher among the upper classes, till marriage gets to be regarded as out of the question unless the income will cover a host of expenses that only of recent years have slipped into the category of 'necessaries,' are we not face to face with a very grave social danger? 'Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?' It is one thing to preach wise forethought, and such a provision for wife and family as shall secure comfort, and quite another to make a luxurious scale of living a *sine qua non*. Our social system, in fact, suffers almost as much from the one extreme as the other. The poorer people are, both among the educated and the uneducated, the more we have to deplore reckless marriages; and the richer they are, the more we see marriage disastrously at a discount from inordinate ideas of what is 'necessary' to marry upon.

"It is no compliment to a girl for a man to say he cannot ask her to give up 'the luxuries she has been used to.' Let her be quite sure he does not mean that *he* doesn't like to give up luxuries, and let them both test the strength of their affection and of their trust in each other by facing the possibility of existence even when shorn of champagne, horses, men-servants, high play, and 'up-to-date' society excesses in the way of flower-decorations, tobacco, millinery, furniture and entertainments.

"The mention of society leads me to put in for your consideration the puzzling subject of *how much* we ought to do, when we come to be heads of houses, in the way of hospitality. Most certainly this is a puzzling question. The duty of hospitality is so manifestly taught, not only by both Old and New Testament, but by nature herself, that it would seem to be, in one way or another, incumbent on us all. More than this, we cannot doubt that we should with cheerful, nay, eager willingness, welcome and entertain our guests, doing all we can for their comfort. 'Not grudgingly, nor of necessity,' applies surely

to whatever we spend upon each other, not only to almsgiving.

"Yet I cannot but think things are sometimes rather overdone in this direction and that here too we should seek for a clear principle to act as a check upon what may develop into a sort of self-indulgence—viz., the desire to please at any cost. People don't like to be considered stingy, and therefore they will go beyond their means in the way of entertainment. They love their friends, and this makes it tempting to pamper them. But it cannot be right to go beyond our means for any reason, least of all for the fear of being called stingy; and it cannot be right to spoil our friends, any more than our children, because we love them. It is a cruel love which fosters the faults of those dear to us.

These two considerations provide us, I think, with the principle we are in search of, by which to regulate our hospitality. Let us 'use hospitality without grudging,' but subject honestly to what we can really afford without detriment to higher claims. And let us not press upon our guests luxuries of a kind, or to a degree, which means harmful indulgence. I would rest my appeal against luxury upon high grounds, reminding you again that the very essence of the Christian religion is self-sacrifice. Does it seem a hard doctrine? But the experience of nineteen centuries tell us of joy and peace flowing from it that the world can neither give nor take away. There are some noble lines written by Fanny Kemble long ago, addressed to young men leaving college, with which I will end my paper. They have a stern, even a sorrowful ring about them, yet you will agree with me that their keynote is joy.

"What though the brightness dim, the glory fade,

The splendours vanish?—Not of these is made  
The solemn trust that to your charge is given,  
Children of God—inheritors of Heaven!  
Mourn not the perishing of each fair toy;  
Ye were ordained to do, not to enjoy;  
To suffer, which is nobler than to dare;  
A sacred burden is the life ye bear.  
Look on it, lift it, bear it solemnly,  
Stand up, and walk beneath it steadfastly;  
Fail not for sorrow, falter not for sin,  
But onward, upward, till the goal ye win.  
God guard you, and God guide you on your way,

Young warrior-pilgrims, who set forth to-day!"

(The report of this Conference will be continued next week.)

## STATE REGULATION OF VICE.

In connection with the meeting at Croydon of the Women Workers' Conference, the Ladies' Association for the Abolition of State Regulation of Vice, held a crowded meeting on Thursday evening. Mrs. James Stuart, who presided, suggested that every associate should write short concise letters to their Parliamentary representatives. Mrs. Tanner regretted the absence of Mrs. Josephine Butler, hon. sec., and said that a correspondent must be secured in every town throughout the British Isles, so that every woman therein might know the truth respecting the laws which Government wished to pass. Mrs. H. J. Wilson proposed a resolution, "That this meeting, deeply impressed with the immoral teaching and disastrous results of every form of State regulation of vice and of the need there is of a strenuous opposition to the reactionary movement of the present Government in regard to this question, urges upon women to do all in their power to press the matter home to the consciences of the people and their representatives in Parliament, by literature and meetings, by letters, memorials and petitions; and further empowers the president of this meeting to sign on its behalf a petition based thereon and forward it for presentation to Parliament." Lady Carlisle, Lady Frederick Cavendish, Dr. Agnes McLaren, Mrs. Solly (Capetown) and Miss Leppington also spoke.

## THE COMING CAB.

By EMILY HILL.

To drive along the streets in cabs without horses is certainly one of the most striking of *fin de siècle* experiences, and it is one to be recommended, for the new mode of "cabbings" is as easy and agreeable as it is novel. Indeed, one seems to want some other term than the familiar monosyllable to designate the clean, well-sprung, softly-cushioned and commodious yellow chariot which runs along so smoothly, and pulls up so rapidly. "Licensed to carry two" really means that there is room for three ladies, and if one gets in during rain, there is no need, as in a hansom, to hug a wet umbrella, for a neat little chain holds it in place and where one cannot fail to see it. Nor is there any need for the agility often required in entering or leaving a hansom, especially if the horse is a little "fresh"—and he generally is—for the electrical cab is as firm as a rock.

The motion, naturally, is not unlike that of an electric tram-car, but it is easier and quieter. For going to the theatre or out to dine, it is an ideal conveyance, and just meets the want so long felt for something less "scrubby" than a "growler," and more fitted for evening dress than a hansom. And this is now to be obtained at ordinary cab fares.

Many people to whom expense is no deterrent to keeping their own carriage, hire because of the trouble of the horses. As a gentleman said to his friend—a novice in horses—who confided to him his intention of keeping one for driving: "Then, I pity you; it is the beginning of troubles." This was a few years ago before electricity had enlarged our peripatetic horizon, and the only alternative was a cycle.

To lone ladies of means who shrink from the responsibility and trouble of keeping horses in London, the motor bids fair to offer a happy relief. The new horse only requires about three shillings' worth of electricity *per diem*; illness and old age are abolished, for there is a new lease of life every day. Feeding, perhaps, is rather a long process—five hours being required to charge the cells for a six-hour run; but then no other period of rest is needed.

The cabs that now spin along the London streets at a rate of about eight miles an hour are not unlike single broughams, but, of course, much heavier, having to carry a storage of motive power. As I sat on the softly-cushioned seat behind my Jehu comfortably ensconced on his driver's box, and watched the easy motion of his right hand as it guided the small driving-wheel, and noted the facile and quickly responsive action of the brake, and then looked at the pull of the reins in the hands of the driver of a pair, or noted the ceaseless movement of the cyclist's feet and the tensive grip of the hands on the handles—the convenience and simplicity of the new mode of locomotion seemed to mark it out for ladies' use *par excellence*.

With a carriage constructed to be driven like a phaeton, without a driver's box, its guidance would be child's play to the ladies who thread their way along Piccadilly and Cheapside on bicycles. Anyone accustomed to drive can learn to direct a motor car with some five days' practice. Only such large establishments as generate their own electricity would charge their carriages, but when the light of the future is in more general use, and generating stations are plentiful, we may expect to have, as it were, electrical instead of livery stables.

Instead of adding to the dangers of pedestrianism, as cycling certainly has done, electric cabs and carriages should diminish them, for it is a great safeguard to be able to pull up "short" without endangering or discomfiting a horse, and the risks from bolting and kicking are, of course, abolished. One has only to think of the large number of horses who daily fall or stumble on our 8,600 miles of streets in London to realize what a saving of suffering the new invention is likely to effect.

In our crowded thoroughfares there are certainly too many horses either for safety or celerity. Dull as the streets would look without any at all, there is no likelihood of that being any but a very far-off event. The application of newly-discovered powers must always be a

gradual process. But we shall all hail this latest development of applied science if it lightens London's heavy record of 4,000 street accidents every year.

## TEMPERED.

By SUSAN COOLIDGE.

WHEN stern occasion calls for war,  
And the trumpets shrill and peal,  
Forges and armories ring all day  
With the fierce clash of steel.  
The blades are heated in the flame,  
And cooled in icy flood,  
And beaten hard, and beaten well,  
To make them firm and pliable,  
Their edge and temper good;  
Then tough and sharp with discipline,  
They win the fight for fighting men.

When God's occasions call for men,  
His chosen souls He takes.  
In life's hot fire He tempers them,  
With tears he cools and slakes;  
With many a heavy, grievous stroke  
He beats them to an edge.  
And tests and tries, again, again,  
Till the hard will is fused, and pain  
Becomes high privilege;  
Then strong, and quickened through and through,  
They ready are His work to do.

Like an on-rushing, furious host  
The tide of need and sin;  
Unless the blades shall tempered be,  
They have no chance to win.  
God trusts to no untested sword  
When he goes forth to war;  
Only the souls that, beaten long  
On pain's great anvil, have grown strong,  
His chosen weapons are.  
Ah, souls, on pain's great anvil laid,  
Remember this, nor be afraid!

## CONTENTMENT.

By ARCHBISHOP TRENCH.

SOME murmur when their sky is clear  
And wholly bright to view,  
If one small speck of dark appear  
In their great heaven of blue;  
And some with thankful love are filled  
If but one streak of light,  
One ray of God's good mercy, gild  
The darkness of their night.

## A BLIND POETESS.

The Author of "Safe in the Arms of Jesus."  
FANNY CROSBY, the blind American poetess, has given some interesting particulars of herself in a recent issue of the New York *Christian Herald*. At the age of eight she began writing poetry. Her first production, describing her own condition, ran thus:—

O what a happy soul am I,  
Although I cannot see,  
I am resolved that in this world  
Contented I will be;  
How many blessings I enjoy  
That other people don't;  
To weep and sigh because I'm blind  
I cannot and I won't.

Concerning these lines she says: "This youthful declaration of principles—though others may smile at it—I have kept steadily in view, and I suppose the dominant key-note of my character has been cheerfulness throughout. At all events, my friends who know me best so regard it."

Speaking of some years later, she writes: "The Bible to me was my most familiar book. I had committed to memory the first four books of the Old Testament, also the four Gospels, and these doubtless influenced my poetic career to a greater extent than all other literature combined."

In 1863 she was asked to write a poem for Rev. Peter Stryker, a famous evangelical preacher of that time. He was so pleased with it that he gave her a letter to Mr. W. B. Bradbury, who was then having musical services for the young. Referring to this she says: "I wrote for Mr. Bradbury the first of that long series of hymns which I have been composing during the last 35 years, without intermission. Mr. Bradbury, I should explain, was the leading writer of Sunday School song music in the United States, being the pioneer in that particular field. Our acquaintance was a most agreeable one, and while it lasted I became more and more drawn to the writing of spiritual songs exclusively. On his death in 1868, by a strange coincidence, the hymn selected for the funeral was the one I had first written—my earliest Gospel hymn:—

We are going, we are going  
To a home beyond the skies,  
Where the fields are robed in beauty,  
And the sunlight never dies.

In the "Poet's Corner" of one of her books, Fanny Crosby expressed a wish to meet Frances Ridley Havergal, to clasp her hand, and "to kneel together at the same shrine." Miss Havergal sent a beautiful reply to her, of which a part is as follows:—

Sweet blind singer over the sea,  
Tuneful and jubilant: how can it be  
That the songs of gladness, which float so far,  
As if they fell from the evening star,  
Are the notes of one who never may see  
"Visible music" of flower and tree;  
How can she sing in the dark like this?  
What is her fountain of light and bliss?

Her heart can see, her heart can see!  
Well may she sing so joyously!  
For the King Himself, in His tender grace,  
Hath shown her the brightness of His face.

Fanny Crosby has now composed over four thousand hymns, and she considers that the best she has written or ever will write is the one beginning,

Safe in the Arms of Jesus.

She closes this account of herself and her hymns thus: "I leave to others a critical characterization of my work. It is sufficient for me to say that I prize, as a great privilege, the opportunity the Lord has given me, through the exercise of my peculiar talent, to reach so many hearts. I shall always be grateful that He led me to that special work, and gave me a share, however humble, in the harvesting of precious souls."

## EACH DAY'S WORK.

By GOETHE.

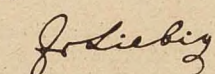
Wouldst thou fashion for thyself a seemly life?  
Then fret not over what is past and gone:  
And 'spite of all thou mayest have left behind,  
Yet act as if thy life were just begun;  
What each day wills, enough for thee to know;  
What each day wills the day itself will tell!  
Do thine own task, and be therewith content;  
What others do, that shalt thou fairly judge;  
Be sure that thou no brother-mortal hate,  
Then all besides leave to the master Power.

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

SIGNALS FROM OUR  
WATCH TOWER.

Princess Mary Duchess of Teck was a genuinely kind-hearted and charitable-natured woman, and several useful charities will lose actual service as well as nominal patronage by her death. "The Needlework Guild" and "The Princess Mary Village Homes" for training young girls as servants, may be specially mentioned as coming under this head. Never rich (by comparison with the demands of her station), the late Duchess is an illustration of how much good can be done by influence and by wise planning of organization by those willing to do all in their power for the good of mankind.

Notwithstanding the heavy and depressing character of the subjects selected for consideration at this year's Conference of the National Union of Women Workers, there was a very large attendance at the Croydon meeting; the proximity of London allowed of the attendance of a large contingent of Metropolitan workers. It may, perhaps, be asserted that the very meaning of the phrase "Women Workers" implies that only subjects of a charitable and a philanthropic nature will be discussed, and that,

therefore, it must follow that sickness, poverty and vice must be the main topics of consideration; but there is a large class of subjects affecting the duties and the well-being of women that have not to do with any of these painful and sectional interests. This year, pauperism, intemperance, imprisonment of the criminal, sick nursing, insanity and epilepsy followed each other as subjects, till one felt that there was grave danger of forgetting that none of these things are normal—but that there is a great sane, healthy, happily-occupied, honourable living community, which is, after all, by far the largest as well as the most important part of the world, but which has many conditions, legal and social, demanding amelioration, and deserving the attention of those who wish to have a share in making the world better for the next generation.

If the scheme should be carried into effect which has been broached for making the "Union of Women Workers" into the British "National Council of Women," it will be very necessary for its sphere of action and thought to be widened. This result would to some extent naturally follow from the change in its constitution which would have to be made. For a "National Council of Women" is a "Society of Societies"; that is to say, it is composed of representatives from all the societies which affiliate with the National Council, the only condition for



MRS. ALFRED BOOTH.\*

(The New President of the Women Workers.) affiliation being that a society shall be national and not merely local in its aims and constitution, and every affiliated society being entitled to direct representation by its president on the executive committee of the National Council, and being further represented by a special delegate on the committee of arrangements for the triennial meeting of the Council. This is as broad a base as can possibly be imagined, and results, of course, in a very catholic platform, taking in all sorts of subjects, and representing the work of comparatively small societies as well as large ones, and those organized by women of small means and little social influence as well as those "patronized" by the rich or Society women.

As an illustration of how this works out, take the meeting of the National Council of American Women in 1891. The meeting began on the Sunday with a religious service in which six ordained women

\* We are indebted for the use of these five portraits to the courtesy of the Editor of the *Lady's Pictorial*.

ministers took part. On the Monday, Miss Frances E. Willard, the president of the year, gave her address, and the general subject discussed was "Charities and Philanthropies," seven invited speakers dealing with as many different forms of charitable work. In the evening, the subject was "Women in the Churches," which was spoken to by representatives of every large denomination, the discussion commencing with the question of the status of the women in the various sects, and proceeding to a record of charities and missionary enterprises, conducted entirely by women, but in connection with religious bodies. The next morning "Temperance" held the field, and was divided under several heads, such as "Temperance Instruction in Schools," "The Temperance Hospital," "Temperance Literature," and "Temperance Speaking." The subject for the evening was "Education," and a brief account was given by ladies connected with various colleges and associations of the opportunities they offered, and short addresses were also given on "Co-education," "Married Women as Teachers in the Public Schools," and "School Savings-banks." On the third and last day, the morning was given to "The Political Status of Women," the papers read being on "The Matriarchate," or history of the times and places when the rule in states has been given over largely to the mothers of the race—a paper so interesting and curious that I am going to ask the consent of the author to reprint it here one day. The other papers were on "The Gains of the last three years in the Woman Movement," "The Relation of the Woman's Suffrage Movement to other Modern Reforms," "Women in the great Farmers' Trade Union," and an answer by the Rev. Anna Shaw, which she entitled "God's Women," to a then recently-published criticism of Woman's Suffrage on religious grounds. In the afternoon a number of miscellaneous papers were read, including such subjects as "Dress Reform," "Newspaper treatment of the Woman Question," "Legal Disabilities of Women," and the record was made of various societies for the employment, the protection and the organization of women. The final meeting in the evening continued the reports of women's societies, touching all manner of subjects, and ranging from "Women's Clubs," to the "Health Protective Association," and from "The King's Daughters" to the "Women's Press Association." It is to be remembered, however, that these American National Councils are only held every three years; it must needs be more difficult to find various and not too steadily depressing topics for each year.

Mrs. Creighton declined to be nominated as President of the "Women Workers" again, and this was wise. A permanent president deadens an association, putting too much power into the hands of the individual so chosen, and thus depriving other active and executive members of interest in the work. Mrs. Alfred Booth, who was elected to the post in Mrs. Creighton's place, is a Liverpool resident, active and able in public work there. She is, however, by birth an American lady, with all the characteristic energy, sisterliness and democratic good-feeling that makes the dear women of the great Republic so lovable, and so useful in

work. It is an advantage that Mrs. Booth is a Nonconformist, she being a member of the Presbyterian Church of which "Ian Maclaren" is pastor. There has been hitherto a feeling amongst many dissenting ladies that the "Union of Women Workers" was too exclusively managed by prominent Churchwomen; but it is, of course, meant to be quite unsectarian, and Mrs. Booth's presidency will help to dispel the idea to the contrary. She was at one time an active Liberal worker in Liverpool, but not being in favour of Home Rule gave up that form of work when Mr. Gladstone "split the party" on the Irish question. Mr. Charles Booth, whose studies of the London poor have gained a recognized position for him as an authority on the problems of poverty, is the brother-in-law of Mrs. Alfred Booth. The Booths are an old Lancashire family; Mrs. Booth herself comes from New York. Her manner is gracious and kindly, and she will be a popular and useful President for the Union.



MRS. CLARE GOSLETT.

Beside the daily meetings arranged as the programme of the Union, several "side-meetings" were held, with the consent of the local organizing committee, but without their actual responsibility. Of these, the most interesting and important were the Woman's Suffrage and "Ladies' National" meetings, both of which are reported elsewhere in our columns, and a meeting organized to introduce the work of the Home Reading Union. There was a meeting for mothers, and a conference of rescue workers, and the General Committee of the Union, on the motion of Mrs. Fawcett, considered the efforts now being made to re-introduce the C.D. Acts, and emphatically pronounced against the State making provision for the practice of vice in any shape or form.

Mrs. Temple, the wife of the Archbishop of Canterbury, whose country palace is at Addiscombe, near Croydon, looked at once capable and motherly as she welcomed the conference in her opening address. The fact that Mrs. Temple is not accustomed to addressing large meetings only gave a touch of gentleness to her voice and manner that contrasted pleasantly enough with the harsh and insistent tones and sledge-hammer assurance of manner of another and much-heard speaker. Would that all women who speak often in public would learn first to modulate their voices—and then not to let us hear too much of even

those cultivated tones! Mrs. Temple said that "in considering the work of the conference, it was as if a great offering of gifts were being made for the sake of helping one another—gifts of mental capacity, of bright intelligence, of choice words, of



MRS. TEMPLE.

powers of utterance on the part of speakers and teachers; and gifts, too, of patient hearing, willing ears, gentle hearts and hands of those who come to learn. Such a gathering would contain those who corresponded to the two sisters in the home at Bethany; and the Marthas and Marys of to-day could help each other now as then."

The meetings were only twice roused to any animation, the first time being at Mrs. Charles Mallet's impassioned plea, in the course of the discussion on the paper on Prison Visiting, read by Adeline Duchess of Bedford, for the girls condemned to pass the best years or the whole of their lives in prison for infanticide; and the second time being when Mrs. Sidney Webb endeavoured to do away with the practice of opening each day with public prayer. Mrs. Mallet pointed out the great inequality of sentences passed by



ADELINE DUCHESS OF BEDFORD.

judges in cases of infant murder, so that for exactly the same offence a woman may be condemned to a few months' or to a twenty years' imprisonment. If a long sentence is given, the first nine months are passed in solitary confinement, the horrors of which cannot be exaggerated; in fact, that period is proved by experience to be the longest that can be given without producing insanity. This is a terrible penalty for an act committed in a moment of half-madness from agonizing torture, unadvised by

a friendly hand very often, and embittered beyond imagination by the thought that lifelong shame is a further penalty incurred. Many of the poor girls, said the speaker, were thoroughly good girls by nature, and would have always been honourable members of society had they not been betrayed by men who escaped scot free, while every sort of penalty was heaped on the woman's head.

The point of this was emphasized by the fact just before mentioned by Mrs. Sheldon Amos, that the Prison Commissioners are now proposing to allow the special privileges of the "star class of first offenders," which have hitherto been denied, to men convicted of assaults on women "in which more than one person had taken part, or which had been accompanied by special cruelty," while those privileges were to be still refused to the receivers of stolen goods, thus making such extraordinary atrocities on women of less consequence in the eye of the law



MRS. CHARLES MALLET.

than dishonesty. The meeting was much moved by Mrs. Mallet's speech, and though there were great differences of opinion, the sense of the majority was most indubitably with the speaker in her plea for mercy, and for uniformity of mercy, in dealing with the hapless girl-mothers guilty of infanticide.

Mrs. Sidney Webb's resolution for making the meetings purely secular also aroused considerable feeling. It was proposed, not to the general public, but to the large meeting of the General Committee, and ran as follows:—"That in view of the fact that the Union invites the co-operation of ladies who are not Christians, the Executive Committee be requested to consider whether the item of 'prayers' should not be omitted from the formal agenda of business at conference and committee meetings, suitable arrangements for private prayer continuing to be made by the secretary for those who desire it." In moving this Mrs. Webb pointed out that when she joined the Union she had no idea that morning prayer was a necessary part of the day's procedure, and she felt that if this practice was to be continued she could not conscientiously take part in its proceedings. They must remember that in a large composite body such as theirs there was bound to be a great diversity of opinion. She was speaking on behalf of Jews, Catholics, Rationalists and Agnostics. Many of these



could not conscientiously take part in such a service. This was seconded by Mrs. Greenlees. A counter-proposition was proposed to the effect that the prayers should be continued, but that those who did not wish to take part in the service should have their seats reserved for them. After discussion, Mrs. Webb's motion was lost, the amendment being carried by a large majority.

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Pontefract W.L.A. is not to be left with the proud distinction of being the only one in the country that resented the sending to women Liberal workers a circular asking counsel on the Liberal policy which was signed by Mr. Labouchere. South Bucks has been equally clear-sighted and firm in remonstrance. Mrs. Thomas, the hon. sec. of the association, favours us with a copy of the reply of her Committee to the National Liberal Club circular:—

**SOUTH BUCKS WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.**

To the Hon. Secretary Political Committee, National Liberal Club.

"DEAR SIR,—I have delayed replying to your communication of July 30th until I could lay the matter before a general meeting of my Association.

"Writing now on their behalf, may I first express our astonishment that a communication of the kind, with the signature of Mr. H. Labouchere, M.P., attached, should have been addressed to a Women's Association? We say this, remembering as we do that the claims of women to be regarded as serious politicians have always hitherto been treated by that gentleman with ridicule and contempt.

"The following sentence in your circular has, moreover, caused us no little surprise: 'We should welcome any change that might secure to the many that are without votes their share in the making of the Great Council of the Nation.' In this great scheme of Reform we are heartily with you; but until that is effected it appears to us that any suggestions of ours, unsupported as they would be by voting power, would be of no practical importance whatever; and we therefore refrain from making any. I have the honour to be, dear sir, yours faithfully,

"ADA THOMAS, Hon. Sec. S.B.W.L.A.  
"Brook House, Woodburn, Bucks."

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The Convention of the World's Women's Christian Temperance Union was held in the last week of October, at Toronto, Canada. It was known beforehand that the question of the propriety of Lady Henry Somerset continuing to be Vice-President of the Society, now that she has declared herself in favour of state regulated vice for the army in India, was to be raised. The revelations as to the continuance of such laws there, and the degree to which the British Government was actually authorizing the most disgraceful of possible practices by its officials, was made by two "Round the World Missionaries" of the W.C.T.U., Dr. Kate Bushnell and Mrs. Andrew. Their evidence before the English Commission on the subject some three or four years ago compelled the withdrawal of the old legislation. These two ladies were startled to learn that the Vice-President of the W.C.T.U. had now ranged herself on the "regulations" side, and they announced their intention to withdraw from the Union in consequence. A pamphlet, in which they reply to Lady Henry's published "Letter to Lord George Hamilton," has been reprinted here by the Ladies' National Association, and can be had for one penny from 17, Tothill-street, Westminster. Details of the action that these two devoted

women have taken at the Convention, and the consequent debate, are not, of course, yet to hand, but the *Times* has the following telegram from its special correspondent, dated October 28th:—

At a meeting of the executive of the World's Women's Christian Temperance Union, held at Toronto this morning, Miss Willard presiding, the resignations of three round-the-world missionaries who have been among the bitterest opponents of the attitude taken up by Lady Henry Somerset were accepted. Their names are Mrs. Bushnell, Miss Bushnell, and Mrs. Kate Andrews. The reason assigned for their removal is their bitter attack upon Lady Henry Somerset. The ladies appointed in their places are Miss Jessie Ackerman, Mrs. Helen Bullock, of the United States, and Miss Vincent and Miss Cummings, of Australia. This is regarded as a decisive victory for the Lady Henry Somerset party.

**SIGNALS FROM FRIEND TO FRIEND.**

PRIVATE REPLIES.—Notwithstanding the notice which regularly appears that the Editor cannot answer correspondents privately, many letters are received asking for private replies. It is hardly possible to answer many of these, even under this heading, as the correspondents give no pseudonym for the purpose, and the Editor doubts whether they would like to have their own names printed in the paper, hence they go entirely unanswered, which is much regretted. I am pleased to answer any questions here (though it is not always possible to do so the next week), but must repeat that the time and labour involved in answering correspondents privately make it impossible to do this, even though a stamped envelope may be enclosed.

RUTH.—Thank you very much for sending so frequently for copies to distribute at meetings occurring in your neighbourhood. Many friends are kind enough to do this, and their help is much appreciated; but it happened that at the apparently large Northern Union meeting no one had remembered to do us this kindness, although the number of reports that reached us afterwards proved that a great many of our readers were present. I am extremely glad to have any quotations from the WOMAN'S SIGNAL copied in the local papers; I am only too pleased that the SIGNAL should be helped to do a missionary work for the woman's movement by diffusing the information and thoughts which it contains, though I think it only fair that when facts and ideas, and sometimes even words, are so copied, their source should be acknowledged; but of course I know that you would always quote the SIGNAL's name when you get anything from it in your local paper. You are a loyal and much valued friend, and be sure that I always read your letters with great pleasure.

MRS. S. A. STACEY.—The letter from the secretary of the Croydon W.L.A. was not overlooked, but merely had to wait its turn for insertion. I did not originally put in the letter sent by your association to the National Liberal Club because the greater part of it treated of matters not specially in the range of this paper, and upon which our readers will hold very varying opinions; but as your association thought that what they had said was misunderstood, I have now inserted it with pleasure. You will have gathered that my personal sympathies are entirely with the Pontefract Association, and that I think it is to be deplored that any Woman's Liberal Association consented to receive as serious a request for their counsel on political matters signed by Mr. Labouchere. If the Radical men at the National Liberal Club desire the support of women in any way it should be made clear to them that a condition precedent to obtaining it is that they should not have as their president any man who has spoken of women in politics in such a manner as Mr. Labouchere has done. Thank you very much for the kind things you say about the SIGNAL. I much appreciate all

your kind help. The paper is supplied to newsagents "on sale or return," and any who state the contrary should be asked the name of their wholesale agent to send to us, when we will see about it.

ONE WHO LOOKS FORWARD AND NOT BACKWARD.—There is not at present the least reason to fear the introduction of crinolines. The skirts this winter are even considerably narrower than they were made last spring, and there is no sign at all in London of the danger which you apprehend. You are quite right—it is difficult to get women to think and speak independently—but I do think that now that so many women work, no such foolish fashion as crinoline can possibly be reintroduced. "Bustles" are a different matter, a small light pad to hold the skirt out at the back is not objectionable—except as skirts at all are inconvenient and unhygienic garments; but the skirt being compulsory, a little pad at the waist does not add to its drawbacks.

EMELINE LE DUC.—There is no book that will give you a full account of the progress of women during the Queen's reign, but if you can get Miss Blackburn's "Handbook for Women Engaged in Political Work," and Mr. Pratt's "Pioneer Women in Victoria's Reign," published by George Newnes, Ltd., which we reviewed in these columns on June 10th last, the two together would give you enough material for your paper.

AN ACTIVE WORKER, in sending her annual subscription to the WOMAN'S SIGNAL by post, says so exactly what we think the SIGNAL should be taken by all women workers to be that we must quote a short piece of her letter:—

"I may say I subscribe under compulsion, as I do not care for women's papers. But yours was sent to me from the Suffrage Society, and then I took it in for a time, and left off for the vacation, but resumed it, as I found that for women who are really interested in their own cause it is a necessity; no other paper gives the same news, &c. on the subject, and without that they work in ignorance and in the dark. They must have it."

The following ladies are thanked very sincerely for kindly sending for copies of the SIGNAL to distribute at meetings:—Mrs. Beddow and Mrs. Stacey, National Union of Women Workers, Croydon; Mrs. C. Griffiths, Newport, Mon.; Miss C. L. Gill, Devonport; Mrs. Burd, Reading; Mrs. Rowena Baldwin, Shepherd's Bush; Mrs. E. Ellis, Batley; Mrs. Brignall, Brighton; Mrs. Martha Powell, President, B.W.T.A., West Bromwich.

MRS. S. HARBOUR, member of the Woolwich Board of Guardians, has kindly sent us her reply to a letter forwarded through this office from another friend asking what was the expense of starting and supporting the Brabazon scheme in a workhouse (on which Mrs. Harbour once gave us an article), and what was the most suitable work for the men in the workhouse. I am glad to have this column made the medium not only for communications from the editor to her kind correspondents, but also from one correspondent to another whenever the subject is likely to interest any considerable number of readers, and this will no doubt be the case with the letter which Mrs. Harbour was so kind as to write to the inquirer, as follows:—

"DEAR MADAM.—In reply to your letter, re Brabazon Employment Society, I may say that when the scheme was started in the Woolwich Workhouse we borrowed £12 from Lady Meath's Organization Fund. That amount covered the initial cost. Since that was spent, the sale of articles made has kept the scheme going. At the first start two pupils are as much as each lady can manage, to produce good results, but as they become proficient others can be taken on, although the pupils will always require a certain amount of supervision. I should say ten ladies are quite sufficient to begin with. It is usual to devote one afternoon a week to teaching; when the pupils are sufficiently advanced to be trusted with their work it is left with them to do at any time they please. It is a good plan to provide them with bags in which to keep it. We are only allowed to engage in the work those who are exempt from the work of the establishment. Hence in the "House" itself our workers (men and women) are only the old and decrepit. The best workers are in the Infirmary where the young men can be employed; they do the same kind of work as the women, viz.—various kinds of knitted and crochet articles, netting, crewl work, honiton lace (women only), basset and bent ironwork (men only). It is very desirable that the matron should be interested in the scheme as she can do so much to make things work smoothly.—The Central Organising Secretary, Brabazon Employment Scheme, 33, Lancaster-park, Richmond, will send you literature on the subject, and help you to start the branch. In our own case we had a secretary from a neighbouring branch to discuss the scheme with the lady helpers at first."

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

FOUNDED 1872.

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

The Society seeks to achieve this object:—

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

Treasurer—MRS. RUSSELL COOKE.

Subscriptions and donations should be sent to Mrs. CHARLES BAXTER, Secretary, Central Office, Albany Buildings, 39, Victoria-street, S.W. Subscribers are entitled to receive the Annual Report and copies of all literature. Cheques or Post Office Orders may be made payable to the Treasurer or the Secretary.

**FORMATION OF THE "NATIONAL UNION OF WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES."**

Those of our readers who were present at the Society's last Council Meeting, which was held at Westminster Town Hall, in April of this year, will remember that a resolution was then passed unanimously, authorizing the Executive Committee to negotiate with the other committees with a view to forming a union among the Suffrage Societies in the United Kingdom.

It will also be remembered that towards the close of 1895 a combined committee was formed consisting of representatives from this Society, from the Great College Street Society, and from the Manchester Society, and that later on representatives from Bristol and Edinburgh joined the Committee.

The working of this Committee was found to be of such practical utility in facilitating combined action for Parliamentary work and in other ways, that it was felt very desirable, by the members of the various committees, that this body should be placed on a more definite and permanent footing.

Our Committee have now great pleasure in informing the readers of our report that a union has been formed among the chief societies that work for Woman's Suffrage as their sole object; the title of the union is "The National Union of Woman's Suffrage Societies."

It has been deemed desirable that a slight modification should be made in our name and those of some of the other societies, with a view to facilitating work and rendering matters as simple as possible for the outside world. We have therefore altered our name to "The Central and Western Society for Woman's Suffrage." The Central Committee of the National Society at Great College-street is now "The Central and East of England Society for Woman's Suffrage." The Manchester National Society has now become "The North of England Woman's Suffrage Society." In each case the name indicates the area of country which was allotted to the respective societies at the Birmingham Conference, and in which they intend to conduct their principal work.

The portion of the country in which this society will in future chiefly work is:—Berkshire, Derbyshire, Dorsetshire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire, part of Shropshire, part of Staffordshire, part of Warwickshire, Wiltshire, part of Worcestershire, and North and South Wales. This will, however, in no way affect the right or the desire of our society to affiliate organizations of women of a political or social nature which resolve to work for Woman's Suffrage, in whatever part of the country they may be situated. All the rules regarding such affiliations will remain in force.

**MEETINGS.**

CROYDON.

In connection with the Conference of the N.U.W.W. a most successful meeting in favour of Woman's Suffrage was held on Wednesday, October 27th, in the Public Hall, George-street, Croydon. The chair was taken by Lady Grove.

The Countess of Carlisle moved: "That, in the opinion of this meeting of women workers, the highest interests of women imperatively demand the extension to them of the Parliamentary Suffrage." Lady Carlisle's interesting and earnest speech brought out clearly the futility of women trying to get reforms carried out, if they did not at the same time try to get that vote which alone would give them a voice in the making of the laws. The same note was struck by nearly all the speakers. Mrs. Wynford Philipps seconded the resolution, which was supported by Mrs. Morgan-Browne, Mrs. Charles Mallet and Mrs. Philip (one of the Vice-Presidents of the N.U.W.W.). The resolution was carried, with only one dissentient. A vote of thanks to the chair, proposed by Mrs. Leeds, terminated what was felt by all to be a most helpful meeting.

HAYWARD'S HEATH.

A meeting was held at the Public Hall on October 8th. Mrs. Montefiore, a member of our Executive Committee, presided, and Mrs. Morgan-Browne, another member of our Executive Committee, was the principal speaker, moving the usual resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Macer Wright, J.P., of Hastings, and was carried unanimously. A vote of thanks to the speakers and chairwoman was passed, on the proposition of Mrs. W. Stevens, seconded by Mrs. Payne, of Cuckfield.

EASTBOURNE.

On October 1st a public meeting was held at Eastbourne, where Mrs. Morgan-Brown delivered an interesting address on "The Position and Policy of Women in the Present Age." The present age was dominated, Mrs. Morgan-Browne contended, by the spirit of competition—a competition which was an enemy of the human race, and which would have to be boldly faced and overthrown. If they were as women to engage effectively in remedying the condition of things they must act in combination, and this principle of combination was admirably realised in their Women's Liberal Associations. Reviewing the position of women in the labour world, she contended that men should welcome them as co-operators and fellow-workers and not as rivals. A vote of thanks was accorded to Mrs. Morgan-Browne for her address, on the motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Quirke.

PRINCETOWN.

A meeting was held on September 15th on the occasion of the inauguration of the W.L.A. there. As the association was anxious to open on sound suffrage principles, Miss Alison Garland attended for this society and addressed the meeting.

At the International Congress of Women in Brussels, Mrs. Morgan-Browne and Mrs. Montefiore, who kindly undertook to represent this society, spoke on woman's suffrage in French.

The following letter has been received by a member of our Executive Committee, who is also an officer in the British Women's Temperance Association. We quote it in full for the benefit of our readers:—

BI-YEARLY REPORT OF THE W.C.T.U. OF AUSTRALASIA, FRANCHISE DEPARTMENT.

Dear Sister,—At the last Australasian Convention, held in Queensland, in April, 1897, I was appointed Australasian Superintendent of Franchise, vice our much valued Lady Windeyer, whose return to the colonies was so uncertain. The franchise question being so important, and present action so necessary, it was thought best to elect another superintendent.

I feel how difficult my task is, following so able, as well as energetic, a worker. The report I send will be drawn largely from Lady Windeyer's report for the last two years' work. In the report for 1895 you had full information re the passing of the Suffrage Bill in SOUTH

AUSTRALIA, so that I shall go on from that, in speaking of our work.

We feel here that now we have the vote, the greatest work has to be done in seeing that the right use is made of it. We must remember that our opponents have also doubled their votes, and, as many do not care whether they vote at all, a great deal of educational work has still to go on. Then again, as soon as a woman has a vote she counts one, and at once becomes subject to attacks by the public press, the Licensed Victuallers' Association, and all whose interests are endangered by those who work for righteousness and justice. We have, however, every reason to take heart and go on. All through the colonies continued effort and interest is being shown in the question.

NEW SOUTH WALES reports increased activity. On June 5th, a very large deputation, comprising nine M.P.'s, eight ministers of religion, many members of the W.C.T.U., Woman's Suffrage League, and "The Woman's Crusade," waited on the acting Premier, Mr. Brunker, and asked that the franchise might be granted to women in commemoration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The deputation was well received, and a promise given by the acting Premier that he would consult his colleagues on the subject. He hoped, in the interests of society, that they would view the matter favourably. It being so important, he felt it ought to be taken up by the Government rather than by a private member.

Our Australasian President, Mrs. Nicholls, has spoken at six meetings on the franchise question since her return from Queensland, and we believe that the time is not far distant when women will be able to secure the right they claim to work "For God, and Home, and Humanity."

QUEENSLAND.—Increasing interest is shown. A strong feeling exists that the repeal of the horrible C.D. Acts, and other important reforms, cannot be secured until women get the franchise. Meetings have been held, and petitions circulated. Ten towns have been visited by the Australasian President, and the franchise has been brought before the people.

VICTORIA.—As yet we have not secured our long-hoped-for right, but we still work, and are trying to get the Bill for woman's franchise brought before Parliament, without any other measure being a part of it, as has been previously the case. At a deputation of the "Womanhood Suffrage League," the acting Premier, Mr. Isaacs, promised to do what he could to help them. He did not, however, attach as much importance to the "One man, one vote" measure not being united with the franchise as we women do.

Women are taking their places side by side with men in our hospitals as doctors, and on school boards. The "Woman's Suffrage League" inquires into the political opinion of every candidate for boards of advice, municipal, legislative, or federal honours. Three good meetings have been held during the Australasian President's visit to Victoria, and much interest is awakened. A clause has been added to the Commonwealth Bill giving to women the franchise for the Federal Parliament. It was carried by 43 to 16. This, if carried, means that the other colonies will soon grant to women the same privilege.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The Queen's assent having been given to the Woman's Suffrage Bill in February, 1895, and our House of Assembly elections taking place in April, 1896, we at once set to work to get the women to place their names on the electoral roll. In a short time 59,166 were registered as electors. Of these, 39,341 voted, all being 21 years of age and over, and their names having been six months on the roll. A platform of principles was adopted, and well advocated. Mock elections, to teach the women how to vote, and meetings, were held. A list of questions was sent to every candidate, most of whom replied courteously. An all day prayer meeting was held on the day preceding the elections. The results were in favour of social reform to a large extent. The percentage of men who voted was 66.38, women, 66.44, total percentage, 66.38 men and women. The elections were the most



orderly ever held, and fewer informal votes were cast. Hotels and public-houses were not used as polling places out of respect for the women.

We have not the power to do as much work in the Legislative Council elections owing to property qualifications, every man or woman having to pay an annual rental of £25, or own £50 worth of freehold property, in order to have the vote.

At the elections of the Federal Delegates we again voted. Miss C. H. Spence (so well known to all temperance workers, in the Old, as well as in the New, World) stood as a candidate. She secured 7,000 votes, but, not being a woman of either political party, did not gain a seat.

An effort was made, during the sitting of this Convention, to prevent South Australian women using their franchise because it gave them an advantage over the women in other colonies who were not voters, but a clause was inserted, and carried, retaining our rights, so that we have a part in helping to federate Australia.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—The women here, as elsewhere, feel the importance of getting the franchise, and lose no opportunity of strengthening their position all along the line. The subject has been debated in Parliament, and received good support.

TASMANIA.—As in other places, the truth and justice of the cause are making themselves felt. There is a growing conviction that women should concern themselves with the laws which relate to the education of the young, also that there is nothing more important than their protest against the exclusion which denies to our sex the rights and sacred duties of citizenship.

(Signed) JULIA M. HOLDER,  
Australasian Supt. Franchise.  
South Terrace, Adelaide, South Australia.

MARIE LOUISE BAXTER, Secretary.

## MARY WOLLSTONE-CRAFT'S

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

CHAPTER V.—(Continued.)

OBSERVATIONS ON THE STATE OF DEGRADATION TO WHICH WOMAN IS REDUCED BY VARIOUS CAUSES.

To fulfil domestic duties much resolution is necessary, and a serious kind of perseverance that requires a more firm support than emotions, however lively and true to nature. To give an example of order, the soul of virtue, some austerity of behaviour must be adopted, scarcely to be expected from a being who, from its infancy, has been made the weathercock of its own sensations. Whoever rationally means to be useful must have a plan of conduct; and, in the discharge of the simplest duty, we are often obliged to act contrary to the present impulse of tenderness or compassion. Severity is frequently the most certain, as well as the most sublime proof of affection; and the want of this power over the feelings, and of that

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lofty, dignified affection, which makes a person prefer the future good of the beloved object to a present gratification, is the reason why so many fond mothers spoil their children, and has made it questionable whether negligence or indulgence be most hurtful; but I am inclined to think that the latter has done most harm.

Mankind seem to agree that children should be left under the management of women during their childhood. Now, from all the observation that I have been able to make, women of sensibility are the most unfit for this task, because they will infallibly, carried away by their feelings, spoil a child's temper. The management of the temper, the first, and most important branch of education, requires the sober steady eye of reason; a plan of conduct equally distant from tyranny and indulgence: yet these are the extremes that people of sensibility alternately fall into, always shooting beyond the mark.

Most of the evils of life arise from a desire of present enjoyment that outruns itself. The obedience required of women in the marriage state comes under this description; the mind, naturally weakened by depending on authority, never exerts its own powers, and the obedient wife is thus rendered a weak indolent mother. Or, supposing that this is not always the consequence, a future state of existence is scarcely taken into the reckoning when only negative virtues are cultivated. For, in treating of morals, particularly when women are alluded to, writers have too often considered virtue in a very limited sense, and made the foundation of it solely worldly utility; nay, a still more fragile base has been given to this stupendous fabric, and the wayward fluctuating feelings of men have been made the standard of virtue. Yes, virtue as well as religion, has been subjected to the decisions of taste.

It would almost provoke a smile of contempt if the vain absurdities of man did not strike us on all sides, to observe, how eager men are to degrade the sex from whom they pretend to receive the chief pleasure of life; and I have frequently with full conviction retorted Pope's sarcasm on them; or, to speak explicitly, it has appeared to me applicable to the whole human race. A love of pleasure or sway seems to divide mankind, and the husband who lords it in his little harem thinks only of his pleasure or his convenience.

Numberless are the arguments, to take another view of the subject, brought forward with a show of reason, because supposed to be deduced from nature, that men have used, morally and physically, to degrade the sex. I must notice a few.

The female understanding has often been spoken of with contempt, as arriving sooner at maturity than the male. I shall not answer this argument by alluding to the early proofs of reason, as well as genius, in Cowley, Milton, and Pope,\* but only appeal to experience to decide whether young men, who are early introduced into company (and examples now abound), do not acquire the same precocity. So notorious is this fact, that the bare mentioning of it must bring before people, who at all mix in the world, the idea of a number of swaggering apes of men, whose understandings are narrowed by being brought into the society of men when they ought to have been spinning a top or twirling a hoop.

It has also been asserted, by some naturalists, that men do not attain their full growth and strength till thirty, but that women arrive at maturity by twenty. I apprehend that they

\* Many other names might be added.

reason on false ground, led astray by the male prejudice, which deems beauty the perfection of woman—mere beauty of features and complexion, the vulgar acceptance of the word, whilst male beauty is allowed to have some connection with the mind. Strength of body, and that character of countenance which the French term a *physionomie*, women do not acquire before thirty, any more than men.

At twenty the beauty of both sexes is equal; but the libertinism of man leads him to make the distinction. The French, who admit more of mind into their notions of beauty, give the preference to women of thirty. I mean to say that they allow women to be in their most perfect state, when vivacity gives place to reason, and to that majestic seriousness of character, which marks maturity;—or, the resting point. In youth, till twenty, the body shoots out; till thirty, the solids are attaining a degree of density; and the flexible muscles, growing daily more rigid, give character to the countenance; that is, they trace the operations of the mind with the iron pen of fate, and tell us not only what powers are within, but how they have been employed.

It is proper to observe that animals who arrive slowly at maturity are the longest lived, and of the noblest species. Men cannot, however, claim any natural superiority from the grandeur of longevity; for in this respect nature has not distinguished the male.

(To be continued.)

## THE BEVERAGES OF THE PEOPLE.

LET us glance at the ordinary breakfast beverages of the people.

*Tea*, even if properly infused, is only a stimulant. It is not a nourishing beverage, and as usually decocted is washy, trashy, and deleterious.

*Coffee*, even when of the best, and prepared in perfection as you find in the East, where Mahomedans are forbidden by their religion to use alcohol, is only a *cardiac* or heart stimulant. It increases for a short time the power of that organ without being in any sense of the word a nourishing beverage.

*Cocoa*.—The ordinary cocoa is not by any means a nourishing beverage. Its good qualities either in the English or foreign varieties are smothered in starch and sugar that induce and promote indigestion.

*Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa* is a nourishing beverage, containing four great restorers of vitality, Cocoa, Kola, Hops, and Malt. It stands out as a builder up of tissues, a promoter of vigour, and in short it has all the factors which make robust health. Being a deliciously flavoured beverage it pleases the most fastidious palate. Its active powers of diastase give tone to the stomach, and promote the flow of gastric juice, and however indigestible the food taken with it at any meal, it acts as a solvent and assimilative.

All the leading medical journals recommend *Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa*, and *Dr. G. H. Haslam* writes:—"It gives me great pleasure in bearing testimony to the value of *Vi-Cocoa*, a mixture of Malt, Hops, Kola and Caracas Cocoa Extract. I consider it the very best preparation of the kind in the market, and, as a nourishing drink for children and adults, the finest that has ever been brought before the public. As a general beverage it excels all previous preparations. No house should be without it."

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As an unparalleled test of merit, a dainty sample tin of *Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa* will be sent free on application to any address, if when writing (a postcard will do) the reader will name the *WOMAN'S SIGNAL*.

## WHAT TO WEAR.

### GLOVE FITTING BAZAR PATTERNS.

(Hints by May Manton.)



7072—Ladies' Princess Slip.

The very best and most practical lining for thin materials for evening dresses takes the form of a Princess slip, which is complete in itself, and allows of wearing over it gowns of different colours if the wearer be so minded. Skirts and waists are made for the same purpose, but as they entail both additional thickness at the waist and danger of parting, this slip is greatly preferred. It should be fitted with care, the waist boned, and the skirt stiffened at the bottom. It will be enhanced by the addition of reeds in the back widths, which keep it in perfect shape and allow the thin outer skirt to fall free in soft, graceful folds. The transparent over-dress can of course be made with bodice and skirt separately and a waistbelt. The materials best suited to the purpose of the slip are taffeta, nearsilk and lawn, all of which can be found in the prevailing colours of the season. The slip is cut in five pieces—front, back, side-back gore, upper and under of sleeve. It is fitted by means of a centre seam and side back seams, arm and double bust darts, and is closed invisibly at the centre front by means of hooks

and eyes. It may be low-necked, with only strap sleeves; high-necked, with elbow sleeves; or high-necked with no sleeves, as one may prefer. The boning should be done with care, the seam being stitched twice to form a casing, as any evidence of stitching on the outside would spoil the effect.

As illustrated, the material is taffeta, in leaf-green. The trimming at the bottom is a bias frill lace-edged, and the neck and arm-holes are finished with lace of the same sort.

To make this slip for a lady in the medium size will require twelve yards of 22-inch material. The pattern, No. 7072, is cut in sizes for a 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40-inch bust measure. Patterns will be mailed on receipt of 6d. in stamps by the English Agency (Department W.), Bazar Pattern Co., Belper.

## LADIES' "TAILOR-MADES."

A GLANCE AT MR. GUTERBOCK'S.

THE tailor-made gown seems the only possible wear at the present time of year, when neatness and good cut are the principal things to be desired. Frills and furbelows look out of place during dull and foggy weather, and there is an air of comfort about the tailor gown which has a cheering effect even on the worst November day. The colours of the cloths are getting brighter; a great deal of braiding is employed on the bodices. Blue takes the lead in colours just at present (so I am informed by Mr. Guterbock, one of our leading ladies' tailors), purple coming second in popular favour. Every shade of blue is fashionable—Imperial, Prussian and St. Patrick's blue, the colour of the celebrated Order.

One of the prettiest dresses at Mr. Guterbock's show-rooms, 16, New Burlington-street, Regent-street, was in Venetian cloth in a deep shade of blue, made with a Russian bodice fastened with Wedgewood buttons, and finished off with a narrow-braided belt, with a buckle of blue enamel. The revers were of astrachan, and the bodice was completed by a basque cut out in tabs. Two stylish jackets and skirts, made for two sisters, were carried out in fine face-cloth, one in blue and one in green, the jackets made with semi-fitting backs, with velvet revers braided in silver, with a high caracule collar. Very novel was a sac-coat of dust-coloured cloth made with a skirt to match, the entire costume being lined throughout with heliotrope silk. The collar was made of white cloth, embroidered in military braid, and cut in two deep points in a very novel fashion. The same idea was carried out in green and brown with great success. Mr. Guterbock is making all his sac-coats with skirts to match. Grey cloth dresses, with Russian jackets, much embroidered with black, are considered to be in very good style, whilst red and black tweed is a favourite mixture, particularly in shepherd's check. In variety of designs there seems no end, and Mr.

Guterbock's *clientèle* have a wonderful choice both of materials and styles. I can say from experience that the fit is excellent, and the workmanship beautifully neat. I must not conclude without a reference to the Safety riding-habit and Burlington cycling skirt, both extremely ingenious in design, and very popular with Mr. Guterbock's large circle of lady customers. CHIFFON.



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## Our Open Columns.

## WOMEN'S SLATE CLUBS.

To the Editor of the WOMAN'S SIGNAL.

MADAM,—May I ask the favour of a little space in the WOMAN'S SIGNAL in order to put before your readers the great sphere of usefulness opened up by the establishment of a slate club for women.

For the last two years we have seen the working of such a club in connection with the Tulse Hill and West Norwood Branch of the B.W.T.A., and the results are eminently satisfactory. The present number of enrolled members is 211, as against 89 last year. It is an encouragement to thrift, a sick benefit society and a burial club all rolled into one, with this advantage, that after ensuring these benefits throughout the year, each member receives at Christmas nearly the whole of the money she has paid in. Several of the women have become abstainers and have also joined our working women's branch, as a direct result of this work.

Now is the time to arrange for the formation of new clubs, it being desirable that they should start with the New Year.

I shall be pleased to supply a copy of rules, together with all necessary information on receipt of stamped envelope.—I am, sincerely yours, (MRS.) M. R. EDMONDS, Hon. Sec. 45, Chatsworth-road, West Norwood, S.E.

## WHAT A DELICIOUS FRUITY ODOUR

This is the remark made by a lady when visiting one of her friends. The hostess was engaged in making jellies, and she replied, "Yes! I had just been thinking the same myself, as I stirred these blocks of jelly in a basin of hot water." Such remarks as the foregoing are of constant occurrence in households where Chivers' Gold Medal Jellies are used. Naturally enough, because the jellies are flavoured with the delicious juices of freshly gathered raspberries and strawberries, grown on their own farms by Messrs. Chivers' and Sons, or as in the case of orange and lemon, as the juices are expressed from the best ripe imported fruit. Prepared in silver-lined pans, and handled by silver-lined ladies, no possible contamination of impurity can detract from Chivers' Gold Medal Jellies. They are so nutritious, wholesome and digestible as to warrant their inclusion as a regular item in the domestic dietary. It is very rare indeed that an article comes to the consumer with such hallmarks of delicacy, flavour, purity of material and cleanliness of manufacture as are possessed by Chivers' Gold Medal Jellies. Sold by Grocers and Stores in packets. Half-pints, Pints and Quarts, 2½d., 4½d. and 8d. A free sample will be sent on receipt of postcard, mentioning this paper. Address, S. Chivers & Sons, Histon, Cambridge.

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## Our Private Advertisement Column.

## READ CAREFULLY.

TERMS:—Sixpence per insertion for the first twelve words, and one penny for each further four words; four insertions for the price of three if no change made in words. Figures count as one word, if in a group. Advertisements should reach us by Monday morning for the same week's issue. We reserve the right to refuse any advertisement without giving a reason. In replying to an advertisement in this column, when the advertiser's own address is not given, but only an office number, write your letter to the advertiser and enclose it in an envelope; close this, and write (where the stamp should go), on the outside, the letter and number of the advertisement, and nothing more. Put the reply or replies thus sealed down in another envelope, together with a penny stamp for each letter you want sent on, loose in your envelope to us; address the outer envelope "WOMAN'S SIGNAL Office, 80 Maiden Lane, Covent Garden, London, W.C.," stamp to the proper weight, and post. We will then take out and address and forward your replies to the advertiser, and further communications will be direct between you both. Postcards will not be forwarded.

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## ECONOMICAL COOKERY.

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INVALID COOKERY (continued).

## WHEY

is an extremely refreshing drink. Boil together equal quantities of sweet milk and buttermilk—the latter is difficult to get except in the country. Then strain to remove the curds, which though tasty are indigestible. When buttermilk cannot be had we may make

## RENNET WHEY.

It is made by putting one teaspoonful of rennet in half-pint of fresh, warm milk, and half teaspoonful of castor sugar. Stir it and let it stand near the fire until a curd is formed. Strain.

## ALUM WHEY

is sometimes given in cases of diarrhoea, but one should be careful of the amount used, as alum is given for an emetic. I have seen a recipe in which one drachm was given as the quantity, and apparently then the whey might be all taken at once, which would never do; if one drachm is used of powdered alum to one pint of boiling milk and strained, a teaspoonful at a time would be quite sufficient.

## TREACLE POSSET

is very good for a cold. Boil half a pint of milk, and pour into it two tablespoonfuls of treacle. Boil it till the curd separates, strain it, re-boil the posset, and serve hot with sippets of toast.

Another good drink for a cold is

## LINSEED TEA.

Wash one ounce of linseed, and put it into a saucenpan with a quart of cold water, half an ounce of liquorice, and the same of sugar candy. Simmer for an hour and strain it. A tablespoonful of this at a time is sufficient.

I must now give some recipes for the feeding of convalescent patients, and first of all of meat dishes. A very good way of cooking a

## MUTTON CHOP

is as follows:—Take all the meat off an uncooked chop, removing all fat. Mince very finely, and put it into a jar with a teaspoonful of water, a little pepper and salt, three drops of ketchup (if allowed). Cover the jar and place it in a saucenpan of boiling water, which keep simmering for half an hour. Pile it up on small rounds of toast. This is very good and nourishing, and particularly easy for a patient to eat. Meat should always be nicely cut up for an invalid.

## CHICKEN

is of course very much recommended, but patients soon tire of it.

We shall suppose that on the first day it is nicely boiled, and that the patient has eaten half the breast. The next day the rest of the breast might be treated as follows:—

Pound it in a mortar and pass it through a sieve, add half an egg, pepper and salt to taste, the merest dust of mace, and one dessert spoonful of sauce or a little cream. Pour into a buttered cup, twist a piece of paper round the top, and steam for half an hour.

## FRICASSEE

might be made of the rest of the chicken. Make a sauce of half an ounce of flour, the same of butter, and half a pint of milk and stock mixed, season to taste. When boiled, heat the chicken in it, which should be cut into nice pieces, removing all skin and bone. Serve with sippets of toast.

## BEEF STEAK

may be treated in the way I have mentioned for the mutton chop.

## PIGEON STEWED IN MILK

is rather nice. Prepare a young bird and lay it in a stewpan containing equal parts of milk and white stock seasoned and boiling. No fat must be in it. Simmer the pigeon in this for half an hour, then take it out, thicken the sauce with a little rice flour, boil and pour over the bird.

If the patient likes

## SWEETBREADS

the best way to cook them is by braizing. Of course veal sweetbreads are considered the best, but lamb sweetbreads are very good also. The heart sweetbread is the best. It is very digestible, owing to the presence of the pancreatic juice in it. Prepare a bed of vegetables in a stewpan, cover with water or stock and bring to the boil. Place the sweetbread (which should first of all be blanched) on the top of the vegetables and allow to steam gently for one hour. Then take out the sweetbread and with some of the liquor make a sauce to pour over it.

It might also be stewed with advantage in milk or stock. Have the liquid boiling, to which may be added a pinch of mace, place the sweetbread in it and allow to simmer very gently for half an hour. Then take it out, thicken the gravy, add a tablespoonful of cream, and if liked a few drops of lemon juice, season it, dish the sweetbread on a piece of toast and pour the same round.

## FISH CREAM

is a light and nourishing food. Rub six ounces of raw fish through a wire sieve. Add to this a slice of bread which has been soaked in boiling water (the water afterwards squeezed out), and two tablespoonfuls of cream. Season with pepper and salt, add two yolks of eggs beaten; lastly, the two whites beaten to a stiff froth. Pour into a mould with buttered paper on the top, and steam for half an hour. A sauce may be served with this, but it should be of a simple kind.

## OYSTERS

are best eaten raw, there is a self-digesting ferment in the liver which is entirely destroyed by heat. It is of the utmost importance that they should be good and fresh, not opened till the moment they are going to be used. The old rule that they are in season during every month of the year which contains the letter "r" should be observed. Oysters contain very little nutrition, but it is a great matter if they tempt the appetite, and may induce the patient to eat some nice thin brown bread and butter at the same time.

## CREAM RICE SOUP

is a pleasant change from beef tea. Cut one pound of lean veal or mutton into small pieces, and place in a saucenpan with one quart of cold water, eight peppercorns and two cloves tied in a muslin bag. Cover the saucenpan and simmer gently for two hours, rub all through a sieve removing the muslin bag. With kitchen paper take away any fat which may be floating on the top. Return to the saucenpan and thicken with a dessertspoonful of cream of rice blended in milk. Season with pepper and salt.

## CELERY SOUP

is much liked. In one quart of white stock boil two heads of celery, cut up and carefully washed, till tender. Rub through a wire sieve. In the saucenpan melt one ounce of butter, absorb into it one ounce of flour, add half-a-pint of milk gradually, allowing it to boil up, and add the soup. Season it properly.

I must say a good word for

## INVALIDS' MUTTON BROTH.

which may be made very nourishing by means of the barley which is in it. Take 1 lb. of scrag end of neck of mutton, remove all fat, cut up into small joints, put into a saucenpan with the quart of cold water, a little salt, 8 peppercorns and 2 cloves tied in a muslin bag, 1 carrot, 1 turnip. Allow this to simmer for two hours, skimming well. Then strain the broth and allow it to get quite cold, so that you can easily remove every particle of fat which may be on the top. Then return it to the saucenpan, add half ounce of pearl barley, and allow it to cook till done. Season the broth and just before serving add one teaspoonful of chopped parsley.

THE Cherokee form of marriage is, perhaps, the simplest and most expressive to be found among modern people. Man and maiden, their courtship happily ended, simply join hands over a running stream, emblematic of the wish that their future shall flow on in the same channel, and the thing is done.

## EDINBURGH MAN'S ADVENTURE IN VENEZUELA.

The following is an extract from a letter to a member of the Edinburgh Constabulary, from a friend in the police force of British Guiana:—

"We were out two weeks ago. The Venezuelans fled on our approach like a drove of sheep." We found their camp deserted, except for one wounded officer. For several nights in succession we had been annoyed by them.

"The half-dead man found in their camp was truly a pitiful object. Accidentally wounded by a companion's gun some days previous, he had lost an enormous quantity of blood, and when we arrived he was in an extraordinary weak condition: the marvel was that he had lived so long. He received no medical attendance from his countrymen, and on learning of our approach they fled and left him. We were anxious to do what we could for the poor fellow, but our medical knowledge was as limited as our supply of medicines. When at our wits' end, I recollected that before leaving Georgetown, Polly insisted upon my taking with me a box of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. As you will remember, before you left the Colony, Polly was brought into a precarious state of health through these colonial fevers. The doctors had prescribed time after time with no effect, and at last (I think to hide their failure) they ordered her home by the first mail. It was then that some persons recommended her to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

"I was always, as you know, a most determined opponent of advertised medicines, and although Polly was in a month transformed by their use from a delicate, pale-faced looking ghost, to as rosy-cheeked and buxom a woman as you would find in the Colony, I was still reluctant to attribute the pleasing change to the real cause. It was, therefore, with some misgivings, and because we had no other remedy, that I began to treat our weak and bloodless Venezuelan with Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. I must, however, honestly admit that my unbelief in the efficacy of this wonderful medicine received a severe shock. Within one week our patient was a new man, and I can say without exaggeration that you could almost see an improvement after each dose of Pills. So marvellous indeed was the cure, that everyone in camp now firmly believes in Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and from my own knowledge I can safely say that in the case of persons weakened and reduced by colonial fevers, loss of blood, and general weakness, there is nothing to equal them. You will no doubt admit, that when I, who was such a bitter opponent of patent medicines in general, say this, there must be good ground for it.—Yours very truly, JAMES SHAW."

More bloodless, anæmic people have been made strong, hungry, energetic, cheerful men and women by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People than by any other means. They are the finest tonic in the world. But you must get the real Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, or it is of no use. Look for the full name—Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. There must be no missing words. In case of doubt, it is better to send to Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, 46, Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C. enclosing the price, 2s. 9d.; or six boxes 13s. 9d. They are praised by all classes of people, from the lowest to the highest in the land, for the way in which they have cured paralysis, loco motor ataxia, rheumatism, and sciatica; also all diseases arising from impoverishment of the blood, scrofula, rickets, chronic erysipelas, consumption of the bowels and lungs, anæmia, pale and sallow complexion, general muscular weakness, loss of appetite, palpitations, pains in the back, nervous headache and neuralgia, early decay, all forms of female weakness, and hysteria. These Pills are a tonic, not a purgative.

The Local Government Board approve of the proposal of the Battersea Vestry to appoint a female sanitary inspector, whose duty it will be to inspect laundries, &c., where female labour is employed.

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