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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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THE WOMAN'S SIGNAL

A WEEKLY RECORD AND REVIEW FOR LADIES.

VOL. VII., No. 178.]

MAY 27, 1897.

One Penny Weekly.

A Book of the Hour.

LADY GREVILLE'S NEW NOVEL.*

LADY GREVILLE has got hold of a very original idea for the basis of her new novel. Her heroine, who lives alone in a pretty country house, makes up her mind to open her doors to a party of strangers, who are to be obtained by means of advertisement, and to be prepared to admit that they are failures in life! The advertisement worded this idea as prettily as possible: "Educated people, for whom life has proved too hard, can find a home, rest, and a new start, by applying to O. L., The Home, Hadley." In response to this, letters arrived in shoals. The consumptive curate; the governess who could not find a new situation; the seamstress brought up in luxury and reduced to supporting her mother and her sister on the proceeds of her needle, under which task her health had broken down; the poet who was a cripple, and the artist who could not sell his pictures; all appealed for the "rest and the new start" to the unknown advertiser. The selection was a work of great difficulty. Mrs. Landor had made up her mind to begin with a few only until she saw how the plan answered, and accordingly she selected but four—a Miss Bedford who had tried to keep a school, writing, and the stage, and failed in all; a painter; a delicate governess; and a doctor whose health had given way after passing his examinations brilliantly. Her undertaking had not been favourably received by her friends:—"A Home for Failures, what a strange ideal!" said Rachel.

"Not a bit of it," responded Oriza. "Don't you see, the successes can take care of themselves, but the poor failures who are not interesting, whom nobody wants, are the people I can be of use to."

"I perceive, you wish to take upon yourself the functions of a female providence. Well, I daresay you will derive some kind of pleasure from the experience."

"I don't seek pleasure," petulantly replied Oriza, "but work. There is no happiness for me."

"I am not so sure of that," and Rachel looked critically at her friend.

Oriza's face was refined and oval, she had straight clean outlines, large shining eyes, and an air of cultivation and good breeding. People sometimes compared her appearance to that of a deer, of which she had the delicacy of form and the half-startled, half-thoughtful look. Nature had originally intended her to be petted and cherished, for her character was essentially caressing and affectionate, but the irony of fate had compelled her to shift for herself, to endure trials, and to taste of suffering. Hence, perhaps, her sympathy with failures. She called herself a glorious failure.

"You see," she said, her slim hands playing with a tortoise-shell paper-cutter, "I live here alone, and this house is really too large and too solitary for one person. I feel as though I were in a prison. I should much prefer the company of other human souls—"

"Even the company of failures," interjected Rachel.

"Yes, even that. Failures generally have a story, and stories are always interesting."

* "The Home for Failures." By Lady Violet Greville. Hutchinson & Co. London. Price 3s. 6d.

"Of course, you mean to have only female failures—disappointed old maids, I suppose?"

"No, I shall have men, too."

"Ah! I perceive, a kind of genteel boarding-house where nobody pays."

"Don't be sarcastic, Rachel, the attitude doesn't suit you."

"You are so funny, Oriza. Why can't you be content in your pretty house, with the nice tennis-lawn and the view—"

"And the Morris papers, and the new chintzes, and the white enamelled bedroom furniture. Oh, yes, I know it all. Why can't I? Because the house seems full of ghosts, and I sit alone and think, and my tea grows cold, and my dinner goes down untasted."

The experienced novel reader already sees the result of the experiment. We know in advance that amongst "the failures" will be some man who is not really a failure, but a genius temporarily neglected and dispirited. We know that he will revive like a flower transplanted from an unfavourable, bleak situation, into a sheltered spot, and tended with loving care by the gardener. We are sure that Oriza will fall in love with him and he with her. All these things are so. But there is a complication that we do not foresee. Oriza, whom we suppose to be a widow, turns out to be a separated wife—one who has no love in her actual life, but to whom it is forbidden by her marriage bond.

This cruel problem is presented frequently by women novelists. Law and social opinion both now require from a woman whose husband neglects her or leaves her of his own whim—of a woman whose husband is systematically unkind, or drunken, or unfaithful, so that life with him becomes impossible, or if outwardly continued really is separated—of a woman whose husband is insane or imprisoned for a long term of years; of all these women, the world demands a life of unnatural self-restraint and utter isolation. They are numbered by thousands, these victims, more miserable by far than the single women, because the latter are free; they may go where they will, form any friendships that they can, and accept love and home if those blessings should be offered to them. What is to be done for the deserted or separated wife, often spurned in the flower of her years, forsaken by the man who has sworn to cherish her, while she is still attractive to other men; is there no remedy, or is the case so common that a remedy may not be applied for fear of disorganising society? In Scotland, a wife deserted for four years can claim a divorce, and is a free woman again. Are the Scotch a less respectable people, or is their social system less stable and happy than that of England? Surely not. Yet here, the deserted wife can never get free from her nominal and meaningless marriage ties.

Lady Greville writes out this scene with a bitter earnestness. This is true to life, one feels—it is thus that a woman so cruelly placed is made to suffer:—

"I thought you were a widow," he stammered, "or rather, I didn't think. You were just *you*, I never associated you with anyone else."

"But I have a husband. I am one of those unfortunate ill-mated beings who must wander through life *always* solitary, and *always* haunted

by the thought of their loneliness. I am young still—"

"And beautiful," he added, under his breath.

"And yet my life is over, as much as if I were lying like Juliet in a tomb."

"Oh, no, you are not dead."

"No, but it's a half kind of life. When one belongs in part to somebody else, one may keep one's soul free, but the tie is there, like the little string on the bird's foot ready to check the smallest motion."

"And your bad news?" said Herbert, thoughtfully.

"Was only a letter from my husband, asking me to return to him."

"But you are not going to do so?"

"No. When I left him, I left him for ever. When a woman breaks all natural ties she does not bear the wrench lightly. Still, his letter brought all the bitterness back to me."

"Was he cruel to you?"

"Very; yet, not perhaps in the legal sense."

"To you, so gentle and sweet?"

"Gentleness adds piquancy to a man's dislike, it gives his feelings a kind of fillip; he wants to find out how far he can venture with impunity; how much it takes to break a woman's heart."

"Brute!" ejaculated Herbert.

"If it had been for another woman I think I could have borne it better; one can forgive a passing infidelity, but the coldness and neglect of years hardens while it stabs you, even while one tries to do one's duty to one's owner."

"Didn't your friends interfere?"

"Friends never interfere except to prevent a public scandal. Indeed, I think they look upon me as a black sheep for having dared to leave him. A man may be the worst husband in the world, may sap your youth, and embitter your life, and ruin your happiness, and yet not place himself within the pale of the law."

"You are not absolutely dependent on him, I suppose?"

"Not entirely, but if I do not return to him he threatens to diminish the allowance he grudgingly gives me."

"A cruel alternative. And you have decided?"

"To do without his money. What is money compared with peace—you see I no longer speak of affection—but I have no right to talk to you like this. Please forget what I have said; it was the contrast of your news with mine that forced the words from me. You are happy—you are going away, and I must write to my husband. These are the little ironies of life." She smiled sadly, and rose from the bench.

But it is to be remembered that when marriage has proved a failure once, it may do so again. The hardship of not being free to form another tie may be but illusory. Lady Greville remembers that it is possible, that her heroine was not likely to easily "find fit mate."

"You are perfectly aware that I hate men," said Oriza to her friend.

"Hate your husband, you mean; I can understand that, a drunken, brutal wretch. But love, have you tasted of that?"

"Never. I had a husband once, I never had a lover."

"Then don't, dear," said Rachel oracularly, "lovers are frauds; they never gave real happiness to a woman, though they certainly cause much misery, and you're not the kind of woman they would ever make happy. You're too sensitive, and you don't understand men."

"I don't?" Oriza smiled her rare, sweet smile.

"No, you can't study a man's weaknesses, trade on them, humour them, suppress your own feelings, humbug, cajole, laugh when you are vexed, flatter where you despise, as successful women do; you're too transparent, my dear."

Mrs. Landor did not take this advice to the extent of avoiding feeling the attraction of her brilliant artist guest, but at his first word of love she had sufficient strength of mind to send him away. He, elate at an unhopd-for artistic success, was grieved to leave her, but had other interests to take his mind from his unfortunate love affair. Oriza, on the contrary, found her "failures" not so amusing as she had hoped. They are very distinctive characters, but all exacting, selfish, self-conscious and soured, and have no other thought, though they express it in different ways, than how to keep in the snug refuge that they have found. The doctor howls at everything; the poet is even worse. The two women are absorbed in self, exacting and ungrateful to their kind patroness with whom they have nothing in common.

"The governess was less sour, if sadder. Life held no more pleasant anticipations for her; time after time her piteous attempts to find an engagement failed lamentably; she was too old, people said; they wanted Girton students, advanced scholars, ladies young and active, to bicycle and play lawn tennis and teach Latin and Greek.

"I know the rudiments," said the governess tearfully, "and I can teach music, but who ever heard of being required to play the piano like Rubenstein, and read all the Greek tragedies. It isn't fair to expect it." So day by day her hopes fell like withered leaves from a tree, and Oriza encouraged her to stay on, making her useful in small ways so as to save her vanity.

"Herbert was soon drawn into the curious atmosphere of these disappointed people, disappointed yet believing always it was the world's fault and not their own. The poet, dreaming, idling, getting no practical use out of life, yet complaining loudly of ill-usage; the doctor with great ambitions and broken health, sinking daily nearer to the grave, yet looking forward eagerly to many years of intense vitality.

"The poet brought an element of fuss and bustle into Oriza's household. He rose late, lay in bed smoking, and received visits from Herbert or the doctor all the morning, the rest of the day he lounged on cushions or dawdled in the big garden chairs; but, though bent on idleness himself, he allowed no one connected with him to be idle. A perpetual stream of pithy if frivolous talk flowed from his lips, for which he needed a listener. Sometimes it was Oriza, sometimes Rose Bedford, sometimes all of the party except Rachel, who called him a monkey, and vowed she would have none of his tricks, but whatever he did, he required the assistance and presence of somebody else. He planned out the garden, remarking that he had a special taste for landscape gardening, and objecting to the existing stiff arrangement of geraniums and calceolarias.

With a wild sweep of his hand he suggested such radical alterations as the cutting up of flower-beds into the natural artificial garden of his friend Mr. Pompeius, so beautiful and so unique a thing that people came from far and wide to see it.

"But I do not want an artificial garden," said Oriza, half-amused, half-annoyed. "I like the deep velvety lawn and the irregular flower-beds and the simple English look of it all."

"It isn't English, it's Dutch," said the poet. "These stiff beds should be set with tulips and have little paths of coloured gravel running round, with box edges, and there you have a perfect Dutch garden, but yours is neither one thing nor the other—it is a mongrel kind of pleasaunce."

"But it is a pleasaunce and I like it," said Oriza, decisively.

"That herbaceous border is good enough, but it is too narrow," continued the poet, "and you have only the common sort of annuals in it; no alpine plants, nor any of the odorous flowering lilies."

"Oriza arranged the border herself," said Rachel, "and we are very proud of it, aren't

we? We grubbed it upon our hands and knees, and planted it and sowed it ourselves last summer, with a big packet of mixed seed, which caused us perpetual and delightful surprises, for we never knew what plant would come up next."

"Surprises as a rule are unpleasant things," said Herbert. "They generally mean a rejected picture, or a nasty criticism—"

"Or an heiress proposing to you—heiresses always propose, it is their privilege, you know," said the poet, casting a tender glance at Mrs. Landor.

"She did not observe the look, which Herbert intercepted, and it made his blood boil."

After Herbert, the artist, has been obliged to leave the "Home for Failures," the broken heart of the hostess is felt:—

"Oriza was always kind and gentle, but took none of the keen interest in her guests she had formerly exhibited. They all realised this, but expressed themselves about it in different ways. The governess inwardly taxed her with the heartless insensibility of a rich woman to the wants of her poorer sisters; the poet complained of dullness, and talked of paying a long visit to his friend, Lady Surbiton (the doctor cynically doubted the lady's existence); but day after day passed, and though the poet grumbled and complained, and lay more in bed than ever, he gave no sign or hint of departure."

But the actress, Rose Bedford, departs, and bye-and-bye the artist, assured that Oriza can never be anything to him, decides to marry that other woman. Mrs. Landor is suddenly confronted with the fact of this marriage, and in the same breath hears from the lips of the female failure these bitter words:—

"He nearly broke his heart for you," Rose said. "You are a wicked woman, you played with him just to please your own selfish vanity, but now he is mine—and I forbid you our house."

"Rose," said her husband gently, "you must not insult a friend."

"She's no friend of mine," said Rose, with eyes blazing. "She knows I've always hated her!"

So poor Mrs. Landor's experiment ends in brain fever and an accidental overdose of laudanum. Lady Greville's tale is cynical and tragic, yet a keen sense of humour and wide knowledge of life brighten the story up. The real interest of it lies, however, in the keen appreciation of the hardship of existence to a separated wife, young and loveable, and lonely and hungry for the love and home of which she is forbidden the chance.

THE EBB AND FLOW AND FINAL TIDE.

Or the Victories of Great Moral Movements.

By MAURICE GREGORY.

THE same great law of light and shadow, of half-success and temporary apparent defeat and ultimate victory, seems to run through the histories of all great moral movements, so that all engaged in a great cause may find encouragement and instruction in a perusal of the records of the labour and discouragement involved in the struggle at the end of the last century for the abolition of the slave trade. Step by step we find the same principles at work on either side of the question, the same class of arguments used, the same traits of human nature displayed, the same victories and the same defeats, as in similar movements now.

In 1788 the whole country was stirred on the question of the Abolition of the Slave Trade. The vigorous efforts of the abolitionists for the previous twelve months had led to a great public movement, which resulted in a deluge of petitions to Parliament. The agitation continued until, on May 1st, 1792, the House of Commons passed a Resolution that the slave trade should be abolished on January 1st, 1796.

Then the movement gradually died down. On April 11th, 1793, the Duke of Clarence, one of the King's sons, afterwards William IV.,

attacked William Wilberforce, the Anti-slavery leader, in the House of Lords, as being "either a fanatic or a hypocrite."

On June 12th of the same year Mr. Wilberforce's Bill forbidding English merchants to supply foreign territories with slaves, was thrown out. The same Bill was thrown out a second time on May 2nd, 1794.

On February 26th, 1795, Mr. Wilberforce moved for leave to bring in a Bill to carry out the resolution of the House of Commons of May 1st, 1792, that the traffic should come to an end on January 1st, 1796. By 78 votes against 61, leave was refused by the House to carry out its own resolution!

On February 18th, 1796, Mr. Wilberforce again pressed for leave to bring in a Bill for abolition, and again took his stand on the resolution of the House of May 1st, 1792. Leave was given this time to bring in a Bill, but it was thrown out when the report stage was reached, on March 15th, 1796, 70 members voting for and 74 against the Bill.

On April 6th, 1797, a crushing defeat was inflicted on the Abolitionists by the passing of Mr. Charles Ellis's resolution that an address be presented to His Majesty, relegating the whole subject of the amelioration of the negroes to the Governors and their Councils in the West Indian Colonies. This affords a parallel to the practical relegation to the Indian Government of the question of the opium traffic, by means of the Royal Commission of 1893-94. Mr. Burke had already said, "The House need not send to the West Indies to know the opinions of the planters on the subject . . . the state of slavery, however mitigated, was a state so improper, so degrading, and so ruinous to the feelings and capacities of human nature, that it ought not to be suffered to exist."

Mr. Wilberforce went plodding on, however, and on May 15th, 1797, he again moved for leave to bring in a Bill abolishing the trade. Leave was again refused, by 82 votes to 74.

On April 3rd, 1798, Mr. Wilberforce was once more refused leave to bring in his Abolition Bill, by 87 votes to 83. In the course of his speech on this occasion, he said that, "After the conduct which the House had already pursued, he scarce knew how to hope."

Speaking of the prolonged delay in doing justice to the negroes, he also said, "Surely we could not but dread the vengeance of an insured Providence."

On March 1st, 1799, Mr. Wilberforce suffered a heavier defeat than he had experienced for some years, when leave was once again refused him to bring in the Bill, by 84 votes to 54. He still adhered to the Resolution of May 1st, 1792, as giving him a right to press again and again for a settlement of the matter. He said that, "He considered it most blameable for the House to depart from the resolution they had adopted, to give up the abolition of slavery and to put it into the hands of the West Indian Colonial assemblies. It was almost impossible that the consequences could have been any other than what they had been. It was with a heavy heart he had brought the subject forward; argument, exposure, and proof could do nothing more; for argument, exposure, and proof had all been produced, and had failed."

The opening of the new century was filled with gloom. Almost universal war abroad, and famine at home, led to motions in both Houses of Parliament on "the present awful conjuncture" and "the dearth of provisions." Practically nothing was done in Parliament on the abolition question for the next few years.

The year 1804 witnessed the bright dawn of the final glorious victory. Mr. Wilberforce, still basing his case on the 1792 Resolution, obtained leave, on May 30th, to bring in his Bill for Abolition. On the first division he obtained a majority of 75 votes, 124 members voting with him, and only 49 against. Charles James Fox pointed out on this occasion that "It was now twelve years since the House had decided, by a very great majority, that the trade was in itself pernicious, and that it ought to be abolished." What a strong reminder this is of the Anti-Opium Resolution of the House of Commons of April 10th, 1891, which declared the opium traffic to be "morally indefensible!" On the second reading, the voting was 100 to

Our Short Story.

THE BREAD OF CHARITY.

From the Dutch of

HELENE LAPIDOTH-SWARTH.

WITH soft rustlings of silks and low whisperings of kind words the last visitors had disappeared behind the heavy, dark hangings, and the last carriages drove away.

A little tired and head-achy, Mrs. Van Ypenberchen reclined on the couch, and Rity arranged the satin cushions to prop her head and back and elbow, and spread a shawl over her feet.

Then Rity sat down in a low chair by the fire and took a piece of fine white crochet work from an elegant work-basket which stood beside a slender vase of mimosa on a bronze plush table.

Mrs. Van Ypenberchen shut her eyes like a puss, yawned complacently, and sighed with relief. The kind smile with which she had received her visitors was gone; she could take a nap of an hour before dinner, nobody would come.

Rity was also tired. She had excited herself to keep up the conversation, which fell flat sometimes. She would gladly have gone to her room a little while, but she dared not.

There were many poor girls who envied Rity. She knew it, and smiled bitterly at the thought. Had her dying mother not thought it a great privilege that Mary's future was provided for? Had Mary herself not thought it a great happiness that the rich widow had taken her under her protection?

Out of a feeling of friendship for Mary's mother, who had been her school friend, and whom she had lost sight of afterwards, Mrs. Van Ypenberchen had taken the orphan into her house.

It was a work of charity; besides, she wanted a lady companion with a youthful, prepossessing appearance, and a submissive character. This opportunity happened to present itself to the benefit of herself and the poor child.

Rity, as Mrs. Van Ypenberchen liked to call her (she thought Mary so plain), had a very ladylike appearance. Her mother had belonged to an aristocratic family, and had bravely faced the world by a mésalliance. "The Princess" Mary was called by her acquaintances, because of her slender figure and aristocratic air.

She wore the elegant dresses which her patroness had made for her by her own dress-maker, as if she had never been accustomed to cheap materials, badly cut by an unexpert seamstress into shabby gowns. She felt at home in the spacious, splendidly furnished apartments, with lofty painted ceilings and soft carpets into which the feet sank away.

Rity was no vulgar girl of the middle-classes, intimidated by luxuriant surroundings, with a red face and plebeian accent. She was pale and delicate, her hands were white, with bright rosy nails and taper fingers. She moved in the aristocratic house as if she had been born there.

And yet everything was new to her in the beginning, but she had the cleverness to hide it. In secret she enjoyed all the unusual sensations which the luxury awoke in her; the broad velvet-like carpets on stairs and in halls, muffling the sound of every footstep, the bright sparkling fires in the steel hearths, the table glittering with ancient plate and crystal, the menu, the flowers even in winter in vases and chalis.

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Oh, she had been yearning for luxury and distinction. That she had found herself so deprived of every comfort had often made her cry her eyes out!

And now she had all that. Now she ought to be contented.

She had been living with Mrs. Van Ypenberchen for three years, and her patroness continued to be kind to her. When the sickly old woman came to die, she would certainly not leave Rity unprotected behind. It is true, sometimes she was rather peevish and trying, but Mary had often wanted patience with her mother, too, who had become grey and feeble and bitter before her time, in consequence of adversity and genteel poverty.

Rity was convinced that Mrs. Van Ypenberchen loved her in her peculiar, selfish manner, the worldly old woman could not do without her; besides, Rity was her pet, her favourite.

The first year after her mother's death Rity had passed in melancholy dreaming, and her patroness had not made any remarks. When the old lady required from her a more cheerful tone and a brighter face, she had swallowed her tears and gradually learned to feign.

In her leisure hours Rity thought much and seriously. She was twenty-three now; nobody had ever proposed to her. Perhaps she would never get married. The few gentlemen she met thought her perhaps beautiful and nice, but did not think of offering hand and name to the lady-companion of Mrs. Van Ypenberchen.

How had she come to a full understanding of her dependent, parasitic state? How had her sense of honour been awakened?

Girls whom she knew (she had no intimate friend) gave lessons in the languages or in music, provided for themselves, and very often helped younger brothers and sisters or sickly parents with the hard-earned money. Formerly she had pitied these victims of duty. To rise early and to go to school, or to the same houses every day, whether the weather was good or bad, dressed in a plain black dress and mackintosh with flapping cape, with clogging steps because of the heavy goloshes, with the opened umbrellas creaking above their heads and threatening to blow away at every street corner! . . . With a depreciating smile she had formerly watched from out the warm room those poor girls struggling with wind and rain in the 'dirty, muddy streets, panting in great haste not to be late.

Now she began to look upon these girls with eyes quite different. She too "had a place," though out of politeness she was called Mrs. Van Ypenberchen's "visitor."

"Visitor?" Lady companion! and with what work did she pay for the life of luxury which her patroness gave her?

With making tea, washing the cups and saucers, reading aloud by turn a French novel and a Dutch sermon, bearing with a bland smile the whims and moods of the old lady, filling up the blanks in the conversation by make-talk on Mrs. Van Ypenberchen's "at home" days.

Was that working, was that living?

Oh, indeed, she joined in the easy philanthropy of rich ladies; beautiful fancy-works for fancy fairs and raffles; socks and petticoats for poor children.

But all that was honest and noble and had long been slumbering in her, awoke, arose, and bloomed in her heart.

She had been like a poor, benumbed and hungering child that carelessly had allowed herself to be cherished and petted.

But now she had become a woman, she was a child no longer; and she understood that she ate "the bread of charity."

It had never been uttered in her presence, that mortifying word, and yet it kept dinning into her ears, and left her neither rest nor peace.

How had she first come by it? In a book, perhaps . . . Yes, now she remembered how, in a short story which was insignificant enough, in some or other periodical, that word had made her blush painfully, and reflect on her position in this house.

Then a shyness had come over "the Princess" which was not her own. Something hesitating in air and tone, something confused, as of a solitary child who is staying with strange people. The words haunted her at table, at each meal; in the evening, when the fragrant tea was smoking in the Japanese cups; at night, when she kept tossing in her bed and could not sleep, but went on thinking, thinking . . .

Oh, to be free! to be away from this house, earning her own living, working with all the energy which the enervating life of luxury had left in her! Independent development, struggle for life, for quite a different life, nobler than this sham life, in which her individuality was lost!

But what could she do? Sing a little with a thin, weak voice, which sounded soon tired and a trifle husky; paint a little in water-colours; read and recite well, and that was all. And the little she knew was but madding, for she was too lazy, too dreamy to exert herself to attain something more than amateur art. She recoiled at examinations. Begin now! force her brain, unaccustomed to exertion, to hard head-breaking studies, from which even girls who have been trained from their youth shrink. And yet . . . with courage, perseverance and a good will . . . The crochet-work had dropped into her lap, with her hands clasping her knee, she sat staring in the fire.

Those fancy-works deadening all life and spirit! invented for women to occupy them in a harmless manner, while men are deciding about their weal and woe.

But how to broach the subject to Mrs. Van Ypenberchen? Just then the old lady raised her eyes, refreshed by her nap, and it was nearly time to go in to dinner.

During dinner Rity was serious and still. She had no appetite, and ate hardly anything.

"Have you a headache?" Mrs. Van Ypenberchen asked, "you must take rest after dinner, you will feel better then, you look rather pale."

"Take rest of doing nothing! The trivial, kind advice vexed her. No! it was much better to confess everything as soon as she was alone with the old lady, much better than moving about any longer, moping, tormented by that insupportable feeling of wishing herself away, industrious, clever and free; a woman, and no thing intermediate between lady companion and continuous visitor.

"Oh, madam," she began, with something tender in her voice, agitated, and with a throbbing heart, when they were alone in the

little drawing room, more sociable and better fit to begin a confidential talk than the great, genteel dining room.

"What's the matter?" said Mrs. Van Ypenberchen, stretching herself comfortably down on the causeuse of violet velvet, screening her face from the firelight with a fan. Rity sat down on a low hassock, took the yellowish, thin, ringed fingers between her soft, white hands, and told, as well as she could, what passed in her mind. First she spoke with great difficulty, but soon, carried on by her own emotion, with ease, and, as she thought, with conviction.

She did not notice that the old lady drew her hand coolly from between hers. When she had finished the eyes glistened inquisitively in the upraised rosy face. The wrinkled features of the old lady were stiff, and her thin lips tightly compressed.

"I hope you are not angry," said Rity anxiously, after an oppressive silence.

"I had never expected it of you," said Mrs. Van Ypenberchen, "I thought you liked being here . . . indeed, Rity, how could such a thing enter into your head . . . to leave me in my old age . . . I, who have become so attached to you . . . your mother's friend . . . your—"

"My benefactress;" Rity broke in, hastily, "oh, I never forget for a moment what I owe you, I shall always remain grateful to you . . ."

"Grateful!" said Mrs. Van Ypenberchen, irritated, "indeed, you give me a good proof of it!"

"Oh, madam," cried Rity while the tears started into her eyes and she wrung her long hands in her great grief, "oh, madam! you do not understand me, you will not understand me."

"To be sure I do," the old lady said loftily, with a cold glance from her small, stinging eyes; "I understand you quite well; the spirit of the time, that emancipation rage . . . you wish to fly on your own wings, not knowing even whether your wings will not leave you in the lurch at the first attempt to fly out. Where would you go to? What would you do? Are you fit to go up for examination, to teach? My dear, I tell you for your own good; you would not be able to bear it—and what, then? You are too feminine, too refined."

"But if you had not taken compassion on me I should have been obliged to work, and—"

"Come, come, put these imaginary cares out of your head," said the old lady, and her fingertips just stroked the hair of the young girl. And as if diverting a child from a fond wish, she called her lap dog Lady, which stretched itself, and came nearer with wagging tail. Out of mere habit Rity stroked the silken hair of the dog, which curled itself up on her lap. Mrs. Van Ypenberchen considered the conversation as finished, and shut her eyes, trying to take a nap before tea.

And while Rity, still and disappointed, remained sitting with the lap dog, that licked her hand and slept on, she understood that she could never, never make herself free, that she should remain what she was, a characterless, parasitic creature, like the pretty lap dog. And tears of vexation and self-contempt started into her eyes, and rolled down her cheeks unheeded. And she cursed the word that had opened her eyes, since, getting more unfit to work from year to year, she would still have to eat it her whole life long, the bread of charity, hard to swallow, and salt with tears.

WHAT A WOMAN DID. A TRUE STORY.

By BARONESS A. LANGENAU.

In the spring of 1896, 300 Armenian Christians, being bent on leaving their blood-stained country, requested the French Consul to give them the benefit of his presence and to accompany them on their journey to the harbour of Alexandrette, where they intended to embark for Europe. The Consul, however, fearing that the Turkish authorities would avail themselves of his absence to commit new atrocities, refused their request. His wife, seeing their anguish, proposed to take her husband's place and to accompany the caravan on horseback. The journey to Alexandrette was long and dangerous, the villages were more or less devastated and abandoned, and large hordes of Kurds and Circassians were swarming all over the country. The Turkish authorities, hearing that the lady meant to leave the country, offered her a personal escort to protect her, but she insisted on their protecting the whole caravan, and in order to oblige the soldiers to do this she heroically sent a litter with her four children, the youngest of which was a wee baby, to the front, and brought up the rear herself on horseback. Wherever they stopped for the night she provided the refugees with food and shelter, sometimes getting up in the middle of the night to see if they were all safe.

When they reached Biredjek, the place where the Euphrates was to be passed, they found that an order had been forwarded from Constantinople, enjoining the authorities to see her safe across the river, but here once more the noble woman refused to leave those who looked to her for their safety. Her children crossed the river in their litter, and she firmly declared that if the Armenians were not allowed to pass she would remain behind, her poor little baby would die, and France would make the Turkish authorities responsible for the delay.

She carried the day, and they reached safely the harbour of Alexandrette, where a steamer was waiting for them.

If some brave woman like her were at the head of public affairs to-day, the Eastern question would have been solved long ago, and the six great European powers would have ceased to be the laughing stock of the world.

EDUCATION FOR PRACTICAL LIFE.

It is a great art in the education of youth to find out peculiar aptitudes, or, where none exist, to create inclinations, which may serve as substitutes.

Different minds are like different soils; some are suited only to particular cultivation; others will mature almost anything; others, again, are best adapted to a round of ordinary products; and a few are wasted, unless they are reserved for what is most choice. The common run of minds may be compared to arable land, and are suited indifferently to the drudgery of any business. There is a more rugged, and apparently sterile class, which yields no return to ordinary cultivation, but is like the mountain-side, rearing, in a course of years, the stately forest; and there are the felicitous few, which resemble the spots calculated for the choicest vineyards. It is fortunate for the individuals and society when each class is put to its proper use.

To pursue the comparison, minds, like soils, are often deceitful in their early promise; and as a young orchard will sometimes thrive vigorously for a time, and when its owner expects a fair return will canker and die—so youth will promise success in a particular line, till some hidden defect begins to operate, and the fondest hopes are blasted. However, these are the exceptions, and not the rule, and sound judgment in the destination of children will in the vast majority of cases be amply repaid.

The great error, I apprehend, that parents fall into, and often unconsciously, is that they consult their own interests and inclinations rather than those of their children, and that vanity, ambition and avarice too often blind their understandings. There are difficulties even with the purest intentions, because apparent aptitudes are not, as I have already observed, always real ones, and because inclinations often arise from accidental causes, and change for the same reason. Where there is a great and undoubted aptitude, it must be judicious to thwart it; for though the indulgence may be attended with objections, it must in the nature of things be compensated by keen enjoyment, and it is better to be eminently successful in an inferior line than moderately so, with a great chance of failure, in a superior one. Where it seems a matter of indifference to what a young person is destined, it is important, when the choice is made, to create a corresponding inclination, which will serve in some sort instead of an aptitude, and this may be easily accomplished in general by contriving some attraction to the calling, as by bringing about an intimacy with one already engaged in it, and turning the will of the parent into the choice of the child. Some such course is the most likely to ensure that willingness and steadiness which are the forerunners of success.

ECONOMICAL COOKERY.

By MISS LIZZIE HERITAGE.

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

FISH COOKERY.

A VERY satisfactory increase in the consumption of fish was reported this year during the Lenten season, and those best able to say, are of opinion that this is due to the fact that increased attention is being given to fish cookery; time was, when many were only alive to the possibilities of boiled and fried, and, as a writer has it, "when badly boiled and barbarously fried, fish is not an attractive article of food." It is possible, however, that we are turning our attention more to sauces; many of them are the making of a dish of fish. At the same time, there are yet some who never serve fish in one of its best ways, viz., baked. Indeed, surprise is expressed by many that fish can be baked. Yet endless are the ways, stuffed or plain, brown or white, with or without sauce, piquant or simple, while the garnishes are endless. Steaming is another admirable mode, but deserves a chapter all to itself. Here is a capital dish of

STUFFED BAKED FISH.

Supposing a lemon sole, with the dark skin removed, by sprinkling with salt and thorough scraping; it does not all come off in this way, but a great deal; lay this side down in a greased tin, and cut through the white side, straight down, then raise the flesh at the sides to make pockets. Take four large table-spoonsfuls of bread crumbs, and two level ones of Hugon's suet, chopped very small indeed; season this with salt and pepper, nutmeg and cayenne, and a little parsley; then mix with a beaten egg and a spoonful or two of milk to a moist paste; add just a few drops of anchovy essence, and a sprinkling of grated lemon rind, and then it will be voted a very good stuffing indeed. Put this in the fish, it should be high but smooth, that is, the stuffing will show between the fish, making it look much broader. Now cover with a sheet of buttered paper, tucking it in at the sides. Pour a little fish stock or milk in the tin and bake very steadily, the oven being kept at a moderate heat. Baste during the cooking with the liquor from the tin, adding a little more butter if needed. When done, in half an hour or

more, serve either with a fish sauce, or with no sauce but those in the crust; a garnish of picked shrimps is an admirable addition. Now, should this be preferred brown, simply put a little vinegared stock in the tin with stock to taste, and when done coat with raspings that have been browned in the oven. Or, at first, instead of the paper

USE BEATEN EGG AND BREAD CRUMBS.

just as for fried fish. Some fat should be heated in readiness, and the suet does very well, or clarified fat; butter for a first-rate dish; baste freely with this at starting, this is to seal up the juices. Now bake and baste until the skewer pierces the flesh easily, and serve. With a little chutney, or hot pickles, or a good brown store sauce, particularly any of the tomato variety, this is a famous snack, not half the trouble of fried fish, less in cost, and more likely to come to table cooked well. Remember, a hot dish, and if sauceless a dish paper.

A FRESH HADDOCK

is very good in the above way; if the backbone be removed one can be more generous with the stuffing. An ordinary veal stuffing from any approved recipe may be used. This is a somewhat dry fish, so calls for a rather richer sauce than some kinds; one to coat the fish, made from two ounces each of flour and butter, and a pint of milk boiled well for a few minutes can be used as the base, for an egg sauce (or many other kinds). This is very nice. It is really one of several

COMBINATION SAUCES.

Add to the above the whites of two hard-boiled eggs in dice, a teaspoonful of chopped parsley, and a little anchovy essence; then put in the sieved egg yolks, with a pinch of cayenne and white pepper; squeeze a little lemon juice over the fish before coating with the sauce.

Here is another tasty dish from the same fish. Bake it, and use for the sauce three-quarters of a pint of water or fish stock instead of milk; add half a gill of cream, it will only cost a penny more than if milk be used, supposing that to be twopence per pint. Add the whites of eggs as before and the parsley, or, instead, some chopped capers; then, just at last, flavour with a teaspoonful or more of "date" vinegar. This can be replaced by lemon juice when more convenient. It is delicious to the palate, and of guaranteed purity. The yolks of eggs are to be sprinkled over the sauce.

I can strongly recommend for plainly baked—i.e., without stuffing—a good mustard sauce, such as is usually served with boiled fresh herrings. Or try a brown sauce of the same class. The butter and flour are fried together until a nice brown, then the stock or water added, and this may be coloured with liquid brown or brown salt; then for the final touches, a desert spoonful of fine vinegar to each half-pint may be allowed, with mustard and cayenne at discretion. And, while not essential, a morsel of French mustard in addition to English, is strongly recommended.

FISH STEAKS FROM HALIBUT.

Brill, and other fish, are very savoury if brushed over with liquid butter, then with mustard, mixed before egging and bread crumbing in the usual way; they should be a rich brown, and any liquor in the tin added to sauce, or poured over the fish; never left behind, as that is really the essence of the fish to put it plainly. A spoonful of genuine mushroom ketchup is an item not to be overlooked in baked fish dishes of many sorts; some will like it added to the gravy in the tin and poured round; while many will prefer it pure and simple.

WARM WEATHER AND



THE APPROACH OF SUMMER.

WE DRINK TOO MUCH TEA AND EAT TOO MUCH FLESH FOOD.

ESPECIALLY DURING THE WARM SEASON OF THE YEAR.

The latter militates against working energy, and the tannic acid and other deleterious properties to be found in tea lower the spirits and injure the health. The body, in fact, is a working engine, and as such it must be treated. The waste of tissue which daily goes on can only be replaced by the proper assimilation of food.

It cannot be done with medicine. And yet, in face of these scientific facts, how many people sit down to breakfast and drink tea and coffee—an utterly unscientific practice in itself—and follow this up by partaking of a more or less quantity of flesh food?

It is simply compelling the stomach to digest food which the system does not require, and which it cannot get rid of.

Drugs and medicine are worse than useless in such circumstances; they simply assist in the clogging process.

Science, however, has again come to the rescue, and it cannot be too widely known that tone and vigour can be promoted, and the rosy cheeks natural to health restored by the vitalizing and restorative properties of Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa. The evidence of medical men and the public is conclusive on this point.

Merit, and merit alone, is what we claim for Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, and we are prepared to send to any reader who names THE WOMAN'S SIGNAL a dainty sample tin of Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa free and post paid. There is no magic in all this. It is a plain, honest, straightforward offer. It is done to introduce the merits of Vi-Cocoa into every home. Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, as a concentrated form of nourishment and vitality is invaluable; nay, more than this, for to all who wish to face the strife and battle of life with greater endurance and more sustained exertion it is absolutely indispensable.

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THE WOMAN'S SIGNAL.

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

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SIGNALS FROM OUR WATCH TOWER.

This is decidedly a somewhat depressing week. Mr. Balfour has failed to keep the day for the Women's Suffrage Bill's third reading, and has announced that the House of Commons shall sit on the Monday and the Thursday of Jubilee week, but not on the Wednesday on which our Bill would have come forward.

Under the immediate impression of such a series of events, it is not easy to altogether retain one's hope, faith and

equality. But if we appreciate the importance of the woman's movement, if we realise that it is an attempt to readjust the conceptions of mankind on many points of fundamental importance, and points touching the vanity, selfishness and the natural love of power and privilege of a whole half of the race, we must realise that it is not to be expected that there shall not be checks, back waves and undercurrents that force themselves up in whirlpools at unexpected moments.

It is all an old story—the apparent hopelessness of a just cause, the inadequacy of its means of support, the half-heartedness of its friends, the occasional blunders in tactics or in individual speech and action, the waves of opposition that seemed to undo the whole work of many past seasons of effort; it has all been felt and borne up against by the reformers of every ancient abuse.

Most deplorable in its revelation of a low state of mind, an ignoble sheltering of weakness behind privilege, a base jealousy, and an utter lack of the generous spirit that so becomes the young, is the conduct of the lads at Cambridge. Of course, one knows that a boy at the hobbeldohy stage of life, at which the average undergraduate has arrived, has generally many insufferable faults—that he is sensitively vain, deficient in judgment and painfully unaware of the fact, clumsy, dense, and too often coarse and unsympathetic.

But the exhibition at Cambridge proves either that lads are worse essentially than one had thought, or else that the existing University atmosphere is a lowering and depraving one, and that therefore boys are the worse for going there.

tone and manner of the University will improve them, even if they do not bring back much learning. But how if the tone of the University is demoralising? How if it not only casts a slime of actual vice (as, alas! it is well known in the case) over too many of those who come under its influence, but also deprives the general run of that generosity that acclaims achievement, that justice that renders honour to merit, that decency of behaviour to women that a lad at home, with a good mother and sensible sisters, can hardly fail to observe?

The deplorable fact now shown is that the lads at Cambridge, confronted with proofs that girls are able to avail themselves to the highest degree of the opportunities of learning and to carry off the highest honours in competition with young men, have been moved by the fact, not to generous admiration and support, nor to a realisation that justice demands the recognition of the capacity thus shown, and the extension of the opportunity to yet more of the class who have shown it, but, on the contrary, to a frantic display of jealousy, of desire to keep the inheritance of the learning and wealth of past ages to their own class, and an eager joy in the maintaining the pretence that women do not intellectually equal men.

A daily contemporary's correspondent at Cambridge gives the following particulars of the state of mind and the disgraceful behaviour of the undergraduates on the day of the polling:—

"Your representative sat proudly on the front seat of a 'bus side by side with an undergraduate in the non-placet hat. The excellent lad was quite white with excitement, and as the 'bus did not go fast enough for him he presently got down and cut ahead. Evidently there was grim work in hand. What a sight it was when we got within hail of the Senate House!

expects that every M.A. will do his duty"; and across the same thoroughfare was suspended the effigy of a suppositious lady undergraduate with cap and gown, yellow pigtail, and knicker-bockers. A number of undergraduates wore on their straw hats white bands with the inscription, "Non-Placet," and the enthusiasm of the young men of Caius College was responsible for the provision of a "Non-Placet" brake, for conveying voters from the railway station to the Senate House.

"Voting began at the Senate House at one o'clock in the afternoon, and lasted until three o'clock. The question at issue was the acceptance or otherwise of a grace—recommended by nine out of the fourteen members of the Syndicate appointed to consider the matter—providing that women passing a tripos (i.e. honours) examination, and having the additional qualification of nine terms' residence, should receive the title of the degree of Bachelor of Arts, but without membership of the university. It was not a vote by ballot; the voter obtained either a 'placet' or 'non-placet' card, on which he inscribed his name and college before entering the Senate House, and proceeding into the building by a central door, passed either to the right or to the left (according to the nature of his vote), delivered up his card and went out by one of the two side doors adjoining the main entrance. Thus the voting was quite open, and many were the injunctions of the undergraduates thronging the galleries to 'keep to the right.' I had always understood that undergraduates were very witty, and I took out my pencil and paper to jot down their remarks. They were as follows: 'Take your hat off, sir, 'Walk up, walk up'—'Look sharp, sir, and 'Time, time.' This with howls, cheers, and cries of shame when a placet was registered was all I got down."

At three o'clock the figures were made known amid mighty cheering; 1713 against and 662 for—far and away the heaviest vote ever taken at a University poll. The undergrads formed up and gave the saviours of the University a mighty reception as they struggled out through the gates. But it was not over. Cambridge being saved the lesson must be driven home. So first our gallant boys forced the entrance of the enclosure, and being about a hundred to one as against the policemen they managed it. After which they cheered themselves hoarse on the slush of orange peel and egg, and confetti and firework paper. The "guy" (i.e., the figure of a lady B.A.) was solemnly decapitated in front of Caius, and the remains being placed on a hansom with four or five undergrads on top, and a great many more in the shafts, it was decided to make a move for Newnham. When the mob was seen approaching down the avenue, orders were given to close the iron gates. The forces came to a stand outside, some hundreds of them, with their noses up against the gates, cheering and making other noises of a less polite kind. After some ten minutes the heroes departed, leaving a hand of the guy behind them. No one at Newnham was disturbed by the call.

The day's proceedings concluded with bonfires of joy, and the illumination of the front of Caius College with a huge lighted inscription of "Saved! Saved from what? Not even from learned women! From nothing else than having openly and commonly admitted what is the fact—that girls can not merely pull through "a pass

at the leading Universities, but can attain the honours' standard for a degree as an ordinary thing! What do these young men want to be "saved" from? Not even from competing with women—but from those women being allowed to have the letters that show what they have actually done appended to their names! Can meanness farther go? Was the dog in the manger not a respectably just and generous animal by comparison with these lads, shouting themselves hoarse, and subscribing their pocket-money, to prevent other students, who have won a degree, from receiving and wearing the title?

As far as the fact of the refusal of the title goes, it is not very important. All the world knows that the Girton and Newnham girls take the examination papers that suffice to give men degrees, and that the women students are placed in a supplementary list, but in competitive comparison with the men, the list stating what place on the men's list each of the women's papers deserve. All the world knows that one woman has been Senior Wrangler by right, that another has been Senior Classic, and that a number of others have taken places but little lower. These facts are the important thing, and if the undergraduates howled to stop this testing of the relative power of learning of themselves and the women students, there would be method in their meanness. The refusal of the outward badge is a small matter; but the evil spirit, the low, mean, anti-woman spirit of the average "gentlemanly" lad is a truly distressing revelation. It ought to make women the more desirous of helping to elevate the position of their sex, and particularly to procure that political representation that is the foundation of all freedom and the lever for all improvement. After all, while the law at elections classes women with idiots and children, no wonder the lads resent women beating them at Mathematics, Latin and Greek.

In the long run, of course, women must have a degree that they are allowed to attain. If any attempt is made to close to them the doors of learning, public opinion will be evoked, and it will be dead against this combination of unruly youth and narrow-minded clerics that has secured the present "salvation" for Cambridge. As Parliament had to overcome the objection of the old holders of the privileges of the University to prevent dissenters from the Church of England having a share in the national homes of learning, so it may have to be that Parliament must be appealed to for protection for the women who have now proved their competence to avail themselves of the benefits that a University can confer. It is to be hoped that women may have the Suffrage in time to meet any attempt to close the advantages that women now have on mere sufferance at Cambridge.

Mr. Balfour should not have allowed the day for our Bill to be made a holiday. There is no reason for it; it is clearly a concession to the desire of our enemies and half-hearted friends not to be obliged to vote on the question. Mr. Balfour has had and avoided a great opportunity of helping Women's Suffrage on this occasion; a mere lip service to it is of small consequence beside what he might have done in causing the House of Commons to meet on June 23rd, which it could have done well.

Miss Blackburn reminds us that May 20th was the thirtieth anniversary of the first debate on the question of Women's Suffrage in the House of Commons. Exactly in the middle of Her Majesty's reign a minority of 81 M.P.'s followed Mr. John Stuart Mill into the lobby. In this the sixtieth year of the reign the minority of 81 has become a majority of 71.

The idea of memorialising the Queen has apparently spread like wild-fire. But we may be allowed to point out that the question of the progress of the women of her own dominions is one on which Her Majesty might be expected to give a personal word of sympathy, and that any question affecting the laws of the land, and yet more any question of foreign relations, are in a very different category. With those, her Majesty is constitutionally—if not by the letter at any rate by the spirit and the custom of the Constitution—debarred from personally dealing. Thus, a petition asking for an enquiry into convents is a matter for Parliament, and not for the Queen; if there is proof, or reason for suspicion, of dark doings in convents, M.P.'s can be influenced to demand an enquiry, and the Queen cannot and ought not to interfere. Much the same is true of the women's petition to the Queen, promoted by the Liberal Forwards, against "the use of the Fleet to starve the men, women and children of Crete." Another petition, asking for aid to the Armenians, was sent in with it, and Lord Salisbury has informed Mr. Clayden, the honorary secretary, that the two petitions will be laid before her Majesty.

As a matter of course, Her Majesty will then refer them to her responsible advisers, it would not be constitutional government for her to do otherwise. The Government is responsible to the male portion of the nation, and it is the men of the nation that are to blame for events in foreign politics such as those referred to by the petitioners.

Speaking at the banquet of the Architectural Association, the Bishop of London told a good story. It was of a curate who, calling on the great lady of the village, introduced his newly-married wife as "a poor thing, but mine own"; whereon the lady, looking on the curate severely, replied, "Your wife ought to have introduced you as a 'poorer thing, but mine owner.'"

Miss Jane Ellen Harrison, LL.D., writes from 37, Barkstone-gardens, S.W., in regard to the procession on June 22nd:—"It would, I venture to think, add a note of reality and dignity, unavoidably, too, of pathos, if a certain number of seats in some commodious position could be set apart for women who have attained the same venerable age as Her Majesty.

At a meeting of the committee to arrange for the dinner to "the poorest of the poor" of London, in commemoration of the Jubilee, the Lord Mayor said he had had an offer by the Bodega Company, Limited, to contribute five pipes of port wine, with which they wished the poor to drink Her Majesty's health in glasses to be specially embossed for the occasion. The committee unanimously resolved that intoxicants should form no part of the meal, and the Company's offer was courteously declined.

Public Meetings

WOMEN'S FRANCHISE LEAGUE.

The Annual Meeting of Members was held at Westminster Palace Hotel, on May 21st, Mrs. Scatterd in the chair. The following report was presented:—

The seventh annual meeting was held in Darlington in the hall of the Imperial Hotel, on May 20th 1896, the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Wilkes) presiding. It was addressed by Mrs. Horrocks, of Bolton; Miss Alice Lucas and Miss Graham, of Darlington; and Mrs. Scatterd. The meeting was well attended, and a resolution not to work for Parliamentary candidates opposed to Woman's Suffrage carried unanimously. Twelve new members joined the League.

Miss Beatrice Hodgson has addressed large meetings of the Women's Co-operative Guilds in Bury, Lancs., and Berry Brow, near Huddersfield, on behalf of the League. She also, in conjunction with Mrs. Wimbolt and Mrs. M'Cormick, attended a large meeting at Rochdale. Other important meetings in which members of your Committee have taken part are Conference of Delegates from Women's Co-operative Guilds, at Cleckheaton, Yorks., May 24th 1897; the Annual Meeting of the Central Society for Women's Suffrage held in Westminster Town Hall, June 26th 1896.

Countess Schack has addressed meetings (by invitation) of members of Presbyterian Church at Watford and the Young Women's Christian Association at Harlesden.

On June 5th 1896, Mrs. Scatterd attended a Conference on behalf of the League, called by the Manchester Society for Women's Suffrage. The outcome of this gathering was a larger Conference held at Birmingham on October 16th, attended by delegates from well nigh every Women's Suffrage Society in the Kingdom. Mrs. Brownlow, Mrs. M'Cormick and Mrs. Scatterd were present for the League, moving an amendment to resolution 3, which was passed, with very few dissentients, as follows:—

"That this Conference is of opinion that women of each political party, recognising that their influence in legislation can only be made effective through the Parliamentary Franchise, should abstain from working for, or assisting in any way, those Parliamentary candidates who do not declare themselves in favour of the extension of the Parliamentary Franchise to all duly qualified women."

Two of these ladies attended as your delegates the annual meeting of the National Reform Union, which, for some years past, has placed the enfranchisement of all duly qualified women on its political programme.

Last autumn, the town of Todmorden having obtained a Charter of Incorporation, your committee determined to call the women householders together and discuss questions of local government. Mr. Ormerod, of Scatcliffe, presided, and was supported on the platform by gentlemen of all political parties seeking election on the Council. A large majority of women voters were present, who thoroughly enjoyed the speeches given; that of Mrs. Rice, of Todmorden, being specially clear and able. Mrs. Wimbolt, Mrs. M'Cormick and Mrs. Scatterd also spoke. After the election on 1st November, a lady wrote:—"The meeting called by the Women's Franchise League has done great good; in the north ward every woman voter came to the poll." The *Todmorden Advertiser* also stated "the preliminaries were undertaken by Mrs. M'Cormick, of Manchester,

and were altogether admirable. The whole affair was very cleverly and thoroughly organised, and was entirely successful—as, indeed, it was almost bound to be, considering the foresight manifested and the labour expended upon the preparations."

The Bromley Branch of the W.F.L. numbers over 50 members. A public evening meeting was held on December 9th 1896, at which excellent addresses were given by Miss Mordan and Mr. J. H. Levy. During the Spring of 1897 the Committee arranged a course of six drawing-room meetings, at which addresses were given on subjects of general interest, such as the "Poor Law Education," "Claims of the Children," "Laws for Women—Personal and Industrial," "Reform of Criminal Law."

In September 1896, Miss Emily Hill represented the League at the International Congress of Women, held in Berlin. This Congress was a brilliant success, both as to numbers and discussion. Miss Hill read a paper written by your Secretary, Mrs. Jacob Bright, entitled, "What the W.F. League of Great Britain and Ireland is trying to accomplish." This was well received and appreciated, and referred to in the papers next morning. It has been printed in the transactions of the Congress.

In November 1896, your committee considered the advisability of promoting an address from the women of the United Kingdom and Colonies to the Queen on the completion of the sixtieth year of her reign. After negotiation with various workers in many directions, all of whom gave the matter most careful consideration, an address was drafted.

A conference, for which 150 invitations were issued to women engaged in widely different fields of work, was held on January 29th 1897, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Bright, at their residence, 31 St. James' Place. Here the address was criticised line by line, finally revised, and approved.

A General Council, with power to add to its number, was formed to circulate and promote the address, Mrs. Scatterd being elected acting hon. secretary, with following sub-committee: Priscilla Bright MacLaren, Edinburgh; Ursula M. Bright, London; Jane Cobden Unwin, London; Florence Fenwick Miller, Editor *WOMAN'S SIGNAL*. Since January your committee has devoted its energy to furthering this important work, and will continue to do so till its presentation in June.

Your Committee desire publicly to acknowledge their great indebtedness in this matter to Mr. John Gibson, of Aberystwith, a Vice-President of the League, and one of the best workers for justice towards women we have ever had. As Editor of the *Cambrian News*, he continually and fearlessly advocates equality of civil rights for women, and as continually stirs women themselves to that courageous action which alone can bring the desired equality.

The adoption of the report was moved by Miss E. Hill, and seconded by Miss Walters, and unanimously adopted. The Committee and officers were unanimously re-elected, on the motion of Miss Evelyn Wright, and seconded by Miss Allen, and the proceedings terminated with the usual votes of thanks.

WHAT if women would not "reason out" civil questions? As Cardinal Newman said: "To most men argument makes a point in hand more doubtful and considerably less impressive. After all, man is not a reasoning animal; he is a seeing, feeling, contemplating, acting animal."

Francis.

WOMEN'S LIBERAL FEDERATION.

The annual meeting of delegates began on May 18th, and was continued on the two following days. A reception was held on the Monday evening, at the Royal Institute of Water Colour Painters, and a great public meeting on the Tuesday evening.

THE CONFERENCE. FIRST DAY.

The chair was occupied at the commencement of the proceedings by Mrs. W. McLaren, in the absence of the President, Lady Carlisle, who is abroad. Other lady Liberals present included Mrs. Eva McLaren, Mrs. Wynford Philipps, Mrs. Broadley Reid, Mrs. J. Stuart, Mrs. Sheldon Amos, Mrs. C. E. Schwann, Mrs. Maitland, Countess Alice Kearney, Miss Helen Gladstone, Lady Grove, and Mrs. Crosfield.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The tenth annual report of the Executive Committee, which was adopted, stated that, notwithstanding the depression caused by the present large Conservative majority in the House of Commons, the Committee had reason to be much encouraged by the results of the work of the past year, and they believed that the Federation would enter upon the eleventh year of its labours with unabated energy and with brightening and encouraging prospects. Since last June the increase in the number of associations had also been satisfactory, 57 new associations having joined the Federation, making the total number 501, with an approximate aggregate membership of 80,000. Organising work had been chiefly concentrated in Yorkshire and in the Midland and Southern counties, while much useful work had been done in Wales. Congratulatory reference was made to the progress of the Women's Suffrage movement.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE QUEEN

Following the transaction of other executive business, the Council of the Federation adopted a resolution congratulating the Queen on the sixtieth anniversary of her reign. Mrs. McLaren said that, by the manner in which the Queen had borne herself throughout her reign, she had conferred the utmost possible service on the cause of woman throughout the world.

PRINCIPLES REAFFIRMED.

Next, on the motion of Mrs. Bamford Slack, and seconded by Mrs. Wynford Philipps, there was a declaration on behalf of the Federation reaffirming the principles of Home Rule and Welsh Disestablishment and the reform of the House of Lords.

EASTERN AFFAIRS.

Miss Helen Gladstone, who was accorded a particularly hearty greeting, then moved, and Mrs. Crosfield seconded, a resolution, which was unanimously adopted, asserting the deep regret and indignation of the Federation at the continued persecution and misgovernment of Armenia by the Porte, and at the total failure of the Concert of Europe to check evil, to promote justice, or to secure peace, and the meeting further desired to express its enthusiastic sympathy with the brave efforts of the insurgents of Crete, and with the heroic intervention of Greece.—A further motion was also carried, expressing abhorrence at the prospect of a representative of the Sultan being received in connection with the Commemoration festivities next month.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

The remainder of the morning sitting was occupied by the consideration of Women's Suffrage. Mrs. Eva McLaren moved: "That this Council, representing some 80,000 Liberal women in England and Wales, desires to express its extreme satisfaction at the second reading of the Women's Suffrage Bill by a majority of 71, and its earnest hope that the Liberal and Nationalist members will give it their hearty support when it again comes before the House of Commons; and especially calls upon the Liberal party to remain true to the principles of democratic progress, and use every effort to

facilitate the passing of the Bill into law." A further resolution on this subject affirmed once more the profound conviction of the Council that every year made more obvious the need for the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to duly qualified women on the same terms as those on which it was exercised by men, irrespective as in their case of marriage.

EDUCATIONAL QUESTIONS.

At the afternoon session, when the chair was occupied by Lady Trevelyan, the discussion related chiefly to educational topics. On the proposition of Mrs. E. Stewart Brown, and seconded by Mrs. Maitland, it was unanimously agreed, "That this Council condemns the action of the Government in granting public money to schools, which, being exempt from popular control, are not entitled to receive popular support; and it deeply deprecates the absence in the Bill of any attempt to raise the standard of education, or of any guarantee of its efficiency." The Council further condemned the gross injustice of the proposed Government grant to necessitous School Boards, and considered that they ought at least to receive as much assistance as would be given to Voluntary Schools by the Bill which had recently been passed.

A debate took place on the advisability of making efforts to secure the speedy raising of the school age, and with but few dissentients the Federation decided in the affirmative. The meeting was practically unanimous in favour of the co-education of boys and girls, on the ground that it would be of advantage to the nation. The day's conference concluded with the hearty adoption of a resolution giving expression to the feeling in favour of arbitration, and hoping that a general treaty of arbitration between Great Britain and the United States would be ratified in the not distant future.

SECOND DAY.

Mrs. Eva McLaren presided, from seven to eight hundred delegates being present.

STATE REGULATION OF VICE.

Mrs. Tanner brought forward a resolution recording continued opposition to all State regulation of vice and protesting against the efforts being made to re-establish in India and in England a system utterly antagonistic to the moral and religious convictions of the people of this country, unjust and oppressive to women, and degrading alike to men and women, and which had proved a sanitary failure.

Mrs. Eva McLaren seconded the motion, which was agreed to. Other resolutions dealing with this and kindred subjects were also passed.

LADY LIBERALS AND LABOUR.

In the afternoon Lady Trevelyan occupied

the chair, and there was an undiminished attendance of delegates.

Mrs. Brownlow moved: "That this Council, whilst approving the general provisions of the Factories and Workshops Act, 1895, protests against the special restrictions which the Act places on women workers, and holds that all restrictive legislation should apply equally to men and women working in the same trades." In support of her resolution, the mover argued that the present unfair restrictive regulations were most detrimental to the interests of women.

Mrs. Charles McLaren seconded the motion, and pleaded the right of a girl to sell her labour in the best market she could command.

Mrs. C. E. Schwann, whilst largely agreeing with the preceding speakers on this subject, could not support the resolution. She therefore moved, by way of amendment to the last clause, "That the Council holds that the present industrial conditions under which women work require regulation by legislation, and urges that wherever possible legislative restrictions should be applicable alike to men and women."

Mrs. Corrie Grant, Miss Catherine Webb, Mrs. Phillimore, Mrs. C. Mallett, and Mrs. Thomas having spoken, the resolution was adopted.

It was next unanimously agreed that in view of the growing number of regulations to be enforced in factories and workshops where women are employed and of the splendid and efficient work performed by woman inspectors, and the greater protection resulting therefrom for the lives of working women and children, there should be an increase of such appointments, so that there might be at least one woman inspector in every large manufacturing town.

Mrs. Corrie Grant afterwards moved, and Mrs. Charles Mallett seconded, a resolution declaring the sympathy of the Federation with the Penrhyn quarrymen in their endeavour to obtain a just and impartial tribunal to determine their grievances, and regretting that Lord Penrhyn had refused the arbitration of the Board of Trade. It was also urged that its powers under the Conciliation Act of 1896 should be extended.

TEMPERANCE.

Mrs. Bamford Slack moved, and Miss Baggie seconded, a motion reaffirming unswerving confidence in those truly Liberal and Democratic proposals which would give to all ratepayers, irrespective of sex, the option of exercising local control over the issue and renewal of licences by means of the direct veto. The resolution was unanimously adopted, as was a rider urging that the example set by the Liverpool licensing magistrates with regard to refusing

the sale of intoxicating liquors to children under thirteen years of age should also be followed elsewhere. Mrs. Smith moved, and Mrs. Simpson seconded, a motion urging that the same regulations applying to public-houses should apply to clubs and all places where drink was sold, and it was recommended that public-houses should be closed on polling day. The Federation expressed its opinion that an appeal should be made to Government to assist in carrying out the Acts of Berlin, 1884-5, and of Brussels 1890, relating to the suppression of slavery and the sale of firearms and alcoholic drinks to natives. The meeting also thought that the magistrates should be empowered to send inebriates to homes under Government supervision, instead of to prisons.

The Conference was then adjourned.

THIRD DAY.

The chair was occupied in the morning, first by Mrs. J. Stuart, then by Mrs. C. McLaren.

POOR LAW REFORM.

Several motions were submitted dealing with the administration of the Poor Law, and eventually it was agreed that the Council should advocate the formation of a Children's Sub-Department of the Local Government Board for the care of all Poor Law children. It was urged that no children's sub-department would be satisfactory unless composed of both men and women. A further resolution was carried, asserting that provision should be made in every county for a separate institution for the special treatment and education of imbeciles. A resolution that power should be given to guardians to detain the children of vagrants in workhouses for educational purposes was defeated.

DIVORCE LAWS.

It was declared that the existing law of divorce was a grave injustice to women, and the Council claimed that the Act of 1857 should be amended so as to place women on an equal footing with men.

WOMEN AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

The delegates were strongly in favour of the admission of women as members of town and county councils, and urged such amendments in the law as would make their election possible. The Federation was of opinion that no alteration in the constitution or powers of the London local authorities should be made except by legislation dealing with London as a whole, and providing for the equalisation of burdens, as between the different districts.

The Council expressed itself as being convinced of the urgent necessity for some measure being adopted for the registration and supervision of midwives.

IN THE KITCHEN.

LIEBIG COMPANY'S EXTRACT

Jos. Liebig

GOES FARTHEST.

Added to gravies and soups it acts like a cook's talisman; but always look for the BLUE SIGNATURE there are imitations which do not taste so nice, and are not so carefully manufactured.

There were several motions on the subject of Vivisection on the agenda paper, but they were withdrawn and the Conference concluded.

RESULT OF THE COMMITTEE ELECTION.

It was announced during the morning that the Countess of Carlisle had been re-elected president, Lady Trevelyan and Mrs. Broadley Reid were appointed the hon. secretaries, and Mrs. Eva McLaren hon. treasurer. The new Executive Committee consisted of Mrs. Sheldon Amos, Miss F. Bagnall, Mrs. Jacob Bright, Miss A. L. Browne, Mrs. Brownlow, Mrs. Brynmor Jones, Miss Cons, Mrs. E. O. Fordham, Lady Foster, Mrs. Corrie Grant, Lady Grove, Mrs. Price Hughes, Countess A. Kearney, Mrs. Maitland, Mrs. C. McLaren, Mrs. Martindale, Mrs. R. Perks, Miss M. Priestman, Lady Cecilia Roberts, Mrs. Bamford Slack, Miss Agnes E. Slack, Mrs. Stewart Brown, Mrs. J. Stuart, Mrs. L. B. Schwann, Mrs. D. A. Thomas, and Mrs. Wynford Philipps.

THE PUBLIC MEETING.

Mrs. Eva McLaren presided, and amongst those present were Mr. F. S. Stevenson, M.P., Mr. J. Stuart, M.P., Lady Stevenson, Miss Florence Bagnall, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Lindsay, Mr. H. Torr, Mrs. Broadley Reid, Mrs. Tanner, Miss Priestman, Mrs. L. B. Schwann, and Miss A. L. Browne.

Mrs. McLaren, in opening the proceedings, alluded in sympathetic terms to the cause of the Cretans. Turning to home affairs, she said the Federation was grateful for the victory which women's suffrage had won in the House of Commons, towards which the Federation had contributed much. They might yet have to fight many battles before female suffrage became the law of the land, but it was gratifying to note that women were taking a more and more active part in public affairs. They were beginning to realise that it was the women themselves who must gain their enfranchisement, and they should do their utmost to strike the blow. (Cheers.)

Mr. Stevenson, M.P., moved a resolution protesting against the policy of Lord Salisbury, "through which England had joined with the other powers of Europe to maintain the integrity of the Turkish Empire, through which British forces had been employed to prevent the people of Crete from choosing their own governors, and through which the unhappy war between Turkey and Greece had been precipitated." The motion expressed the earnest hope that the influence of Great Britain would be used to prevent any Christian populations being placed under the rule of the Sultan. He said that the present state of things in Europe would have been inconceivable twenty years ago, and he ventured to think that every clause of the resolution was capable of being amply justified. (Cheers.) He, for his part, considered with regard to the present claims of Turkey against Greece that it would be absolutely monstrous if the Powers were to think that any indemnity of the kind proposed would be accepted by Greece. (Cheers.)

Miss Bagnall seconded the motion, and in a vigorous speech characterised the Concert of

Europe as a piece of "colossal stupidity." It was from the first a curse, but it had now become a crime. (Cheers.)

The motion was carried with enthusiasm, after which Mr. J. Stuart, M.P., in the absence of Sir James Stansfeld, moved a resolution expressing extreme satisfaction at the second reading of the Women's Suffrage Bill by a majority of 71. The resolution was seconded by Mrs. Booth, and adopted with acclamation.

UNION OF PRACTICAL SUFFRAGISTS

WITHIN THE WOMEN'S LIBERAL FEDERATION.

THIS Union, whose object is "to induce Women's Liberal Associations to work for no Liberal candidate who would vote against Women's Suffrage in the House of Commons," held its first annual meeting on May 20th, at the Paddington Vestry Hall, and the attendance, which included Mrs. Mill Colman, a sister of John Stuart Mill, and many representative women, was large, and the proceedings most enthusiastic throughout. The date, although chosen solely with reference to the Council meetings of the Women's Liberal Federation, was a very auspicious one, being the anniversary, not only of Mill's birthday, but also of the memorable occasion on which he first brought the claims of women before the House of Commons in 1867.

The meeting was opened by an address from Miss Priestman, the President, who congratulated the Union on the progress it was making, and on the pleasing fact that two more members of its Committee, Lady Grove and Mrs. Brownlow, had been elected on the Executive of the Women's Liberal Federation, thus raising to eight the number of avowed friends on that body.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Taylor, of Chipchase, being unavoidably absent, a letter was read from her giving an abstract of the accounts to date, and this was followed by the report of the Hon. Secretary, which was in every respect satisfactory. It showed that the friends of the movement were steadily increasing in number, fresh adhesions being constantly received from Women's Liberal Associations in all parts of the country, and that nine leaflets had been published by the committee, and some 30,000 of them carefully distributed. Reference was also made to the fact that the "test" resolution had not been brought forward at the W.L.F. Council meeting this year, the Committee of the Union having reluctantly decided to postpone it, in the expectation that the Women's Suffrage Bill would again come before the House on June 23rd, and thence they deemed it advisable that all should unite on a strong declaration in favour of the Suffrage, and that there should be no possibility of prejudice to the cause from an acrimonious discussion on procedure at so critical a period. Events, however, had shown that the concession was made to no purpose,

the unenfranchised having once more been deprived of their opportunity, without a protest from either side of the House, and it now remained for the Union, made wiser by experience, to look forward to the Council meetings for next year, when it would certainly bring forward the question of the absolute necessity of Liberal women refusing to work for candidates opposed to the enfranchisement of women.

The adoption of the report and balance-sheet was moved by Dr. Sarah Anderson Brown, seconded by Mrs. Mill Colman, and carried unanimously. No fresh nominations having been received, the president, hon. treasurer, and committee were re-elected, on the motion of Mrs. Handel Booth, seconded by Miss Lile.

The following resolution was then moved, on behalf of the Executive Committee, by Lady Grove, and seconded by Miss Florence Bagnall:—"That any Liberal candidate for Parliament who holds so lightly the fundamental Liberal principle—government of the people by the people—as to wish to exclude duly qualified women from the franchise, is not a fit person for Women's Liberal Associations to support."

The resolution was ably advocated by the mover and seconder, and was adopted without a single dissentient.

A letter was read from "Gwyneth Vaughan," giving a most encouraging report of the progress of the movement in Wales, and a most successful meeting was brought to a close by a discussion about the best means of furthering the object of the Union, in which more than twenty of those present took part.

The following is a copy of the circular issued to the supporters of the Union a few weeks ago, explaining why the Committee waived for this year bringing their resolution forward at the W.L.F. meetings.

"In view of the situation created by the second reading of the Women's Suffrage Bill, by so large a majority, on February 3rd, the probability of its further consideration in Committee on June 23rd, and the consequent desirability of presenting a united front to its opponents, my Committee have come to the conclusion that it will be better not to bring forward, at the coming Council Meeting of the Women's Liberal Federation, the resolution suggested in their leaflet, No. IV. My Committee, I need scarcely add, reserve their full liberty to act in the future as circumstances may require, and, in the meantime, would urge on all Women's Liberal Associations that it is more than ever important that Women's Suffrage should be brought prominently forward at any bye-election that may take place in the interval, so that there may be no doubt in the mind of any Liberal candidate as to the earnest desire of Liberal women for this much-needed reform.—Yours faithfully, HESTER LEEDS, Hon. Secretary.

If I may presume to offer an old woman's counsel to the younger workers in our cause, it would be that they should adopt the point of view that it is before all things our duty to obtain the franchise.—Frances Power Cobbe.

For INFANTS

and INVALIDS.

MELLIN'S FOOD

When Prepared is similar to Breast Milk.

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

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

A WELL-ATTENDED meeting was held in the County Hall, Guildford, on the 19th inst., the arrangements having been kindly and excellently made entirely by Mrs. Roberts-Austen, of the Royal Mint, whose country home is in Surrey. Mr. Walter McLaren occupied the chair, and amongst those present besides the speakers were Lady Farrer, Mrs. Cross (well-known amongst the early supporters of the movement as Miss Ashworth), the Hon. Mrs. B. Russell, Mrs. Behrens, Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Hodgson, Miss Irene Miller-Ford, and Mrs. Baxter.

Mrs. Fawcett moved the following resolution: "That this meeting records its deep satisfaction at the passing of the Second Reading of the Parliamentary Franchise (Extension to Women) Bill by so large a majority, and prays the House of Commons not to extend the Whitsuntide recess over the 23rd June, in order that the Bill may be carried through its final stages and placed upon the State book in this record year of a woman's glorious reign." Mrs. Fawcett commenced her speech by referring to signs of the growing interest felt in the country in their movement. She regarded it as very encouraging that there was now more union than hitherto among their various societies. When the question of government was looked at from a purely abstract point of view, some might be inclined to think that if they could be absolutely certain of capturing a benevolent despot, a despotic form of Government would be better than our rather clumsy form of representative Government. But that was hardly a practical consideration at present. They must instead consider what the object of representative Government was. Its object was to represent the whole of the community, not to leave out any important section, and she asked whether an important section was not left out when all the women of the nation were entirely without representation. In England, as they were all very glad to know, the influence of women on Government was not entirely excluded. The Government consisted of the Sovereign and the Lords and Commons. She believed there was not an English man or woman who did not feel thankful that the influence of a good

woman had been found, steadfastly on the side of what was right and just, at the very head of the Government of the country during the last sixty years. When they heard it said that the influence of politics on women would be to unsex them, they could point to her Majesty the Queen in contradiction. There were about a million women in Great Britain who would be added to the register of voters if the present Bill became law; and as there were already six million men on the register, she did not think the most timid of them need be alarmed. (Laughter.) It was, or had been, a maxim of the British Constitution that representation and taxation should go together. Why were they separated in the case of women? She mentioned cases in which papers had voted, and in which it had been held that lunacy was no disqualification for men, and said that there were cases in which ladies owning large establishments saw their servants going to the poll, while they themselves were considered unfit to have votes. During the present session a Bill had passed the House of Commons without attracting any notice, to give the vote to men who did not even occupy a room, but only a cubicle. The political parties were agreed now in urging the women who agreed with them in politics to take an active part in the work of contested elections, and if they were suited to guide and persuade men how to vote, they must be themselves fit to vote. (Applause.)

The resolution was seconded by Mrs. Reeves, the wife of the Agent-General of New Zealand, who herself voted and worked in the first Parliamentary election in New Zealand in which women exercised the franchise. All women, married or single, who have resided for one year in the Colony, are entitled to be registered as voters on their identity being certified by any other two electors. The women took the greatest interest, not only in getting registered and voting, but also in the weekly meetings of their political society, many of them explaining how much their interests and their ideas had been widened by this possibility. The franchise had enlarged women's minds and improved them greatly. The temperance party in the Colony were dissatisfied that women had not gone in more strongly for prohibition, but the speaker thought that the fact that the women

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YOU CAN EASILY MAKE 8 GALLONS OF PRIME NON-INTOXICATING BEER IN YOUR OWN HOME. THE BEST BEVERAGE TO TAKE WITH YOUR MEALS.

The open secret of Health Preservation lies in being able to enjoy your meals without the entailment of disagreeable consequences. When you accompany your food with Mason's Extract of Herbs you adopt a measure which safeguards your own comfort. During the heat of summer this beverage is peculiarly and exceptionally Delicious, Health-giving, and Invigorating, whether used in the home or the harvest field. It is excellent and energising, and deals a decisive blow at the lassitude inseparable from sultry weather. Shall we have the pleasure of sending you a SAMPLE BOTTLE FOR NINE STAMPS, POST FREE? Don't forget that a Sixpenny Bottle of MASON'S EXTRACT produces 8 Gallons of Beer, thus affording one of THE GREATEST AIDS OF THE AGE to Economy, Pleasure, and Temperance and Good Health. Of all Chemists & Stores, 6d. & 1/- per bottle. Sole Makers:

NEWBALL & MASON, NOTTINGHAM.



had preceded so cautiously, and had not demanded any great changes immediately, was satisfactory. She had found the women voters exceptionally conscientious in the use of their vote; they would have one side of a case stated to them, and would listen quietly and perhaps go away, but after a time would come back demanding to have further explanation on some detail, or some doubts cleared away, declining to use their vote recklessly or in accordance with a mere party badge.

Mrs. Fenwick Miller having addressed the meeting at some length in support of the resolution, it was put and carried unanimously, and the proceedings terminated with the usual votes of thanks.

CLIFTON.

Mrs. Fawcett spoke on Women's Suffrage to a large audience at Alexandra Hall, Clifton, which was handsomely decorated, and draped in the style of a drawing-room. The ladies of the Reception Committee were the Hon. Mrs. a'Court, Mrs. Austin, Miss Clifford, Dr. Eliza W. Dunbar, Mrs. Rutherford Elliot, Mrs. Hale, Mrs. Ashworth Hallett, Miss Lucas, Mrs. Mackenzie, Mrs. Emma Marshall, Mrs. Nicholetts, Mrs. Roeckel, Mrs. Walter Sturge, Miss Temple, and Mrs. F. E. Weatherley. The Hon. Mrs. a'Court presided at the meeting, and a resolution in favour of the enfranchisement of women was carried.

STATE REGULATION OF VICE.

A MEETING was held on May 21st, in St. Martin's Town Hall, under the auspices of the British Committee of the Federation for the Abolition of the State Regulation of Vice. The object of the meeting, over which Mr. Walter S. B. McLaren presided, was to protest against any attempt to restore the system of State regulation of vice. Mr. James Stuart, M.P., who was the principal speaker, gave a lengthy address explanatory of the attitude which the committee have taken towards the expressed desire in some quarters for the re-establishment of the C.D.A. He twitted Lord G. Hamilton with quoting figures which were twenty years old, and said the whole argument in favour of the re-imposition of the Acts was founded on false figures and wrong statements. In his opinion they ought rather to deal with the causes of disease than with the consequences, the fact being that the young soldier in India was supplied with every inducement to go wrong, and with very little in a contrary direction. He cited the example of General Goodenough at the Cape as one which ought to be followed, but condemned outright the proposals put forward recently by Lady Henry Somerset. They must be prepared for the fight, which was as certain to come as the sun was to rise next morning. Mrs. Eva McLaren said if the Government were in any doubt as to the feeling of women on the matter the sooner that doubt was dispelled the better. Mrs. Solly and others spoke, and a resolution was adopted protesting against any attempt to revive the Acts.

BRITISH REFORMS IN INDIA.

It might follow the course of legislation during the past 60 years, and point out the footprints on the sands of the statute-book, which indicate clearly the benevolent direction of British policy. But time prevents more than a brief enumeration of a few Acts of the Indian Legislature, which must tell their own tale. The following bare list must suffice:—

Various Acts to suppress Thuggeism, passed in 1837, 1839 and 1848; Acts to regulate emigration, passed in 1839 and 1864; the Act relating to slavery, passed in 1843, and another dealing with dacoity; Acts against gambling and lotteries, 1844, 1851; an Act to suppress Meriah sacrifices, 1845; Act relating to wandering gangs of thieves, 1848; Act saving forfeiture of rights for loss of caste; an Act relating to re-marriage of Hindu widows, 1856; several Acts for improving gaols, and for the proper custody of lunatics; the Act for suppressing infanticide, 1870; the Reformatories Act, 1876; a Factories' Act, 1876; a Factories Act, 1881; the Age of Consent Act, 1891; and Act for Preventing Cruelty to Animals.—William Lee-Warner.

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 thought myself, for the smell of fresh ripe fruit, as I stirred the blocks of Jelly in a basin with hot water until dissolved, has so pleasantly tickled my nostrils that I have an earnest desire myself to taste the jellies when set." The visitor at once tendered a modest request to be allowed to share the coming meal, which was forthwith acceded to, and the guest was further informed in response to the enquiry that the jellies were Chivers' Gold Medal Jellies. Such remarks as the foregoing are of constant occurrence in households where Chivers' Jellies are placed upon the table. The delicious, delicate ripe-fruit taste and odour of Chivers' Jellies claim the attention of the most unobservant. The reason for this great attractiveness of taste and odour is because the manufacturers are themselves large fruit growers and contractors for fresh fruit over a large local area. Naturally enough the Jellies are flavoured with the delicious juices of freshly-gathered raspberries and strawberries, or as in the case of orange and lemon the juices are expressed from the best ripe imported fruit. Chivers' Jams and Jellies are prepared in silver-lined pans, and handled by silver-lined lades, so that no possible contamination or impurity can detract from the natural acid and stimulating flavour of the fruits employed. Chivers' Gold Medal Jellies are not merely a delicious luxury; 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 hall-marks of delicacy, flavour, purity of material, 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.

Current News

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

The Queen has decided that in June every member of her household, who has belonged to it for 50 years, is to receive a gold medal. Those who have served for 25 years will receive a silver medal, whilst those who have served over 10 years are to have a bar or badge and the Jubilee medal of 1887.

A number of Highland women are being brought to town by the Duchess of Sutherland, to take part in the trade section (women's) of the Victorian Era Exhibition. They will wear their native costume, and are to dye, and spin, and weave before the public.

An interesting exhibit has been prepared for the Victorian Era Exhibition at Earl's Court, by Mrs. Ada S. Ballin, editor of "Baby, the Mother's Magazine," who shows at stall No. 7, in the Western Arcade, a selection of all the latest novelties in patterns and models of hygienic clothing, kindergarten appliances, instructive toys, approved literature for children, and literature relating to the well-being and management of childhood. Mrs. Ballin will also exhibit several inventions of her own, such as the Ballin Baby Safety Corset for preventing children from falling out of their cots at night, and her models of hygienic clothing for children and ladies.

CHRISTINA ROSSETTI'S favourite text during her last illness, "I will trust and not be afraid," was placed in such a position, by her desire, that her eyes might rest upon it at all times.

THE NEW LEMONADE.

MANY people suffer from extreme thirst during the hot weather. Messrs. Foster Clark & Co. have supplied the want that has long been felt by making a concentrated lemonade. It is made from the finest lemons, and the great advantage is that it is partly manufactured in Italy, in the midst of the lemon orchards. The lemons are taken direct from the trees to the factory to commence their transformation into the Eiffel Tower Concentrated Lemonade. You can get thirty-two tumblers (or two gallons) for fourpence halfpenny. If you cannot get it from your Grocer, send sixpence to G. FOSTER CLARK & Co., 269, Eiffel Tower Factory, Maidstone.

SUCCESS. ANOTHER COCKBURN TEMPERANCE HOTEL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE COOKERY EXHIBITION AT NIAGARA HALL.

THE tenth annual exhibition of the Universal Cookery and Food Association was held from the 12th to the 19th inst. at the above Hall. The building chosen for this interesting display was decidedly more suitable for the purpose than the space occupied last year, and the management are to be congratulated on the excellent way in which all the arrangements had been carried out.

The opening ceremony was performed by the Right Hon. the Baroness Burdett-Coutts, accompanied by General Lord Methuen and Lady Methuen. She was received by W. Burdett-Coutts, Esq., M.P., and President of the Association, Lady Dorothy Nevill, the Chairman (Mr. Buckmaster), and several other members of the Exhibition and Association Committees.

A large number of professional cooks and firms showed very elaborate-made dishes, jellies, creams, both savoury and sweet, and edifices carved out of lard or out of sugar, upon which to stand the dishes on the table for a set supper. There were, of course, all kinds of gas stoves, utensils for cooking of every description, and other things more interesting to see than to be told about. A kitchen of 1837 and 1897 was an attractive exhibit, and so were two dinner tables, laid according to the old-fashioned and the new-fashioned plans.

Messrs. Liebig's stall was very attractively set out, and great attention was given by visitors to a number of handsome menu cards adorned with portraits of the Royal ladies of Europe, and called "the Jubilee Series," which the firm are prepared to give away to proprietors of hotels or boarding-houses and others who use the extract. A supply can be obtained on application to 9 Fenchurch-avenue.

It may not be known to all our readers that in addition to being the makers of the original Extract, the only genuine one according to the formula of the famous chemist, Baron Liebig, the Liebig Company have introduced a special preparation for the benefit of persons of delicate digestion. This is called Peptarnis, and in some cases will be found preferable as beef tea for invalids, even to the Extract which is so much used.

Maggi's soups were shown at the stand of the sole agents in this country, Messrs. Cosenza, 95 Wigmore-street. These excellent soups, in a great variety of flavours, should be particularly noted by house-wives at this time of year, as they are prepared with the greatest simplicity; the powder of which they consist being simply mixed to a paste and added to boiling water or milk, and the flavours being some 25 in number, so that during the hot weather it is possible to serve up an attractive and nourishing soup in constant variety without any trouble about preparing the stock or doing the cooking. Country readers visiting London will be interested to hear that weekly demonstrations of these soups, and also of the wonderful condensed "Dries" sauces, by which all kinds of delicious French dishes are rapidly and easily produced, are given every Monday at 11 o'clock at 95 Wigmore-street, and all callers are freely invited to see the dishes prepared and to taste the result.

"Hovis" had an appetising display of the delicious brown bread, biscuits, and whole meal flour prepared by their patent process. Many other breads with fanciful names have contested the position of "Hovis," but it remains unassailed in the result. None of the other breads that have been introduced have rivalled it in popularity, a fact to be attributed as much to its fine flavour as to its acknowledged nutritive and digestive value, in which it has a marked advantage over many of its competitors.

Messrs. Hugon & Co., Limited, of Manchester, the original preparers of refined beef suet, have for a third time exhibited their "Atora" suet—an excellent preparation of the best beef suet for all culinary purposes, and one of acknowledged purity and usefulness, which has taken honours here on previous occasions. Messrs. Hugon & Co., Limited, are contributors to the

prize-list—giving one special silver medal for Army Cookery, and they have given the suet used in the competitions and demonstrations.

Cerebos table salt is certified by eminent analysts to contain certain elements of great importance to the strength-forming qualities of food. Certainly, the housekeeper will delight in it; the fineness of its texture and its freedom from lumpiness make it a table luxury that no dainty housewife will ever be without, after giving it a trial.

Messrs. Alfred Bird & Sons, of Birmingham, occupied a prominent stand in the Entrance Hall to the Exhibition, on which was found the universally popular custard powder, which fills a place of acknowledged usefulness in the family all the year round—the accompaniment of the fresh fruit dishes of the summer season, and the welcome accompaniment in another form of the Christmas Day pudding. Other of the preparations of this well-known firm are to be seen, and Bird's baking powder, blanc mange powder, concentrated egg powder, &c., and an elaborate display of high-class dishes of a most inviting and attractive character, thus showing the facilities afforded by the use of their custard and blanc mange powder in the preparation of menus for first-class banquets and dinners. An especially interesting feature was the sole remaining box of the supply of custard powder taken out by Dr. Nansen. Enough was sent for a five years' voyage, but when the "Fram" returned after only three years' absence, behold the crew had so enjoyed the preparation that only this one case remained!

Our Open Columns.

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

CORSETS.

To the Editor of the Woman's Signal.

DEAR MADAM,—I could give many good reasons why women should not wear corsets, but there is one reason for wearing them, which I, for one, have until now been unable to overcome. We do, on the whole, look such frights without them!

The corset I have found least objectionable from the standpoint of health and comfort is knitted, and only has light thin bones, and, of course, the knitting stretches as the body requires. But gladly would I give up even this, if only someone would design a convenient, nice-looking corsetless dress. As things are at present, there is greater discomfort in doing without the corset than in suffering its inconveniences. The feeling of the waistband around the unprotected waist, the weight of the skirt on the hips, and that awful chasm at the back between bodice and skirt, which will happen—all these go to make up the reason why women wear corsets. Then, again, a thin, fleshless woman may manage herself respectably without a corset, but one who is at all plump looks, to my thinking, almost disgusting in the ordinary modern dress.

The greatest help that could be given to the anti-corset movement would be to design an appropriate costume, semi-Greek, or something of the kind. Until then, I fear the corset will remain.—Believe me, yours sincerely,
ADA J. O. ADAMS.

Newlyn, Penzance, May 3rd.

MOTHER.

How shall I sing thee, Mother mine belov'd?
How pour my worship on thy sacred urn?
Thy heart, so large, with love perennial moved,
And each of us, thy children, felt it yearn
As if for us alone. How oft 'twas proved
That sickness, danger, sorrow made it burn
More bright, e'en for the prodigal that rovd!
From home's dear shelter, seeking his return!
I feel thy touch, e'en now, upon my head;
The memory of thy voice has power to thrill,
Till I bethink, the last "good-bye" is said;
Ah, then my very pulses seem to chill:—
Again reaction—Heaven's joy is spread,—
She beckons where no parting tear is shed.
Annie Clegg.

NARROW ESCAPE OF A GIRL.

ST. LEONARDS has been the scene of numerous startling events in the course of its career, which have excited the attention, not only of the borough itself, but of the whole country. Recently there has been another striking incident, which has been the subject of much comment, and which, moreover, has an instructive side. A narrow escape from death arrested attention, and the *Hastings Observer* visited the heroine, Miss Sarah E. Gough, of St. Leonards, a prepossessing, rosy-faced young woman, looking the picture of health.

"I used to suffer from anemia," she said, "and was ill for four or five months. I kept getting worse and worse, and was so weak that I could not walk about. I used to wish I could die. I could not eat anything without being sick, and for two or three days I would go without anything to eat at all. When I went



upstairs I had to go up one or two at a time, and then take a rest. I had no breath for walking. I lost all my colour; a very clever doctor told me that I had not got half a pint of blood in me, and that what I had was no good

adding that I was on the verge of consumption. I had to take to my bed—I could not stand. The doctor tried my heart, and said it was very weak. I had very bad palpitations, and used to suffer from indigestion. At last I tried Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. Everybody was telling me about them, and the good they had done. After I had been taking them about a week I began to feel better. I had more colour, and regained my strength. My breath came back, too. I took them continuously for about two months, leaving off taking them about four months ago."

"And now you feel quite well?"

"Yes, I am better now than ever I was in my life. The people used to ask whatever was the matter with me. They told me I was in consumption."

Miss Gough's words clearly show that her cure is permanent. These Pills are not like other medicine, and their effects are permanent. They act directly on the blood, and thus it is that they are so famous for the cure of anaemia and rheumatism, weak heart, scrofula, consumption, chronic erysipelas, and to restore pale and sallow complexions to the glow of health. They are also a splendid nerve and spinal tonic, and thus have cured many cases of paralysis, locomotor ataxy, neuralgia, St. Vitus' dance, and nervous headache. They are sold by chemists, and by Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, 46, Holborn-viaduct, London, at 2s. 9d. a box, or six for 13s. 9d., but are genuine only with full name, Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People.

FAVOUR and flattery blow women up into air-bubbles. It is pressure that brings the good wine out. Give them a fair field and no favour. The rougher conduct towards them is merely the sign of an advance of thought.—E. Brooke.

ALL the just reasoning that can be had on the nature of civil freedom is of so coarse a texture as those who are to enjoy, and of those who are to defend it.—Edmund Burke.

DARE to be true. Nothing can need a lie; A fault, which needs it most, grows two thereby.—George Herbert.

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

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

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The Queen in 1837.

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For they should be dusted and thoroughly well sprinkled with

"KEATING'S POWDER"

before putting away. It is harmless to everything except insects, but unrivalled in killing Moths, Fleas, Beetles, Bugs.

Sold everywhere, only in tins, 3d., 6d. and 1/- each.

Dr. Mary J. Hall-Williams (M.D., Boston)

Will Lecture to Ladies at the WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL UNION, 405, Oxford Street, W. (entrance in Thomas Street), on the first Wednesday of each month, at 4 p.m. Silver Collection taken. Lectures February 3rd, March 3rd, April 7th, May 5th and June 2nd.

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