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THE **WOMAN'S**

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

Edited by
MRS. FENWICK MILLER.

SIGNAL

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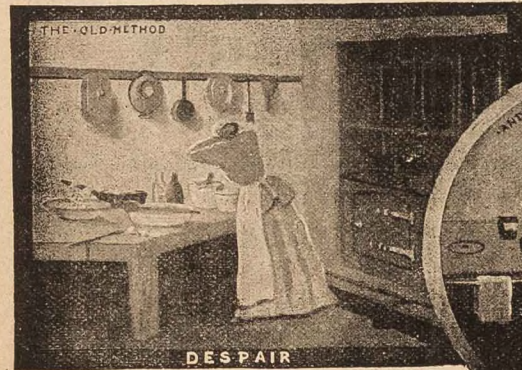
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THE WOMAN'S SIGNAL

A WEEKLY RECORD AND REVIEW FOR LADIES.

VOL. VII., No. 160.]

JANUARY 21, 1897.

One Penny Weekly.

FREEWOMEN OF CITY COMPANIES.

By EMILY HILL.

THE recent admission of the Hon. Alicia Amherst, first to the freedom of the Gardeners' Company, and then, through the presentation of that Company, to the freedom of the City of London, recalls the days when the Companies consisted of "brethren and sisters," each wearing his or her livery, and meeting together in council or at high festival in their old city halls. "Plus ça change, plus ça reste la meme chose." The paradoxical proverb finds illustration in a comparison of the status of the modern and the medieval woman. Those venerable survivals of early England—the City Companies—following the practice of the religious guilds, enrolled both "brethren and sisters;" widows, wives and single women being all received into membership. They may, thus, be said to have realised the *beau ideal* of reformers of to-day in civic and political matters—the admittance of women on equal terms with men.

The lady who has just been made a "freewoman" has honourably earned the dignity by writing a History of Gardening, but the present position of women in relation to the City Companies is generally of a very different character. They are for the most part pensioners or beneficiaries, and the "freedom" which some of the Companies still invite them to take up is a veritable shadow of its former self. The powers and privileges which they possessed four or five centuries ago are extinct through disuse.

Changed as the Companies now are in function and character, they remain 89 in number. Their membership they themselves find it difficult to ascertain with accuracy, as deaths are often not notified to them. The estimate of 10,000 is, however, probably not excessive. In some, as in the Fishmongers, women still take up their freedom in considerable numbers—but mainly for the sake of pecuniary benefit in cases of indigence—in others they do so to a limited extent, as in the case of the Clothworkers, where women form 10 per cent. of the membership; in others, as in the Merchant Taylors, they have ceased to be admitted at all as free women. In every Company their status has changed in a manner in which that of men has not. For the women it has been a process of retrogression.

The third of the twelve Grand or Major Companies, the Drapers, claims seniority, the "mystery," as it was called, having been amerced in penalties for existing without a license in 1180, though there is no date of a charter earlier than the 88th year of Edward III. From the outset women were admitted to membership on the same terms as men, and were expressly included in the first Charter of Incorporation:—"The Master, Wardens, and Brothers, and Sisters of the Guild or Fraternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Mystery of Drapers of the City of London." In the days of the Plantagenets and Lancastrians, and on probably through those of the Tudors if not the Stuarts,

"the female members of the Company carried on the business of drapery and took apprentices like the men."

Festivities formed an essential part of the Company's proceedings, and the Ladies' Chamber was a splendid apartment wholly appropriated to the use of the "Sistern." They generally banqueted with the Brethren, but were occasionally served separately in this their special room. Here sat the matrons; in what was called the "chekker chamber" were disposed the "maydens." And there was no lack of ceremonious preparation or good fare at those ladies' dinners. The rank of the guests determined the position of their seats, whether at the upper or side table. There is no exact record of the numbers who sat down, but we are told that the cloth at the side table was eight yards long. The fare was the same as at the great table. Here is part of the *menu* for the election feast of 1515: "Brawn and mustard, capon boiled, swan roasted, pike, venison baked and roasted, jellies, pastry, quails, sturgeon, salmon and wafers, and ipocras." These dainties were served in five "messes" or courses, and a like number was provided for the maidens.

Our ancestors and ancestresses were, by all accounts, valiant with the knife and fork. A Mr. Reeve, who in the seventeenth century constituted himself a kind of *ensor morum*, wrote that the expenditure on inordinate eating in one year in the kingdom would exceed the income of the Spanish Indies, and added: "We drink as if we were nothing but sponges to draw up moisture," and that the vice had spread to both sexes.

But the lady members of the Company in those days were craftswomen, and by no means appeared merely as ornaments on festive occasions. They carried on the business of drapery and took apprentices like men. They also shared in the government of the Company, and were trustees of certain almshouses to which freewomen had the right of admittance. They obtained their title of freedom in the same way as men—by patrimony or servitude. Gradually the Drapers, like the other Companies, ceased to have any connection with trade, and women took up their freedom in it solely for the sake of the monetary assistance to which in case of indigence they became entitled. Yet, during the 32 years between 1801 and 1833, only 42 freewomen were admitted.

The schools for orphan girls established by the Drapers' Company at Llandaff and Denbigh had a romantic, old-world origin. One Thos. Howell, who died 350 years ago, left a bequest of 400 ducats as a marriage portion for four maidens annually. If his own lineage failed the ducats were to go to "four poor maidens for ever." The bequest has now very appropriately been applied to the establishment of these schools. In this, as in other Companies, freedom through patrimony only descends down the male line; that is, a man passes on his freedom to his son and his son's son, *ad infinitum*; but a woman, though entitled to her own freedom if she is the daughter of a freeman, cannot hand on the possession to her own son or daughter.

Henry VI. is the monarch usually named as being the first to grant a charter to "the Wardens and Commonalty of the Mystery of the Fishmongers of the City of London;" but the Company is said to have existed prior to Henry II., and that Edward I. granted a charter in the first year of his reign (1272). There is, however, no such charter now extant, though there is a patent granted by Edward III. In the days when election to the Company was solemnised at St. Peter's, Cornhill, both women and men walked thither in procession in their liveries, "alle the brethren and sistern of the same fraternitie."

At the time of the Queen's accession there were upwards of 100 Freewomen, and they continue to be admitted, but mainly for the sake of participation in the bounties of the Company. The Fishmongers, which, as everybody knows, is a "grand" Company *par excellence*, is still a very active body in connection with its own trade, for its officials have the inspection of all fish sold within the City proper, and its jurisdiction over salmon extends throughout England. It was the first of the City Companies to give a donation (£100) towards the North London School for Girls.

The two Companies which have shown the most marked munificence with regard to the Secondary Education of Girls are the Brewers and the Clothworkers. The former built and endowed the North London Collegiate School in Sandall-road, Camden-road, and the Camden School in Prince of Wales's-road, at an expenditure of £40,000. This money was from the bequest of Richard Platt, a wealthy brewer in the reign of James II., who left a piece of ground in his native village of Aldenham for the erection of a school. On this bit of "village" land now stands St. Pancras Station. The money thus continues to be used in the parish. Curiously enough in the ancient church of St. Pancras was erected an altar tomb to Mary Wollstonecraft, the authoress of "The Vindication of the Rights of Women," and her husband, William Godwin. The Brewers Company also built and endowed the Owen's Girls' School, Owen's-row, E.C. Women still take up their freedom in this Company either by patrimony or redemption.

The Clothworkers' Company built the great hall of the school in Camden-road, and for beauty of finish and warmth of colour it is the chief of school halls. The Company have also given a memorial window to the real foundress of the establishment, Frances Mary Buss. A portrait forms part of the design. The Company's clerk, Sir Owen Roberts, holds liberal and generous views on the position and education of women, and is ever ready to champion their claims for a fair field. He is very anxious to see more women take up their freedom in the Company by patrimony, and has enfranchised his own daughters. Some ten per cent. of the members are now women. During the first thirty years of the present century eleven women were admitted to the freedom, and only two ever applied for relief.

(To be continued.)

A YEAR'S WORK AT DUXHURST.

By Lady Henry Somerset.

The interest which the readers of the SIGNAL have from time to time taken in the scheme known as the Industrial Farm Colony makes me feel that it will be no unwelcome theme to tell how we have prospered during the first twelve months of work.

With the years, I think, we all grow more optimistic; we see more of the good in human nature, less of the ill; we believe in its possibilities, and hold more strongly to the overcoming power of right over wrong. Perhaps it is that our eyes see the perspective of life more clearly, for when summer leaves are off the trees the distance opens out before us. But hopeful as I was at the beginning of this year that the principles on which we intended to conduct our scheme would be likely to be successful, I should not have believed that we could have worked them out with so little difficulty in so short a time.

It is encouraging to believe that at any rate are feeling our way towards a solution of the difficulty that has perplexed us sorely—how to deal with our drunken women. The spirit of reform is in the air; it affects all our views, and must necessarily soon alter our methods. We have hitherto relied on penal treatment; now we are beginning to see that we need educational methods. The prison has failed as a deterrent to the habitual drunkard; but we believe the hospital will succeed, and it is essentially on the lines of a hospital that we have opened our work. Our medicine is fresh air and hard work; kindness, sympathy, and, above all, the atmosphere of home. We have found that the outdoor employments in which most of our patients are engaged have a curiously exhilarating effect, both mentally and physically, and the trim forcing houses, neat gardens, and well-grown fruit and flowers testify to the power of women to carry out this work with a large measure of success. The hothouses, which have been from first to last cared for entirely by the women, have done so well this first year that we are justified in erecting other buildings on the same plan. The beautiful crop of early French beans and the abundance of ripe tomatoes have proved to us that this labour is not only healthful but also remunerative. The enthusiasm that the gardening has awakened amongst those who are engaged in it is another hopeful sign. Our women were as intent on sending their crop of early vegetables to the London market as any professional market gardener in the land, and as proud of their handiwork.

I was speaking a few days ago to the medical man who visits us periodically; and he told me that he could

not have believed that such good physical results could have attended the treatment given to the patients at Duxhurst. He had seen women whose health seemed to be permanently impaired entirely recuperated



GENERAL VIEW OF THE VILLAGE HOMES FOR INEBRIATE WOMEN, DUXHURST, SURREY.

within a few weeks, latent disease in others checked, and new health and vigour restored to them. Specially successful has been the system



"THE BIRD'S NEST," DUXHURST.

of dividing the patients into little groups, each circle occupying its own particular cottage with a nurse-matron at its head. The institutional spirit has been entirely



THE HOSPITAL, DUXHURST.

they call them, is testified by the spotless cleanliness of the interior of each dwelling, and the laudable rivalry that exists in the village as to which house should be best cared for. The patients have been sent to us in many instances by magistrates, who have given the women the option of coming to the Colony or of going to prison as "drunk and disorderly." We have also some who have left prison, and many who come voluntarily from their own homes. We make no distinctions, and nobody knows the history of any of the patients but the Sister Superintendent and myself.

Perhaps the feature that has given us most encouragement, however, is the way in which the women can be trusted after a few months' residence in the village. At first no woman is allowed to leave the premises under any pretext. She is practically a prisoner on the farm; but after some months' sojourn, if no fault has been found and no rules have been broken, she is allowed to become what we call a "trust

patient" and she is free to go out walking by permission, is sent to do errands, and is given a certain amount of liberty. In only two cases has this trust been broken, and I think that the women who thus disappointed us suffered more from the reproaches of their own companions than they did from the reprimand of those in authority. The great difficulty hitherto attending this reform work has been that when women are dismissed from "homes," the first day of freedom seems to bring with it also the first struggle against temptation; but I have a strong conviction that this course is a mistake, and that the moral nature of the woman should be strengthened by degrees, in order that she may be prepared to meet the trial which she

must necessarily face when she goes out from our midst. Perhaps nothing has done so much to give brightness to the Colony as the presence of the children, and during this summer the happy faces of the little ones who occupy the children's cottage at the "Bird's Nest" brought a new interest and happiness into the women's lives. The little treats that they imagined for the tiny visitors, the many kindly acts that they were able to perform, the blessed trust that the children themselves showed to the women, and the ringing sounds of laughter and shouts of joy were all of infinite value in moulding the thought of those who, perhaps, had nothing to look back upon but sin, sorrow, and sadness. Joy is a necessary part of healthful life, and it was a problem to us how we could bring it to women, isolated from their families, and burdened with a bitter past; but the children have answered

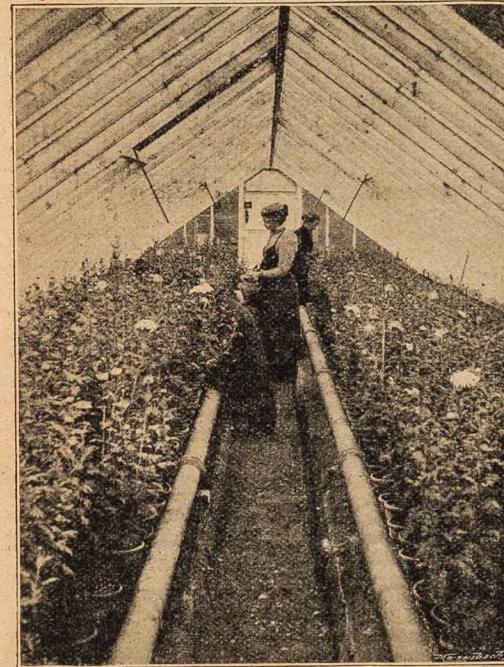
this question for us. They come to us from the London slums for a brief, blissful

removed in this way, and the pride that the women take in "our little homes," as

summer holiday, and we make a point of taking those who are so poor that they are ineligible for the Children's Holiday Fund.

This Home is cared for by Sister Kathleen. She has made children's work a special study, and has written several most interesting accounts of her experiences at the "Bird's Nest."

As to results, I am not fond of dealing with statistics when human hearts and human lives are concerned. The mystery of a living soul is too deep for words, and the infinite variety of human character is a kaleidoscope that changes too quickly for one to attempt to catch a definite outline; but we can only say that we have every reason to thank God for the kindly co-operation given to us by the very women themselves, who might, by their resistance, make our efforts so difficult; and we have seen enough to lead us to believe that the methods that we have adopted are likely in many cases to succeed. More than this we dare not at present state.



AT WORK IN THE HOthouse, DUXHURST.

It is singular how little trouble we have had, considering how difficult have been the cases with which we were called to deal. Of course we have had failures, but we expect them. Of course we have had trials and disappointments; but did we not believe that our work must meet with all the resistance that will strengthen its growth, we should never have faced the undertaking, as a scheme that would deal with the realities of lives that we intend to ameliorate. On the other hand, we have seen the women alter in the sunshine of the atmosphere that has been around them, and we have cases to-day of lives that we believe to be wholly changed, and women whose outlook has been completely altered by their residence in our midst.

From some of the relatives we have received grateful acknowledgments. One letter we print as a sample of the gratitude which is constantly evinced when the women return to their homes:—

1896. Dear Madam,—My wife having been home now a month, I write to let you know how she

has behaved. I am very pleased and happy to inform you, you have made quite a different woman of her by your kind treatment. To tell you the truth, I never thought when you took her you would be able to cure and make such a complete change in her, for nothing that was said or done would keep her from the drink, but by kindness and the splendid system you have, you have accomplished it. She has come back a better woman in every respect, for a more sober, hardworking industrious wife no man could wish for. There was a time when I was ashamed to be seen with her, for she was such a dissipated drunken woman; but it is quite different now, for I am quite proud of her. I have actually known her in winter, when it has been bitterly cold, to take her boots off in the street and pawn them to get drink, so you see what a terrible craving she must have had for it, and I am sure it is marvellous the change you have made. While at Duxhurst she opened an account in the Post Office Savings Bank, and since she has been home has added

80s. more to it, besides buying herself some new things; that is far better than squandering it in drink. Wishing you success in the good work you are trying to accomplish, which I am certain you will have if others turn out as my wife has done,

I remain, yours truly, * * *

Perhaps the saddest feature of the work is the fact that we have been obliged to refuse three thousand applications because our accommodation is at present limited; we can only take in forty-two patients in the village itself, and beds are bespoken months before they are free.

We want the women of this country to realise what such a statement as this must mean to the future of our land, and to help us to deal with this problem in such a

scientific way that the habitual and increasing drunkenness among women may be regarded not only as a great evil, the necessary outcome, perhaps, of the existence of overwhelming temptation, but also as a dread disease which calls for all the effort that we can put forth to stay its ravages, and eventually root out its existence.

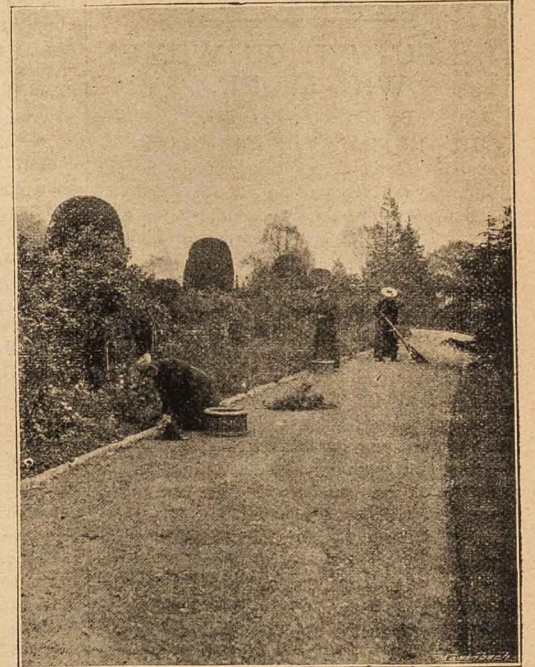
ISABEL SOMERSET.

The Rev. the Marquis of Normanby, speaking at Whitby, said:—From his personal experience he knew what Sunday traffic in strong drink did; he passed a number of years in Lancashire amongst a class of working men, and therefore knew something about them, but take them on the whole there was a great majority in favour of Sunday Closing. The working man knew full well where his weakness was; and if the public-houses were closed on a Sunday there would be many an additional home bright and cheerful. He expressed the hope that they would never allow the temperance question to become a party-political question, for if they did they would be lost; it was a national question, and therefore should be taken as such.

HONOURS FOR WOMEN FROM THE QUEEN.

The Editor of a contemporary is inviting by circular the replies of ladies to a question whether there should be an Order of Knighthood for women, founded in honour of the Queen's diamond wedding with the nation. Mrs. Fenwick Miller answers as follows:—

Dear Sir,—In reply to your circular, I have pleasure in pointing out that I originated, at the time of the Jubilee, the very suggestion that women ought to have a share in "Royal Honours" to which you refer. The Woman's Jubilee tribute was also originated by me, and the suggestion for it was published, in the same quarter as the idea that women should share in the distribution of titles and decorations, namely, in the Illustrated London News "Ladies' Column." I have the pleasure to append a literal copy of the matter printed over my signature in the Illustrated of March 26th, 1887:—



AT WORK IN THE MANOR HOUSE GARDEN AT DUXHURST.

"The Women's Jubilee Fund, the idea of which was originated in this column, is proving a great success. . . I have now a new suggestion to offer, which I hope may be equally fortunate in its reception. It is well known that the male world—that portion of it which has any sort of claim for a sprinkling from the fountain of honour—is all agog about the distribution of titles and ribbons that is expected to accompany the completion of the Sovereign's half-century. Surely, as that Sovereign is a woman, there should be some distribution of titles and decorations in connection with this occasion to distinguished women. . . Simple knighthood, with the title of 'Lady' appended, for women is, perhaps, a new idea, but that is no reason for rejecting it. Why should not some veteran author, such as Mrs. Mary Howitt, Mrs. Cowden-Clarke, or Mrs. Oliphant, be knighted? Why should not Madame Albani be honoured for musical women, and Mrs. Jopling, or Mrs. Ward, or Mrs. Allingham be decorated for the female artists; Lady Aberdeen and the [now Dowager] Duchess of Marlborough for services to Ireland; Lady Dufferin for services in India (with many other

noble ladies), and Lady Burdett-Coutts, Lady Brabazon and Lady Strangford for untiring efforts for the poor and suffering? These are but names chosen at random from many whose services might thus be recognised. And would not the whole nation approve if a peerage were pressed upon the acceptance of the honoured and revered Miss Florence Nightingale?"

This is a quotation from what I wrote in the Jubilee year, ten years ago, and I have just repeated the suggestion in the same columns, as you have perhaps seen. When I have the honour of printing any suggestion in that important newspaper, I am at any rate certain that it will be seen in the highest quarters; and though my plea for Royal honours to illustrious persons of the Sovereign's sex was not accepted at the Jubilee, we have advanced so far since then as regards the public work of women and its recognition that I think the present is an even more favourable opportunity for introducing public honours for women, and am therefore not without hope of seeing the project carried to a successful end.

THE FUTURE OF WOMEN WHO WORK.

By EDITH A. BARNETT.

III.—IN PRAISE OF ANNUITIES.

AMONG the many things that may be bought with money are years of added life. And yet, though everyone would choose to have, few care to buy. It is not that the price is very high, or the market difficult to find. Nor do I speak in paradox. It is just the plain truth, known to all, that annuitants live long in the land: that the trouble and anxiety of providing for the future once lifted, all the energy of the person seems to go into clinging on to life.

Much food for thought and many queer tragedies are to be found between the lines on the books of societies whose business it is to grant small pensions and annuities to the poor. In old-fashioned country places the half-a-crown a week outdoor relief carries with it some of the same saving virtue. And the last plea listened to by those who know is that the "poor old thing is so decrepit, and one foot's in the grave, and the money cannot be claimed for long." For, once the annuity granted, decrepitude disappears in an energetic determination to have some comfort out of life at last. The foot is lifted out of the grave. And the money is claimed until long after some of the busy men who granted it have been laid to rest.

Yet it is only the ignorant who talk of deception or make-believe. No disease kills like worry. No tonic revives like hope fulfilled. We all want something to live for. And there is, no doubt, real, solid pleasure to be got out of the knowledge that one has made an honest and a good bargain with the hard world at large or with some great and powerful society, all of whose experts and all of whose wisdom hadn't reckoned up what a power of life there was in the old woman yet. Talk about "the fierce joy of living"! Depend upon it, it does not end with youth—at any rate, not with the youth of annuitants.

And then there is the point of view of relations. It is hard upon a man to have to keep his sisters and aunts and cousins. Of course, he had money spent upon his education, and they, maybe, had none. But that is all past long ago, and whether or no, it is difficult for a man in these hard times to make his way and bring up his family, and educate and place his sons and daughters according to modern fashion. Lots of girls are now getting a bad

start in life because their father must keep in idleness aunts who also had a bad start when their life was young. Lots of women would like to marry, and it would be better both for them and the world that they should marry, yet they remain single because round their lover's neck hang helpless and penniless female relatives who live on and on through years that they do not greatly enjoy.

And it is ill waiting for dead women's shoes. I fancy that many maiden ladies of means would be more sincerely regretted, and perhaps even more cordially beloved did they leave nothing behind them save the memory of a dropped annuity and a few personal keepsakes. Yet maiden ladies have a strange prejudice against annuities. They have often a fixed belief that they must leave their capital intact to brothers and sisters or to nephews and nieces. The belief is often compatible with a genius for foolish investments, which defeats its own object; but that is another question. The hard thing is to say why, on the face of it, and for justice sake, an unmarried woman should not sink her share of a modest family fortune in an annuity, and live in comfort as long as she can, and have the pleasure of giving away what she chooses to give during her lifetime. People take their pleasures differently, and her sisters have had the (much greater) pleasure of a husband and children. If she had chosen to marry, the said sister's husband and children would neither have had nor expected to have any of her money at her death; and they would have managed somehow without it. It does seem unreasonable that, having been deprived by the Fates of one source of happiness, the unmarried woman of small means should willfully deprive herself of another, in obedience to a custom that is clearly not dictated by desire for her advantage. But if it be not advisable to sink inherited money, there can be no reason why an unmarried working woman should not sink and spend during her lifetime every penny that she has earned or saved. If she began with nothing she will probably have learned through experience that it is a doubtful blessing to be set, by reason of inherited money, beyond the call to work, so that she need not be so anxious to leave much money behind for those whom she loves best.

But for those working women who have not inherited money, nor earned large incomes, the difficulty, so it will be said, lies in finding the wherewithal to buy an annuity; every woman would like one if she could get it. On the contrary, an annuity is a form of investment suitable, but not generally acceptable, to single working women who have no one directly dependent upon them. They seem to think that what they save that way they cannot spend, not perceiving that an annuity or the promise of an annuity is an object as definitely bought as a loaf of bread or a pair of shoes. But bread and shoes are such dull purchases! When one has been at the pains of earning, it is so much more agreeable to most women to spend on luxuries, especially on the luxury of giving.

Many a woman diminishes her personal expenses in food and flannel to such a point that she has not health and strength to do the work that she is paid money for doing in the best possible way, and yet, in her account book, if she has one, are written down all sorts of presents bestowed on all and sundry—theatre tickets, ornaments, futile doles of sixpences and shillings, dropped here and there for no better reason than because somebody asked for them. I could tell

of one woman who spent all her savings on a grand piano for a relation, and within a year had fallen upon public charity for a maintenance: of another who spent £5 on a charity bazaar—held, we may take for granted, for the usual worthy objects—though she had left her butcher unpaid, and perpetually and with reason spoke of her fallen fortunes. To be sure to give is sweet, and praise falls pleasantly on the ear, especially on that of a maiden lady whose importance in life is a vanishing quantity, and justice, whether to ourselves or to others, seldom earns the praise freely bestowed on generosity, whether wise or foolish. We hear so much of the duty of giving, nothing about the duty of withholding. Yet, what right have we to spend on luxuries, *i.e.*, on things we could do our work just as well without, unless we first endeavour to live honestly at our own charges? The lady who bought the grand piano was a foolish woman to be sure, yet she differed from others chiefly in that the beginning and the end of her story were so near together. It is harder to see the moral when the piano comes into youth and the charitable maintenance into age.

But, buying an annuity or a pension, one may die and lose the money? To be sure one may; yet while one lived one would have had the pleasure of a quiet mind, and that is worth paying something for. And if nobody died young, those who buy annuities and pensions would have to pay a great deal more for them. We are members one of another, and our loss is some other's gain.

(To be continued.)

SANDALS.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to us:—I should like to draw the attention of the readers of the WOMAN'S SIGNAL to the wearing of sandals. I have worn them myself for over three years, and find my feet in every way more comfortable than they used to be.

In a sandal the foot can take all its natural actions and attitudes without restraint; the toes spread as the heel lifts, the ankle works naturally, the heel is flat, and by all the muscles of the foot and back of the leg being brought into play greater warmth is obtained than when the foot is shut up in a leather boot or shoe. By the air passing freely through the wollen stocking to the skin, all tendency to clamminess is done away with, and the growth of corns is unknown.

So much of our comfort depends on the condition of our feet; walking and standing are both torture when they are uncomfortable, therefore it is absolutely necessary to keep our feet in the best condition possible.

I wear sandals in the house and garden, and find that getting my feet wet does not give me cold as it would if they were shut up in unventilated leather coverings, the air soon dries them, and no harm is done.

The sun, too, is able to play upon the nerves through the skin, which is health-giving and pleasant. Having derived so much benefit myself, I cannot refrain from trying to induce my fellow-women to share in the good thing that I have found.

A. J. C.
[The Editor would like to know what stockings are worn with the sandals, what the sandals are made of (soles and uppers), how they are kept on, and are they home made?]

SPEAKING of the United States, an authority says that out of 8,000,000 men therein, only 150,000 could wear knickerbockers and stockings to advantage (providing the cycle brought knee-breeches back into general use again). Out of the 8,000,000 there are 2,500,800 bow-legged, 3,165,000 knock-kneed, and 2,180,000 who have mere spindleshanks.

SALE AT MESSRS. GARROULD'S.

SOME wonderful bargains are to be picked up just now at Messrs. Garrould's, and the frugal housewife and the girl with the narrow dress allowance will each find something to her mind. At many of the shops very little reduction is actually made during sale time, but this is not the case at the famous Edgware-road establishment, where many of the goods are to be sold at half price. Everything is marked in plain figures, so there is no attempt at mystifying the purchaser. The usual price is crossed out with a single line, and the sale price written underneath, so the buyer can see at a glance the reduction which has been made.

The silk counter is well worthy a visit, as will be seen by enumerating a few of the bargains which may be obtained. Beautiful satin brochés, figured with blue, red, or any other colour on a black ground, may be had at 2s. 8½d. the yard, splendid black satin brochés, figured with a scroll pattern (good enough for evening gowns), at 2s. 11d. Black figured moiré antique is cheap at 3s. 11d., and steel-grey Japanese taffeta (25 inches wide) costs only 1s. 0½d. the yard. Black and white washing silk in large checks or stripes is decidedly cheap at 1s. 11½d., and this will be a good investment, as black and white will be greatly worn during the coming season. Poupadour silks are reduced to 1s. 6½d., and any amount of silk crêpon can be had at 6½d. the yard.

The prices in the ready-made dress department are always very low, but even these show a substantial reduction during the sale. Very nice jackets and skirts of Irish frieze in green, brown, or grey can be had at the present time for the exceedingly low price of a guinea; they are well-made and neatly finished off, and would be very suitable for country wear. Vicuna skirts in pretty shades of grass green, dark blue and other colours can be had at 12s. 9d., with sufficient material for the bodice. Cycling skirts are also reduced, and an excellent one can be had at 15s. 6d. Useful petticoats can be had in coloured moreen lined with flannel at 10s. 9d., and plainer undershirts from 1s. 11d. All cotton goods are being sold at exactly half price.

The housewife will do well to pay a visit to the linen department, where she can renew her stock of useful things at a very small outlay. She will find the cheapest lace curtains which can be obtained anywhere, three and a half yds. long, in white or cream, at only 3s. 11½d. the pair. A finer pattern can be had at 6s. 6d. Oriental curtains are reduced to 2s. 11d. the pair; and there are bed-spreads, tablecloths,

teacloths and towelling to be had for almost nothing. Large eider-down quilts, covered with fancy satin, are sold at 33s. 6d. No one ought to leave this department without a glance at the corduroy velvets at 1s. 6½d., which are intended for upholstering purposes. They are in various art shades, such as pale gobelins blue, old gold and Rose du Barri; they are strong yet soft, and cannot be had elsewhere for less than 4s. 11d. the yard. These velvets will make beautiful piano backs or window draperies, and they would also be highly suitable for re-covering sofas or chairs.

CHIFFON.

A RECORD LINEN SALE AT BELFAST HOUSE.

MESSRS. WALPOLE BROTHERS have established a reputation for excellent Irish linen goods of every description, and their prices are always low, as they are actual manufacturers, and have no intermediate profits to pay. This week, however, and for a month from January 18th, they open at their chief establishment, Belfast House, 89, New Bond-street (three doors from the Oxford-street end of Bond-street), an exceptional sale, in which they purpose to "break the record."

During the sale their splendid stock of Irish royal double damask table linen, sheetings, towels, cambric and lace handkerchiefs, and ladies' ready-made goods, tea-gowns, under-clothing, &c., will be offered to their customers at such substantial and *bona fide* reductions on their ordinary list that the prices will be found far below those at which other retail firms (not being makers) could afford to sell.

Never before have such substantial reductions been made as during this sale, the reductions in some cases amounting to 6s. 8d. in the £, or 33½ per cent.

The reason for this unprecedented reduction on prices that are always exceptionally low when compared with the quality of the goods, is that during the past year Walpole Bros. have greatly increased their production, and in order to keep their weavers fully employed they will sell all surplus stock at prices to effect a clearance, and patterns, sent free of charge on application, will enable any lady to compare and test the value. As carriage is paid by Messrs. Walpole themselves to any part of the kingdom on orders of the value of £1, country ladies can avail themselves of the opportunity as readily as those who, living in London, can visit the sale personally. You send for patterns and make your choice, then forward your order and remittance, and Messrs. Walpole will hem and mark the goods free of charge (if wished), and forward them carriage free.

Going through the sale, we find many tablecloths reduced to the absurd price of 8s. for two yards square (from 12s.), larger sizes at proportionate rates, and full-size dinner serviettes, in the same patterns, at 15s. the dozen, instead of 22s. The tablecloths positively begin at as low as 3s. 11d.; or, if you wish for the best and finest of linen damask, you can have it at similar reductions. Marked down to half the original price are a lot of odd patterns in tablecloths, from two to six yards long, and these are rare bargains. In the sale catalogue a few patterns are illustrated, and these will show how refined and artistic all the patterns are. Some of the lowest reduced cloths are fully as beautiful as the more expensive; the "plain satin centre and cactus border," for instance, is very beautiful, though it would not show as well in a picture as in reality; and in this, the two yards square cloths are only 8s., and the three yards long by two wide, a useful ordinary size for a family of six or eight persons, are but 12s., and the napkins 15s. the dozen.

Sheets and pillow-cases, whether in the real Irish linen or cotton, are equally reduced. There are some linen pillow cases, manufactured at Messrs. Walpole's factory in Ireland, and far better value than ever offered previously.

There are some (made with buttons) linen pillow-cases reduced to 10½d. to 1s. 8½d. each, hem-stitched frilled linen pillow-cases reduced to 2s. 2d. to 2s. 8d. each, hem-stitched linen pillow-cases reduced to 2s. 3d. to 3s. 9d. each, and so on.

Quilts, blankets, eider-downs, &c., all are to be found in the sale. There is also a department for ladies' underclothing, in which are, amongst many other more ordinary goods, some wonderful silk petticoats beginning at 10s. 6d., and some French model night-gowns, or rather chamber robes, at half-price; an excellent opportunity for a trousseau. Some Ceylon flannel night-gowns, trimmed with lace, at 5s., are capital value.

A new department is one for gentlemen's shirts, collars, cuffs, and fronts, and ladies' collars and cuffs, and Messrs. Walpole Brothers intimate to their customers that the constant applications which they receive for gentlemen's shirts, collars, and cuffs have induced them to add this department to their established business, and they will send free, on application, illustrated list of their various shapes in these goods. In this new department they have been careful to produce genuine, reliable makes, from the best materials, and at prices not in excess of those usually charged for similar goods of much lower quality.

Remember that Messrs. Walpole Bros., Ltd., pay carriage to all parts of the country on orders amounting to £1 and upwards. A sale catalogue can be had free by post on application.

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FOR WINTER NIGHTS.

THE WOMAN'S SIGNAL.

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

Editor—Mrs. FLORENCE FENWICK MILLER.

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

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NOTICE.

All communications intended for insertion must be written on one side only of the paper, and the writer's name and address must be given, not necessarily for publication. The Editor cannot answer correspondents privately, except on the business of the paper strictly.

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

SIGNALS FROM OUR WATCH TOWER.

Our readers will be glad to know that Lady Henry Somerset is rapidly recovering from the effects of the accident last week. No serious results have taken place. It will be necessary for her to rest as much as possible for a little while; but we are very thankful to be able to give such a favourable report.

It is with great joy that we record the signature of a General Treaty between the United States and Great Britain, for referring most possible causes of future dispute between those nations to a Court of Arbitration. For this end many friends of peace have worked for years, and especially Mr. Hodgson Pratt and Mr. Cremer, M.P., the latter of whom a few years ago procured the signatures of a large number of Members of Parliament to a memorial in favour of such a treaty, and presented them to the American President. The events of just a year since quickened interest in the subject. It became then apparent that there was a genuine danger, such as few persons in this country had beforehand realised, that the United States and Great Britain might go to war one day. If the revelation then made of the hatred against

Britain seething in the low-class Irish and German elements in the United States was painful, and almost bewildering in its causelessness and intensity, that pain was compensated for by the eager assurance that all the better elements of society in both countries would never tolerate a fratricidal war between the two great English-speaking communities. It is comforting to see now that the American President and his advisers thought the friendly feeling expressed of so much more importance than the antagonism, that they have ventured to proceed with the general Treaty of Arbitration.

It is true that genuine causes of possible dispute, likely to lead to war between England and the United States, are very few. The expanse of ocean between us, the small importance of the British Colonies (except Canada) that lie near the United States, the abstention of that Government from interference in European politics, its own vast tracts of country that free it from any obligation to seek an outlet in Africa, where all the nations of Europe are now engaged in a semi-belligerent effort for supremacy, all those matters that are to other nations like so much combustible material that may be fired at any moment by a spark, are not standing between the United States and ourselves. But though a general Treaty of Arbitration is really less needed between those two Powers than between any others, because the danger of an outbreak of war is less: on the other hand, it is precisely between those two that war, if it did occur, would be most disgraceful and deplorable. Moreover, the very unlikelihood of real ground for war being discovered makes it easier to negotiate and carry such a treaty than it can be in more really perilous cases.

But apart from any practical dangers avoided or blessings of peace assured, we are thankful for the establishment of the principle of arbitration between two great, powerful, wealthy and proud countries; an example to the world, and an assurance that at last Christian nations are rising to a plane on which war is regarded as what it is—a relic of barbarism, a disgrace to civilisation and intelligence, a foolish and unconvincing way of finding out the rights of matters, a shocking annual waste of human lives and wealth on standing forces, a drawback to social progress, a brutal survival from the darker ages of the world, and a gross and blatant violation by professedly Christian Governments of the eighth commandment and the Sermon on the Mount.

It is a great achievement to have got all this publicly admitted by the signatures of the Queen of Great Britain and the President of the United States; for the good of peace on earth—the substitution of law for war—is still a doctrine denied by many—is not accepted even as a "counsel of perfection," though one impossible to follow. Moltke declared universal peace to be "a dream, and not even a beautiful dream;" and only a month or two ago Lord Wolseley delivered an entire lecture in defence of wholesale carnage as against arbitration in international disputes. Nor is it only men like these, who live and are called great through war, who venture to take this ground. War as

a principle, with all its crimes and its virtues, finds many hot defenders in civil life; while it is shown by the outrageous waste of life and money on standing armies and navies that the masses have by no means realised that war is utterly unnecessary, and that we only really need for the regulation of the world an established international tribunal, and a sufficient international war force to serve as a world's police. The real practical value of the new Treaty, then, lies in the adhesion which it expresses of two great Governments to the theory that peace is both desirable and possible between nations.

Mr. Byrne, Q.C. and M.P., the new Chancery Judge, is the gentleman to whom is owing gratitude from all women who care about their kind, for his introducing the Married Woman's Maintenance Bill, that became law in the Session before last. Though the Act has serious defects, it is much in advance of the previous condition of the law, and the new judge performed an act of mercy in procuring the change.

The trustees of the Stansfeld Testimonial Fund have been fortunate enough to secure the services of Mrs. E. H. Busk, B.Sc., as scrutineer of Parliamentary Bills for the coming Session. Mrs. Busk has long taken an active interest in the position of women, and is peculiarly fitted for the work of reporting on all Bills laid before Parliament that in any way affect the legal status of women.

Questions constantly reach this office showing the utter ignorance of most women on the laws as they at present exist. It may be useful to mention that any Act of Parliament already passed can be had from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, New-square, London, E.C., for a few pence, so that it is needless to ask the Editor of the WOMAN'S SIGNAL to give a digest or outline of it, as is now frequently done.

There is no need to say anything about the wretched Russell case except to pity both parties for the death of the essential witness and the consequent refusal of the judge to accept that witness's statement in evidence at all. The point of general interest in this miserable "marriage case" is whether the Court of Appeal will or will not decide presently that Lady Russell has been guilty of "cruelty" according to law in encouraging and declaring her belief in the charges against her husband.

It has hitherto been held in the Divorce Court that nothing was cruelty that did not cause actual injury to health or danger to life. From this it will be seen moral cruelty, such as making false charges, abuse and insult, was not counted as cruelty at all. Yet to a refined and sensitive person such conduct, if general and persistent, is more painful than even an occasional outburst of violence.

It is almost invariably, however, husbands who insult their wives with false and unfounded accusations and aspersions, and when a law that is theoretically equal, but in practice usually bears harshly on women only, does come to touch a man, and so arouses the sympathy of his peers, it is apt to be remedied. Thus it was, for example, with the "Restitution of Con-

jugal Rights." In theory both a husband and a wife were liable to be imprisoned for "refusing conjugal rights," but in practice it was only wives whose inclinations were thus forced; for if a husband found the money for a residence for his wife that was all that was exacted of him; but a wife was obliged to receive her husband's company. Mrs. Weldon "changed all that" by applying the exact rigour of the law to her husband, just as a hundred husbands had applied it to their wives. She would not be satisfied with a little money. Immediately after she had pushed matters to a real equality the law was altered, and it was declared that thenceforth "restitution of conjugal rights" should not be enforced by imprisonment. In like manner multitudes of insulted and abused wives have been told that moral cruelty is not legal cruelty for the purposes of the Divorce Court; but now that a man claims the moral cruelty of false accusation as a ground for a separation, we may see a new declaration from the Bench.

It is just twelve months since the subscribers to the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, at their annual election of managers, nominated Miss Louisa Stevenson, and the innovation has been so entirely successful, and Miss Stevenson has proved herself so invaluable on the board, that it is thought advisable she should have the support of another lady member. Mrs. Marcus Dods has accordingly been nominated.

The Great Paris Exhibition of 1900 will have in it a feature of particular interest to women, viz., the Women's Art Building, which is to be devoted to the work of women, the idea for the erection of which arose with the Ladies' International Association. This association formulated in 1893 the plans for the erection of a Woman's Art Palace to be ready by 1900, in the presence of a brilliant gathering in Paris.

Irishwomen have brilliantly distinguished themselves in the examinations for degrees of the Royal Irish University, and have therefore full justification for the claim now being made on their behalf for some State endowment for women's colleges, such as is liberally given to various like institutions for men. A plea to this effect is put forth in an article which appears in the current issue of the New Ireland Review from the pen of Miss Alice Oldham, B.A., Alexandra College, Dublin. Her view of the subject is that, whereas the claims of Roman Catholic Irishmen are at present brought forward prominently, the not less urgent claims of Irishwomen, Protestant and Roman Catholic alike, are practically ignored.

It is admitted that "It may be urged by those but superficially acquainted with the subject that women students have nothing to complain of, seeing that the scholarships and prizes hitherto available only for men students in the Queen's Colleges are now open to women also. That they have not to any great extent availed themselves of this concession, especially in the arts classes, only proves what has long been felt by those best acquainted with the matter—namely, that women students and their guardians as a rule dislike the idea of mixed classes, and prefer that women students should

receive their education from qualified teachers in colleges for women only, in spite of the fact that all such colleges are unendowed by Government or other permanent subsidy. The honourable position attained by women in the Royal University is well known, but it is not perhaps generally understood that these results have been mainly achieved through the teaching at women's colleges, and without the slightest extraneous help in the matter of endowment. It seems reasonable, therefore, to hope that in the reconstruction of university education in Ireland a separate and special endowment will be granted to those women's colleges.

Certainly, if it is considered necessary to comply with the demand of the Catholic parents for endowments for their schools and colleges separate from those of the Protestant youth, it must be more justifiable still to claim separate endowments for young women apart from young men. Personally, I believe the best course is for women to take advantage of all opportunities for co-education with men. Not only are the old endowments generally thus, and thus alone, to be shared in, but it is more sure that the standard of study will be duly maintained and that any new advantages will be given to the girls as well as to the youths. But, if the prejudices of Catholic parents are to be humoured, those of parents very anxious about their girls' associations are yet more deserving of State notice.

What is the latest Irish grievance—what is the ground on which all parties of Irishmen are now united, and on which Lord Castletown has appealed to the memory of the American Revolution of 1776? It is simply this, that their whisky is taxed too highly! No Irishman is taxed for his whisky, understand, more highly than any Englishman who drinks whisky, but as an average Irishman chooses to waste more of his means than an average Englishman on spirit drinking, and so to incur the great risk of becoming a criminal and a charge on the community either in a gaol or a workhouse, then he pays taxes "beyond his taxable capacity" by reason of the duty on whisky. And Mr. Childers actually states in so many words, in the report on Irish taxation which has raised this question, that whisky is to be considered a necessary of life to the Irish, however poor. Here are his almost incredible words:—

"For practical purposes, and looking at the matter not from the point of view of the moral reformer, but from that of the statesman who has to consider the incidence of taxation, the things upon which the poorer classes do, as a matter of fact, spend their income must, we think, be taken to be, under existing circumstances, their necessities of existence."

Professor Mahaffy, of Dublin, is not too stern when he comments on his proposition as follows:—

It was unnecessary that we should be informed that the politician who wrote thus made no claim to be a moral reformer. The deduction which is made here from his reasoning is that Irishmen, because they are poorer, should pay less than Englishmen for whisky, it being, as Mr. Childers says, a necessary for poor people. The revenue is to be reduced in order that we may have our whisky cheap here in Ireland.

The deficit is, of course, to be made up in Great Britain. In other words, the taxpayers across the Channel are to become, by compulsion, paying members of a great society for the promotion of whisky-drinking by Ireland. . . . An identical tax on whisky levied all over the Kingdom cannot possibly work injustice to Ireland. Irishmen consume a little more whisky apiece than Britishers, and this means that they spend upon it a large part of their income relatively to that spent by their neighbours. But they are not compelled to do so. They are even ceasing, as figures show, to do so. They have perfect freedom to untax themselves if they like, and, so far as whisky is concerned, they are doing it. If they spend 5 per cent. of their income on whisky whilst people in Great Britain only spend 1 per cent., whom have they to blame but themselves, and what is the inference except that either the calls on their income are smaller or their self-indulgence greater than those of their neighbours?

But it is only when we add to Professor Mahaffy's clear logic the recollection that whisky is not only not a necessary, but is the chief source of crime and domestic misery, that we realise the mischief that would be done by yielding to this latest Irish clamour, and reducing the price of whisky for the Irish consumer.

Drink is still the cause of more than seven-eighths of all the crime in Ireland. Out of sixty persons brought up the other week in the Cork Police Court, over fifty were there as the direct result of drink; out of one hundred and sixty persons who came during the same period before the Belfast Police Court, one hundred and forty were there directly as the result of intemperance.

A very similar record has been made in America, and this must command respect as a statement of facts, inasmuch as it is gathered not from streetal organisations, but by a perfectly impartial State department, holding no brief for any opinion or party. Here it is:—

The Massachusetts Labour Bureau has issued an invaluable report upon the relations of alcoholics to crime, pauperism and insanity. Of 26,672 convictions recorded in 1895, over 68 per cent. were for drunkenness. Concerning the balance, 8,440, the query was made: "Was the criminal under the influence of liquor at the time the crime was committed?" Three thousand six hundred and forty answered affirmatively, leaving only 18 per cent. of those convicted, sober offenders.

Now, in the face of these facts, let it be realised what is the nature of the latest "Irish grievance."

Dr. Mary Jane Hall Williams is now resuming her Health and Physiology Lectures to ladies on the first Wednesday in each month, at 4 p.m. The place is convenient of access, namely, 405, Oxford-street. There is no charge for admission, but "a silver collection" is taken. Most women would be the better for more knowledge of the kind, gently and interestingly given in these addresses. The next one is on February 3rd.

Current News FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

The *Times of India*, reviewing the weekly health statistics of Bombay, states that the mortality has quadrupled, even without making allowance for the large numbers of people who have fled. The journal estimates that the daily average of plague deaths is 170, and that this rate is not diminishing, but rather increasing. The death rate for the past week is given at 402 per 1,000. The Government of India is alarmed for the safety of the country, as the Bombay people are fleeing from the infected city, and carrying the disease far and wide.

The second annual report of the Women's Industrial Council, the offices of which are at Buckingham-street, Strand, has just been issued. The report states that during the second year of its existence the list of council members has been considerably lengthened, and subscribers have increased. The council was formed "to organise special and systematic inquiry into the conditions of working women, to provide accurate information concerning those conditions, and to promote such action" as might "seem conducive to their improvement." The council owes its success largely to the fact that men and women work together upon its committees, not in rivalry but in comradeship.

Lady Trevelyan presided at the annual meeting of the members of the Morpeth and Wansbeck Women's Liberal Association. It was mentioned in the report that the committee "had embraced every opportunity of pressing forward women's claims to that political equality which will enable Liberal women to support the cause of progress by their votes." Lady Trevelyan, in moving the adoption of the report, said they must fully and frankly recognise the fact that it was a time of depression for Liberalism. They had no reason to be discouraged; those who concerned themselves with politics must take the rough with the smooth, and be prepared for the ups and downs of public opinion. Those who advocated new ideas, and pressed forward changes in social life, would always find the undertaking hard, and sometimes discouraging, and their successes few and far between. It was always easier to leave things alone, and not risk a change. Monopoly and privilege were naturally the portion of the strong and the powerful, and these privileges always died hard. Women had not yet realised the power they possessed for influencing the opinions of their home circles. They could guide and lead their families in political matters, and by so doing often prevent them from being inveigled into the opposite camp for reasons of personal advantage or social ambition. A mother could influence her family in such a way that they would grow up realising that they were destined to become citizens of a great empire, and that their duty would be to live for others and not wholly for themselves. (Hear, hear.) It would be well if young men and young women were so guided at home that they would not yield to the prevailing tendency of making amusement too much of a business. Play should be kept in its place, and time found for more serious interests. The development of the national institutions and the influence of politics on social life were topics in which the young should be interested. Her Ladyship went on to discuss the right of women to the Parliamentary Franchise. They had proved themselves capable of serving on public bodies. They had in their own secretary (Miss Nicholson) one who had on the Board of Guardians shown her capacity as an administrator. (Hear, hear.) In several of the States and territories of America women had a partial or the full franchise, and New Zealand had just passed through a general election in which women had exercised the suffrage, and used it wisely, and for progress.

During the year recently ended twelve ladies have between them left £40,600 to charities from estates aggregating £660,830. Of this Mrs. Gurney, widow of the Right Hon. Russell

Gurney, Q.C., Russell-square, was the largest contributor, her gifts amounting to £13,000. The New Hospital for Women in the Euston-road came in for £1,000. Miss Gordon left £1,200 each to the Society for the Protection of Animals from Vivisection and the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain Association, £300 each to Tunbridge Wells Anti-Vivisection Society and S.P.C.A., and £500 to the Central S.P.C.A.

At a meeting of the Bath City Council some bequests to the city were reported under the will of Mrs. Roxburgh, who died in December. In addition to legacies to charities in Bath and elsewhere, the sum of £12,000 is to be devoted to establishing a fund for the granting of annuities to unmarried women and widows. One-fourth of the residuary estate is bequeathed to provide scholarships at the Bath Technical Schools, and the remainder, about £8,000, for the erection of an art gallery.

The *Jewish Chronicle* announces that the Baroness de Hirsch has decided to erect and endow a home for Jewish Consumptives. She has, with that object, placed under the control of her relative, Mrs. Bischoffheim, Sir Edward Sassoon, and Mr. Frank Lucas, a sum of between £40,000 and £50,000.

The Duchess of Newcastle, who is to judge the Russian wolfhounds at a show to be held presently, is assuredly the first peeress who has ventured into "the ring." It is not uncommon, however, to see ladies judging the toy and lap dog breeds at certain shows.

The case in which a protest was made against the marriage of a native judge of the Small Causes Court, Madras, aged 50, with a child of 10 has been settled by the judge of 50 celebrating the marriage. At the meeting of protest nearly five hundred gentlemen were present, which says something for the increase of right feeling in Madras.

TEMPERANCE.

In response to an influentially signed memorial the Queen has been pleased, through the Home Secretary, to lend her patronage to the jubilee of the Band of Hope Movement, which will be commemorated during 1897.

The Duchess of Rutland is well known for her deep and practical interest in social and temperance reform. The *Dundee Advertiser* recently published an article by her Grace on "Some Ways of Providing Non-alcoholic Refreshments for the People." The article referred to the establishment of small kiosks in cities, where tea, coffee and cocoa could be served to working people at a moderate charge. In England these institutions have been quite a success; and, as supplementing the article, the Duchess has just written from Paris to say that in some places barrows have answered very well as centres from which such refreshments can be distributed. Only in one instance were these impracticable, it being found impossible to get any person to take charge of a barrow in winter.

Workmen's clubs, in so far as they are drinking shops free from any legal restraint whatever, were further testified against by various witnesses at the last meeting of the Royal Commission before the holidays. The Chief Constable of Dumfries used language almost identical with that employed by the *WOMAN'S SIGNAL* on other occasions as to these mischievous traps. The Chief Constable, Mr. John Malcolm, remarks: "The members of the working men's club in this burgh get a dividend off the profits. They have no literature except the local newspapers, and dominoes are their only game. The only inducement that the members have for joining it is the long hours during the week and being open on Sunday. It is simply a drinking den, and a source of misery to many. Since the introduction of working men's clubs the licensing laws are now a complete hoax, and, unless clubs are repressed, any inquiry into such laws will be of no avail."

With regard to Leeds, the Chief Constable's report stated that there were 70 clubs in the town. In some of them the entrance fee was only 6d. and the weekly subscription 1d., on payment of which anyone could become a *bona fide* member at any time. In 46 the annual subscription was 5s. or less. Drinking went on during prohibited hours.

Mr. John Boyd, Chief Constable of Glasgow, reported that there are 23 clubs in his city. All but 7 of the clubs are open on Sundays as well as week days. The membership ranges from 1,400 in the Conservative Club, 800 in the Liberal Club, others from 300 to 600 members down to 126 members in the Workmen's Club, 90 in the German Club, and 70 in the Musicians' Club. All these men can get drinks during the prohibited hours on week days and all day on Sunday. Is not this making a farce of the licensing laws?

Some churches in Birmingham are so far advanced in approving of unfermented sacramental wine that they use the *two* kinds of wine, the non-alcoholic cup being indicated by a blue ribbon attached to it. It is stated that the number of "abstainers" in the church is rapidly increasing, due, no doubt, to this effective arrest of thought.

TREASURES AND TROUBLES.

A DOMESTIC SCIENCE STORY FOR YOUNG MOTHERS.

CHAPTER IV.

"If you would please to hold it, ma'am, wropped up as it is, by this fire, I can run down to ask cook for its bit of butter and sugar, afore I begins to wash it."

"Butter and sugar, nurse!" said Mrs. Wynter. "You surely don't want to stuff the poor little thing with such rubbish so soon?"

The nurse was an old woman out of the village, supposed to be very experienced in her vocation. She was, as she was wont to tell everybody who would listen to her, "the mother of fourteen herself, ten of 'em now in their graves, poor dears." This latter fact she would put forth with an air of its being much the same thing as a certificate of competency for her management of other people's infants. Her "experience," beyond this, had consisted of simply doing over and over again, upon a great number of hapless babes of the village and neighbourhood, an unvarying round of old-fashioned practices, and observing a number of superstitions, always useless and frequently mischievous, which had been transmitted to her by tradition.

Experience to the poor, unlettered, untrained old nurse could not be a teacher; for her intelligence was not sufficiently cultivated to enable her to observe for herself the results of the things that she did. No one had ever come in her way competent and willing to really instruct her in the occupation that she professed. She, therefore, continued to practise various little observances of a kind which were common to all branches of medicine in the dark ages; those days when physic was looked upon as little else than a portion of the art of magic, and when charms and superstitions held sway in every sick-room.

Scientific progress has superseded the useless and fanciful practice of olden times in all other branches of medicine. But so long as any old woman, who is herself a mother, is considered suitable to take charge of other mothers and their infants, without having undergone the least training, and without having received an atom of instruction in the science of her business, so long we shall have mistakes and

superstitions here continued, to the mischief of generation after generation. In the majority of cases the nurse is of more consequence than the doctor. The care of human life, and the well-being of anything so delicate as the frame of an infant of days, should no more be trusted to any woman at random than the medical practitioner's duties are confided to an un-instructed quack.

Like all ignorant persons who feel that they are quite incapable of giving a reason in support of their practice, the old nurse employed for Mrs. Crofton was wont to stand upon her dignity, and be extremely angry if anyone ventured to question the propriety of her doings. Such wrath beamed forth from her eyes when Mrs. Wynter hinted her objection to the butter and sugar as made it quite clear that she had no reason to offer to support herself in her proposed dosing of the baby.

"I always gives my babies a bit of butter and sugar first thing," she said, stiffly.

"But why, nurse?" asked Mrs. Wynter.

"Poor little dears; to stay their stomachs. There aint nothing else for them, as I should have supposed you'd have known, having one of your own. The milk don't come—"

"Yes, I know all about that, nurse," interrupted Mrs. Wynter; "but, I assure you, you are mistaken in thinking that nature has not provided for the baby. There *is* something ready for it, a great deal better than butter and sugar."

Nurse answered with an indignant snort, and the expression of countenance of one who, for reasons of courtesy, does not distinctly charge the speaker with saying the thing which is not, but who nevertheless feels constrained by love of truth to plainly intimate that she knows the contrary to what is asserted to be the actual fact.

"Well, now, I see you are not convinced; let me ask the doctor," said Bertha. "To oblige me, will you go on washing the baby now, and let the butter and sugar wait? The doctor is coming up again before he goes, and then we will ask him what he thinks."

"Oh, well, if you like, ma'am. But Dr. Baynes, he have been with me hundreds of times, and he never took it on himself to tell me I didn't know my business."

She condescended, however, to wait the result of the appeal which Mrs. Wynter made to the doctor when he came into the dressing-room to give some instructions to the nurse before he left the house.

"Nurse and I do not agree upon a point, doctor," said Mrs. Wynter, "and I want you to decide it for us. Is it necessary to give baby some butter and sugar?"

"Certainly not," said the doctor, promptly.

"Well, you never objected to it, sir," said the nurse, tying a string of the baby's garments with angry emphasis.

"I never saw you do it," replied the doctor; "but I am sure I have told you, as I have told dozens of other nurses, that you are not to give them gruel."

"Do they really give the poor little creatures oatmeal gruel?" asked Bertha.

"Indeed they do," said Dr. Baynes. "I have known some even who called themselves trained nurses who had not got past that idea."

"What is the poor little thing to have to live upon?" asked nurse, as sulky as she dared to be with the doctor.

"Its mother has something for it, has she not?" asked Bertha.

"Yes," replied the doctor. "There is a little which contains enough nourishment for the baby, generally speaking, for the first day or two. If, however, the baby seems to be crying for something more, it should have just a spoonful at a time of sweetened milk and water; twice as much warm water as there is milk. This is ample for it until it gets mother's milk. Besides the sugar is very likely to upset your baby's stomach, nurse. Gruel is almost sure to do so; and when the poor child cries after these doses, because you have put its little inside into pain, you say it must be crying with hunger, and give it some more of just precisely that which has done the mischief. A little warm weak milk and water you may give it if you like; that is, if it seems pining for something; but don't give it anything else."

He took his leave, but Mrs. Wynter accompanied him to the hall door.

"Why have you never told nurse all that about feeding the baby before?" she asked.

"Oh, my dear lady," replied the doctor, "I should lose my practice if I went about interfering on every hand with the small superstitions of the poor people. I do speak of those which are absolutely injurious, such as the giving of the gruel. But on trifles like the butter and sugar, which is not likely to do any more mischief than disturb the poor little thing for a few hours,—and well,—honestly, I have not the courage to attack all these old women!"

"But how can they ever improve if they are not taught?" said Bertha, smiling at his manner, but none the less feeling somewhat indignant at his *laissez faire* principles.

"We must improve them by slow degrees," he answered. "If I attempted too much at once I should fail in doing anything. I assure you I have a hard fight against the gruel; so I have, too, against enormous doses of castor oil

for the mother, and half a dozen other things. You ask my medical brother, your husband, whether we do not have to be careful not to strain the faith of our patients in us by attempting to reform their ancient manners and customs too rapidly."

"Prejudice is hard to fight, no doubt," said Bertha, "But I wonder you don't drop a word—"

"The difficulty is, Mrs. Wynter, to persuade the old ladies that they don't know best about the matter. Their grandmothers did these things before I was born, they would be inclined to tell me. Everybody, in their limited world, knows that therefore these things ought to be done. Now, I can't stop, about every little thing like this, to tell them that in their great-grandmothers' time small-pox was treated by muffling the patient up as closely as possible and refusing him drink, and that, therefore, small-pox was then generally fatal. Or that in their great-grandmothers' days there were various lotions and plasters, which were supposed to act as charms in cases of this very kind that we have in hand, and to accomplish all the things which, in our days, we should do by surgical aid. In short, amongst these people, who are not sufficiently educated to know *how* immensely science has advanced, it is impossible to make it clear that tradition is to be distrusted. Of course our knowledge of the human body is so infinitely greater than our forefathers' was, that, naturally, our medical practice and our knowledge of the laws of health are both greatly improved also. But you cannot persuade people who know nothing about science—who, for instance, do not even now know that the blood really does circulate, still less that there was a time when the wisest physicians of their day did not know that it did—you cannot persuade such people, I say, that a thing is not to be done now without some better reason than merely that it was done in the ignorant old times. I wish, with all my heart, that we had a trained nurse here; but I cannot possibly make it part of my daily business to train all the old ladies with whom I have to do."

"My sister's baby does not seem very strong to me," said Mrs. Wynter, giving up the argument.

"It is not strong," replied the doctor, "and so it will need some extra care. She is fortunate in having you here to help to look after it."

There was indeed cause for thankfulness to all concerned for the fact that Bertha was there with her common sense—and the knowledge she had been rapidly acquiring during the past year, partly from books, partly from her

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mentor, old Mrs. Burton—to supervise the nurse whom Mr. Crofton had thought good enough for his wife.

The baby was dressed so tightly, very often, that Mrs. Wynter would herself, quietly, slacken the rollers which bound it in and prevented it from breathing properly. An ounce of castor oil would have been poured down poor Elsie's unresisting throat, had not Bertha been there to insist upon the doctor's orders being taken, under which the patient was let off with a dessert-spoonful.

But the next great difference of opinion between the paid and the unpaid nurse came about over the question of the introduction of fresh air into the sick-room.

It did not become a contest; for Mrs. Wynter knew well that the first thing that should be secured for her sister was absolute freedom from excitement, annoyance, and mental disturbance. For a sensitive woman, with a fine, highly developed nervous system, the state of the mind is of the very first consequence; and, indeed, affects the whole system. It is, therefore, necessary to keep from such a patient all agitations from outside, as far as possible, not only for the sake of the health of the nerves—shaken and unhinged as they are sure to be by the crisis through which they have passed—but also for the sake of the general health; and to secure the patient this quiet and peace is the primary duty of all who care for her comfort and restoration.

(To be continued.)

MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.

Mothers who would keep their children in good health should give them, morning and evening, Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa made with hot milk.

The case of one nursing mother who has written respecting the use of



with results satisfactory in all respects to herself and infant, is typical of many others. In this case it was found necessary, after the first few weeks, to give the infant artificial food. After doing this for some time, the mother was persuaded to try Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, it being considered that its nutritious and sustaining properties would be found beneficial. These anticipations were realised, for, after using Vi-Cocoa for a short time, the mother was enabled to again feed the infant naturally, and the child became thriving and healthy. The mother at first attributed this gratifying result simply to the use of a cocoa, and having nothing but an ordinary cocoa in the house, that was used. But it was found useless, and upon Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa being again resorted to, it was found the natural supply of food returned, and the mother and infant prospered.

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

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

TREATMENT OF FEMALE INEBRIATES.

At a meeting of the Society for the Study of Inebriety, held in the rooms of the Medical Society, Chandos-street, W., on Thursday afternoon, Dr. Norman Kerr in the chair, a lecture on "The Prison Treatment of Habitual Drunkards" was delivered by Dr. Pitcairn, assistant surgeon at Her Majesty's Prisons, Holloway and Newgate.

The lecturer stated that, large as was the number of drunkards of both sexes in our prisons, the proportion of females was appalling. Female "crime" did not account for much more than 10 per cent. of the gross female prison population, and it followed that our prisons were swollen to repletion by the slaves of the most imperious and degrading vice known to mankind. The records of the police-courts conclusively showed that "once a drunkard always a drunkard" was almost an axiom in the case of females. It was notorious with every intelligent prison official that the most troublesome of all female prisoners were the drunkards. Committed to prison in a large proportion in a condition of latent alcoholism, if not one of actual delirium tremens, they were perforce treated as invalids; and if the sentence was a short one had scarcely recovered before they were discharged, and came out craving for further excess, to be in its turn followed by a further committal to prison. This cycle of events was neither exceptional nor imaginary. It was repeated daily throughout the kingdom, unnoticed except when the recital of some hundreds of previous convictions revived the public interest in what was simply a public scandal. The case of Jane Cakebread called forth as much comment as if she had been the rarest production of the century, but, in truth, she belonged to a type the most common. There were hundreds, nay, thousands of Jane Cakebreads in existence, who only differed from the original in the absence of an eccentricity which was really due to senile dementia. Homeless, and usually destitute, it was only natural that the outcast class, from whose ranks the habitual drunkard was largely recruited, should regard the prison as a species of infirmary supported by the taxpayer. It was a pitiable sight to see the female drunkards leaving the prison gates, especially as most of them had exhausted the patience of the charitable, and had no prospect but to return again and again until death closed the scene in the prison hospital. They were generally persons of no education, and ignorant of any trade. Sir John Bridge was, he believed, in favour of long terms of imprisonment in default of finding sureties for good behaviour, which would seldom be forthcoming. Practical experience of this plan negatived its success. Over and over again he had seen habitual drunkards undergo a sentence technically known as "six months' surety," and immediately after their release resume their dissipated habits with increased vigour. It was the commonest occurrence for such a prisoner to be discharged, say, on a Saturday morning, only to return to prison on the Monday. The paramount objection to the system lay, however, in the fact that persons imprisoned in default of finding sureties enjoyed special privileges over other prisoners. Hence the most troublesome and refractory received the most lenient treatment. It had been repeatedly shown that a period of six months' forcible abstinence was inadequate to overcome the morbid craving for alcohol, whilst on the other hand it was well known amongst prison officials that female convicts, viz., women undergoing sentences of three years and upwards, notwithstanding previous habits of intemperance, were as a rule completely cured of the morbid propensity. Drunkenness must be regarded as a disease and not as a crime. When in 1895 the turning-point in the history of the question was reached by the introduction of the Government Bill for the establishment of compulsory inebriate retreats, the chief opposition to the measure was aroused by its alleged interference with the Habeas Corpus Act; but the dipomanic was in reality himself the suspender of the Act. To talk of civil rights or the liberty of the subject in the

case of a woman who was only forty-eight days out of custody in one entire year was simply ridiculous. Could it be seriously contended that a single prolonged detention under the mitigated discipline of the proposed Act would have a more baneful effect upon body and mind than repeated short imprisonments punctuated by debauches? There could be no question that, apart from its other drawbacks, the existing system tended to induce insanity. The great French authority, Seguin, said: "The question of the radical sequestration of inveterate drinkers is forced upon us. It will be useless for the medical profession to struggle against drunkards who enjoy their freedom. Social, anthropological and humanitarian considerations plead for the suppression of a freedom which is abused." These premises were incontrovertible. None but the most superficial observer could deny that the habitual inebriate was one whose loss of self-respect and impaired moral sense had lessened his responsibility to the law, necessitating the regimen of an asylum, not the discipline of a gaol.

A discussion followed, in the course of which strong support was given to the idea of the compulsory retention of drunkards in special establishments with a view to their cure.

ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING OF PROTEST.

A MEETING of the members of the Royal British Nurses' Association was convened on January 7th, at St. Martin's Town Hall, by Miss Sophia Wingfield, a member of the General Council of that body, to protest against the suggestion made by Dr. Cutterson Wood, to admit to membership and enrol on the register asylum attendants who have had no training in general hospitals. The chair was taken by Mr. George Brown, member of the General Medical Council, who said that the matter they had met to discuss was of great importance to trained nurses and the public, and was analogous to the alteration for the registration of medical men by the General Medical Council. There would be strenuous opposition on the part of medical men, were it suggested to lower the standard of qualification for the Register.

Miss Sophia Wingfield was then called upon to propose the resolution, and began by stating that she had communicated with 900 of her colleagues on the register, and that upwards of 200 had replied, strongly protesting against the proposal, 74 of that number being matrons of important nurse-training schools and hospitals. Miss Wingfield then read the names of these ladies, which included, amongst others, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, late matron of St. Bartholomew's hospital; Miss Isla Stewart, St. Bartholomew's Hospital; Miss Sidney Brown, Superintendent Sister Military Hospital, Woolwich; Miss Sophia Cartwright, Registered Nurses Society; Miss Alice Dannatt, late Matron Royal Infirmary, Manchester; Miss Beachcroft, County Hospital, Lincoln; Miss Knight, General Hospital, Nottingham; Miss Cureton, Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge; Miss Agnes Bourne, Chalmers' Hospital, Edinburgh; Miss Margaret Huxley, Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital, Dublin; Miss Harriet Newman, British Hospital, Paris, &c.

Miss Wingfield then proceeded to read letters from the leaders of the nursing profession in England, Scotland and Ireland strongly protesting against this scheme, which they were unanimous in condemning as most unjust to hospital nurses and as dangerous and misleading to the public. Miss Wingfield, in the course of an excellent speech, dwelt at length on these objections, and concluded by moving the following resolution:—

"That this meeting condemns the suggestion accepted by the General Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association, to admit to membership, and to place upon the register of trained nurses, asylum attendants who have not been trained in general hospitals and who do not conform to the regulations for membership and

ECONOMICAL COOKERY.

By MISS LIZZIE HERITAGE.

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

SOME DISHES OF PULSE.

It is not necessary to waste a line of space in pointing out the nourishing properties of pulse, i.e., dried peas, beans, &c. But it has been well said times without number that it is not the amount eaten but that which is digested that constitutes true food—hence pulse is not for all; those who work hard and are blessed with good digestions will, however, find in it palatable, economical fare. But it must be well cooked. It is quite likely that many have tested it and given it up after a trial, simply by reason of insufficient cooking; for, be it owned, nothing is more calculated to bring about an attack of flatulence or indigestion in some other of its many forms than a dish of underdone beans, peas or lentils.

SMALL WHITE HARILOTS,

in spite of the assertions of many writers that the very largest are the best, will be found the most digestible. The skins are less tough, and they cook in less time. For a simple dish of boiled beans, wash them and soak all night in cold water; put them on to boil in the same water with a morsel of dripping or other fat free from salt; bring to boiling point slowly, for a good deal depends on this; then cook gently, but let the simmering be kept up until they are done, and this may be in two hours, or they may take three. It is a good plan to test a sample, then buy a few pounds, but careful storage is needed to prevent attacks from insects; and in washing, all beans that float (being grub-eaten) are to be thrown away. Add no salt in cooking, and do not stir with an iron spoon. When the time comes for dishing up any surplus liquor should be poured off (and kept for use in vegetable soups, stews, &c.), then add a lump of butter and some salt and pepper, and, if liked, a little chopped parsley. Another way is to mix, for a pound of beans, a tablespoonful of flour with cold milk to a paste, then pour some of the liquor, say about a quarter of a pint, on to it, and boil it up with the same ingredients named above; care must be taken not to mash the beans, as though quite soft, they should be whole.

ANOTHER WAY

is to boil them quickly, with the lid off the pan during the latter part of the cooking so that there may be no surplus liquid at the end. And it is hardly needful to point out that an admirable mode of cooking is in a stone jar in a slow oven. All this reads very simple, but care is required, and where water is very hard, a pinch of carbonate of soda, or pure borax powder, should be used to assist the softening. Then, to get a much more digestible dish, one has but to mash the beans in a potato masher, or rub them through a sieve, but those who will take this trouble are in the minimum.

THE PRAISES OF FRIED HARILOTS

are often sung, some contending that good as are boiled ones, fried beans put them in the shade. To make them a success see that they are well boiled and well drained. If we would take a lesson from Mexico, this is the way we must do it. Slice a few onions very thinly and fry them in pure olive oil, adding the beans when the onions are half cooked; sage and pepper are the only seasonings required, salt being put in at the end; as soon as the beans and onions are a nice brown, they should be served, piping hot. This is not easy to improve upon; but bearing in mind that few people, comparatively, use oil for frying, it is only fair to say that clarified fat may replace it, and that sage-haters, a rather large family, can introduce parsley and thyme or any other favourite herb. And, by the way, one can use an onion or two, or some shredded celery in a dish of boiled beans, cooking them together.

HERE IS A FAMOUS CURRY.

Having boiled and drained a pint of beans, fry a good sized onion and a hint of garlic in a couple of ounces of fat of some kind, to a nice brown, guarding against even a tinge of burn, or bitterness will be imparted; then put in half a pint of tomato pulp and liquor from the beans mixed, with a dessert spoonful, more or less to taste, of good curry powder or paste; add the grated rind of half a lemon and a little of the juice, put in the beans and let them simmer for about twenty minutes; or should they be a trifle too soft for this, the sauce can be simmered, and the beans put in and kept hot for some time to get well flavoured. Don't forget salt and a little more lemon juice at the finish. A couple of cloves fried with the onions will improve the flavour. There is good scope here for the utilisation of any odds and ends of cooked vegetables; bring them out, potatoes, carrots, &c., and they will all blend into a savoury whole. Once curry making is understood one has opportunities for the dainty service of scraps. Should the tomato pulp be obtainable never mind; use all haricot liquor or half milk. Again, plain stock, from the ordinary stock pot, can be used, and a little bottled tomato sauce put into flavour; for whether you have a brown or white curry is purely optional. And, of course, finely minced meat or ham or bacon can be added when a vegetable dish pure and simple is not required.

A VERY DAINTY SOUP

suited to this time of year is made thus: Wash and soak a pint of beans, then soak them all night in a couple of quarts of water, and boil them in it for three hours or more; they should pass through a sieve easily. As soon as the water comes to the boil put in a good sized spanish onion chopped, and about half a pint of celery, white part, as this is a white soup, shredded small. A half teaspoonful of white peppercorns and a tiny bit of mace should be added; put in a little salt when the beans begin to soften, and add more at the end. After sieving, return to the saucepan with a pint of hot milk, or more if a thinner soup is liked and serve as soon as it has boiled up. Fried bread in dice is the correct accompaniment. Any time cold potatoes are in the house a few can be mashed up and added a short time before serving.

Space is inadequate for the mention of dishes of lentils, &c., but on another occasion they shall have attention, and any requests for special dishes will be gladly answered.

registration. And this meeting considers that such a course would be both injurious to the nursing profession and dangerous and misleading to the public."

Mrs. Charles Hughes, of Manchester, member of the General Council R.B.N.A., in seconding the motion, described the scheme as a preposterous one, and one which had doubtless been set on foot as a means of obtaining increased funds.

Miss Margaret Breay, late acting matron of the Metropolitan Hospital, expressed the opinion that the fact of the meeting being held at all was a disgrace to the Association. It was necessary, however, as the matrons and nurses had been deprived by the hon. officers of free speech, and power to express an opinion concerning their own professional affairs within the Association.

Miss Rosina Graham and Miss Margery Homersham having spoken to the same effect, Dr. Bedford Fenwick expressed strong confidence that the medical profession as a whole did not approve of admission to the register of trained nurses of those who were not so trained. He said that the Association was originally established for the protection of the public against untrained women working as nurses, and for the professional co-operation, the increased efficiency, and legal status of thoroughly qualified nurses. The proposal to place upon the register of trained nurses male and female asylum attendants, who had no experience in nursing general cases of disease, was establishing a precedent which would be most unjust to trained nurses, and calculated to deceive the public.

The resolution was carried unanimously and with acclamation, and the chairman was thanked for presiding.

Mrs. Bedford Fenwick proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Wingfield for her public-spirited action in bringing the question forward, which was carried amidst hearty applause.

"BELFAST HOUSE,"

89, New Bond Street, W.

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"WOMAN'S SIGNAL" ARMENIAN REFUGEE FUND.

TO BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH LADY HENRY SOMERSET. THE following subscriptions have been received at the WOMAN'S SIGNAL Office from Tuesday, January 5th, up to Tuesday, January 19th:—

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Includes Mrs. M. M. Daniell, Mrs. Cragg, Miss Pepper, etc.

Further contributions are earnestly requested. Will correspondents please state whether Mrs. or Miss? Clothing must not be sent to this office, but may be forwarded to Lady H. Somerset, "Friends of Armenia" office, 53, Victoria-street, London, S.W.

SOMETHING FOR NOTHING.

WHEN the proprietors of an article of consumption are prepared to send over 2,000,000 free sample tins to those who send a postcard it is fair to assume the vendors must themselves have a pretty good opinion of their specialité; and when, in addition, they possess sufficient courage to "put up" £10,000 in hard cash to pay for postage of samples it must be evident they have satisfied themselves they possess a good thing, and that it is better to demonstrate practically at the breakfast table than to depend upon mere assurances by advertisement. Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa, Limited, Suffolk House, Cannon-street, London, E.C., are sending daily over 3,000 free sample tins of their special preparation to the public, and as a result the sales are going up by leaps and bounds. This style of advertising has the merit of honesty, and that the public appreciate it is shown by the statement that Dr. Tibbles' Vi-Cocoa can now be obtained from grocers, chemists, and stores everywhere, and the trade are unanimous in saying that no preparation of a similar character has ever given equal satisfaction to their customers. To obtain a tin it is only necessary to send a postcard, and the name of WOMAN'S SIGNAL should be mentioned.

MISS SADLER, High-Class Corsetière,

SPECIALITY: ABDOMINAL CORSET

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

211, OXFORD STREET.

Advertisement for J. S. GREGG'S Gloves. Lists various styles like Paris Kid, Suede, Chevette, etc. Price lists free on application.

HUGON'S REFINED BEEF SUET FOR COOKING, PUDDINGS, FRYING, PASTRY &c. ONE LB. EQUALS 2 LBS. "ATORA" BRAND. 8d PER POUND.

THE MOST NUTRITIOUS COCOA EPPS'S GRATEFUL-COMFORTING COCOA WITH FULL NATURAL FLAVOUR.

MASON'S WINE ESSENCES. 6 PENCE WILL BUY A BOTTLE WHICH WILL MAKE 60 GLASSES IN 6 MINUTES OF DELICIOUS, Non-Alcoholic Wine FOR CHILDREN'S PARTIES.

NEW HARRISON SWIFT GOLD MEDAL KNITTER. KNOTS Stockings ribbed or plain, 10 GLOVES and CLOTHING in WOOL, SILK, or COTTON, INSTRUCTIONS FREE. Lists free per post.

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HOVIS BREAD & BISCUITS CURE INDIGESTION. Highest Award at Food and Cookery Exhibitions, London, May, 1895 and 1896. Supplied to HER MAJESTY the QUEEN and ROYAL FAMILY.

WHAT TO WEAR.



E. 740. VELVET AND FUR COSTUME.

Pattern from this Office, price 1s. 1½d., post free.

E. 740.—This costume is suitable for making in velvet, trimmed with figured silk and fur, or it can be made in cloth and plain silk and trimmed with jet or other passementerie. The skirt material is pleated into the waist at the back; down the centre of the front it is ornamented with a panel of the fancy silk, which is edged down either side with a band of fur; the waistband is of silk, trimmed with fur to match; it is cut fairly deep, as is the fashion just at present. The bodice material is cut away in the front to disclose a plastron and yoke of figured silk, outlined with fur trimming; the bodice is also trimmed with two bands of fur from the edge of the yoke to the two side seams, so as to simulate a circular zouave; the pleated band collar is of velvet, and it is ornamented with a loop of the same on either side; the sleeves are made with a small puff on the shoulders; at the wrists they are shaped out and trimmed with bands of fur. Quantity of 24 in. velveteen required, 14 yds. 21 in.; silk required, 1½ yds.; fur trimming, 10 yards.

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.]

FOR THE QUIET WORKERS.

To the Editor of the WOMAN'S SIGNAL.

MY DEAR MRS. FENWICK MILLER,—I was surprised to see my little Christmas and New Year's verses quoted in the WOMAN'S SIGNAL. They had not enough merit in themselves to deserve a place in your interesting and valuable journal. Will you allow me to say I regretted the omission of the little anecdote which inspired the lines?

A friend lent me a copy of the "Report of the National Council of Women in Toronto." I was much touched by the anecdote, quoted in the report, from the smallest committee connected with the Council.

I have always much sympathised with the less prominent workers in every good cause, gratefully appreciating their services and invaluable help. The more prominent workers,

perhaps highly gifted, or helped by the adventitious circumstances of wealth or family connections, receive, as they deserve, their meed of praise here. I thankfully believe the great army of less prominent workers will find their names recorded above.

I remember when the Anti-Corn Law victory was gained hearing Richard Cobden say, "we should never have gained this victory without the help of the many unknown workers."

It has gratified me to receive from many to whom I sent my Christmas lines the reply that that little anecdote has given them comfort and encouragement.

The little boy who "mixed the mortar" was quite unconscious that the influence of his words and humble service would be carried even across the wide Atlantic.—Yours gratefully and sincerely,

PRISCILLA BRIGHT McLAREN.

Newington House, Edinburgh. The following is the anecdote to which Mrs. McLaren refers:—"At the dedicatory service of a very beautiful building a very humble man was heard to say, 'Oh, what a beautiful building we have got!' When asked by what right he took credit for it, he said very humbly, 'I was one of the boys who mixed the mortar.'"—From the Report of the "National Council of Women" in Toronto, 1895.

WOMEN AND THE SUFFRAGE.

To the Editor of the WOMAN'S SIGNAL.

DEAR MADAM,—I enclose postal order for 2s. 6d. Please to send me 150 of the back numbers of the WOMAN'S SIGNAL for distribution; pay the carriage from the 2s. 6d., and what is left over add to the Armenian Fund. Please to let me have the copies here by the 9th of the month. I wish to thank you for the WOMAN'S SIGNAL. I enjoy it so much; it saves us from looking through all the newspapers for things interesting to women.

I never relished the other ladies' papers I have seen, they were far too trivial for me. I am sure the SIGNAL will do good in helping on our cause. Woman's Suffrage has been as it were burned into me as with a red hot iron on account of the Armenian cruelties. It seems to me that women's votes are needed as much for our Foreign Policy as a nation as for our own home reforms. The judgments of the Lord will be poured down on us, and if we women don't haste and try to get more power and influence to help to make things better we must suffer with the others. I am so thankful that Lady Henry has stood in the breach, and has gone forth to help the Armenians a little in their time of need. Tell her from me I think she has been prepared of God to do a great work to help the whole world.

If ten or twenty of you ladies who require to pay heavy imperial taxes would refuse to pay your taxes until we get the Franchise, it would help to bring it about much quicker. The men would be ashamed of themselves, and would not dare to take the goods and sell them to pay the taxes. My nephew reads the SIGNAL, and he said to me, "They could soon have the Franchise." I said, "How?" "By combining, and pledging themselves not to marry until they got it!"

If we don't get it because we cannot go and fight for our country, then I think it is a greater thing to give the country men. So we can say we won't be mothers and give the nation children unless we have more power over the making of the laws to protect our sons and daughters from the sins and the sorrows to which our children are exposed at the present time. I would press on you to write to ladies and try to make a strike against paying the taxes. Let it go through the law courts, and make this prove that we too feel "taxation without representation is tyranny."

Wishing you great prosperity and happiness in your great work,

I am, dear Mrs. Miller, Yours in the work, (MRS.) JEANIE MORTON, Kilmarnock, January 5th.

A JUVENILE FORESTER. HIS HAPPY ADVENTURE.

(From the Bedfordshire Express.) A REPRESENTATIVE of the Bedfordshire Express



recently went to Henlow Station to make certain inquiries, and this is what he writes:—"Mr. Arthur Levin is a signalman at the Midland Railway Station, and I found him seated in his box. After finishing work, found time to tell me of the fortunate case of his son, Henry William Lewin, from hip disease, which seemed as though it would mean the lad's confinement to his bed.

"Soon after Christmas," said Mr. Lewin, "my son fell ill with a bad cold, and when recovered he went off to the Juvenile Forest to which he has belonged since he was years old. But after a few days he fell in his hip, and had to take to his bed. We consulted a doctor, and he recommended that Harry should lie right out straight, and have perfect rest, and said if he didn't lie and keep his leg quite straight, it might years before he could get out. Well, Harry not seem to mend much, and after he had been ill about six weeks I thought I would try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. I read of a similar case of a little girl at Grimsby, who was cured, and I then made up my mind. To our joy, the boy began to improve while he was taking the first box, and before he had finished it he could get about. After he had taken half of the second box he looked better than he had done for a very long time. I was told by several people how well he looked. Before he had finished the second box he could run about all right and went to work. He says now that he feels no pain whatever, and though he was not physically a strong lad, yet he's in very good health, and much stronger than before." Mr. Lewin added: "It must have been the Pills that cured him, and I shall always keep some handy in case of illness."

"Mrs. Lewin corroborated all that her husband had told me about the lad, and added 'He had had hip disease a long time. Four or five years. But now it seems to have disappeared altogether.'

"Just as I got into the signal-box (reporter) the boy himself came running up the steps, and no one seeing the ease with which he climbed the steps, and the healthy looking intelligent face, would have thought he had been so recently threatened with a cripple."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills act directly on the blood, giving strength and tone to the system, and thus it is that they are so famous a cure of anaemia and rheumatism, chronic erysipelas, and to restore pale complexions to the glow of health. They also a splendid nerve and spinal tonic, and have cured many cases of paralysis, ataxy, neuralgia, St. Vitus' dance, and headache. They are now obtainable from chemists, and from Dr. Williams' Medical Company, 46, Holborn-viaduct, London, E.C. 2s. 9d. a box, or six for 13s. 9d., but avail only with full name Dr. Williams' Pills for Pale People. Pink Pills sold loose or in jars are not Dr. Williams'.

The man who is always wondering if his neighbours think of him would be surprised sometimes to know that they seldom think of him at all.

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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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