

THE ENGLISHWOMAN'S REVIEW OF SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL QUESTIONS

1876

Advisory Editors
Janet Horowitz Murray
and Myra Stark

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Volume 9

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 **Routledge**
Taylor & Francis Group
LONDON AND NEW YORK

First published in 1985 by Garland Publishing, Inc.

This edition first published in 2017

by Routledge

2 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RN

and by Routledge

711 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017

Routledge is an imprint of the Taylor & Francis Group, an informa business

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-1-138-20875-9 (Set)

ISBN: 978-1-315-39366-7 (Set) (ebk)

ISBN: 978-1-138-22249-6 (Volume 9) (hbk)

ISBN: 978-1-138-22251-9 (Volume 9) (pbk)

ISBN: 978-1-315-40766-1 (Volume 9) (ebk)

Publisher's Note

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GARLAND PUBLISHING, INC.
New York & London
1985

Bibliographical Note

**This facsimile has been made from
a copy in the collection of
The New York Public Library.**

**The volumes in this series are printed on
acid-free, 250-year-life paper.**

ISBN 0-8240-3733-2

Printed in the United States of America

TABLE OF CONTENTS, 1876.

	PAGE		PAGE
ARTICLES, LEADING—		ARTICLES, LEADING—continued—	
Admiral Maxse on Women's Suffrage, C.A.B. ...	1	Women's Suffrage Movement as an Educational Influence, A. Drummond	145
Another Noble Woman ...	299	ARTICLES, MISCELLANEOUS—	
Berlin Housekeepers' Association ...	397	Association "pour les Femmes" 13	
Centennial of American Independence ...	241	At an Election ...	395
Chapter from Ancient History, W.G.C. ...	434	Irishwomen Landowners ...	425
Congress at Syracuse	149, 195	Late Cyclone, The, A.S. Beveridge ...	568
Co-operative Shirtmakers	62	Medical Students at Zurich	242
Co-operation in Vienna ...	9	Teachers in Switzerland ...	495
Forthcoming Debate on Women's Disabilities ...	153	Women in India ...	366
Fourth Women's Congress	537	Women's Work in Florence	59
German National Association ...	488	Artists' Annuity Fund ...	468
Harriet Martineau ...	289	American Lady Commissioner of State Charities ...	268
High Pressure ...	10	British and Continental Association for Abolishing State-regulated Vice ...	33, 562
Hindu Mahila Bidyalaya, A.S. Beveridge ...	49	Boarding Out, Advantages of	183, 323
Homes for Domestic Servants ...	350	" in Ireland ...	77
Legislative Meddling ...	344	" Bill for	271, 313
Married Women's Property Law, R. W. D. Hill ...	337	British Association ...	422
Massachusetts, Women in ...	97	Bulgarian Fugitives ...	463, 566
New Danger for Women, C.E.B. ...	497	Co-education in America ...	419
New Doomsday Book, J. Boucherett ...	104	Cookery, National Training School ...	307
Philadelphia Exhibition ...	293	CORRESPONDENCE—	
Registration of Medical Practitioners ...	385	Bequests ...	428
Self-help in the Household	245	Bright's Speech, John	232, 275
Social Science Congress ...	481	Italian Education ...	573
Swedish Progress ...	445	Maintenance of Wives ...	279
The Argument of Custom, H. Blackburn ...	193	Marriage with Deceased Wife's Sister ...	42
The Passing Year ...	529	Musical Women ...	576
Wanted: More Women ...	532	Spanish Marriage Laws ...	42
Women as a "Class" ...	159	Taxation Without Representation ...	478
Women's Memorial ...	452	Timeserving Newspapers ...	236
Women Never Invent Anything ...	108	Trial by Jury ...	427
Women Printers and Editors	388	Vegitarianism ...	94
		Women in Germany ...	479
		Deputations, Right of Women to Act on ...	165
		Divorce, Law of ...	269

	PAGE		PAGE
CORRESPONDENCE—continued—		EMPLOYMENT—continued—	
Drawing-room Meeting ...	313	Laundry Work ...	468
EDUCATION—		Perth, Women in ...	564
Belfast Collegiate School		Pharmaceutical Chemist,	
17, 304, 406		Lady ...	170
Birkbeck Institution ...	21	Plan Tracing ...	223
Bishop Otter's College ...	257	Pottery Painting, 89, 170, 223,	
Board School, Newcastle ...	356	267	
Brighton High School ...	258	" Lord Aberdare, on 170	
Bristol University College	406	Printing ...	514
Cambridge Local Examinations ...	119, 303, 551	Sericiculture, 230, 267, 365, 417,	
" Lectures in ...	120	511	
City of London College	16, 355	Tobacco Manufacturing ...	467
College of Preceptors ...	355	Watchmaking ...	267
Endowed Schools for Girls	207	Employment of Women	
Exeter Middle School ...	551	Society, Annual Report ...	222
Extension of University		Employment of Women	
Teaching ...	164	Society, Brighton ...	266
Fröbel Society, The 76, 409, 459,	553	Employment of Women	
Girls' Public Day School		Society, Glasgow ...	225
Company ...	354	Factory Acts Commission ...	167
Girton College ...	15, 256	Female School of Art ...	140
" In Memoriam Gift	500	" Medical Practitioners,	
Glasgow, Meeting at ...	456	BILL for ...	271, 312
Leeds High School... ..	403	FOREIGN NOTES AND NEWS—	
London University, Wo-		America 184, 283, 326, 373, 476,	
men's Degrees ...	71	523	
Malvern Association ...	410	Australia ...	45, 186, 522
Men and Women's College	305	Belgium ...	518
National Education Union	21	Cape of Good Hope 284, 477, 522	
" Annual Meeting of	73	Chili ...	88, 185
Newnham Hall ...	499	Denmark ...	283
North London Collegiate		France 44, 182, 281, 370, 471, 517	
School ...	302	Germany 44, 183, 277, 282, 370,	
Shorthand Classes ...	22, 224	474, 518	
Teachers' Training and		India... ..	186, 231, 373, 521
Registering Society	162, 550	Italy, 44, 183, 282, 371, 474, 518	
University College, London,		New Zealand ...	284, 373
Ladies' Classes, 18, 207,		Norway ...	283, 521
305, 459, 501		Roumania ...	521
Working Women's College	20	Russia ...	184, 283, 521
Women's Schools, Ireland	256	Sweden ...	372
Yorkshire Students ...	408	Switzerland 44, 183, 282, 370, 518	
EMPLOYMENT—		Guardianship of Children:	
Art Decoration ...	224	The Foot Case ...	137
Book-keeping ...	315, 565	Home for Women and Girls	320
Civil Service ...	268, 564	Hospital for Women ...	166
Dispensers ...	224	Hospital Saturday ...	414
Embroiderers ...	358	Irish Universities: Medical	
Engraving on Wood ...	463	Degrees ...	502
Envelope Makers ...	467	Kindergarten Schools	209, 306
Ha.	225	Ladies' Club, Proposed	268
Insufficient Wages ...	35	Ladies' Guild ...	565
Ireland, Women in ...	34	Ladies' African Mission	362
		Ladies' Sanitary Association	221
		Legal Disabilities ...	326

Contents.

iii.

	PAGE		PAGE
Maintenance of Wives	36	MISCELLANEOUS—continued—	
" Husbands	319	Training Schools for Music,	141, 176, 323
Married Women's Property		Unmuzzled Dogs	428
Committee	375, 508	Victoria Club	565
Married Women's Disabilities	177	Wife-beating	470
Medical Acts of 1858, Bill to		Women Artists	41
Amend, brought in...	83	Woman Trustee, A...	321
" " Debate on	309	National Reform Union: Man-	
MEDICAL " EDUCATION OF WO-		cheater Conference...	29
MEN—		OBITUARY—	
Deputation to Duke of Rich-		Mr. Joseph Payne	229
mond	121	Mr. Thomas Thomasson	139
Earl Granville, on	214	Miss Wishart	368
London School, of	126, 215	Offences Against the Person	
Royal College of Surgeons	82	Bill	89, 136, 559
Midwives, Registration of	126, 212	PARAGRAPHS—	
Mission Home in Paris	359	Agaziz & Women's Rights	191
MISCELLANEOUS—		American Lady Lawyer	47
Æsthetic Review	363	Banker, A Woman	144
Bristol Dispensary	92	Composer, A Woman	382
Cookery Schools 37, 41, 91, 121,	179	Country Life in Syria	384
Croydon Debating Society	141	English Abolitionists	144
Distressed Schoolmistresses	423	Female Magna Charta	45
Edinburgh School Board	176	Gardening, <i>Spectator</i> on	255
Female Servants' Home	322	Hour before the Dawn	332
" " Voters in Ireland	463	Massachusetts Civil Service	190
Gentlewomen's Self Help	38	Men, Women, and Animals	329
Girls' Refuge: Cambridge		Medicine as a Profession:	
Heath	39	Dr. E. Dunbar	287
Husbands and Wives in		Musical Composers...	525
Workhouses	416	Right to Practise Law	237
Lady Augusta Stalley	176	Savings Banks and Women	288
Lady Commander of a Brig,		Steel Engraving	288
A	176	School Boards: <i>Daily News</i>	506
Lady Missionaries	38	Théâtre Français	47
Lady Overseer	191	Vivisection: Letter on	335
Lady on Parochial Board	228	Wills: <i>Australian Sketches</i>	47
Ladies' Debating Club	37	Woman Machinist	525
Laws of Health	517	Women in Tyrol	384
Lecture Notes 40, 93, 143, 180,	275	" " Business	527
Miss Rye's Home	273	Women's claims, <i>Christian</i>	
Mrs. Hugh Miller	177	Union	334
Mrs. Schwabe's Exhibition	229	Women's Work, Sir D. Salo-	
Mrs. Waldon's Orphanage...	274	mon	143
Municipal Franchise: Can-		Working Women's Clubs,	
ada	91	<i>Saturday Review</i>	191
Nursing for Women	364	Paris Home for Children	515
Protection for Small Birds	40	Peace and Arbitration Society	272
<i>Radical Review</i> , The	364	Petitions	179, 420
Sailors' Orphan Girls' Home	322	Pharmaceutical Society, Ire-	
Seats for Shopwomen 93, 142, 228,	274	land	23
Servants' Homes	93	" " Eng-	
		land	24
		POETRY—	
		High Art	478

	PAGE		PAGE
POETRY—continued—		SUFFRAGE—continued—	
Loving and Working ...	43	Mr. P. A. Taylor, on ...	129
Not Utopia	328	Miss Shore, on	357
Question and Answer ...	374	Mr. Blair, on	511
Sonnet	143	Petitions for... ..	165, 211
Tradition	525	Women's Disabilities Bill	
Poor Law Guardians, 167, 191, 228,	416	introduced	86
Police Interference	421	Women's Disabilities Bill	
Protection of Women ..	83	rejected	209
Protective and Provident		Women's Disabilities Bill	
League ... 133, 172, 316, 555		resumed by Mr. Bright ...	510
Protestant Deaconesses ...	272	Woman Voter, A	129
Queen's Institute, Dublin 129, 572		Temperance Bazaar	266
REVIEWS—		„ Union in Belfast	219
Book of Noble English-		„ Ladies' National	
women	162	Convention	262
Caroline Herschel	113	Trades' Union Congress ...	464
Dr. Channing & Miss Aikin	65	Trained Nurses, Scotland ...	317
Eggs all the Year	68	Vigilance Association Report,	
English Female Artists ...	250	1875	25
English Primer	66	Vigilance Association Report,	
How to Influence Children	158	1876	558
Marriage Law Injustice ...	203	VIVISECTION	173
New Abolitionists	205	„ Petitions	231
Our Laws and Our Poor ...	69	„ Circular of Society	261
Our Magazine	118	„ Lord Carnarvon's	
Practice of Medicine	116	Bill	259, 320
Re-echoes	115	Wages of Women 226, 318, 325,	512, 563
Woman and a Future Life... 118		War in the East	358, 411, 461
Women in Reign of Queen		Westminster Home for Nurses	217
Victoria	254	Women's Printing Company	133,
Workhouse Girls	117		318
Right to Dower	429	„ Trades' Unions	28
School Board Elections 413, 504,	546	„ „ Machinists... ..	134
		„ „ Upholstresses	226
SUFFRAGE—		Working Gentlemen's Asso-	
Public Meetings, England 32,		ciation	314
165, 211, 557		Working Women's National	
„ „ Ireland 33, 87		Union	557
„ „ Scotland 128,	416		

Englishwoman's Review.

CONTENTS FOR JANUARY, 1876.

- ART. I.—ADMIRAL MAXSE AND WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.
„ II.—CO-OPERATION IN VIENNA.
„ III.—HIGH PRESSURE.
„ IV.—SUPPRESSION OF THE SOCIÉTÉ POUR L'AMÉLIORATION DU SORT DES FEMMES.
„ V.—EVENTS OF THE MONTH.
Girton College—City of London College—Belfast Ladies' Collegiate School—Ladies' Classes at London University—Working Women's College—Lectures to Teachers—Irish Pharmaceutical Society—Admission of Women to Queen's Hospital, Birmingham—Report of Vigilance Association—Women's Trades Unions—National Reform Union and Conference in Manchester—British and Continental Association for Abolition of Vice—Employments—Miscellaneous.
„ VI.—CORRESPONDENCE.
„ VII.—POETRY.
„ VIII.—FOREIGN NOTES AND NEWS.
„ IX.—PARAGRAPHS.
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All Communications to be addressed to the EDITOR, 22, Berners Street, Oxford Street, W.

Post-Office Orders payable to SARAH LEWIN, at the "Regent Street" Post-Office.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION AT THE OFFICE.

Per Annum (Post Free), Six Shillings.

Subscriptions payable in Advance. Single Numbers posted Free on receipt of Six Postage Stamps.

MSS. are carefully read, and if not accepted are returned, on receipt of Stamps for Postage, but the Editor cannot be responsible for any accidental loss.

Contributions should be legibly written, and only on one side of each leaf.

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ENGLISHWOMAN'S REVIEW.

(NEW SERIES.)

No. XXXIII.—JANUARY, 1876.

ART: I.—ADMIRAL MAXSE ON WOMEN'S
SUFFRAGE.

THE lecture which Rear-Admiral Maxse has lately delivered in several institutions in London, and subsequently in Croydon, has been republished in the *Beehive*, and we are thus enabled to review his arguments and weigh their worth, at some length. It is in many respects the best written essay which has appeared against women's suffrage. He does not fall into the illogical errors of Goldwin Smith, by whom women were stigmatised as Conservative and Revolutionary in the same breath, like the traveller in the fable, who blows cold and hot at once; he does not talk sentiment like Sir William Harcourt or Knatchbull-Huguesson, or discover a new reading in the Doxology like Mr. Leatham; but, nevertheless, his arguments are instinct with party spirit, and will not bear the test of impartial reasoning.

Admiral Maxse divides his lecture into the Counterfeit Woman Suffrage and the True Woman Suffrage. Women-householder suffrage, the only suffrage which is being now demanded, is, he declares, counterfeit—adult suffrage, whether for men or women, being the only true one. He accuses the lady advocates of the movement of “attempting to pervert the law and mislead the public,” by limiting their claim to the demand that, *whatever the suffrage might be, a question with which they*

do not meddle—sex should form no disqualification. Admiral Maxse acknowledges the evil and oppressive laws from which women suffer, but believes that “the single woman vote will confirm the bad laws and uphold the very restrictions that we desire to get rid of.” He sees no remedy to oppression, but in changing entirely the basis of representation, the electoral districts, and the manner in which candidates are offered to those districts; and because Women’s Suffrage does not imply these changes, and would, *in his opinion*, be inimical to them, it is therefore counterfeit. We affirm on the contrary, that the rapidly growing demand of a vote for women householders is based on the existing constitution, and is a change that would be in accordance with the method of voting in municipal and parochial elections. Is it a counterfeit right that Miss Smith exercises when she votes for a Town-Councilman, because Mr. Jones, who lives next door, votes also? Is it counterfeit that only the widow Mrs. Brown, and not her daughter who lives with her, has the vote in a School Board election?

Admiral Maxse declares that “widows, spinsters, and detached ladies are in an abnormal condition, the mere fragment of their sex.” It is a large fragment. According to a recent estimate, two fifths of women of a marriageable age are unmarried. As a matter of fact, these abnormal voters would form from one tenth to one seventh of the entire constituency. He condemns the movement as a counterfeit claim to representation, “because it would raise only propertied single women to citizenship.” It is not so many years since only propertied men had votes, and yet England was even then said to have a representative government.

The lecturer next complains that there are two faces to the movement, the one irreconcilable with the other. . . . “their course is politic. To the astute Conservative mind, the scheme is altogether deserving, it may be truly termed a ‘constitutional’ one, it is favourable to people who have ‘a stake in the country’ as it is called. The radical is also conciliated. Extension of the franchise is his one panacea for all ills. Then there is the concession of an abstract right. All his own pet arguments and declarations about the rights of every man

&c.,—why not every woman? are turned against him. He thinks the measure is in favour of every woman; he is told that this is the ultimate object, although the Conservative is carefully told that it is not so." There is much unfairness underlying this assertion. Admiral Maxse should remember that there are among women and the advocates of Women's Suffrage as many diversities of opinion as there are among men, and the supporters of any other public movement. It was easy when the friends of Women's Suffrage were but a few hundreds, for them to be unanimous; now that they are counted by tens of thousands, there are of course many shades of opinion in their ranks. There are women who are Conservative, women who are Liberal; women who will support the Church in its extremest pretensions, and women who will do hearty battle for Disestablishment; there are women who wish for Adult Suffrage which includes of course every man or woman, married or unmarried, and women who are contented with the present basis of representation. The Suffrage party, as a party, is firmly united on one point,—that whatever other qualification for voting the Laws of England may insist upon, sex shall not be a bar; but a movement which embraces such various opinions, does not merit the charge of insincerity, because the arguments used by some of its supporters differ widely from those brought forward by others: the wonder might rather be to see them working so unanimously together as they do, than that there should be minor differences. The Women's Suffrage party can no more be accused of insincerity on this account, than can the Liberal Association, because some of its members advocate manhood suffrage, and some go no further than household franchise for counties.

No person, probably, has given so largely to charities as Lady Burdett Coutts. We know of another lady who has property, which in a man's hands would be equivalent to seven votes. In view of such examples, it is natural to women who are Conservative, to plead the right of property to representation. It is equally natural for the factory and working women to plead that representation should be the correlative of taxation. Admiral Maxse qualifies this last expression as "a

popular formula without any foundation; a mere phrase." It may be so, but it was a phrase that a century ago, was strong enough to make England lose her fairest provinces. He stigmatises as supremely ridiculous, "those women who mimic Hampden by refusing to pay taxes and allowing their spoons to be sold." From a certain point of view, the casting the tea into Boston harbour was supremely ridiculous, yet eight years afterwards the armies of Great Britain withdrew from America.

The lecturer warns us to consider the character and disposition of "average women who are now all at home encompassed by a household horizon." If staying at home be the rule for women, there are many exceptions, for it is a fact that there are now more than three millions earning their own subsistence. The theory of a dependent protected sex if true "once upon a time," as the fairy tales say, is certainly not true now. He is lavish of pity for those ladies who though they may wish not to vote, will not be *left alone* and "have no male at hand to intimidate canvassers." This picture of threatening and bullying canvassers making house-to-house visitations, evidences a lively imagination in these humdrum days of the ballot. At the last general election it is said that only half the electors in some of the London boroughs voted. Were those who stayed at home intimidated?

"It is claimed that women have voted well in School Board elections; I do not know upon what ground this claim is made; I am disposed to think that the Woman School Board vote has been a clerical one. Their voting in municipal elections has not so far been characterised by much public spirit." Admiral Maxse here quoted a letter from a friend living in a large town, which showed that "women had voted Tory in a compact mass and that they were actuated by the most frivolous considerations." On what grounds does Admiral Maxse assume that women who "vote Tory" cannot be actuated by public spirit? If, too, the Woman School Board vote was a clerical one (though this fact appears a little doubtful), how does he characterise the large support which the Church received in both Houses of Parliament during

the discussion of the 25th clause? He quotes Gibbon, that "to a philosophic eye the vices of the clergy are less dangerous than their virtues;" and adds, "what with their doctrine, their virtues, and other accessories, they exercise great power over women." It might be wished that the generality of men would try if by imitating clerical virtues they might not share some of this peculiar influence. He protests against the enfranchisement of a merely Conservative section of women, and demands "as a set off, the simultaneous enfranchisement of the wives of town workmen." Are town workmen so invariably Liberal that the desired leaven of liberality is certain to be found in their wives? Is there not moreover a tone of exclusiveness, not only of sex, but of party in this distinction? If Admiral Maxse, in order to amend the laws, proposes to reconstruct the British system of representation, it follows that any class claiming the franchise in accordance with the present order of things, will be in his eyes inimical to his policy. He does not concede any natural right to vote: "it is all a question of expediency" (for men as for women?), and he quotes minors and foreigners as instances of exclusion on this principle. To our minds it is a question of right that every person shall have during his or her life a chance of self government. A minor can become of age, a foreigner can be naturalised, a pauper may become a man of substance, a criminal may reform, an agricultural labourer (supposing the law unchanged) can emigrate to a town; it is in the possible future of all of these to become a voter—only women have the franchise put out of their reach for life. If we argue the question as one of expediency, we urge that it is expedient that educated, respectable, responsible householders should vote irrespective of sex. Admiral Maxse believes that sex is the one indispensable qualification. His alteration of the law would, we venture to think, be more violent than ours.

Having disposed of the counterfeit Woman's Suffrage, he next considers the true Woman's Suffrage. He does not exactly explain whether this is every woman having a vote, or simply "wives of town workmen." Probably the former, because it implies, in his opinion, that the

number of women electors would be equal or superior to men electors. He protests against any claim to political talent in women being based upon the lives of queens and princesses; royal personages are "fictitious" and "ornamental," and we really "know nothing about them." We should have thought that in "the fierce light which beats upon a throne," there was a fair amount of reality about Queen Bess, or Maria Theresa. Women, as a whole, are unfit, he says, to govern—"To vote means to govern, that is to say, theoretically; of course, under our constitution the real power of voting is slight, but the theory is that the voters elect the government, and it is with this object that the vote is claimed, it is a means of governing the nation. And women have no natural capacity for this task. Nature, he continues, appears to place women entirely at the mercy of men. Their independence is an artificial product, it is the outcome of civilization and the growth of sentiment, but we shall err in supposing that there are no natural limits to such independence. We cannot make women the equal of men in male strength, and there are certain male duties which result from this strength. Government must correspond to such strength in some degree. Rebellions occur sometimes under male legislation. People will submit to much vexatious legislation, rather than resort to rebellion, but when great questions are at issue, and there is national excitement, they will not submit to an oppressive law if they consider they are strong enough to resist. The knowledge, or even the suspicion, that such law is enacted by the vote of women, supplementing that of a minority of men, would be sufficient to provoke rebellion."

What sort of argument is this to use at the present time? Is moral force of no value unless backed up by physical force? If so, what does our law mean by disfranchising the exponents of physical force, policemen and soldiers? Are we to go back to the policy of savage times, when might was the only right, to frame our code? A very large proportion of our electors are men past the prime of life; are their claims to consideration to decrease with their strength of sinew? Is a cripple or a deformed man to be deprived of his vote

for the same reason? or shall we be told that the law can deal only with generalities, and that sex forms the sole incapacity? On what grounds also does the Admiral assume that the feminine vote would all go one way? Are women apt to be so much more unanimous than men? To assume that women must necessarily be all of the same mind, is to concede far more than we claim; it is conceding that the evils and wrongs that women suffer are so universal and so crushing in their operation, that the whole sex will be banded together against their tyrants. Unanimity in the oppressed can only be obtained by extremity of oppression. Elsewhere he says, "The whole theory of the value of the vote rests upon the supposition that they will oppose male legislation." We look forward to supplementing and helping men, not to opposition.

"Would women," he further asks, "make wise laws if they had equal political power with men?" He believes not, but that they "fail to appreciate indirect causes, and only grasp the actual." If it be true that a tendency to *detail* is observable in many women, it is equally true that many men overlook necessary minutiae in grasping the *whole* too roughly. Opticians tell us of two sorts of defective sight: that which can only see at a distance and blurs near objects, and that which is of the utmost delicacy near at hand, but can see nothing afar off. A perfect lens combines the good of both. A perfect government will have both manly breadth and womanly completeness of thought.

But Admiral Maxse affirms that "even superior women rarely have sympathy with the struggling principles which determine the life of a nation." What does he mean by this? If he means that political interests, party considerations, and doctrinal subtleties have been generally postponed by women to human sympathies, he may be right. If he means that women, always deprived of a part in the civic and legal life of a nation, have a slender appreciation of the benefits in which they have no share, he may be right too; we should not be surprised if, in process of time, Æsop's fox came honestly to believe that the unattainable grapes were green. "They are not to be counted," he says, "among the

active supporters of the National Education League, they did not send us a single half-crown in support of Mr. Mill's Land Tenure Reform scheme. * * * * They care more for persons than for ideas." We emphatically protest against this assertion. In every movement which has sprung up on English soil, in every struggle for freedom, women have given their sympathy and help. Women suffered for American abolition, and whenever and in whatever country martyrs have shed their blood for principle, women have been among those martyrs. Miriam followed Moses to the Promised Land: women stood around the Cross.*

Admiral Maxse pleads that for the sake of "our children and those that come after us" women should not be forced into this position of antagonism. We, too, plead for those same children that they may have the nobler influences which juster laws and purer social life will give them. We believe, as Admiral Maxse owns he does not, in the certainty of progress, in the certainty that as the years go on our freedom will have "broadened slowly down," till another generation shall know neither ignorance nor bondage, neither the obtuseness which cannot see that there is but one law of justice and right for man or woman, nor the impulse to employ the physical force of the strong for the oppression of the weak.

C. A. B.

* *One actual experiment is worth a score of theories.*—In Wyoming, where women have had the vote for some years, this was Governor Campbell's testimony to their influence in 1871: "In this territory women have manifested for its highest interests a devotion strong, ardent, and intelligent. They have brought to public affairs a clearness of understanding, and a soundness of judgment, which, considering their exclusion hitherto from practical participation in political agitation and movements, are worthy of the greatest admiration, and above all praise. The conscience of women in all things is more discriminating and sensitive than that of men; their love of order not spasmodic or sentimental merely, but springing from the heart. All these—the better conscience, the exalted sense of justice, and the abiding love of order—have been made by the enfranchisement of women, to contribute to the good government and well being of our territory." Governor Campbell repeated this opinion with still more emphasis three years later.

ART. II.—CO-OPERATION IN VIENNA.

A NUMBER of ladies have succeeded in establishing a very flourishing co-operative society in Vienna for the purchase of household stores at wholesale prices, a movement which seems likely to have ulterior results even more important than improved domestic economy. The nature of these may be inferred from the treatment of the movement by the local press, which is certainly very suggestive of the need existing in Austria, as elsewhere, of enlightened views of the claims and position of women. Having premised that he does not object to the ladies meeting in public because they only do so to further home interests, a writer in the leading Viennese journals lately gave a detailed account of the association, and described its operations in a manner that is very amusing in another sense than that intended. The *naïve* astonishment with which he observes that persons in elaborately-trimmed dresses could actually develop an aptitude for business, could express themselves with ease and fluency, and generally conduct themselves like reasonable human beings, is evidently unaffected, recalling that expressed by Sir Henry James, on finding that ladies "fluttering in ribbons" attempted to answer the arguments of speakers in the House of Commons. Viennese ladies are, indeed, said to be very fond of dress, and may, possibly, devote so much attention to it as to justify their critic in being surprised to find that they had other pursuits, but the fact is that demonstrations in the way of trimmings and ribbons are not to be relied upon as evidences of imbecility, since many a woman who has better things to think about, allows herself to be made into a "Jack in the green" by her *modiste* from sheer force of habit. Meantime, the really admirable organization of the Viennese *Hausfrauen Verein* will go far to show that the exercise of the highest administrating faculty on a scale of national importance being well within the compass of female capacity, it is but a poor joke to criticize a combined public effort on the part of women to advance an economical reform, in the same strain as the performance of a company of trained canaries.

The only feminine representative of the plastic art in Vienna, Fräulein Minna Weitmann, died on the 19th of December, of a chest complaint of long standing. This artist, like her father, Joseph Weitmann, who was her master, confined herself to copying flowers and birds in biscuit and marble. Fräulein Weitmann twice received gold medals at art exhibitions, and her attainments were even surpassed by the amiability of her disposition, which endeared her to a large circle of pupils, by whom, and by Viennese society in general, her premature decease, at the age of thirty-six, is deeply regretted.

The Art School at Vienna is an important institution; it was established in 1869. During the six years of its existence, women students have shown their eminent capacity for higher art education. They have followed the same course of study as the men students, and the universal testimony of their teachers has proved them to be equal in industry and power of work, as well as natural gifts, to their men colleagues. Women of various ranks may obtain occupation through this school—a large field being open in various branches of art work—in designing patterns for manufactures, copies for school drawings, &c. A similar government school has been opened for instruction in art needlework—a previously neglected branch of employment.

ART. III.—HIGH PRESSURE.

AN "Anxious Mother" thus writes to the *Times* :—"My unfortunate daughter has lately been in for the Junior Cambridge examination; perhaps I ought rather to say fortunate, as she has survived it. She is still only a child, and yet she has had longer hours than my husband tells me he ever underwent even at Cambridge itself. . . . In all seven hours and three-quarters, to say nothing of three hours' travelling. I am convinced that a slight re-arrangement of the time-table might make the pressure much less on the unhappy juniors."

This complaint is not by any means a solitary one. Another parent speaking of an examination for school-mistresses says that the curriculum had been so severe that his daughter was rejected on account of her health having broken down under it. We must not forget that Dr. Clarke in America, and Dr. Maudsley in England based their chief objections to the higher education of girls, upon the early age at which the great mental strain was incurred. The first, at any rate, admitted that if the severe study were postponed till the system had become stronger, its evils would be greatly lessened. Much was said on all sides, and in particular it was pointed out that the ill effects of severe study at an early age were not confined to girls. A petition was lately presented to the School Committee of Boston, signed by more than 200 parents of the 250 boys of the Latin school, by 150 of the leading physicians of the city, and by 65 clergymen, in opposition to the cramming system of the school. Col. Higginson justly observes: "he does not know why the complaint of public school methods should be brought with respect to its effect on girls alone. . . . It would seem that if a system is at fault it should be modified, instead of forcing those who cannot meet undue exactions to avoid them by abandoning their aims." It is the same in England. Last year very serious complaints were made of the physical injury inflicted on the boys by the severe Naval Examinations and Civil Service Examinations: one report stated it was several months before some of the boys recovered their strength. These complaints are too widely spread to be quite ignored. The educational problem of the present is to secure a more thoroughly-instructed, and at the same time a better physically developed race than we have hitherto had. Increased mental force can never be obtained for a nation, though it may for an individual, by the sacrifice of physical strength. A sound body for containing a sound mind is a necessity of our organization. The brain has a certain amount of vital strength to carry on the mental and bodily processes of life. Of what avail will it be to try to increase this strength by sanitary improvements in houses, gymnastics, better clothing, &c., if we con.

tinue to take away more vitality than we add, by a system of early forcing. In former days the problem was solved by requiring only a very low standard of instruction for boys, and a still more miserably insufficient measure for girls. With this we can no longer be content. We demand a higher educational standard alike for girls and boys, but do we not make a mistake in not allowing more time for it? The standard will probably be still further raised each year, and far be it from us to wish to see it lowered, but cannot the strain be spread over a greater number of years?

It appears certain that the amount of study which will be injurious at the age of 15, might be safely undertaken at 18. Is there any satisfactory reason why our junior examinations should not be deferred for two or three years, and the senior examinations take place at 20 or 21? It was very well for a girl to consider her education finished at 18 or 19, when she only learned "Mangnall's Questions" and a superficial smattering of accomplishments; but it is different now that we require (and rightly require) that she shall know grammatically two or three languages, arithmetic, and mathematics, something of science, history, and a long string of etceteras. Is there any need that we should force our children as we do early fruit and vegetables? We much doubt if peas and strawberries are improved in flavour by the process—but do we not run a risk of overstraining the brain energies at a time when the bodily growth requires a large amount of vital strength? We would gladly extend this plea for the boys too. Why should the race of life which every year intensifies in speed, begin so very early. It may be answered that they cannot afford to wait; but at any rate our middle and upper class girls need not be pressed so early into the struggle, that two or three more years might not be allowed them with advantage. Every girl should ride, walk, climb, swim. When will she find the time for this, if by eighteen she must pass examinations which in former days would have been considered difficult for grown men. We would not wish to see the standard of examinations altered one iota—not one language or *ology* taken off—only to see our speed a

little slackened, convinced as we are that we do not get the best out of our boys and girls by hurrying them on so fast. The finest intellects are often the slowest in coming to maturity, and we cannot be sure that either man or woman will be the fittest to fill any given post, because as boy or girl they may have gone through a system of cramming with most impunity.

**ART. IV.—SUPPRESSION OF THE ASSOCIATION
POUR L'AMELIORATION DU SORT DES
FEMMES.**

THIS Association, which our readers may remember to have been established in Paris in 1870, has just been suppressed by the French government, an additional proof—if any were needed—of the ceaseless tyranny and arbitrary interference with private rights to which our neighbours are in the habit of submitting. A circular has been addressed to the Associates by M. Leon Richer, President of the dissolved society, in the following terms:—

It is with deep regret I announce to you that the Society for Improving the Condition of Women, founded in April, 1870, and authorised by the government of that time, has been prohibited by order of M. le Ministre de l'Interieur.

Consequently, our society of intellectual propagandism is dissolved. Our sections for study and work are suppressed. Our quiet meetings in which we endeavoured to discover, apart from all political interests, the best means to improve the standard of education in girls' schools, to raise the wages of workwomen, to combat the incessant increase of prostitution, to suggest a revision of the principal laws which oppress women—all these meetings, in spite of the small number of persons who were present (on an average, ten or twelve), must now cease. Only one last meeting will be allowed, that of the Members of Committee on whom devolves the charge of receiving the accounts for the year 1875.

The Report which will be presented to them, will be printed and forwarded to all our associates.

But if we are forbidden in future to assemble to work together, each one will still be able to carry on *individually*, by annual subscriptions, the propaganda of our ideas of justice and of social reparation. You can pay each year the voluntary contribution you had

agreed upon, and we trust none of our former members will refuse us this necessary help. The journal (the *Avenir des Femmes*) remains, and will carry on vigorously the work of reform for which it was established. This is, at present, most important.

Better days will come. A liberal Ministry will restore to us what the present Ministry has taken away, and a new society may then be founded. Let us have patience.

The subscribers who have not yet sent their subscriptions for 1875, are begged to send them immediately, in order that the accounts may be made up, and the report issued.

Let all the supporters of the cause of women remain united. I repeat once more that the journal, which for seven years has endeavoured to elucidate the many questions in which we are interested, will still continue its important work.

Signed, the President of the dissolved Society,

LEON RICHER.

We have not, fortunately, to contend with similar obstacles in England. Committees of ten or twelve persons may gather together to discuss plans for the amelioration of society, without being arbitrarily suppressed. We are sincerely sorry that this useful little society, which promised to do so much valuable and necessary work, should have been dissolved. Let women keep as quietly as they can in their social circle, politics will search out and interfere with them, and, as Madame de Staël once said, "It is natural women should ask why?"

In a letter in the *Avenir des Femmes*, M. Richer adds: "—This society had received from Victor Hugo, some months ago, a public testimony of sympathy, and Garibaldi was an honorary member. M. Buffet likes no societies which are not either Bonapartist or Clerical; if the association had put itself under Ultramontane protection it would not have been suppressed."

The decision of the supreme authority was given verbally, no reason whatever having been assigned. It has naturally caused indignation, and the *Avenir des Femmes* has received a large number of new subscriptions, as a testimony of sympathy towards the suppressed society.



ART. V.—EVENTS OF THE MONTH.

EDUCATION.

Girton College, Cambridge.—Notwithstanding the opening of Newnham Hall, Girton College is too small, the applications for admission far exceeding the accommodation afforded for ladies anxious for university instruction, and it has been resolved to enlarge it so as to accommodate a score more students and to provide two new lecture-rooms. This will cost £6,000. A subscription has been opened for the expenses of the new buildings, and by the date of the publication of the last *Journal* of the Education Union, £1,500 had been already subscribed. For a boys' school sufficient funds would at once be forthcoming; for women's education they are more difficult of attainment, yet still there is fair hope that among the wealthier friends of the good cause, they may be raised without too much delay.

A letter from Isa Craig Knox to the daily papers, called public attention to the present need of subscriptions. In it she says:—

The college was founded in 1869 by the gathering together of some ten or a dozen students in a hired house at Hitchin, from whence, with added numbers, it removed in 1873 to a permanent building at Girton, near Cambridge. This building was erected at a cost of £15,000, the friends of the movement identical with those who laboured to obtain for the country the acknowledged boon of the University local examinations, raising contributions to the amount of £13,000. Accommodation was provided for twenty-one students, with the necessary public and lecture rooms; the latter on a scale which would admit of the future extension of the other portions of the building. Such an extension has already become imperative. The number of students at present in residence is greater than the building was intended to receive, and unless additional accommodation is provided without delay it will be necessary to refuse admission to a number of candidates. Apart from the cost of the buildings, the college is self-supporting, and the friends of wealthy students have already contributed liberally to the building fund; but as it is not intended exclusively for the rich, its founders find that they must appeal to a wider public, and they do so on public grounds. Owing to the much-needed increase of a better class of girls' schools, through the action of the Endowed Schools Commission and other public bodies, the demand for highly trained and competent head mistresses is already greater than the supply, and adequate remuneration is beginning to be offered for their services, and nowhere, more certainly, can such training be received or such competence be tested than at Girton.

There is every guarantee that the work of the college is real. An entrance examination bars the way to the incompetent or trifling, and, through the generous help of members of the University of Cambridge, the high character of the teaching becomes indisputable. The list of lecturers at Girton includes no fewer than eleven names of high academic standing. The examiners in the various examinations for degrees have also given their assistance in testing the work of the students by University standards. The certificates given have thus the value, if not the name, of a University degree, and several of the students have acquitted themselves so as to have deserved honours. Such a certificate is, of course, a passport to the higher educational work, and it is to this work that the bulk of students look forward to devoting themselves. In order not to exclude any who, with the requisite ability and attainments, may be desirous of further advancement, scholarships and exhibitions are being founded in connection with the University local examinations and the entrance examination of the college. * * * * * The proposed addition to the building will cost £6,000, and would then contain rooms for thirty-eight students, the mistress, and two assistant lecturers (ladies), with four lecture-rooms, a small laboratory, dining-hall, prayer-room, reading-room, gymnasium, &c. Contributions may be paid to the Treasurer, Mr. H. R. Tomkinson, 24, Lower Seymour street, London, W.; or to the Girton College account, at the London and County Bank, 21, Lombard street, E.C.; or to Messrs. Mortlock & Co., Cambridge. The Report and other papers containing information may be obtained from Miss Emily Davies, 17, Cunningham place, N.W.

City of London College for Ladies.—The distribution of prizes to the students at this College took place on December 20th at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon street—Sir Charles Reed in the chair. There was a large attendance of young ladies and their friends. The chairman was accompanied on the platform by Dr. Abbott, head master of the City of London School, the Rev. J. Harris, Miss Berridge, principal of the college, M. Schneider, &c. In opening the proceedings Sir Charles Reed said he supposed most of those present were interested in the girls there, but he believed that all of them, individually and collectively, felt an interest in the great and growing work of female education, and it was that feeling that had brought most of them there on the platform. It might be said to be almost a new thing in England that there should be so deep an interest in the education of women. He was glad to know that the obstacles in the way of women's education were gradually breaking down. They saw it on all hands, and there was no greater evidence of it than in

the establishment of colleges like that. He could remember, 20 or 30 years ago, when it would have been thought a preposterous thing to have a college for girls. He did not know why it should have been so, for he found from his own experience that girls were as ready and as laborious as boys. In learning, and in teaching, young women achieved as satisfactory results as men did. He was speaking of the teachers in the infant schools, the primary schools, and the secondary middle-class schools. The question had still to be considered whether, in higher training, women would hold their own with men. He believed they would, and he should be quite prepared to commit the task of higher instruction to the hands of women, after his experience in America, where the teachers in the schools were to a large extent women of great training and of great courage, and whose influence among young men was far more remarkable than they in England could have supposed. After a few words of encouragement to those who had not won prizes, the chairman called upon the Rev. J. Harris to read the examiners' report, which was of a generally satisfactory character. The prizes were then delivered by Sir Charles Reed.

LADIES' COLLEGIATE SCHOOL, BELFAST.

On December 22nd a large and influential meeting was held in the lecture hall of this institution on the occasion of the closing lecture before the Christmas recess. The subject of the lecture was Tennyson's "In Memoriam." The chair was taken by David Taylor, Esq., J.P. The Rev. S. Andrews said, in commencing the lecture, some might think an apology needed for bringing such a subject before such an audience; but to the objection that it is difficult we at once reply that the minds of the young ladies in this institution are accustomed to be exercised on difficult subjects. Whatever may be the case elsewhere, the spirit of the school does not allow young people to be ashamed of putting forth in study their utmost mental energies. He then gave a full analysis of the poem.

Rev. Dr. Bryce, in moving a vote of thanks to the chairman, said he was particularly gratified to find a

gentleman of Mr. Taylor's high practical wisdom sanctioning by his presence an undertaking which required not only qualities of head, but qualities of heart—in which Mrs. Byers had manifested an enthusiasm as well as intellect. Dr. Bryce confessed he had a fellow-feeling in the matter—it had been the dream of his life to promote the higher education of women; and, though his arguments had met with some ridicule, he was consoled to find a practical triumph for them in the result of Mrs. Byers's noble and successful efforts. He (Dr. Bryce) had much pleasure in testifying to the high character of the institution.—*Northern Whig.*

LADIES' CLASSES AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.

The Ladies' Classes at University College begin on Monday, the 17th inst., the second term of their eighth session. There was a slight decline in the number of students for the session 1874-5, but the first term of the session 1875-76 showed a considerable advance beyond the highest success hitherto attained. In the Michaelmas term, 1874-75, the whole number of individual students was 199; in the Michaelmas term, 1875-76, just elapsed, the number of individual students was 265. The whole number of tickets taken in Michaelmas term 1874-75, was 257; in the same term 1875-76, it was 367. The ladies' classes, which are all held by the professors and lecturers at University College, in their class-rooms, are now so familiar a part of the work done in Gower-street, that those who attend them find no reason whatever to feel out of place. This labour has been sustained now for seven years as an experiment, growing in importance, permitted and assisted by the council, but not yet formally recognised as part of the college work. Every year the doors are opened to women, and they are invited to many studies; but they do not always take all that is offered. Last year there was a deficiency of entries to the classes of Mathematics and Latin. This year there is a class of Mathematics, there are three Latin classes, and there is a class of Greek. Every subject taught in the Michaelmas term, 1874-75, was taught in the Michaelmas term, 1875-76. In two subjects there was indeed a change in each from two classes to one,

but the additional work taken by this year's students raised the whole number of classes from nine to fifteen. Of the 265 individual students who attended these classes in the term just closed, 3 were attending 5 classes each, 2 were attending 4 classes each, 10 were attending 3 classes each, 63 were attending 2 classes each, 187 were attending one class each. The work that has advanced thus far owes what success it has attained to the quiet endeavour simply to meet such demand for a higher education as is found really to exist in London among ladies whose schooltime is over. The educational resources of a London college, attended by more than 900 regular students, apart from the six or seven hundred boys in the school associated with it, are being made available for the higher education of women, who may take, of all that belongs to their general culture, as much or as little as they are themselves really disposed to take. There are examinations for those who wish to be examined, and certificates to be earned by those who wish to earn them. There are courses of eighteen lectures and there are courses of fifty lectures. As to subjects, as to length of courses, as to examinations, in all that belongs to the liberal education there is a supply offered from year to year which more than meets the present demand, and is apt for expansion as demands increase. That some hundreds of ladies are studying at University College session after session is, no doubt, good evidence of a step in civilisation that has been made within the last ten years; but, so far as this experiment is concerned, the women of London have not yet won all that they can win by simply entering at all the doors that are thrown open to them and taking all they can get. The subjects now being taught are the languages and literatures of England, France, Germany, and Italy; Latin in elementary and more advanced classes; Greek, Mathematics, Logic, Physiology, and Hygiene: also English Constitutional History, to which will be added in the next term a course of General English History, and perhaps a course of Physics. Beside these courses, which are for ladies only, four classes in the college (those of Jurisprudence, Roman Law, Political Economy,

and Geology) admit ladies as regular students, and all teaching in the Fine Art department is open to students of both sexes.

REPORT OF THE COLLEGE FOR WORKING WOMEN.

We have received the first Annual Report of the College for Working Women, 5, Fitzroy Street, Fitzroy Square, and the account it gives of the year's work is exceedingly satisfactory. In recalling the circumstances connected with the origin of the Institution it says, that when a majority of the Council of the Working Women's College in Queen's Square, decided in January, 1874, to throw open that College to men as well as women, and this resolution was carried into effect in the following October; some members of the minority who did not concur in this change, were unwilling to express any opinion on the subject of mixed education, but they saw with regret that the only institution in London, devoted exclusively to the improvement and culture of working women was about to be closed to many of them. They resolved, therefore, "to continue to offer to women who are employed in labour for many hours in the day, and often all the year round, an opportunity of gaining instruction and education when the day's work is over; and to give them the stimulus and interest which are to be found in social life, intellectual pursuits, and rational entertainment." They appealed for help "to all those who are interested in the culture of women, and who desire to make their lives brighter and better, not only by the higher instruction, but the higher moral development which it would be their aim to promote." This appeal met with a warm response, and in October, 1874, the College for Working Women, 5, Fitzroy-street, was ready for the reception of students. 431 students attended the College during the four terms of the past year; of these 153 are dressmakers and needlewomen, 93 carry on work at home, and the remainder are all, as the name of the College announces, women engaged in some profession or trade, gilders, hairdressers, machinists, &c. A lending library was opened last January; it is at present small, and donations of books will be very acceptable. We are glad to see that physiology forms part of the course. There was a slight falling off of

students after the second term, but the hours during which women are employed in the London season, are so long that a considerable number will at all times be compelled to discontinue their attendance at the classes during the third and fourth terms of the session; and diminished numbers during these terms prove that those who come to the College are really the Working Women for whom it is intended. There is great need of funds to carry on the College successfully, although the expenses of starting have been all covered. The hon. secretaries for the College are Mrs. Lionel Lucas, 11, Westbourne Terrace, W., and Miss Martin, 22, Regent's Park-terrace, N.W. D. Storrer is the chairman of the Committee.

Birkbeck Literary and Scientific Institution.—The winter term of this institution will commence on Monday next. The classes, which are open to both ladies and gentlemen, embrace languages, mathematics, natural, applied, and mental science, law, literature, history, drawing, painting, music, &c. In addition to the prizes which have been already announced, the Lord Chief Justice of England has kindly offered an English essay prize of 20 guineas, and Lord Francis Hervey, M.P., has intimated his intention of giving prizes of the value of £5 each for English literature and architectural design.

We have been informed that Mrs. Bligh Sinclair, (widow of Colonel Robert Bligh Sinclair, Adjutant-General of Nova Scotian Militia, and formerly of Her Majesty's 42nd Royal Highlanders,) 8, Royal Crescent, Notting Hill, receives young ladies as inmates of her house to educate with her own daughters. Under the charge of a governess they will attend the classes of the Notting Hill and Bayswater High Schools, Norland Square.

NATIONAL UNION FOR IMPROVING THE EDUCATION OF WOMEN.

Lectures to Teachers.—The course of lectures to teachers on the Method of teaching Arithmetic by Mr. Sonnenschein's scheme, begun on November 16th at the Rooms of the Society of Arts, has been very well attended. The following courses have been arranged:—

Three lectures on the Method of teaching English, by J. G. Fitch, Esq., M.A., to begin January 25th.

Three lectures on the Method of teaching Modern Languages, by A. H. Keane, Esq., to begin Feb. 15th.

Three lectures on the Method of teaching Physical Geography, by A. Sonnenschein, Esq., to begin March 7th.

To be followed by others. These lectures will be given on Tuesday evenings at 6 p.m. in Exeter Hall. The fees for each course will be for teachers 2s. 6d., non-teachers 5s. Tickets can be obtained from the Secretary of the Women's Education Union, 112, Brompton Road, S.W. These lectures are open to both sexes.

Scholarships.—The Women's Education Union again offers five scholarships of £25 each, to be awarded at the Local Examinations of 1876, by the following learned bodies:—The University of Cambridge. The University of Oxford. The University of Edinburgh. The University of Dublin. Queen's University of Ireland.

Instruction in Shorthand.—A class for instruction in shorthand will be held at the Rooms of the Women's Educational Union early in the new year. It will meet on one evening in each week, and will be taught by Mr. J. B. Rundell, who holds a certificate of efficiency from the London Shorthand Writers' Association.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND.

We have received, by the kindness of a friend, the following full report of the proceedings of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, on the occasion when the admission of women was under discussion:—

The motion of Professor Tichborne to admit women to the licence of the Irish Pharmaceutical Society on the same terms as other students, came on for discussion on the 1st of December.

Dr. Tichborne said he would not take up the time of the meeting by a long speech, as the merits of the question were very self-evident, and he reserved himself for any objections that might be raised. He had only heard at present of two objections, and they were soon disposed of.

It had been stated that it was too soon to introduce women into pharmacy, yet such an objection is about as reasonable as what is sometimes understood as a woman's reason.

It is either right or wrong to qualify women to act as pharmacians; if wrong, better not qualify them at all, but if it were right, it were better that it be done quickly.

A palpable reason for doing it, was that we were now about to inaugurate a change in the conduct of the pharmacy of this country, and, therefore, why not make that change perfect as far as we could, and not be re-arranging the matter in a year or so. The second objection had been conveyed to the speaker in the following manner. It had been said that there were a great number of our sons who could not get situations, and that the demand was in excess of the supply. Now it would generally be found that no good man had ever any difficulty in getting employment; that it was the quality that was deficient, not the quantity that was in excess; every employer was crying out that he could not get efficient assistance. The objection was that if there were men who could not get employment, why provide for the women? Now, we find that in this country there are 131,764 more women than there are men, and that if every man in the country was married, there would still be this superfluous community to provide for. These women must be a burthen to either brothers or fathers; in fact, it was a kind of genteel pauperism, hidden, perhaps, but none the less felt. When a woman is married, she had her part of the social partnership to fulfil; when she is not married, if she had no vocation, she must live upon some one. It was a most superficial idea to imagine that the agitation amongst females in Great Britain and Ireland was in any way connected with such twaddle as "Bloomerism" or "Women's Rights." It was merely the result of a pressure felt by the middle classes, a pressure produced by an advance in the cost of living.

Therefore, Professor Tichborne maintained that it was the duty of that council to open pharmacy to women, if it was a legitimate employment for them. He was strongly of opinion that it was an employment just

suited and in keeping with their proverbial neatness. There was no demand for any physical exertion or great mental strain, and such an occupation was surely more suited to them than surgery. He, the speaker, proposed no revolution; his contemplated change provided that women should be properly educated for the calling—how they will get that education is their own business—so that they satisfy the council that they have acquired the necessary knowledge; and the result of my motion, said Professor Tichborne, is that at the end of a year's time it is quite immaterial whether the candidate that comes forward be a man or a woman.

Dr. Frazer spoke at some length against the admission of women. He said that the council had all heard of the boy who cried for the moon. If the women got pharmacy, they would only want something more—to be physicians next. The women had plenty of good pursuits open to them, and yet they had not taken advantage of them. Watchmaking, for instance, was just suited to them, why did they (the women) not take advantage of it? &c., &c. He proposed, as an amendment, that the consideration of the admission of women be postponed to that day six months.

Dr. Owens (the Lord Mayor elect) had much pleasure in seconding Dr. Frazer's amendment, although he must confess he could not agree with a word he had said; he, however, objected to see the women admitted to pharmacy at present.

Sir Dominic Corrigan, in a long speech, advocated the admission of women, and said that from personal examination into the question, he had found that the dispensing in some of the large foreign hospitals was in the hands of women, and that it was conducted in the most satisfactory manner.

Dr. Tichborne was about to reply, when he was met with a request to divide, as the hour was late, and as no argument had been brought forward against his motion.

Dr. Frazer said that as he saw the feeling of the meeting was against him, with the consent of his seconder, he withdrew his amendment.

The original motion was then put and carried unanimously.

ENGLISH PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.

At the Major Examination of the Pharmaceutical Society in December, Miss Isabella G. Clarke, having passed the examination satisfactorily, was admitted a pharmaceutical chemist. There are several ladies on the register as "chemists and druggists," but this is the first instance in Great Britain in which a lady has passed the Major Examination as a pharmaceutical chemist.

The Board of Managers of the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, have decided to admit female Medical students to the clinical lectures, and to permit them to enjoy all the privileges of male students.

REPORT OF THE VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION.

The fifth annual report of the Vigilance Association has been issued. It gives an account of a fair amount of work done during the year. The following papers have been published by the Association during the year:—

1. Fourth Annual Report.
2. Report of Fourth Annual Meeting, 1874.
3. Reprint of Mrs. Butler's Speech at Fourth Annual Meeting.
4. Reprint of Mr. Russell Carpenter's Speech at ditto.
- 5, 6, 7. Papers on the Punishment of the Lash.
8. How Soldiers are encouraged to neglect their Duties as Husbands and Fathers (Report of Debate on the Mutiny Bill).
9. Reprint of Article on the Lash from the *Manchester Examiner*, of June 16, 1875.
10. Circular on the Appointment of a Royal Commission on the Factory Acts.
11. Suggested Questions to be asked of Witnesses giving Evidence before the Royal Commission on the Factory and Workshops Acts.
12. Reprint of Mr. P. A. Taylor's Speech on Crime and Punishment in the Navy.

The Report commences with recording the rejection by the House of Commons of Mr. P. A. Taylor's proposed amendment of the Mutiny Bill. The object of these amendments was to render it impossible for a soldier to evade his just liabilities for the maintenance of his wife

and children. The period allowed for consideration of the Bill, and also of the Marine Mutiny Bill, was even shorter than it has been in previous years. Mr. Taylor then moved the two amendments on Clause 107, of which he had given notice. The first was to leave out of the following Clause the word "may" (given in italics), and to insert the word "shall."

"When any order is made under the Acts relating to the relief of the poor, or under the Bastardy Acts, on a soldier for the maintenance of his wife or children, or for the maintenance of any such bastard child as aforesaid, or of any such persons, a copy of such order shall be left at the office of one of Her Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, and the said Secretary of State *may* withhold a portion not exceeding sixpence of the daily pay of a non-commissioned officer who is not below the rank of sergeant, and not exceeding threepence of the daily pay of any other soldier, and allot the sum so withheld in liquidation of the sum adjudged to be paid by such order."

This was negatived by 138 votes to 56. The next amendment was also negatived by 122 votes to 48.

The "Offences against the Person" Bill, introduced by Mr. Charley, M.P. for Salford, passed into law last session, but the Committee regret to say that its value has been diminished by the alteration of the clause affording protection to a girl of fourteen years of age, to *thirteen*. Whilst deeply regretting the rejection of the proposal to extend protection to girls up to fourteen years of age, the Committee cannot but acknowledge that the extension of protection for one more year is an important advance, especially as it renders still more apparent the absurdity of the law which permits the marriage of a girl of twelve years of age. The Committee feel that Mr. Charley is entitled to the thanks of this Association for his indefatigable exertions on behalf of the measure, and that thanks are also due to Lord Hampton, who took charge of the Bill in the House of Lords, and to Lord Lyttelton. The Bill became law on August 13th.

With regard to the punishment of the lash, the Committee resolved to oppose any measure for extending

the punishment of flogging, and when the Home Secretary's Bill was introduced in May, the Association prepared a petition against it. The Bill was brought up for second Reading on June 14th, when Mr. P. A. Taylor in an exhaustive speech moved its rejection. The debate was adjourned. Subsequently the Government withdrew the Bill, Mr. Cross expressing the satisfaction he felt at the unwillingness he perceived in the House to recur to such punishments without clearly proved necessity, and distinctly declining to pledge himself to bring in such a Bill next session.

On the appointment, in March, of a Royal Commission "for inquiring into the operation of the Factory and Workshops Acts, with a view to their consolidation and amendment," the Committee determined to make vigorous efforts to obtain evidence of some of the women whose industry is affected by these Acts, and who had hitherto been afforded no opportunities of stating their opinions and wishes upon such legislation. A member of the Committee, Mrs. E. M. King, kindly consented to visit several of the principal centres of industry shortly before, or during the time of, the sitting of the Commission in those places. The result of Mrs. King's work was that important evidence was given by women employed in factories and workshops in Birmingham, Leicester, Nottingham, Sheffield, and Manchester. Further evidence has been obtained or promised from Belfast, Stroud, Luton, Dunstable (where the Workshops Acts press upon the straw-hat and bonnet workers with especial hardship), and other places. The Committee did not in any way attempt to influence the opinions of the witnesses, their main object being to establish the right of women to be heard upon the question of legislation so closely affecting their interests. Yet the general feeling expressed by the women who gave evidence before the Commission was against the Acts and their extension.

Several of the witnesses protested strongly against any special legislation with regard to the industry of married women, such as has from time to time been proposed. The Committee desire to direct attention to the notice given in the House of Commons on the 11th of August

by Dr. Lush,—that he will introduce early next Session a Bill to amend the Factories' Act, 1874, "so far as relates to the employment of women and young persons after recent childbirth." For the reasons fully given in their Reports of 1873 and 1874, this Bill will meet with most strenuous opposition from the Vigilance Committee.

WOMEN'S TRADES UNIONS.

Under the auspices of the Women's Protective and Provident League, a meeting was held on December 2nd in the schoolroom, Bishopsgate churchyard, for the purpose of explaining the objects and advantages of Working Women's Unions. Two resolutions in favour of constituting such unions were unanimously adopted. The chairman, the Rev. William Rogers, promised to use his local influence in support of the movement, and offered the free use of the schoolroom for further meetings. The speeches delivered were generally to the point, brief, and of a practical character. An employer of labour on a large scale rose to support some remarks made by Mr. Adolphe Smith, to the effect that a union among women was necessary, so as to afford willing and kind masters a pretext for taking the initiative in raising the wages. However deeply they may deplore the low rate paid for labour, and especially female labour, no one tradesman can alone pay a higher scale unless, at least, the majority of his competitors consent to similar terms; and a union on the part of the workers is about the only way, it was urged, of wringing this concession from the various trades for which women work.

The *Labour News* says that a significant illustration of the need of a strong body to watch the interests of our women workers was afforded by the sudden and, as it turns out, mistaken reduction of wages lately in a large London house, an appeal to the magistrate having been found necessary before the rights of the women were recognized. It was almost equally significant for us to learn that for the fourteen machines vacated by the complaining parties, no less than 200 candidates for work immediately made application to the employers. "Elsewhere," it says, "much has to be done before our

women workers have proper security afforded them in the investment of their too often scanty earnings.

“The extension of the new National Penny Bank with its great facilities for small deposits, ought to prove a great boon to women, quite as much as to men, and as the facilities for withdrawal are greater than in connection with the Post Office Savings’ Bank, its popularity will depend almost entirely on the amount of publicity which is given to it.”

We have already announced that measures are being taken for the establishment of a women’s trades union at Sheffield, to confederate all the women employed in the various branches of the Sheffield trades—there are many thousands of them—in union. A meeting, with the same object, has also been held in Rochdale.

THE NATIONAL REFORM UNION.

CONFERENCE IN MANCHESTER.

A conference of members and friends of the National Reform Union was held in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, on December 15th. The delegates appointed by the various Liberal Associations to attend the proceedings numbered some hundreds, and represented 173 associations in 128 towns. Mr. J. Slagg, chairman of the executive committee, presided. Among the subjects of discussion was the extension of the Suffrage and Redistribution of Seats.

Hon. E. Lyulph Stanley moved—“That this conference is of opinion that the National Reform Union should continue to agitate in favour of the reform of the representative system, by the extension of household suffrage to the counties and the equalisation of electoral power.”

The resolution was supported by various speakers, and amendments were proposed, all of which, save one, were rejected. The successful amendment was moved by Miss Sturge, who, with Mrs. Ashford, appeared as a delegate from the Women’s Liberal Association, Birmingham.

Miss Sturge, who spoke from a form in the area of the hall, said she wished clearly to know whether the words of the resolution were understood to include women householders. (“Hear, hear,” laughter, and

cheers.) Whether she as a delegate would be able to vote for the resolution depended upon the reply to that question. If she did not get an answer to the question she would move an amendment.

The Chairman : " I think the meeting will understand that the motion before us embraces exactly what it says, and anything that is not excluded from it is a matter for subsequent discussion and subsequent determination. It is quite impossible within the scope of these deliberations to include everything that the Liberal party may have to consider. We are met to determine those points on which we have the largest amount of agreement, otherwise, I think it will be impossible to proceed at all. I can assure Miss Sturge that at any rate her idea of the subject of household suffrage is clearly not excluded by the words of the resolution.

Miss Sturge : I move that for the words, "to the counties," the words "to all householders" be substituted.

The Rev. Lloyd Jones (Warrington) seconded the amendment which was submitted to the meeting and carried by a large majority.

In the evening a public meeting, under the presidency of Mr. Jacob Bright, was held in the Free Trade Hall. Mr. W. S. Caine, of Liverpool, moved the first resolution. In his speech, he said he was glad that Miss Sturge had introduced in the three words which she had added to the resolution the principle of granting the vote to all householders, male and female, and he was glad that the Conference had adopted the amendment unanimously.

After a vote of thanks to Mr. Jacob Bright, Miss Sturge, of Birmingham, said:—It was because she felt that she represented to some extent the women of England—(cheers), the women of England whose sympathies would be with them more largely still if they did not treat them too Conservatively. (Laughter.) It was an old saying and a true one that "as they sowed, so they must reap." Mr. Jacob Bright had done much to endear the cause of Liberalism to the women of England. (Cheers.) The National Reform Union had

added that day to that debt of gratitude. She was proud to say that the Liberal Association of her native town three years ago adopted the same principle by a resolution moved by Mr. Joseph Chamberlain—now their worthy mayor. (Cheers.) Their Liberal Association had failed to carry it. It was an unsettled question, and she stood before them, like Mr. Joseph Arch, one of a highly deserving, yet unenfranchised class. (Laughter and renewed cheering.) Trust women with political power, and she could assure them they would become trustworthy. Distrust them, and what could they expect? Lord Hartington remarked the other day that whereas the Parliamentary elections had gone in a Conservative manner, they would find that generally, especially of late, the municipal elections had gone in favour of the Liberals. (Hear, hear.) She asked them to remark that in the Parliamentary elections women had no part; in the municipal elections they had. (Laughter and cheers.) There was to-day a stronger feeling in favour of religious equality, which must of necessity include women. By priestcraft she understood that profane assumption whereby one mortal would presume to step between another mortal and his or her God. So long as men assumed that they knew better than women what was right than women knew for themselves we must have priestcraft. (Laughter and cheers.) Sympathising with all the proceedings that day she felt that she would class them all under a simpler and less wordy heading than some gentlemen before her. She would have said that the grand object for which they had met and were likely so soon to proceed in the path of progress was the disestablishment of mancraft. (Laughter.) Sometimes, when she could not exactly find words to express her meaning, she was obliged to compose them herself. Therefore, perhaps, they would excuse the very inferior poetry of the lines—

Disestablish the Church and Dissent cannot gain,
If the priestcraft of man over women remain ;
Disestablish all mancraft, and then we shall see
The people in England both noble and free.

(Cheers.) She did not ask that women should be a law unto men any more than men unto women. She

longed that they might both seek after a higher law, and in that unity of purpose there would be a better, a truer, a holier harmony than any we at present enjoyed. (Cheers.)

The resolution was passed with acclamation.—*Abridged from the Manchester Examiner.*

It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of the action thus taken by the National Reform Union in recognising the principle of the right of women citizens to vote in the election of members of Parliament. The *Women's Suffrage Journal* justly characterises it as a "signal step in the political progress of the question." It says:—

The significance of this resolution may be estimated from the fact that the Conference consisted of several hundred delegates representing 173 Liberal Associations in 128 towns, and this great representative body found it impossible to resist the logic of the claim of women citizens, householders, and ratepayers, for the electoral privileges which the household and ratepayer's qualification confers on men. The Women's Suffrage Associations, as such, were, of course, not represented at the Conference. They exist for the sole object of obtaining for women who are otherwise legally qualified, the right of voting in the election of Members of Parliament. Their platform is not a party one, and they could not appear at any gathering convened for party purposes. But though the Women's Suffrage Societies are of no party, their principle is one which commends itself to both parties. It recognises the necessity for the further enfranchisement of the people, and is therefore Liberal. But it seeks this extension of enfranchisement strictly on the ancient lines of the Constitution, and is therefore Conservative.

SUFFRAGE.

The meeting of Parliament is fixed for February the 8th, and Mr. Forsyth proposes to re-introduce the Women's Disabilities Removal Bill at the earliest possible opportunity.

A public meeting was held at Malton, Yorkshire, on Dec. 17th, the Hon. C. W. Wentworth Fitzwilliam, M.P. for the borough, occupied the chair. In opening the proceedings, the chairman said he must not be supposed to commit himself to the principles of the measure, but he would give the subject most careful consideration. Miss Beedy and Miss Becker appeared as a deputation on behalf of the society, and the usual resolutions were put and carried by a large majority.

A meeting was held in Lambeth Baths on January 11th, the Rev. G. M. Murphy presiding. The meeting was addressed by Mr. Hopwood, Q.C., M.P., Mr. Chesson, Miss Beedy, and others.

Meetings are announced in support of Mr. Forsyth's Bill, at Evesham, on January 19th. The Worshipful the Mayor (Alfred Espley, Esq.), the Rev. W. De Bentley, Joseph Masters, Esq., J. Colston, Esq., Herbert New, Esq., and others, have promised to attend.

DUBLIN.—A meeting will be held on January 20th, in Dublin. Miss Tod and Miss Becker will attend as a deputation from the National Society for Women's Suffrage. Further particulars in future announcements.

BELFAST.—The Fourth Annual Meeting of the North of Ireland branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage will be held in the Clarence Place Hall, Belfast, on Monday, January 17th at eight o'clock. The Mayor of Belfast will preside. M. R. Dalway, Esq., M.P., Thomas Dickson, Esq., M.P., James Sharman Crawford, Esq., M.P., and other friends are expected to be present.

BRITISH AND CONTINENTAL ASSOCIATION FOR ABOLISHING STATE-REGULATED VICE.

It was announced at a meeting in Liverpool of the Executive Committee of the British and Continental Federation for the Abolition of State-regulated Vice, that the first General International Congress of the Federation would be held at Geneva in 1877, immediately after the meeting of the Medical Congress there.

Many Swiss ladies have taken up this subject earnestly. In Vevey they propose purchasing a building, formerly a hospital, and establishing in it a complete home for women and young girls. Madame Mourié is the soul of this undertaking, but it also depends largely upon Madame Couvren. A committee of ladies at Lausanne announce the opening of the *Secours*, or Home for young girls for that city. Another Committee of ladies has been formed at Locle; the President is Madame Esther Richard-Houriet, wife of Mr. Ferdinand Richard, watch manufacturer and deputy to the Grand Council; she is possessed of great energy, and strong practical sense.

In Geneva about 200 ladies of different classes of society assembled in the smaller Hall of the Reformation at the invitation of the Inter-cantonal Committee of Geneva. The meeting was opened with prayer by M. Frank Coulin, national pastor, one of the most eloquent preachers of Switzerland; he afterwards read the address of the ladies of Great Britain. M. Aimé Humbert then read the proposed rules for the "Home" at Geneva, which had been drawn up by the Provisional Committee, Mesdames de Gingins, Coulin, and Cellier, and explained the recent proceedings and work of the Federation upon the Continent, and the special aim of the meeting, which was to elect a Definitive Committee. About forty ladies took part in the voting. Twelve ladies were nominated to form the Committee; Mdme. de Gingins, Mdme. Poulin, Mdme. d'Espine, Mdlle. Coulin, Mdme. Lenoir, Mdme. T. Coulin, Mdme. Filliol, Mdme. Hyacinthe - Loyson, Mdme. Tophel, Mdme. Julliard, Mdme. Ador and Mdlle. Cellier. A special Committee for the "Home" will also be nominated.

In Italy the ladies are also working well; among the Milanese ladies special mention is made of Mesdames Ravizza, Pouti, and Venegoni; the latter has sought relief from terrible domestic affliction, in the effort to benefit her fellow-creatures. A stirring appeal has been addressed by Signora Beccari to her country-women in the pages of *La Donna* (Venice), and it has met with a ready and hearty response. This appeal of the editor of *La Donna* has called forth corresponding articles in the pages of other Journals, by Malvina Frank, Georgina Saffi, Madame Lo Sko, and other ladies.

EMPLOYMENT.

The late Employees in Tait's Factory, Limerick.—The *Irishman* of 11th December has the following:—"Provision is about being made for a large number of young women lately employed in the Army Clothing Factory of Sir Peter Tait, the closing of which was notified a short time since. The Messrs. Gardiner and Co., army clothiers, of London, who have lately entered into several large contracts, are making arrangements to take over 200 of Sir Peter Tait's hands to the metropolis.

In connection with this subject there was a meeting of Roman Catholic clergymen in the Northumberland buildings, Cecil-street, to take steps to provide suitable residences for the young women on reaching London, and also to provide for urgent cases arising out of the closing of the factory. But a brighter prospect seems clearing up for the young women nearer home. The eminent firm of Messrs. Tillie & Henderson, shirt, stay, and underclothing manufacturers, Londonderry, advertise for 100 hands, to whom constant employment and good wages will be given. There is a general feeling here that there is now an excellent opportunity for some of the Derry shirt factories to open a branch here, where they would at once secure the services of good workers at reasonably low rates."

The shameful payment doled out to girls who work for wholesale shops was made apparent lately, by a so-called respectable firm (Messrs. Frederick and Charles Bliss) having justified before a magistrate the offering of twopence halfpenny for embroidering a petticoat skirt! The following letter appeared in the *City Press*, Dec. 18th:—

Employer and Employed.—To the Editor of the *City Press*.—Sir, —Will you grant me a small space in your columns to correct some misstatements in reference to the above case at Guildhall, wherein my employer stated the mistake was mine? Truthfully I assert that all work was given out by me, the prices I copied from a written list kept in my room, and that Mr. F. Bliss agreed from the first that the price for the skirt in dispute should be 4½d., and which has been paid by them for five weeks, allowing 1½d. for deep embroidery and ¾d. for curling; there were two rows of each pattern. I can truly say I never received any intimation to alter the prices from any of the firm, and I have nothing whatever to do with the paying of the young women; there is a clerk kept. I must add that I have faithfully discharged my duties as forewoman for over twelvemonths. The number of hands returning to their machines was only five. I consider it an injustice that I was not called to give my evidence, having been suddenly dismissed for an error that was not mine.—I am, &c., F. Robinson, late forewoman to Messrs Bliss Brothers, Aldersgate-street.

Another instance of the miserable salaries given to women, and the indifference with which they are still further reduced is afforded by the guardians of the North Dublin Union. On December 15th, Mr. Thorpe moved "that the workhouse teachers should receive the

results fees awarded by the Commissioners of Education, viz:—Male department, £40 14s. 6d., of which £20 7s. 4d. should be given to Mr. Griffiths; £10 3s. 7d., to Mr. Hetherington, and £10 3s. 7d. to Mr. Mahon. Female department, £19 15s. 3d., of which £9 7s. 7d. should be given to Mrs. Allen; £4 18s. 10d. to Miss Keogh; £2 12s. to Miss Giltrap, and £2 17s. 8d. to Miss Jenkins. Infant department, £12 3s. to Miss Sherlock.” This pittance seems wretched enough, but it was to be still further reduced, as one guardian moved and another seconded that the amount of female salaries should be reduced by one fourth. It was subsequently proposed that the matter should be referred to a Committee to “see if a more equitable distribution might not be made among the teachers;” but this was negatived and the resolution agreed to unanimously. One fourth taken off at once! but the Dublin paper dismisses it in a jaunty little paragraph.

MAINTENANCE OF WIVES.

This question lately received elucidation by the magistrates at Aldershot, as reported in a London paper:—

“At Aldershot, before the magistrates, Amy, the wife of an Officer of the Artillery, addressed the magistrates as follows:—Will you have the goodness to favour me with your advice under the following circumstances, as I am too poor to go to a lawyer? I am the wife of Major Ward-Ashton, Royal Artillery, now stationed at the permanent barracks, and to whose battery the Prince Imperial of France was attached during the late summer drills. I am unable to live with my husband, owing to his cruel treatment. I have been married to him ten years, and during the whole of that time have only received from him £150, notwithstanding that he is the possessor of £7,000 a year, and the owner of Gorstage Hall, Chester. Owing to the difficulties in which he has placed me, my own property is so nearly mortgaged that I am unable to pay the interest on the mortgages, and I have only £20 a year to live on. During the past five years had it not been for my mother's friends I should have often wanted the common necessaries of life. I owe Dr. Greenhalgh, of Grosvenor-street, £300, which my husband refuses to pay, and another large sum to one of the Queen's surgeons. I have placed this matter several times before the authorities at the Horse Guards, and the late Colonel Middleton, D. A. G., for artillery, who was most kind, and did all he could for me, but I could obtain no amelioration of my position, as my husband's conduct is not considered a *military offence*. The small debts I incurred for the common necessaries of life he refuses to pay, thereby subjecting me to the most cowardly abuse and annoyance; and to strangers he denies that I am his wife. During the last interview I

had with him some five years ago, he offered to provide me with a home if I consented to receive his German mistress as a friend. I have, at least, a dozen penitential letters, in which he confesses that he has cruelly treated me, and that his remorse will cease only with his death. Yet he has done nothing for me.

"The Chairman: We can do nothing for you unless you go to the Union. Can you not engage a solicitor?"

"Applicant: I cannot; I am too poor. I do not know to whom I should apply for advice. I have not committed myself in any way, and he is bound to support me. He refuses to do so unless I consent to live in the same house as his mistress, which I never shall. If I take out a summons, do you think I can compel him to support me?"

"Major Birch: We do not think you can.

"The Chairman: We could do nothing without incurring considerable expense. It is a hard case. We are sorry that we can do nothing for you.

"Applicant: Then I must try some other course. I am much obliged to your worships.

"Applicant, who was accompanied by her mother, then withdrew."
—*Women's Suffrage Journal.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

Steps are being taken in Leeds towards the establishment of a training institution for nurses.

Mainly through the instrumentality of two ladies in Beccles, a working men's club has been established, which, judging from the interest taken in it by those on whose behalf it has been started, bids fair to be a success.

Instructors in Cooking.—Schools of cookery are being established in Warwickshire. Mr. J. C. Buckmaster lately lectured at Warwick on the subject. We understand that good appointments for ladies as instructors and superintendents in connection with these schools are springing up.

A Ladies' Debating Club is now holding its meetings at 22, Berners Street, W. The object of the Society is stated to be to give women practice in public speaking and debating. The meetings take place not oftener than once in three weeks. Each member present takes part in the discussion: no one, except in the case of the speakers who open the discussion, occupies more than ten minutes. No theological subject is appointed for discussion.

Schoolmistresses (Certificated) are wanted for the Convict Service. Candidates must be in good health, either unmarried or widows; salary £60 per annum, rising

by annual increments of £2 10s. to £80 with quarters or allowance in lieu.—Applications, stating age and experience, with references, to be sent at once to the office of the Directors of Convict Prisons, 44, Parliament street, Westminster, S.W.

Among the many appeals to the benevolent at this season, Miss M. Lupton, 124, Lancaster-road, Notting-hill, hon. sec. of the Gentlewomen's Self-Help Institute, 15, Baker-street, Portman square, appeals for aid. The society numbers about 450 working members, all of them ladies by birth and education, and necessitous. The amount of distress that exists among them is little known. At all times needy, the winter brings with it much additional misery, and during the recent severe weather the sufferings of many from want of proper clothing, fire, and food have been truly distressing. Assistance may be given by purchases of work, which is always on sale at the institute, in every variety, and at moderate prices, by orders for work, by gifts of cast-off clothing, or by subscriptions or donations, which will be gladly received by the treasurer, Mr. S. Morley, M.P., 18, Wood-street, Cheapside; or by Miss Lupton.

The *Victoria Magazine* for January, contains a clever little story by Miss Ramsay, of which the two heroines are, respectively, a medical student and a secretary and reporter. There is also an article by Mr. Gossan, author of a "Plea for the Ladies," bearing testimony to the excellence of the work done in the woman's cause in Ireland.

The *Woman's Gazette* for January contains a second article on Art Embroidery, by Miss Scott.

A writer in the same paper suggests a peripatetic hair-dresser, who might be a lady, and would contract to do the hair for poor married ladies who have been accustomed to maids of their own for such purposes.

Lady Missionaries.—The *Woman's Gazette* also reports that St. Deny's Home, Warminster, has vacancies for training ladies as missionaries for foreign countries. The Warden is the Rev. Sir Jas. Phillips, Bart. There is also the North London Training Home for Missionaries, 68, Mildmay Park, London, N.

Ladies as Elementary Teachers.—The appendix to

"The Year Book of Woman's Work" states that the practical value of the step at first recommended to ladies desiring to enter the profession, viz., to obtain a certificate as "acting teacher," is much doubted, and the value of a full college course of two years is strongly insisted upon. It is, therefore, good news that Otter College, at Chichester, has been enlarged, and now accommodates forty students.

Bookbinding.—Mary A. Tooke has an article in the *Art Journal* for January, on "The History of Bookbinding."

The testamentary trustees of the late Mr. A. H. Rhind, of Sibster, Caithness, have given £7,000 for the establishment of an institution in Caithness for the industrial training of orphan girls born in certain parishes enumerated in the settlements, the management to be vested in a board consisting of four trustees, to be appointed by the Commissioners of Supply for the county, and two by the Town Council of Wick.

The Girls' Refuge and King Edward Certified Industrial Schools.—The opening of a new house in connection with this excellent institution at St. Andrew's road, Cambridge heath, was celebrated by a Christmas fête given to the inmates. A number of visitors were present and inspected the new premises, which are comfortably furnished, and in every way adapted for the purpose to which they are designed. About fifty girls are already in the home. The homes are intended for the reception of outcast, destitute, and neglected girls, a large proportion of whom are sent by the magistrates of the various metropolitan and City police courts, and are detained by the managers, under the Industrial Schools Act, till they are sixteen years old. During the period that they are in the home they receive a thorough and practical training, which is intended to fit them for various branches of domestic service. In Home No. 1, which is in Albert street, Mile end New town, there are one hundred inmates, who, in addition to the ordinary school work, do that of housemaids, scullerymaids, laundresses, and cooks. The different departments of the home are models of cleanliness and order, and afford valuable testimony as to the efficiency of the mode of training.

Taking the new premises has thrown upon the committee the responsibility of providing for 110 additional inmates, and the necessary outlay is £2,500, all of which must be met by voluntary offerings. It is only needful to read a few cases of those admitted, which may be taken as fair samples of the whole, to see what the value of the work of the home is, and from what condition of life these girls have been rescued. The committee are greatly in need of further funds. The bankers to the home are Messrs. Smith, Payne, and Smiths, Lombard street; Mr. H. R. Williams, the treasurer, Oak Lodge, Highgate; and Mr. J. H. Lloyd, honorary secretary, 3, Lime Street, E.C., will also take charge of subscriptions.

PROTECTION TO SMALL BIRDS.

A letter has been sent to the newspapers, purporting to be from Lady Burdett Coutts, calling attention to the cruelties which have been practised lately in Hampshire upon small birds, with the object of obtaining a superior glossiness to their feathers for hats and trimmings. Some doubt has been expressed whether this special letter was authentic, but it is well known that Lady Burdett Coutts has consistently given her influence to endeavour to stop this destructive fashion. This is surely a matter in which every woman ought to help. To say nothing of the injury done to agriculture by the destruction of millions of small birds who diminish the ravages of insects, how can woman feel satisfaction in an ornament which has been purchased by the torture of a living creature? Cannot women enter their protest against such a practice? If they refused to countenance it, by discontinuing the use of the feathers, it must cease at once.

LECTURE NOTES.

Miss Fenwick Miller (of the Ladies' Medical College), lectured for the Sunday Lecture Society on January 2nd, on "Mental Epidemics; an account of some of the chief excitements and delusions of past times, and a consideration of their Philosophy."

Miss Miller has also prepared two new lectures for this winter:—"The poetry of women writers," and "Leigh Hunt and his writings."

A series of lectures on the "Metromanie," the French play which has been selected by the Cambridge examiners, were given by Mdlle. Maria Cellini, at the Eyre Arms during December. Mdlle. Cellini will repeat these lectures in the course of the spring.

ART NEWS.

A correspondent from Florence writes:—By special request of a Committee of the Centennial, Miss Margaret Foley, a New England sculptor, long resident in Rome, is sending from Italy to the exhibition in Philadelphia a marble fountain, about seven feet high. The subject represented is "children about to bathe." There are two boys and a girl, aged 4, 6, and 9. The figures are life-size. This work must convince all who see it of woman's power of excelling in art.

Miss Sarah Clarke, of Boston, (also for some time in Rome) exhibits in the centennial her "Pilgrimage of Dante," a series of exquisite drawings in pen and ink, sumptuously bound in vellum, adorned by illuminated medallions, &c. This artist has visited every spot connected with Dante's life; the result is a most beautiful volume, already, we believe, bespoken.

Florence.

E. HADWEN.

Costumes for Artists.—It will be one of the "Specialités" of the Ladies' Dressmaking Association (42, Somerset Street, Portman Square, London), to make up historical and national costumes at moderate charges for artists who may furnish their own designs and materials.

Practical Cookery.—Mrs. McNair, of Croydon, has now a course of "General Practical Knowledge," including ironing and clear-starching, washing silk and wool, cleaning copper, brass, tin, &c., with the best possible thing to use for each. Mrs. McNair's address is Montpelier house, Oakfield Road, Croydon.

ART. VI.—CORRESPONDENCE.

MADAM,—Perhaps the few following notes on Spanish marriage laws may be interesting.

If a woman has money, and there be neither settlement nor will, at her death her property goes back to her family, if she has no children; if she leave children, her husband has the use of her property during their minority.

If the husband has money at his marriage, half of it devolves on his death to the wife, and also half of any he may acquire after his marriage. Besides these rights, he can benefit her by will in a third and fifth of the residue; in this her privilege is greater than that of her children, for one of them can only be benefitted in a fifth; otherwise the residue must be divided equally among them all.

Unfortunately, owing to a want of marriage settlements on the husband's side, often the money is spent, so that the wife in reality is not so well provided for as she is legally.

I am, Madam,

Yours obediently,

A READER.

21st December, 1875.

DEAR MADAM,—As in general I sympathize with the principles which the "Englishwoman's Review" advocates, I regret the more to find paragraphs in it approving of the Bill legalizing marriage with a deceased wife's sister. In Leviticus xviii. 16, a man is expressly prohibited from marrying his brother's wife, which, by parity of reasoning, certainly implies that a woman may not marry her sister's husband. And this is the accepted interpretation of the marriage law, both by the ecclesiastical and civil law, as the lists in the English Prayer Book and the authorized version of our English Bibles shew; and also the one that is accepted by the Church of Scotland.

It seems to me that this Bill is another instance of the tendency in the present day to make a difference in legislating between men and women, for by it a man

may marry his wife's sister, but a woman may not marry her husband's brother.

Believe me,

Yours very truly,
E. H.*

Edinburgh.

ART. VII.—POETRY.

Are we sad for the world's great sorrows,
The toil, the pain, and strife,
And tired of the petty struggles,
The wear and worry of life?

Do we wonder God hears not the crying?
Is the suffering and sin unheard?
Will He let His little ones perish,
Who could right the world with a word?

Vile? while it is His workshop,
And we are His trusted tools?
Base? while we are His pupils,
In divinely appointed schools?

'Tis ours to share the sorrow,
'Tis ours to lighten the load,
'Tis ours to scatter the darkness,
With the help and guidance of God.

And though by a breath He could banish
The sorrow and shame and sin,
And make the whole world as perfect—
As we trust to make it through Him—

He will not because He honours
Us by a share of the task;
Because by loving and working,
We gain far more than we ask.

* E. H. has read the paragraph in p. 569, vol. vi., too hastily. The "Englishwoman's Review" has never advocated the Bill for legalizing marriage with a deceased wife's sister. It has refrained from giving an opinion on the subject, believing that no legislation having reference exclusively to women is likely to be impartial, till women by a vote have a share in choosing their legislators. The paragraph in question is deprecatory of the measure.—*Editor's Note.*

ART. VIII.—FOREIGN NOTES AND NEWS.

FRANCE.

There are many complaints throughout France that the law forbidding the employment of children for longer than ten hours per day is constantly set at defiance. This new enactment should have come into operation on the 1st of September last, but a great number of children are still working more than ten hours, and to many, labour is imposed up till noon on the Sunday. A workman writes to the *Rappel* to suggest that if all the children under sixteen were compelled to attend evening school, the schoolmaster would be able to see that the manufacturer did not detain the youths too long at work. The child's attendance at school and at the factory could be registered in a book, and the law would thus be maintained.

A Lady Doctor.—Madam Brès, who some time ago was reported to have been appointed physician in ordinary and in *partibus* to the Grand Turk's harem, has now opened a *Cabinet de Consultation* for all points of pathology in Paris.

An association of dressmakers, milliners, and embroiderers, has opened a co-operative workshop in Paris—No. 13, Rue Beauregard.

Work for Teachers in France.—Mons. S. Monod, writing in the *Academy* from Paris, says, "France is utterly destitute of an educated womanhood, and the education of women is one of the first national requirements of the present day."

SWITZERLAND.

The female teachers of primary schools in the canton of Berne, have addressed a petition to the Great Council demanding that their salaries shall be put upon the same footing as those of male teachers. The Swiss Working Union admits as part of its programme "equal wages for equal work," whether the workers be men or women: it recommends warmly, therefore, this petition. Since the last rise in wages, the poorest employée of the state is better paid than a woman teacher.

A Latin course is now open at the upper school for young girls in Zurich under the direction of Professor Schweizer-Sidler.—*Avenir des Femmes.*

GERMANY.

Weimar.—A new school has been started at Weimar, exclusively for men and women who wish to follow the profession of chorus singers. The students will be thoroughly instructed in singing and in reading music at sight, and will also be taught French, German, Italian, and English.

ITALY.

The *Cornelia* says that two young ladies, Guiseppina Cattani and Giulia Cavallari, have passed a most brilliant university examination at Bologna.

All the university examinations in Italy are open to women on the same terms as to men.

AUSTRALIA.

At the last A.A. degree examination in Tasmania, twelve candidates out of sixteen passed, Mr. Neil Lewis securing the first position. Out of four female candidates three succeeded, Miss Beatrice Pike gaining nearly 1,000 marks above any previous lady candidate. The degrees were subsequently conferred at the annual meeting of the Council of Education, at which Dr. Bromby made an admirable speech.

Melbourne.—We are glad to hear that the Ladies' College at Melbourne, Victoria, over which Professor C. H. Pearson presides, has succeeded beyond the expectations of its promoters. It has 120 regular students, and 30 occasional ones. The principal, Professor Pearson, has taken the Lectureship on English Literature, and has delivered a course of lectures on Shakespeare. For the Mathematical Lectureship an ex-professor from Sandhurst, a high Cambridge wrangler, has been secured.

ART. IX.—PARAGRAPHS.

“WOMENS RIGHTS—THE FEMALE MAGNA CHARTA,
1776.”

To the Editor of the DAILY POST.

Sir,—The following extract from an epilogue, written by George Colman, and spoken by Mrs. King in the character of “Dr. Anodyne,” is interesting under present circumstances:—

“A female doctor, sirs! And pray why not?
Have men from nature a sole patent got?
Can they chain down experience, sense, and knowledge
(Like madmen in straight waistcoats) to a college?
Let us prescribe! Our wholesome revolutions
Would quickly mend your crazy constitutions.
Invest a female with a reverend cassock—
What spruce divine would more become the hassock?
Or robe her in a lawyer's gown and band—
What judge so sweet a pleader could withstand?
Into St. Stephen's palace let us go—
What power our ‘Aye’ would have! what force our ‘No!’
Try us in all things! There are very few
We women would not do as well as you.
Break down your fences of a partial tribe,
And let us then preach, counsel, and prescribe.

Firm as Rome's matrons, bold as dames of Sparta,
Let British women form a female Magna Charta."

It is passing strange that the above poetic claim for women's rights is 100 years old, and yet even now thought too advanced for this progressive generation.

Yours, &c.,

O.

As few of the organs of public opinion omit, at some time of the year, to discuss the ever interesting subject to a home-loving nation, of the management of servants, it might be supposed that nothing new could be said on the topic. The *Queen*, however, has been favoured with a most original contribution to this perennial discussion; in the shape of a letter from an individual signing himself "Quick March," who maintains that as "few ladies are capable of managing servants with the necessary amount of nerve and judgment," it is desirable that the master of the house should undertake their supervision, especially as regards the cook, whom he holds to be "decidedly the gentleman's servant." His *reductio ad absurdum* has, indeed, the merit of being useful in pointing out a very common reason for the confusion and disorder reigning in too many homes—namely, that many men who most loudly declare their belief that woman's only legitimate sphere of action lies within the household, are apt to destroy her authority and efficiency therein by interference with her management. It is often the case that, as another correspondent of the *Queen* observes in answer to "Quick March," "the master attempts to rule supreme, the province of the wife being merely to echo his wishes and his orders; in fact, simply to play the part of an upper servant, with far more anxiety about her duties, and much less freedom of will than many servants can and do exercise." This is generally done thoughtlessly, but should any man make such a system his rule of life, we could only bid him, as the Irish beggar did an obdurate passer-by, think of "his own poor widow," or, at any rate, consider whether the assumption of incapacity during the greater portion of existence is not likely to entice the reality at times when the inevitable vicissitudes of human life demand the most vigorous exercise of "nerve and judgment" in women as in men.

The *Daily News*, in speaking of the Théâtre Français, says :—"The *Sociétaires* are twenty in number—ten of either sex—and a quorum of seven among them, all men, constitutes the managing committee, who regulate questions of finance and decide, under the manager's presidency, as to the acceptance or rejection of pieces. Formerly ladies were allowed to sit on the committee, but it was found that their judgments were not always dictated by luminous impartiality, or that when the judgments were in themselves sound, the style of expressing them was not so—as in the case of the lady who wrote on a voting ticket *je refuse cette piessse parcequ'elle est movaise.*" Would one instance of wrong spelling in a gentleman associate have been considered as sufficient reason for excluding all gentlemen ?

The following is from a Winconsin paper :—"Miss L. Goodell delivered a temperance address at the Congregational church in this village on the evening of the 16th inst. Miss Goodell, is, we believe, the only practical lawyer of the feminine gender in Winconsin. She has been admitted to the bar of Rock County, and during the sittings of our circuit court, may be found almost every day in attendance at court, occupying her seat with an easy nonchalance that gives the spectator an idea that she is not out of her sphere, and in our opinion she is not. Miss Goodell has tried a number of cases in Justice Court in this and other portions of the State, and has acquitted herself in a manner that admits of no doubt of her ability to conduct a case as successfully as any of her masculine competitors. Her lecture here was upon the prohibitory question. She made an able effort and adduced some logical arguments in favour of a prohibitory law and a third party, having for its object the incorporation of the temperance work into politics, and also made known her views on the Suffrage question, of which she is an ardent supporter.—*Janesville (Wis.) Gazette.*

We often find a more generous spirit prevailing towards women in the Colonial Press than in our own; witness the following paragraph in the *Australasian Sketches*, an illustrated paper, published at Melbourne. It is upon a man's right to leave his widow destitute by

will:—"The law compels a man as long as he lives to support his wife and family. If he deserts them he can be followed from one colony to another, arrested, and brought back like a criminal. If he is possessed of means he must maintain his wife in a manner to which she has been accustomed, and the law takes the liberty of interfering with his private arrangements to the extent of compelling him to find sureties that he will do as he is ordered. While he lives, and as long as his money is of value to him, he has to part with it to support her; but from the very hour of his death, the law allows him to leave her destitute. The sacred right of permitting a man to dispose of his property as he thinks fit only commences when he no longer lives to give an explanation of his conduct. He may have been for years a drunken debased sot, an object of mixed pity and loathing to everyone who was brought into contact with him; in his diseased brain he may have harboured insane delusions regarding the conduct of his wife to which no human being would listen for a moment—his vile suspicions could not affect her character any more than the ravings of a madman; but in a day's interval of sobriety he is allowed to execute a will which leaves her penniless, and places the guardianship of her children in the hands of strangers. This will, to the disgrace of justice, the law upholds, and the drunkard is able from his grave to work a wrong that he could not have worked living. The law is very tender in the view it takes of a dead man's wishes; they may be unnatural, unjust, and such as, if living, he would not have been allowed to carry into effect; but simply because he is dead they must be attended to. Among the things that 'they manage better in France,' is the legislative safeguard against posthumous malignity."
