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## XXIX.—ON THE CHOICE OF A BUSINESS.

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[We are indebted to the kindness of Miss Boucherett for the following useful and practical remarks, forming a chapter of a book shortly to be published, under the title of "Self-help for Women."]

THE choice of the employment to be followed must mainly depend on the social position, education, and opportunities of each individual, but some hints may be useful as applying generally to all.

Those professions should be avoided which are already overcrowded and consequently underpaid.

This is a truism, yet, strange to say, this plain rule is little considered by young women starting in life; for though it is obviously bad policy to embark in an underpaid employment, it is also difficult to get out of the beaten track.

Thus, though every one knows that there are already far too many governesses and dressmakers, girls of the middle-class beginning life seldom think of becoming anything else; they hope to succeed better than others; a few do well they think, and why should they not be among the few? Now if a young person has no choice but to become a dressmaker or a governess, she is right enough to enter on her work in a cheerful spirit, and to hope for the best; but if she can avoid entering these employments, it is her *duty* to do so as well as her interest. It is her duty, because as the numbers are already too great, her success can only be purchased by another person's failure. There is bread to be won for only a limited number, and if she succeeds in winning her loaf some one else must go without. If, therefore, any other opening presents itself, she should eagerly avail herself of it, not only on her own account, but out of consideration for the general good. Perhaps it may be said that every department of labour in England is over-crowded, and that she cannot enter any without occasioning inconvenience to those who are already there. In many departments, though not in all, this is true; but to occasion inconvenience is very different from causing starvation.

To compel a strong and healthy man or woman to emigrate to

the colonies, where every kind of working man, and some kinds of working women are in demand, is to occasion inconvenience. To compel a stout lad who had intended to engage in some easy handicraft requiring no exertion, to change his plans, and embark in some manly and laborious trade, is to occasion inconvenience. But to take the work from those who have it not in their power to turn to any other kind of employment, and who could not earn their bread in the colonies any better than in England, the market for them being overstocked there as here, is to cause starvation. For the active and strong to engage, without necessity, in employments fitted for the weak, is an act of blameworthy selfishness.

Needlework being a sedentary employment requiring little strength, is peculiarly well suited to the feeble, and is injurious to the muscularly strong, who require active exercise. Nature here, as in many other instances, has pointed out the proper division of labour, and punishes those who infringe her rules, by destroying their health.

Teaching is not injurious to the strong, though in some respects suited to the weak also, but those who have another opening, and are blessed with health and strength, should avail themselves of it, for numbers of persons have no other opening and must teach or beg; those therefore who can obtain equally remunerative employment in another direction, should not fail to do so; and this not only on the low ground that it will in the end prove advantageous to themselves, but on the high ground that so to act will be for the benefit of all. There are, however, exceptions to this rule in the case of teachers.

One great cause of the want of employment for women is the inferiority of their education. A really superior well qualified person is therefore a benefactor to her sex when she becomes a teacher; because, by the instruction she affords her pupils, she will enable them to earn a good livelihood hereafter, which they would not have been able to do had they been ill taught. On this account ill qualified women are doubly bound not to become teachers, as they will infallibly injure the prospects of their unfortunate pupils.

It will, perhaps, be well to mention some other employments for women.

Professions connected with literature and the arts need not be spoken of, as all who possess sufficient taste and talent will be sure to enter on these agreeable avocations, but I may observe that a new though humble branch of art is being opened to women—that of house decorators. They paint the doors, shutters, and other woodwork with various kinds of designs, coats of arms, &c., chiefly in oil colours. A lady of my acquaintance has had part of the woodwork of her house thus decorated with coats of arms and mottoes connected with her husband's family.

Another good employment is the tinting of photographs. Any woman with an ordinary knowledge of painting in water-colours, whether portraits or flowers, could do it with a little practice. To make the photograph take the paint, it must first be washed over with gum-water, or silica, which is better, and left to dry. The flaws must be covered with white paint. Moist colours should be used. Some knowledge of art is required, to choose harmonious colours for the dresses and backgrounds, and of course the better the artist, the more highly finished and the prettier the picture will be, but many women have sufficient knowledge and skill to attain to the art, if they would buy a dozen common photographs to practise upon. It is an easy accomplishment, and as most people are discontented with their own photographs and would like to have them improved, an artist of this kind would probably find plenty of customers.

Nurses for the sick are scarce, many women of doubtfully sober habits being employed in that capacity through the difficulty of obtaining better. Respectable women are trained to be nurses and are taught midwifery at King's College Hospital, in Portugal Street, W.C. But this noble profession is suited only to persons possessing strong nerves and superior intelligence, as well as good health, and requires a peculiar cast of mind, combining force of character, good temper, and the power of being contented with little gaiety and amusement. Only a select few can therefore be fitted for it; but those who feel themselves suited for this employment could not engage in a more useful and honourable career.

The copying of law papers, or law stationery as it is usually called, is a very good profession for women who unite a tolerable education to natural intelligence. Persons now engaged in this trade who were once daily governesses, have expressed a decided preference for their present employment. The average earnings, when in full work, are £1 a week, but very skilful hands can make more. Those wishing to learn the trade can be taught in several offices; but it would be useless for any one to try to set up for herself unless she was assured of the patronage of several solicitors. Probably, however, solicitors have poor female relatives, like other people, and would be glad to provide for them in such a creditable and ladylike manner. The head of one of the establishments is the daughter of a solicitor.

It is needless to speak of clerkships in telegraph offices, as these situations are so sought after that there are far more candidates than vacancies. The kindhearted gentleman, J. Lewis Ricardo, Esq., M.P., who first caused girls to be taught this trade, is recently dead, and women may well mourn his death, for in him they have lost a most efficient friend.

A good many young women are employed as assistant clerks in Post offices, and sometimes in private business offices to copy letters,

&c. A good handwriting is the chief requisite; the power of making money calculations quickly and correctly is also needed, a point in which women almost always fail, owing to their superficial and inaccurate education, and which, if they are wise, they will remedy by self-teaching, or by taking lessons in arithmetic, before they attempt to take a situation of the kind. Sometimes they are employed as book-keepers in shops; these situations are tolerably well paid but are not easy to obtain.

Saleswomen in shops are generally well paid; it is a position that requires much bodily strength because of the number of hours they have to stand; a good knowledge of arithmetic is also necessary, as indeed it is in almost all employments but those of ill-paid drudgery. A good temper, or at least the power of self-control, are also requisite, to secure invariable courtesy towards the customers. The slightest want of politeness towards customers, even if they are themselves unreasonable and rude, is a breach of honesty towards the owner of the establishment; for if customers are offended they are likely enough to withdraw to some other shop. No one therefore should enter on this employment who does not possess entire self-command.

In all cases where a father with daughters keeps a shop, they should learn to serve in it, unless indeed he has already made his fortune and can leave them comfortable independent incomes; for a daughter thus trained will always be able to earn her bread, and if she have no brother, or if he enters some other profession, she will then be able to succeed her father in the business, and will know how to carry it on. This is sometimes done, but not so often as it ought to be, and the custom seems to be confined to some particular trades, for which there appears to be no reason. If women have commercial ability enough to carry on the trade of bookseller and baker, why should they not also be grocers, drapers, silkmercers, hairdressers, &c.? One trade is probably not much more difficult to learn than another, and the bookselling trade, which women often engage in, is perhaps as difficult and complicated as any. It is to be feared that this arrangement would be objected to by the daughters themselves, partly from a love of idleness, and partly because there is a foolish idea that to become a tradeswoman is less genteel than to be a governess; the silly girls not perceiving that an independent position is in fact quite as dignified, and much more comfortable than that of a teacher, and that whatever advantages a governess may have in point of gentility, are more than counterbalanced by the solid comforts on the other side.

If girls would learn their father's business, it might then, in cases where there is one son and one daughter, be left to them as joint-partners, as is often done when there are two brothers. But whether this was done or not, the knowledge acquired behind her father's counter would enable her to get good situations in other shops. A girl should always consider it a great advantage to be



taught her father's trade, as she then learns under his protection, is sure to be well taken care of if ill, and not to be overworked. A photographic artist at Brighton has brought up his four daughters to his own business, and it is said the whole family are prospering. Such examples should be more frequently followed. The daughters are thus provided with a comfortable maintenance, and their father on his deathbed will have the comfort of reflecting that he has secured them from the evils and dangers of poverty.

There are several other handicrafts requiring skill rather than strength in which women might very well engage, though they seldom do, and which they should beg their fathers as a favour to teach them.

From whatever cause it may proceed, it is certain that a lack of spirit and energy is often to be seen in women; they seem to be willingly helpless and contentedly inferior, as if they thought that God had made them so, and it was not their own fault. For example, I once went into a shop kept by a widow in which there stood a weighing-machine where people were in the habit of getting weighed. I told the mistress I wanted to be weighed; she replied she did not understand the machine herself, but her "young man" would soon be back. Now the woman could have learnt the use of the machine by half an hour's study, but would not take the trouble, and thus left herself at the mercy of her assistant, for as all the heavy packages of groceries were weighed by it, it was perfectly in his power to cheat her.

This quiet acquiescence in ignorance and helplessness is melancholy to observe, and unhappily such instances are not uncommon.

In France women have far more energy, and constantly undertake the whole management of shops.

At Dieppe they carve ivory brooches and other ornaments, and send them to England, where great numbers are sold, by which they must reap a little harvest.\* Why should not English women pursue this easy and pleasant trade?

Great quantities of ladies' shoes are also imported from France, said to be made by women, and sold at a very low price. English shoemakers should teach their sisters and daughters the handicraft, for why should foreigners enrich themselves while our own women starve?

For persons who have not had a superior education, and who have no chance of learning a handicraft, cooking is by no means a contemptible employment.

Formerly women could only become cooks by first becoming scullery and kitchenmaids and working up through a long course of drudgery; but now, by means of the various cooking schools esta-

\* Women in France also work as jewellers; polishing, setting, and imitating precious stones. This is probably the reason why French jewellery is so cheap and pretty. They are beginning to do mosaic work like the Florentines. In Switzerland women make watches, clocks, and spectacles.

blished in London, a person can at once begin at the top of the profession, and thus cooking becomes a trade fitted to a much higher class of persons than it used to be.

Cooks' wages are never low and are sometimes very high; they may be said to range from £16 a year to £60, according to the skill of the performer. These cooking schools will also be useful to women who belong strictly to what are called the labouring classes, for many of them have not sufficient strength to go through the apprenticeship otherwise necessary in farm-houses and such-like hardworking places to prepare them for service in gentlemen's houses, but now, by paying a fee, they can be taught to cook and can at once be made capable of taking good places.

There is another plan by which this useful profession might be made accessible to numbers now excluded from it. At present families are generally supplied with cooks from the kitchens of people who keep larger establishments than they do; thus the duke's kitchenmaid goes to the squire as cook, and the squire's kitchenmaid becomes cook to the village doctor or clergyman. But as there are many more small than large establishments, the supply is insufficient, and though nobody goes without cooks, women who know very little about cooking are often engaged, and ill-dressed dinners are the consequence.

This might be remedied by introducing the apprentice system common on the Continent. It now often happens that a cook does not choose to teach her kitchenmaid much. Perhaps she is afraid that she might be engaged in her own stead if she grew skilful, or perhaps she is simply ill-natured and does not choose to take the trouble and so the poor maid gets little instruction. But if the cook was allowed to take an apprentice and to receive a fee for teaching her, she would take pains to teach, and at the end of the year would send her out an accomplished cook. This system works well abroad, and there does not seem to be any reason why it should not in England. It would cost the mistress of the house nothing but the food of the apprentice, and the use of an extra hand in the kitchen would be worth that. The cook would be glad to receive a fee, the apprentice would be glad to learn, the kitchenmaid would hear the instructions the cook was giving the other girl and pick up a little knowledge by this means. Thus all parties would be benefited and the race of cooks multiplied and improved. Two grades of cooks would then exist; those who began as scullerymaids and gradually worked up from the lowest ranks, and those who became cooks by purchase, paying a fee to learn. These latter would belong to a higher class than the former, and be more fit to become house-keepers.

Industrial schools will be of use in enabling many girls to become servants who would otherwise have found it impossible, for gentlefolks will not engage untrained girls; they must therefore get their training either in industrial schools, or in hard places.

where the work is severe and the pay only just enough to supply them with clothes.

Parents hardly seem sufficiently aware what a benefit these schools will confer on their daughters, by enabling them to avoid these hard places. If a young creature, whether a horse or a human being, is overworked in its youth, it cannot recover entirely, and never becomes as strong and healthy as it would otherwise have been. Horse-flesh is so very valuable that no one would think of setting a two-year-old to pull a cart, because of the injury that would be done it; but it is not thought necessary to take so much care of girls, who are sent out to work hard while still growing, to their great future injury.

Some spirited ones who will not give up soon enough, break down under it at once, and return home, perhaps to die, perhaps to be delicate for life, which for a working woman is the worst fate of the two. The very strong can stand this early hard work, but girls of average strength are hurt, and the weakly cannot bear it at all. But where industrial schools are established, this evil can be done away with, for girls taught in them will be able to get tolerably good places at once, and the knowledge of this will compel harsh mistresses to be more considerate to the poor young girls whom they employ; for if they treat them ill, they will be unable to get any servant at all, as the girls will go to the industrial school to learn their business, rather than take a place where there is danger of their being overworked; and in these schools they will learn much that is valuable besides. Habits of truthfulness and tidiness will be inculcated, and in many cases much that is evil in example may be avoided by keeping away from the wretched places to which girls are often compelled to go, to learn to be servants.

When once a girl has learnt enough of her business to be able to take a place in a gentleman's family, the life is far from disagreeable. There is plenty of companionship to promote cheerfulness, and, if a woman is careful, the wages are generally sufficient to enable her to save a competence for her old age. Some people complain that maids' wages are too high; a most unreasonable complaint, for surely a person who works hard has a right to earn enough to keep her out of the workhouse in her old age; and it does not appear to me possible that this should be done under £14 or £15 a year, and even then it can only be effected by great economy. So far then from maids' wages being too high, they are, in my opinion, almost lower than is right; and ladies who endeavour to force them down commit a great injustice. The wages of an ordinary woman with no particular skill ought to be sufficient to enable her to provide for her old age, and those who have skill besides, such as cooks and ladies' maids, ought to be paid for it over and above.

Still, compared to other employments for women, the profession of a servant is a good one. But some may, perhaps, think that

a needlewoman's life would be freer, and prefer it on that account. It is true that it is freer in some ways, but the freedom is often dearly purchased. In dressmaking establishments the hours of work are fearfully long, frequently lasting from eight in the morning till eleven at night, with only the necessary intervals for meals. No time for taking a walk on week days, and no holiday but Sunday. This discipline soon destroys the health, and a girl with a strong constitution is often the first to fall ill.

Those however who prefer this trade in spite of its drawbacks, should take care to sew pretty well before they are apprenticed, or they will not give satisfaction. Parents who intend their daughters to be dressmakers should send them to schools where needlework is made a great object, that they may start with every advantage. It is hard on the head of a dressmaking establishment to be provided with an apprentice who cannot sew tolerably, and such incapacity is likely to make her not a little severe towards the unfortunate girl.

Plain needlework done at home is so ill-paid that almost the worst kind of servant's place is preferable to this employment. The following is a list of the usual prices paid for needlework by the great shops and the contractors.

Ordinary gentlemen's shirts 10*d.* a piece; (it takes twelve hours to make one;) common men's shirts from 4½*d.* to 3*d.*, one firm gives only 2½*d.*; (two shirts may be made in ten hours;) for heavy corduroy trousers, 6*d.*; (a pair can be made in twelve hours;) great-coats, 7*d.* or 8*d.*

No class of needlework (except dressmaking) can be named which is not paid at the same inadequate rate, and 30,000 women live by this trade in London alone. Thus the better class of workers receive 10*d.* a day, the inferior 8*d.*, and the lowest, 6*d.*, out of which thread has to be found. Life on these terms is not life, but a slow death.

No one can live long on the diet necessitated by a remuneration of 8*d.* or 6*d.* a day, when lodging, clothes, fire and candles have to be found as well. A strong person may perhaps exist for a year or two, then a cold or some slight ailment turns to consumption or low fever, and they die, and are entered on the death-rate as dying of these diseases, but the real cause of death was the previous low living and want of the comforts of life.

That women do so die instead of earning their living by wickedness is very wonderful, and much to their credit; that with the doors of a comfortable prison open to them if they steal, that they should not steal, speaks highly for their good principles; they are as truly martyrs as those who perish for their religion by the hand of the executioner; in truth, their trial is longer and more severe, for who would not find it easier to die a public and speedy death, supported by the admiration of friends and sympathisers, than to perish slowly and obscurely as these poor creatures do? That

many fail in the ordeal is but to say that only a small percentage of the human race are fit for martyrdom.

All who are wise will avoid this profession; not that needlework is in itself a bad employment, on the contrary, it is a very good one, but because such numbers crowd into it, that the competition drives the payment down to a point below that at which life can for long be sustained.

All who have good feeling, all who love their neighbour as themselves, will, if they have a chance, turn to some other means of earning a livelihood, that their unhappy sisters who have no other opening, no way of escape, may have more room to struggle in, and a better chance of obtaining tolerable terms from their employers.

I believe the real, true cause of all this misery to be the neglect of parents to apprentice their daughters to some trade or handicraft as regularly as they do their sons. There is no reason why one sex should be more neglected than the other, and no father would think of declining to put his son to a trade because an uncle might perhaps leave him a fortune, neither ought he to think of not apprenticing his daughter, because she may perhaps marry; for, as the *Melbourne Argus* truly says, "the number of marriageable educated women in the world, is out of all proportion to the number of educated men who are prepared to marry them."

If women were quite positively certain to marry before their father's death, the present system would not be so bad; but as they are not, it is wicked and cruel, and based on a fallacy. Some day the contrary principle will be universally admitted. In course of time newspapers will take up the subject, leaders will be written, and lectures given on the duty of parents to their daughters; clergymen will preach about it, and tracts will be distributed, and then it will be recognised that a father who cannot leave his daughter a fortune, ought to teach her a trade that she may be able to earn an honest livelihood, and the man who fails to do this will be thought less well of by his neighbours. Then the position of women will begin to improve, and this superfluity of helpless miserable creatures will gradually diminish, till it ceases to exist.

Meanwhile, the only advice I can offer to the already existing untrained women, who are too old to be apprenticed, is, that those who are fitted for it should become sick nurses, and that those who are not, but possess health and strength, should learn cooking and go into service, either here or in the colonies. I fear they will consider this a degradation, but I do not see what else there is for them to turn to, and it is less degrading to live by honest work than to depend on charity. To those who have not strength for this, I can recommend nothing; but the British public should remember that they are worthy objects of benevolence, for they are suffering, and suffering severely, more from the fault of others than from their own, and they belong to a class to whom life in the workhouse is more than usually irksome and painful. J. B.



## XXX.—CAROLINE PICHLER.

ONE of the most popular novelists, and certainly one of the most voluminous authoresses ever known in Germany, yet at the same time one whose life was an example of every domestic virtue, was Caroline Pichler. Her name is seldom referred to in that country without some commendatory epithet, a tribute rendered perhaps as much to her personal as to her literary character. The story of her life is told in the last work which proceeded from her pen, an Autobiography, which, though bearing marks of the garrulity of old age, yet contains much that is interesting. Having been brought into contact with most of the distinguished personages of her age, she was able to make the volumes which record her experiences a gallery of contemporary portraits.

There was something of romance in the early history of her mother, who, having been half orphaned in infancy, accompanied her father, an officer in the Austrian army, in his camp life till her fifth year, when this remaining parent also dying, the poor child was left a sort of "*fille du regiment*," until, the sad story coming to the ears of Maria Theresa, the kind-hearted Empress determined to take charge of the little waif. She was committed, with some other children destined for the Empress's service, to the care of an old lady, whose office it was to teach the little then required of girls in such a station. The lively intelligent child was selected to be trained as "Reader," and was pronounced qualified to enter on the duties of this post at the early age of thirteen. In the account of her life at Court some curious glimpses are afforded both of the manners of the age and of the personal character of the Empress—"King." A very early riser, Maria Theresa's bell in summer rang by five o'clock A.M., and as etiquette forbade any one to appear before her except in "silk attire," duly hooped and with hair elaborately dressed, the attendants whose turn it was to wait upon her had to leave their beds early indeed. Their office was a wearisome one. The Empress's taste was critical, and her "dressers," who also acted the part of milliners, had often to alter her head-dresses four or five times, even sometimes until the material was spoiled, while her hair, which it was then the fashion to build up into a most elaborate fabric, had also often to be taken down when the structure was almost complete, combed out again, and wholly re-curved. The orphan protégée, having shown special taste in this department, her attendance was required daily, and so weary did she become of everything connected with personal decoration, that throughout a long life she herself always dressed as plainly as possible, and made her daughter adopt the same style.

Reading was a pleasanter task, though it was not for amusement that the Empress required this service of her. She was employed in reading despatches and business letters, which afforded her great



means of improvement, while the prudence and secrecy indispensable in so confidential an office tended much to strengthen her character. As German was spoken in one part of the Imperial dominions, Italian in another, French in the Netherlands, and Latin in Hungary, it was requisite for the young Reader to have some knowledge of each of these languages, as well as of the Vienna jargon, which over and above all the others was in use at Court, the Empress herself by no means disdaining it. The illustrious lady was equally familiar with the language of the classics, and condescended herself to give lessons in Latin to her young charge. The services the latter had to render were far from light; for, notwithstanding the early rising incumbent on her, she would often be kept up by the Empress hour after hour, to read to her until she went to bed, and as the large strong woman scarcely knew what it was to be cold, and did not understand that those about her might be less sturdily constituted, fires were rarely permitted in her apartments, and the windows were often kept open until the snow came in upon the paper on which the amanuensis was writing. Under such training the orphan girl became at least very hardy, and in other respects the care of the Empress for her maidens was quite motherly; they were not allowed to appear in the streets on foot, or even in hired carriages, but when they wished to go out, a court equipage with six horses (afterwards reduced to a pair) was at their command; in society they took precedence of married ladies not connected with the Court; and they were permitted to receive visitors at the palace, on condition only that "unexceptionable references" were given to satisfy the Empress as to their character. The hand of the favourite reader was often sought, but the Empress, unwilling to part with her, found some objection against each suitor, and when a young Government Secretary at last gained her affections, much patience was needed before the Imperial consent to their union could be obtained.

Maria Theresa was not easily disturbed by untoward events. On one occasion during war time, her reader was assisting to pack up for the removal of the Court to one of the country palaces, when news arrived of the siege of Ollmütz, an event which might have necessitated a flight before the enemy: the undaunted monarch only turned to her coolly remarking, "You had better pack up a few more things; perhaps we may have to go farther." When, however, her affections were concerned she was most sensitive; and though her husband, far from constant to her, little deserved the strong attachment she felt for him, (and unwillingly made aware of this, she had once said to her young favourite, "Take warning, and never marry a man who has nothing to do!") when he was suddenly taken from her by death, the event affected her deeply. Taking no more pleasure in her beauty, her first act was to order her luxuriant locks to be cut off; she divided her wardrobe among her maids; forswore for ever all gay colours in her dress, and

even had her private apartments hung permanently with grey silk. Whether it was that, through the sacrifice of the hair offered to the manes of her deceased husband, she felt that her maid had become less indispensable to her, or that sorrow had made her more sympathising, she soon after yielded her consent to the marriage of her orphan charge, making her rich presents on the occasion, and even lending her some of the crown jewels to complete the bridal attire. She was herself present at the wedding, and this circumstance made a curious variation in the ordinary marriage ceremony; for when the bride was asked, "Wilt thou have this man," &c., etiquette required that she should turn to the Mistress of the Robes and curtsey a mute appeal for permission; the latter in like manner had to turn to the Empress, who, Jove-like, bowed her august head in token of consent: the lady repeated the motion, the bride curtsied her thanks, and not till then might the important "Yes" be uttered.

Freed from what after all had been but a splendid slavery, the Reader, now become Madame Greiner, retired gladly from the Court to her husband's house, in Vienna, where, in 1769, her only daughter Caroline first saw the light. With robust frame and lively spirits, she was one of those girls on whom the remark is so often passed, that they "ought to have been boys." Though so quick of apprehension that nothing was too difficult for her to learn, she could not long pay undivided attention to anything, and generally had a toy in one hand and a lesson-book in the other. The first verses she ever wrote were an address to the clock, bidding it hasten on to the welcome hour when her tasks would be over; the only instruction she received with willingness being that imparted by Bishop Gall, (a near relation of the phrenologist,) who had undertaken to teach her religion and natural history. Her natural ability, however, was so evident, that when a tutor was engaged for her sole surviving brother, three years her junior, her parents were urged by many of their literary friends to let her share his studies, and she thus acquired the classic tongues as well as French and Italian. At the desire of her father, an enthusiastic admirer of the arts, she devoted much attention to music and some to drawing, her mother, equally devoted to science, taking care that the latter was studied fundamentally. As a check to the imaginative tendencies, a course of mathematics was prescribed, which, though far from agreeable, proved highly efficacious, and the volatile child under this regimen became at last much more thoughtful and orderly. But regular lessons from hired instructors formed but the least part of the education of the little Caroline. Her parents' society was generally courted, and early introduced into the drawing-room, she breathed a literary atmosphere from her childhood, the most distinguished men of the day finding pleasure in directing her studies and forming her taste. There was one attendant dis-

advantage, that, of course, whatever she said or did was commended as something extraordinary, and though her intellect seems to have escaped injury from this forcing process, her heart, she admits, was well nigh spoilt. Not only was vanity unduly fostered, but being always held up as an example to her slower brother, and allowed even to ridicule him unreprieved, she learnt to treat him in a very unsisterly manner, and it was only his remarkable sweetness of disposition which saved her from becoming utterly unamiable, and won her at last to acknowledge and emulate his moral superiority. It was the poet Haschka who exercised the greatest influence over her early education; for having attracted his notice by the attention she paid whenever he came, as was his wont, to read his new works prior to their publication, he always requested that she might be present. On one occasion he brought her a volume of Gellert's Fables, the perusal of which led her, between the age of six and seven, to begin committing to paper her own thoughts and feelings, poured out in a sort of rhapsody.

On the death of her grandmother, Caroline's parents removed to a larger house, where, with an elegant establishment, numerous domestics, equipages, saddle-horses, &c., a still larger circle of acquaintances gathered around them, and Haschka, having at their request taken up his abode with them, they became intimate through him with most of the other poets of the period. To please these guests the little girl often committed verses to memory, and was rewarded by their reading to her in return passages from celebrated poems; these exercises rendering her so familiar with versification, that at the age of ten she began herself to venture upon rhyme, and though of course her effusions were but an echo of what she was daily hearing, they were forthwith lauded as marvels of precocious genius, some set to music, and others inserted in a periodical, rather out of respect to her parents than because of their intrinsic excellence. Though forbidden by etiquette to go formally to Court more than once a year, Madame Greiner visited the Empress not unfrequently at her various summer palaces, often taking her children with her, so that some of Caroline's earliest associations were connected with that stately old lady in silver-grey widow's dress, who would so kindly put aside her dignity to amuse the little girl with her descending sofa, a piece of machinery which she had had constructed in order to spare herself the fatigue of stairs, and on which her young visitor, seated beside her, loved to be taken up or down.

But this great and good sovereign was now passing away, to the grief of all her people, and the special sorrow of the Greiner family. Her death inaugurated a new epoch. The freedom of the press proclaimed by her successor Joseph II. gave an extraordinary impetus to literature; the works of Mirabeau and Volney were introduced from France; liberty of opinion became fashionable; among the literary society of the Greiner salon were many free-

thinkers, and some even who were materialists and atheists. Caroline now saw and heard much that was in contrast to her early ideas, for she had been brought up to a religious observance of all the ceremonies of the church, and these were now become the subject of continual ridicule, while patriotism, loyalty, and even religion in its purest aspect, were too often treated as mere ancient prejudices, so that the young girl's mind became filled with doubts, while her devotional feelings were proportionally cooled. Haschka, however, had not ceased to watch over her, and now, though rather perhaps from æsthetic than from pious motives, put into her hands the works of Milton, Gellert, and other eminent sacred poets, through the perusal of which she was enabled once more to attain lofty ideas of God and a veneration for things spiritual. Anxious that her religious sensibilities should not again become deadened, she committed to memory some of Gellert's hymns, and formed a habit of putting her conscience to the test by repeating to herself some of these verses several times in the course of an evening when full of life and spirits in the midst of some ball or gay entertainment. She accustomed herself to meditate on death till the idea gave her no uneasiness; and choosing Ithuriel, as described by Milton, as her guardian angel, examined herself every night in order to determine whether this spiritual patron had reason to be pleased with her or not, sometimes obtaining the gratification of his appearing to her in her dreams, in mortal form, with light brown locks crowned with roses, but in more than mortal size and beauty.

The first time she stooped to mortal love, the object of her passion was an English hero who had died ten years before her birth, no other than our renowned General Wolfe. Having in her daily walks to pass a print-shop, in the window of which hung the celebrated engraving of the death of that warrior, the lofty mien and noble expression with which he was represented made such an impression on her fancy, that to stand and gaze upon this picture became the greatest enjoyment of her life, and having raised a monument (a mound of earth surmounted by a cross) to her visionary lover in a secluded corner of the garden, she would retire thither as often as possible to "nurse her flame" in solitude.

But the time was at hand when these ideal passions were to be replaced by a more real one. A certain Herr H—— who had been a former playfellow, but had been absent some years travelling, on his return paid a visit at the house of his old friend; the impressionable girl, then about fifteen, was so struck on his entering the room, with his handsome presence and fine blue eyes, that she let fall her embroidery needle. Of course he improved the occasion by coming to help her in searching for it, and probably perceiving the impression he had made, and being either really attracted by her in return, or considering that the only daughter of the Aulic

Counsellor would be no undesirable match, soon formally declared himself her suitor, and the attachment being approved by both families, an engagement was contracted. Her lover being an accomplished musician, she now paid redoubled attention to that art, her efforts being directed and assisted at various times, by Mozart, Haydn, Paisiello, and Metastasio, all occasional visitors at her father's house. But harmony was not long to reign uninterrupted. It was customary at that period for every lady, when she went into society, to be surrounded by a circle of admirers, who even when they had no hope or desire for any nearer connexion, yet habitually paid her the most deferential homage, and while thus reigning like a queen over her own little court, the declared lover was of course expected, though not to supersede the other flatterers round his chosen fair one, yet still to surpass them all in devoted attention. When, instead of this, Herr H—— presumed to exercise a sort of authority over his betrothed, and even plainly to find fault with her, she began to doubt his affection, and to withdraw her own. Her warm religious feelings were outraged by his bringing sceptical books for her mother's perusal, and by his ridicule of the fears she expressed on the subject; and feeling daily that there was less and less sympathy between them, she at last told him, after the engagement had lasted three years, that it must be at an end, to which he readily acceded. They met as usual in society, and even often sang and acted charades together, apparently without pain on either side, but the discovery that he who had once seemed the fulfilment of her ideal, was really so very commonplace a person, made her for some time very melancholy.

Caroline's poetic genius, which had for a time slumbered, was ere long awakened by the stirring public events of the period. The triumphal entry of General Loudon into Vienna, after the victory of Belgrade, inspired her with some spirited verses, which attained great popularity, besides the compliment of the personal thanks of the hero of the day. She was little elated by this first success, for then, as ever afterwards, she identified herself very little with her own compositions, and when once they were complete felt little interest in their subsequent fate.

Her heart too was now filled with a new image, that of a brilliant young nobleman and officer, who for a time seemed devoted to her, until it became apparent that he was incapable of constancy, and again her tenderest affections were disappointed. This time the wound was very deep, and she could only seek consolation in religion; but the sceptical reading in which she had indulged, hindered her from attaining peace by this means, until again an English poet held out a beacon-light to guide her through the gloom. Happening to meet with a volume of the "Night Thoughts," what Milton had formerly done for her mind in inspiring her with a lofty theory of divinity, Young now did for her heart in winning her to a practical trust in the Almighty Father. His verses sank like balm into her



bleeding spirit, and where philosophy had failed to give any aid, poetry now wrought a perfect cure.

Her sorrow had been secret, pride preventing any betrayal of it, as she had a great repugnance to acting the part of "Dido abandoned" before the world, while her good sense forbade her forming any worse opinion of men in general on account of her own painful individual experience. Holding, on the contrary, a very exalted opinion of the other sex, and only now beginning to look upon love as a paradise from which she personally was shut out by relentless fate, she was fain to exercise her affections by indulging in female friendships. A young lady named Josephine was favoured with the greatest share of her confidence. Though few guessed what had been the cause of the alteration in her, the effect soon became visible; the gay girl had changed into the earnest young woman, promenades and large assemblies had lost their charm, she seldom danced, and extending her reading to books of deeper character, began to study Herder, Seneca, and Pythagoras, the perusal of the latter inciting her and her friend to become vegetarians with a view more effectually to subdue the flesh to the spirit. As they had both decided to remain unmarried, since marriage for love seemed unattainable, they determined to devote their spare time to the education of some children in the neighbourhood.

It was but little leisure that Caroline ever enjoyed, for her mother having always enforced upon her frugality and self-helpfulness, she was accustomed to be her own hair-dresser and milliner; her father's love for music required the devoting of many hours to that pursuit, while her mother's failing sight necessitated her reading to her, writing her letters for her, and keeping all household accounts. It was not till all these claims were discharged that her time was at her own disposal. Her mother had always impressed on her that the care of the household was woman's first duty, and that it was only during any time that might remain after that was fulfilled, that she had any right to engage in other pursuits, though when she had chosen to devote this time to writing verses rather than to embroidery, to paying visits, or to reading novels, her choice had been rather commended than discouraged. The result of this strict early discipline was, that in her old age she was able conscientiously to affirm that though in the course of her life she had published more than fifty volumes, not a single line in any one of them had been written at the expense of any other duty, and that her parents had been as dutifully tended, her husband as much cheered by her society, and her child as well educated as if she had never engaged in authorship.

Correspondence with Josephine, principally on the subject of their studies, seems at this time to have been the chief occupation of her pen, but a greater solace than friendship could afford was yet in store for her. A handsome, clever, but very shy young man,



greatly respected by her father, in whose office he held an appointment, was often invited to the house, and at first very little noticed by her; but when it became apparent, in spite of his shyness, that he was not indifferent to her, her vanity was flattered by a conquest over one who had seemed so inaccessible; and a sort of Debating Society having been formed about the same time by her brother and some of his young friends, her interest was greatly heightened by finding that when some papers, anonymously contributed by her, were read at its meetings, her opinions, generally opposed by the majority, were always shared and warmly advocated by this very intelligent Herr Pichler. So strong a proof that their minds were in harmony could not but influence her greatly in his favour, and she eventually admitted that his affection for her was reciprocated. His talents, his industry, and integrity were so well known that, though he had no fortune, her parents at once gave a cordial consent to their marriage, which was accordingly solemnized in May, 1795, when she had reached the age of twenty-seven.

The next year the rumour of a French invasion caused so great a panic in Vienna, that, without considering the difficulty of obtaining conveyance, the little to be gained by going but a short distance, or what they could do homeless, and, in many cases, moneyless among strangers, but one idea, that of leaving the city, took possession of the minds of nearly all the inhabitants. Madame Pichler wished much to remain with her husband, but as her father was ordered by Government to repair, with the students of an institution under his charge, to a castle on the borders of Moravia, her mother insisted on her accompanying them, and accustomed to bow to this lady's strong will, she yielded reluctant assent, and, though filled with melancholy apprehensions of being taken ill and dying while away, remained in this retreat until preliminaries of peace had been signed, when she joyfully returned to Vienna. There, her only child, a daughter, was soon after born, her confinement having been accelerated by her anxiety concerning Lafayette, in whose career she had always taken a lively interest, and the news of whose imprisonment had just arrived. The following year her father, who had for some time been so ill that the only pleasure he remained capable of enjoying was that of hearing her read to him, was taken from her by death. As his large income as Aulic Counsellor ceased with his life, retrenchment became necessary, and unable to support, as heretofore, both a town and country house, the family determined on removing to a suburban residence with a garden, a sacrifice of gentility to comfort so unusual in that day, as to excite much wonder among their acquaintances, as well as not a little censure; but, content with their domestic felicity, they could afford to set the opinion of the fashionable world at defiance. The family circle had been joined by Caroline's brother, now married, and his wife, but the latter before long, fell into ill-health and died. This domestic

affliction, added to anxieties about war, effectually prevented much time being devoted to the Muses; but the quiet "evenings at home," when Herr Pichler read aloud, while his wife sat spinning, and her mother plied the knitting pins, were a time of much enjoyment, all the more perhaps from the contrast they afforded to the gay assemblies in which they had been accustomed to pass most of their evening hours during Herr Greiner's life.

Hitherto only known within a limited circle as an occasional writer of fugitive verses, the crisis of Madame Pichler's literary life was now at hand. Her husband one day in turning over some of his wife's papers happened to meet with a collection of MSS. entitled "Similitudes," a series of papers which had been written on various topics during the height of her friendship with Josephine, and hitherto only seen by that lady. On reading them he was so much struck that he strongly urged their publication; but though for years past her short pieces had appeared in periodicals, she shrunk from appearing before the world as the authoress of a book, remembering the reply once made to herself by a learned friend whom she had been urging to appear in print: "My friend, the person who publishes a book is like a fool who thrusts his hand out of a window; he puts it in the power of every passer-by to give him a blow." At last she agreed to let the opinion of some literary friends decide the question. A jury, consisting of Haschka and several other eminent men, was empanelled, and as on reading the work, their verdict was decidedly in favour of its publication, the book was duly brought out in the year 1800, and very well received. Thus encouraged, a dream soon afterwards prompted the idea of writing a romantic story, the first but by no means the last so inspired, for many of Madame Pichler's novels afterwards took their rise from a scene, a character, or a situation which had first presented itself to her in visions of the night; the result on the present occasion was the publication of the romance of "Olivier." Then the recovery of the Archduke Charles (often called "the Saviour of Germany") from a serious illness, turned her thoughts again to verse, and called forth a patriotic poem, for which she received an autograph letter of thanks from the noble convalescent.

The famine in Vienna, and the relief afforded by the plans of the famous Count Rumford, leading her Muse into the unwonted region of the kitchen, were commemorated in an idyll under the not very poetically sounding title of "Rumford Soup;" proving at least that she thought no subject too homely for verse, and that even a soup-ladle might on occasion take a dip from the fountain of Castaly, without profaning those hallowed waters.

*(To be continued.)*

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## XXXI.—THE TRIUMPH OF ST. DOROTHEA.

“Who from celestial gardens sent  
Flowers as her witnesses,  
To him who scoffed and doubted.”

*Golden Legend.*

“NAY! yield, beloved, this fond delusion,  
Renounce not thus thy budding bloom,  
Oh, leave not, Dora, my embraces!”—  
“I’ll greet thee *there*—beyond the tomb.”

“What know we of that realm of shadows,  
Where wander gloomy ghosts forlorn?  
Oh, why has love our souls united?”—  
“To lead us to eternal morn.”

“How shall I bear, when morning wakens,  
To think of *thee* beneath the sod,  
Cold, lone, unloved, in silent darkness!”—  
“Nay, dearest! nay! at home with God.”

“Thou, who hast treasured every flower  
That blossoms on this beauteous earth,  
Wilt thou forsake thy cherished bower?”—  
“Gladly, for blooms of richer worth.”

“Alas! no flowers for thee are smiling,  
Where night and Chaos darkly reign.  
Believe not, love, these tales beguiling!”—  
“Cease, cease thy pleadings, they are vain.”

“Though round thee twine affection’s tendrils,  
My faith in Jesus wavers not;  
For His dear sake this life resigning,  
I would not ask a happier lot.

“Ever I longed that love intenser,  
Richer than mine, to thee were given;  
God heard my prayer amid His angels;  
I’ll love thee as they love in Heaven.”

“Farewell then, Dorothea, for ever,  
Farewell to sunshine, mirth, and song,  
To visions of a glorious future,  
So deeply prized and cherished long.”

They parted, and the gentle maiden,  
Grown valiant for her Saviour’s sake,  
Bore the last struggle, all unmurmuring,  
Bound to the fiercely blazing stake.

## THE TRIUMPH OF ST. DOROTHEA.

With downcast brow, the youth, returning,  
Speechless and tearless, sat alone,  
Like ripened fields by armies trampled,  
His heart's rich harvest overthrown.

Bewildered with o'erwhelming sorrow,  
Hour after hour had drifted by,  
When suddenly he roused upstarting,  
And gazed upon the sunset sky.

The aspen to repose was trembling,  
Its tender tracery, thread by thread,  
Against the living amber glowing  
Rose, blackly etched, like seaweed spread.

The bees, belated, hiveward flying,  
The insects ceased their merry dance;  
Now fade the rose and amber slowly,  
With gloomy glide the shades advance.

Drawn closer, taller heads uprearing,  
The cedars darkly warning stand,  
As night, the sable king, is laying  
On the hushed earth, his jewelled hand.

Was it the kiss of summer zephyr?  
Was it an early faded leaf?  
That softly touched his fevered forehead,  
And roused the mourner from his grief.

A shining whiteness glimmers round him,  
Celestial perfume fills the room,  
Tenderer than mother's cradling murmur,  
An angel voice dispels the gloom.

"Are there no flowers round Dora growing?  
These Heavenly roses answer give.  
Oh! by their fragrance, *she* conjures thee,  
Theophilus! believe and live!"

Was it a dream? voice, form have vanished.  
No! for the gift transcendent stays.  
The glorious blossoms smile around him  
And fill his wondering heart with praise.

ANNA M. MAY.

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## XXXII.—A DREAM OF NABONASSAR.

*(Continued from p. 100.)*

ACROSS the breezy channel, across the lovely lakes and mountains, over the heights of Mangerton and the three glorious Reeks, into the loveliest glen ever haunted by the fairies, or adorned as a paradise by the hand of man.

“Here at least,” sighed my poor vexed shade, “there is happiness. Surely here I shall be allowed to rest.”

The sea breeze wailed in answer, as it shook the May blossoms at my feet, and waved the branches of the arbutus. A funeral came across the lake. How the mourners in the boats beat their breasts, as they raised their wild voices in the air, crying—

“Woe, woe! Cut down in his strength—gathered to his fathers ere his beauty was ripe!”

I would not listen, I would not see, and yet even as I thus resolved I looked again. But now all had vanished. The joyous birds sang merrily from thorn and arbutus, the mimic waves rippled peacefully on the sand, not a speck darkened the still clear waters, save the form of a solitary shag that sat fixed and motionless on an island-rock. The purple mountains lay glorious in sunshine and shadow, dim, mysterious, silent, in their awful beauty; the fairy islands glistened with the sheen of Eden, radiant in blossom, rich in odours sweeter than Araby's; the soft west wind, as he swept lovingly over the smooth water, gathered the scents in his way, and scattered them in the air as incense. And mountain, and island, cliff, wood, and blossom, lay mirrored in the clear lake in richest colours, from palest green to brightest purple, now softly shining, now glistening, sparkling, changing, till the ravished eye, faint with beauty, turns from earth to heaven, and thanks God for the loveliness it sees.

Oh, Killarney! thou, found most beautiful where all is fair! thou adorned, as nature decks her favourites, with richest, rarest gifts, what pen can speak of thee, and give even the faintest echo of thy charms? When in the flesh I last stood within the sheen and shadow of thy mighty beauty, I bore with me a hope—a hope of earth, but now the death-wail is in my ears, and I turn away from the fair scene with a sick heart.

I was glad when I found myself in a quiet conservatory, whose form was borrowed from some fairy architecture, with light pillars clasped and wreathed with lovely flowers, surely twined by some fairy hand. A glistening fountain fell in showers of fairy melody, sparkling in drops of tiny music on leaf and spray, or bubbling into song again as it danced and glittered in its marble basin.

The glossy leaves and bright blossoms played with the sunshine, now revelling in its beams, now hiding in the shadows. Shadows! there were hundreds of shadows! Shadows of broad shining leaves,

shadows of sharp tapering leaves, shadows of proud leaves standing erect, shadows of humble leaves timidly stooping, shadows of flowers laughing among them, some showing their heads gay and brilliant above their green robes, others hiding modestly, or peeping coquettishly beneath green hoods. And every flower, and every leaf, as it danced to its shadow on pillars or roof, shook down odours on my head, or threw them out lavishly to the breeze to waft them away.

Who is this that enters, so bright with beauty, so radiant with happiness, that music bursts from her lips like song from the nightingale?

My daughter, Florence!

Ah! I should have recognised her taste before in this enchanted place. As a child her gifts were many, and surely as a woman she has not belied her father's hopes.

From stately stem and creeping tendril she culls a nosegay fit for a queen's hand. What taste she shows! what nice discrimination in her choice! The softest colours, the sweetest odours, the brightest green—all rapidly arranged by her slender fingers into a brilliant bouquet, and then she passes out. Somehow, she takes me with her; through the drawing-room—fit companion for the fairy bower without—up the fantastic staircase, where, like a fond old father, I linger, proudly admiring each evidence of her love for the beautiful—and so into a room filled with rosy light, and curtained with floating clouds of softest muslin, white and vapoury, where a young man lies on a sofa by the open window.

His cheek is a little pale, but there is nothing to fear; if he has been ill, he is nearly well again now. And he is so handsome, so full of life—the frank, joyous, generous life of youth—that who can wonder his young wife looks at him with admiring eyes, and smiles exultingly as she holds out the flowers.

“I will only have one, Florence,” he says, “put the rest in your bosom instead of that ugly brooch. Why, Flo! how smart you have made yourself to-day!”

“It is the first day of your getting up, Harry, and I was so glad, that I was obliged to put on a glad gown, and a little dainty collar, and new white sleeves. In the old grey silk I wore while I sat up those three anxious nights watching you, I should not have felt glad at all.”

“Ah, Flo, can you only be happy in gay plumage? The nightingale and the lark are dressed in sober brown, and yet their song is the happiest of all.”

“Harry!” answered Florence laughing, “you are a gay bird yourself; you only praise the sober brown when you are ill. I wear these bright feathers to please my mate.” Harry caught her hand, and drew her fair face to his.

The birds without burst into song, the flowers sent up their odours, the May blossoms shook in the breeze, and the sunlight



danced in at the window, scattering rays of glory round their young heads.

"You are nearly well, Harry," said Florence, passing her hand over his brow, "in a day or two we shall be riding over the mountains again."

"Well, I think we shall, Flo; I believe Miss Atropus won't use her scissors this time."

"Who is Miss Atropus for goodness' sake?"

"One of the Fates. Have you forgotten all your classical knowledge, Flo?"

"Nonsense, Harry, I remember those old Fates now. But it is odd how one does forget everything one learns at school. There is one lesson however I have never forgotten, because poor dear old papa laughed at it so. I fancy I see him now," continued Florence, gazing exactly in the direction where I stood, "pushing back his spectacles over his bald head, and laughing at Meg as she whined out, 'Nabonassar was the son of Pul, and Higgins was a noble Roman.'"

"Higgins! that's our grocer."

"He was a noble Roman in our school-book, Harry."

"I never heard of him, Flo. You women murder the ancients ruthlessly."

"Ah, never mind if we do, they are only heathens. We'll never teach our child any such nonsense, will we, Harry?"

"*Our* child!" said Harry with a comical look and a half sigh, "why we must wait I think, Flo, till we have one."

Flo was playing nervously with her nosegay, picking the rosy petals from their cups, and stripping leaf and stem with pitiless fingers. Such a smile though broke over her face, that her husband started up, and gathered her into his bosom. She leant over him, and through the shining curls I saw the crimsoned cheek, and I heard the words she whispered in his ear.

"Flo," said the young husband, with his arm still around her, "you have made me very happy."

Well, and I was very happy too. I, the poor old grandfather, who had been dead and forgotten these many years, I was very happy too.

It is strange how much I wanted to wipe my spectacles just then, but when I put up my hand for them they were gone. "Ah, of course," said I, quite satisfied, "I am only my own ghost, and I can't expect my spectacles to have a ghost too."

When I looked at the husband and wife again, she was kneeling by his side singing softly to herself, while his hand rested lovingly on the soft tresses of her silken hair.

The birds without sang clearer and louder, the flowers sent up their odours, the breeze wafted in with the scent of the May blossoms, the sound of the dancing waves rippling on the beach; the mists on the mountain, the shadows in the valley beckoned with a

deeper, stranger beauty, and the sunbeams glanced around them like angel's wings. Suddenly she started up. "Oh! your medicine, Harry, I had quite forgotten your medicine!" Dancing and singing she went to the table and took the bottle in her hand. I saw it all! I knew what it was. Hold her! Stay her hand! Angels of heaven, stay her hand!

Cannot I see that man riding for life?—for life—to tell of the mistake, to dash the deadly draught away!

Oh God! she is pouring it out.

"Florence, my child! Florence!" I am kneeling to her—"Florence, dash it from you, there is death in every drop! It will kill him, do you understand me? he will die!"

Alas! alas! flesh and blood cannot hear spirit; I am powerless—powerless!

She holds it nearer—ah! now thank God! that sickly odour from which she turns away her face tells her what it is, and he is saved!

Heavens! no! that odour, strong though it be, tells *her* nothing. What does she know of such things? she does not even know one drug from another.

"Harry, I wish they would make medicine nice here, as they do in France; this is nasty stuff I am afraid. I have a great mind to fling it out of window instead of giving it to you."

"Yes, yes, Florence! for pity's sake, my child, far—far as you can throw it." Oh, for a few moments of time! See the man how fast he rides! he strains every nerve. With set lips, with clenched hand, with whip and spur he dashes onwards—his pale face streams, his horse foams; will he be in time? Oh, God! will no angel help him? It is too late! he has drunk it now, and kissed the beautiful hand that gave it.

"Sing me to sleep, Florence, now, for I am tired with our long talk. Stop, first kiss me, darling, and let me hold your hand while I sleep."

The last kiss, the last words she shall ever hear his lips utter on earth! Unconscious of her woe she sits by his side, and sings to him softly, all the murmuring sounds of summer her accompaniment—

"I'm happy as the sunshine  
That fills the earth with glee,  
Or the rivers bright that kiss the light  
As they go dancing to the sea.

"I'm happy as a bird, love,  
As joyous and as free,  
Who trills his song the leaves among  
To his mate upon the tree.

"I'm happy as the bee, love,  
The winsome honey-bee,  
In sunny hours from summer flowers  
Drinking sweets so thirstingly.

"I'm happy as a spring, dear,  
A glancing, dancing spring,  
That's scarcely seen 'neath grass or green;  
There's not on earth a happier thing.

"I'm happy as the flowers  
With the dew upon their bed,  
And petals gay, just oped to-day  
To drink the sunshine over-head.

"I'm happy as a brook, love,  
Unseen, like hidden fay,  
That sweet and clear, to listening ear  
Goes singing on its way.

"Like all that's bright, like all that's gay,  
In heart and voice I do rejoice.  
I'm happy as the day!  
In earth, in air, in sea, or sky,  
There nothing is! there nothing is  
One half so glad as I."

The door bursts open, a man enters in an agony of terror—he is spent and worn with hard riding.

"Oh, Madam, has Mr. Harry drunk that medicine?"

"Yes. Good Heavens, why?"

"Oh, wake him! wake him! He is poisoned!" Her shriek rings through my ears. Shut out from my eyes her white face, her quivering lips, her frantic agony! take me away, spirits, I cannot bear this.

"Oh, Harry! Harry! my husband, speak to me once more. Wake him! Wake him! Oh, for God's sake wake him!"

Ah, wake him, but not here; here he will never wake more.

Floating in on the sunbeams came the angels that watch for the dying, gently they bear him away in their arms, still sleeping, for he shall not wake—no, not when she is comforted, holding her first-born son in her arms.

Ah! whither are you taking me now, relentless spirits?

I rebel against your decrees, I will go no farther, I will *not* see her, the youngest, the best beloved.

In vain I struggle. Swiftly the unseen hands bear me on over sea and land. And now another spirit joins us. I see her not, for she is purer, brighter than I, but I *feel* her presence, and I resist no more. Ah, whither would I not have gone with her by my side! The invisible powers that had hitherto compelled my wanderings leave me now, and I am led by the willing hand of love alone.

We pass over the gay towns and brilliant cities of France, that land of music and of light, where life is enjoyed, not suffered or moodily wondered at. It has, too, many a quiet and beautiful village, and surely none more lovely than this. The mountains rise above it, and a fair river rolls away at their feet; yet it is a sad place, for here the bankrupt in health and the broken in heart come to die.

A little room at the back of the gayest house, close upon the great mountains whose giant shadows loom over it, and a dying girl resting in an arm-chair by the window. With steady mournful gaze she fixes her eyes for the last time on the beauties of earth and sky.

"Aunty," she says to the faded old lady by her side, "wheel me back to the fire, the evening air is cold, I must look no longer on those glorious peaks. When you go back to England, Aunty, tell them all how I loved the mountains. I would have taken sketches for poor little lame Charlie if I could."

"My dear," said the old lady, "you'll be strong enough to sketch soon, and when you go home you shall tell them all about the mountains yourself."

"Aunty, my home is far away, and I shall not see *them* there yet."

The kind old lady tries to give a cheerful answer, but her voice will not come at her command, and tears are in her eyes as she turns away her head to hide them.

She was ever kind and good. I knew her well. As a child we had played side by side, and as a joyous girl it was I who gave her to her husband. She is grey and worn now, and her years are drawing to a close; sister and brother will soon meet again.

Here is the little French doctor bustling in, kind and cheerful, chatty and full of news. But the thoughts of the beautiful English girl are far away, though she smiles and seems to listen. Perhaps she is thinking of the kind old father dead and gone, that nursed her on his knee—for was I not father and mother both to that one? Or her thoughts may be with the early grave of the mother she can but just remember.

Her torturing cough disturbs her reverie, and I watch her sufferings with all the agony spirits alone can feel. In vain with kind hand the doctor offers sweet and soothing medicines, she only shakes her head sorrowfully. At last, as the paroxysm passes away she beckons the doctor to sit by her side, and I hear her clear low voice, weakened by pain, but full of sweetness still.

"Doctor, you are very good, but it is all useless, I have thrown away my young life, and there is no hope for me now. Ah, doctor! if I had only had a little of your knowledge; if I had known how 'fearfully and wonderfully we are made,' I should not with suicidal hands have destroyed this poor frail building."

The kind old aunt tried to stop her, but she went on feverishly, with a tinge of bitterness in her tone.

"I was taught nothing either about my body or my soul; one I suppose was not a proper study for a young lady, and going to church on a Sunday was enough for the other. Oh, Aunty! with my own hand I have pulled down the pillars of health on which my life rested. And all in my ignorance. Ah, what will not ignorance do when vanity leads it on!"

"My dear, dear child," pleaded the old lady. "Ma chère demoiselle," said the doctor, "you must not excite yourself."

"No," said she faintly.

"I will call in again," whispered the doctor. "I had better go now, my presence incites her to talk."

He went away softly, with wistful, mournful look.

She held out her hand, her poor wasted hand, to her aunt.

"Aunty," said she painfully, "what I say is all too true. Lessons, always weary lessons, teaching me nothing. Sickness and disappointment have been my teachers of late, and I know now that 'it is good for me to be afflicted.' Aunty, I am not afraid to die, or sorry now, though I strove so fiercely against death a little while since. Come here, come nearer, I want to tell you a secret. You know how wild and ungovernable I have been. You know I was never taught to rule my spirit, any more than I was taught to take care of my poor little body. Oh, aunt! if I had had a mother, to open my heart to, perhaps I should not have to die so young."

The spirit by my side was strangely moved, and left me to approach the dying girl's chair.

"Oh, Gracey! my darling!" cried my sister, "have not I been a mother to you? Tell me your secret."

My dying angel was silent for a moment, her bosom heaved, her cheek flushed, hot tears came to her eyes. She was too weak, too weak to tell, she sobbed forth; and then, throwing her arms around her aunty's neck, she cried amid passionate tears, that he was so good, and she had loved him all her life!

"Not my son! not my son!" cried the good aunt.

"Yes, yes, dear Arthur, kind, good Arthur." And now the fountain of her grief was broken up, and she must needs tell it all—tell how she had loved him when she was a little school-girl, and he a tall man, and how to him she was still the young child, when in heart she was a passionate woman—how pride and anger had driven her into gaieties and follies, and how impatiently she had borne his stern rebuke, still hoping, ever hoping, till she saw his love given irrevocably to another older, wiser, more beautiful than herself.

"Oh, aunt! then it was that to hide my burning misery I went to every party our gay town gave, and he rebuked me as though I were a child, or spoke to me as if I were his sister."

"But Grace, my darling! he is fifteen years older than you."

"Aunt, *that* was nothing. When he married Clara I felt that I should die, and I fought against death fiercely, for why should I die, and she so happy? But lately I have been happy too. Yes, even before I left England I was happy." A beautiful smile played over her face.

"Ah, aunt! you who have seen me so proud, so silent, hiding the truth so well, and so madly, you will not guess why I was happy! It was because I fancied Arthur guessed my secret. I knew it by

Clara's altered manner. She who had been so pitiless to my faults, now came and wept over me, talking to me continually of him, comforting me by saying how he loved me, how he called me his pet sister, his dearest sister, how he was ever speaking of me, ever praising me. And when we left England—you know, aunt, it was he who made us go, he would have me well again, he said—I saw he could not bear the thought that I was dying because of him—he said to me, 'Gracey, my darling, you are my own little child, you shall live with us, and be my eldest girl when you come back; and if in the days when we were cousins I ever inadvertently caused you pain, you will forgive and forget, and I shall see you happy once more.'

("It was not your fault," I whispered.)

"Oh, aunt, it was all my own fault, because I knew nothing. Love was not a thing for girls to read about, they said. Since I came here I have been happier still, for has he not called his little girl 'Grace?' And, aunt, since he has known it—he and Clara—I have been so calm and glad, that I feel *that* love is quite gone, and I could have lived and been happy again, but it is not to be, no, it is not to be."

Leaning over her, the old lady's tears fell on the young wan cheek.

"Do not cry, aunt, I thought you would like to hear it best from *me*, dearly as you love Clara."

"Best from you, yes, my darling! Oh, my poor child!"

The crimson mantle the setting sun had thrown over the waters had faded into grey, but the peaks of the mountains were purple still. She pointed to them and murmured, "The last time." Then she asked her aunt to read to her, and while she went to fetch the Holy Book, I heard her say over softly to herself a little hymn that I, her poor dead father, had taught her long ago—ah, so long ago, when she was a tiny child, and her golden curls had nestled in my bosom.

The beautiful chapter that followed soothed her into happy tears. She pressed her cheek on my kind sister's shoulder, murmuring, how good she had been to her, and how glad she was to have told her all, and how she had determined to live to tell her.

It was true, and this told, the last thread was snapped.

She lay quiet a few minutes, and then looking up suddenly, saw *me*.

Alas! I knew what that meant.

"Father," said she, holding out her hand. I would have taken it, and carried her away in my bosom, but a better than I was there to give her the releasing touch.

"Mother! you too."

Her hand is clasped by that bright spirit, made visible now to me, and they pass away together, out into the purple light, beckoning me to follow. I strive to obey, but the village bells are tolling



the knell for her passing soul, and they press me down, and hold me tightly to the earth, weighing on me with deadening weight, and horrible utterance, slowly rung at each stroke into my ear, that seems to say: "Nabonassar was the son of Pul, and Higgins was a noble Roman. Nabonassar was, ding, dong, ding, Nabonassar was, ding, dong, the son of Pul, ding, dong, clash, and Higgins, ding, dong, and Higgins was a noble, ding, dong, ding, a noble ROMAN, ding, dong, CLASH."

Struggling with the bells I awoke. It was no passing knell, it was only my little French clock chiming twelve. And no wonder I dreamed my spectacles were gone! There they are lying broken inside the fender! I shall never get such a pair again. Well, 'tis useless grieving; I had better go to bed.

But instead of seeking my own room, I turn first to the nursery, where lie the four placid sleepers around whom my dreaming fancies have woven so dark a web.

And first to the little bed where she lay, the youngest. The silken curls wave over the pillow in a shower of gold, the rosy cheek rests on the tiny hand, the parted lips murmur in sleep, "dearly!"

Yes, dearly my child, very dearly.

How can I turn away without a blessing and a prayer, and may be a tear as well?

I must see them all.

Poor Meg with her little pert nose stuck firmly into the pillow, my clever Florence with her broad white brow, and quiet Mary. And so good night, darlings; God bless you all, and save you from the fate your old father dreamed.

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### XXXIII.—INFANT MORTALITY AND ITS CAUSES.

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ABOUT one-fourth of all the children born in this civilized country perish miserably in the first year of their existence. No such mortality can be observed amongst the young of our domestic animals. More favoured than the lord of creation himself, the horse, the cow, and the dog, pass through the stages of immaturity comparatively unscathed. It is impossible that such lavish expenditure of life, in its most important and exalted form, was intended by the Creator. It would seem that while simple instinct proved an infallible guide to the lower animals in the preservation of their young, the free agency of man caused an indifference to the strongest of all natural obligations, and that the results of apathy and ignorance are mistaken for those of an inevitable law.

The young of different creatures are very differently provided against external injury. This difference always bears strict rela-

tion to their respective wants, especially as regards the care and sustenance conferred by the parent. The duckling, warmly clad in down and having the full use of its limbs, feeds and takes the water almost immediately on emerging from the shell. The sparrow, on the contrary, and many other birds born entirely naked, pass through a period of helpless dependence on their parents. The young of man is at least as helpless as that of any other creature. Even the faculty of seeing, although the eyes are wide open, is denied to infants under a month old by a distinguished physiologist. Plainly, their only chance of defence against injury lies in their mother's care.

As might be expected, the mortality of infants is greatest in the earlier periods of existence. Quetelet, the distinguished Belgian statistician, has shown that the mortality at Brussels in the first month is considerably more than one-fourth the entire mortality of the first year. If we take a period of five years, it is found on the same principle that the mortality of the first year greatly exceeds that of any subsequent year. This proves the difficulty of preserving, even under the most favourable circumstances, the unstable life of early infancy. There can be no doubt, indeed, that from inherent defects of formation a certain proportion of infants must necessarily perish. Unable to bear the test of independent life, they are born for the grave. But, compared with the victims from other causes of mortality, this proportion is small. Diseases to which childhood is particularly liable form a more important cause. Such maladies as scarlatina, measles, croup, and whooping-cough, will always claim their victims. No precautions will prevent, although they may sensibly lessen, the frequent occurrence of death amongst children from these fatal disorders.

Of the numerous other shapes in which death comes to steal the young, the larger number strictly belong to the class pithily termed by the Registrar-General, preventible.

Hear this high authority on the effects of impure air: "All the poisonous emanations from the drains and cesspools destroy children created to live in pure air; hence, with a few direct infanticides, the deaths of 94,407 infants under one year of age are registered in England and Wales in the year (1852); 18,808 infants died of zymotic diseases, of which diarrhoea is the most fatal, 7,893 died of diarrhoea." This needs no comment. Medical science is now in a position to assert that this large number of deaths from zymotic causes is capable of being very greatly reduced, if not wholly prevented. The mortality of children resident in towns is nearly double that of those in the country; but this will not seem astonishing if the close, badly sewered, ill-ventilated lanes and alleys in which a large proportion of our town population is congregated, are taken into account.

The effect of season upon infant life amongst the poor is very observable. It is now a familiar fact, that if the thermometer be

registered below zero only for a few days, a proportionate increase of deaths of the very old and the very young may be expected; the heat-producing power—in the one case declining, in the other not fully developed—is overtaxed, and fatal disease steps swiftly in.

Want of exercise must be ranked as another cause of death to infants. Dr. Routh has detailed, in his excellent work on “*Infant Feeding*,” the experience of M. Hervieux on the abuse of the horizontal position in the *Hospice des Enfants Trouvés*, at Paris. It will serve our present purpose, since the same cause affects the mortality of newly born infants in general. There is in this establishment a nursery sixty feet long by twenty feet wide, and in this apartment are ranged eighty-four cots to receive the children. To attend upon these little creatures only nine women are employed during the day and two during the night. If it is assumed that each child is taken up six times a day, the time during which they are in the nurse’s arms must be very limited compared with the long monotonous hours in which they lie prostrate and unheeded. They have not the advantage of the heat derived from lying in the arms of a mother or a nurse, and the ample exercise obtained under natural circumstances by shaking and petting. It is easy to understand how, from this state of things, the elements of fatal disease too often appear—the temperature of the body falls, the extremities cool, the circulation becomes slower, and the respiration embarrassed.

Of all causes of death, that which concerns the nutrition of the infant is the most potent. If the food supplied him is either scanty or in excess, or of improper quality, his delicate organism soon succumbs. Want of breast milk holds a prominent place in the weekly death-roll of the Registrar-General, and to this cause a large percentage of the mortality from all causes, of children under one year old is ascribed.

Besides immediate destruction of life, there are other consequences hardly less calamitous. Some very instructive observations on the relative effects of feeding and suckling infants have been made at the Hospital for Children at Manchester. The results were obtained from observations of 1,041 cases, but it would be out of place here to follow them throughout. It is enough to say, that out of 150 children reared exclusively at the breast to the ninth month or longer, 94, or 62·6 per cent, were well developed, 35, or 23·3, were in a medium condition, while only 21, or 14 per cent, were badly developed. Still taking the cases in groups, it is further shown that of those who had breast milk for shorter periods, or who besides breast milk had other food from the first, the number of the well-developed notably diminished. The last group of 50 contains those fed exclusively by hand. Of these unhappy ones only 5, or 10 per cent, were well-developed, 13, or 26 per cent, were in the medium state, while 32, or 64 per cent, were badly developed. It appears then, from comparing the percentages, that of those nourished in the natural way, nearly as many were in a sound condition as

regards health and growth as were in the opposite state of those who were fed by hand. Statistics also prove that even a change in the natural supply increases the chance of death; a certain risk is incurred when the sustenance of the child by its mother is transferred to that by a nurse. Facts supported like these by well considered figures prove incontrovertibly that it is a crime for mothers to permit anything but ill health to interfere with their maternal duties. Another fact has special reference to the present causes of infant mortality. Fallen women are very commonly employed as wet nurses, and it happens that the death of their own children is the very constant result. Let fashionable women who employ these substitutes, for the selfish purpose of escaping the ties which the maternal offices impose, lay this cause of mortality to heart. As regards the evil consequences of rearing children by hand, we must not omit to mention that they are mainly due to the mode in which the children are fed. The infant stomach is only adapted for the digestion of milk, or at all events of the blandest food in a semi-liquid form. But the children of the poor are commonly given, almost at the earliest ages, portions of whatever happens to form their parents' meal; meat, potatoes, very frequently even porter and gin. Ignorance is here a direct cause of death, sometimes so direct that a single injudicious meal sends the unconscious victim out of the world. Mrs. Baines, who has given great attention to the subject of feeding infants, gives a table of fifty deaths of children occurring at Brighton. From this take the following instances in which the connexion between food and death plainly appears. Boy aged three months, died in a convulsive fit. Coroner's inquest. Alleged cause, teething. Fed upon tea and *muffin* heartily the night before it died.—Girl aged four months, died suddenly in a fit. Coroner's inquest. Fed freely on boiled French roll given with a spoon. Very little breast milk.—Girl aged three months. Coroner's inquest. Verdict, "Affection of brain from overloading the stomach." Two cups of arrowroot, milk, and water, in addition to breast milk, within a very short time.—Two children, aged respectively five months and seven months. Coroner's inquests. Verdicts, "Overfeeding."—These cases happened together in the same house: the child of a wet nurse and her nursling were fed on a hearty supper of bread, and were found dead at 4 A.M. The death of another victim, aged four months, is also given; the treatment pursued and the verdict being precisely the same as in the last two instances. From these facts it is easy to understand that vast numbers must perish from the slower operation of the same causes. The great susceptibility of the infant's digestive system makes him peculiarly liable to bad effects from adulteration of his food. Some time since one of the Metropolitan Officers of Health advanced an opinion that the great mortality amongst children in London arises from the general practice of adulterating milk. It has undoubtedly some share in producing it, and is one of the "preventible causes"

demanding close investigation. The practice of overdosing with medicines is another calamitous cause. The lower classes have not learned the important truth, that nature herself possesses great restorative powers, and that all that is necessary for recovery from slight indispositions is rest, and a less amount of food than usual. Instead of this, the little patient is placed at the tender mercies of some druggist, who, as medical adviser to the family, soon converts a transient disturbance of health into a real, often a fatal illness.

It is estimated that in London alone, at least 300 infants perish annually by direct violence. But setting infanticide apart, there are many other violent deaths which swell the mortality—burning and scalding through gross neglect of mothers contribute their quota; nor must we forget a lamentable but frequent cause of death, that in which the infant is “overlaid” in its slumbers by a careless, perhaps drunken, nurse or mother. The deaths of no less than twelve infants from suffocation in bed were lately registered as having occurred within a single week.

Some idea may be gleaned from this rapid sketch, of the terrible gauntlet to be run by the offspring of man in his earlier years. Plainly, the brute creation is altogether exempt from some of the dangers, and less exposed to the effects of all. Plainly, too, the fatal results are in greater part the growth of man’s own reckless disregard of well-known laws of life. Ignorance and neglect lie at the root of the evil, and the mortality will diminish in proportion as these are removed. Many circumstances in the condition of an existence which is itself a struggle for daily bread expose it to these influences. But there are glaring defects in our social system which are at least capable of much improvement. If instances are required in which ignorance is a pre-eminent cause of mischief, the effects of improper feeding supply them. The fatal muffin which figures in the coroner’s verdict, was given from the belief that it was dainty and appropriate food for the child.

It must be borne in mind that any general cause which affects the mortality of people at large has a much greater effect on the death-rate of infants. Their delicate organization is more keenly susceptible of injury than that of adults exposed to the same influences. Neglect of personal cleanliness is an undoubted cause of disease and death amongst the lower classes. The physiological explanation is perfectly easy. The whole area of the skin is pierced by millions of apertures, the outlets of minute glands whose purpose is to purify the blood by excretion. It is of course necessary that these outlets be kept free from obstruction, and that this important function of the skin be encouraged instead of being impeded. This is the more necessary, because the exhalations are readily condensed by the tightly fitting dress of modern times. What must be the hygienic condition of that individual whose pores are blocked up by old



*débris* from the body mixed with accumulated filth from the outer world? Who that has experience of the dirty, languid, and attenuated children brought for advice to our hospitals, can help wondering that such a state of things could exist in a civilized country? These are subjects not pleasant to dwell upon, but if good is to come of such discussions, the veil must be completely drawn; we must not be deceived by words or specious phrases, and conclude that because we are said to be in a high state of civilization, we are in general a clean people. It may be safely affirmed that there are individuals whose bodies have never been completely washed from the first to the last hour of their existence.\*

Foul bodies and foul clothes are the cause of death by another mode. Whenever uncleanness is combined with overcrowding, the atmosphere is sensibly polluted, and there is every reason for believing that they then become the direct source of acute and fatal fevers, diarrhoea, and other diseases. But it is at least certain, that any existing epidemic is not only kept alive, but fostered, and its range extended by the same causes.

Unfortunately, even when it is in their power to obtain fresh air, the poor generally neglect ventilation. From an exaggerated dread of taking cold, they will endure all the discomfort of close pestilential rooms rather than open a window. In this and other matters, ignorance of the common laws of life exists to a degree hardly within belief. The value of fresh air is no more comprehended, than if breathing, instead of being a vital necessity, were an idle habit.

The subjects of ventilation and drainage have of late arrested much attention, but it will take at least another generation before the haunts of poverty cease to be hotbeds of disease. The present wretched tenements of the poor, and especially that barbarous contrivance for economy of space called a court, must vanish from our towns. In the metropolis there are numbers of these squares in miniature, to which a single archway, the dimensions of an ordinary door, forms the only mode of access. Noisome effluvia from closely packed doors and windows are retained by these dreary, well-like enclosures, only to be returned upon the crowded inmates of the houses. Such is the atmosphere in which thousands of children inhale the first breath of life.†

\* The spirited exertions which have called the Public Baths and Wash-Houses into existence, cannot be too highly commended, and the increasing support they receive proves the effect they are producing on the poor. Whether the Turkish Bath will ever become habitual with the lower orders of this country is uncertain, but as it has established a higher standard of cleanliness for all classes, the nation owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. Urquhart, by whom it has been introduced.

† There is promise for the future, however, and architecture for the lower classes at length bids fair to take a prominent place amongst the useful arts. The donation of Mr. Peabody, an American citizen resident amongst us, unrivalled in its munificence, has been recently placed in the hands of trus-



Is it any wonder that the mortality of children in towns is so great? or that it is no uncommon thing for physicians of public institutions in London to be told that the puny child about whom his advice is sought is the sole survivor of eight or ten others, who “pined away and died,” or were carried off by various diseases? \*

There is here a great field for philanthropic enterprise, but one not quite unoccupied. The Ladies’ Association for the Diffusion of Sanitary Knowledge† has been for some time in full operation. A number of well but simply written tracts have been largely circulated, and the kind of subjects selected may be judged of from the names of a few: “The Worth of Fresh Air,” “The Use of Pure Water,” “The Health of Mothers,” “How to Manage a Baby,” “The Black-Hole in our Bedrooms,” and last, not least, “The Power of Soap and Water.” This seed will not all go to waste although the full harvest may be late. No great revolution in the habits of an existing generation should be expected; it is through the young that great results must be effected. The Committee of the Council for Education in England, and the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, in co-operation with the Board of Trade, have lately taken this practical view of sanitary reform. An elementary work on physiology, and a series of diagrams showing the structure of the human frame, have been produced under their auspices. But it seems the plan meets no warm support from the teachers themselves. To us it appears that the instruction of young pupils in the mere elements of a branch of study of so wide a range presents unusual difficulties. Too much should not be attempted. A general view of the intricacies of the human frame would scare most pupils from the subject, while it would confuse many anxious to understand it. Impress a child with certain leading and easily comprehended facts. Teach him that the oxygen of the air purifies, but that the gases of sewers are a deadly poison to the blood. Explain to him the functions of the skin and their uses, the nature of food

tees for purposes tending to ameliorate the condition of the London poor. Without placing any restrictions on the expenditure of the money, Mr. Peabody judiciously directs attention to one object: “The construction of improved dwellings, combining in the utmost possible degree the essentials of healthfulness, comfort, social enjoyment and economy.”

\* Amongst the means for lessening the mortality of children, the establishment of hospitals for the special treatment of their diseases, must not be omitted. As a rule, children’s diseases are not suitable for treatment in the general hospitals, and very few such cases are admitted. The Hospital for Sick Children, in Great Ormond Street, is conducted on the most liberal principles; everything that can add to the comfort and happiness of the little patients is provided for them.

In connexion with the hospital is an Infant Nursery, where mothers compelled to leave their homes during the day can have their babies well taken care of, on payment of a small sum. The intention of these nurseries is excellent, but it is worth considering whether the system if much extended would not too much encourage amongst the poor, absence from their families and their home.

† Office, Princes Street, Cavendish Square.

and its destination. Let such facts be conveyed in the simplest language, and let all that is not proved be rigidly excluded. Knowledge of this kind could not fail to be turned to good account in after life. If embodied in the form of questions and replies, such a collection might be termed the catechism of health.

While ignorance plays so conspicuous a part in the work of death, it has a close ally in sheer neglect; the prevalence of the latter, indeed, concerns our character for morality as a nation.

Whenever we penetrate below the level of the educated classes, a hundred things startle us from a comfortable faith in our social well-being. A great annual sacrifice of infant life occurs from neglect of mothers and nurses who, in the majority of cases, should be the subjects of pity rather than of blame. In this prosperous country, thousands upon thousands of women are compelled to eke out the insufficient means earned by their husbands at the expense of their children's lives. While the mother works in the factory or the mill, the little ones pine at home for that care which it should be the especial end of her existence to afford. But, unhappily, more than mere neglect—positive crime must be laid to the charge, not so much of the mothers, but of the system under which they are employed. It is well known that mothers compelled to leave their children during the day, or who, although at home, are absorbed by some handicraft pursuit, not unfrequently resort to the cruel expedient of allaying by opiates the cries for food and maternal care. To such a pitch has this been carried, that it is a practice to suspend over the cradles a sponge dipped in a solution of the deadly drug, and the child is trained to have recourse to this wretched substitute for proper nourishment whenever prompted by the calls of hunger. This shows how the strongest feelings of maternal love may become gradually blunted. But such crimes are the growth of a system and are easily propagated, because, from example and long familiarity, they come to be regarded as a necessity. Few, if any women would of themselves so sin against their offspring. The voice of nature is strong enough to speak for the child to the mother's heart until stifled by vicious habits, or crushed out by absolute want of the necessaries of life. Sometimes, indeed, it happens that that which should be cherished by the mother as her own life is regarded as an encumbrance, and she sets a price on the head of her child. How else are to be interpreted those dark and almost incredible doings occasionally brought to light? Do we not hear of mothers insuring the means of burying, not in one, but in several burial clubs, for the sake of the gain to be obtained by the death of their infants?

Nothing has a more injurious effect on the female character than destruction of her home associations. The proper sphere of woman's action is her home. There alone the true perfections of her mind and character are developed. Instances of depravity such as those described are chiefly observed when it is the woman's business of

life to work abroad, and home duties take a secondary place. It is greatly to be deplored that any circumstances should compel married women to this. It is sad to think that certain branches of our commercial greatness depend on what is truly a social evil. The family of the industrious working man is sacrificed because his wages are insufficient for their support. Why this should be, is a question for merchant princes and political economists to decide. At present we have only to do with the results.

The factory system clearly proves the present and prospective evils of withdrawing girls of a tender age from the influences of home. Little creatures who, if guided by their own instincts, would hardly devote ten minutes to one train of thought or one occupation, are compelled to spend a great part of the day in monotonous labour. There is here no real childhood, there is no transition period. The influences of home have never been truly experienced, the duties which can be learned only at the domestic hearth are unknown, the girl becomes a woman, but without the finer instincts and sympathies which adorn her sex. They have been crushed out by pre-occupation and routine. She is selfish, calculating, masculine, and even violent in her conduct; such at least has been officially described as a common condition of females in the manufacturing districts.

Great exertions are at present being made by noble-minded gentlewomen to instruct women in certain mechanical arts. It is argued that since women greatly exceed men in number, it is desirable to place in a position of independence those who, from accident or choice, remain unmarried. It is difficult to say how far these excellent intentions have been attended with success. It is said that as women instinctively look to marriage as a release from any occupation but that of a domestic nature, they fail in applying themselves so as to attain the proficiency of men employed in the same trade or pursuit. Whether the competition of female with male labour may not injuriously affect the well-being of families, by depreciating the labour of men, is a larger question. On the other hand, as numbers of women are compelled to toil for daily bread, the proverbially wretched wages of the needle demand that some channel less dismally hopeless, less unrequitingly toilsome, should be opened. What the art of the sempstress is with women of a lower class, teaching is with her sister born in a better position. With few exceptions, the pay and position of the governess are notoriously inadequate.

When available, domestic occupations are to be preferred to all others. To assist in the care of families will always yield congenial employment, as well as training of the most useful kind, for numbers of single females.

We shall recapitulate the modes in which neglect and ignorance act in destroying infant life, partly using the words of the Registrar-General:—"The fate of the infant which the mother abandons, not in the streets, but in the house, when she works in the field or the factory, or when she neglects cleanliness, is early death." To this

may be added, when she feeds her child injudiciously, deprives him of proper exercise, allows his blood to be contaminated by foul air, or, saddest of all, slowly poisons him with deadly drugs. All these belong to the class of preventible causes, and the great question arises, What should be done to arrest them?

If we mistake not, a more active sympathy and closer intercourse between the upper and the lower classes would effect much. The perfect liberty possessed by even the poorest in this free country has this effect—the ignorant are as completely given over to the dominion of their ignorance as the highly cultivated are free in the exercise of their mental culture and in the use of all the lights of science. This disadvantage is greatly increased in large towns and manufacturing districts by that almost complete separation which prevents the civilizing influence of the better classes from being felt amongst the lowest. In this metropolis there are districts in which the isolation of the poor appears complete, and it is curious to observe its effect on their manners and habits. There is a bluntness about them which might be mistaken for, but is not intended as, rudeness. They will make statements without hesitation that, on the score of modesty, would be abstained from by persons of their class who had mixed with those superior to them in station. Speaking of each other, they call themselves “ladies” and “gentlemen,” and there are other little traits which those who have had experience of them, as at the hospitals and dispensaries, may easily call to mind. But the essential thing is, that these poor people are usually in a state of mental darkness painful to contemplate. They are seldom influenced by any sense of religion, and if they read, their worst passions are ministered to by a literature which thrives on their debasement. It is not easy to effect reforms amongst people of this class, but the task is not hopeless. For the succeeding generation, as has been already said, much may be expected from instruction of the young. One is almost tempted to wish that Government would take the part of an enlightened if an absolute parent, and insist that a certain amount of knowledge should be acquired by every sane individual. Adults are to be instructed by example rather than by precept; but for this a more active sympathy and closer acquaintance between the educated and the ignorant, the rich and the poor, are urgently required. There is no lack of a charity generous but cold, and money is lavished on all objects that seem to deserve it; but few take even the trouble of inquiring, and still fewer personally acquaint themselves as to the fate of their money. Let it become the habit of the wealthy to be charitable in person rather than by proxy. Instead of confining their experience to the paragraphs of newspapers, and giving a final vent to their feelings by a cheque on their bankers, let them see with their own eyes the haunts of misery and vice. By this the efficacy of their alms would be enormously enhanced; kind words supported by timely aid in the

hour of need would never be forgotten, and sanitary instructions would be really efficient. Mothers might be taught that it is a crime to abandon their children for the sake of increasing their income so long as the bare necessities of life can be secured by their husbands. Habits of cleanliness and order would be insensibly acquired from contact with the better classes. All this is neither Utopian nor impossible. The good work might cost some a little self-denial, while others, led by example, would gladly join. Let a few leaders of fashion take the matter in hand and much would be rapidly effected.

There are, however, certain mistakes to be avoided. Anything which tends to undermine the self-reliance of the lower classes is a positive evil. Tact and delicacy would be necessary to make a freer intercourse between the extremes of society beneficial to the poor. They should be allowed to think that good conduct, as well as obedience to the laws of health, &c., bring their own rewards. What can be more degrading than those exhibitions we read of, in which old men, new-coated and bright-buttoned for the occasion, are displayed as rare animals to the admiring squire and friends, because "they have never been on the rates"? For the same reason we think the system of giving prizes, whether for the best fed baby or the cleanest cottage, equally objectionable.

England is regarded as the head-quarters of the domestic virtues, and we boast of the word "Home" as a national possession. Our libraries teem with pretty pictures of happy families in the lowest ranks of life. To writers of fiction weary of the artificial, no theme has been more congenial than the simple habits and family virtues of the poor. With some truth, there is much to mislead in these accounts. If their readers would take the trouble to inform themselves practically, a proper application of the knowledge, besides yielding other good results, would go far to lessen that mortality of innocents which has suggested these remarks.

ARTHUR LEARED, M.D.

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#### XXXIV.—REMUNERATIVE WORK FOR GENTLEWOMEN.\*

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There are few more satisfactory occurrences than the meeting of two opposite demands—"A man wanting a place, a place wanting a man!" The conjuncture is always hailed as a stroke of what we unthinkingly term good fortune.

In such circumstances we seem to be placed at this time. Two

\* We insert this paper as an individual suggestion; not as endorsing the writer's views.—Ed.



wants are pressing on the social body, which it is thought might in a measure relieve each other. It is said that, despite all that has been done for the education of the poor, many schools, particularly in rural districts, are, and must be, in a very inefficient state from the want of intelligent teachers, whose services they cannot secure under the existing regulations, and that, from the same cause, there are no schools in many parishes where they are much needed.

On the other hand, the country is continually called on, in every variety of conjuration, to consider the lamentable condition of our surplus female population.

The want of the means of support in this quarter presses, we are told, most heavily on those who have been brought up without any view of maintaining themselves. Those who, trusting to the chances of life, to parental provision, to marriage, to expected legacies, to anything and everything but their own exertions, have passed unthinkingly and easily through youth, and now find themselves on the threshold of middle life, or it may be still further advanced on their earthly pilgrimage, without supply for their humblest wants, willing but unable to earn their subsistence.

May not a reciprocity of help be looked for here? May not a large number of girls' and mixed schools be supplied from the ranks of these applicants for work? Of course it will not do to put any one into a situation of trust on no better recommendation than the mere wish for it. Instances have been known where such a course has been followed with the happiest results; powers have been developed unknown to their possessor, undreamed-of qualifications have appeared at the bidding of necessity; but it is not justifiable to run such a risk in a case of importance. Something to attest the fitness of the applicant for the proposed post is wanting, and in this consists the great difficulty in obtaining a first situation, commonly felt by those who have had no preparation for any settled employment.

It will, therefore, be of some service if the class before us can be shown to be possessed of materials which may be worked up into good and useful stuff, beneficial alike to themselves and others. It will be opening a door of relief to many, if it should appear that they are specially qualified in many ways for that work which we are told is languishing for want of labourers, the education of the poor.

Alarming accounts have been lately given of the want of "results," as they are called, in existing schools. The principal point dwelt on seems to be the large proportion of children in every school who do not (as it is commonly termed) "*even learn to read.*" This is put forward as a token of utter failure. The child has not taken the first step on the ladder of learning—there are "no results."

Now this dismal view of the case must not pass without question; but taking it for the moment as granted, no one who has had much



practical knowledge of getting a child over this notable stumbling-stone, can wonder that it is one over which many never pass, seeing what the agents are, to whom the task of leading them is committed in the majority of our National Schools.

This occupation, which has been abandoned in despair by not a few tender mothers, and which, if ever accomplished by a father, entitles him to a place as a much-enduring man, second only to Job—is entrusted to young girls utterly uninterested in their pupils, at a period of life when it would be unreasonable to expect patience, they having, moreover, to work up for very trying examinations. Truly, if learning to read is to be looked at as the sole or even the principal aim of a child's school life, we might well regret the dames of former days, and have good cause to welcome to the task dames-proper, (as they may be termed,) who may be expected to bring to it matured patience and concentrated attention.

But though learning to read must certainly form a part, nay, a prominent part of every school system, it is not all, nor in many cases the most valuable part of the instruction given by our National School teachers. Throughout their work this maxim should be kept steadily in view: "Remember the end, and thou shalt never do amiss." And if this be done, another will be brought to light: "We learn to read, that we may read to learn." Looking on the attempt in this way, it will often seem to be labour thrown away. The difficulties in the way of children are really insuperable; wholly untaught before they come to school, and often physically disabled from learning in class by stuttering, bad sight, and other troubles abounding among them.

It frequently happens that a girl has been altogether neglected till ten or eleven years of age. She then becomes ashamed of her ignorance, and is admitted into a National School. The cases are quite exceptional in which it is possible to make such a scholar read. In most the task is never accomplished, but it by no means follows that nothing has been gained. If the end of "learning to read" be indeed "to read to learn," this end may be in a great measure attained by means of oral instruction, when, by the regular process, it certainly never would be during the short season of school life.

Even when the scholar can read quite fluently, those practically acquainted with the subject will soon see that, however useful as a means of future progress, reading really does little in conveying information during childhood.

Take religious instruction—will the most correct reading of the Bible by a child of eleven years old bring the great truths of our most holy faith as clearly before the understanding, as close to the heart, as it is possible for the teacher to do by a sensible and well given lesson? Children may read the history of the Crucifixion as a fact, but will that rouse their grateful love, as it may be

roused by being told the truth to be received with that fact: "Jesus Christ died on that cross to gain eternal happiness for you?"

The same is true of secular matters. If the teacher has herself "read to learn," her scholars may glean an ample supply from her abundant stores. While they would have spent years in learning to read the most elementary book which treats of things all-important to the daily comfort of life, they need not spend as many weeks in gaining useful information from judicious oral lessons. These are valuable results for the most incorrigible enemy of A B C.

Now for this kind of work, gentlewomen are by birthright in possession of many advantages over the class of teachers at present employed. Having encountered all the difficulties of acquiring knowledge in the beginning of their career, living with parents and guardians who, so far from assisting them in their tasks, or opening their minds to understand them, can but wonder at their superior attainments, the success of Pupil Teachers generally, when called to the management of schools, has been very creditable to them, and prevents regret that the scheme of Government assistance must (as things are apparently likely to stand) place most of the town schools in their hands. But admitting this cannot deprive the ladies whose cause is before us of their claims to superior powers.

Looking back to the dawn of intelligence, it will be found that, in ordinary circumstances, the children of the gentry are three years in advance of their poorer neighbours.

Setting aside the power of reading, which under a nursery governess is generally acquired thus much earlier, so many things are learned by them intuitively as to make it difficult to believe gentle and simple to be of the same age. And this inequality exists through life.

It will readily be acknowledged, that the conversation of any commonly intelligent daughter of ease and independence, will be more agreeable than that of the most well-informed school-mistress whose youth has been passed in reading for the certificate of merit which she holds, and which certainly never could have been given to the lady in question. The tone of voice, some acquaintance with general literature, the easy expression of thought which comes from never having known what it was to speak ungrammatically, personal anecdotes, so rare in the monotony of school-life, above all the tact to know when enough has been said, these are all on the side of the lady. H.M. Inspectors have again and again borne testimony to the value of such voluntary teachers, for, little as at first sight one might expect it, all these advantages bear with their fullest force on children. The lessons of a lady are free from that stiffness which, with the trained teacher, too often betrays that it has been got up

for the occasion. Another advantage will be found to be the *age* of these supposed candidates. According to the present system mistresses must always be very young. Pupil Teachers belong almost if not altogether to a class who would be earning their bread in service or by some industrial calling years before they are out of their apprenticeship. It is a necessity with them to get through their time of preparation and enter on their career as schoolmistresses as early as they can. Accordingly, they begin their duties with unformed minds, their heads running very much on more agreeable, or more distinguished positions, which they see in the distance. The dreams of life are just beginning with them, whereas to their proposed rivals the season of dreams is past and sober realities bear sway. Parted from their former companions, and obliged to renounce their usual pursuits, between the pauses of their daily toil there would be ample time and ample food for thought, and the value of thought to a teacher cannot be overrated.

Again, without wishing to speak disrespectfully of the moral tone of National School teachers generally, it is, from certain circumstances, necessarily lower than that of the class above them.

If any doubt this, let them ask themselves whether a story in the newspapers telling of a breach of the sixth, seventh, or eighth commandment, does not startle us in some measure if told of gentlefolk, when it would be comparatively a matter of course in the working class. Taking their relative temptations into account, not the slightest credit can be claimed for this, but its effect is powerful. The habit of associating, nay, the fact often of close relationship with offenders of this sort, engenders a lower standard of morality with very many quite free from such taint themselves. And this gives a superiority to those who are beyond the pale of such influence. It tells both on children and on their parents. The latter especially almost involuntarily submit to a "real lady," as they frequently call such "waifs and strays of gentility." They feel that they are not in possession of the language of their opponents. A confusion of tongues produces silence.

These then are certain qualifications which middle-aged gentlewomen possess for the post of National School mistress; but there are undoubtedly difficulties in their path which should be looked at, and if it may be removed. A youth passed without any definite object will seldom result in habits of order or method, both most necessary to the work in hand. Nor does it often happen, perhaps, that the power of ruling the wayward tempers of children is of spontaneous growth. Again, there are certain branches of study to which young ladies are very little given if left to their own choice. Arithmetic is generally distasteful to girls of any class; and although the reading of Scripture for personal edification is, we may hope, in these days, a continual exercise with most women who have time and opportunity for it, the study of the

Bible is not often undertaken, yet is quite necessary for the calling of schoolmistress, especially for the children of the poor, who depend (as has been said before) so much on oral instruction.

In these respects the training colleges are doing great good. Much solid information is there acquired, and though it may value be wasted by the want of manner which attaches for the most part to the girls who are brought up there, it is indeed very valuable if not indispensable. Children soon find whether the well they draw from is deep, and no teacher is likely to prove efficient who does not feel secure that her scholars cannot sound the depth of her learning. For this purpose some kind of college where such habits of order and command, together with such knowledge, may be acquired, will be seen to be a great desideratum.

If funds could be raised for the rent or purchase of a house, and the entire or partial support and instruction of its inmates during some given period, it is believed that managers of schools would find a large supply of gentlewomen, thankful for a home with only the necessaries of life, instead of drawing from unsettled occupations a scanty subsistence.

It is essential that it should be distinct from existing colleges. However much we may think that *class* distinctions are too vigorously insisted on in all ranks of society, (for in truth none but the lowest are free from them,) there *are* distinctions which Providence itself marks out to be observed for the benefit of all.

Nature's boundaries, though always graceful in their sweeping lines of mountain or of stream, are quite decided in their demarcation, and the moral like the physical world is thus divided. Any attempt to mingle with the present girlish occupants of training colleges, women whose habits, education and associations are so wholly different, would be to injure institutions now working well, without gaining anything in return. Differences which are so slight as to be scarcely noticed in an hour's intercourse, become serious in a life passed together. So much concern has been expressed by the public for our indigent fellow-countrywomen, that it would be unfair to doubt that assistance both pecuniary and otherwise may be safely looked for in furtherance of any promising scheme for their benefit, such as the establishment of an institution of the kind of which I have spoken, but happily it is not necessary to wait for such aid before making an offer to school managers of the services of ladies in their female or mixed schools. They must be open to any proposal that sounds well, and enough has been done in the education of all gentlewomen to make the acquirement of more an easy task—one for which a special training is not needful though desirable.

If any ladies should be induced by what has been said to venture on a field hitherto but little tried, let them remember that I have not spoken of it as a pleasant task (it may be doubted if those two words pleasant and task can ever fit together) but only as one

which may be creditably performed by those who are forced to look out for something they can do for a livelihood, the difficulties and trials of which are not beyond the strength of ordinary women.

E. R.

### XXXV.—PROSPECTUS OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROFESSIONAL INSTRUCTION OF WOMEN.

*9, Rue de la Perle, Paris.*

IF there be among us a condition calculated to awaken interest, it is assuredly that of the woman who, without fortune and obliged to provide for her own wants, and often for those of a family also, finds no means of employing herself within her reach.

This pitiable position is one with which our age is especially concerned; an eloquent book has been devoted to narrating the martyrdom of the garrets; publicists have turned their attention to it, all hearts have been stirred, and the terrible problem is still the subject of many theories. We believe that the surest way of arriving at a solution of it is to direct the young girl towards special studies, which, later, will enable her to employ herself usefully without withdrawing her too much from home.

In reality it is not that women want industry, but rather that industry wants women; good-will, courage, devotion itself, cannot supply the place of a certain practical knowledge, which, properly speaking, constitutes the industrial art or trade.

But to acquire this precious knowledge, attendance at workshops is at present indispensable, and hence the hesitation of parents. In order to ensure perfect safety, it is not sufficient that the masters should be thoroughly honourable—of such there are many; it is not sufficient that the men at present belonging to the workshop should be thoroughly respectable—this condition might easily be met; but who can foresee changes? How anticipate the uncertainties of the morrow?

On the other hand, in entering at an early age on the labours of the workshop, is it not necessary to leave the general education incomplete,—to break it off at the moment when intelligence is just beginning to shed its first rays, when the moral sense is so weak that it may give way under the least pressure, even in the best natures? It is in order to try to satisfy this hidden but real want; it is in order to meet the fears of parents, that we have formed ourselves into a Society.

The end which we propose to ourselves is to prepare young girls for employments in trade and industry, while at the same time keeping them in the purest mental atmosphere, and giving them the benefits of a good moral and intellectual education.

The professional school is but the carrying out of this idea.



We address ourselves to working people; the low price of our instruction brings it within reach of all. We have even wished that the doors of our school could be thrown open so widely that no mother could complain of having found them closed, and we have founded scholarships a fourth part, half, and even entirely free, according to the extent of our resources.

The school, owing to its hygienic conditions and its choice of professors, entails great expenses; we trust ourselves, however, without fear, to the future. We have already collected a sum which enables us to provide for immediate wants; other helpers will join us; generous hearts are never wanting to carry out generous ideas.

We appeal for the adhesion of those who are already numbered, and will soon be numbered among the unknown friends of our work.

Those ladies only can be members of the society who engage to subscribe annually twenty-five francs. Our school being founded with a view to the public interest, without any admixture of private speculation, all the receipts will be expended in improvements of which an account will be given at a general meeting to be held once a year in the month of March.

The founders and directors having no pecuniary interest whatever in the undertaking, we may be allowed to add that the subscriptions of all who desire to join in carrying out, or in improving our work, will be thankfully received. At the public meeting, an account will be given of the donations received, and the names of the donors will be published every year at the end of the report of the committee.

The annexed programme makes it unnecessary to enter into details respecting the professional school. The apprenticeship, as will be seen, lasts three years; during these three years the pupils receive every morning lessons which, though confined to useful knowledge, yet embrace a progressive development wisely provided for.

For the rest, we have neglected nothing which might be necessary to make each business complete in its department. Thus, we have added to the commercial course, the study of English, and to the needlework department, a *demonstration* of cutting out and designing patterns, kindly undertaken by a skilful practitioner. We can henceforth offer to families a choice among several businesses, our workshops will be increased in proportion to the development of the school, the council of administration will also be actively employed in ascertaining what businesses, adapted to women, can be thrown open to them. We shall gladly receive any information on this subject.

With all these elements of success we are about to commence; we confide the future of our work to God, and the sympathizing protection of all women, all mothers, and all friends of progress.

E. LEMONNIER, *President of the Committee of Direction.*

J. MARCHEF GIRARD, *Director of the School.*



## PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL FOR YOUNG GIRLS.

The professional school is especially designed to prepare young girls for commercial and industrial employments. Only day-pupils are received, who must not be under twelve, and must have passed an examination. There are general and special courses, comprising three years of study. The general course includes, French, arithmetic, history, geography, science applied to common things, drawing, writing, and singing.

The special courses are, commerce, (including book-keeping, &c.,) industrial drawing, and needlework in all its branches. It is in contemplation to add a course for printing, as being one of the most important and lucrative trades for women, in France especially, where the printing offices are open to them. A special subscription has been opened for the purchase of the new type composing and distributing machines, invented by Mr. James Young, and exhibited at the International Exhibition.

The candidates for admission to the general course are examined in the elements of French, grammar, and arithmetic. The examination for the special courses is regulated according to the nature of each course.

At the end of each year, examinations will be held, and certificates awarded.

## XXXVI.—UNIVERSITY LOCAL EXAMINATIONS.

IN the years 1857 and 1858, Examinations were instituted by the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, for the benefit of young persons not members of the Universities. These Examinations were at first, and are still most generally known by the name of "Middle Class." That term being open to the charge of vagueness, both Universities subsequently adopted the name of "Local," by which these Examinations are now designated.

On the 18th of June, 1857, a Statute "*de Examinazione Candidatorum qui non sunt de Corpore Universitatis*" was passed by the Convocation of the University of Oxford, and a Delegacy to carry its provisions into effect was appointed immediately after.

We learn from the First Annual Report of the Delegacy, that "the statute was passed in consequence of Memorials addressed to the University from various parts of the country, both by masters of schools and by others interested in education. In these Memorials it was represented that the University might confer a great benefit on that large class of persons who cannot afford, or do not require, a University education for their children, by undertaking to examine boys, about the time of their leaving school. Such an

examination, it was urged, would give a definite aim to the schoolmasters and a great stimulus to the scholars: and would afford an evidence to the public how far the exertions of both had been successful. . . . It was resolved to devote the summer to ascertaining, as far as could be done, the feelings and wishes of schoolmasters in various parts of England. Several members of the Delegacy undertook this task, and promised to prepare a draft of regulations for the consideration of the whole body of the Delegacy by the beginning of Michaelmas Term. This was chiefly done by private correspondence. Thus the requirements of a great variety of schools were obtained; and the outline of a suitable plan of examination was framed to meet them. But, besides this, the masters of several large schools in different parts of England were able to accept an invitation to meet members of the Delegacy in Oxford; and at this meeting, under the presidency of the Master of Balliol, the leading points of the whole scheme were carefully discussed. At the beginning of Michaelmas Term the draft Regulations thus prepared were examined in detail by the whole Delegacy. But even then the correspondence with the schoolmasters did not cease; and up to the last moment every proposition proceeding from such quarters was attentively considered. . . . The result of these discussions was a general acquiescence in certain leading principles, of which the Regulations as finally issued were the expression. . . .

“In the first place it was unanimously agreed that a certain amount of elementary knowledge in the ordinary subjects of education ought to be made an indispensable condition of success. The schoolmasters were as anxious as the Delegacy to insist on this point. For though in some cases schoolmasters may be tempted to push their pupils on too fast, and to make a show of special knowledge without any solid information underneath it, yet the fault is not always, perhaps not often, theirs. They are urged by parents and by scholars; and while unsupported are unable to resist the pressure. The natural desire to see plain tokens of their children's progress leads the parents into this mistake: and the restlessness of childhood always makes boys more eager to advance quickly than to learn thoroughly. A knowledge therefore of the elements of English Grammar and Orthography, of Arithmetic, of Geography, and of the outlines of English History, was required of all: and it was intended that absolute failure in any one of these subjects should disqualify a candidate. But more than this, it was intended to assign a positive value to them in determining the merits of the successful candidates, as well as to make them the necessary passport to all success. This scheme appeared to have the advantage of keeping the number of papers within due limits, while it gave the study of these English subjects the greater weight, by encouraging all candidates without exception to prepare them well.”

A scheme of Examinations was sanctioned by Grace of the Senate of the University of Cambridge, February 11, 1858, and a Syndicate was appointed, by whom, with the advice of schoolmasters and other persons, Regulations were drawn up, prescribing a list of subjects of Examination "in accordance with the instructions contained in the propositions adopted by the Senate."

Considerable difficulty was felt at both Universities, in arranging the details of the Examination in Religious Knowledge. It was desired to give every encouragement to religious teaching, and at the same time to act with perfect fairness towards candidates of all creeds and denominations.

The Cambridge Syndics, "after much careful thought, determined that the Examination should be made to consist of three parts, embracing severally: 1st, some of the books of the Old and New Testament Scriptures; 2nd, some portion of the Book of Common Prayer, or other formulary of the Church of England; 3rd, the work of some standard writer on religious subjects. The books of the Old and New Testament Scriptures were made a necessary part of the Examination, while every student was left at liberty to take the second or third part of the Examination, or both of them, according to his pleasure. The Syndics further determined that credit should be given to every student for the knowledge shown in that Examination in the same way as for any other kind of knowledge, and that it should be added to the credit gained from other subjects of Examination in determining the class in which the name of the student should be placed."

A similar plan has subsequently been adopted by the Oxford Delegacy, whose regulations now stand as follows. The section is divided into two parts, the first including questions on the Bible only, the second having reference to the Book of Common Prayer. "Marks will henceforth be given for answers in this section. Every candidate will be required to answer questions in both portions of this section, unless his parents or guardians object on conscientious grounds (*conscientiæ causa*) to his being examined in it. Any candidate, however, on whose behalf such objection shall be made, may, if he chooses, answer questions and so gain marks in the first portion only; but no one can be held to have satisfied the Examiners in the section without both portions."

The Examinations for junior and senior students are distinct. Senior candidates must be under eighteen, junior at Oxford under fifteen and a half, at Cambridge under sixteen. Candidates of both divisions are required to pass a preliminary examination in elementary subjects.

The (Oxford) Examiners for the Preliminary Examination give the following account of what they conceived to be the purpose of their part of the work, and of the standard which they fixed:—  
"We believed that though the subjects in which we had to examine

were of a humble order, they were, nevertheless, of considerable importance. The new University Examinations had been objected to by many persons as likely to foster conceit; to encourage a system of 'cramming'; to divert the attention of masters from the pupils who most require their aid, to those who were most able to dispense with it; to divert the attention of boys from subjects befitting their age and condition to others of a more ambitious character. We felt confident that such objections would be most satisfactorily refuted, if the University rigidly required of all its candidates a certain minimum amount of proficiency in the rudiments of a plain English education. In endeavouring to fix this minimum, we were guided chiefly by two considerations.

"1. That the standard for Oxford Associates in Arts ought not to be lower in the elementary subjects, than that which is found to be easily attainable by boys and girls of thirteen or fourteen, educated in the common primary schools of the country.

"2. That some discredit would attach to the Oxford certificate, if those who obtained it should subsequently be found unable to satisfy the Civil Service Commissioners, when examined on appointment to some of the junior situations in the public service, such as a clerkship in the Customs or Inland Revenue, where the subjects are the same as those of the Oxford Preliminary Examination." \*

The Regulations ultimately adopted by the two Universities are substantially the same.

## EXAMINATION OF JUNIOR STUDENTS. (CAMBRIDGE, 1862.)

### PART I.—PRELIMINARY.

Every Student will be required to satisfy the Examiners in—

1. Reading aloud a passage from some standard English prose author.
2. Writing from dictation.
3. The Rudiments of English Grammar, including the analysis of sentences.
4. The first four rules of Arithmetic, simple and compound, Vulgar Fractions, Practice, and the Rule of Three.
5. Geography: every Student will be required to answer questions on the subject, and to fill up an outline map by inserting the chief ranges of mountains, the chief towns, and the chief rivers of one of the countries in the following list—England, Scotland, Ireland, France, Europe, and North America.
6. The outlines of the History of England since the Conquest; that is, the succession of sovereigns, and the chief events in each reign.

The Oxford Examiners require also a short English composition, and in Arithmetic, only Numeration and the first four rules, simple and compound.

Parts II., III., and IV., embrace, for both Universities, Religious Knowledge, Latin, Greek, French, German, Mathematics, Mechanics, Chemistry, Drawing, Music. For Cambridge, there are also separate sections for English, and for Botany and Zoology. No candidate is examined in more

\* First Annual Report of the Delegacy rendered to Convocation, Dec. 31, 1858.

than two-thirds of the subjects given, and the candidate is allowed the choice of any two of the first eight sections: *e.g.* a Junior Student, having passed the Preliminary Examination, and in addition, shown a fair knowledge of English and French, or of English and German, or Chemistry, &c., is entitled to a Certificate, specifying the subjects in which he satisfied the Examiners, and the Class in which his name is placed.

## EXAMINATION OF SENIOR CANDIDATES. (CAMBRIDGE, 1862.)

### PART I.—PRELIMINARY.

Every Student will be required to satisfy the Examiners in—

1. Reading aloud a passage from some standard English poet.
2. Rudiments of English Grammar, including the analysis of sentences.
3. Writing a short English composition.
4. The principles and practice of Arithmetic.
5. Geography: every Student will be required to answer questions on the subject, and to fill up an outline map of some country in Europe, showing the boundary lines, the chief ranges of mountains, the chief rivers, and the chief towns.
6. The outlines of the History of England; that is, the succession of Sovereigns, the chief events, and some account of the leading men in each reign.

### PART II.

The Examination will comprise the subjects mentioned in the following nine sections; and every Student will be required to satisfy the Examiners in three at least of the Sections marked A, B, C, D, E, F, G; or in two of them, and in one of the Sections marked H, I; but no one will be examined in more than five of the Sections marked A, B, C, D, E, F, G. Section A must be taken by every Student, unless his parents or guardians object to his examination in that Section.

Section A. Religious Knowledge.

„ B. 1. English History. 2. Shakspeare's Julius Cæsar. 3. Political Economy. 4. Geography.

„ C. 1. Latin. 2. Greek.

„ D. 1. French. 2. German.

„ E. Mathematics.

„ F. Chemistry, including Heat, Electricity, and Magnetism.

„ G. 1. Zoology and the Elements of Animal Physiology. 2. Botany and the Elements of Vegetable Physiology. 3. Geology, including Physical Geography.

„ H. 1. Drawing from the Flat, from Models, and in Perspective. 2. Imitative Colouring.

„ I. Music.

A fair knowledge of one division in Sections B, C, D, F, and G, will enable a Student to pass in that Section.

The quality of the handwriting and the spelling is taken into account throughout the Examinations.

Every successful candidate receives a Certificate, specifying the subjects in which he satisfied the Examiner, and the Division or Class in which his name is placed.

The Oxford Examination of Senior Candidates is divided into three parts, I. Preliminary Subjects. II. The Rudiments of Faith and Religion. III. Optional Subjects.

### I. PRELIMINARY SUBJECTS.

Every Candidate will be required to satisfy the Examiners in—

1. English Grammar, including analysis of sentences.
2. A short English composition.

## 3. Arithmetic.

4. Geography: every candidate will be required to fill up an outline map of some British Colony, to be named by the Examiners, by inserting the chief ranges of mountains, the chief rivers, and the chief towns. Questions will also be set in Geography.

5. The outlines of English History, including the succession of Sovereigns, the chief events, and the characters of the leading men in each reign.

N.B.—The quality of the handwriting, and the spelling, in the several Exercises will be taken into account.

## II. THE RUDIMENTS OF FAITH AND RELIGION.

Questions will be set in—

1. The Historical Scriptures of the Old Testament to the death of Solomon, the Gospels of St. Matthew and St. John, and the Acts of the Apostles.

2. The Catechism, the Morning and Evening Services, and the Litany; and the outlines of the History of the Book of Common Prayer.

## III. OPTIONAL SUBJECTS.

Every Candidate will be required to satisfy the Examiners in two of the Sections marked A, B, C, D.

## SECTION A.—ENGLISH.

This will include questions in—

1. English History from the Roman Conquest to the accession of Edward IV., and the outlines of the History of English Literature from Chaucer to Spenser inclusive.

2. Shakspeare's Macbeth, and Bacon's Advancement of Learning.

3. The outlines of Political Economy and English Law. The Examination will not extend beyond the subjects treated of in the first book of Smith's Wealth of Nations, and in the "Rights of Persons" in Blackstone's Commentaries.

4. Physical, Political, and Commercial Geography.

No Candidate will pass in this Section who does not show a fair knowledge of one of these four classes of subjects.

## SECTION B.—LANGUAGES.

## I. LATIN.

## II. GREEK.

## III. FRENCH.

## IV. GERMAN.

No Candidate will pass in this Section who does not show a fair knowledge of one of these languages.

## SECTION C.—MATHEMATICS.

1. Pure Mathematics to Differential Calculus inclusive.

2. Mechanics (including Mechanism) and Hydrostatics.

No Candidate will pass in this Section who does not show a fair knowledge of Four Books of Euclid, and of Algebra to the end of Quadratic Equations. The answers should be illustrated by diagrams and drawings, where these can be introduced. Great importance will be attached to good drawing.

## SECTION D.—PHYSICS.

1. Electricity, Magnetism, Light and Heat.

2. Chemistry. Questions will be set on the facts and general principles of Chemical Science.

There will be a practical Examination in the elements of Analysis.

3. Vegetable and Animal Physiology. Questions will be set on Physiology in general, and on the special functions of the parts of Plants and Animals. Parts of Plants and Animals will be given for description.

4. Geology and Mineralogy.

No Candidate will pass in this Section who does not show a fair knowledge of one of these four classes of subjects. In all cases a practical acquaintance with the subject matter will be indispensable. The answers should be



illustrated by diagrams and drawings, where these can be introduced. Great importance will be attached to good drawing. Candidates may also offer themselves for examination in Drawing and in Music.

#### SECTION E.—DRAWING.

1. Drawing in outline from a cast or model and also drawing with light and shade from the same.
2. Drawing in perspective.
3. Drawing in colour from a natural object.
4. Design for an ornament or pattern ; *or*, for a picture.
5. Questions founded on Wornum's Epochs of Painting, Books I., II., III., IV., V.

#### SECTION F.—MUSIC.

The Grammar of Music, and the History and Principles of Musical Composition.

It will thus be seen that a senior candidate, showing a fair knowledge of English History and Literature, and French or German, or of French, and of Vegetable and Animal Physiology, and so forth, is entitled to a Certificate.

The Examinations occupy about six days; the hours, taken from the Cambridge time-table, being from 9 till 12.30, and from 2 till 6. These hours embrace all the subjects of examination. No individual candidate is at work during the whole time.

Among the Directions to Candidates we find the following caution.

“Any candidate detected in helping another, or asking another to help him in his paper, or bringing with him a book or written paper to assist him, will be turned out of the examination room. No communication whatever between candidates under examination will be allowed.”

The Local Committees are recommended to provide a room near at hand, in which the Examiner may hear each candidate read separately.

The Oxford Examination is usually held in June, the Cambridge in December. The Oxford Fee is, for Junior Students, 15s.; for Seniors, 30s. The Cambridge Fee is £1 for every Student.

Examinations are held in every town where there is a sufficient number of candidates.

A careful study of the foregoing statement will give, it is believed, a tolerably fair and complete idea of what these examinations are. Those who desire fuller information are referred to the Regulations of each University and to the Examination papers of the past years.\* The latter, especially, will repay an attentive perusal. The high character of the University Examiners might indeed have been deemed in itself a sufficient guarantee for the quality of the Examinations, but the questions themselves are a stronger testimony; their simple, elementary, and at the same time searching character, supplies the most convincing answer to any charges that might be brought against these Examinations as

\* The Oxford Examination Papers may be obtained from Parker, 377, Strand: the Cambridge, from Rivington, 3, Waterloo Place, Pall Mall.

tending to encourage a mere superficial acquirement of barren knowledge. These questions test the thoughtfulness of the student as much as his general acquaintance with facts, and could not be answered satisfactorily by the pupils of careless or ignorant teachers.

Much interesting information may be gathered from the annual Reports of the Oxford Delegacy, and the Cambridge Syndicate. As these reports may not be accessible to many of our readers, we give some extracts. The following remarks are taken from the First Annual Report of the Oxford Delegacy.

“The results of this first experiment have taken many people by surprise. Surprise has been expressed at the number of candidates, at the great variety of schools from which they come, and above all, at the very great number of failures.

“The Delegates certainly did not expect so many candidates on this occasion, nor had they been led to do so by those who had the best opportunities of knowing the schools. Indeed, there can be no doubt that many were sent in, rather to accustom them to a trial of this kind, than with the expectation of their passing. The Delegates, however, do not consider that the certificates should be looked on as prizes beyond the reach of all but the cleverest boys, and therefore rejoice, rather than regret, to see that many schoolmasters sent in not merely a few picked specimens, but all those among their pupils who were nearly of the age prescribed. The standard fixed was certainly not one attainable only by boys of superior intellect; and there can be no doubt that in a few years, when the whole scheme has become better understood, and an idea of what is required has become familiar in schools, the proportion of successful candidates will be much larger. It has been objected to the scheme that it would tempt schoolmasters to neglect their dull boys in order to push the more clever. Though the evil of this is often much exaggerated, (sometimes even so much so as to imply that a schoolmaster ought to keep down the clever to the level of the dull,) yet the danger is not altogether imaginary. And there was reason to fear, that, just at first, till the leniency of the standard adopted became known, it might be serious. It is a subject of satisfaction that even from the beginning there seems to have been little cause for apprehension on this account.

“That candidates should come from a great variety of schools was anticipated from the beginning. It was expected that the grammar schools would be ready to put themselves into relation with the University, and there was direct evidence that many commercial and private schools were eagerly desirous of some means of publicly proving to the world that they were not neglecting their duty.

“The great bulk of the failures was caused by inability to pass the Preliminary Examination. And it would be quite a mistake to conclude that none were fit to pass this examination, but those who actually did so. On the other hand, it must not be denied that this is the weak side of school-work; indeed, many very intelligent schoolmasters had previously spoken as if the chief benefit of the whole plan consisted in the aid that it would give them in their efforts to ground boys well in elementary knowledge before pushing them forward into higher subjects.

“In English composition, the great mass of the exercises were indifferent in every respect. Punctuation we found almost universally disregarded; there were numerous errors of grammar and orthography, and even those exercises which were free from such gross faults, were full of incorrect expressions, words used in wrong senses, or placed together in wrong combinations.

“The answers in analysis and English grammar were not creditable, and had to be judged with great leniency. It was evident that the principles of

grammar, as exhibited in the English language, are not made a matter of systematic study in our schools, the few candidates who knew anything of the subject having apparently acquired their knowledge through the medium of Latin. Hence while a good number of the candidates were able to cite correct definitions of abstract grammatical terms, and to trace English words to their foreign roots, they could neither parse with intelligence, nor analyse satisfactorily an ordinary sentence. . . . No one was rejected who could parse a few simple words, correct a few obvious faults of grammar, and conjugate an ordinary verb. . . .

“English history was, perhaps, the most unsatisfactory part of the Preliminary Examination. The programme issued by the Delegates pointed out very clearly the extent to which the examination would be carried, and it will be found, on looking at the paper of questions, that, with the exception of one or two—to which we shall advert hereafter—it was framed strictly in accordance with that programme. No candidates whose preparatory studies had been conducted on the basis therein laid down, ought to have failed to answer a few simple questions on the accession of English monarchs, or the lives of some of the most eminent of their countrymen. We were ‘satisfied’ with every one who could do this, and were prepared to assign a very high mark to any candidate who answered satisfactorily the elementary questions in the paper.

“But, in addition to these simple questions on the bare outlines of English history, we introduced one or two of wider bearing, with the view of seeing whether the candidates had extended their studies beyond the meagre ‘manuals,’ or ‘hand-books,’ too commonly employed in cramming for such examinations. We wished to discriminate between those candidates who had prepared on this false system, and those who professed, within certain narrow limits, a sound and real knowledge of the history of their own country; regard being especially had to the case of those young men who did not intend to present themselves for further examination in the English School.

“The introduction of these questions into the paper was an advantage to those candidates who could answer them, and no disadvantage to those who could not. We regretted to find, from the answers which we perused, that this subject does not receive as much attention as might be expected, either from its interesting nature, or from its paramount importance as a branch of national education.

“In the French, both senior and junior candidates were very deficient in the power of using the language with precision. Hardly any showed an acquaintance with ordinary idiomatic phrases. Still there was a good deal of French which, though indifferent, yet gave promise of better things, and in all probability a few years will see a considerable improvement in this respect. On the contrary, there was not much German that could be called fair, though a small proportion was almost as good as it was possible to expect. It would seem that the goodness of the French, so far as it was good, is due to regular teaching, the goodness of the German, to accidental advantages, such, for instance, as residence abroad.

“Physical science, and natural history, both among seniors and juniors, came next in order after languages. In this part of the work there was some good chemistry, but hardly anything else that could be called really good. Chemistry, in fact, seemed to be the only one of these subjects that was systematically taught anywhere; and even this not in many places, for several candidates brought up chemistry who had little right to offer themselves for examination in it. Natural philosophy stood on a decidedly lower level than chemistry. And in the different branches of natural history, the number of candidates was too small to justify any general conclusions. The papers in the whole of this department gave the impression of knowledge procured almost entirely from books, without sufficient use of apparatus. An accumulation of stray facts in the physical sciences will always make a great show, and consequently both learners and teachers are tempted to waste

time upon them. But for all purposes, whether of mental discipline or of life, such knowledge is as worthless, as a real acquaintance with these sciences is valuable. And the only certain means of securing that reality is to study the things which are the subjects of the sciences, and not merely the books about them. . . .

"If the examination be taken as a whole, and the peculiar circumstances attending a first experiment be fairly considered, there is certainly just ground for saying, that a good many of the candidates showed proofs of having been extremely well taught. The papers of the rest gave the impression of hard work, considerable intelligence, not much cultivation, and a singular want of purpose. There was often a tolerably wide range of information, and sometimes no small amount of original thought; but candidates who showed both these, frequently showed little power of putting their information together, and still less power of expressing it in clear language. There seemed to be, in many instances, all the materials of a good education, but not the form. There is reason to hope, that the attempt to prepare for definite examinations will gradually lead to improvement in this respect. The experience of a single year would hardly justify the Delegacy in suggesting correctives which the schoolmasters might advantageously adopt. The industry which the whole plainly proves is a foundation on which anything whatever may be safely built. But any improvement, to be sound, must be not only gradual, but thoroughly assimilated to what already exists. The probability is, that the schoolmasters will discover for themselves, year after year, what can be done in this direction, better than others can point it out to them. What is most wanted at present is close attention to the subjects included under the Preliminary Examination." \*

The First Report of the Cambridge Syndicate conveys more briefly a not dissimilar impression.

"In the preliminary portion of the Examination, the parts best done were reading, writing from dictation, geography, and also in the case of the seniors, English composition.

"In the arithmetic papers the questions which required for their solution simple applications of well-known rules were answered by those candidates who 'satisfied' the Examiners with fair average correctness. But wherever, as in a few cases, something more was required, as for instance, when the enunciation of a well-known rule was asked for, few succeeded in giving a clear statement of it. The Examiners wish to call attention to this, as it is clearly desirable that boys should be taught to describe distinctly the several steps in arithmetical operations. If junior students be not required to give the reason of the rules, they ought at least to be accustomed to associate their figures with words, and to point out how each step of their work is in obedience to the given rule. The Examiners desire also to call the attention of senior candidates to the requirement in the Regulations of the *principles* as well as the practice of arithmetic.

"In the English history the Examiners report, that the performance of the candidates was unsatisfactory, especially among the juniors. Of these forty-six failed to pass, but this number of failures does not measure the full extent of the general deficiency. The questions were of a very elementary character, and the candidates had received notice of the range of reading within which their knowledge would be tested. But their answers, even when accurate, showed a general uniformity of expression, which seemed to imply that meagre hand-books had been placed before the students to be 'got up,' and that little attempt had been made by their instructors to excite the interest of their pupils by questionings or remarks of their own. The answers of the senior candidates were on the average superior to those of the

\* First Annual Report of the Oxford Delegacy.

junior, though there were fewer cases in proportion to their numbers of decidedly high merit.

"The English section seems to have been frequently taken in by students who relied on their general knowledge, or their preparation for the preliminary portion of the examination, and had not given any especial study to the subjects comprised in it. The English composition was not deficient in spirit, and was more correctly expressed than might have been expected: there was much fluency but not much thought. About one-fifth might be called fairly good, and about two-fifths very poor. Not more than 18 per cent. got a bad mark for spelling. The geography was better done by the juniors than by the seniors. The physical and mathematical geography was better than the commercial; but the map-drawing for the most part was very poor. It is not necessary to dwell on the English history, as the remarks made upon the candidates' answers on this subject in the preliminary part of the examination apply quite as truly to the answers given to the more advanced papers. And here at least more might have been expected. English history contains much that boys may learn and appreciate beyond the dates and names of the principal events and persons, and much that they will find full of interest, if they have some guidance from a teacher. And it is this guidance of which the papers betrayed the greatest want. Out of 248 juniors and 64 seniors about six of each class answered really well: less than a third answered fairly.

"The general tone of the Examiners' Report may perhaps to some seem somewhat unfavourable to the performances of the candidates, but it must be remembered that the greater number of the candidates were under sixteen years of age, unused probably to written examinations, and now exposed to the ordeal of a new examination, whose requirements they could not as yet fully understand. There is much to encourage both teachers and pupils in the experience of even this first examination by the University under a new system, and we believe that, with the stimulus of open competition, and the standard of regularly recognised examination, carefulness and ability will receive clearer direction and more open reward."

In the Second Annual Report some improvements are noted.

"In the English Section the Examiners report that, while the geography was not as good as might have been expected, the papers on history were answered really well by a considerable number of the candidates, their answers showing care and thoughtfulness. The paper on Trench's 'Study of Words' was fairly done by many: the facts being often accurately stated, although great helplessness was shown in reproducing the thoughts. The English composition (of the juniors) was on the whole better than last year, only 30 out of 388 papers being decidedly worthless. But very few, not more than half a dozen, of the exercises were really good; their deficiency was not however in fluency, but in thought and arrangement. The paper on Shakspeare was badly answered.

"The Examiner of the junior papers in English history and composition (Mr. Norris, one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools) considers that the work was about on a level with that of pupil teachers of the same age, that is, in their second and third years, the pupil teachers however showing more accuracy and less fluency and spirit.

"In French the seniors appear to have prepared their work with great care, but the translations from English into French showed much want of grammatical knowledge. In this respect the work of the juniors was decidedly better than last year. The translations by both classes from French passages which they had not prepared will admit of considerable improvement; and but little attention, except in a few cases, has been given to the historical parts.

"In German somewhat more than one-fourth both of the junior and senior candidates passed a creditable examination. Of the seniors, not more than one; of the juniors about one-third made a decided failure. The translations



from English into German were the parts worse done. Only one out of the whole number of candidates distinguished himself in this part.

In the Fourth Annual Report it is remarked that “not only is the proportion of failures on the whole less than in former years, but in the preliminary subjects, as far as the juniors are concerned, the proportion is very considerably less. The numbers are no doubt affected by the alteration introduced in 1861, by which a junior candidate can obtain a certificate if he pass in two sections (instead of three as heretofore) besides the preliminary subjects. Although only five had entered their names for the minimum, forty in all passed under the new rule who would have been rejected if the old rule had been still enforced. Account is taken of this in the Tables, and it will be seen that the statement above made as to the failures is true notwithstanding.”

“In the history of England a decided improvement had been noticed in 1860, and in 1861 the Examiners report very favourably of the work of the seniors, but the juniors’ answers were often childish. Among the seniors they report that several gave fairly good accounts of the works of Milton, Pope, Swift, and Johnson. The answers on Shakspeare’s Henry VIII. were poor. One-third were quite worthless, and not more than half a dozen in all could be called good. It was in the construing of particular passages that they mostly failed, nor do they report favourably of the writing, spelling, or punctuation.

“In French the report of the Examiners does not differ materially from that of last year. They think that there has been a further improvement in grammar, but not much in composition.

“In German the Examiner notes a considerable increase in the number of candidates; and among the seniors, a decided improvement in the performances as compared with those of 1860. . . .

“In natural history the Examiner reports that the number of candidates was very small. The answers in general were loose and imperfect, and seemed to point to insufficient instruction. There were however some exceptions. . . .

“In music the Examiner considers the answers *far below the mark*, and inferior to those of last year. He observes that the candidates seem to pay little attention to the regulations, and are for the most part entirely unprepared for the required standard. In 1860, three candidates distinguished themselves in this subject, but in 1861 there was nothing approaching to distinction, although the papers were easier.”

A wish has long been felt that the manifest advantage of these examinations should be extended to girls’ schools, in which some such test is much needed, and we understand that it is now in contemplation to make a formal application on the subject to the University authorities. There is much to be said in favour of such an application. The character of the examinations marks them out as eminently suitable for girls, especially in this respect, that from the choice of subjects allowed, it would be quite possible for the heads of girls’ schools to prepare candidates without making any change in the ordinary curriculum of female education, while, at the same time, girls who may have shown any special taste for less usual subjects of study would have an opportunity of putting the soundness of their knowledge to a fair test.



The Preliminary Examination appears to us especially valuable. Many of the remarks made by the Examiners on the deficiencies of boys apply with painful force, not only to girls, but even to women who call themselves educated. To be capable of keeping accounts in an orderly manner is a thing so uncommon as scarcely to be expected of an ordinary young woman; and to write a plain, clear, sensible, business letter, is a rare accomplishment. It can scarcely be doubted that to direct the attention of girls to these commonplace subjects, and to make them see that they are not considered beneath the notice of highly educated men, would gradually work a considerable improvement in female education. To read aloud intelligently, to write a good hand, to spell correctly, to explain the working of sums, to know something of the history of our own country, and something of the geography of one quarter of the globe, would be generally acknowledged as desirable elements in a girl's education, but it is evident, by results, that hitherto these essentials have not been sufficiently cultivated. The encouragement given to the study of botany, physiology and chemistry, not as mere barren statements of facts, but involving careful observation and examination of familiar objects, may be pointed out as another valuable feature. The desirableness of leading girls to strive after proficiency in some *one* language, or *one* science, instead of aiming, as they commonly do, at a meagre and superficial knowledge of a great many things, must be sufficiently apparent.

The experience of the Society of Arts abundantly proves that, under judicious regulations, the simultaneous examination of male and female students may be conducted without the slightest risk of unpleasantness. In May, 1862, a considerable number of ladies passed the examinations of the Society of Arts, and the unanimous testimony of ten Local Secretaries of Institutions is to the effect that the admixture of candidates occasioned no inconvenience whatever. Some doubts have been expressed as to the working of such a system of examinations as regards health. It has been feared that by the application of too strong a stimulus, girls might be induced to overwork themselves, and so injure their health. Other advantages would indeed be dearly purchased at such a price, but it should be remembered that this objection, if valid at all, applies to every kind of stimulus. There are very few schools in which *some* system of examinations and prizes does not already exist, and these are found to act as a spur, more or less powerful. We say nothing here of the far stronger incentive to be found in the approbation of friends and relations, liberally bestowed, as the prize of the successful cultivation of those accomplishments which admit of display. Girls are not without stimulus of some sort, though it is not always of the best kind; the desideratum is that their efforts should be guided in the right direction. If the stimulus should at any time appear to be working too strongly, the remedy (which lies in the hands of parents and teachers) consists, not in the

withdrawal of all external encouragements to diligence, but in the exercise, where needed, of judicious restraint.

The advantages of these examinations may be summed up briefly as threefold, applying, 1st, to the students; 2nd, to their parents; and 3rd, to teachers. To young female students it must clearly be no small gain to have their knowledge tested in those elementary but most important subjects, which they are so strongly tempted to neglect, and which can only be known thoroughly by steady application. Besides this advantage, the successful candidates will be in possession of a certificate which may be of great practical value in after life. The want of some such certificate of recognised weight is strongly felt by governesses, and perhaps not less so by young persons of the middle class who are desirous of employment as clerks and book-keepers. That employers should have doubts as to the business capacity of women generally, is not to be wondered at, and a young person who has no certificate of competency to offer beyond her own assertion, or that of her friends, is placed in a very unpleasant position. To parents, these tests would furnish an evidence, not only of the diligence of children, but of the qualifications of the teacher. And lastly, to teachers they would be especially valuable as affording to the public some means of discriminating between good and bad schools. As matters at present stand, a zealous, conscientious, well-qualified teacher, is on a level with the careless and ignorant. Parents have seldom the time or the inclination, if they have the ability, to examine their own children, and puffing, with apparent cheapness, often carry the day. We say *apparent*, because a bad education is dear at any price. It cannot be doubted that the heads of girls' schools, who are on the same footing as the masters of commercial and private schools for boys, are like them, "eagerly desirous of some means of publicly proving to the world that they are not neglecting their duty." To them also it would be a boon to have "a definite aim" set before themselves and their pupils, and to be supported by such high authority in resisting the pressure of parents and scholars, by which they are "tempted to push their pupils on too fast, and to make a show of special knowledge without any solid information underneath it."

To earnest and conscientious teachers we would especially commend this matter, and not less to the parents of daughters, by whom, assuredly, any movement having for its object the improvement of female education ought not to be regarded with indifference. Communications on the subject may be addressed to the Office of this JOURNAL.

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## XXXVII.—NOTICES OF BOOKS.

*Memoir of George Wilson, M.D., F.R.S.E., Regius Professor of Technology in the University of Edinburgh, and Director of the Industrial Museum of Scotland.* By his Sister, Jessie Aitken Wilson. Edinburgh: Edmonston and Douglas. 1860.

THOUGH the life of George Wilson has now been before the public for nearly two years, we feel but little need of apology for bringing it even thus late specially before our readers. Those who are already familiar with it, will be glad to see it presented to others, who, in the contemplation of his richly endowed and varied character, may not only find interest, personal, social, and scientific, but may also receive from it some reflection of his endurance and courage.

He was one of twins, born on the 21st February, 1818. His childhood was clouded by the death of four of the circle of brothers and sisters. "I saw," he wrote in the last year of his life, "in early childhood or boyhood, so many little brothers and sisters die, that the darkness of those scenes and the anguish of my father and mother made an indelible impression upon me." Yet let it not be supposed that his was a gloomy childhood. Far otherwise; his keen susceptibilities were open to joy as fully as to sorrow. "His active, healthy frame, in boyish pursuits and games with his brother, made life itself a pleasure; warm affections bound him closely to each one in the home circle; his mother's face was in his eyes the most sweet and beautiful the earth contained, and the peculiar love of twins for each other was felt by him in all its force." To this has been attributed "something of that wonderful power of attaching himself and being personally loved, which was one of his strongest, as it was one of his most winning powers." His mother is "regarded by all who knew her as a woman of rare natural gifts, who zealously fostered in her children the love of knowledge which they inherited—she verifies what is so often and so truly said of the mothers of remarkable men."

When George was nine years old, four orphaned cousins were added to the family, and grew up with them henceforth as brothers and sisters. Two of these, Catherine and James Russell, will be seen to be among George's greatest friends through life. A year later we find the boys (Daniel, two years older than the twins, apparently taking the lead) forming a Juvenile Society for the Advancement of Knowledge, which met weekly at their house, where the boys' room formed the museum. The proceedings of the Society were recorded in a weekly journal of antiquities, natural history, mechanics, and astronomy, edited by Daniel Wilson. Papers were read by the members in rotation, and questions previously started were debated. Specimens are given of these, *e.g.*, "Whether the 'whale or the herring afforded the more useful and profitable employment to mankind?" "Whether the camel was

more useful to the Arab or the reindeer to the Laplander?" George's letters at this time are full of amusing boy's gossip; in one he has seen the marvel "of a heifer with two heads, one the shape of a bull's, the other of a cow's. The cow's head was liveliest, but it could eat hay with both mouths. I have *read* of a sheep with two heads, and indeed Mr. A. Maclagan saw it at Ayr."

Again, at twelve years old he writes to Mr. Dick, a mechanical friend, "The society has recommenced, and we have very warm debates on various subjects. A communication of any kind from you would greatly enrich the journal. If you would send us an account of the power you saved in a threshing mill!" In 1832 he left school, and made choice of the medical profession. "Whether even then he contemplated engaging in practice is very doubtful, but the curriculum of study it insured seemed attainable in no other way." As a first step, he was apprenticed in the Laboratory of the Royal Infirmary for four years, a step which he ever after regretted, as having brought him into contact with evil and profanity altogether new and hateful to him. Besides the laboratory work, the regular student-life now begins, "which his long hours of work made so burdensome, for not till nine each evening was he free to study." In November, 1833, under the guidance of Professor Hope, he entered upon the systematic study of chemistry, which thenceforth remained his favourite science. "The session of the next year, besides the continued study of anatomy, brought surgery and *materia medica* into the field." His letters and journals during this student time are full of interest, both for the insight they give into his character, and also as showing how such a mind grapples with physical and metaphysical problems on the very threshold of science. About this time his first great personal loss came to him in the death of his twin brother John. "No record of George's sorrow at this mournful separation exists, it was a grief too deep for much expression." He seems about this time to have thought his own life precarious. "I don't think I will live long; my mind must and will work itself out, and the body will soon follow it. But God has ordained for the best, and I have great reason to be thankful." From this time forward we find music his greatest pleasure, chemistry his most delightful work: he says, "I know this, that I cannot by any word I could learn from others, or by any one of my own coining, or by any form or number of words, tell of the passionate love of music I have." And again, "I am over head and ears in love, and the object of my attachment so thoroughly engrosses my thoughts, that I have scarce a speculation to give to anything else. If you wish to see the birth, descent, and fortunes of the family, I would refer you, not to 'Burke's Peerage,' but to the *Encyclopædia*, where, under the article 'Science,' you will find a minute history of all the family; and if you ask me

which of the daughters has awakened in me such admiration? I reply, the 'Right Noble the Science of Chemistry,' who, in my eyes, is by far the most attractive and interesting of the family. In case a kindly feeling to the writer should incline you to know more of this noble house, and its collateral branches, I would refer you to a work written by a lady deeply versed in this branch of heraldry, Mrs. Somerville's 'Connexion of the Physical Sciences.' "

The following remarks on female education occur in his diary in 1837, when he was nineteen years of age :—

"Although I do think that the *forte* of the female mind is moral greatness and purity, in which, in spite of the silly, base, groundless hints of libertines, they very far excel the rougher sex, and for the possession of which I venerate the sex in general and many individuals in particular, yet I meet with scarcely one lady in ten or fifty who has sufficiently cultivated her natural intellectual powers. Excuses and explanations may be given which I most willingly admit. Ladies moving in the highest and least embarrassed circles have so many domestic duties for papa, mamma, and old and young brothers and sisters, that they never can steal time enough to *study*. Some good ladies admit the intellectuality of their own sweet selves, but waive apologies for its non-advancement as absurd because unnecessary; while some of them, and these often the most intellectual and clever, disbelieve the excuses, because they deny the intellectual power. I know many young ladies who honestly and modestly shrink from the study of a science, which yet they confess to be inviting and interesting, which I am sure they could completely master. . . . I do not wish to see young ladies pedants, or to see one grain of their high-toned morality and purity lost to give way to literature or science; yet I believe they would add to their own happiness by affording the mind a more extensive and interesting circle of subjects for thought, did they study with some little care our *littérateurs* and scientific men. But mothers will keep their daughters scouring, and dusting, and sewing, and mending, and darning stocking-heels, to teach the 'five hundred points' of housewifery; and to that, every moment of time and study is given, because, forsooth, mamma read no books when a Miss (except stolen novels) but on a Sunday, and cannot see why the daughters should need what the mothers had not; and this absurd stocking-darning principle is pursued by women of strong, active, intellectual minds, of which mismanagement I have seen too many examples. But this winter shall see me do my utmost to suggest an improvement among my own circle." Following out this idea of amending the subjects of ladies' conversation and study, he assembled some of them at his father's house and delivered a course of lectures to them on chemistry; and later in life he "hopes not to lose the remembrance of my first audience, which was more kind, more generous, more forgiving towards me than any future audience ever can be."



The same feeling comes out in this letter to a young sister, then visiting Paisley. "Indeed you should let no opportunity slip of watching the ingenious mechanical contrivances which abound in a city like Paisley . . . for the observation of machinery in motion, the mental struggles before the mode of action is quite understood, the admiration of the ingenuity shown in devising beautiful contrivances to effect desired ends, and still more the endeavour to imitate such or similar mechanical adaptations, develops the imagination and the powers of reflection, it fosters and ripens ingenuity, and all the while exercises on the mind a silent but salutary dominion which quickens its most useful powers. Do then, my dear Jessie, try to fathom the mysteries of wheels, and cranks, and rods, and pinions, and try to acquaint yourself with the *object for which* the wheels move at all, and then the *means by which* the desired motion is effected."

Then, again, towards the close of his life, when as usual asking the good offices of his audience towards the Scottish Industrial Museum, he made a special appeal to intelligent women. "If from no other motive than this, that they may thereby contribute to increase the means of giving an industrial education to women of the poorer classes, and to multiply the vocations which may keep them from starvation, misery and crime."

But we must linger no longer on the early deeds, thoughts, and interests of George Wilson. We trust that all readers of this notice who have not already done so will shortly enjoy the narrative, so pleasantly given in his own letters, of his examinations for the several diplomas of Surgeon and Doctor of Medicine, of his journey to London to visit Daniel, of his work under Graham, interviews with and admiration for Faraday, of his estimation of London students as compared with those of Edinburgh, (which estimate, by the way, we are inclined to suspect was somewhat unfair, or at least made upon too narrow an experience,) of his return to Edinburgh, of the origin of the Brotherhood of the Triangle of Wine, Love and Learning, which reminds us almost of the Order of the Rose of "Westward Ho!" in the high chivalrous tone of its manifestoes and addresses, and, finally, of his continued devotion to the virgin Chemia, as his "only love and object of worship." In the words of his biographer, "with this glimpse of sunlight we close the chapter—having before us many days like those St. Paul speaks of, in which neither sun nor stars appeared."

At this time Dr. Cairns thus speaks of him. "Ardent in temperament, buoyant with youth, and elastic in body as in mind, with gay humour, keen repartee, flashing fancy, and profuse literary as well as scientific faculty under the presidency of a clear judgment and a strong will, he seemed formed to cut his way to the rapid eminence and brilliant success after which he panted. A totally different path was marked out for him, and in this contrast lies the moral interest and pathos of his life." Early in September, 1841,



he and James Russell started for a pedestrian tour, and the result of some unwonted exertion to George was a sprained ankle, which "might have yielded readily to simple appliances; but a dislike to give trouble, combined with a childlike forgetfulness of pain not immediately pressing, led to concealment. It was a cloud no bigger than a man's hand, yet it was to darken all his life. Passing over the same ground fifteen years later, he spoke almost shudderingly to a sister, of this walk and all it recalled to his mind. Three days later he went to Glasgow to attend the meeting of the British Association. A work of exertion and excitement caused further injury to health, and he returned home seriously ill."

It was while laid aside by this illness that his first course of lectures was arranged. He had received a license as a Lecturer on Chemistry from the Royal College of Surgeons, and for the field of teaching thus opened to him he was ever deeply grateful; as, nameless and with little influence, no other opening could have afforded similar advantages. He at once became a favourite lecturer. It was a delight to him to impart to others the knowledge he possessed, and by the wondrous law of sympathy this delight communicated itself to his audience. And even while with patient care unfolding the deeper laws of his favourite science, flashes of wit and fancy lighted up his subject. In 1844 Professor Forbes writes, "Wilson is one of the best lecturers I ever heard, reminding me more of the French school than our humdrum English, and is a man of high literary taste, and great general knowledge." Had his health and strength enabled him he would have been a most successful teacher, but general feeble health made his life of public teaching one long trial. How nobly, how sweetly, how cheerily he bore all those long baffling years; how his bright, active, ardent, unsparing soul lorded it over his frail body, making it do more than seemed possible, and as it were by sheer force of will ordering it to live longer than was in it to do, those who lived with him will not soon forget. It was a lesson of what true goodness, elevated and cheered by the highest of all motives, can make a man endure, achieve and enjoy.

About this time he writes to his cousin James, "It is a delicious feeling, that sober exultation which successful, pleasurable study brings; the exulting and abounding emotion with which some long and rugged hill of difficulty being at last clomb, we behold a Pisgah point from which a Canaan of promise can be seen. Such a feeling have I known; at present I creep along on a pair of crutches, literally a lame, blind man. Nevertheless you will be glad to hear I am mending, lame legs no lamer, much profitable and promising work chalked out for future performance; on the whole, quiet contentment, sometimes cheerfulness overflowing in its old channels." And to Daniel: "I have been working double tides all the week on the lectures I spoke of, and was fairly worn out with four hours' speaking per diem, not to mention preparation, &c.

But I knew the subject and had a sufficiency of experiments, which, as they say of fireworks, went off well. I was very stupid, bad headache, and no appetite, took no dinner for the three days, and had to lecture at the unpleasant hour of four P.M.; but that nature which has given horns to bulls, has given me a tongue which nothing but death will keep from wagging, and as I was alive, or semi-alive, wag it did and to some purpose."

A few weeks more and the struggle to keep at his post, in spite of physical suffering, was at an end. Let him tell his own tale. "You ask me to tell you about my lectures and pupils, and in return I have to reply that I am obliged to abandon both. My foot has daily been growing worse, and yesterday I was told by Syme that I must abandon all active exertion and prepare myself for the tender mercies of the surgeon. Accordingly I am returning the pupils their fees, and in ill-health and debt retire from the struggle. . . . Even had the doctors not insisted upon it I could not have carried on longer. I lectured standing on one foot, and had to use a crutch when I attempted locomotion unaided. Within the last week, however, the pain has greatly increased, has, indeed, become perfect torture. When not in motion, however, the pain lulls; perfect rest with surgical aid I hope will soon abate it and lead to amendment. . . . This much of peace of mind God has granted me, that I do not repine nor seek to contrast my own position with that of others, and I trust He will give me patience and courage to bear all that is sent me. I believe that, even for this world, all noble characters are perfected through suffering, and in this spirit I try to endure all things. But flesh is weak and I know this too well to vaunt anything at present." His brother Daniel at this time seems to have had, in some way, almost as hard a struggle as George, for the latter thus writes to him. "With all your sorrows I sympathize from my heart, I have learnt to do so through my own sufferings. I have lain awake, alone and in darkness, thinking the slightest aggravation must make my condition unbearable, and finding my only consolation in murmuring to myself the words patience, courage and submission. You have done the same, and God who has supported us through cruel trials will not desert us in our great need. Take comfort, my dear brother, we shall yet do well." His letters from Seafeld, where he was staying for sea-air, give hopes of improvement, and show some return to his old mirthfulness. "I can count some five cripples from my window, and propose, as soon as I can join, to suggest our having a race upon the sands. The prize to be a handsome pair of crutches, and each candidate to be at liberty to knock the stilts from under his neighbour if he can." But sea-side residence and other remedies were not to avail for a cure. On his return to town, amputation was recommended. He at once agreed to submit to the operation, but asked a week to prepare for it, feeling how probable it was that in his state the operation might end fatally. It was

during this week that a crisis in his inner life occurred, no less momentous in his own eyes and those of his biographer than that physical one to which he was approaching. Though we, perhaps, having looked at him with love and admiration, might hesitate in applying the word "conversion" to one whose purity, reverence and childlike trust in God had never seemed to be dimmed either by the joy of health or the weariness of pain and anxiety, we may yet gratefully believe that now, when "deep called upon deep," and all God's waves and billows had gone over him, a clearer and fuller light from the Father's love was sent to make the load endurable; and that what he had known and believed before, he was able to grasp now with a force of conviction and depth of repose not often attainable by those in health and ease and pleasant places.

He was still bright and still keenly alive to the interests of his ordinary life, and in the words of one who had a right to speak of the change, we may say, "He came forth with a spirit strengthened from Heaven to bear the lifelong burden of a feeble body, and to accept life on the most disadvantageous terms as a blessed and divine ministry. The inward man had gained infinitely more than the outward man had lost, and with all his originally noble qualities exalted, there was found a humility, a gentleness, a self-forgetfulness, a patience, and a dedication of life to all Christian ends and uses, which henceforth made every place and work sacred."

The operation was safely recovered from, and for a time all went well; hope was once more springing up in the hearts of those around him, when dark clouds again closed over him, beginning with the discovery of unmistakeable symptoms of pulmonary disease. Country air and rest during the summer so far recruited him that he was able to begin his lectures with the winter session. Besides his own classes, he contrived to give extra courses both to artisans and to ladies. For a time the disease seemed in abeyance, though frequent attacks of hæmoptysis reminded him how frail a tenure of life he held. The succeeding ten years from 1844 to 1854 were the most important part of his life, so far as his literary work is concerned.

His well known and valued researches upon colour blindness were made during this decade; in 1852 and 1853 alone, he carefully examined 1,154 persons with reference to this subject. His biographical sketches also are included in this time.

Of these, one of the most interesting to the scientific reader, is that upon the "Life and Discoveries of Dalton," which appeared in an early number of the *British Quarterly Review*, and in which the atomic theory of that "great lawgiver of quantitative chemistry," is expounded with singular clearness and precision. In 1851, his "Life of the Hon. Henry Cavendish" appeared, and greatly enhanced his reputation as a scientific writer and biographer. The book received a hearty welcome, and has thus been spoken of: "Admirable as a biography, full of life, of picturesque touches,

and of realization of the man and of his times; and moreover, thoroughly scientific, containing among other discussions, by far the best account of the great water controversy from the Cavendish point of view." He says of himself, "I read all biographies with intense interest. Even a man without a heart, like Cavendish, I think about, read about, and dream about, and picture to myself in all possible ways, till he grows into a living being beside me, and I put my feet into his shoes and become for the time Cavendish, and think as he thought, and do as he did. . . . Yet the book will be a very *dry* one, in spite of all the water in it."

The first public recognition of his worth as a teacher was given in 1855, when he received his appointment as Professor to the newly founded chair of Technology, (in the University of Edinburgh,) or, as he defines it, Science in its application to the Useful Arts. He entered into the duties of the office with all his own heartiness, and from that time to his death, to gain and give information on the subjects specially connected with "useful arts," from manufacturing Harlequin's coat and fireworks to examining dyeing and bleaching works, and to beg contributions for his "dear museum," were his most constant employments. In 1858 all other maladies were complicated by the appearance of a tendency to erysipelas, which necessitated even more care and seclusion than he had used before. Almost all literary work was done in bed, from which he frequently rose to go into his lecture room. Yet again he rallied, and was able not only to attend the Aberdeen meeting of the British Association, but also on the opening of the session to undertake to deliver Professor Kelland's lectures in addition to his own. One day in November, 1859, he mentions having been out at six o'clock in the morning about some friend's business, and having taken a worse cold than usual therefrom. "Often had the work been carried on with similar symptoms and with eager anticipation of the coming rest of Saturday and Sunday." This week, however, he resolved in spite of cold to give his class an extra lecture on the Friday, and to one about to remonstrate, he gave as a reason, (the force of which must be evident to every one,) "But they are not *up* in the atomic theory." The second lecture was given with great difficulty, and as soon as it was over he came home evidently even much more ill than was usual on Fridays. As rest did not restore him, Dr. Duncan was sent for the next day, and he announced that inflammation of the lungs and pleurisy were present. He at once felt that the supreme moment he had so long expected was at hand. We will leave the reader to see from the memoir how the quiet calm of the last two days accorded with all else recorded of him, and how the love which had been gradually growing up round him among his pupils and friends found utterance after his death. To us who knew him not, the life is more valuable and stirring than these records of affection. To all those who read it, mourning or fainting under kindred burdens, it must surely come with an

inspiring cry of hope and victory. And to some who perhaps need their lesson more, to those to whom all work is delight, all pain and weariness of heart and head almost unknown, the picture of this brave, heroic man, brings an almost crushing sense of the poorness of their offerings and work compared with the worth of those which are won in the face of obstacles as great as those with which George Wilson had to contend.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH.

THE list of new books is very scanty, but the deficiency is made up for by the large number announced as shortly to appear, among which tales of English life occupy a considerable place. Foreigners who may be desirous of making themselves acquainted with our domestic institutions have now great facilities for so doing.

Miss Maling\* writes on her favourite subjects with a degree of enthusiasm which will scarcely be reached by the majority of her readers. The remark that "many people would feel quite lost without the occupation of watching their little nursery," seems to imply that "many people" must be very much at leisure, and very incapable of taking an interest in what is going on around them. Probably, however, Miss Maling, who appears to be herself an invalid, is thinking of the sick, to whom the light labour of tending flowers is often a welcome solace in the long hours of weakness and weariness. It is to be regretted that busy people do not also spare a little time for attention to flowers. When we picture what London and other towns might be, if every house in every street had its window garden, it really seems to become part of our duty to our neighbours to contribute our quota to the floral display. Plants on balconies and window-sills do not exclude light and air to any considerable extent, as window plants *inside* are apt to do, and they brighten the house both inside and outside. Miss Maling mentions a considerable number of plants suitable for window gardens, and we should be glad to see a greater variety. Visitors to London this year must have been struck with the endless repetition of the scarlet geranium, blue lobelia, and yellow calceolaria, with the nasturtium and canariensis doing duty everywhere as creepers. Nothing certainly could be more gay than this brilliant combination of colours, but a little variety is pleasant, and *if* anything else will grow in London (about which strangers must feel doubtful) one would like to see it.

"Birds and Flowers," prettily bound in green and gold, with an amusing flowery frontispiece, and written in an easy, simple style throughout, is likely to be an acceptable gift to children. A sensible child will like it all the better for the little bits of instruc-

\* Flowers for Window Gardens, in Town or Country; What to Grow, and How. Birds and Flowers; or, The Children's Guide to Gardening and Bird-keeping. Emily Faithfull.



tion woven in, by which the mysterious processes of gardening are made reasonable and intelligible.

An authorised translation of "Les Misérables"\* now brings it within reach of English readers.

The first volume of the Census Returns for England is just issued. Tables giving fuller information as to age, occupations, &c., will appear hereafter.

### XXXVIII.—OPEN COUNCIL.

(As these pages are intended for general discussion, the Editors do not hold themselves responsible for the opinions expressed.)

*To the Editors of the English Woman's Journal.*

LADIES,

I was much interested in a letter by "A Teacher," in your number for August, in which the writer proposes the establishing a Provident Society for Governesses. Will you allow me to ask whether, if such a society is being formed, or in the event of its being organized, it would not be possible to extend the good work further, and arrange it in such a manner, that not only governesses, but other young women who may be in a position to abide by the rules of such society may join it also and share its benefits. I feel sure that there are a great many respectable young women employed in business of various descriptions who would be willing to join it, to whom as well as to governesses such a society would be invaluable. In the event of this suggestion meeting your approbation, I should feel great pleasure in making the society known and in helping to obtain members.

Your obedient servant,

PATIENCE.

*To the Editors of the English Woman's Journal.*

THE X. Y. Z. FUND.

LADIES,

Nearly three years ago a Fund was organized to assist aged and destitute governesses by means of annuities of £25, which were to be raised through the five-shilling subscriptions of those of their own class who are in the present enjoyment of health and competence, as also through the efforts of the many friends interested in their welfare, their employers or former pupils. This Fund is not nearly so well known as it deserves to be, and I feel that I shall only be doing a kindness to young governesses in directing their attention to it now.

It was set on foot by a lady who was painfully struck by the disproportion of the means at the disposal of the Governesses' Benevolent Institution, and the immense number of applications for relief which are incessantly presented to the Committee of the Society. After much anxious consideration, she adopted this expedient for alleviating the destitution in some degree, and appealed to governesses themselves to aid her in carrying on the work.

The scheme of the X. Y. Z. Fund is very simple. The annual subscrip-

\* Les Misérables, by Victor Hugo. The authorised copyright English translation. Hurst & Blackett.



tion demanded is five shillings for not less than ten years, every governess being eligible, if, on attaining the age of fifty, her income from other sources does not exceed £30.

There is no ballot and the candidates will receive the annuities according to the date of their subscriptions, as fast as the funds will allow. If all governesses and their employers were to become subscribers, the society would be enabled to provide eight extra annuities yearly, in ten years eighty, in twenty years one hundred and sixty.

The feasibility and usefulness of this plan must surely be apparent to every one. The sum demanded is a mere trifle, and would scarcely be missed from the salary of even a poorly paid governess. A very little economy will easily enable her to afford it, whilst the good result that, it is to be hoped, will accrue from her doing so, may be a cause for lifelong thankfulness and self-gratulation. If we think of the harrowing details of destitution and sorrow which the Reports of the Governesses' Benevolent Institution yearly lay before us, making our very hearts shrink within us at the thought that there can be such hard lines in this fair-seeming world, if we recal the hospitals, asylums, even prisons and reformatories, which class *governesses* in their statistics, we may perhaps form a faint estimate of the years of bodily and mental toil, of want and temptation, which have brought well-educated, often delicately nurtured, English women to such a pass, and we may be led to take thought how the class may be rescued now, how it may be shielded in the future—how, better than vague promises from foreign and uncertain quarters, the efforts of governesses themselves may be brought to bear on the emergency.

Some governesses may and do save, but the majority will not and cannot. Human nature has the same universal type; in every class there are some thoughtless members, some that are extravagant, some speculative, some reckless. Many have heavy family claims, an infirm father, or sick mother, brothers and sisters, nephews or nieces. A woman is rarely sent out to earn her bread, even in teaching, so long as there is a strong right hand to furnish the home table. But when this fails, almost as certainly as she has to work for herself she will have to work for some one weaker still, for the worn out frame of an aged relative, or it may be for the helplessness of a little child. She will be the strong one then, "the woman who works for the bread," and she will have to do her best. How often she does so, the Reports of the Governesses' Benevolent Institution eloquently prove. Cases upon cases of the most heartrending destitution crowd the pages of these. One life-story is more harrowing than another, but each speaks of the noble self-sacrifice and unexampled generosity which have characterised these tried lives. In reading the Reports one may at least feel that, thanks be to God, good and noble impulses are astir in the world, and that there is a vast amount of Christian heroism in lowly homes. It would seem to be an every-day thing for women to uphold those near and dear to them by their toil, to support parents, and brothers, and sisters, to forget themselves and risk their future in order to bring present relief to the needy, ay, and when they have done all this to be unconscious that there has been anything admirable in their conduct, to say that they have merely done their duty! Well, a conscientiously performed duty is attributable to the grace of God alone!—poor human nature unassisted could never accomplish anything of the kind, so we may thank *Him* for this strength which is made perfect in weakness!

It is undoubtedly our duty, as it might reasonably be expected to prove our pleasure, to help such women as these, and we do well in considering how we can do so most efficiently and wisely. The Governesses' Benevolent Institution does a good and holy work: it is a well organized Society and has been in existence since 1841, affording, as the Reports testify, most valuable relief to the distressed.

And yet not nearly all is done that needs to be done. Twice a year an election occurs for the vacant annuities, some four or five in number, and

the average of applicants on each occasion is 150,—145 or 146 disappointed and almost hopeless women have invariably to be turned away.

I hope I may have succeeded in proving that this Fund has indeed been originated by the charity which is also Christian love—a charity which seeks to alleviate sorrow tenderly, efficiently, judiciously. Its aim is to increase the means of usefulness of an institution which has already proved itself one of our country's blessings; its object is to benefit a class who have a large and legitimate claim on the sympathy and affection of every educated English woman.

The fund is designed solely for governesses, and we appeal to governesses for its support. It is *their* fund; it ought to be a self-supporting scheme, and it will be so, if governesses only take it in hand as they ought to do.

Subscriptions or donations on behalf of the X. Y. Z. Fund are received by C. Klugh, Esq., 32, Sackville Street, who will kindly furnish any further particulars that may be desired.

Yours obediently, R. E.

## XXXIX.—PASSING EVENTS.

### PUBLIC AND POLITICAL.

THE King of Italy has signed a decree, granting an amnesty to all persons concerned in the acts and attempts which took place lately in the Southern provinces, with the exception of those who deserted from the Royal army.

A MARRIAGE has been solemnized between the King of Portugal and the Princess Maria Pia, daughter of the King of Italy.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN has issued a proclamation, declaring that after the 1st of January, 1863, all slaves in the rebel states shall be free.

THE constitutional struggle which has for some time been going on in Prussia, has reached a crisis, and the Parliamentary Session has been closed by Royal decree.

### LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

At the last meeting of the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society, a prize was given to a young lady aged fifteen, for a series of observations of the spots on the sun, which she made while walking to and from school during several months.

MISS GARRETT, of Aldeburgh, Suffolk, the lady who, in April, applied for admission to the Examinations of the London University, has lately passed the Preliminary Examination in Arts of the Apothecaries' Hall. This examination is open to all candidates, on payment of a fee of a guinea, and does not involve the pursuit of the medical course.

THE "Sisters of Charity tending a sick child," by Madame Henriette Brown, the picture now in the International Exhibition, and which on its original exhibition at the French Gallery, Pall Mall, made a sensation only second to Madame Rosa Bonheur's "Horse Fair," has been engraved in mezzotint, by Mr. T. O. Barlow, and just published by Messrs, Moore, M'Queen and Co., of Berners Street. The engraving is highly spoken of by the *Athenæum* and the *Illustrated News*.

THE Session 1862-63 of the Bedford College for Ladies was opened on Oct. 13th, with an interesting and instructive inaugural Lecture, by Dr. Kinkel, on Geography in connexion with female education.