

THE DOMAIN OF WOMAN

The death of Mr. Gladstone has removed one of Ireland's staunchest allies from the scene of political conflict. Though the aged statesman had for a long time taken no active part in the conduct of public affairs, his voice, always most potent for good and most persuasive, was heard from time to time amidst the din of contending factions, over raised on the side of right and justice, though not, perhaps, always as moderate in tone as the necessity of diplomacy demanded.

But, Mr. Gladstone was an intemperate of error and injustice as his great literary contemporary, Carlyle, and, like Carlyle, was loud in his denunciation of every species of obsequy and veneration. His thundering declamations against the "crowned assassin" of Turkey and the poltroonery of the weak-kneed European nations regarding the Armenian atrocities was literally almost the last roar of the old tiger, and will be handed down in history as an example of his characteristic hatred of tyranny and oppression.

But it may be open to question whether it would have been altogether to the advantage of England had Mr. Gladstone been in power during the sensational revolutions of Turkish cruelty. That he would have goaded the nation into the prosecution of a most disastrous war there is not the slightest doubt, and the possible result might have been the dismemberment, not only of the Turkish Empire but of Great Britain also. England would have been literally alone in contest against not Turkey only but united Europe, and she would not have had the sympathy and assistance of the United States, as she may possibly have in the future.

But whether Mr. Gladstone's vigorous championship of Armenia was entirely according to the rules of strict diplomacy or not, his powerful and courageous advocacy on behalf of a miserable and oppressed people did honor to the kindness of his nature and the warmth of his heart.

A few days ago the Toronto World had an editorial entitled "Is Euthanasia Justifiable?" Euthanasia, or in other words the administration of anesthetics, which, from their very potency, while relieving suffering are bound also to shorten life, is certainly justifiable upon the hypothesis that medical science has been revealed to man for the purpose of soothing pain and making death easier.

The prolonging of Gladstone's life for another two months would have served no purpose, and would probably have entailed a painful and costly effort upon the aged statesman and caused corresponding anguish to the friends and relations. Had there been any chance that Mr. Gladstone's life would be ultimately preserved for several months in the event of the disease being allowed to run its course, the chance should certainly have been taken, but the unanimous opinion of the doctors was that two months was the longest time Mr. Gladstone could possibly live.

"The hand that feeds the cradle robs the world." TALKS IN "THE A."

scientific facts and of putting their knowledge to the best use. But now, the modern woman has had to be contented with the back seat and a subordinate position for so many centuries, that she herself is sometimes almost inclined to doubt her own capacity.

It is often objected that the practice of medicine is not particularly a masculine pursuit; that it demands a certain quality of brain power which women do not, or are scarcely prone to possess. This is a grossly erroneous notion when one remembers the ability of women who always rank high in the professions, and who have held a position in which their talents could have full play.

Women are pushing men out of paying occupations and holding situations in stores and factories that ought to be occupied by men. Well, the question is: what are the women to do? A man dies, and leaves a widow and possibly three or four daughters. If there is a son also, he cannot reasonably be expected to maintain the support of his mother and the remote chance of their marrying soon.

There are some, in fact many young girls who are so sensitive that they can never get rid of the impression that domestic service is in some way degrading, and until some institution is established for the training of household assistants on the same way as nurses are trained in hospitals, and with a similar granting of diplomas and certificates of efficiency, the prejudice will never be entirely overcome.

The National Council of Women should take the matter up; it would be quite possible for them to establish a training home for— I would not say servants but—domestic assistants, who should be trained in the same way as nurses, and who would be useful in another sense. I hope none of my good friends the nurses will be offended at my remarks; because I have not the least intention of causing them to be able to ignore the respectable women who make up the contingent of "lady help."

I merely suggest that those girls whose education is superior, should be encouraged to enter the honorable profession of domestic assistants, by instruction that would confer a particular distinction and dignity, and thus single them out from the general run of incapable. I think some arrangement should be made whereby the domestic duties could be entrusted, or at least modified so considerably as to give the assistants more time to themselves than at present possible.

Very often the unfortunate servant has to work from 7 a. m. till nearly 11 at night, with no chance whatever of any relaxation such as a woman doing her own household work could obtain. This is altogether wrong; I will go further and say it is unnecessary. There should be regular intervals between duties, they should not be allowed to crowd one upon the other without cessation, as they usually do. "But servants have no method, no management," says one worried mistress, "they are so stupid that they do not know more work than there is any necessity for." Just so, that is the very reason why they require training; housework no more comes by intuition to everybody than nursing does, and yet most people seem to imagine that anybody can do housework with little or no instruction.

If the girl were properly trained at an institution, all this worry would be avoided, and she would probably be turned out a polished domestic, capable to handle a permanent character, not subject to the caprices of mistresses—and would be worth her weight in gold to many a wretched laborer.

The experiment is worth trying. I commend it to the National Council of Women. St. Michael's Hospital. During the past year great progress has been made in the various departments of St. Michael's Hospital. A new home for nurses has been procured on Victoria street at a cost of \$30,000. The building has been supplied with all the latest modern improvements, making it an ideal home for nurses.

A HOPELESS INVALID.

SUCH WAS THE CONDITION OF MISS RODD, OF BROOKLIN.

An Editor Relates the Story of Her Illness and How a Remarkable Change in Her Condition Was Brought About.

For some five years the editor of this journal has made weekly visits to Brooklin in search of news. One of his earliest recollections of the village was in noting that Miss Lovina Rodd was very ill. Miss Rodd was well known, and as week after week rolled round, it was natural to ask how she was getting on.

"So she was, but she had been improving so much lately that she was now getting on her feet and her suffering. None of the villagers anticipated any other ending. Our astonishment can better be imagined than described, therefore, when Mrs. Bert Wells called us concerning with "Well, she has gone on a visit to Columbus friends." "Why, I thought she was a confirmed invalid?" "So she was, but she had been improving so much lately that she was now getting on her feet and her suffering."

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