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The editor of THE CRITIC is responsible for the views expressed in Editorial Notes and Articles, and for such only; but the editor is not to be understood as endorsing the sentiments expressed in the articles contributed to this journal. Our readers are capable of approving or disapproving of any part of an article or contents of the paper; and after exercising due care as to what is to appear in our columns, we shall leave the rest to their intelligent judgment.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

FLEXUS FIBRA.—Those of us who are afflicted with sensitive feet will hear with delight of the coming shoe, which is to be made of the fibre of flax. The fibre when prepared has the same appearance as leather, and being of a more flexible nature is particularly yielding to the feet. The new material is also more open than leather, and the easy ventilation prevents the common discomfort of "drawing" which is so often experienced.

THE HOME RULE QUESTION.—Mr. Gladstone has carried the famous Home Rule Bill through the House of Commons. So far he has triumphed, but the end is not yet, and the general impression is that the Premier's triumph is to be short-lived. The bill has been read once in the House of Lords, and this week the second reading has been commenced. It is confidently expected that the Lords will reject the bill in toto, and Mr. Gladstone's followers eagerly await his plans for the future of his proposed measure.

THE COMING OECOLOGISTS.—The servant girl problem has reached such a crisis in Massachusetts that a really sensible though high sounding movement has been made. Schools are to be established where cooking, washing, etc., are to be taught, and the new science of housekeeping is to styled oekology. Training schools of this description have long been needed, and it will be found that intelligent graduates from a course in oekology will do much to make the fast vanishing home-life enjoyable. Our good wishes are with the coming oekologists.

A SENSIBLE VIEW.—It seems to us that Miss Isabella Ford has struck the nail on the head in her recent lecture before the Humanitarian League at London. She states emphatically that the fact that there is need for rescue work among fallen women is not creditable to the philanthropic portion of humanity. The fallen class in every community is a constant source and cause of evil. Yet this class of women has not sprung up wilfully, rather they are the effects of a wide-spread evil. The root of the trouble is that it is impossible in many cases for an ignorant girl or woman to obtain honest employment at rates which will suffice to enable her to live a reputable life. In the large cities of the world and in manufacturing centres women are terribly underpaid, and as they must live they take to the streets. Strenuous efforts must be made by all right-minded men and women to enable working women to live in comfort, but rates, sweat work, and all such forms of robbery should be frowned down, and the efforts put forth to restore the fallen woman to her place in society should not prevent a vigorous movement being made to secure better wages for the worker who may thereby be saved from a life of crime.

ONE OF MANY.—At last the famous Goary Act has been enforced and one solitary Chinaman has been reshipped to the Celestial Regions. It has cost the Government of the United States \$35.00 to remove him, but the Government has shown its hitherto hidden power and demonstrated that at least one would-be settler has paid the penalty for his temerity. The actual facts concerning Chinese immigration cannot be wholly satisfactory, for thousands enter the country each week. It is no longer necessary for them to hoodwink the officials, for the strictest guardian of the law is averse to meddling in what may be a disagreeable business. The probabilities are that the repeal of "The Sherman Silver Act" will be followed closely by some fundamental changes in the Geary Chinese Act.

ELECTRIC POTATOES.—Horticulturists are now invited to make experiments in cultivating their crops by means of the application of electricity. This is by no means a new idea, for the first experiment is known to have been made over a century ago, and with the modern practical applications it is thought that great strides may be made. Potatoes have been grown at the famous Kew Gardens between buried plates of copper and zinc connected above ground by wires. The plates and the damp earth formed a complete earth battery and the electric current was most beneficial to the crop. Another device in vogue consists of placing metal lightning rods upright in the ground with the lower ends on a level with the seed sown. There seems to have been an electric discharge "of the negative electricity of the ground into the positive electricity of the air" which has been advantageous to the crop. The further development of these electrical processes will be noted with great interest.

MENTAL APATHY.—There is a general impression abroad that intellectual work is extremely wearing, and for that reason perhaps very few people use to any extent the brain power of which they know themselves to be possessed. The thousands of people who actually live their lives out without realizing on even a fractional portion of their mental vitality is most surprising. Intellectual powers are suffered to rust out through lack of use, and the more wearing physical forces of the body are kept in constant exertion. The brain is in other words made the servant instead of the master of the body. A glance at the records of some brainy men who have combined healthy living with active brain work may tend to remove the popular impression. These vigorous politicians whose brains were over in an active state were as capable as ever when they had attained the allotted term of three-score and ten. We refer to Earl Russell, Lord Palmerston and Lord Beaconsfield, while Mr Gladstone, though in his eighty-third year, is still a mighty power. Among great writers of recent times, Tennyson, Carlyle, Victor Hugo and Von Ranke, were all well advanced in years, and scores of similar examples of men whose brain powers were highly developed could easily be instanced. We would therefore humbly suggest that our young people be encouraged in every form of mental exercise, and that the idea that the development of the brain is a dangerous process should not be enlarged upon. We need great brained men and women for the future of our Province, and the developing process should be begun at an early date.

THE RESULTS OF THE STORM.—The great storm of August 21st will long be remembered throughout our Province. It is seldom that so severe a storm has been experienced, and the uprooting of trees by gales of wind is of itself such an unusual occurrence as to call for much comment. Yet when we consider how slight our "death and disaster list" is, as compared with the reports from other places, we cannot but feel thankful that matters are no worse. The work of the cyclone of last week at sea and on the continent is terrible. The old city of Charleston is almost entirely ruined, and it was only in 1885 that the city was visited and demoralized by a terrible earthquake. What the convulsions of the earth spared, the wind has taken. Churches and public buildings are wrecked, private residences, both great and small, are injured, the wharves have been beaten to pieces by the vessels left lying at anchor, and the crops of the whole surrounding country have been destroyed. Baltimore and Savannah have been swept, and property to the value of many millions of dollars destroyed. Port Royal in S. C. was levelled by the wind and then swept by a tidal wave. Most serious of all is the loss of life. It is known that over fifty vessels were wrecked upon the Carolina coasts and there are still many vessels, steamships, and even two great war ships unheard of. Hundreds of lives have also been lost on land, and almost everywhere on the Southern coast are left the traces of death and destruction. Terrible as the storm of the previous week was in our own vicinity, and sad as were the fatal accidents caused by it, yet we have cause to be profoundly thankful, and we can conceive of no more appropriate form of expressing our gratitude for the protection vouchsafed us, than in showing a practical interest in the women and children who are in want at Louisburg. We trust a prompt and generous response will be made to their appeal for help.