

the world, for we next find her as governess in a Russian family travelling a good deal in Eastern Europe. She grew tired of this, though, and returned to Warsaw more passionately patriotic than ever.

"Indeed, the young woman was quite a political agitator. Her love for science, however, drew her to Paris, where she arrived almost destitute. Here she established herself in a cheerless garret so intensely cold that when in winter the little bottle of milk was left at her door it speedily turned to ice. Marie Sklodowska was at this time living on less than ten cents a day. She saved all the money she could for her precious books. Then came the fateful encounter with Pierre Curie. The Frenchman was seven years older than the girl, but he soon found in her a kindred soul, and, to her amazement, proposed marriage, so that among other things they might devote their lives to science. But at that time Polish patriotism and politics were uppermost in the girl's mind; and, without giving her lover a decisive answer, she returned to Warsaw.

"A fortnight later she received a pathetic letter from Curie, in which appears this passage: 'What a grand thing it would be to unite our lives and work together for the good of science and humanity!' Forthwith she returned to Paris and married the man of her choice. That marriage was, indeed, ideal. For eleven years they lived and worked in complete unity of thought and ideals. They were never parted even for a single day! Their first home was at Scéaux, about nine miles from Paris. So much time was lost, however, in journeying to and fro that they took a tiny apartment in the Rue de la Glaciere, in order to be near the laboratory of the Ecole de Physique.

"Already Madame Curie's reputation as a scientist in her own right was so well known that she was permitted to work with her husband in the laboratory—a privilege which had never before been granted to a woman. Oddly enough, France herself was slowest of all among the nations to recognize the genius of the gifted pair. Honors and tributes to their great researches came to them in embarrassing profusion, but not from their own country.

"It was Lord Kelvin, the venerable British savant, that first drew the world's attention to the Curies; and in May, 1903, the Royal Institution of Great Britain invited them to London to lecture. As everyone knows, this visit was a veritable triumph for the young couple; and Lord Kelvin himself, affectionately leaning on Curie's shoulder, proclaimed the marvellous discoveries of his French colleagues. Forthwith the Royal Society bestowed the coveted Davy gold medal on Pierre Curie.