

WOMEN WORKERS OF TO-DAY.

THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN.

BY DAVID WILLIAMSON.



ALTHOUGH there is much in modern society which may well make us grieve, there were never so many ladies of high rank who find their joy as well as their duty in doing good. As Sir Lewis Morris sung:

The old bad rule of luxury and vice
Is lost to-day in generous sacrifice;
No power there is can draw the multitude
Save the pure might of Good.

We have to thank God for many who have realized the privileges and opportunities which belong to lofty station, and are daily exercising "the pure might of good." There are, indeed, fortunately so many workers that we can only select representatives from among them, and describe briefly some of the main outlines of their special interests.

The greatest lady in the land, Queen Alexandra, is entitled to be called a "Woman Worker of To-day," for she has busied herself in beneficence ever since she came to this country, and her example has been of the highest value in many a field of philanthropy. To give one recent instance of the Queen's influence, one may say with confidence that without her personal interest the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association would never have received within the last three years the enormous amount of £1,300,000. At the annual meeting, over which Queen Alexandra presided—although it was held on the afternoon before the Coronation, when she



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might easily have pleaded pressure of work as a lawful reason for her absence—it was stated that an Australian gentleman, Mr. Tooth, had given the Queen a cheque for £10,000 which her Majesty had handed to the Association. Such incidents as that prove the immense value to a society of the Queen's patronage. I might also include all the royal sisters of the King as Women Workers, for not one of them has failed to aid some good work by her practical sympathy, and the names of Princess Christian, Princess Louise, and Princess Henry of Battenberg are associated with many a hospital or other form of benevolence. Nor must I omit the Princess of Wales, who has inherited from her mother a deep pity for the