The Domain of Woman.

TALKS BY "TERESA."

"THE HAND THAT ROCKS THE CRADLE RULES THE WORLD"

One of the most sensible, and at the same time most useful, suggestions for suitably commemorating the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, is the idea promulgated by the National Council of Women, at the meeting of the Executive Committee on January 15th last. In view of the almost universal desire of Canadians to show loyalty to their justly beloved and honored queen, it was felt that the Council, composed as it is of representative women from all parts of the Dominion, should set on foot some scheme having the personal approval of Her Majesty, and which should be not only a memorial of the long and virtuous reign of a noble woman, but should also be the means of carrying comfort and succor to hundreds of sufferers throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion, a work which would be, more than anything, peculiarly acceptable to Her Majesty, whose sympathy for the sick and suffering is so well known.

It was, therefore, unanimously decided that not only should an address be presented to the Queen on behalf of the women of Canada, but, in consonance with the expressed wishes of Her Majesty, the Council should endeavor to inaugurate an order of trained, devoted women who should be specially prepared for ministering to the needs of the sick and suffering in the isolated and sparsely settled districts of Canada. To this end was instituted the "Victorian Order of Home Helpers."

In brief, the scheme is for the establishment of an order of specially trained nurses, who shall be ready at any moment to go to small villages and out of the way country places.

The following letter from Her Excellency Lady Aberdeen, will explain the object of the Order:

Government House, Ottawa,
February 15th, 1897.

MADAM—At a public meeting held in Ottawa on Wednesday, February 10th, at the instance of the National Council of Women of Canada, under the presidency of His Excellency the Governor-General, the following resolution was unanimously passed, having been moved by the Hon Wilfrid Laurier, Premier of the Dominion, and seconded by the Hon. Clifford Sifton, Minister of the Interior:

"That this meeting heartily approves of the general character of the scheme described as the "Victorian Order of Home Helpers," as a mode of commemoration by the Dominion of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and that a fund be opened for the carrying out thereof."

The need that exists in country and remote districts throughout the Dominion for the services of trained practical women as district nurses seems to be universally admitted, and there appears to be a very general consensus of opinion that no better national scheme could be devised for commemorating Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee than the establishment on a permanent footing of a Victorian Order of Nurses whose patriotic mission it would be to meet this want.

All candidates for this Order will have to undergo an examination and be practically tested as to their fitness for the work which they are to undertake.

The standard for this examination and the tests to be undergone will be prescribed by medical men and others who understand the need which has to be met. It is proposed that the co-operation of various hospitals and medical men in different parts of Canada be invited in carrying out this examination so that there may be convenient centres for all candidates.

Already such co-operation has been heartily promised in several centres.

The examination will especially bear on the three following points:

1. A practical knowledge of midwifery, sufficient to attain a prescribed certificate.

2. A practical knowledge of first aid to the injured and of simple nursing.

3. A general knowledge of home keeping, simple home sanitation, with the ability of preparing suitable food for invalids.

It is proposed that no person under twenty-eight or thirty years of age should be admitted into the Order, and when admitted, an undertaking should be given to continue the work, provided health does not prevent it, for a period of at least three years. A uniform will be provided, and a badge which may take take the form of the St. Andrew's Cross with the letters V. R.

Trained nurses who may desire to enter the Order will be made very welcome. They will have to pass the examination and be personally approved by the committee.

Women who have already lived in these country districts, and who are respected, and have the confidence of their neighbors, would be preferable to any others, in many instances, and it would be well to encourage parishes and townships to choose some one whom they know, and send her down to one of the centres where the necessary training could be given. Arrangements will be given whereby candidates can be enabled to obtain the necessary training.

Districts wanting to secure the services of a Home Helper, will be required to raise a certain sum towards her maintenance, which they would undertake to give yearly to the Central Committee during her residence, or to provide suitable board and lodging for her and means of conveyance. On application to the Central Committee, a suitable Helper will be selected for the district applying, and a grant would be given towards her expenses to meet the sum raised by the district, and her salary would be paid by the Central Committee.

It may be mentioned that the scheme has been most favorably received by the medical men to whom it has been mentioned, and their valuable co-operation in carrying on this work will be anxiously sought for in all districts affected by the plan.

All arrangements should be made so that it should be considered an honor to belong to this Order and that the members of it should be regarded as public servants.

Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen having thought it but right to acquaint Her Majesty's Secretary with the project that was being planned by the National Council, has received the following telegram from Sir Arthur Bigge:

Osborne.

"In reply to your telegram the Queen has refrained from expressing approval of any particular scheme for commemorating the Diamond Jubilee, though of course any project for the relief of the sufferings of the sick in Canada will be assured of Her Majesty's sincere sympathy."

Signed,
BIGGE

It is proposed therefore to open a fund for establishing such an Order of Home Helpers in Canada. Not less than a million dollars should be raised to make the scheme effective. This would mean but a contribution of one dollar from every family in the Dominion.

The Bank of Montreal has kindly undertaken to receive subscriptions for the Victorian Order of Home Helpers in Canada at any of their Branches.

The Local Councils of Women will undertake the collection wherever they are formed with the co-operation of others, and it is hoped that committees for the purpose will be organized in all districts, and Mrs. Edward Griffin, Russell House, Ottawa, has kindly consented to act as Secretary-Treasurer.

Allow me to express the hope that you will bring before your readers the institution of this fund as a means whereby a suitable national commemoration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee may be carried out by the people of the whole Dominion unanimously, and in a manner which all both be in accordance with the known wishes of the Queen and be of permanent benefit to all parts of the country.

I will of course be observed that the carrying out of this scheme need in no way interfere with any local forms of commemoration which may be contemplated.

I remain, yours faithfully,
ISHBEL ABERDEEN.

I have much pleasure in putting Her Excellency's letter before my readers, convinced as I am that the scheme is a most excellent one, and one in which all may co-operate without distinction of rank or creed, forming as it does a means whereby woman's noblest occupation, that of nursing, may be put within reach of many who otherwise could not take it up, and made available in relieving, and possibly saving, hundreds who, under present circumstances cannot obtain suitable care and attention.

* * * * * * *

There is another association in connection with the branch of the National Council of Women at Victoria, which is worthy of imitation not only by other local branches of the Council but also by outsiders and by members of the different church congregations.

It is called the "Friendly Help Association," and was formed for the purpose of visiting the poor in different localities in the city, and bringing the needs of the indigent under the notice of the members. One of the members has drawn a plan of the city indicating by coloured lines the different districts appertaining to the lady visitors. These are regularly visited, and in this way all needy cases are brought under the notice of the Association. Two rooms in the Market building have been placed at the disposal of the Association by the Mayor who in every way renders assistance to the ladies.

Now this a branch of charitable work which many Catholic ladies might take up with advantage. There is, I think, far too little visiting among the poor in the part of Catholic women especially those who have a great deal of leisure time on their hands.

As a correspondent said to me recently, writing about the apathy of Catholic women as a whole, in this respect: "They give of course, but if they could be got to visit themselves among the poor who are, unfortunately so numerous, some of them dirty and shiftless to a degree that perhaps you have no idea of, how much good they might do. I am sure there is a wonderful charm in a kind word given by a woman to a woman Sometimes when I see as I often do after week day Mass, some good devout souls remain to pray in the church, I think to myself, if they would all of them visit around among some of the unfortunate in this district, if only for an hour before going home the time would be well spent, and I feel confident that our dear Lord would be pleased with the help given to His poor ones, just as much as by a multitude of prayers however devoutly said."

My correspondent is quite right, and I think that some steps ought to be taken to organize district visitors in the different parishes.

Why cannot we have a Woman's Auxiliary to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul? It would be the very thing, and would moreover help the members of our great charitable society to an almost incalculable extent. I will say more on this subject by and by.

* * * * * * *

I have pleasure in inserting the following notice, but I must inform correspondents who wish notices and letters to appear, that they must write upon one side of the paper only as I cannot undertake to copy, nor can I always correct mistakes.

"Our Lady of Good Counsel Society which was organized April 4th 1894 is a branch of the Irish Catholic Benevolent Union of Canada. All Catholics of good moral character over fifteen and under forty years of age, who have passed the prescribed medical examination are eligible for membership. There is also a library in connection with this Society where members can obtain good books free, and outsiders for a very small sum weekly. That this Society is doing good work is shown by the yearly report just issued. There has been paid out in sick benefits alone during the past year, $1505. Members are entitled to $3 weekly, sick benefit, (I presume, after six months membership, though my correspondent does not say so) Dr. and medicine free.

"On death of a member the heirs receive $100, which is paid from funds of Grand Branch. The initiation fee is one dollar, and thirty cents per month after. The members have the privilege of wearing Our Lady of Good Counsel scapular. The meetings are held in I.C.B.U. Hall, 222 Bathurst st., every alternate Tuesday at 8 p.m. Further information may be obtained of the Secretary, Branch 10 I.C.B.U., 222 Bathurst street."

FROM A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Attention to rules is requested. Correspondents will kindly limit number of queries to two. Questions will be answered in the order in which they are received. No questions replied to by post. Letters must be addressed to "Teresa," Office of THE CATHOLIC REGISTER, 40 Lombard St.

BYSTANDER.—If you wish your letter to appear, you must send me your name and address as I refuse to publish anonymous communications. Your name &c. would be treated in strict confidence, as it is required only for my own satisfaction. I agree with much that you have said, but I am not responsible for the statement about the wages of work girls. It appeared in the "Woman's Kingdom" in the Mail and Empire, and I merely commented upon it and expressed my own disbelief in it, I do not think it possible that a girl, even though an indifferent worker could work all day with a net result of only 8 cents. I am much interested in the question, and should like some statistics about the work girls if you can obtain them for me. I will insert your letter if you will comply with my rule and forward me your name and address, not for insertion, of course. TERESA.

A THOUGHT

THAT KILLED

A MAN!

He thought that he could trifle with disease. He was run down in health, felt tired and worn out, complained of dizziness, biliousness, backaches and headaches. His liver and kidneys were out of order. He thought to get well by dosing himself with cheap remedies. And then came the ending. He fell a victim to Bright's disease! The money he ought to have invested in a safe, reliable remedy went for a tombstone.

Safe Cure

is the only standard remedy in the world for kidney and liver complaints. It is the only remedy which physicians universally prescribe. It is the only remedy that is backed by the testimony of thousands whom it has relieved and cured.

THERE IS NOTHING ELSE

THAT CAN TAKE ITS PLACE

"Where Doctors Disagree."

There has been a great deal of disagreement from time to time about the therapeutic value of sarsaparilla. In the main, authorities deny any particular medical value to the plant. "It's just an old wives' remedy," they say. And in the main they are right. There are about a dozen varieties of sarsaparilla, scattered through various countries, and of this dozen only one has any real curative power. So a man whose experience might be confined to the eleven other varieties might honestly say there was little value in them. The one valuable sarsaparilla is found in Honduras, C. A. Monardes, a physician of Seville, records the introduction of sarsaparilla into Spain as a result of the Spanish discoveries of the New World, between 1536 and 1545. But the root did not accomplish much. But he adds, "a better sort soon after came from Honduras" It is this "better sort" that is used exclusively in Ayer's Sarsaparilla. And it is the use of this "better sort" that has given Ayer's Sarsaparilla prominence over all other varieties by reason of its wonderful cures of blood diseases. Send for the Curebook, a story of cures told by the cured." Free. Address J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of The Catholic Register.

SIR—I saw in one of the morning papers a few days ago that the County Loyal Orange Lodge held a meeting in Victoria Hall, and had the hardihood to condemn the present Government in sending the Hon. C. Fitzpatrick, Solicitor-General, to Rome regarding the "settlement" of the School question. Now I am not surprised at this action of Brothers Fawcett and Howett. It would not be right to close the meeting without a little bombardment of the Church. Brothers Fawcett and Howett also may be running for office in the near future, and this will keep their names before the brethren; but it is time that this sort of thing was put a stop to. It seems to me that a member of the Government, if he be a Catholic, cannot go to Europe but he must be going to Rome on the school question. Those gentlemen say that the school question is "settled." Then why do they interfere? It might be wise in the future for the Government to consult some worthy Brother before any of its members goes to Europe. Now as regards our Separate Schools, who is the proper person to consult? There is not a fair minded Protestant in this wide Dominion but will say their pastors are the very first to be consulted on their side. The pastor knows the parent, and by knowing the parent he knows the wants of the child. And still we are asked to give children irreligious teaching and to send them to irreligious schools. The Church is bound by Christ's command to speak out. Would we have her remain indifferent in a matter on which the weal or the woe of millions of Catholics depend? Would we have her stand stationary, a veritable petrified tribunal, suffering the little ones of her flock to be trained at the bidding of chance? No. Her mission is to watch over the welfare of all souls to repel the unsound doctrine, which passes through the thousand gates of education. This watchfulness is the duty of the Church and its pastors. People who do not know the Church condemn it. But those who know the Church uphold it. However it is the duty of every Catholic parent to support his Church and give to his child a good Christian education.

A LOVER OF THE CHURCH.

A Good Child

is usually healthy, and both conditions are developed by use of proper food. The Gail Borden Eagle Brand Condensed Milk is the best infant's food; so easily prepared that improper feeding is inexcusable and unnecessary.

British America Assurance Comp'y

SIXTY THIRD ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the shareholders was held at the company's office, Toronto, on Thursday, February 18th.

The President, Hon Geo. A. Cox, occupied the chair, and Mr. P. H. Sims, who was appointed to act as Secretary, read the following

ANNUAL REPORT

The directors have pleasure in submitting herewith the annual statement of the company for the year ending December 31, 1896.

The premium shows a moderate decrease compared with the returns of the preceding year. This is attributable to the reduction in insurable values consequent upon the disturbance in general business caused by the Presidential election in the United States, and to the reduced volume of business transacted in the marine and inland departments.

The profit shown on the year's business is $61,571.70, and, after providing for two half yearly dividends at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, the reserve fund of the company has been increased to $528,883 84. The amount estimated as necessary to cover liability on unexpired policies has, owing to the smaller business transacted, been reduced $11,101.41, and the net surplus, over capital and all liabilities, shows an increase for the year of $10,873.20.

The directors desire to express their appreciation of the services of the officers and agents of the company during the past year.

Summary of financial statement:—

Premium income, less reinsurances	$1,482,080 91
Interest account	43,621 08
Total income	$1,525,705 02
Losses incurred	$ 930,183 33
Expenses of management, including commissions, taxes and other charges	514,249 99
	$1,461,433 23
Dividends to shareholders	$ 52,500 00
Total assets	$1,436,958 84
Total liabilities (including capital stock)	908,075 00
Reserve funds	$ 528,883 84
Cash capital	750,000 00
Security to policyholders	$1,278,883 84

The President, in moving the adoption of the report, said:—I desire to add a few words concerning the business of the company during the past year. The three annual reports I have had the honor of submitting to the shareholders have in each case showed an increase in the premium income of the company. This year, however, has been an exception to the rule; there has been a falling off—though not a serious one—some $25,000, as compared with the business of the year 1895.

As you are aware, a large proportion of our revenue is derived from our agencies in the United States, and I need scarcely remind you that during the closing months of 1896 the disturbed state of political and financial affairs had a marked effect upon the general trade of the country. Owing to the nature of the main questions at issue between the two political parties in the recent Presidential election, business interests were affected to probably a greater extent than in any previous contest. The volume of trade showed a serious diminution in almost every branch, particularly in the amount of importations of the product of manufactories. As a natural result insurable values were materially diminished, and the premium income of fire insurance companies generally doing business in the United States shows a corresponding falling off.

I may say here that while it is to be regretted that the revival in trade which it was anticipated would set in after the questions at issue had been settled by the popular vote has not yet materialized to any appreciable extent, it is gratifying to note that there is a growing feeling of confidence in financial circles, which may be regarded as the first essential to a return of commercial and industrial prosperity. It is certainly a matter for congratulation that we have passed through this period of depression without that increase in the fire losses of the country which frequently accompanies such conditions, and that a very satisfactory profit has been realized upon our United States business.

In the Canadian fire department I am pleased to be able to say that our premium income again shows a moderate gain over that of the year 1895, as well as a profit upon the year's transactions. It will be gratifying to everyone interested in the company to note that the British America is attaining in the field of fire underwriting in the Dominion that position which, as one of the oldest financial institutions in the country, we have always felt it should occupy. In this connection I may say—although the transaction does not come within the year now under review—that we have recently assumed the Canadian business of the Agricultural Insurance Company of Watertown, N. Y., having reinsured all its outstanding risks in Canada. While the amount involved is not large, we believe that this will bring us some additional connection which may prove desirable and profitable.

Taken as a whole, our fire business for the past year exhibits very satisfactory and encouraging results, but in our marine department I regret to say that the losses incurred have been considerably in excess of what might have been expected from the conservative lines upon which we are conducting this branch of our business.

During the past year I have had opportunities of visiting some of our more important agencies, and I have been most favorably impressed with the representation which the company has secured throughout both Canada and the United States. I feel that in the Managers of our branch offices, our corps of special agents or inspectors, as well as in the local agents representing us in the cities I have visited, we are fortunate in having in the service of the company men possessing in an eminent degree the qualities essential to success in the business in which we are engaged.

The Vice-President, Mr. J. J. Kenny, seconded the adopation of the report, which was carried unanimously, and a vote of thanks was passed to the President, Vice-President and directors for their services during the past year.

The following gentlemen were elected to serve as directors for the ensuing year:—Hon. Geo. A. Cox, J. J. Kenny, Hon. S. C. Wood, S. F. McKinnon, Thos Long, John Hoskin, Q.C., LL.D., H. M. Pellatt, R. Jaffray, A. Myers.

At a meeting held subsequently Hon. Geo. A. Cox was elected President and Mr. J. J. Kenny, Vice President.

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Appended is a copy of analysis just taken:

Toronto, Nov. 19, 1896.

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Yours truly,
(Signed) THOMAS HEYS,
Consulting Chemist.

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W. HAWKE, Vice-Pres. and Asst. Mgr.
JOHN G. GIBSON, Secretary-Treasurer.

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