#### WORDS WITH WOMEN.

BY MRS. EMMA O'SULLIVAN.

The following letter is from a most successful teacher in one of the primary schools. Its frank acknowledgment of the benefits of the kindergarten system is worthy every mother's consideration:

"I am glad to see you are making an effort to awaken in the minds of the readers of the Catholic REGISTER, an interest in the education of children before they are sent to school.

It will be news to some mothers that any preparation for school is necessary, boyond getting up early on the eventful morning and taking the child there. By these, the walk over is considered a sufficient bridging of the gulf which lies between the homelife and that of school.

How often in the writer's personal experience has not the utter absence of any, even the simplest, commonest information been lamentably apparent. In the little preliminary talks every teacher holds with a new pupil in the hope of conquering the child's shyness and winning his confidence one will be surprised again and again to find the child cannot tell the color of his cat, how many legs it has or whether it is covered with feathers or fur. Neither, very frequently, will he know his right hand from his left northenumber of toes he has on his chubby little

To me it seems little short of cruelty to thus suddenly transplant a child from a home, where he has been under little or no discipline, to an atmosphere of routine and quiet-the confinement alone within four walls, for five long hours of the little restless spirit that hitherto had found the whole house and its surroundings none too extended for his wandering feet, is in itself a species of torture.

Setting aside the injury done a child the matter is worth considering from a teacher's point of view. It is to one who has to teach olildren coming directly from home, i astead of from a kindergarten, that the good results of a kindergarten training are apparent. In the latter case the teacher has trained material to work with. No time is wasted in waiting till-well to coin an expression—till the little one gets on his "school legs." His fingers have been strengthened by working and are ready now for lessons in writing and drawing. There is no need for the teacher to be constantly on the alert to arrest his wandering attention while the mysteries of his "First Book" are being unfolded.

The child has been taught to observe and think for himself. His senses and hands have been trained to accuracy and delicacy and habits of work leave been found and its dignity impressed upon him. To sum it up, he has come to school prepared. He is ready for work, and the teacher, need it be said, is more than ready to welcome him. A. W.

#### Politics in Belgium.

In conformity with the usual practic, non-Catholic journals in this country to be called upon to regret the defeat of the Liberal party in Belgium and to assume that the victors at the polls, the Catholic party, represent reactionist tendencies. One such journals laments the defeat for the reason that the Liberals were siming at universal suffrage. It happens however that the election was conducted under a system of universal suffrage. This system takes into account not only the fact that the person has reached the age of twenty-five, at which age he becomes entitled to one vote but also gives two and sometimes three votes to those having particular qualifications. Universal suffrage has not worked to the satisfaction of European Liberalism. Under a restricted franchise the Lib-

erals were in power. The new plan has almost wiped them out of existance.

Liberalism in Belgium stands not for the alleviation of the burdens of the lower classes of society, but simply for the irritation of the church. Under their regime the priest was driven into his sacristy and the godless school master was sent abroad into the land. Their legislation was altogether directed in favor of the upper and middle classes. The poor were allowed to go on bearing their burdens of sorrow, while from the miserable was taken the hope of happiness hereafter.

Out of this grew Socialism. With it the Catholic ministry has now to deal. In the mining districts and among the hot headed Walloons it has taken root. Liege zeturned eleven, Verviers four, Soignies three, Charlerois eight, and Mons six Socialists.

How deeply the populace has been steeped in misery, by neglect on the part of those who were content to let the miners suffer so long as dividends came from the mines, will be guessed when some of the utterances of Anseele, one of the Socialist leaders are thought upon. "The workmen must endeavor to compete - th capital in order to kill it. To do this we must get hold of all the resources of the state, province and commune, by means of universal suffrage. But so long as there is a priest on earth, universal suffrage itself will be enalaved. To destroy capital, one thing above all is necessary—You must strike down the priest."

The priest therefore stands for the security of the state. This man received 65,000 votes in Liege. The Catholic Ministry has already begun to grapple with the difficulty. It has done its best to legislate against the excessive labor of men and women in the mines, the evils of the liquor traffic, of the truck system and so forth. The presence of four hundred thousand Socialist voters in Belgium constitutes a menace and necessitates a government at once powerful, wise and sympathetic.

#### A Brave Sister's Funeral.

A company of infantry, with their flag and band of music, rendered military honors at the funeral of Sister Eufrasia, Mother Superior of the Sisters of Charity in Pau, France. She belonged to the distinguished order of the Legion of Honor. The funeral cortege, head ed by the Mayor of Pau, was followed by the most eminent authorities, civil and military. When the coffin was lowered into the grave the Mayor, in the name of the people, pronounced an eloquent and tender tribute, expressive of the love and affection of the nation for the brave and patriotic Sister who had so well deserved the Cross of the Legion of Honor.

#### An Odd Invitation.

Robert Louis Stevenson and Conan Doyle have never met. For severel years, however, they have corresponded with more or less regularity, and when Dr. Doyle announced his intention of coming to America, Mr. Stevenson wrote him, characteristically, from Samoa:

"Come out and stop awhile with us. You can easily find your way. After leaving San Francisco we're the second town on the left."

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