

Woman's Work.

WOMAN'S PLACE IN THE INDIA MISSION.

M lady readers, wives of comfortable business men or luxurious merchants, reared in comfort and living in luxury, does the thought ever occur to you that you have a duty with regard to those unhappy women in the far East who have never known the happiness which to you is the very breath of life? Picture to yourselves 118,166,371 women, more than twenty times the population of entire Dominion, the majority of whom have never been taught anything; whose education, bodily and mental, has been utterly neglected, who can neither read, write nor sew; who know nothing of the management of their own health, yet are never permitted to see a doctor; who are expected to bring up their own babies when Providence blesses them with one, yet who know less how to do so than the beasts of the field; who spend their time in idle babbling and foolish talk with creatures as brainless as themselves; and, contrasting their lot with your own, can you dare to say, *They and their misery are nothing to me?* It is needless to recur to the state of these unhappy creatures before and in the early years of the English possession of India. Their sufferings have been pictured by abler pens than mine, and to some extent alleviated by law and custom.

When first the question arose in England as to the advisability of admitting women to the medical profession in England and America, and finally passed the council, men and women simply stood by with a sneer on their faces, and the poor lady doctors had a hard time, and a long weary struggle. But on November 8th, 1882, a meeting was held under the auspices of the "National Indian Association" in London (Eng.) to consider the advisability of employing English doctors for the Indian medical mission. "At this meeting," says Mrs. Dr. Haggan in an able article, "the medical profession both of India and England and the English medical women were largely represented." "Vivid pictures were drawn of the deplorable condition of Indian women in harems when attacked by sickness; dying, as few pet dogs are ever allowed to die, tended and tortured only by miserable creatures more ignorant than themselves, or dying off by hundreds in their confinement, for want of skilled attendance and doctors. The English *Lancet* and the English medical profession took up the matter warmly, while the National Indian Association decided to make the cause its own. A collection was taken up, and large funds from sympathising women in England and India flowed in rapidly. Examinations were appointed, scholarships offered, with the result that at the beginning of this year two qualified English doctors, Miss Peehey, M.D., and another lady, were engaged at fixed salaries for three years' medical work at Bombay. Nor was this the only fruit of deeply roused English feeling. Encouraged by the success of their sisters, many other clever and intelligent girls and women came forward and enrolled themselves among the band of noble women, most of whom are now qualifying themselves for their arduous life-work. In India itself, more especially in the Province of Bombay, several widows have come forward and offered themselves as candidates for the profession.

In fact it was from India itself that the cry first came. The establishment of hospitals and dispensaries in Bengal dates back to 1849, and shortly afterwards, the need of women to attend on women appears to have been felt. The opening of the Madras Medical College to women nine years ago, was the real starting point of the whole movement, and from that time to this ladies have been quietly working and training themselves for their high vocation.

But it would serve no practical purpose to give further details of the work now so rapidly progressing. Enough has been said to show the ladies of Canada the need that exists in the Eastern World, at all events for lady doctors and lady nurses. You can help the good cause, ladies of Canada, with your money and your prayers, and

also by raising your voice to help—not to hinder—the women who are laying aside all that makes life lovely in answer to the piteous cry of heathen India: Come over and help us.

PAINTING ON LEATHER.

Stamped and gilded leather was a favourite material for hangings from the fifteenth century to the eighteenth, and remnants of this taste still appear in the heavy curtains hung before the doors of foreign cathedrals. At the present time, painting upon leather has been revived for panel and cabinet spaces, and the effect of the raised and painted designs upon the gilt or silvered background is one that contributes much to the decorative power of the object so ornamented. The leather used is morocco; it is sold in skins which measure from twenty-one to twenty-eight inches in width and vary as to length, and is prepared as follows:

Well moisten the skin and put it under a stamping machine, such as is used to stamp plush. Stamp upon it either raised mediæval figures, game, fruit, conventional flowers, or arabesques, and select clear and rather large patterns. The subjects should accord with the uses to which the object is to be put that is decorated; thus, in a dining room, hunting scenes, games and fruit are admissible; in a drawing room, figures, flowers and arabesques; and in a library, medallions and conventional designs. The background of the subjects is next gilded or silvered. Use the best gold or silver leaf, and choose a good red gold colour in preference to yellow gold; size the parts to be gilded with gilder's or parchment size, and when that is ready, press the gold leaf down on it in the ordinary manner. Gild the background only, and leave the pattern untouched.

Leave the leather until the gilding is perfectly dry, and then paint the raised or pattern parts in oil colours. The grain of the leather makes a good surface. Use red sable brushes, and do not lay the colour on in great masses, so as to produce a painty look, but work in the various shades lightly, and soften them into the leather with a badger's brush, so as to allow of the leather taking its proper place as one of the shades. Use dark colours and reds, mostly, and when painting flowers and fruit, do not follow their natural colouring too closely, but conventionalize them. Put on only one coating of colour, and leave the effect to the dark surface of the leather and the gilding, carrying these out and strengthening them with the colouring, but making that quite subservient. Paint the draperies upon figures in warm colours, and work the faces up in natural tints.

The leather already stamped and gilded can be bought at an upholsterer's, and when painted only requires gluing into position with strong, hot glue. A slight wood moulding put round its edges after it is glued will hide any raw appearance, and will finish off the work satisfactorily. The moulding can be bought by the foot, and only requires to be strongly glued over the leather.

We were present, by invitation, the other day at Petley & Petley's grand spring opening of Millinery. Though scarcely so good a judge of spring bonnets as of spring poultry, we certainly saw much to admire. The newly imported Parisian and English bonnets were graceful "as the poet's dream." One in particular we noticed in the perfect similitude of a chrysanthemum, and we could picture the dear little rosy face that would peep out so shyly, yet so knowingly, under the mass of well simulated bloom. The bonnets and hats struck us also as being remarkably cheap, and our friends would do well to take a peep at Petley's before going elsewhere.

N.B.—We notice that a second grand opening will take place in a few days.

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Ladies' Correspondence.

In accordance with the request of several of our lady subscribers, and the suggestion of a physician, we propose establishing a separate correspondence department for the use of *Ladies only*, which all feminine readers are cordially invited to make use of. The Medical and Sanitary queries will be submitted each week to the physician above-mentioned, who, taking a warm interest in the subject, has kindly offered his valuable services. The replies below, under the head *Medical and Sanitary*, which have been sent in by some lady subscribers, will give a fair example of the kind of queries invited. Of course, it is needless to say that subjects unfit to appear in print will be carefully excluded; such sufferers must consult their own private physician, but to all who need advice on the numerous medical and sanitary subjects which, though "trifles light as air" to the outside world, may yet be the source of untold grief to the fair sufferer, we freely open our columns. Queries on dress, household matters and children's subjects, will also be relegated to this department.

DRESS AND NEEDLEWORK.

(Answered by Miss Burton.)

MAIDAN.—*Curting the front hair.*—Curl papers do no injury to the hair, and very carefully used hot irons may do little more, but we should advise you to use the former.

WARRIOR LILY.—*Dyeing a black satin skirt.*—We rather doubt the quilted petticoat dyeing a good crimson; the better plan would be to have it re-dipped in black, but you had better enquire of a practical dyer.

INNOCENTE.—*Marking a trousseau.*—It is quite a matter of taste. Most intending brides postpone the marking of the trousseau until after marriage, which is the best plan. The house-linen may be marked with the united initials of the Christian name of bride and bridegroom, and that of the man's surname.

HOUSEHOLD.

(Answered by Miss Burton.)

AN ANXIOUS HOUSEWIFE.—*To make baking powder.*—Take an equal quantity (in bulk) of tartaric acid, carbonate of soda, and ground rice, or corn flour; mix all thoroughly and rub through a wire sieve. One teaspoonful of this mixture will be sufficient for each pound of dry ingredients used.

Ladies desiring information on Household matters are invited to address the Editor.

MEDICAL AND SANITARY.

(Answered by a City Physician.)

DAISY.—*To cure corns.*—Strongest acetic acid applied every night for about a week will remove the largest corn painlessly.

A THORN IN THE FLESH.—*To cure partial deafness.*—This arises from so many causes, that without more particulars, advice would be valueless. If simple deafness without pain, and accompanied by no discharge, washing out with glycerine and warm water, one part of the former to six of the latter, will sometimes affect a cure.

KATHLEEN.—*Neuralgic toothache.*—If the pain arises periodically at a certain hour in day or night, not while eating, it is neuralgic. Get a box of three gr. sugar-coated quinine pills. After a laxative, take one pill every two hours for the first day, and every four hours for the second.

A LONG SUFFERING CAT.—*Foul smell in room; probably dead mouse or rat and r. flooring.*—Carpet to be removed and well-aired. Paste felt paper over the floor after well washing with chloride of lime; then replace carpet. Time only can effect a cure. The best plan is to take up the boards.

MADCAP VIOLET.—*To remove freckles.*—Freckles are the best guarantee of a healthy condition. Any attempt to remove them will fail.

DEATH FROM HYDROPHOBIA.

One of those painful occurrences that have all too often to be recorded took place recently in Lincolnshire, England, the victim being a boy, and the very unusual cause a puppy of—at the time—four months old, which had bitten the boy six months before the fatal disease developed itself. It is most unfortunate that in such cases we seldom find any scientific investigation into the state of the dog. This points to the need for alteration, and we hope the time is not far distant when we may have all such cases investigated and reported on by qualified veterinary authority.

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