

the housewives' kitchens. Most of the houses are built—the lower half at least—of brick, but some are of wood. There are a theatre, a 'conversation house,' and a number of hotels and restaurants, though during the season nearly every house is more or less let out to 'baadegaster'—visitors for sea-bathing forming the great source of the islanders' prosperity. In both the lower and the upper town there are numbers of shops; but the articles for sale seem to be chiefly intended for the summer 'bathing guests,' the natives getting most of their supplies from Hamburg or Bremen. The dwellings of the fisher-folks are reasonably clean, and the interiors bear evidence of the sea-faring character of the population. Some of the houses have little gardens with flowers, cucumbers, etc., in front of them; and in places protected by the sea breezes there are a few fruit trees. At the foot of 'the stair' are one or two lime trees, sheltered by the contiguous houses; they are looked upon by the Heligolanders as objects of national pride. During the summer, from two thousand to three thousand visit the Island for sea-bathing. Most of these are from Hamburg, English or other 'guests' being rare. There are no English residents, the officials, the governor excepted, being either natives or Germans. Of these officials a correspondent gives an amusing account in a recent letter.

"There is a good deal of government here too. There is a Colonial Governor and the before-mentioned secretary, and two Councilors; who meet in solemn state in the old Danish Governor's House. There is a Treasurer, too, and a Pooh-Bah. The latter is a warrant officer of the British Navy. He is also a Commander-in-Chief of the land and sea forces of the colony, Chief of Police, Chief of Justice, Attorney-General, Chief Constable, County Court Judge, Governor of the Gaol, Turnkey, Sheriff, Justice of the Peace and Executioner; and if there are any other little odd jobs to be done outside of those officers, he does them. It should be added that the total land and sea forces of the colony consist of five coastguard men. There are some howitzers on a sand hill somewhere, which form the armament of the island. But with all his multitude of offices, Lieutenant Pooh-Bah often finds time hang heavy on his hands. About once in three months there is a petty civil suit to be tried. That is all. A few years ago, for the only time in half a century there was a criminal case. A man was arrested for stealing a dozen of pewter spoons. This event created tremendous excitement, and was talked of for years. The criminal was convicted and was sentenced to imprisonment at hard labor in prison dress for, I think, two weeks. The dress consisted of a fine new suit of clothes, much better than he had ever worn in his life. They had to be procured from the tailor's especially for him, by the way, since there never before had been used such a thing. The labor consisted in shovelling sand at the pier for eight hours a day. As for the imprisonment it meant that the convict had to sleep every night in the guest chamber of the Governor's house. There was no other lock-up. And he took his meals at the table d'hôte of the head inn from which he had stolen the spoons."

The history of Heligoland notwithstanding its quaintness, barrenness, and limited size, is interesting. "Here Hertha had her great Temple, and hither came from the main-land the angles to worship at her shrine. Here lived King Radbod, a pagan, and on this isle St. Willebrod, 1,200 years ago, first preached Christianity; and for its ownership, before and after that date, many sea rovers have fought."

GRANDMOTHERS WANTED.

"Are there no grandmothers nowadays?" asked a discouraged teacher of a church sewing class the other day. "My girls are from ten to twelve years of age and belong to respectable families; but such hemming! and such seaming! They can all *crochet*, however," added she, disdainfully.

The speaker had, in her youth, been carefully trained by her own grandmother in all the arts of dainty stitchery, and could only account for the awkward use of the needle by girls of to-day by supposing the race of grandmothers extinct.

Those daily "stents" set for the little girls of long ago produced good results; and home, with the stent system, under the direction of a judicious and skilful elder, seems the fitting place for instruction in such a womanly art as needlework.

It is not a kindness to allow a girl to grow up unfamiliar with her needle. With this tiny weapon a woman may drive away either want or *ennui*, if she be well trained in its use. One who knows the comfort of this feminine resource would sadly miss it in

"The silent and secluded hours
Through many a lonely day,
While bending o'er her 'brodered flowers,
With spirit far away."

"A queen," says Hawthorne, "plies it on occasions; the woman's eye that has discovered a new star, turns from its glory to send the polished little instrument gleaming along the hem of her kerchief, or to darn a casual fray in her dress. It is a token of healthy and gentle characteristics when women of accomplishment and high thought love to sew, especially as they are never more at home with their own hearts than when so occupied."

Speaking of one whose exquisite embroidery commanded both admiration and high prices at decorative art rooms, a friend remarked, "But Mary, you know, had the advantage of her grandmother's training, and she was a needlewoman of the old school."

The grandmother again? Surely, it is clear that grandmothers, or substitutes for grandmothers, are sorely needed for the girls now growing up with but little liking for their needles.

The daily stent may be a daily trial till the pleasure of a skilful handling of the needle can be felt; but may not the training of character also be going on while little fingers patiently work at "over and over" that will not look even, or hemming that seems so endless?

Many a prick must those poor little fingers feel; tears, perhaps, will be shed when imperfect work is picked out, but if with the effort such qualities as attention and accuracy are developed, together with those good old virtues of life-long need, patience and perseverance, is not the result well worth the daily discipline? In due time there will come, too, the joy which work well done brings to the worker, as a reward for our painstaking little women.

Give the child blocks of patch-work (the edges turned and basted) to seam "over and over;" and if bright bits of calico are chosen, and a doll's bed-quilt is to be the result of her efforts, the little seamstress will feel an interest in her work as she plods along the daily stent, which should not be too long.

When some familiarity with the needle has been gained, hemming may be taught on coarse towels, counting the threads taken in each stitch, till the eye is trained to work without such care. Making a bag is excellent work for more advanced lessons in plain sewing, and for fine work,