

At the Sign of the Maple

A DEPARTMENT MAINLY FOR WOMEN

The Working Girl in the West

THE immediate reality of the problem of the working girl has been dealt with recently and at length in this paper. Much press comment, as a result, has been aroused and certain private communications, of a pertinent sort, have arrived. Of which latter is this letter from Mrs. Mackay, Vancouver, well known to the Canadian reading world:

"I WOULD like to express something of the interest which I have felt in the study of Miss MacMurchy's articles on the Working Girl. I have followed these articles with appreciation and with a growing sense of their value. It is very evident that the writer knows her subject; she gives us facts not verbiage, and states in lucid and admirable form the problems over which many thoughtful women have puzzled in more sentimental and less systematic manner. One thing seems plain—there ought to be some authoritative statistics upon which to base possible remedies. Miss MacMurchy says that there are no such statistics available, so when in some way the government has been convinced of the value of such statistics, a first step will have been taken.

"Miss MacMurchy has spoken largely for Eastern Canada, but on a rising scale her deductions are equally true of the West. By a rising scale I mean that everything is higher out here. Wages are higher, but the cost of living is higher, too. Only the other day I talked with a young girl who had left a good situation in the East to come to a better paid position here. She was not complaining, but she said that she had saved a little in the East, whereas, here, although her wage was much higher, she had saved nothing at all. For one thing, the big house rents mean heavy room-rent, and so acute has this problem become that I believe the W. C. T. U. have on hand a scheme for a girls' rooming house which will provide working girls with pleasant rooms at a reasonable rate. The Y. W. C. A. also have a hostel where room and board may be had for the modest sum of \$3.75 a week. The extreme smallness of this sum may be appreciated when I add that I know of two young girls who were lately compelled to pay \$6 each weekly for one damp, unheated room, that is, twelve dollars a week, with no board at all and no use of any sitting room. This want of any sitting room is a drawback greatly felt by girl roomers. It is to meet this lack that some of the churches here are providing sitting rooms fitted with sewing machine, piano, books, and magazines, where girls who wish may meet their friends or spend their leisure evenings. A big city is a lonely place for the homeless girl. Undoubtedly the competition of the girl who lives at home and is therefore willing to work for a less wage is universal. It would seem that the only remedy for this would be some fair minimum wage. Perhaps that will come in time, for, after all, there is no good reason why the girl who lives at home should be paid less than a decent wage for good work.

"Miss MacMurchy speaks of the unpreparedness of many girls who attempt to earn a living without knowing how. It seems to me that parents have much to answer for in this respect. I know of one father who, although earning a good income and desiring his girls to remain in the home, insists upon each of them being properly equipped for some special work. 'I would never feel,' he said, 'that my girls were safe, even if married, unless they had definite possibilities of self-support. The accidents of life are too many.' If more parents realized their duty in this respect there would be fewer incapable girls at the mercy of the world."

Events of the Week.

OLD-TIME dances are the edict in social circles. And the Great Ball which set all the lesser balls a-tinkling was that brilliant affair in London, "The Ball of a Hundred Years Ago," under the special patronage of

the King and Queen. At it those dances under Lady Minto's direction provoked a deal of enthusiastic praise. Canada's interest, however, is one on her own account and is expressing itself in a quick series of quaint observances, particularly in the cities of the West. Winnipeg had recently an old-time fete. And Vancouver has just achieved a unique and fascinating entertainment in which a game of whist was played with human cards and folk dances constituted a feature.

A Regina woman, Miss Gorden, who has been in training in the Deaconess Home in Toronto the past year, leaves shortly for Calgary to assist in the institution of a home for the rescue and protection of fallen girls. The members and friends of the Y.W.C.A., Regina, who recently heard Miss Gorden's noble address on "Womanhood," express their utter confidence in this woman's qualification in spite of the limited period of training.

Miss Nesbitt, of Woodstock, and Miss Morrison, Hamilton, played off the final for the Ontario Trophy in the Ontario Ladies Golf Tournament, at the Hamilton Links, on June 7th. The game throughout was splendidly contested, the honours finally falling to Miss Nesbitt.

The ear of this country is on the point of being borrowed by the Baroness von Sutter, an Austrian noblewoman, whose impressive novel, "Ground Arms," won her the Nobel peace prize in 1895. The Baroness is now in her sixty-sixth year and the earnest activities of her last twenty years have gained her her present reputation of being one of the greatest advocates of world peace living. In-



The Splendid Costumes Worn by the Society Women Who Took Part in the Hundred Years Ago Ball, Held in London. Reading From Left to Right They Are: 1, Miss Fleming, Royal Horse Artillery; 2, Miss Kerr Clark, Costume Worn During Trooping of Colours, 1812; 3, Lady Newborough, Neapolitan Hussar; 4, Lady Constance Hatch, Prussian Hussar; 5, Mrs. Shuttleworth, Spanish Dragoon; 6, Countess Pauline Pappenheim, Westphalian Infantry, and 7, Mrs. Berkeley Levett, Russian Hussar.

ternational brotherhood will be the plea throughout the proposed series of Canadian lectures.

The illness of H. R. H. the Duchess of Connaught, who has been suffering at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, from a sudden and severe attack of peritonitis, has been causing the whole of Canada much concern. The Duchess has been winning whole hosts of new friends lately and it is cause for general gratification that the latest news reports state that her health is improved.

Sixteen almond-eyed Japanese brides recently arrived by the Awa Maru and were met by a corresponding number of Japanese grooms from Steveston, on the Fraser River, B.C. The men had just completed the term of naturalization, and sixteen unions were promptly certificated, and the married ones—whose names we are not ambitious enough to spell—all went home to spend their honeymoons fishing. Truly, the sun never sets upon Japan. We wonder if the Sikhs read the account.

Miss Rhoda Simpson, Winnipeg's first "daughter of music," has been demonstrating lately to distinguished hearers in London that her violin bow is the wand of a necromancer. It was her triumph recently to charm the most critical ears at a concert given by the Lord Mayor in honour of Sir Ernest Shackleton. Miss Simpson's fame is widespread, if not from Pole to Pole, at least it may be said to have touched the South one.

Mrs. Henshaw, Honorary Secretary of the Canadian Alpine Club, is covering herself, her home—Vancouver—and the Canadian Rockies, with glory in her well-received cross-waters lectures. The universities of Oxford and Cambridge have heard her as have also the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and other bodies. And all have remarked the excellence, not only of the verbal descriptions, but also of the fine illustrative views.

The second annual meeting of the Canadian Business Women's Club was held in Toronto on Tuesday, June 4th. Membership at present numbers two hundred, twenty comprising the body at its inception. And reports showed that activity has kept pace with growth—along the lines of study and social work. The president for the ensuing year is Miss Hunter.



A gay party photographed at the International Flower Show, held in London, England, last month, showing the Duchess of Sutherland (in chair), whose husband is at present in Canada in connection with his scheme for the settlement of lands in Alberta, and her son, the Marquis of Stafford, recently married to Lady Eileen Butler. On the right is Lady Rosemary Leveson Gower, and on the left, Miss Chaplin.