

WOMAN'S RESPONSIBILITY IN THE CHURCH.

While acknowledging frankly and with appreciation both the quality and quantity of work that is done in the Church and for the Church by women, it is cause for surprise and regret that her work in the Church to-day falls far below the efficiency that it might have, because of the great lack of leadership. It is possibly one phase of the world-old strife between the spiritual and the material, the permanent and the temporary, that social life and the club appear so attractive to women of culture and ability as the arena for their activity that they forget the double debt which they owe the Church for the civilization which environs them and the peculiar place which they as Christian women occupy in that civilization.

It is not strange that society, which deals largely with things that appeal to the eye, should attract shallow women. It is more to be regretted that the club whose membership is made up of women of culture and ambition proves so congenial a field as practically to exclude Church work from the lives of large numbers. Women's clubs have accomplished much of importance and value in matters civic and historic, but they have robbed the Church of the best efforts of many who have failed to see that inside the Church, with its varied and wide-reaching membership, there are possibilities for influence and for culture wider and more permanent than the best work of the best clubs.

Surely now when women have more culture, more leisure and more resources at their command than any women of the world have had at any time, there should be no lack of leaders. No one for a moment doubts that the women exist—the woman who can organize, the woman who can speak, the woman whose gift is music; the one who is familiar with art and who has in her possession or available for her use pictures of the best-known art treasures, who has at her tongue's end the stories which make them interesting to young girls of little education but hungry minds; the woman who has the gift for cooking and yet never thinks of making that gift her means of redeeming from misery and distress the homes which can scarcely be other than failures while the future housemother is to-day a factory girl or "saleslady." Why do not women see that in the Church is a field offering quick and constant returns for the investment of culture and social position?

The difficulty is not so much that women are not working. At no time in history have they been so interested in public matters, in the welfare of their fellow-men; but very much work; otherwise commendable, is being done by Christian women entirely outside of the Church which might well go to the building up of its influence.

Some years ago a woman, enthusiastic in her love of art, organized a club for girls who were mostly saleswomen in two or three of the largest dry goods establishments of the city. A small suite of rooms was rented, the walls decorated with photographs and plaster casts, and a library of perhaps one hundred good books on subjects to be brought to their attention was loaned for the use of the girls. From ten in the morning until ten in the evening the rooms were open. On two evenings a week and on Saturday afternoons the leader, or some volunteer friend, talked on art, or travel, or health, or whatever topic might be interesting and helpful. In a few years nine of these girls saved enough money by economical dressing, the giving up of cheap theatre tickets and similar luxuries to spend a vacation in Europe. Of course they went as second-class passengers and did not patronize expensive hotels; but they had opened up to them a new horizon, and for the rest of their lives they had in themselves a permanent spring of happiness and influence.

This was work of permanent and of great value, but the way in which the

work was done was unfortunately too typical, in that no credit was given to the Church. The woman who organized the club was a member of the Church, most of the associate membership was drawn from the same institution, but it probably never occurred to any of them that this was properly a branch of Church work and should have been recognized as such; nay, further, that the woman who has such gifts and culture has them because she came of Christian stock, and that it would be simply an acknowledgment of her debt to line up her forces with the company of the Church, rather than let them remain outside to be quoted and pointed at as an illustration of what the Church does not do.

The feeling, almost of rivalry, which this very attitude has helped to build up between settlements and Churches, is rather absurd when the facts are sifted and it is found that comparatively little is done in the former which is not also done by the missions and branches of the latter. Moreover, the leadership and support of this very work which claims to correct the Churches' mistaken attitude toward the masses, is largely furnished by Church members.—Mrs. Newell Dwight Hillis in *The Interior*.

GLADSTONE ALWAYS CONSISTENT

The Nineteenth Century for December, 1909, along with a number of articles of general interest, has some that bear upon the present political crisis in Britain. Sir Francis A. Channing, M.P., contributes a statement regarding "Mr. Gladstone and the crisis of 1909," in which he shows quite clearly that the great statesman was a consistent upholder of the constitutional rights of the House of Commons, especially in matters of finance. This writer gives proof both from Mr. Gladstone's statements and actions for the following conclusion: "Mr. Gladstone would have fought this constitutional revolution to the death, and his Mid Lothian campaign, the passion of the Home Rule struggle, his inexhaustible resourcefulness in handling every great question to which he gave himself, demonstrate that he would have fought with an intensity, with almost a Berserker rage, which might have carried all before it. It is, perhaps, a fruitless speculation, for you can take no man out of his own time and atmosphere and assume that under other conditions he would be exactly what he was; but on the issue of the greatest of all conceivable constitutional usurpation, a question of permanent principle, there is no room for doubt any more than it is possible for any candid mind to deny that whatever defect detail may have been open to objection in the great budget of 1909 the general principles of the free trade budget of to-day have their natural and logical forerunners in the two great financial schemes of 1853 and 1860, just as much as in the great finance bill of Sir William Harcourt of 1894." Strange to say this is followed by an article entitled "Lord Beaconsfield as a Tariff Reformer," by Sir Roper Lethbridge, K.C., full of quotations of speeches of the former Conservative leader which show that he was always of the opinion that moderate protection was good for the country, so that in the present circumstances he would probably have favored tariff reform. This may be true; but these two great statesmen fought their battles well when alive and their successors must now do their duty in the same spirit.

"The Truth about the Manning of the Fleet," by Archibald S. Hurd, should be read by those who are afflicted with the war scare, it shows that whatever the future may bring forth, the present is well provided for, and Britain has no need to tremble at the thought of Germany or any other warlike power. Mr. J. Ellis Barker holds forth on Unionist or Socialist Land Reform to the glory of Mr. Balfour and the discredit of Lloyd-George.

ILLINOIS LETTER.

By W. H. Jordan.

In a former letter we referred to the effort on the part of some of our Presbyterian colleges to withdraw from Synodical control, that elder professors might be retired on the Carnegie Foundation for pensioning aged teachers. Wooster College, one of the dearest children of the church, located at Wooster, Ohio, to whom the church has given most liberally now asks to withdraw. It is needless to say that such a request has aroused no small opposition. This is one of the gravest questions with which the Educational committees in the synods have to grapple with. It is high time the whole church would awake to the importance of paying teachers better and providing for their old age if necessary, and control the educational institutions. To accede to the request coming from many colleges is to lose control of the institutions built up through the years by the prayers, labor and self sacrifice of the fathers and mothers in Israel.

There seem to be fewer large revival meetings this winter, but many meetings in smaller churches.

Among the various ministerial changes we note the going of Rev. Dr. O. H. L. Mason, for eight years pastor of the Boone, Iowa Presbyterian Church, to the Long Beach California Presbyterian church, a church of nearly 800 members. Dr. Mason is a valuable man. He came to us from the Congregational church, and served as chaplain of one of the Iowa regiments during the Spanish War.

Hon. T. H. Perrin, of Alton, Ill., one of the strongest men received through the union of the Cumberland Church with the Northern Church has just been elected superintendent of the 12th St. Presbyterian Sabbath School for the thirty-fifth time. That is a fine record indeed. He is one of the most influential laymen in the church.

The National Campaign of the Laymen's missionary Movement, which includes seventy-five conventions throughout the country, is carrying out its campaign vigorously. The convention at St. Louis, Missouri, Feb. 3-6 is being well advertised. The St. Louis district includes St. Louis and 29 counties in Missouri and 47 counties in southern Illinois. Provision will be made for 2,200 delegates.

The Week of Prayer is being observed here by union meetings, and is in many places the beginning of revivals. God grant there may be showers of refreshing as the church waits in prayer.

Blackwoods for December brings to a close the 17th volume of this famous magazine. Anyone who subscribes for Blackwood will get a quantity of the best reading—in fiction, poetry and politics—to be found in any current publication.

Why is the child Jesus so different from all other children, even from the beautiful and gifted children of the earth? Because he touches the heart of a whole world; he is the world's child, the world's youth, teacher, friend, Master, Saviour.—George A. Gordon, D.D.

As it is found cheaper to make ice by electricity than to buy it, even for small houses and shops, the Marylebone Council purposes to encourage ice-making and freezing by offering electricity for the purpose at a penny per unit.

PURCHASE OF SUMMER RESORTS.

As the Grand Trunk Railway system is in touch with several good openings for those who desire to purchase summer resorts, opportunities for business locations, manufacturing plants, etc., anyone interested who will apply to Mr. W. P. Fitzsimmons, Commissioner of Industries, Grand Trunk Railway System, Montreal, can secure full particulars.