

WOMAN'S WORLD.

MRS. FRANK LESLIE'S SCHEME TO HELP WOMEN WHO NEED IT.

The Time to Be Careful—In a Good Work. Poor Anna Dickinson—A Costly Dress. Dinner Table Novelties—The Lukewarm Bath—She Wants an Asp.

As the immortal Lydia Pinkham of the perennial smile says, "Woman sympathizes with woman," and it is doubtless this tender feeling which has induced Mrs. Frank Leslie to make a will bequeathing a large portion of her fortune for the purpose of founding an institution for her poorer sisters.

"I have not yet decided exactly what form my woman's institute shall take," she says. "I want to supply that lack in woman's life which is so large a factor in the life of a man—the ability to get the best facilities for improvement, relaxation and home life at cost price. Perhaps I want my woman's institute to be a woman's club, where my artist women can have their studios and my literary women the very best of instruction and companionship."

This is a very laudable scheme, but it has its dangers. Philanthropy on so large a scale needs the shrewdest management to be made successful. Mrs. Leslie should remember the terrible failure of A. T. Stewart's post mortem generosity to the working women and profit by it. If her scheme takes the shape of an institution to help young women who are artists it will be of great assistance to a class of persons whose opportunities for study are in this country comparatively small.

Women artists need help much more than literary women, for the latter have plenty of opportunities for self improvement now, and for the exercise of their craft the newspapers offer them chances which they never before have enjoyed. However, any plan which tends to make the condition of women in cities easier than it is at present is to be commended, for their lot at present, though much better than it was fifty years ago, is by no means an ideal one.—New York Telegram.

The Time to Be Careful.

Now is the season above all others for mothers carefully to watch their flock—especially the older children, who have had a winter of study and necessarily curtailed exercise; the boys and girls who have had their brains worked while their bodies have remained comparatively inactive all through the winter. Spring examinations, too, are before many a young student, just at the time when they feel the greatest lassitude and disinclination for work. "How I wish I could take them all out of school for a few weeks," said an anxious mother the other day, noting the pale faces and lessening appetites of her children. "We all had to go through it," said the more philosophic parent. "I expect they can stand it—they will have to be educated like every one else."

And that is just the hard part of it in this world! The battle is to the strongest—nothing stops; a week of absence from school or college means harder work later on. Therefore, unless the need is urgent, we cannot take our children out of the treadmill of daily work; but it behooves us to be all the more careful to watch their diet, to see that they have sleep enough and exercise enough, and, if necessary, to give them some tonic adapted to their constitutions and needs.

In old days and even now, probably, in old fashioned families, the inevitable pitcher of bitters appeared every spring on the sideboard, to be partaken of generally by the whole family. Home made and brewed fresh every day, it was to be taken cold, with a little sugar to sweeten it if desired; the ingredients were different, according to the favorite recipe of the house mother, but all excellent and, as the old ladies used to say, "Good for spring sicken," and a clearer of the blood.—New York Tribune.

In a Good Work.

Five years ago a little company of working girls met to talk together of something to brighten the lives of working women. The anniversary of that meeting was held in a club house belonging to a society of working women. The second anniversary was celebrated by a convention of the different clubs formed on the original plan of the first society. The third anniversary united in an association of these working girls' clubs. The fourth celebration of the day convened hundreds of delegates from different states and cities where similar clubs had been formed and united in association.

The latest step is the organization for the purpose of raising and managing a fund known as "The mutual benefit fund of the New York Association of Working Girls' societies," the object of which is to provide for its members in case of illness or death. Any working girl who is a member in good standing of one of the clubs in the New York association is entitled to membership in the new society, and by paying the small dues of twenty-five cents a month will receive in case of sickness \$50 each week until her recovery, and \$30 in case of her death shall be paid to her surviving relatives.

The officers of this society are Mrs. Jasper Griswold, president; Mrs. H. Olesheimer, vice president; Miss Potter, general secretary, and Miss Virginia Curran, general treasurer. There is also a board of managers consisting of representatives appointed from the different clubs, one representative for each twenty members, and the general officers, who have entire control of all the affairs of the society, the supervision of the fund and the payment of its benefits. Like all the working girls' societies, this new society is in no sense a charitable one, but managed on the co-operative plan entirely.—New York World.

Poor Anna Dickinson.

"There is an impression abroad," said well known lyceum manager who has directed the lecture tours of some of the most celebrated men and women of the

latter half of this century, "that Anna Dickinson is an old woman. This is far from true. Anna Dickinson began her career when she was a mere child—not more than fourteen or fifteen. She is now about forty, in the prime of life. Her present illness might, I think, be traced to various causes. The principal one, in my opinion, is her failure on the stage of a few years ago. Her manner of lecturing was so forcible and dramatic that some injudicious friends of hers thought she could have even a greater success as an actress than she had as a public speaker. Now that was poor logic, as they found out.

"There is a vast difference between the platform and the stage. But if there is any quality that Anna Dickinson possessed to a marked degree it was persistence. She was determined to succeed, but the public and the press wouldn't have it. Her performance of male parts was jeered at. Her 'Hamlet' was denounced as a feeble imitation of Booth's. "Her first play, the 'Crown of Thorns,' was very well received, and if her health had not gone back on her she might now repeat that success sometime, for she has lately been at work writing a new drama. Poor Anna! She was a great woman in her day, and she has had a great career. I believe that if she recovers from her present trouble she may do something yet which will show that her career isn't by any means ended."—New York Telegram.

She Caught an Editor Napping.

A very bright little woman who writes well and often for the magazines has caught an editor napping, and a more jubilant woman I have never seen. She just seems to revel in her conquest. Not long ago the editor sent her a commission to write an article on a given topic. She accepted, and in a fortnight forwarded the manuscript. Back came a letter from the editor saying that she had not treated the subject as he wished, and, with some suggestions, asked her to rewrite the article. She was disappointed, but with her disappointment came an idea. "Now I will test my theory that there are editors who are not so sharp as people imagine," said my lady, and forthwith she prepared to put her scheme to trap her editorial friend in motion.

She allowed her manuscript to lie in her desk for one month, then, untouched and without a single revision, had the manuscript transferred by the typewriter. With a sweet and gracious little note the manuscript, in its new form, went back to the editor with the single query, "Is this more to your idea of what the article should be?"

In two days came back the response, "The article, as revised, is exactly in accordance with my ideas, which I am glad I was successful in making known to you." Oh, that woman! Her life has been sunshine after that day. She has caught a prominent editor napping, and the height of her ambition seems to be reached.—Edward W. Bok's Letter.

A Costly Dress.

I was shown a dress made for the zarina in Paris. It was composed of a short train, corsage and high Medici collar in stamped velvet. The pattern in relief was of a cold, pearl gray, and the ground of a pinkish gray, of a tender hue, which, however, will have its full value in electric light. The front part of the skirt followed in hue the gray of the velvet flowers, and was trimmed in diagonal curves, with five rows of pink and gray ruffles of cut silk. Between the ruffles there were bunches of the finest silver thread, looking like thistle-down. The upper part of the body had a square cut aperture filled in with pink silk, on which silver-braid was vertically applied all over. The stomacher and dorsal peak were outlined with a triple cord of pink silk, gray silk and silver, ending in tassels, which repeated the thistle-down effect. The dress had inside the skirts, from the knees down, six rows of fully gathered Valenciennes lace, enlivened with alternate flots of pink and pearl gray narrow ribbon. The flots is made by arranging a ribbon in a quantity of falling loops all held together.—Mrs. Crawford in London Truth.

Where the Men Sew.

A novelty in the way of sewing classes is that which has taken the place of the Mondays aboard the receiving ship Vermont in the Brooklyn navy yard. It is a novelty because the men come, and more than that, they actually work. They thread needles, find thimbles, run the sewing machine, and one or two of them display their navy life training by pronounced skill in closing a seam. A second feature, which is not usual with these functions, is that the young maids and matrons sew for the heathen to the accompaniment of band music—the navy yard band being stationed in its usual place, whence its melodies float into the captain's cabin, where industry, supplemented with chocolate and cakes, is "at home."

A young woman who is a member of this class admits that when the music becomes too inspiring some pairs of restless feet cease tapping impatient time to a valse or schottische and go whirling about instead, but this aberration of the routine "is merely temporary," she says, "and does not really interfere with the work."—Her Point of View in New York Times.

Mrs. Stowe and Argyll.

A friend who has just come from the house of Harriet Beecher Stowe tells me that the authoress still retains her physical strength. Each morning she leads the devotions at the breakfast table, praying, reading the Scriptures and singing a hymn. The only time she takes up her pen is to write to some member of the family, but one day in each month is set aside for a letter to the Duke of Argyll, the two writing to each other in alternate months.

Mrs. Stowe's letters to the duke are said to be vigorous, and from them her correspondent gets no idea of her mental health. The two discuss international affairs of all kinds, and even Mrs. Stowe's daughters are oftentimes surprised to see how thorough is their mother's knowledge of every day affairs as she

Mothers as Match-Makers.

There is a kind of match-making which it is a mother's duty to attempt, writes Amelia E. Barr, in *The Ladies' Home Journal*. But it has strict limitations. It resolves itself into the simple duty of introducing to her daughter young men whose moral character is good, who are in a position to marry, and who, physically are not likely to repel her. The young people may then safely be left to their own instincts. There should be no attempt to coerce; no moral force used to make even a suitable marriage; though extremities may lawfully be used to prevent an evil marriage. A mother's match-making really begins while her daughter's education is in progress. And it is one of the strangest of facts, that mothers generally force this education in the direction of those qualities likely to amuse young men—music, dancing, singing, dressing, playing games, chaffing wittily, etc. Now, such attractions are likely to procure plenty of flirtation; but young men rarely marry the girls they flirt with. And why do not mothers consider, most of all, that approaching period in their daughters' lives when they will or ought to, cease being made love to? Why should the preparation for young ladyhood absorb all the girl's education? How many curriculums contain any arrangement for education for widowhood or parenthood? Yet, what man wishes to pass his life with a woman whose only charm is the power to amuse him? He might as wisely dine every day upon candy sugar.

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The Irish Ether Drinkers.

Holy Week has brought, at any rate one absolute novelty, the discovery by *The Times* that the true source of Ireland's woes is the drinking of ether. In a very elaborate narrative it describes a malady, the existence of which nobody heretofore has suspected, and gives figures that are positively appalling; if they do, in fact, correctly denote the number of ether drinkers it is only one portion of Ireland which suffers from this vice, the Northeast, but there we hear of 6200 drinkers in Draperstown out of a total population of 9500, with many other towns where the proportion, if less, is still very great.

The ravages of this habit are described as comparable only with those of the use of opium among the low classes of Chinese. Insanity is largely on the increase in the district, and the death rate among the children of etheromaniacs is very heavy. In whole communities like Draperstown and Cookstown practically every adult is a victim to the habit.

The drug used is called methylated ether, being a compound of ether and methylated spirits. Owing to the last which is admitted free of duty for use in the arts and sciences, the compound is extremely cheap, so that an impure ether mixture can be made, 10 cents worth of which will make a man wholly drunk.

A point about it is that recovery from the inebriation is remarkably rapid, so that a man at a fair can be drunk and sober half a dozen times in a day. Druggists, publicans, and traveling hawkers all sell it. When Parliament reassembles urgent attention will be called to the evil and two projects will be advanced as remedies—one to reimpose the tax on methylated spirits, the other to compel by law, a mixture of naphtha with all preparations of ether not absolutely devoted to medicine or manufactures, a compound which would produce nausea, vomiting and headache.—London Letter.

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La grippe has made its appearance throughout the west to an alarming extent. It is estimated that there are from fifteen to twenty thousand cases in Pittsburg. In Chicago nearly one-half the people are afflicted, while in Dubuque, Iowa, they have over one thousand cases. In most of these places pneumonia follows la grippe, and the death rate is greatly increased. In some instances it has proved fatal to whole families.

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