

The proposal Mrs. Caird makes, as to freedom in marriage, opens up a great number of perplexing questions. Would she make free marriages terminable at a given period, to be renewed or not, as a man and woman might agree? What provision would she make with regard to the children of the different marriages, and, above all, what arrangement would she propose with regard to a settlement on the woman? For, it would be obviously most unfair that a man should be able, at the end of their marriage term, to turn her adrift on the world without a settlement that would be a compensation to her for her loss of youth. Probably under these new arrangements, however, a woman after the termination of several marriages would possess a pecuniary value quite out of comparison with her early charms, and give her advantages not now possessed by her old-fashioned and more orthodox sisters.

I am glad to see that Mrs. Caird sees no prospect of the immediate carrying out of her schemes, and that her whole article proceeds on the basis that the time is not ripe, and that individualism and socialism must have both fought their great battle, and socialism have triumphed before existing marriage relations can be substantially altered. We can, therefore, wait without fear, and watch the gradual approach of the social revolution, which will not come in our time.

The whole fabric of English society—may I not say of all civilised society?—is built up on the foundation of the family of which the man is the head, and must always remain so, and any attempt to meddle or interfere with it will bring the whole thing about our ears. No system is perfect, but what system or relation, save that of marriage, could develop the qualities of unselfishness and devotion in women, and courage and industry in men, and give birth to the spirit of compromise and toleration which is the whole secret of happiness in life? What would become of the great incentive to work, improvement, and self-denial but for the love of wife and children? When we look round and see the millions of happy families and homes sanctified by the tie that cannot be broken at will, I can only feel deep regret that any woman should think another order of things desirable. I am content to be of the class that is, as Mrs. Caird says, stolidly irritating—one of "a united couple," quite aware that I am physically and mentally very inferior to what Max O'Rell's correspondent calls the "odious creature," and I know I represent the feelings of the vast majority of my countrywomen. If changes are to come in the social arrangements of England, and the relations of men and women to each other to be altered, let it not be said that those to bring them about were the women of

England, who have gained everything by the institution, they now seek to destroy. The feeling of chivalry, of reverence, of devotion to women must go if you put them on the same footing, morally and socially, as men, and, being the weaker, they must inevitably suffer, and there is no humiliation in recognising the fact. The position of women has always been and will be a subject one, but not, as Mrs. Caird would have us believe, necessarily a degraded one. The man always has been, and will continue to be, head of the family, and the position of the woman, to my mind, is perfectly summed up in the words, "Her desire shall be to her husband, and he shall rule over her."—
Yours faithfully,
MARY JEUNE.

37, Wimpole-street, Aug. 13.

FROM THE ANTIPODES.

WE have received No. 4 of the first volume of the *Nursing Record*, owned by Sampson, Low and Co., of London. The frontispiece is depicted as a first-class engraving of a good-looking Nurse, habited in the distinctive uniform of the class. Unlike so many illustrated front pages, the features of this young lady are well drawn and fascinating to such a degree that one would long for an ache or pain if it ensured Nursing by such a sylph-like damsel. And as malingering in illness is not always confined to the female sex, the male impostor would have a beautiful reward for his pain.

Anyone who wishes for a more intimate acquaintance with the delineations we refer to, can gratify his curiosity by subscribing to a magazine which will soon be as pleasant a contemplation to the proprietors as to its readers.

The number of Nurses in Britain is 15,000, and it must be a boon to them individually and collectively to find they are catered for in literature by the issue of a distinct and definite periodical in which their aim, wants, well-being, grievances and movements can find expression in the columns of a journal peculiarly their own. If these ladies only Nurse the publication in as conscientious a manner as they do their Hospital charges, a vigorous constitution and long life and prosperity will be assured to it.

The tone and style of the paper are good, and it conveys the impression of a certain amount of influence and weight. We cordially wish our unique London Magazine the success it evidently deserves.—*The Australian Chemist's Review*.

LADIES having a connection among Hospitals, Nursing and similar Institutions, or interested in Nursing work in London and the provinces, can increase their incomes by obtaining subscribers for an important new weekly and monthly publication. Liberal commission.—Apply, by letter only, to Manager "Nursing Record," St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, London.

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