labours for an increase of Christian faith and of the virtues which it inspires in all quarters of the world.—VICTORIA, R.I."

MRS. HARVEY, of Shanklin, Isle of Wight, who some time ago founded the popular club in that place, of which both men and women are members, has now founded an institution there which is doubly philanthropic. It is a home for old ladies, and a training school for servants at the same time. Servants who have been there command the best wages, and are always in demand. More institutions, where domestics could be taught their work methodically, would be a great boon to society at large.

MME. BATIFOL, a philanthropic French lady, is the founder of a prize to the value of £400, to encourage the efforts of a struggling class of young women engaged in dressmaking, and thus to give one annually the chance of setting up in business on her own account. Mdlle. Terminaux is the deserving dressmaker who has this year won the Batifol award. Her history until the present time is only one among thousands of cases of self-help and honest industry which may be found among women. She started from the lowest rung of the ladder, and until she was fifteen, she was only permitted to run errands, to tidy up the pieces and cottons carelessly strewn about by the other workgirls, and was expected to wash and scrub and be maid-of-all-work to her mistress into the bargain. At fifteen, she was promoted to be a work-girl herself (an ouvrière), and began to earn her shilling a day, supplemented with odds and ends of silk and scraps of waste material. At eighteen, she rose another step, and drew a higher salary. Soon she hopes to become a première (a chief cutter out), and then if a good opportunity presents itself, but not otherwise, she will become her own mistress, and will earn the title of patronne.

MISS LINDA GILBERT, better known as "The Prisoners' Friend," whose work among the prisons in America has earned her that title, is trying to raise a fund of £100,000 to build an industrial and educational home near New York, to meet the needs of ex-convicts. In this institution there will be a chapel, library, and night-school; and to make it self-supporting, a farm, poultry-yard, workshops, and laundry.

DR. CAROLINE S. ROGERS, of Rochester, in the State of New York, has been appointed examining physician to the female department of the State Industrial School. This is the first instance of a lady-physician being appointed to such a position in the State institutions.

MISS JANE HASKEW, M.D., L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., is about to sail, under the auspices of the Indian Female Normal School and Instruction Society, or Zenana Bible Medical Mission, to work at Lucknow as a medical missionary. There are nine lady medical missionaries sailing this autumn, but Dr. Haskew, who is going by way of Calcutta, starts first. A meeting to bid farewell to the other eight ladies will be held in the Morley Hall, Regent Street, on Saturday, 3rd of November.

MISS MARY C. TABOR has a paper in this month's Contemporary Review, entitled "The Rights of Children," in which she remarks "that it may be safely affirmed that there is no portion of our English law more anomalous and defective, none more discreditable to the conscience of a Christian nation, or more at variance with the interests of a civilised community, than that which deals with the rights and claims of children." There is a note at the close of this paper, contributed by the Editor, saying that a "Bill for the Protection of Children has already been read a first time in the House of Commons," so that some of the evils mentioned by Miss Tabor will, it is trusted, have a remedy provided for them.

"ART AND INDUSTRY CLASSES.—It is only lately that exhibitions of local art and industry, 'for the encouragement of thrift,' and village classes, for the teaching of useful handicrafts, have become general. A few years ago, the idea of teaching the labouring folk in and around her village originated with a lady, who worked hard to carry out her project, and succeeded nobly. She also sought in every way to influence her neighbours and acquaintances, far and near, to similar efforts. In this she was also successful, and the result was the Cottage Art Association, soon developed into the Home Arts and Industries Association, which now extends all over the United Kingdom. Ladies took up the idea; they went in con amore for the business, devoting to it time, means, and energy, and taking care to learn thoroughly the arts they proposed teaching others. Wood-carving and clay modelling were the first ventures; but, by degrees, brass beating and iron work crept in, followed, recently, by leather embossing. work is steadily advancing, new classes are continually being formed, and some are starting up in America and the Colonies. To show the rapid growth of the association, there are now over three hundred classes, containing considerably over four thousand pupils; whereas, in 1885, there were only forty classes. A grand display of class handiwork from all parts was held last summer in London, at the Albert Hall, which attracted considerable attention."

previous page next page