

## WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

THE Queen herself, it is reported, made some sketches of the new style of dress to be worn at the Drawing-Rooms. Specimen bodies were then made by two dressmakers for Her Majesty's inspection and approval.

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LADY LONDONDERRY'S labours in Belfast, on behalf of the distressed Irish ladies, have added a considerable sum to the funds of the association formed in their favour. It is cheering to hear that nearly £1,000 has been collected in one week.

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MRS. JEUNE has an article in the *National Review* on the "Technical Education of Women," upon which subject she is evidently very well informed. She points out that in this country we are lamentably deficient in this portion of the educational curriculum, and describes the technical training which is given to girls in schools set apart for this purpose on the Continent. Not the least interesting part of her article is that in which Mrs. Jeune points to the agricultural training which girls receive in Denmark and North Germany; and the excellent account of Mrs. Neilson's training farm is well worthy of study.

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THE *Queen* says, in an interesting article concerning "The New Housewifery Training School":—"Far away down in Gloucestershire, in the little village of Newnham, stands a substantial-looking house, on the banks of the Severn. The house and grounds are admirably suited for the purpose for which it is used, viz., as a Home School for Girls, where all kinds of domestic work are taught. The special feature of the school—the teaching of housewifery—will be worked upon the three-fold plan into which this movement has developed: Domestic kindergarten for the little ones, who, in addition to the usual branches of a thorough English education, are taught housework, such as making the beds and laying the tables, by means of small toy models; a junior course of practical house-work for older girls; a senior course for girls leaving school, and young women desirous of gaining a thorough knowledge in housewifery, hygiene, and sanitary subjects. When it is desirable that girls should be taught something more than this, in order to gain a livelihood, special arrangements will be made for teaching them type-setting, dressmaking, &c. Efforts will be made to find employment for them when trained. The domestic kindergarten system is a plan for teaching children in a pleasant, amusing way what will make them, when grown up, good housewives. There are a number of

little ones from five to fourteen years of age who are being instructed as follows:—In table-setting each child is given a box containing a set of toy dishes, tiny knives and forks, with which they are taught to set the table. A doll is provided, and the little maidens learn to dress and undress the baby doll. On a certain afternoon not long ago a washing lesson was to be given to the children, and the writer was invited to be present. In a large room in which two tables were placed, a number of little children assembled. On the table were the clothes-lines, props, clothes-baskets, and the tiniest of boilers, brushes, wringing machines, and dolly's linen. The little ones put up the lines, and washing began. It was a pretty and novel sight to see the little ones busy washing the dolly's clothes, hanging them on the line to dry, &c. It made one feel that children can be taught to be useful, even whilst they are playing. Then comes the great pleasure of cooking, when they learn to make pies and tiny loaves of bread. These games are all taught in conjunction with merry songs and rhymes, and the grief with which the children hear that a lesson is to be postponed, will testify how much they delight in the occupation. The daily work is described in manuals, the price of which is one shilling. In the first step, suitable for Standard I., the girls go through the day's work, from getting up in the morning to going to bed at night. In the second step, suitable for Standard II., they learn the duties of the week—washing, ironing, &c. The third step, for number three standard, teaches supplementary duties, as marketing, cooking, &c. As one who has had personal experience of the training given, I can say that it is such as will prove beneficial to them in future life. It is the great aim of the Lady Principal, Miss Headdon, to help the girls placed under her care to become good and useful women; to impress upon them that they are placed in this world to aid those with whom they come in contact, and to leave the world the better for their presence in it. Her chief endeavour is to teach the little ones of Riverdale that all work, if done as well as we can do it, is noble and elevating, and the ruling motto of Riverdale is this:

'For the motive gives the value  
To the meanest thing we do.'

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SOME interesting meetings are about to take place in connection with the Women's Liberal Association. On March 7, at 415, Holloway Road, at eight p.m., Mrs. Bryant, D.Sc., in the chair; lecture by Miss Orme, on "Married Women's Property." March 12, Hampstead Vestry Hall; Miss Orme, "Recent Visit to Ireland." March 14, at Notting Hill, debate on "Home Rule." Opened by Miss Petre, Unionist; reply by Miss Orme, Home Ruler.

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