

tages of mental training was an anomaly which was not realised until the end of the last century, since which time the higher education of women and their social progress in other respects had made great advances. Women's cause was man's also, for they must rise or sink together.

* * *

THE *Daily Telegraph* says, "It sounds rather unnatural that a 'Woman's Rights' movement should have a 'left wing,' yet such is the fact, and it is causing considerable uneasiness to the advocates of Mr. Woodall's Bill. The members of the 'left' have already carried a resolution that married women, as well as unmarried, should be forthwith enfranchised; whereas the orthodox and moderate view is that, if the 800,000 widows and spinsters in the United Kingdom get the vote, it will be quite as much as Parliament is likely to grant to begin with."

* * *

ON the 2nd inst. the annual meeting of the Girls' Guild of Good Life, which has for its object "the cultivation of such habits and graces as tend to the building up of a pure and happy home life," was held in the Hoxton Hall, Hoxton Street, under the presidency of Mr. William Palmer, who was accompanied to the platform by Lady Dundas, Professor Stuart, M.P., the Rev. Canon Barker, and others interested in the movement. The Guild has been about three years in existence, having now a membership of eight hundred and five girls, who are taught cookery and other household duties, singing, &c., and also have parlour meetings, which have become very popular. All the speakers at the meeting testified to the admirable work the Guild was accomplishing in improving the manners and bettering the condition of young women in the Hoxton district, and wished it every success.

* * *

MRS. EVANS, who is seeking re-election on the Strand Board of Guardians, and has done such good work, does not spare her late colleagues in her present address to the ratepayers. She reports how she was kept off the Finance Committee because of her too inquiring mind, and how a man was appointed instead, who was too ill to attend more than three out of forty-seven meetings. She says in the Strand Union no shelter is provided for outcast women, who are left to crawl into cellars and die, as did the "unfortunate" in Denzell Street, a short time ago. Notwithstanding the many improvements in the condition of the children, which have been effected since Mrs. Evans became a Guardian, Mr. Henry Power had to report that about 50 per cent. of the children were suffering from ophthalmia in a more or less

severe form. He attributes this distressing malady to the following causes. "Although it originates in overcrowding and want of cleanliness, it is very apt to spread where many children or adults are housed under the same roof." He recommends that none of the affected or doubtfully affected children should be allowed to bathe in the large bath with the healthy children. Mrs. Evans says that she has seen fifty-six children bathed in the same water. Mr. Power also considered the sanitary arrangements defective, and upon his suggestion that the drains should be thoroughly overhauled, it was found that there was no system of drainage, and that the ground surrounding the school was honeycombed with cesspools.

CORRESPONDENCE

(Notes, Queries, &c.)

* * * *We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by Correspondents. Brevity and conciseness will have first consideration. See Notices.*

* * * *British Nurses' Association.—The offices of the Association are now situated at 8, Oxford Circus Avenue, W., where all communications should in future be addressed. Office hours, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.). Wednesdays, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., to meet the convenience of Nurses who may desire information or advice.*

TACT.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—“House Surgeon” is evidently in the minority in his definition of “institution tact,” as the three ladies who have written on the subject are unanimous in their opinion as to its undesirableness; but he gives a wise caution to new comers into institutions, when he advises them to consider well, and have patience in attempting to reform abuses. It is not human nature to enjoy the process of “being reformed,” and the hand of steel, which alone can work the change, must be well covered with the velvet glove. I have not yet forgotten the infuriating sensation experienced ten years ago, upon being informed by a raw Probationer, engaged by a new Matron, as an excuse for laziness, that “she had been engaged to help to raise the tone, and did not intend to wait upon the Staff Nurse.” What a tone of bitterness and opposition was raised by that injudicious speech! I think if Hospital workers, of all grades, would cultivate the great virtues of charity, loving-kindness and loyalty, we should not hear of so many lamentable failures from lack of tact.—Yours obediently, AN OLD SISTER.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I am sorry to see in your paper, the ideas put forward by some Nursing minds, with regard to tact. Why should virtues be transformed into vices, in the “Institution world”? A Nurse or Matron guilty of “duplicitous, subterfuge, and humbug,” can surely lay no claim to the beautiful virtue usually called tact. Tact is the outcome of that sixth sense of a loving nature,

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)