

Promoting the Return of Women as Poor-law Guardians) made a telling and amusing address, bringing forward facts to show the radical unfitness of men to deal with the mysteries of pails and brooms, the proper cleansing and clothing of workhouse babes, and of sickly old people, and how, whilst money is wasted on overplus in one direction, in others the common decencies of life are neglected, which means misery to the old and sick, and evil training to the young children growing up. The Matron finds it difficult to bring some necessities before a board of men which would naturally at once come under the notice of a lady Guardian. Lady Wentworth expressed, in a few graceful words, the desire of all concerned to keep the question entirely outside politics, and to reduce, rather than augment, the liabilities of the ratepayer, and asked all those who have the well-being of the poor in Chelsea at heart, to give their votes to the two ladies, Mrs. Glover and Mrs. McCullum.

THE *Daily Telegraph* asks if a lady laundress is a possibility. One of the proprietors of a great laundry establishment proposes shortly to start a guild of enterprising ladies who are willing to devote themselves to the greatly abused art of starching, glazing, and "getting up" the infinite complexity of modern household linens. He believes a competent manageress, who has passed the curriculum of the wash-tubs and ironing-benches, would command a certain two pounds per week; while below her, in the branches of account-keeping, sorting, mending, packing, and so forth, there is plenty of useful and honourable womanly labour for the perplexed unmarried daughter of to-day. The soapsuds and steaming-rooms in this scheme are to be left to those blessed with the necessary physical requirements. Should the idea be carried out successfully, there may come a time when bachelors will cease to mourn over absent buttons, and the servitude of Mr. Mantalini at the mangle crank may lose half its pathos in the eyes of admirers of our fair future *blanchisseuse*.

MRS. JOHN A. LOGAN is occupying herself in working up a scheme to establish a finishing school in the arts of house-wifery, when she returns home, either in New York or Chicago. It is intended that this school shall be a sort of home, where young ladies, after leaving school, may spend a year in learning all the branches of household work which a mistress ought to know; and is evidently on the same lines as Miss Forsyth's Technical College, in Victoria Square, of which a full account appeared in the *Queen* a few weeks ago.

MISS MAY MORRIS, the daughter of the author of "The Earthly Paradise," is arranging for a series of lectures to be delivered during the season by Prince Krapotkine on the subject of Social Evolution. Prince Krapotkine, who holds that the basis of future progress is to be found not merely in the freedom of the individual, but also in his need of association, intends to treat of the origin of our present economical and political organisations from the primitive Saxon and Celtic community and the communes of mediæval times, down to the absorption of these communes by the centralising State and the growth of representative government.

It is said that both Mrs. Humphrey Ward and Miss Beatrice Potter are strongly opposed to women's suffrage.

THE Kensington District Nursing Association, since its establishment in April, 1885, has provided Nurses to tend no less than one thousand seven hundred and five cases of illness, chiefly in connection with the poor of the parish—an excellent work excellently done. Mr. Ferrers-Guy has shown his appreciation by a subscription of fifty pounds towards its worthy objects.

## 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,—I am much indebted to those amongst your correspondents who have attempted to disperse my perplexity concerning the quality called tact, as it is understood in the institution world. "Matrona," whose letters are always practical and convincing, has evidently had some experience of my difficulties, and does not think that the quality demanded is necessarily virtue *par excellence*. Cunning is the word she has had the temerity to use, and cunning it is, and not sympathetic courtesy or kindness of heart, or "the outcome of that sixth sense of a loving nature," which is meant in nine cases out of ten when an earnest and honest woman is told to cultivate tact by her fellow-officials; and cunning it is which "manages committees, panders to fads, undermines the enemy, and pulls wires with

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