

gest, by sending those who advised him at once to the right about.

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JUST upon going to press, I hear of the appointment of Miss K. V. MacIntyre to the Matronship of the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan. Miss MacIntyre received her training at Westminster Hospital during the years 1877-79 and has had the following experience since completion of training:—One year's charge of Men's Medical Ward at Royal Infirmary, Glasgow; one year's superintendence of Fever Nursing, Bradford Fever Hospital, Yorks; five years as Sister at the London Hospital; one year's experience in the Nursing of Nervous Diseases and Massage at the National Hospital, Queen's Square, London; two years as Matron at the Carmarthen Infirmary. From what I gather both the Committee of the Infirmary as well as Miss MacIntyre are to be congratulated. This is another triumph for the B.N.A., as Miss MacIntyre is, very properly, a Member. S. G.

## WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

### THE LADY-HELP.

To be equally at home in the drawing-room, kitchen and nursery is a feat not often accomplished by the many would-be "accomplishers"; and although the ideal "lady-help" supplies the "missing link" in the household, yet the said lady-help is nearly as scarce as is the species of man-gorilla, which the disciples of Darwin seek for in vain. The missing link is needed, as realises the busy housewife, who has the children and visitors so terribly on her mind whilst she is out. What a source of comfort would be someone who would be a friend, a companion (for she is oftentimes lonely), and at the same time also an useful and efficient servant, who brings to her work the not disabling qualities of education and refinement! How is it, then, that those who have tried the system usually pronounce it a complete failure?

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THERE are faults on both sides. First, the mistress is often inconsiderate and wanting in courtesy, and, above all, the great question of "putting upon," which drives often the willing horse too far; and then follows want of heartiness in her work on the human steed's part—want of heartiness often caused in the first instance by ill-health engendered by over-exertion. Certainly a lady's-help is not a pleasant post in many homes; whilst an undefined position is always a trying position, and undefined duties are usually never-ending duties. Then, again, the lady-help,

or "useful companion" as she is usually described in advertisements, seldom combines both qualities. Either she lacks the thorough knowledge of domestic pursuits necessary for her practical utility, and expects to be waited upon instead of waiting upon others, or else she proves to be only an uneducated woman, who, being ambitious and proud, desires to mingle in society, for which she is unfitted by previous training, and who is foolish enough to despise the very word servant, which if only she would adopt she would obtain better wage and be far happier, even though the drawing-room saw her no more. The lady-help system was imported from America nearly twenty years ago, but it cannot be said to have proved successful in this country, even though it has had nigh on a score of years of life. Yet the market is, metaphorically, over-stocked, as the advertisement columns of the dailies, the absurdly low salaries offered (sometimes only £10 or £12 per annum), and, above all, the significant fact that many are willing to work for "no salary," all combine to prove; but then it is over-stocked with the wrong article, *i.e.*, those who consider that anyone can be a lady-help, and by those who consider it "more genteel" than domestic service. And thus it comes to pass, unfortunately, that the one or two who would really "do" are lost sight of in the crowd of unsuitable applicants.

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LADY-HELPISM—to coin a word—needs, if destined to healthy growth, to become a profession. I use the term advisedly. This, as well as everything else, needs an apprenticeship; and it would be well if a place of training could be provided where poor ladies might learn the ins and outs of work they have usually until now only superintended (a very different matter), whilst certificates might be given to the ablest. But, alas! I fear such a home would not, after all, succeed, for unfortunately most ladies think they can do most things perfectly, and also they would rebel against the, of necessity, first great lesson of obedience. Obedience is as much the lady-help's duty towards her employer as it is the child's duty towards its parents; and, after all, obedience is so easy a virtue to practise, and saves such an immense amount of worry, care, and planning, only there is that destructive dislike to do as we are told, which is inherent in the heart of men; and therefore lady-helps will cry—

"I'm ——— years old this very day,  
And I can write and read;  
And not to have my own way yet  
Is very hard indeed."

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I AM very glad to learn that some ladies are proposing to start a home where intending female

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)