

other half year involuntary holiday, and the grim spectre starvation in its wake. They would gladly work, but they have "no work to do," as the frozen-out gardeners sing. In fact the supply of workers is greater far than the demand for workers. The hours of work, when in employment, are twelve—from eight to eight, with an hour for dinner out, although if extra busy, as is often the case on Fridays especially, this hour is not given. Sometimes they work later still, but work is then paid for as overtime. The wages are from £1 to £1 5s. per week. Unfortunately the work all comes in a rush as it were. The busy season for *slop* work is from October to Christmas; for the *best* work, the months of May, June, July. By *slop* work is meant the ready-made garment trade, and the large cheap advertising tailors' firms. Coats sold at such shops cost about four shillings to four-and-sixpence each to make. Of course, the owner's and middle man's profits have to be remembered, for the work is usually given out, the cheapest estimate, meaning the minimum wage, gaining the day always. The estimate for the better work is nine shillings to ten shillings per coat, but the work requires to be far nicer and neater, and consequently takes more time; but the best work is always eagerly sought for as being the best paid as well. The amount of work done at some of the larger sweaters is enormous, as many as five hundred suits being turned out a week sometimes. One worker alone will make, when busy, the button holes for a hundred coats a week.

"Something attempted, something done,"

should surely in such a case earn the Sunday's repose, as it fortunately does in England. The apprentices either give time, or work at first for a very low wage. It has been calculated that the button holes on a common coat are at the rate of about a halfpenny each.

A COAT seems a very simple garment, but just listen to the processes it has to undergo ere we can say, "Presto! behold it." First, the measuring, done generally in the shop; then cutting, fixing, damping, making (the needle comes into play here), underpressing, basting, felling, button holes, pressing and finishing. All these are sometimes done by different hands, but most tailoresses can do more than one of them, although buttonholing is a work to itself. There seems to be a strong feeling amongst the workers against the middlemen, who are often very severe on them. One, the other day, blamed one of the girls for having brought a bunch of watercress to eat for dinner with her bread and butter. She, thinking of the dinner he would have awaiting

him on his return home, resented his lecture bitterly. Example is better than precept any day. Efforts have been made to establish a trades' union among these tailoresses, but it is very difficult to form one, because of the utter impossibility of reaching them collectively, although many are eager to join.

MISS VERA BERINGER, the child actress, whose impersonification of Little Lord Fauntleroy assisted greatly to the success of the play so named, is about to leave the stage to prosecute at her mother's wish her studies at home. One of the prettiest tales told of the little girl who has so early shown strange dramatic talent is of how, when one day people were remarking how much she had been cheered the evening before, she asked her mother, "But surely it was Little Lord Fauntleroy they clapped, mother, and not me." In the years to come I prophesy men will hear again of this child, for although her mother desires the choice of a professional career shall be left to the girl herself, and no pressure placed on her to adopt a dramatic career, naturally such a gift as she has been endowed with will force her to adopt the stage, and to shine as a star thereon, for little Vera, at least at present, loses herself in her characters.

ACCORDING to *Woman*, Doctor Muirhead, of Glasgow, has left £30,000 to endow a college for training women in scientific subjects. This will be the first college of the kind devoted entirely to the gentler sex in relation to science. The sum bequeathed is a large one, and the new college ought to be very successful in the future, for daily women are becoming more interested in science, and fairly practical, if not very able, argumentative scientists.

A NEW wing has been added lately to the Felixstowe Convalescent Home. It has been built by a member of the Sudbury Division of Suffolk in memory of his parents, who were well-known at Felixstowe. It is to be solely for the use of women, and is to be called the Cuthbert Quilter wing.

THE exhibition of students' work at the Royal School of Art, held on the 24th and 25th ult., was very successful, and the work exhibited was "encouraging to all those interested in woman's progress in the fine arts." The Queen's prize of £60 was awarded to Miss Helena M. Evans, for her study in water colours of still life; whilst the Queen's scholarship, also for £60, was obtained by Miss Mariou Kirkpatrick.

VEVA KARSLAND.

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