

in the case of women. Laundries and bakehouses will, for the first time, be brought within the limits of the Act.

"I am of opinion," said the Home Secretary, "that our factory legislation ought to cover the whole area of industry." Should it cover the work of domestic servants and waiters? This is a question which is at present occupying the attention of the London and Provincial Domestic Servants' Union; indeed they have urged the Home Secretary to insert a clause including these workers. The Home Secretary, however, says it is impossible. But what about the principle of the thing? Should H.M. Inspectors have free access to the sacred regions below stairs where cook reigns supreme, or mount up and up to see whether there is no over-crowding in the bedrooms. Should the servant be prevented from working longer than nine, ten, or twelve hours a day? The fact is, it is impossible to tell how long a servant works. The whole afternoon she may be sitting and dozing, except when the bell occasionally rings. In fact, the domestics in the families of the well-to-do might justly resent any interference with the luxurious life many of them lead. But when it comes to a question of the poor little "Marchioness" generals, lonely, over-worked and underfed, and to the scullery and other maids doomed to pass an unwholesome existence in the nether regions of luxurious clubs and hotels, we cannot but devoutly wish that a grandmotherly legislation would interfere a little more with the "liberty of the subject," in other words, with the irresponsible, soulless company, and with the employer who delegates his conscience to managers and overseers.

There is something ironical, even comic, in the state of things revealed in the press a few days ago, by a lady who gives voice to the trials of our dressmakers during the Lenten season. "My customers," said one, "are mostly Church ladies, so I am slack all through Lent, till towards the end; then they all come in a rush, and each must have her new dress by Easter Sunday, so that I have to work all day, often all night and all one Sunday." Surely, it is pertinently asked, these Christian ladies would not be less acceptable in the sight of Him who clothed the lilies of the field, if they gave their orders early.

It would indeed, be interesting to ascertain what proportion of ladies exercised their power of voting at the recent County Council election in London. Mr. Aird asked, a few days ago, in the House of Commons, if such a return could not be prepared; but there appears to be some legal difficulties in the way, in consequence of provisions under the Ballot Act. There is a supposition abroad that if women voted in the same proportion as the men, the balance of power would have fallen on the side of the Progressive party, instead of, as at present, the two parties, Progressive and Moderate, being equally balanced.

It is a good thing to get privileges, but it is better to make use of them when they have been got. And when one reflects on the inertness of large bodies of women, and of men too, as far as that goes, we would gladly comfort ourselves with the reflection that there is perhaps a silver lining to the long-continued delay in obtaining the Parliamentary Suffrage. For, women will

probably value the more what has been so laboriously toiled for, and show their appreciation of the devoutly-wished consummation by polling in their thousands. But they have to work just as hard in America to get the Suffrage. The last number of the *Arena* is very strong on this subject. The question is, "Are the women of the Southern States ready and anxious for this reform?" One writer, Mrs. Josephine K. Henry, says that they are ready, and that their "apparent contentment with existing conditions is only on the surface." Another writer, Mrs. Annah Robinson Watson, takes a somewhat different view, and expresses her belief in a thoughtful paper, that "man and his wife," according to an old saying, "should not play chess;" but that it is a graver question whether they should play at the dangerous game of politics. In short, she is of opinion that the time is not yet ripe. Though the women are rising to meet the exigencies of the time, they have not yet risen high enough to see the light.

The great King of Fashion, M. Worth, the Paris dressmaker, is dead, and great is the mourning of the female royalties of Europe and of American heiresses. Who knows?—perhaps the fate of an Empire has hung, more often than we imagine, upon the *tournure* of a costume, or upon the expression of a bow! M. Worth had fathomed the secret of a fold, and had laid bare the meaning of a rucheing. But Paris fashions are not so very Parisian after all. At any rate England can claim the honour of having given birth to this remarkable man. The brilliant years of the third empire were his great opportunity. Then it was that the beautiful, and it must be added extravagant, Empress Eugenie put implicit confidence in M. Worth, and gave him that celebrity which has since spread to all parts of the fashionable world.

Science Notes.

CYCLING AND HEART DISEASE.

It will, perhaps, be interesting to those of our readers who are cyclists to hear what a specialist on diseases of the heart has had to say on the possibility of such diseases being produced by cycling. Dr. Herschell's opinions will not be received with the less respect because in most particulars they are such as a layman of some experience might express.

Cycling in moderation is one of the most health-giving forms of exercise, but to avoid excess requires a certain amount of caution and restraint which are often wanting, especially in young riders. To such it is a "confession of effeminacy" not to be able to keep up with the rest of the club, and it would be "morally impossible" to get off your machine and walk up a hill which your friends are riding.

The commonest way in which the cyclist injures himself is in climbing hills. He is nearing the top of the hill, and the heart is dilated with the strain put upon it. If the rider were now to stop and recover himself no harm would be done, but in too many cases he sees that only a few more revolutions of the wheel will be required to carry him to the top, so he re-

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