

child, he holds up his hands in virtuous indignation that he should be called upon to contribute, in however small a degree, to a child born out of wedlock.

The whole thing is horrible. The callousness and selfishness of the man, and the unnatural unmotherly action of the woman in condemning her child to all the horrors of illegitimacy are among the worst phases of humanity. I cannot help contending—although by many people I may be condemned for doing so—that while grown up men and women have the liberty of fixing the bounds of their relations with one another, to involve a helpless little life in those relations is a crime which society can hardly condemn too strongly. We so often hear it said, "You must take the consequences of your acts," but people are apt to forget that the "consequence"—that is, the baby—has to bear the lion's share of the burden of wrongdoing in the commission of which he was not consulted.

Sincerely yours,  
A MOTHER.

#### WOMEN.

It takes little to disturb the dull equilibrium of the House of Commons. A few clapped hands in the Ladies' Gallery, and the august Assembly rises terror-stricken to its feet with cries of "Order." An enthusiastic feminine had so forgotten the respect due to the gathering of "first gentlemen" as to clap her gloved hands together at a stray mention of Women's Franchise. But she was somewhat rudely awakened to the consciousness that frilled skirts and flower-begirt hats have no recognised position in the House, by an official dressed in a little brief authority, laying his hand on her shoulder and requesting her to withdraw from the space behind the prison-bars!

It seems the most natural thing in the world for a woman to clap her hands in the House. She has no representation there. Her interests, her wishes, her desires are utterly ignored, and the only opportunity she has of expressing her views in Parliament is by some such means as brought down upon the lady in question such condign punishment from an Assembly of gentlemen, so jealous of their dignity as to feel that it was seriously assailed by this desperate transgression of the Red Indian demeanour which all "strangers" to Westminster are expected to maintain.

The Council Meetings of the Women's Liberal Federation will take place on May 14th and 15th in Westbourne Park Chapel, Porchester Road, while the Annual Meeting will be held in the Queen's Hall, Langham Place, on the evening of May 15th.

At the Council Meetings some very interesting Resolutions will be brought forward and discussed.

The Home Secretary is to be thanked for the temporary appointment of Police Matrons in the Metropolis—and satisfaction will be expressed at the promise given that arrangements are to be made whereby this most necessary step in Police Station Reform will be put on a permanent basis.

Factory Legislation as it affects women, will also come under discussion, and the Government will be urged to place no restriction of any kind on Women's Labour which does not apply equally to the Labour of men in the same trades.

The discussions on Criminal Law Amendment and Poor Law Reform will be specially important and interesting, and will be fully dealt with at a Conference to be held on the 16th.

Members and friends of the Women's Liberal Association are to meet together for lighter and more social purposes at a Reception to be held at the Water Colour Exhibition on the afternoon of the 13th. Mrs. Perks is also giving an afternoon "function" on the 15th. So it will be a very busy week, this week of Liberal "May Meetings."

Among the recent students of the London School of Medicine for women, who have become registered Medical Practitioners, is an interesting personality, Rukhmabai, a Hindoo lady who succeeded by dint of much perseverance and moral courage, in resisting an attempt to coerce her into fulfilling a marriage contract made for her in her infancy. She came to England, and decided to study medicine, and although, when she began her studies her knowledge of English was of a very elementary character, she has succeeded in passing all her examinations, and has taken the triple qualification of the Scotch Colleges, and the M.D. degree of Brussels.

This plucky and Hindoo edition of a revolting daughter—courageous enough to set her face against the brutal custom of her race in contracting child-marriages—has proved herself a specially diligent student, and has been most popular among her fellow-students, and with her patients. She distinguished herself more particularly in midwifery, and has now returned to her own country to join the small band of pioneer Hindoo women working to break the bonds of custom and tyranny and thus liberate their enslaved sisters. Rukhmabai holds the position of Acting House Surgeon at the Kama Hospital, Bombay.

The "Parnassos," the Philological Society of Athens, have elected unanimously as honorary member, Mrs. Elizabeth M. Edmonds, the author of many works on modern Greece and modern Greeks.

The sixth annual dinner of the Women Writers, who first met under the name of "Literary Ladies," will take place on the 5th of June at the Criterion. Gentlemen will not be invited to the dinner.

### Notes on Art.

#### ACADEMY EXHIBITION.

THE Academy! The usual heat, the usual crowd, the usual incongruity, the usual failure to see what is good, because of the jarring presence of so much that is not. In such a medley, it is refreshing to see so many of our young men coming so steadily to the front. George Watson, George Joy, Reginald Arthur, Sigismund Goetze, Rupert Bunny and Percy Buckman are names that come to the mind as furnishing a good deal of the promise of the show.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)