

on the subject, that there should be a distinct preponderance in its favour. It seems that of the members not one in ten have expressed opposition to Women's Suffrage.

Mrs. Fawcett, in her admirable paper on "The probable Effect on the Position of Women of granting them the Parliamentary Vote," read at the Nottingham Women Workers' Conference, said: "They were not demanding the Suffrage in the spirit of a hostile force storming a fortress held by foes, but in the spirit of children who had attained an age to claim their share in the family inheritance. They asked to be welcomed as friends. She believed the day was not far distant when their brethren would cordially invite them to take their places in the stately mansion which had been handed down to them all by their ancestors."

Lady Henry Somerset has just concluded a series of meetings in Plymouth, in connection with the National Executive Committee of the National British Women's Temperance Association, which met there by the invitation of the local branch, of which Miss Agnes Weston is the President. The meetings throughout were most enthusiastic, well organised, and largely attended by many outside the ranks of the B.W.T.A. Miss Weston's reception at the Sailors' Rest was a unique feature of the meetings. Besides other attractions, some of the sailors sang one or two fore-castle songs, which elicited much appreciation. Lady Henry Somerset addressed the gathering, and spoke of one valuable side of Miss Weston's work—that of providing healthy and happy recreation for the sailors, among whom her life is spent. The afternoon Conference was a great success. Lady Henry Somerset described the work now being carried out on the Duxhurst Estate, Reigate, where the farm colony is rapidly nearing completion. Practical interest was expressed in the scheme, and it was resolved to raise the sum of £250, to build a cottage in the colony, to be called after Miss Agnes Weston.

The twenty-second annual convention of the National Women's Christian Temperance Union has just been held at Baltimore, Maryland. Miss Frances E. Willard was re-elected President. Delegates attended from every part of the States, some coming as many as 5,000 miles in order to be present. The growth of this great organization can be measured by the fact that seventeen years ago, when the annual convention was held in that city, only thirteen States were represented. Fifty States and Territories have this year sent their delegates. Six hundred dollars then represented the dues paid by the local societies, which now amounts to 2,300 dols. The idea of a publishing house belonging to the Society had not been conceived; now, one hundred and eighteen million pages of literature are sent out from the Woman's Temple, Chicago, per year. The marvellous growth of this great organization is due to the untiring devotion of its President, and her power of inspiring the women of the United States to consecrate their talents to the temperance cause.

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Notes on Art.

INSTITUTE OF PAINTERS IN OIL COLOURS.

(Second Notice.)

ONE thing strikes the eye irresistibly in the portraits of this year, and that is, the inartistic disproportion which exists between the width of a woman's head and the width of her sleeves. In the streets, by the introduction of the enormous hat, we have in part counteracted this odd effect, but in the portrait of the seated lady up-to-date it stares us in the face. A conspicuous example is the portrait of Mrs. Venables, by Chevallier Taylor. Here the sitter really looks as if a slice had been taken off her head on each side, while the width of her shoulders fills the canvas from frame to frame.

It is amusing to see the devices to which the luckless artist has resort to hide this defect; the same painter, in his portrait of the Countess of Annesley (No. 131), has represented his sitter sharply in profile, so as to obtain the full breadth from the tip of her nose to the extremity of her back hair, as a set-off to the wealth of her endowment in the sleeve line. On this point our French neighbours show a more correct eye than we, though they set to work to create a second wrong in order to right the first, or, in other words, having deformed their shoulders by undue width, they proceed to make their heads match by puffing out the hair. This is not good taste, but it certainly relieves the eye, for nothing is more fatal to beauty than the impression of the head being the least significant part of one, and this may very probably account for the unattractiveness of a considerable part of this year's portraiture.

One of the finest heads here is by Mr. Herman Herkomer, "A Portrait Study" (No. 48). This is a singularly felicitous piece of lighting, and altogether an admirable piece of work.

All the landscapes contributed by Mr. Wimperis are good, one or two of them noticeably so. This most industrious and devoted artist has an exhibition of his own pictures also, on at Dowdeswell's at the present time, and yet none of his work bears marks of haste. "The Way Across the Fields" (No. 213) and "Curfew" (No. 383) were two that struck me particularly. Mr. Alfred East is always charming, and his work here is no exception to the rule. Mr. Haynes Williams does not rise above the commonplace, even in his large picture entitled, "The Governess." This is the sort of work for an illustrated Christmas number.

The picture that most charmed me among the landscapes was "Old Calais Pier: the Missing Boat," by Mr. E. Hayes (No. 359). The movement, the colour, the way in which the whole picture told its story, were admirable. The waves seemed to threaten to engulf the crazy old pier, and one unconsciously found oneself searching the horizon if by chance the doomed boat were visible.

There is one little picture which attracted me through the oddness of its underlying idea. It is called "Newly Wed" (No. 443). The idea is to paint an interior and a figure which shall be exclusively in shades of white. The cottage bride has just set her husband's breakfast or tea on a white tablecloth. Her dress is white, so are the tea things, so are the window curtains, and the invisible bridegroom has evidently newly limewashed the walls and rafters of his humble domain. Judge how extremely bridal is the whole effect, but it is clever in its way. G. M. R.

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