

taken place at the Melbourne Hospital. Sister Fisher (recently promoted), Charge Nurse in the septic and contagious wards, was cleansing a surgical knife, when by a most unfortunate mischance she got a very slight cut, which she at once attended to, applying a carbolic dressing, but alas! poor girl, though the little wound healed quickly, she rapidly developed septic pneumonia, and was dead in a few days. She was much beloved for her amiability in the Hospital, and most sincerely regretted. This was the second case of the same thing in six months in this Hospital.

Influenza has been epidemic for the last two months, and though the weather is dry and bright, there seems not much abatement of it; the Hospital staffs have had a very bad time of it, so many of their numbers have had it, as well as the outside public. The Alfred Hospital was nearly deprived of its Senior Hon. Surgeon, Mr. O'Hara, from this terrible plague, he, like many others, suffering from severe pneumonia at the same time. It has also taken off, in a very few days, one of Victoria's most valued politicians, Sir James Patterson.

At the last meeting of the Melbourne Hospital Committee, I see they decided that all new pupils entering now, must sign for three years instead of two as formerly, and come for three months' trial instead of one month. This is now the arrangement at the Melbourne, Alfred and Homœopathic Hospitals. But I really feel sorry for the Nurses who only hold two year certificates, and who find, through no fault of their own, that hardly anywhere will they get posts in Hospitals or Nursing institutions, unless they have had three years' Hospital experience. A great many of the pupils in training are wise enough to pass on to the Women's Hospital for the third year, and have been doing this for some time, but some either cannot afford to give a whole year's service *without pay* (this is the rule at the Women's) or it is not to their taste. I see no other way for them to settle the difficulty of obtaining the necessary third year.

Melbourne,
October 31st, 1895.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



THE MARCHIONESS OF LONDONDERRY on Saturday held a council at Londonderry House of the Irish Industries Association, at which were present, among others, the Countess of Arran, Viscountess Duncannon, Mrs. W. E. H. Lecky, Mr. C. J. Engledew,

M.P., and Mr. J. S. Wood. It was arranged to hold an industrial exhibition of Irish cottage-made goods at Londonderry House on St. Patrick's Day next year. The report of the work of the Association and the development of the sales in London was most satisfactory, and Mr. Wood announced that £2,048 had had been sent into Ireland, chiefly to the Irish cottage workers, since the end of the last financial year.

Lord Rothschild and Mr. Alderman Davies, M.P., have each promised to subscribe twelve guineas per annum for five years to the City of London School for Girls, for the purpose of establishing entrance scholarships. One vacancy will be filled in January next. Forms of application, &c., can be obtained of the secretary, at the school, Carmelite Street, Victoria Embankment.

The little girls under the authority of the London School Board must be rejoicing at the "new chivalry" of the Home Office, which has refused the permission the hard-hearted School Board craved, that the girls should receive corporal punishment with the equal justice meted out to the boys under its care. We imagine there will be many revolts of the little daughters when they discover how the privileges of the new woman are affecting them. An immunity from whipping is indeed something to make them rejoice that their lives are cast in the pleasant places prepared for the girl of to-day.

A woman very well known in London for her public work has a curious little affectation. She has her favourite books bound in pieces of her favourite gowns. Bits of brocade, satin, velvet and embroidery thus clothe the well-loved poem, essay, or other treasures of her library. The effect is rather artistic and quaint, although she does it more from eccentricity than from love of art.

Mdme. Zola is her husband's right hand; without her assistance it would be absolutely impossible for him to produce his novels at the express speed with which he has, of late, been working. She arranges his documents, and builds up little dictionaries with his notes, and from these is evolved the novel. She is very methodical in her work. It seems a pity she cannot infuse a little morality into her husband's writings. Her woman's influence should certainly be corrective of his gross style.

There is one calling for women in France which we have not yet adopted—that of the *cardeuse de matelas*. Her business is to go out by the day to unpick, air and ventilate the stuffing of beds, be they wool, hair or feather, and remake. She keeps a list of all her customers, each of whom she visits once a year, unless she is sent for in the interim after an illness of a member of the household. She performs her work in the courtyard of the house. She begins early in the morning, and at nightfall the freshly-carded and re-stuffed mattress is in its customary place. There is no question that throughout France the beds are extremely comfortable, and the first improvement in our bedding arrangements dates from the introduction into this country of the French spring-mattress. Much of the comfort experienced in the beds in France is due to the periodical ventilation and combing of the horsehair and wool contained in the mattress, by the *cardeuse de matelas*.

Miss Ethel Charles, who, together with her sister, has been working as an articled pupil to the well-known firm of architects, Messrs. Morton and Peto, has recently passed the intermediate examination at the Institute of Architects. Another lady, a former student of Newnham College, has also been received by a firm of high standing, and is undergoing the regular course of training for the same profession.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)