

Among all classes of workers there is arising a hungry demand for definite recognition and protection against the unfit and incompetent, who are ever ready to crowd out and undersell *bonâ fide* workers. Miss Hester Davies read a paper on "Uniform Standard of Training and Examination in Training Schools." She took a brief survey of the progress the teaching of cooking has made in the last few years, and the evils which have crept into the system of the training of teachers.

"As the result of the Technical Instruction Act of 1891, County Councils in all parts of the country had organised classes to meet the requirements of the working people, and special departments for giving instruction for women in the various domestic arts. Realising, as they must, that the teaching of cookery was one of growing importance, it behoved them as teachers of training schools to see that the students were thoroughly trained. She considered 18 was too young an age to allow a student to commence training others. Generally speaking, a girl of that age had not long left school; she had little or no experience of the responsibilities of life, or of the conditions under which the greater number of the people lived."

This is just the same system of which we have complained so often as applying to the teachers of Nursing and First Aid under the County Councils. Young women, with the veriest smattering of their subjects, have been sent broadcast through the country, bringing anything but credit on technical instruction. Miss Davies voiced the deficiencies of a want of standard and definite teaching in her admirable paper.

She said on obtaining her diploma, a girl of 18 was appointed by a school board to undertake the organisation and instruction of large numbers of classes in cookery. Her classes were not likely to be successful because she was too young to command respect, and too inexperienced to adapt her instruction to the requirements of her audience, and unless she had the utensils, stores, &c., used in the training school she was unable to illustrate her lessons successfully. Unsuitable dishes were prepared and cooked, and the working woman who hoped to learn how to provide tasty and quickly-made dinners with the cheapest materials soon realised that the teacher knew nothing about her daily life and the economies she had to practice to make the scanty wages of her husband provide for the wants of her family. The period of training was too short to give the teachers the necessary knowledge and experience to fit them for the responsible position without some further training as a student under efficient head teachers. Miss Davies concluded with a series of suggestions for a uniform system, the first essential to which was the election of a governing board by the Education Department, to include representatives of the committees and staffs of the training schools.

An interesting discussion followed the reading of Miss Davies's paper, which met with universal support and approval. A very strong expression of opinion was given to the necessity of having women on the Technical Instruction Committees of the County Councils. It is most encouraging to find professional women banding together with high standards

and ideals of their work, and determined to claim recognition and status.

The International Women's Congress, which has just terminated in Paris, has not reflected much glory or credit on the woman question. It appears to have been a curious medley of trade questions, Socialism, "free love" and Atheism. A resolution was enthusiastically passed that the State should be responsible for the maintenance and education of all children up to the age of 21! The members of the Congress were obviously destitute of all sense of humour.

The personal devotion of women who have the care of little children, and their faithfulness to the families with whom they live, shows our sex in its most unselfish and admirable character. We are often lost in admiration of the manner in which "children's Nurses" perform their duties, and we are therefore not surprised at the funeral honours paid to the late Mrs. Makropoulo, the English Nurse who has been in the service of the Hellenic Royal family ever since the birth of the Duke of Sparta, and who died suddenly at the Royal Palace in Athens on Monday. The funeral, which took place the following day, was attended by King George, all the Royal Princes at present in Athens, and Princess Marie of Greece. At the conclusion of the service, which was conducted by the Rev. F. R. Elliot, the British chaplain, the King himself, with the Duke of Sparta, Prince George, and Prince Nicholas, carried the coffin to the hearse. His Majesty and the Princes also proceeded on foot, along with all the ladies and gentlemen of the Court, to the cemetery, where the body was interred.

At a Council held by the Marchioness of Londonderry at Londonderry House, to receive the report of the results of the recent Combined Exhibition and Sale of Irish Peasant Work, Mr. J. S. Wood, the honorary organiser, reported that nearly £2,500 was taken in the two days, the greater part of which would be sent to Irish cottage workers in all parts of Ireland. The Council unanimously resolved that as this first effort to combine Irish industries in one national sale had been such an unqualified success, it should be continued annually.

A Book of the Week.

"THE GOLDEN AGE."*

THIS is a book about children, and it is so charming and so engaging that I heartily recommend it to all our readers. It has received the distinction of being reviewed at two-column length by the poet Swinburne (in the *Daily Chronicle*), who accords it the most unstinting praise. The charm of the book lies in the quaint simplicity with which all the different episodes are related, the appreciative fun with which the children's adventures and escapades are described, and last, but not least, the poetic beauty of the admirable English in which it is written.

The children of Mr. Kenneth Grahame's "Golden Age" called the grown-up members of their family "The Olympians." He says:—

* "The Golden Age," by Kenneth Grahame. 3s. 6d. net. (John Lane, 1896.)

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