

ness of this argument, he proceeded in a long memorandum to set forth his services, and to furnish medical certificates intended to prove that his resignation was forced upon him by ill-health, the result of over-work in the service of the Stock Exchange. He claims to have conceived and produced the book now known as 'Burdett's Official Intelligence,' the capital value of which, he says, at a moderate computation, 'cannot be less than £30,000.' We should be sorry to give £3000 for it. As a result of his labours, he further claims to have added £3800 per. annum to the resources of the managers, and in return for seventeen years devoted to these arduous labours he thinks he should have a pension.

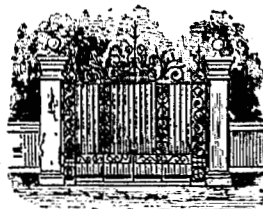
"When Sir Henry's resignation was first made public, this pension question was considerably agitated at his own instance. We made inquiries then among members of the 'House' of the highest standing, and the result was to force upon us the conclusion that the voluntarily-retiring secretary to the Share and Loan Department was not entitled to any pension. For many years, we were told, if not for the whole period of his service, his income was four thousand guineas per annum; enough, surely, to enable him to provide a retiring competency for himself? And, as regards his overwork, what many of the members pointed out to us was that Sir Henry had not obtained his K.C.B.-ship by serving the Committee of General Purpose and editing its 'Official Intelligence.' If he was overworked, they said, it must be because so much of his time and energy were absorbed by philanthropic labours in connection with hospitals, the editing of his periodical named the *Hospital*, the writing of letters of great length to the newspapers on benevolent objects, and in the compilation of a fearful and wonderful 'Life of the Prince of Wales,' or because he laboured so hard in whipping up subscriptions for his Nurses' Benevolent Fund—a curious 'blend' of philanthropy and hard-hearted business.

"In short, instead of finding Sir Henry popular with the majority of the members of the 'House,' as he seems himself to imagine he was, we discovered a considerable feeling of resentment to be widely prevalent at the way in which he had used his position as the servant of the Committee to push himself forward socially. This being so, he ought not to be surprised at the cold reception given by the managers to his request for a retiring allowance. Even had they been disposed at one time to grant his request they would have probably changed their minds when they found Sir Henry becoming a director of such a company as the Welsbach Incandescent Gas Company.

"In the light of this correspondence one can understand now why the managers decided to give Sir Henry's successor a fixed salary of only £1500 per annum. Our view is that they made a mistake in cutting down the pay after this fashion, and we have spoken somewhat sharply about it. Our remarks were directed against the policy, by no means against the man selected, whom we do not know but of whom we hear nothing but good. It seemed to us that to give so small a salary was to belittle an office the highest in importance in connection with the Stock Exchange, so far as the public is concerned, the occupant of which is subject at times to great temptations; and this view seems still the right one to take. At the same time we are disposed to fully forgive the trustees and managers after reading this correspondence. Their plain intention is to have a servant, henceforth, and not a would-be dictator."

## Outside the Gates.

THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN JOURNALISTS.



A MATINEE for the benefit of the Benevolent Fund of the Society of Women Journalists, will take place on Friday, February 25th, at the Grafton Galleries at 2.30 p.m., when a new operetta will be performed, called "A Soldier's Wife." Tickets (including tea by

Benoist) price 5s., may be obtained from all agents and from the Hon. Secretary, the Society of Women Journalists, Hastings House, Norfolk Street, Strand. We hope that many tickets will be taken, more especially, as purchasers will have the double gratification of having excellent value for their money, and at the same time of helping on an excellent charity.

The Society of Women Journalists is one which must commend itself to all women who recognize the force and value of combination. Until three years ago Women Journalists had no representative association, and were consequently handicapped, as women usually are, for want of a powerful organization at their back. Now, however, the Society of Women Journalists supplies to them help afforded by the Institute of Journalists to their male colleagues. The Society was founded by Mr. J. S. Wood; it is, therefore, to the honour of this gentleman that its fundamental principle states it to be "An Association of Women, for the benefit of Women, and to be managed by Women." The Society, thanks to the organization of Mr. Wood, and to the indefatigable work of the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Jack Johnson, has flourished and succeeded, and this fact is the best possible evidence of the need which existed for the establishment of such a Society.

The aim of the Society is to raise the standard of women's journalistic work, and to make the right to the title, "Member of the Society of Women Journalists," a distinction to be desired. Only professional workers, therefore, are admitted to its ranks; and no writer is eligible as a Member unless she can prove to have been a paid journalist in connection with papers or magazines of repute for at least two years. This rule ensures a standard of competency, and is a guarantee to those editors who apply to the Society for journalists, either to fill a vacancy on their staffs, or for some special work, that the journalists recommended to them are not amateurs.

A very real advantage offered by the Society is that the guinea subscription entitles the Member to Medical, Surgical, Dental, and Legal Advice, type-writing is also done for members at reduced rates, so that they get excellent value for their money. Opportunities are afforded of social intercourse with editors, and literary people, and the Members of the Society are entitled to use the office address for letters, as well as the Society's telegraphic address, and they further have the use of the Club Room at No. 116, New Bond Street. Beyond all the advantages which it offers, the Society has a claim on Women Journalists as being the medium through which they may raise their handicraft to the dignity of a profession, and by means of which they may help one another, more especially those isolated women, all too many, who are bravely struggling to obtain a foothold on the slippery plane by way of which competence and success are reached.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)