

(v.) Of the 110 bodies in England that are to be the appointing bodies, only 15 have, so far, appointed women to serve on their Technical Instruction Committees.

To the foregoing statement it may be added that the special provision with respect to Wales and Monmouthshire is not free from objections of a similar character.

In considering the effect of the Bill on the community, it must be remembered that in Secondary and Elementary Schools the girls and infants constitute far more than half the total number of pupils; also that in these schools the women teachers outnumber the men, and that the disproportion is yearly increasing.

Women are now serving on School Boards, and the work they are doing is acknowledged to be of great value to the community.

Women have hitherto had free scope in Secondary Education, and their work has undoubtedly tended to enlarge the national conception of methods of education.

J. M. STRACHEY,  
Chairman of Committee.  
ANNIE LEIGH BROWNE,  
Hon. Sec.

## A Book of the Week.

### THOSE DELIGHTFUL AMERICANS.\*

The point in the works of this extremely amusing author is usually a fine one. In the book before us we are left wondering whether she means to poke fun at us or at our transatlantic kinsfolk. One of the reviewers, who has treated it at great length, seems to think that the English couple are made preternaturally stupid merely to serve as a foil to the delightful *esprit*, the readiness, and the brains of the Americans with whom they come in contact. But, if I were an American, it strikes me that I should look upon the book as a decidedly envenomed compliment. There is a grain of animosity lurking somewhere underneath the laudation, which strikes one as a little unfair.

But there is a great deal of very illuminating description of detail also. The writer has cleverly seized upon some of the small points which differentiate the mother and the daughter nation. Nothing but illustration will bring out exactly what is meant. The following extracts will show how delicacy is almost entirely a creature of time and place, and not an eternally unalterable grace:

"I expressed no amazement that the frocks about us"—*i.e.*, at the Waldorf-Astoria—"should have come out of summer sales—one dislikes, above all things, to appear provincial—but I said I should like to go to some of them.

"Take her to Wanamaker's," said Mr. Ingham, 'on a mammoth day in shirt-waists.'

"Take me," my husband suggested; 'I should profit more, shouldn't I, by shirt-waists? I believe they do you very well over here—some dodge of measurement.'

"Even if he had been pretending to misunderstand—which he wasn't—I don't see why it should have shocked Verona. A shirt is an innocent thing, and, if well laundried, a smart thing. But it did. She drew herself up. 'Mr. Ingham refers to a lady's sale,' she said."

Now for number two—

"This morning after breakfast,"—Mr. Ham, the American millionaire, is the speaker—"when I was in

\* By Mrs. Everard Cotes. (Methuen.).

the office, waiting for my mail, I heard a pretty mad woman tackle Seaforth, the hotel manager, about number twenty-two. 'You promised it to us, in addition to the one we have, the minute it was vacant, Mr. Seaforth,' says she. 'It's next door, and communicating with number twenty-four where we are; and you know how uncomfortable Mr. Peterson and I were in that small number twenty-four.' 'Well, madam,' says Seaforth, quite polite, 'the hotel's full up and it's gone now, and that's all there is about it.' 'Well, I think it's a funny thing you can't keep your promises,' says she, rather short. 'And I think it's a funny thing you and your husband can't occupy the same room,' says Seaforth—I expect by this time he was riled. 'That's the kind of man you have for a hotel manager,' added Mr. Ham, approvingly."

Perhaps the funniest episode is that of Henry Bird. The millionaire Hams are moved, by the peculiarly unsatisfactory state of domestic service in the United States, to import an English butler. This is the cable they propose to send to summon him.

"Lucrative situation offered Henry Bird in family Jacob Ham, firm of Ham and Ham. Three in family other help kept. Passage paid by first steamer. Kindly hustle."

His feelings on arrival, on finding that there is no plate chest and no wine cellar, and that he is expected to drink iced ginger beer, are droll in the extreme.

It need not be said that the whole sketch is exceedingly lively and amusing. It cannot be called a story.

G. M. R.

## What to Read.

"Democracy and Social Ethics." By Jane Addams.

"The Guardian of Marie Antoinette." The Secret Correspondence of Marie Therese and the Comte d'Argenteau. By Lillian Smythe.

"The Buried Temple." By M. Maeterlinck. Translated by Alfred Sutro. A volume of five essays.

"Dr. Therne." By Rider Haggard.

"The Ghost of the Englishwoman." By J. Houdart de Lisle.

"Greater Love." By Joseph Hocking.

"The One Before." By Barry Pain.

"The Zionists." By Winifred Graham.

## Coming Events.

May 10th.—General Meeting of the League of St. John's House Nurses, St. John's House, 8, Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C., 2.30. To be followed by a Social Gathering, 4.30—6.30.

May 13th.—Annual General Meeting of the British Home and Hospital for Incurables, at the Home, Crown Lane, Streatham, 3.

May 22nd.—Annual Meeting of the Association of Asylum Workers at the Medical Societies' Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., 4 p.m.

May 29th.—Annual Conference Matron's Council, Medical Societies' Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, 2.30 p.m. Miss Isla Stewart, President, in the chair.

May 30th.—Meeting of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, Morley Hall, 26, George Street, Hanover Square. Address by Miss Louisa Stevenson, 3 p.m.

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