

into a Christian church, and the Serapion, once the quiet abode of philosophers and their followers, became the residence of monks, whose character can best be judged by the description given by Eunapios, "In their figures they resemble men, but in their manner of living—swine." It cannot be too well remembered that so soon were the pure teachings and doctrines attributed to Christ forgotten, that less than 300 years after He had left this earth, the men who professed to be His ministers, the so-called "fathers of the Church," were, in a large majority, bigoted, narrow-minded, blood-thirsty, and sensual men, so steeped in ignorance and pious horror of anything likely to benefit the world rather than themselves, that they persecuted every form of learning and enlightenment with almost the same fanatical zeal with which they shed each other's blood upon the slightest provocation or difference of opinion.

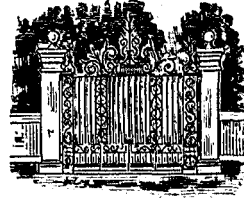
In A.D. 529 the school of philosophy at Alexandria was closed by an edict of Justinian, and thus ended the career of the first of all universities. As Draper remarks, "The time is approaching when its action on the course of human events will be better understood, and its influences on European civilisation more clearly discerned."

On comparing the two periods into which Egyptian medicine has been divided, it will be seen that the knowledge possessed by that wonderful people during the full power of the native dynasties was, albeit fettered by prejudice and somewhat scanty, far beyond that of their contemporaries, and certainly worthy of attention. That the science should have received so tremendous an impetus with the foundation of Alexandria is not surprising, and the cause is not far to seek. The opening up of Egypt (so long a closed and mysterious country) to strangers, which first took place in the reign of Psammetic (about B.C. 650), soon brought a rapid influx of Greeks and others. These foreigners, barbarians when Egypt was at the full tide of her prosperity, were less inventive than improving, and, as the Egyptian prototype can be traced in all their works of art, so did they take the Egyptian knowledge, amend it, and clothe it in so improved a garb as almost to make thereof a new learning. The rude destruction by barbarous nations of everything which was calculated to improve mankind—science, art, and literature—put a stop to civilisation, and plunged the nations into a dark age for several centuries. In the general chaos thus brought about the healing art practically disappeared; it is only during the past century that it has re-emerged and, with more rapid strides, once more steps onwards. Old learning may be temporarily lost, but it cannot be wholly destroyed. Although the barriers which guard and the fetters which bind may be both strong and sure, yet—

"Thy gates shall yet give way,  
Thy bolts shall fall, inexorable Past."

## Outside the Gates.

### WOMEN.



Mlle. Vacaresco, as maid of honour, accompanied the Queen of Roumania on a visit to Queen Victoria at Balmoral, and an account of this visit makes excellent reading in this month's *Strand*. The conversation with Queen Victoria on one occasion turned on music,

and Her Majesty said:

"I have till quite lately played on the piano, and even practised whenever I found time enough to do so. . . . Now I am rather ashamed to play, I am such an old woman. One day one of my youngest granddaughters caught me practising and laughed outright. 'Why grandmamma, how can you practise now, and what for?' Her remark struck me. . . . I left off playing for some time. But then, you see, my dear husband taught me to love all things beautiful and good—I learnt to seek them for his sake—now I return to them often in memory of him."

Queen Victoria added: "You cannot guess to what extent my life is interwoven with the life of the dead. I only feel alive when in close communion with the dead."

Lady Carlisle has been elected President of the National British Women's Temperance Association in succession to Lady Henry Somerset.

Lady Bute has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Botanic Society.

A bulky blue-book summarises in many different ways the sex, age, and occupations of the 32,527,843 persons enumerated in England and Wales, in relation to the census statistics of 1901. The larger half were females—16,799,230 in number; the males totalled 15,728,613. The population had increased in ten years by 12·17 per cent.

Among the occupations of the male population agriculture, metals, and machines, mining, building, and conveyance are some of those that employ the largest numbers. With women domestic service, of course, is prominent as an occupation; but many women have entered professional life. There are, for example, 212 lady doctors, 140 lady dentists, and three lady "vets." On the railways some 265 women keep points or level crossings, and over 700 are railway porters and servants. There are twelve shepherds of the gentler sex; in fact, there are few callings which woman has not invaded. Some of these, one might think, are inconsistent with usually-accepted ideas of her. There are lady builders, carpenters, paper-hangers, whitewashers, glaziers, and plumbers. There are three ladies who are slaughterers, 110 who are scavengers and crossing sweepers, 136 who are cats-meat dealers, and 54—yes, 54—who are chimney sweepers.

The *World's Work*, the very best of the monthly magazines, says there is a question which parents should very properly take into consideration when

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)