

## WOMEN.

The exhibition and sale of Irish peasant work to be held at the White Hart Hotel, Windsor, on November 19th and 20th, promise to be a great success. Her Majesty the Queen, accompanied by the Queen of Italy, will be present on the first day, so that gate-money should bring a considerable sum in support of the good cause.

Princess Louise arrived at Knowsley, the seat of Lord Derby, on Tuesday evening, and on Wednesday laid the foundation stone of new labourers' dwellings to be erected by the Liverpool Corporation on the Hornby Street area, at a cost of about £150,000.

It is with considerable relief one learns that at the special meeting of the trustees and guardians of Shakespeare's birthplace, held at Stratford-on-Avon, it was decided that the two interesting old cottages which about on Shakespeare's garden are not to be abolished, as suggested by some unmitigated Goths. The whole community owe a very great debt of gratitude to Miss Marie Corelli for the spirited manner in which she fought the iconoclasts, and has, let us hope, preserved intact these most interesting Shakespearian relics. What sort of "trustees and guardians" can men be who could entertain for a moment the removal of one stone associated with the Master? It would be well that such men should be replaced by others who will approach their duty with a deeper sense of reverence.

A circular has been issued by the Lancashire and Cheshire Women Textile and Other Workers' Representation Committee urging the necessity of women workers sending their own nominee to the House of Commons, pledged to work in season and out of season to secure the enfranchisement of the women workers of the country. A committee has been formed of women from all the Lancashire and Cheshire towns, whose duties are to select a suitable and zealous candidate and to collect £500, which is the amount necessary for one candidate's election expenses. The Committee has decided to contest Wigan, and the name of the candidate will be shortly announced.

Lady Algernon Gordon-Lennox and Miss Eleanor Hicks Beach have been elected to the Council of the Swanley Women's Horticultural College.

The Bishop of Burnley has been administering a reproof to the newly rich. Speaking at Lancaster, he said that in the diocese they had been experiencing the greatest difficulty in getting ladies to devote themselves to the service of the Church. Surely, after the unjustifiable action of the majority of the Bishops in excluding women from membership of the proposed National Church Council, they cannot hope that those women who have any self-respect will continue to give service to a Church which apparently values it so little.

The Genevese Government has just decided to throw open the legal profession to women. Five women candidates intend presenting themselves at the next legal examination. This is a great victory, and we hope other nations will follow suit.

## A Book of the Week.

## "THE HOUSE ON THE SANDS."\*

Mr. Marriott at his best is hard to beat. His own extremely clear *aperçu* throws his story upon the mind as a magic-lantern slide is thrown upon a sheet. There is the picture; across it the figures move; and we see them so vividly that it is hard to believe that we have not met them.

Christopher Lanyon and Audrey Thurston are two types of the twentieth century as we conceive it. The portrait of the man, in particular, is positively startling. His is the intense egotism and self-absorption which results from highly educating a man of limited capacity. Lanyon's capacity for assimilating the thoughts of other men leads him to believe himself a genius. He is, as a matter of fact, neither intellectually nor morally a strong man; but into the belief that he is, he succeeds in leading Audrey, young, eager, inexperienced, soaked in knowledge which she cannot grasp, full of the obscure aspirations, the boundless ambitions, the intense desire for the life of the mind, the insatiable curiosity, which form the key-notes of the character of the young girl of to-day.

Audrey and Lanyon met at the School of Mines; and here is a short extract—would we had space for more:—

"Amid the austere surroundings of the most depressing place in London a queer friendship sprang up between these two. Audrey, to whom intellect was the only thing that mattered, understood that Lanyon's tolerance of herself was a concession which she tried to deserve by crushing out every girlish instinct which persisted through her barren training. She joined the debating society to which he belonged; she attended meetings and read papers. Audrey and Lanyon were equally scornful of love, and often said so over the dreary showcases in Jermyn Street. Their intimacy was a cold affair of marked passages in favourite authors, of common tasks and mutual renunciations. They spent much time and thought over the most misunderstood of modern writers, and that they misunderstood him more consistently than the general may be gathered from the fact that one day the egregious pair presented themselves before Audrey's aunt and announced that they had decided to live together as brother and sister for the rest of their lives."

At first they were very poor, and too busy fighting for a livelihood to consider whether they were happy; but after a while Lanyon inherited money, and Audrey, with good living and country air, began to develop into a very different creature from "the wild-eyed girl who had plighted her sapless troth with him in the dismal halls of Jermyn Street."

The whole situation changed. As she realised how much she was capable of, which she had never before understood, Audrey began to understand that Christopher Lanyon could never satisfy the new cravings of her fully-developed nature; more especially as she gradually perceived the smallness, the conceit, the egoism of the man. And at this critical moment of her life there came into it three persons—Godfrey Julian, his sister Michal, and Randal Tate, one of the most wholly charming persons in modern fiction.

The story of what then happened is the story which Mr. Marriott tells, and tells admirably.

Julian is an able young member of Parliament, and

\* By Charles Marriott, (John Lane.)

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)