

the Rowan Tree as it is called in Scotland. Ancient superstitions are associated also with this tree, which is supposed to protect all those who bear it from the evil spells of the fairies.

In the sheltered southern garden now the Snowdrop begins to peep up, the Cyclamen, Antirrhinus, and Mezereon. The white little florets of the Laurustinus break out from their russet sheaths, and yellow buds appear on the Winter Jasmine. The little Hepatica flowers this month, Polyanthus, Winter Aconite, and Wintercress. Many survivals—even the China Rose, if the frost is not too severe—may still hold their own, but the one special plant which naturally grows in the winter garden is the beautiful white Christmas Rose, or black Hellebore. It is an irritant poison, though sometimes given, with due caution, medicinally.

But it is very fair to look upon as it opens its five white petals against its dark green many-cleft leaves, and it has always been a popular favourite. It carries us on to the new year, when the procession of flowers begins again.

In the greenhouses rare exotics can still be found, but they are beyond our range. I have tried to suggest country walks through the varying seasons, and I trust that I have carried some of you with me. The beauty of wild flowers has a healing power on tired brains, and there is no medicine like exercise in the open air, leaving one's worries behind in one's dusty city home. And, in saying adieu, I wish you all who read my lines a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and the flower and fruit of a beautiful and useful life.

WOMEN.

WOMEN LAWYERS.

On Wednesday a special tribunal, composed of the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice, and Justices Kennedy, Wright, Walton, Farwell, and Joyce, met at the House of Lords to consider an appeal by Miss Bertha Cave, a law student, whom the Benchers of Gray's Inn have refused to call to the Bar.

The proceedings were private, and lasted less than ten minutes, but at the close a representative of the London News Agency was informed that after Miss Cave had addressed the tribunal the Lord Chancellor said there was no precedent for a lady being called to the English Bar, and the tribunal were unwilling to create such a precedent.

It is said that Miss Cave will now try to get her name placed on the rolls as a solicitor.

A representative of Gray's Inn has stated that the objection of the Benchers was based on the simple grounds that when the Inn was founded the possibility of lady students was never contemplated. The statutes of the Inn, therefore, while containing no definite bar against women, ignore the sex so absolutely as to leave the Benchers, in their opinion, no power to admit a lady. It is really a sex problem.

In this question of lady lawyers, says the *Morning Leader*, it may surprise some to learn how far England is behind the United States, where for some thirty years women have practised at the Bar. There is a lady circuit court commissioner in the States now, who has four daughters also practising

law, while in 1897 a negro lady, Miss Lulie Lytle, was admitted to the Bar at Nashville, Tennessee—the first black woman in the world to enter the legal profession.

In the same year a Canadian lady, Miss Clara Brett Martin, was admitted to the Ontario Bar, and New Zealand shares with her sister colony the distinction of possessing lady lawyers. Miss Sorubji, a Parsee lady who passed the examination for the degree of Bachelor of Civil Law in the third class at Oxford, found India less hospitable, however, and her applications to be allowed to plead before the Bombay and Allahabad Courts were both refused.

To come nearer home, Scotland, in the person of Miss Margaret Howie Strang Hall, of Kirn, has had a lady lawyer since 1901; and the Incorporated Society of Law Agents, on the occasion of her admittance to their profession, threw out a broad hint to British womankind in the remark that they "did not consider it to be their duty or to their interest to maintain that women ought not to be enrolled as law agents." But when a Derry lady gave the legal profession in Ireland the opportunity of achieving similar distinction it was not embraced. Only last week, Mlle. Dilhan, a young lady of twenty-six, distinguished herself by being the first female advocate in the history of the French Bar to plead before a judge and jury in a criminal case. So well did she defend a lady accused of causing her son-in-law's death that, although he was stabbed in five places, the susceptible jury pool-pooled it for an "aggravated assault," and passed a trifling sentence.

The credit of the first lady practising barrister in Europe belongs to Paris, but Rome was the first city in Europe to confer upon a lady a university lectureship in Law, that lady being the beautiful Signorina Dr. Teresa Labriola, whose father and brother, at the time of her success, were also Law lecturers at the same university. Switzerland, too, has its lady lawyers; in fact, the more one looks into it, the more grievous does England's disability in this respect appear.

Madame Curie, of Paris, the genius who discovered radium, was unfortunately unable to accompany her husband, who, by special invitation, attended the annual meeting of the Royal Society on Monday, and listened to the presidential address of Sir William Huggins, who subsequently presented him, on behalf of the Society, with the Davy Medal "for the most important discovery of the year in chemistry," which was jointly awarded to M. and Madame Curie for their researches in radium.

A Book of the Week.

THE SQUIRE.*

A writer like Miss Haverfield should be welcomed with open arms by every woman. She is of that rare kind which will write only of what it thoroughly understands; and what she thoroughly understands is English provincial and village life. In "Badminton,"

* By E. L. Haverfield. (George Allen.)

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)