

holds, it is taken as a matter of course that they shall do a fair share. . . . Boys as well as girls ought to be made useful and handy in the house. Even if the eldest of the sons is not more than twelve, there ought never to be any need for a semi-invalid mother to clean boots, knives and windows, to black grates, wash the doorstep, chop wood, turn the mangle, peel potatoes, wash up dishes, or carry home heavy parcels. All the kindest and most considerate husbands I have known among the poor have been men who had learnt cooking and cleaning from their mothers."

Miss Bowers is of opinion that "the district nurse, especially in a town, can do excellent work as a 'Health Missioner' by explaining *what* is the use and object of the Health Department and its officials. It often strikes me (she says) as truly pathetic that the poor take all sanitary defects and inconveniences so much as a matter of course. The drain-pipe from the scullery sink gets cracked, so that there is a perpetual leakage of water inside the scullery. This is mentioned next time the rent is collected, but probably the landlord, or agent, is one of those who 'will do nothing.' And so it goes on, with the floor sometimes standing in water, and the mother getting her feet wet whenever she is working there. Again, the drain near the back door may be stopped up. It is more than a temporary obstruction, for poking with a stick has no effect. So the thing is left, till when some of the children are ill and inquiries are made, it is remarked that this drain 'smells something cruel.'" Of various flagrant cases she says "the people did not seem to have the least idea that a postcard to the 'Health Department' would speedily have put matters right."

It will thus be seen that the district nurse has a wide field of usefulness if she realises the possibilities of her position, and that to discharge her duties efficiently she needs to possess wide general and professional knowledge as well as tact and patience.

### New Preparations, Inventions, &c.

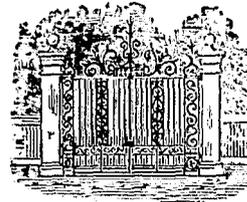
#### ALLEN'S FOOT-EASE.

How much comfortable boots and shoes add to the enjoyment of a holiday only those who have tender feet know. We should advise all these to include in their holiday outfit some boxes of Allen's Foot-Ease. These contain powders which, if shaken into boots and shoes in the morning before they are put on, will add much to the comfort, and therefore the enjoyment, of the wearer. In the case of in-growing toe-nails, and corns between the toes, they can be directly applied to the affected part. Ordinary corns and callous spots should first be moistened with vaseline. If a powder be dissolved in the water in which the feet are bathed at night the effect will be to relieve any tired and aching feeling. The powder is also recommended in cases of sunburn, prickly heat, or a chapped condition of the skin.

To those who suffer from aching, swollen, and tired feet the powders should come as a boon, for the condition is one which, though common enough, yet gives rise to a great amount of discomfort and even pain, and anything which affords relief is well worth a trial. They are obtainable in boxes, price 1 ½ d. each.

### Outside the Gates.

#### WOMEN.



The elections for the State Parliament in Australia are now proceeding, and women are voting for the first time. The returns are as yet incomplete, but it is estimated approximately that the state of parties will be—Ministerialists 20, Opposition 42, Labour 24, Independents, 4.

When the House of Commons, last week, went into Committee of Supply on the Civil Service Estimates, on the vote of £104,094 for salaries and expenses of the Home Department, Sir Charles Dilke called attention to the administration of the Factories and Workshops Acts by the Home Office, and insisted that there should be a substantial addition to the number of women inspectors, the present staff being wholly inadequate. He was also of opinion that there should be more strict enforcement of the Truck Act. At the present time, women had to join compensation for accident insurance funds, in which the rate of contribution was higher than the benefits to be derived warranted. He moved a reduction of the salary of the Secretary of State by £500. The motion was supported by Mr. Tennant, who pointed out that the number of female inspectors was entirely insufficient.

Recently a restaurant which caters for women workers has been opened at No. 3, Barrett Street, Duke Street, Manchester Square. Barrett Street is near the Bond Street tube station, and thus very accessible to West End workers. A hot meat-dinner with two vegetables and pudding can here be obtained for 5d., a price which is within the means of even the modest income of the average woman worker.

Ten thousand pounds is a very large sum to be raised by public subscription, but that, according to a contemporary, is what the women of Sheffield have set themselves to do within a period of five years, with the object of endowing a "Woman's Chair" in connection with the newly-founded Sheffield University, the foundation-stone of which was laid with so much civic pomp and ceremony by the Lord Mayor of London just a year since. So far they have collected something considerably over £1,000, and two or three weeks ago they added the very substantial sum of £185 to their funds by a concert in the Albert Hall, Sheffield.

The late Mr. Thomasson, of Lancashire, has left almost the whole of his fortune of a million sterling to his widow. In this, says a contemporary, he has followed the example of that other great captain of Lancashire industry, the late Mr. John Rylands. Mrs. Thomasson, who is well known and greatly respected in Bolton and the district, may be trusted to continue the philanthropic work in which her husband took so active though unostentatious a part. All the world knows how well Mrs. Rylands has administered the vast fortune—popularly estimated at four millions—of which she became the sole possessor a dozen years ago. The John Rylands Library in Manchester must have cost, including the magnificent building, the

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)