

THE *Lancet* of last Saturday (page 350), gives a short but exceedingly interesting statistical account of the ophthalmic practice in a Russian rural Hospital. In about two years, the number of eye cases treated was 4,289; out of these, 1,542 were "operation" cases. Ophthalmic diseases form one of the great scourges of Russia, a country never too liberal in the use of soap and water, the want of which entails upon the inhabitants all sorts of horrible diseases of the eye.

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BRADFORD FEVER HOSPITAL INVESTMENT FUND.—The trustees of this fund, last week, resolved that the consideration of the committee's report with respect to investments, which showed the total amount invested to be about £20,000, should be adjourned. It is proposed shortly to convene a meeting to consider the distribution among the charities of the town of £10,000 of the money invested. Of the remaining £10,000 it has been decided to give £4,000 to the North Bierley Union towards erecting a new hospital, leaving £6,000 still to be disposed of as the trustees may deem advisable. A sum of £500 left by the late Mr. Chas. Semon in aid of the hospital, it has been arranged to give to the committee of Semon's Convalescent Home, Ilkley, for the purposes of that institution.

### WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

THE Princess of Wales, who is well known to be a great lover of children, has consented to become patroness of the Children's Country Holiday Fund, 10, Buckingham Street, Strand.

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THE name of "Mary Jeune" is becoming widely known in connection with many good works to benefit her fellow-women. Her practical sympathy for, and active interest in, poor girls, who are leading the saddest of all possible lives, and her energy in helping them, is well known to the Sisters of many of the Lock Wards of our London Hospitals; and in the pale-faced waifs and strays of the London streets she takes an equal interest, being the medium for providing many with a summer visit to the country, the sweet scents and sounds of which, but for her kindness, they might never know.

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MRS. JEUNE has had the courage to sign her name to a most excellent and womanly letter addressed to the *Daily Telegraph*, which we reprint, concerning Mrs. Caird's article on "Marriage," in this month's *Westminster Review*, the opinions embodied in which we are thankful to say are those of a distinct minority, and which we hope are likely to remain so for many a long year.

### IS MARRIAGE A FAILURE?

To the Editor of the "*Daily Telegraph*."

SIR,—Although your columns are inundated with letters seeking to prove the truth or fallacy of Mrs. Caird's article on marriage, I would beg your kind indulgence to be allowed to say a few words on the subject. Fortunately, Mrs. Caird does not, in any sense of the word, represent the opinions of women in this country, nor, as I believe, elsewhere. I will not go into the historical part of the article, though that seems to me to open up a field of evidence, hitherto unknown and unexplored. But I should be glad to know where Mrs. Caird finds proof of the pre-historic family, where "the mother was the real head of the family, the priestess and instructress in the arts of husbandry, the first agriculturist, the first herbalist, the initiator of all civilisation." It seems to me that Mrs. Caird is writing history so prehistoric that it is unknown to any one but herself. No sensible woman objects to acknowledging what is the fact, that she is physically and intellectually inferior to man. It may be the result of centuries of mismanagement, tyranny, or anything you like, but the fact remains, and we cannot change or alter it, and, such being the case, we shall always find women willing and desirous of entering into a contract such as marriage, where they may share on somewhat equal terms the protection and companionship of those whom they can look up to, and respect as stronger and abler than themselves. There is nothing inferior or degrading in the position; on the contrary, the avowal that marriage is the beginning of a relation of which mutual affection, fidelity, and forbearance are the bases, is surely as high a position as any one can wish to aspire to.

It can hardly be denied, whatever theories Mrs. Caird may have about Luther, that marriage, in the Christian idea of it, has done everything to elevate the position and increase the influence of women, and, with due deference to Mrs. Caird, I venture to say history taught me that until the advent of the Christian religion, and the institution of the Christian marriage, the position of women was (with rare and doubtful exceptions) as degraded as it is now elevated. If men and women were alike physically, as well as mentally, perhaps we might dispense with marriage, but, as they are not, the woman must always have the worst of the position. If a man is bad and profligate, for him the matter may be transitory, but if a woman is bad, the stern decree of nature brands her, it may be for life, with the burden of her vice, the child. There is no escaping from the fact; it is as deep as human nature itself; and, putting the matter on the lowest possible grounds, a woman cannot afford to be as immoral as a man for that reason.

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