

WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

THE Queen has commanded that the Hospital at Swindon, built as a Jubilee commemoration, shall be named the Victoria Hospital. It is to be opened to receive patients on September 29.

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THERE never was a time when women in high places took so much interest in charitable work as they do in our age. The Queen of Sweden, who is well known for her kindness to the poor and distressed, is especially in sympathy with sick persons, owing to her personal knowledge of suffering, and she has recently presented the Samaritan Society of Stockholm with a carriage specially constructed for the conveyance of the sick, on condition that it is to be used by the police authorities for the transport of sick and helpless persons in case of accident.

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THERE has been quite a sensation in Vienna owing to the fact that Professor Billroth, the renowned continental surgeon, who, a few years ago, led the opposition to the admission of women to the medical schools, has lately honoured Dr. Grace Walcott, and three other American women physicians, with an invitation to attend his private clinic four times, and witness his own operations; he has also taken them over his private museum, where they saw some of the results of his surgical triumphs.

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IN a letter addressed by Miss Louisa Twining to the editress of *Work and Leisure*, she touches on the evils of the voting system in connection with charities. She remarks that in no country but England is so pernicious a system permitted, and, in institutions where it prevails, she points out that it is not the most deserving persons who always obtain admission, but those who can command the suffrages of the largest number of influential people; and untold misery and disappointment is thus caused to hundreds who are left out in the cold.

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SUGGESTIONS are more than ever now being made as to "what to do with our daughters"; and all who recommend work and occupation for them, deserve attention. Miss Sophy Lock takes "Needlework" as a subject of an article in *Atalanta* as an "employment for girls." Miss Lock recommends the teaching of needlework as a remunerative employment for ladies. Mr. Bridges, the editor of the *Laundry*, and himself an experienced laundry manager, proposes to establish a Ladies' Co-operative Laundry, where a thorough training in this department of house-

hold work may be obtained. He says the course would last about three months, after which period there ought to be little difficulty in obtaining situations for intelligent pupils. In a modern well-arranged laundry, the duties are clean and interesting; so that, should the number of applications received by Mr. Bridges justify his expectations, he will move into some exceptionally suitable premises. We think it would be wise for at least one girl in a family to become proficient in the art of getting-up fine linen, as it is a most expensive item in household expenditure; and imagine what dainty garments she might indulge in if she was sure that they would not be ruthlessly destroyed at the wash!

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DURING the meeting of the British Association at Bath, the *Telegraph* says that—"In the Biological Section the vexed question of stays and tight-lacing was discussed in a separate department. The attendance of the fair sex was especially large. The general expectation which they apparently entertained that the paper would condemn the wearing of stays was, however, agreeably disappointed.—Mr. C. S. Roy, Professor of Pathology at Cambridge, and Mr. J. G. Adams, University Administrator of Pathology, who had announced a joint paper, "On the Physiological Bearing of Waist-belts and Stays," blessed instead of banning these articles. They have lately been making some pathological experiments, and had found that a good deal of the blood stored useless in the abdominal veins is, by slight pressure, placed advantageously at the disposal of the muscles, brain, and skin. This explains how men, as well as women, instinctively employ some method of abdominal compression, wearing waist bands and belts, or the more elaborate corsets, at periods of increased activity. No doubt fashion has led to the distortion of the female figure by means of stays, but if not laced too tight the modern corset, by clasping the waist and supporting the bosom and back, constitutes a convenient combination of the different forms of girdle which have been found useful by the women of all civilised nations from the remotest times. Of course during sleep they are put off, but during hours of exertion, social or otherwise, reasonable tight-lacing is fitted to increase mental and physical activity. They, however, cautioned young ladies against carrying this to an injudicious extreme. By the way, it was suggested to trainers of horses that if they girthed on the racing saddle behind the ribs instead of over them they would thereby gain for the horse the same advantage as was experienced by the long-distance runner from his broad tight leather belt.—Several Physicians immediately attacked this paper.—Dr. Wilberforce Smith considered it a

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