

women's garb to act her part. When she became the central figure of the novel, it grew to be the most fascinating of all books, hence the most widely-read, in all the wilderness of literature. But this was only a figure of things to come, and predicted her admission to all the world contains. It was a sort of dress rehearsal for her part on the stage of life, wide as the planet and high as human need and sympathy. It is to be regretted that the woman who, in these regnant days of scientific Christianity and Christian science, is not only "the coming woman" but has already come, should be a character so individual that the old-line novelists cannot adapt their concept or their style to her bright, new lineaments; but we, as women, should be devoutly thankful that the novelist of the future has some forerunners—in our own country, Mrs. Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward, and in England, George Meredith, who, as one of our ablest women journalists has said, "shows that it is possible for women to despise inconstancy and weakness, and not to cling to unworthiness in man with that blind, doting love ascribed to them; that the rigid demand of a higher moral standard for women than for men frequently has its origin in the desire of brute force for absolute possession; that the faults and the virtues of women are the faults and virtues of the race; that a woman in her best estate is not an angel, nor in her worst 'worse than a bad man.'"

I wish we did not so much use the expression "emancipated woman." Its associations and history are not to our advantage. It would be far better to combine our efforts to make the term "awakened woman," current coin in the world's great exchange of speech.

Of all the fallacies ever concocted, none is more idiotic than the one indicated in the saying, "A woman's strength consists in her weakness." One might as well say that a man's purity consisted in his vileness, or that his sobriety consisted in his drunkenness! When was ever strength discounted, except by those who would have women kept in a condition of perpetual tutelage, or ignorance glorified except by those who desire her as a parasite? Nothing proves more conclusively the wretched nonsense of the conservative position on the "Woman Question" than that so noble an expression as "strong minded" should have become a synonym of reproach. It is the off-set of "weak-minded," and to be weak minded is the greatest calamity that can fall upon a human being. Let us have done with this nomenclature, and the shallow wit that gives it currency, and let us insist first, last, and always, that gentleness is never so attractive as when joined with strength, purity never so invincible as when leagued with intelligence, beauty never so charming as when it is seen to be the embellishment of reason and the concomitant of character. What we need to sound in the ears of girlhood is *to be brave*, and in the ears of boyhood *to be gentle*. There are not two sets of virtues, and there is but one greatness of character; it is that of him (or her) who combines the noblest traits of man and woman in nature, words, and deeds."

THE silver medal of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain has, for the first time, been won by a lady—Miss Anne E. Tilson, of Long Sutton, Lincolnshire.

Science Notes.

CONSIDERING that oxygen (or vital air, as it was called by the chemists of the last century) is so necessary to animal life, and that even a slight reduction in the percentage of oxygen present in ordinary air has a pernicious effect on animals, one might suppose that an atmosphere of pure oxygen would be beneficial in cases of asphyxia. This does not appear to be the case, however, according to a committee of physiologists belonging to the British Association. As a result of their experiments, they report that in the case of asphyxiated rabbits an atmosphere of pure oxygen appeared to be of no greater restorative value than one of ordinary air (containing one part of oxygen to four of nitrogen). Pure oxygen, inhaled by a healthy man for five minutes, had no effect on the pulse or on respiration; neither did it appear of any service to a patient suffering from cardiac dyspnoea.

As one of the many phenomena due to the unusual heat of the past summer, a correspondent of *Nature* calls attention to the appearance in this country of "bleeding bread." Not only bread, but boiled potatoes, rice and other kinds of farinaceous food have been discovered stained with deep red spots, which rapidly increase in extent, and spread from one article of diet to another. This curious appearance is recorded as having caused great alarm, in 1819, to the country folk of Padua, who regarded the mysterious spots as portents of evil. Investigation proved the colour to be due to a growth of bacilli, and, therefore, no more mysterious than any other mould or mildew.

From a recent experiment conducted by some German doctors, it would appear that professional fasters do not always suffer less waste of tissue than other persons under similar circumstances. The experiment in question was carried out with the assistance of two subjects—Cetti, a professional faster, who went without food for ten days, and a young German, named Breithaupt, who was starved for six days. Both subjects were allowed water. Cetti lost 11.22 per cent. of his original weight, and Breithaupt 5.83. This gives a daily average of 1.12 for Cetti, and only .97 for Breithaupt; the latter's advantage is still more marked when it is added that Cetti lost weight more rapidly during the first half of his starvation period than during the second half. The variations in the pulse and in respiration were not remarkable in either subject. It is more satisfactory to many persons to study the result of physiological experiments on human subjects rather than those on cats and dogs, if the experiments entail pain. Without denying that it may be justifiable to put such animals to pain in the interests of human beings, we may feel glad when enthusiasm for science or the desire for wealth or publicity induces human subjects to offer themselves; moreover, the results of experiments on the latter are frequently of greater value. Many cats and dogs have, however, suffered starvation in the interests of science, and, according to Voit, the heart of an animal which has died of starvation, has lost only 2.6 per cent. of its original weight, whereas fat has been reduced by 97 per cent. and skeletal muscles by 30.5 per cent. These data are interesting in conjunction with the more recent observations which show comparatively little diminution in the strength of the pulse.

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