

ing Bodies has had a new birth, and is now working as The Women's Local Government Society. The Hon. Secretary, Miss Browne, 58, Porchester Terrace, W., has issued three pamphlets bearing upon the subject, which we strongly advise our readers to obtain. Two penny stamps would cover the cost, including postage. One is called "The Position of Women under the Local Government Act, 1894 (popularly known as the Parish and Districts Councils Act)"; one, "Women's Work in London under the Act"; and the third, "Women's Work in England and Wales (not including London)." They should certainly be read by every woman who takes an interest in her country, and especially in her countrywomen.

"Prudes on the Prowl," "Pictures and Prudes," "Nudities and Niceties." Such have been some of the startling headlines that have graced the hoardings, during the past week, in consequence of the evidence given before, and the decisions of, the Licensing Committee of the London County Council. Many of the living pictures at the Palace Theatre of Varieties were described by Mr. Coote, Secretary of the London Vigilance Society, as being detrimental to the morals of the community at large. But it was the Empire Theatre round which most interest centred, chiefly because of the evidence of the women. Mrs. Ormiston Chant conducted the case against the Empire, and called as witnesses Mrs. Amelia Hicks, Mrs. Sheldon Amos, and Miss Mary Elizabeth Phillips, besides gentlemen. In the opinion of these witnesses, the Empire was a source of much corruption; the ballet was, for the most part, indecent; and the conduct of the class who went there demoralising. These ladies were not to be envied their difficult and thankless task. Judging by the comments of the press, it appears that those against them are far in excess of those for them. But a minority with Right on its side is, in the long run, in the majority. Such women as these are always putting forth their best effort to purify the moral atmosphere of society, and yet it is still tainted. But we have not the slightest doubt it would be ten times worse but for the energy of such members of the Purity Party. They have so far succeeded as to close the promenade at the Empire; but there is a dark shadow to it all, for two or three hundred employees, men and women, may be thrown out of work, and, as a former Empire ballet-girl pathetically writes in the *Telegraph*, 'Poverty is a great temptation to vice.'

During the Church Congress at Exeter, last week, the women had some good innings. On Tuesday last, a meeting of working women, all well dressed, not to say smart, was held. The clergy took a prominent part, Canon Knox Little, of whom London sees but little, save during a few days in Lent when he draws thousands to St. Paul, was the most popular speaker. He frankly confessed he could not sympathise with the "new woman" who rode bicycles and did all that in former times no one dreamt of as possible. His great point was that God did not make two classes but two sexes. On the following day, Wednesday, the women had a meeting all to themselves, for they rigorously excluded the men, which is only fair, considering that women are not infrequently excluded by the men. Mrs. Temple, the wife of the Bishop of don, took the Chair, and among the prominent

women present were Mrs. Scharlieb, M.D., Mrs. Creighton (wife of the Bishop of Peterborough), Lady Laura Ridding, and Miss E. Wordsworth, Principal of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. Mrs. Creighton read an admirable paper on "A Standard of Moral Life," in which she pleaded for a higher tone among women, which would tend to remove the low opinion which most men entertained of their sex. She strongly advocated giving opportunities to young people to mix joyously and innocently together, for thus they would be enabled to judge of the qualities of each other before entering into marriage. Mrs. Scharlieb spoke on "Temperance," Lady Laura Ridding on the "Guardianship of Working Girls," and Miss Wordsworth on the "First Principles in Women's Education." The Church Congress, which is, of course, monopolised by the men, was on the whole a great success; but several of the speakers could not resist the temptation of slyly joking at the expense of the so-called "New Woman."

Science Notes.

IMMUNITY FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

It is about three years since Dr. Klein delivered an address to the Royal Institution in which he dealt with the above subject. He criticised the theory of *Phagocytosis*, then generally accepted, and offered another explanation of the manner in which the healthy body is enabled to resist the attack of the microbe.

It may seem to some readers as if the subject of microbes must be almost exhausted, so much has been written and spoken about it; but, as in all departments of knowledge, each step gained presents new difficulties and new problems to be solved. It is not yet much more than two hundred years since the invention of the microscope, and although this appears an enormous interval, when one considers all that has been discovered by the aid of this wonderful instrument, it is a very short period compared with that during which man has been studying the workings of nature. It is said that at the time when the microscope was first used some hoped to penetrate the great secret of life itself, so profound was the impression produced on observers. The Dutch philosopher, Swammerdam, became almost insane at the marvels revealed to him, and at length destroyed his notes, believing that it was sacrilege to unveil and profane what was designed by the Creator to remain hidden from human ken.

The lowly vegetable cells known as bacteria, many of which find their nourishment in the blood of animals and so produce disease, are so small that the science of Bacteriology did not arise until a somewhat late period in the history of the microscope. Of the larger forms, about 12,500 placed side by side would be required to make up one inch; and of the smaller forms 50,000, the latter being among the minutest organisms revealed by the aid of the best modern microscopes. The rate of increase among bacteria is so rapid, that under favourable circumstances, one individual may give rise, in the course of eight hours, to upwards of 16 millions.

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