

In later life, children suck the ends of their pens or pencils when in doubt or perplexity over their lessons, from the association of sucking with distress or anxiety; and in still later life, the masher, and the young man whose ideas do not flow very readily, suck the ends of their walking-sticks when they are in doubt or anxiety, in conversational or amatorial matters."

A Book of the Week.

"WOMEN'S WORK."*

"WOMEN'S WORK" is the title of the modest book lately issued by Messrs. Methuen from the press. It offers no new social creed, or high-flown solution of pressing questions. It recognises great barriers in the way, and quietly sets to work to consider them. Perhaps the fact that Lady Dilke has given the book her benediction by writing a preface is sufficient guarantee that its contents are thoroughly practical. She assures us that the object of the writers, Miss A. Amy Bulley and Miss Margaret Whitley, is to give prominence to women's industrial position, which however is closely linked to their political and social position. She acknowledges that all employments are not equally suitable for men and women. Let the rights of both sexes be recognised; but natural laws must be obeyed in spite of ardent female reformers.

The writers start at the top and work downwards; beginning with a description of the "more cultured branches of women's work," such, for instance, as Literature, Teaching, Nursing, Stage, etc. In these occupations evils undoubtedly exist; but they are in no way to be compared to the hardships endured by women in the lower ranks of labour, doomed to toil ten, twelve, and fourteen hours a day in workshops or factories, which, owing to inefficient inspection, are often insanitary and badly ventilated. Driven at constant high pressure, with spirits broken by incessant hard work and by low feeding, it is small wonder that but slow progress has been made to induce these women to combine in Trades Unions for protection. By identifying themselves with such organisations they run the risk of immediate dismissal. As they have no money to fall back upon, this, of course, means ruin and starvation. But the cause of one is the cause of all, as was pointed out last week in a description of the work of St. Margaret's House, Bethnal Green. But women have yet to learn this lesson. The writers of the book before us give an admirable description of the early days of women's Trades' Unions, and of the heroic efforts of Mrs. Emma Paterson, the pioneer of the movement, which has been making steady progress under the auspices and encouragement of women like Miss Clementina Black and Mrs. Annie Besant.

But there is another and more complicated side to the question. At present anarchy reigns in the labour market. Large numbers of women are competing unfairly with men, and the result is that men are finding it increasingly difficult to obtain employment. If strong measures are not taken we shall be face to face with the degrading state of affairs where women and children will be supporting husbands and fathers in enforced idleness. Mothers at present have

"liberty" to do work for which physically they are absolutely unfit. The result is ruin to their own health, a frightful mortality among their children, and a lowered vitality in those that survive. Clearly these women must be protected against themselves. They are not willing to give up the "right" to work. We must see to it then that husbands get sufficient wages to allow of their wives staying at home. It would indeed be a bad time for England, if all she had to show for coffers full of gold was a puny race, weak in body and intellect.

Such books as "Women's Work" will certainly do much to bring about higher ideals, and "a deeper conception of human welfare."

Inventions, Preparations, &c.

SCOTT'S COCOANA.

The valuable properties of cocoa are so well known that they need no fresh description. The value of the Banana as a food is, however, almost equally unknown. It has been found that the flour prepared from this fruit is of immense service in the treatment or indigestion, and that dyspeptics who are unable to take any ordinary preparation of flour, thrive exceedingly upon articles made from the Banana. This fact has been taken advantage of in a comparatively new production to which the name of Cocoana has been given, and which is a compound chiefly prepared from Banana and the purest essence of cocoa. The result is a powder which undoubtedly acts as a stimulant and valuable nourishment combined, and which, by those who have taken it, is described to be as stimulating as tea, as fragrant as coffee, and more sustaining than ordinary cocoa. We have tested it, and find it to be palatable, and distinctly invigorating. The price is moderate, and the article can be obtained in various sized tins from the manufacturers, Messrs. Scott & Scott, of High Street, Birmingham, from all retail grocers, and from Messrs. Weston, Hunt & Co., of 39, Seething Lane, E.C.

THE RADIANT STOVE.

It has always been a great difficulty to devise means for warming small rooms unprovided with a proper fire-place when invalids have to be treated in such apartments. We have, therefore, much pleasure in calling the attention of our readers to the open smokeless fires of slow combustion invented and manufactured by Mr. Ernest Pither. They consist of stoves which are moveable from place to place which are charged with coal, and lighted like an ordinary fire, and which burn up gradually, the open space between the bars and the front glowing like an ordinary fire, while the gas and fumes are drawn away to the back. They burn for twelve hours without attention; and the cost of coal is estimated to amount to threepence for the 24 hours. Those of our readers who desire further

* "Women's Work," by Lady Dilke, A. Amy Bulley, and Margaret Whitley. (Methuen & Co., 36, Essex Street, London.)

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