

have found no entrance into the Council Chamber. With recent French scandals in mind it is impossible to value and honour too highly a public body sound to the core.

What practical result, however, has the County Council to show? The Water Companies have been made to realise that no nonsense would be tolerated, and, consequently, the water supply has been improved. The Thames is no longer an open sewer, its banks exposed by the retiring tide no longer display a suspicious deposit. Fish which a few years ago could not exist in the dirty water, are now to be found enjoying life. Indeed, a time is anticipated when the salmon and the trout will be seen leaping beneath the arches of London Bridge. Slum property and their owners have been brought under the public gaze. Open spaces have been jealously guarded and preserved to the nation. Parks have been carefully tended, and, what is of the utmost importance to those who seek recreation, refreshment rooms opened. Football, cricket, and even lawn tennis have been encouraged. Municipal music of a high order is provided, now in the dinner hour, now in the evening, on Saturday afternoons and Sundays. And who can gauge the influence and encouragement of music upon workers? As to its employes, it has set a good example of fair hours and fair pay. It has realised the necessity of light and air, and has laid a heavy hand upon the landlord and builder who would exclude either. It is managing successfully a doss-house for men; and, it is hoped, will soon open one for women. It has probed every department of London life, and hope has gone before, and improvement followed in its wake. Really it would seem as though we might reach Utopia yet.

The County Council has also learnt cautious wisdom. The principle of a proposed reform may be sound; but the duty of the administrator is to exercise the greatest caution in order to show its soundness. If by mal-administration it proves a failure, the principle is doomed to oblivion for at least a generation. The County Council has learnt and is still learning this important lesson, and with the reformer's zeal recognises the necessity of combining the administrator's caution.

Upon March 2 depends whether this record of work shall be snapped.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.

Another fiasco! Another hope deferred! For years have women been working and waiting, waiting and working to obtain the suffrage. Yet they are made to experience over and over again the torture of Tantalus. The tempting morsel, which they demand as an act of justice, and for which they plead as a safeguard to women's welfare, is dangled before them, is placed within their reach; they stretch forth their hand to grasp it, and lo! the thing recedes into the future. What reason was there to suppose that the Resolution for Women's Suffrage which it was announced that Mr. Walter McLaren would move last week in the House, would not be proposed? But the Resolution was not put, and another splendid opportunity was lost. Mr. McLaren, who with his wife have done heroic service for the Cause, with much righteous indignation has fully exposed the reason in the public press.

It appears that a member, Mr. Macdona, had managed to obtain for his Women's Suffrage Bill, a place on May 1st, after a Corrupt Practices Bill, which probably then will absorb all the time and attention of the House, and leave Mr. Macdona in the lurch. Mr. McLaren balloted for a place for a motion and obtained the first place on Friday. But it could not be proposed unless any Bill on the subject be withdrawn, at any rate for the time being. Mr. Macdona flatly refused to consent, although appealed to by many influential and prominent members, although offered the honour of seconding, and even of proposing the Resolution. In this obstinacy he was supported by Sir Richard Temple and Miss Cousins, secretary of a small society, "The Parliamentary Committee for Women's Suffrage." Preserve one from one's friends, is all we can say. How long now, may we ask, are women to wait for another opportunity of getting Parliament to record its opinions upon the Suffrage Question. Will they have to arrange to collect in their thousands from all parts of the country, march to Hyde Park, and so persuade the public and the press that they intend to obtain their rights as citizens?

Science Notes.

A FRENCHMAN ON THE INFERIORITY OF WOMEN.

ACCORDING to Strindberg, all feminine efforts towards independence must end badly. Woman, if she wants equality, must drag man down to her level, for she can never rise to his. Is it not man who has bestowed on woman the benefits of culture, the right of holding property, and numberless other privileges? Man, not woman, has produced civilisation.

As will be supposed, Strindberg has little consideration for those of his own sex who do not agree with him. To him, it is sad and marvellous that degenerate individuals should exist who parade the world trumpeting forth their own lack of virility, utterly devoid of the feeling of masculine superiority which every healthy man should have.

If this feeling of masculine superiority be any criterion, Strindberg must have a very healthy mind, for he does not appear to allow superiority to women in any point whatever. Those who regard woman as superior because she lacks certain masculine vices, overlook the fact that she has other and greater vices of her own. It has been urged that, morally, men must be inferior because statistics show a larger percentage of male criminals. Statistics, says Strindberg, can be twisted to prove anything. They refer only to crimes brought to light. Numberless are the occasions when man, full of pity and chivalrous feeling for the "sick child" (meaning "woman"), refrains from prosecuting the offender and shields her. Her crimes even demonstrate her inferiority, for there is generally no reflection nor calculation of the probability of discovery in crimes committed by women.

Rarely does a woman possess the power of keeping her attention fixed on one subject for any considerable time; hence it is seldom that she entirely masters anything. Of sequence of ideas in a woman's mind there is little—doubtless the cause of her perpetual unpunctuality and inability to organise her occupations so as not to do two things at the same time. No

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)