

these good qualities it is easy to understand that the various preparations of Californian Borax are rapidly attaining a popularity unequalled by any similar preparation. The toilet soaps and other preparations made from this material are thoroughly deserving of a trial by all trained Nurses, and a full list of these valuable articles may be obtained by writing to the manufacturers, The Californian Borax Company, Birmingham.

STAINS AND POLISH.

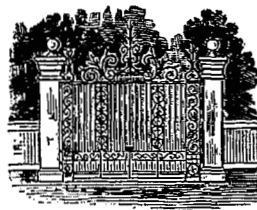
THE progress of antisepticism has caused an immense development in the demand for stains and polishes in the household as well as in the hospital ward, because it is realised that a polished or stained floor is much more sanitary than the old system of completely covering the floor by a carpet. Messrs. T. S. Jackson & Sons, of the Borough High Street, S.E., have introduced the antiseptic system into the well-known varnish stains and wax polish which they manufacture. The camphor which is used in the latter not only gives more consistence to the polish, but greatly increases both its pleasant odour and its antiseptic properties. The varnish stain made by this firm can be easily and successfully applied by anyone without any special knowledge, and the wax polish gives a most delightful brilliancy to furniture, as we can ourselves testify from observation of its results. The price is decidedly moderate, and both for their sanitary properties and also for the excellent effects which they produce, these stains and polishes may be highly recommended.

FIRST-CLASS WOOLS.

IN these days of Parcels' Post and other facilities for the conveyance of parcels, it is as easy to do our shopping a hundred miles away as at home. Messrs. Jevons and Mellor, of Birmingham, have deservedly obtained a high reputation for the most excellent wools, for knitting and general fancy work, which they manufacture. Their stock seems unlimited, and of the very best quality. A large part of their establishment is devoted to this branch, so that ladies sending for, or wishing to match wools, &c., can do so without the usual delay in sending to different manufacturers. Messrs. Jevons & Mellor have a charming selection of patterns and colouring in the new Norwegian canvas material, which is such interesting work for invalids and others.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



THE Annual Meeting of the Women's Liberal Unionist Association will be held at Prince's Hall, Piccadilly, on Thursday next, April 4th, at 3 p.m. Those readers who will be free on that afternoon may like to be present.

The Irish Industries Association urged at a special meeting held last Saturday at Londonderry House, Park Lane, the advisability of re-organising the London committee, and placing the Association's work on a purely commercial basis. It was shown, and it is easily conceivable, that the present system of each small industrial centre holding an independent sale of goods in London, resulted often in financial loss. The reform suggested was that there should be amalgamation of these centres, and that they should hold annually a large sale under the auspices of a non-political and non-religious, but thoroughly representative committee. Irish residents in London would be invited to join the Association. A general committee was then constituted with the Marchioness of Londonderry as President, and the Countess of Arran as Vice-President.

THE Women's Industrial Council have plenty to do just now in focussing the desires and interests of women engaged in various trades and industries, and in endeavouring to find for them a place in the Factory Bill now before Parliament. Last Friday the Council formed a deputation to wait upon Mr. Asquith. They wanted (1) the age of half timers raised to twelve; (2) that compulsory benefit societies should be included within the scope of the Bill; (3) that shop assistants, grocers' assistants and others should be brought under the provisions of the Act; (4) that an intelligible abstract of the law should be published, and be compulsorily displayed in factories and workshops; (5) that a consolidating Act was desirable. Whether these suggestions will be carried into effect is a doubtful matter. But the Home Secretary promised to bear them in mind, and give them effect if so doing would not imperil other provisions in his measure. He expressed himself in cordial sympathy with the question of raising the age of half timers to twelve. When one remembers the slender stock of knowledge contained in the cranium of twelve-year-old boys and girls, even under the most favourable circumstances, one shudders to think that there should be any doubt about so necessary a reform receiving Parliamentary stamp of approval. The question of half timers is a sore one, especially in the industrial centres of the Midlands. Teachers declare it to be practically impossible to teach children of ten or eleven after they have been tired out by many hours of toil in some workshop or factory.

The Society for Promoting the Return of Women as Poor Law Guardians held a very good meeting last week. Enthusiastic cheers greeted the announcement of the Secretary, that whereas previous to the Decem-

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