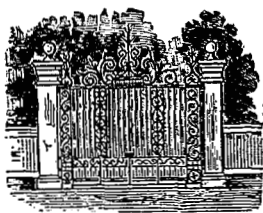


— Outside the Gates. —

WOMEN.



how to do it," and concludes by announcing that "London and London's Council expect every British woman to do her duty."

Mrs. Ormiston Chant has this week addressed mass meetings under the auspices of the B.W.T.A., in view of the London County Council Elections, at which the following Resolution was passed: "Resolved, that this meeting pledges itself to work for the return of those candidates at the coming London County Council Election, who will support all measures that make for the social and moral well-being of the people."

The President of the National British Women's Temperance Association strongly urges the members to study carefully the social conditions under which masses of the people live. Lady Henry Somerset says: "Temperance work will never prosper until we realise that our Temperance principles are a part of a creed that embodies the belief that all have a right to live, and all must have a chance to live well." In this belief, the President advises the "British Women" to study the reports of the Labour Commissions, and to get to know particulars dealing with the labour question in their own locality.

If ever dishonesty can assume a blacker dye than that put upon it by all laws, it is surely when it poses under the guise of Charity. Another of the revolting charity scandals has been brought to light in the case of the "... St. Michael's Orphanage and Convalescent Home, Queen's Road, Worthing..." Jane Mabel Justice, John Edmund Stone, and Eustace Denman, had conspired together to make a living out of the gullibility of a public too often more ready to give than to take the trouble to ascertain the merits and demerits of a particular institution. In this case it was hoped to tempt into the net a few Wards in Chancery and gentlemen patients—possibly, it has been suggested, to look after the children! The female prisoner, it was shown, found the borrowed feathers of the Nurse an excellent decoy. Certainly it is one way of getting a living, and the ringleader will, during the next ten years, have ample opportunity to ruminate upon her own "cuteness" and philanthropy.

Towards the end of last year, some very serious allegations were brought forward by Mr. Edmund

The Link Shell Truss Co., 171, Wardour Street, London, W., have a new truss, it is claimed that by this method of manufacture a truss is provided which will be more comfortable than the one in ordinary use and better able to adapt itself to the various movements of the body, especially if these are of a sudden character. The truss is fitted with a hip-joint regulator by means of which the pressure is increased or diminished as required and with a soft hollow shell pad perforated for ventilation. The Truss as thus completed is an efficient one.—*Lancet*, August 4th, 1894.

Garrett, in the *Westminster Gazette*, in regard to the Theosophical Society. Last week there appeared in the *Daily Chronicle* a letter, three and half columns in length, from Mrs. Annie Besant, addressed from Adyar, Madras, December 23rd, in which she explains both her relation to the Society and that of Mr. Judge, another ardent follower of the famous Madame Blavatsky. Among other matters, it appears that Mrs. Besant had received certain "death letters" from Blavatsky, which she believed were genuine. She confesses to having learnt afterwards that the writing was forged by Mr. Judge. She however, persists in believing "that the gist of the messages was psychically received." And she is of opinion "that Mr. Judge's error lay in giving them to me in a script written by himself and not saying that he had done so." Mrs. Besant, however, declares her intention of standing by Mr. Judge in spite of all. Be it so. But such revelations cannot fail to frighten away possible proselytes. There may be something in spookology, and automatic writing, and Mahatmas, and all that, but plain folk, who have neither the money, nor the time, to waste, had better leave such occult luxuries to those who can afford to dabble in them, and not run the risk of being dogged at every step by the quack and charlatan.

There are, unfortunately, many buoyant souls who have unbounded faith in Acts of Parliament. They regard them as a panacea for everything. Especially is such an attitude dangerous in regard to women's work, as an ill-considered measure may do untold harm in the future to the cause of women. This seems to be the principle of the Women's Employment Defence League, which held its annual meeting last week. Mrs. Fawcett, in her remarks from the chair, urged the necessity of carefully weighing evidence in regard to the home work of women. There were some who would like to have all women working at trades organised in factories, with its attendant result—the extinction of home work. Obviously, it would be a distinct retrogression if women were tied down by hard and fast enactments in regard to labour. However, among the resolutions passed, was one which declared it should be left to married working women to decide how soon they should go to work after confinement. So far, so good; but the question does not rest with *one* woman's liberty; the next generation and the next are stubborn elements in the argument, and deserve as much consideration as the mother.

The Women's Liberal Federation held its annual conference last week in Cardiff. It was largely attended. The resolution, moved by Miss Garland of Devonport, and seconded by Miss Comins, of Bristol, will find a sympathising echo in all those who desire to see simplicity, order, and proportion even in Government and official proceedings. "That the Parish Councils Bill, having further complicated registration by the creation of an additional register, this conference believes that the time has come when registration reform should effect the abolition of all disqualification, and the creation of one register for parochial, municipal, parliamentary, and all other elections, to include all present registered electors, both men and women."

Reduction of Munson Typewriter prices from £21 to £12 12s., our Odell Typewriter reduced to 63s., particulars of both free.—LINK-SHELL TRUSS Co, Surgical Instrument Makers.

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