

have not been introduced into our police stations. Chicago is, in this respect, far in advance of us to the immense advantage not only of the female prisoners, but also of the policeman whose position as attendants upon women of the lowest class is by no means an enviable one, and is undoubtedly detrimental to their well-being.

The Central Conference Council, a report of whose Annual Conference held this year in Glasgow appeared in these columns two months ago, has, it is understood, agreed to enlarge its borders. The Trades' Union Association, which was lately formed, as we reported at the time, has, we have since heard, decided to advocate the combination or "unionism" not only of women engaged in *bonâ fide* trades, but also of those engaged in the higher branches of work, such as type-writing, journalism, etc.

Of course, the Universities have had many honours to tell of, not only here in the British Isles, but also abroad, in science, in mathematics, in history, etc.

The woman's cause is one all the world over. It has in it, we believe, that touch of nature which makes the world kin. And this thought brings to mind two great events of 1894—the assassination of President Carnot, and the death after an insidious illness of the Czar of all the Russias. For a time, England, Germany, Italy, America, France, were drawn the closer together in their sincere sympathy for the loss sustained by France. Again, not a nation in the civilised world but followed with anxiety the bulletins issued daily from the Russian Court. For years the dying Czar had kept the peace of Europe when a sign from him would have set not only Europe but Asia in a blaze. And who shall say that such an attitude, in its bearing upon the peace question, is not the direct concern of women, for is it not they who have had to sacrifice husbands and brothers for slaughter, in consequence of wars not brought about by themselves, but by those in high places.

Glancing down the year's obituary, we find that 1894 has carried off clever *Mdlle. Maria Deraimes*, of Paris; *Mrs. Augusta Webster*, who was not only a poet, but a valuable member of the London School Board. Then another link with the past was broken with the death of *Mrs. Thackeray*, wife of the great novelist, who survived her husband some thirty years. And the last week of the old year saw the death of two very notable women. *Miss Francis Mary Buss*, Principal of the North London Collegiate School for Girls, and one who has exercised immense influence upon the higher education of women, died on Christmas Eve. And on Saturday, the 29th, passed away, at the age of 64, *Miss Christina Rossetti*, whose poetry has been much admired by lovers of literature; and who has been immortalised by having sat as the model for the Virgin in her brother *Dante Gabriel's* picture, "The Girlhood of the Virgin," now in the National Gallery.

The last week of the old year also brought the news that *Miss Helen Blackburn* had retired from the

Secretaryship of the Women's Suffrage Society (10, Great College Street, S.W.), of which, for twenty years, she has been the moving spirit. She will, however, we are glad to announce, continue to superintend and take an active interest in the work done, and indeed expresses her intention of coming up to town for this purpose twice a week from her home in Tunbridge Wells. As a memento of her services, she was presented by a few friends with a pair of silver candelabra, each of which bears round the base the following inscription: "To *Helen Blackburn*, in affectionate commemoration of twenty years' loyal and devoted work for women's suffrage."—By the way, we have before us the *Calendar of the Society* (price 3d.), edited by *Miss Blackburn*, which should certainly be in the hands of all women, for it is a veritable treasure of interesting and useful information about women—their education, business enterprises, clubs, etc., etc.

## Science Notes.

### POETRY AND SPORT.

"What should we think," asks *Mr. W. H. Hudson*, in his book on *Birds*, "of that inhuman tyrant who should select the most beautiful woman among his subjects, and put her to death for the pleasure and glory of using her bleached and polished skull as a drinking-cup?"

This fancy is suggested to him by the fact that certain English gentlemen crossing the Pacific in large steamers have amused themselves on the voyage by taking the albatross with hook and line. The floating bait is swallowed by the bird and the hook fixed in its gullet or stomach, so it is obliged to follow the vessel and is ultimately dragged on to the deck, where its head is cut off to be kept as a memento of the voyage, while the long bones of its wonderful pinions are cleaned out to make pipe-stems.

Contrast with the conduct of these barbarians the description given by *Herman Melville*, seaman and whaler, of his impressions on first seeing an albatross. "It was during a prolonged gale, in waters hard upon the Antarctic seas . . . I ascended to the over-clouded deck; and there, dashed upon the main-hatches, I saw a regal feathery thing of unspotted whiteness. . . . At intervals it arched forth its vast wings, as if to embrace some holy ark; wondrous flutterings and throbbings shook it. Though bodily unharmed it uttered cries, as some king's ghost in supernatural distress. Through its inexpressibly strange eyes, methought I peeped to secrets not below the heavens. As Abraham before the angels, I bowed myself; and the white thing was so white, its wings were so wide."

Or listen to the words of *Michelet*: "The winged order—the loftiest, the tenderest, the most sympathetic with man—is that which man now-a-days persecutes most cruelly. What is required for its protection? To reveal the bird as soul, to show that it is a person."

The above words have no exact meaning probably

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.

Reduction of *Munson Typewriter* prices from £21 to £12 12s., our *Odell Typewriter* reduced to 6s., particulars of both free.—LINK-SHELL TRUSS Co. Surgical Instrument Makers.

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