

Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein is patroness of the Artists' Guild Seventh Amateur Art Exhibition, open to amateurs of all classes, to be held at the Royal Albert Hall from November 11th to 17th.

Miss Frances E. Willard, President of "World's Women's Christian Union," will speak in the Lecture Hall, Spurgeon's Tabernacle, on Friday, September 20th, at 3 p.m. Mrs. Eva McLaren, Vice-President of the British Women's Temperance Association, Madame Antoinette Sterling, Mrs. Clara Hoffman, of America, Mrs. Pearsall Smith, and other well-known workers are expected to be present.

The first Annual Report of the Council of the Society of Women Journalists is very encouraging. Until the formation of this society the women journalists had no organisation or representation. The leaders in the profession leagued themselves together to raise the standard, and united for mutual protection and mutual advancement. The result as shown by the large numbers joining the Society is one more of the many hopeful signs of the desire on the part of women for co-operation.

The *Lancet*, commenting on "Occupations for Women," mentions that in a Metropolitan mortuary the assistant at *post-mortem* examinations is a woman, and says that as far as handicraft goes she is a most excellent and handy helper.

The Students of the Alexandra College for Women, in Dublin, which was founded in 1866 for the higher education of women, when very little provision in this direction had been made, have already won upwards of seventy-six degrees from the Royal University of Ireland. The average number of students on the roll is about 280.

True to College instincts "sports" form an important part of the curriculum. So popular is hockey among the Alexandra students that three college teams have already been formed and the weekly practices are carried on with great vigour. In regular college matches, caps and ties of the club colours are worn.

Mrs. Priscilla Bright M'Laren, of Newington House, Edinburgh, widow of Duncan M'Laren, and only surviving sister of John Bright, has just been the recipient of numerous congratulations and presents on the occasion of her eightieth birthday. Mrs. M'Laren, notwithstanding her advanced age, is in the enjoyment of excellent health, and still takes much interest in politics. Among other things, she is President of the Edinburgh Branch of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, by which she has been presented with an illuminated address.

The mother and eldest sister of Mr. J. M. Barrie, who were laid side by side on Friday in the cemetery on the hill overlooking Kirriemuir, were, it is authoritatively announced, the originals of Jess and Leebie in "A Window in Thrums." "Once again, as it happens," says the *Edinburgh Dispatch*, in commenting on the fact, "we find that fact is stranger even in its pathos,

than fiction. For touching though the closing chapters of life were as devised for Jess and Leebie by the novelist who has made them ours, the actual circumstances of their death are more touching and tender still. The daughter, slowly dying on her feet, nursed the mother till she could nurse no more; and the mother, needing no more nursing, died, not knowing, perhaps scarcely even suspecting, that her daughter had but a few hours gone before her out of this world into the next. Even here they hardly said good-bye."

"The gentlemen subscribe and the ladies do the reading." That was the remark of Mr. Henning, the librarian of the Johannesburg Public Library, to a *Johannesburg Star* reporter the other day. The average Johannesburg man, indeed, cares to read little except the share market reports. The ladies on the Rand prefer, of course, novels, and Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Hungerford and Florence Marryat are their particular favourites. Some lady readers, the librarian added, are decidedly scientific in their literary tastes, but only a few.

There is always a great rush at the Johannesburg Library for the latest arrivals in the "novel line." Books like the "Yellow Aster" or the "Woman Who Did" are in immense demand as soon as they arrive. A lady will often bring a book back and say, "It is a horrid book, and I'm sorry I read it." "But," added the librarian, "they read them just the same." A question as to whether Thackeray and Dickens and the standard novelists were much read the librarian had to answer in the negative. "The ladies of the present day," he said, "regard Thackeray and Dickens as out of date and old fashioned." So much the worse for the ladies.

That education is spreading among Turkish ladies is proved by the increasing number of literary women among them—as Zafir Hanoum, the learned wife of Helmi Effendi, who translates in Turkish from seven languages; Gulnare Hanoum, who is a remarkable poetess; Leila Hanoum, daughter of Ishmael Pasha, who writes and translates poetry from the French, Italian, and German languages; and Fatma Hanoum, who has commenced a remarkable movement for the improvement of the condition of Mahomedan women of the lower orders; and lastly, though not least, Leila Sultan, the young daughter of Sultan Abdul Hamid, who is a distinguished musician. The door of progress has certainly been opened by Abdul Hamid II., even for women, but it is after all only ajar; and Fuad Pasha's dream of the emancipation of Turkish women is still far from realisation.

After much organisation and hard work the women of Brooklyn, U.S.A., have been accorded the right to sit on the Board of Education of that city. For many years petitions have been regularly sent to the various Mayors asking for this right, which has hitherto been denied them. But the present Mayor yielded to a petition of 4,800 cultured women of the city, and they now sit as mothers certainly have a right to do on the Council which provides for the education of the children of the community.

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