

—for she has seven children—she has interested herself actively in the women and girls, and especially in the mothers, for whom in the three last places, she has started Mothers' Unions. Like her husband, she has great liking for historical study. Children owe to her pen histories of England and of France. Her biographies of Sir Walter Raleigh and of the Duke of Marlborough are interesting and instructive reading.

It is confidently expected that the controversial question of the State Regulation of Women's Work will be keenly debated. But as Mrs. Amie Hicks and Mrs. Sidney Webb have allotted to them the introduction of the subject, little fear need be entertained that those present will "get off the line." Mrs. Amie Hicks having been a working woman is fully acquainted with their trials and hardships. She has, on more than one occasion, given valuable evidence before Royal Commissions on Work or Trade.

Mrs. Sidney Webb is, under this name, almost, if not quite, as familiar as when under her maiden name—Miss Beatrice Potter. She herself worked in the sweaters' dens of the East End of London in order to get a real insight into how the poor live. Married in 1892 to Mr. Sidney Webb, the prominent County Councillor, her old interests are by no means subjugated to her new duties. Her heart, soul and intellect are in accord with the life work of her husband.

The sphere of education could not be better represented than by Mrs. Henry Sidgwick, Principal of Newnham College, Cambridge, and by Miss Maitland, Principal of Somerville College, Oxford.

Mrs. Henry Sidgwick belongs to a family that early supported the aspiration of women after high education: for both her father (James Maitland Balfour) and his sister were interested in the movement. In 1876 she married Mr., now Professor, Sidgwick, who years before had called the first meeting which led to the founding of Newnham. In 1880 Mrs. Sidgwick undertook the post of Vice-Principal of the newly-built second half of the College. In 1892, on the death of Miss Clough, she succeeded to the post of Principal. She has worked a good deal at physics with her brother-in-law, Lord Rayleigh, and in conjunction with him has written a paper for the Royal Society.

Miss Maitland has greatly extended the work of Somerville College since, in 1889, she succeeded Miss Shaw Lefevre as Principal. She is the author of several novels and stories, is thoroughly conversant with the science of cookery, and is a warm-hearted philanthropist.

Adeline, Duchess of Bedford, will be a welcome acquisition to the Conference, for she has extensive practical knowledge of various methods pursued by philanthropists to raise the standard of life among women and girls. Besides being a staunch supporter of temperance works, she is President of the Recreative Evening Schools' Association. Her Grace is particularly happy in her addresses to such educational bodies as the Women's Medical School and Queen's College. Knowing this, we may confidently anticipate with pleasure her address to young girls on "Following That which is Good."

Miss Clifford, Poor Law Guardian, Bristol (better known as the "Guardian Angel"), is a familiar and

picturesque figure at these annual gatherings. As her short, clear, *apropos* remarks from the platform are a guarantee of her popularity with long-suffering reporters, so the groups of ladies who besiege her in lobbies and refreshment rooms are an unanswerable proof of her sweetness of character and disposition.

Prominent among the prominent women workers expected will be Mrs. Henry Fawcett, widow of the late Postmaster-General and Cambridge Professor of Political Economy; and also mother of the famous Newnham Girl Graduate who ranked above the Senior Wrangler. She was an early adherent to the cause of Women's Rights, especially as it affected their higher education. Though she confesses to a feeling of nervousness on the platform, her speeches are always neat in structure, and literary in style. They have the merit said to be not always prominent in the speeches of women, of being persuasive more by reason of their logic and argument than by flimsy rhetoric.

So it is anticipated that a most representative gathering of earnest and successful women workers will be present at the Nottingham Conference, which will include besides those mentioned, Mrs. Eva McLaren, the Corresponding Secretary of the International Council of Women; Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the Hon. Secretary of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland; Mrs. A. H. Bright, Lady Battersea, Mrs. Percy Bunting, Hon. Mrs. A. T. Lytton, Mrs. Roberts-Austen, &c., so that no doubt the reception to be held by the Mayor of Nottingham on Monday, the 21st inst., will be a brilliant function.

At a meeting of the "Society of Friends of the Country," at which the Archbishop of Granada was present, a professor of the University of Granada commenced a speech on the emancipation of woman. He had, however, not been speaking long when the Archbishop interrupted him, and requested him not to continue speaking on a subject which his Grace believed to be contrary to Catholic doctrine. The speaker protested against the Archbishop's attitude, and then left the platform, at the same time announcing his withdrawal from the Society.

It has always been one of the tenets of the Roman Catholic Church that the less its children know the better, and especially its feminine children. But for the pious Archbishop to imagine that his fulminations will have any more effect on the ever increasing and growing woman movement, is like unto the pretensions of Mrs. Partington and her broom. The "Professor," who maintained a standard of woman's education in the face of possible excommunications, should receive a great deal of gratitude and praise from the educated among the women of Spain.

## Science Notes.

### ELECTRIFIED TADPOLES.

THE exciting effects of the passage of a current of electricity through nerves have long been known. The kicking of a pithed frog was the starting-point of the wonderful researches on current electricity, which have, in a sense, revolutionised physical science. Yet we know very little more now of the relations between nerve matter and electricity than Volta discovered.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)