

object lessons offered by the School Board of this country to the children of the rural population.

And yet in spite of these same conditions a great feature is made of a little teaching from a wholly unintelligible book on Hygiene, and the Education Department also points out with pride that "domestic economy is now included in the code!"

One of the first considerations of Women Inspectors would be that of insisting on the general cleanliness, neatness and order of our village schools. And one of the first precepts they would impress upon the school teachers would be that an occasional open window would tend, not only towards the health of the children, but towards their mental clearness.

School inspecting would open up a most valuable and interesting occupation for women—and it would be work which would appeal alike to their energies and sympathies. Women, by virtue of their sex, are naturally interested in children and understand their needs. The present system of appointing University men to inspect the little Tommys and Marias of our village schools is almost farcical in its futility. And to test the inadequacy of the system it is necessary only to make a tour of half a dozen village schools and there take note of the unhealthiness and uncleanness of the buildings in which our young, growing children spend so much of their time.

The "district visitor" receives some severe handling in John Oliver Hobbes' last book, and is thus dealt with: "The girl did not care for the meddlesome art of district visiting. She was not English, and it seemed to her democratic spirit gross insolence to pry uninvited into the homes of people, who because they were poorer or of lower social rank than herself, were presumed to have no privacy, no pride. Lord Wickenham encouraged her feeling on this point."

"Suppose," he once said to Lady Ralston, "I were for a change to intrude on the rich in this neighbourhood. I should visit Lady Talbot de Lisle and say 'Is it true, my good woman, that your husband is usually drunk, and that you have not paid your dressmaker's bill? I was greatly shocked not to see you at Church last Sunday. What does this mean? Why do you allow your son to waste his time and his money on the racecourse? This is all wrong. If you want to know how to make a nourishing soup during this cold weather, put potato-skins in the stock-pot. If you should have no stock-pot boil vegetables in water and season them well. The French are so clever at that sort of thing!' And then I should look at her as though she ought to curtsy and think me an angel. I say such things are neither kind nor virtuous; they are vulgar and disgusting. Sisters of Charity do good work because they are poor themselves; they are not fine ladies who mistake inquisitiveness for Christian sympathy, the love of domineering for neighbourly affection, and their husband's need of votes for a wish to tend the humble. I know many poor people; I love them. I go to see them when they invite me to their homes; they are my friends. They tell me how they suffer under this odious interference."

There are district visitors and district visitors. No doubt Lord Wickenham's strictures are entirely intended against the busy-body type. Among district visitors one has known fine, generous, helpful women who are able to make themselves and their ministrations a source of great pleasure and happiness to their poorer neighbours.

At the first annual meeting of the members of the Society of Women Journalists, John Oliver Hobbes was elected President for the ensuing year. The report states that in the first year nearly 200 representative women journalists were elected, who resided in such various parts of the world as Great Britain, America, Canada, India, Belgium, France, Germany, and Austria, and that the Society is in a most prosperous condition. The Society has been of much practical use to its members both in obtaining employment and in legal and medical advice and in many other ways.

The female medical students of the University of Melbourne have appealed to the Council against the decision of the medical faculty in compelling them to occupy a joint dissecting room with the male students. The Council has supported the objection of the ladies, and have directed that in future a separate room shall be provided for them.

The *Journal des Femmes* (May, 1895) reports that the Governor of Algeria has charged Madame Chellier, doctor of medicine at Algiers, with a mission in l'Aurès, a department of Constantine. She will visit a number of villages to study the condition of the Arab and Kabyle women, and the diseases from which they suffer in consequence of the ignorance of the women who attend them in their confinements, as no male physician is allowed by the Mussulman law to assist them, even in the gravest cases. She will try to overcome the prejudices of the women, to teach them more scientific methods, and to instruct them in the management of both mother and child, matters on which, at present, they are completely ignorant.

Science Notes.

PROGRESS AND RETROGRESSION.

PROFESSOR LOMBROSO is familiar to many English readers as the author of a work on "Female Offenders," and even before the publication of this he was known for his somewhat unusual (and, in the opinion of many, unfounded) theory that women are less sensitive to pain than men. More recently he has been engaged in attempting to destroy what he considers to be popular delusions in other directions.

It is a prevalent delusion of our time, he says, that we are always progressing; we picture progress to ourselves as an endless line leading straight up to heaven, without any turnings. The Professor is anxious to remind us that this is not a true picture, that, even among the most privileged people, the line

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