

W O M E N .

MRS. ALEC TWEEDIE.

THE subject of the charming picture we give our readers this week is Mrs. Alec Tweedie, the well-known writer, who has, in addition to the fame she has well earned as the writer of "A Winter Jaunt to Norway," "A Girl's Ride in Iceland," and other books, recently interested herself in a great national undertaking. Mrs. Tweedie has kindly consented to read a paper on "The British Produce League" at the forthcoming meeting of the Matrons' Council on the 30th, when she will give expression to her views that women can show their patriotism in no better way than by encouraging the use in their own homes of English products, whether those be connected with the table—the eggs, the butter, and the poultry—or with dress, as the Scotch home-spuns and Spitalfields silk.

Mrs. Tweedie truly says: "When our butter was the best in the world, our pork excellent, our cream and milk exceedingly good, our fowls plump and tender, our eggs delicate and plentiful, the dairies, the poultry yards, and the styes were superintended by women. In those days it was not the farmer; it was the farmer's wife or daughter who attended to such matters."

Mrs. Tweedie is the daughter of Dr. George Harley, the well-known scientist and physician, and is therefore a Scotchwoman by birth and by marriage.

"I am a writer, not a farmer," she says. But she has so many talents that she might easily say: "I am not only a writer, but an artist, a sportswoman, and a deep thinker." Her charming house is full of souvenirs of her delightful jaunts; and she can show the quaint and picturesque snow-shoes with which she

scudded across snow-clad Norway in the depth of winter. She displays, too, the fishing-tackle with which she did notable execution in Iceland, and from all these places she has brought back lasting impressions in the form of strong oil and water-colour drawings of striking effects.

Mrs. Tweedie notwithstanding such a list of sturdy accomplishments, is essentially a womanly woman, as is evidenced by the artistic embroideries with which she is able to decorate her rooms, these stitcheries being done "between whiles."

She very sensibly advocates the re-adoption by women of the really feminine occupations of poultry-rearing, bee-keeping, dairying and gardening, which she says "would be much better than their becoming governesses and actresses."

Of course we must have our governesses and actresses, but the stock employments for women are much overcrowded, and it would be admirable to enlarge the sphere of remunerative labour for women in the fields Mrs. Tweedie advocates.

She says in speaking of the large scale on which the people of Denmark conduct their dairying operations, "It is a noteworthy fact that though there are not two million human beings in Denmark, there are upwards of a million cows."

Mrs. Tweedie is the Hon. Secretary of the British



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Women's Produce League, and she is anxious that all women who desire to further home industries will communicate with her at York Terrace, London, N.W., sending name and address as a guarantee, stating that they are prepared, as far as possible, to buy British produce and encourage British trade. She thinks some such co-operation on the part of women would soon exercise an appreciable effect on rural and home industries. The Duchess of Sutherland and Lady Winchelsea, whose husband is working so hard in aid of farmers and other agriculturists, have expressed themselves as being much interested in the project.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)