

did not in the least resemble a mystic nor a witch was attracting a few solitary persons. In the marquee, members of the Savage Club were giving an entertainment, and a clergyman was taking the entrance money. In another part of the building "Living Pictures" were being exhibited. Prize packets, "shilling and sixpenny dips," were fished for in the well of the hall from the staircases, and the fishers apparently fished till they caught something, with the patience if not the skill of the practised angler. Refreshments at modest prices were being dispensed on all sides, and it would seem brisk business was being done all round. But the crowd was immense and the crush great for the limited space. Towards evening the enthusiasm waxed greater, and people were dining on the spot and preparing to make the most of it.

In contrast not unpleasing with all this brilliant gaiety were the wards where the patients lay. These wards had been decorated with flowers and plants, with the double object of making the sick people share in the entertainment, and also to prepare them should the Royal party visit them. But the Princess walked with some difficulty owing to her lameness, and was advised not to undertake climbing the stairs.

In the children's wards the excitement was keen, and the disappointment not a little.

"What's the matter with this little boy?" said a visitor.

"I've got a bad leg," was the answer, "I wish the Princess had come."

"Ah! but the poor Princess had a bad leg too, or she would have come. It's so far up all these stairs."

"Well, I heard the band play," said the child.

"And this little boy: how did you get hurt?"

"Runned over," was the reply, and then he added, rather sadly, "My hand is off."

"And this little girl: what has hurt your face?"

"Cancer," was the ready answer.

A glance at the board showed the wound was not described in English or Latin as cancer.

"No, it isn't cancer," said the visitor, "who told you it was?"

"Mother said so," the child answered, verifying the curious fact that working-class people are disposed to describe a swelling as a "tumour" and a tumour as "cancer."

"And how did this little boy get hurt?" said the visitor, going to another cot.

"Runned over," came from this boy also.

"Discharged," was written on the board.

"When do you go out?"

"When mother brings my clothes for me."

"Are you glad to go home?"

A steady look came into the boy's eyes, "No."

One has heard that before from children in Hospital, and one attempts consolation.

"But won't it be nice to be out in the streets again playing with the other little boys?"

"No," said the boy steadily and uncomplainingly.

The poor little fellow had learned by experience to know when he was well off.

The International Council of Women.

Lady Aberdeen is to pay a visit to London in July, when she intends to confer with the secretaries of the various European National Councils of Women as to the best and most suitable arrangements to be made for the International Councils of Women Congress which it is proposed to hold in London in 1898.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS CHRISTIAN has accepted the Presidency of the Women's Section of the East London Exhibition to be opened at the People's Palace by the Prince of Wales on Saturday, June 6.

The Duchess of Connaught is to receive the ladies Order of St. Catherine, which is the second in Russia, and the Queen, the Princess of Wales, and the Duchess of Coburg all belong to it. The members all wear a broad pink ribbon with a silver border, to which is suspended a small silver image of St. Catherine, and on the left breast a silver star, with a white cross on a red ground. This order was founded by Peter the Great, in remembrance of services which his wife rendered to him in his war against the Turks.

It is hoped that the Government will so re-frame the Education Bill as to give women a direct representation on the Board. As the Bill now stands women are entirely ignored as having a voice in the State education of children. This is a serious omission from the point of view both of the children and the women, and it is safe to predict that the women are hardly prepared for such a slight. Women worked extremely hard at the last election, which resulted in so large a majority for the Conservatives, but so far they have received no consideration or reward at the hands of a Government they did so much to place in power. It would be well for the women of this country to cultivate good memories, and to help at election times only those who are prepared to give women their proper recognition in the State.

Professor Goldwin Smith has been writing from Toronto with an excess of zeal against the Woman Suffrage Movement. He says: "Woman calls on man to give up to her half the sovereign power, himself retaining the responsibility; for Nature will still hold him responsible both for the family and the State."

Nature does no such thing, having wisely made woman largely responsible for the family—and it is man, not Nature, who is responsible for the sexes monopoly—and, therefore, unjust management of the State. However the Professor has to own:—

"Politicians of both parties crave for the female vote, and quake at the thought of making an enemy of the coming power. Both parties, in the frenzy of conflict, have been thrusting their women into the political fray. Thus the Dutch auction goes on. We shall presently see a woman in the House of Commons—for to that, if woman suffrage is carried, you will logically come."

We are glad to hear that this is the state of things in Canada, and we hope soon to see both parties in England "craving" for the female vote. But from the treatment recently accorded to the women at the House of Commons, it would seem as if that happy day were far distant.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)