

to my nation. Then follow Danish, Swedish, and Russian songs, all sung with great energy and correctness. The most astonishing performance is to come. The music-master takes an old Finnish hymn-book, unfamiliar to the class, I select a tune at random, and he dictates the harmonies to the class. The children write the notes to dictation easily and cheerfully, by aid of an ingenious method that enables them to regulate their writing by touch. When they have done this, they are requested to *sing the hymn in parts*, without any accompaniment, and without having ever heard the tune, simply from the notes they have themselves written. There are four parts, and the children fall into them without hesitation, and with an amount of correctness—considering the ages of the pupils—that is little short of marvellous. I notice that most of the children make no use of their notes, but evidently carry a clear picture of them in a memory sharpened by constant exercise. Altos and sopranos blend harmoniously, and the performers enter into the performance with a zest that shows how want of one sense may give double development to another—for such results in ordinary class-teaching are, as far as I know, unknown among children of normal growth.

In spite of the terribly diseased appearance of one or two of the children, the general aspect of this class is cheerful. Again I notice the dark, handsome boy who had worked the organ-stops. The vivacious interest with which he turns to the person who happens to be speaking, and the radiant expression of his face, generally has none of the blank of blindness.

"Surely," I remarked, after watching him for a time, "that beautiful boy cannot be blind?"

"That boy," is the answer, "came to us totally blind. Now he is recovering his sight. It comes back gradually. In time he will probably be able to see quite well. His is not the only case we have had. Amidst perfectly healthy surroundings, under scientific treatment, a certain number of cases are cured."

(Those that require actual surgical treatment are, as a rule, passed on to leading Hospitals.)

They had an Institution Hospital, though, on the premises. I found it carefully isolated from the general arrangements, large and airy in proportion to the number of inmates, provided with its own domestic arrangements, and smelling slightly of disinfectants.

There was a single inmate here, with a Nurse all to herself. She was a small white girl, so very fragile and aerial that the cool, airy ward seemed gigantic by contrast. She was lying flat on her back, reading with her finger, peaceful and weak. Her face lit up when the Superintendent spoke to her.

"What are you reading?" he said.

"The Geography of Norway."

"Is it nice?"

"Oh, yes!" and she looked as though she meant it.

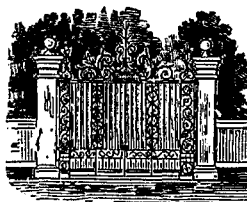
It was only another instance of the attraction of contrasts: this helpless blind child enjoying an imaginary trip in a picturesque and rugged land.

(To be continued.)

DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.
DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.
DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.
DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.
DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.
Grown in our own British Colony of Ceylon.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



WHILE a woman Guardian has made strenuous efforts to reduce the salary of the Matron of the Kensington Infirmary, it is pleasant to record the action of Mrs. Drew, of the Fulham Board of Guardians, to improve the condition of the nursery

accommodation for the children of the Workhouse. She pleaded for more light, air, and sun, and criticised the outbreaks of ophthalmia, fevers, &c., which she averred had arisen from the unhygienic way in which the children are at present housed. This is a far more noble way for women to use their energies, rather than to employ their eloquence in reducing another woman's salary.

But we are not in accord with Mrs. Drew in her opposition to the Workhouse Committee's resolve to use British meat for the inmates. She thought that foreign meat should be employed, so that £240 a year should be saved. But she forgets that it is this importation and use of foreign articles of food which is so seriously affecting the prosperity of the English people. It is not logic to save on our rates by using foreign meat, and thus to reduce farmers and producers to a condition of pauperism, which will increase the rates.

An admirable step is being taken under the joint auspices of the Liverpool Union of Women Workers, and the Liverpool Women's Industrial Council, to enlist sympathy and support in consolidating work for women in Liverpool and the surrounding districts, by providing central offices, which shall be the means of obtaining and supplying information concerning women's work, and of helping on all good schemes on behalf of women. Another aim of this joint Union is to advocate the appointment of women Inspectors to supervise female workers. A public meeting in furtherance of these excellent aims will be held in the Town Hall, Liverpool, on Saturday, October 31, at 11 a.m. The Countess of Derby will preside.

Miss Helen Gladstone was present at the St. James's Hall meeting on the Armenian question, as the representative of her father, her purpose being to see for herself and to report to Mr. Gladstone as to the state of public feeling.

It is reported that, on the new underground railway at Glasgow, the booking-clerks at most of the stations are young women.

Some of the papers have again been taking up the question of the "down-trodden governess" and the way she is consistently snubbed and kept in her place by parents and pupils. As we have pointed out before, the unsatisfactory conditions of teachers and governesses is largely because they have not organised themselves into a definite profession, with a fixed standard of education. Until some steps are taken to form that Union, without which no body of workers can have any strength, the "grievances of governesses" will be heard in the land.

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