

woman Abroad, by Lady Vincent; The Dangers of the Luxury of Modern Life, by Lady Frederick Cavendish; On the Responsibility and Continuity of Work, by Miss Harington. Evening: 7.30 to 10.0—The Life and Training of Elementary Teachers: (a) As Pupil Teachers; paper by Mrs. S. Barnett; discussion opened by Mrs. Burgwin; (b) In Training Colleges; paper by Miss Manley; discussion opened by Miss Hubback; (c) Their Work and Prospects: paper by Miss E. P. Hughes; discussion opened by Miss Penstone.

Second day.—Wednesday, October 27th. 10.0—Devotional Meeting in the Rest Room. Forenoon: The Prison Life of Women and Children. 1. The Work of Lady Visitors—(a) in Long Sentence Prisons; paper by Adeline, Duchess of Bedford; (b) in Short Sentence Prisons; speaker: Lady Battersea. 2. Can Punishment be made Remedial rather than Punitive? Paper by Mrs. Sheldon Amos. 2.30 to 4.30—The Better Organization of the Nursing Profession: paper by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick; discussion opened by Miss Gibson. The Nursing of the Insane and Epileptic: paper by Miss Honnor Morten; discussion opened by Dr. Helen Boyle. Evening: 7.30 to 10.0—The Educational Side of Co-operation: papers by Miss C. Webb; speakers: Mrs. Deans, Mrs. Green. Small Public Hall.—7.30 to 10.0—Meeting for Young Ladies engaged in Business. How to make the Best Use of Leisure, Holidays, and Times of Recreation; speakers: Lady Battersea, Lady Frederick Cavendish, Miss Barlow, and other Ladies.

Third day.—Thursday, October 28th. 10.0—Devotional Meeting in the Rest Room. Forenoon: 10.30 to 1.0—Annual Meeting of the General Committee of the National Union of Women Workers. Afternoon: 2.30 to 4.30—On the Balance of Power in Work: paper by Miss E. M. Caillard. The Pain of the World—How to face it: paper by Miss Clifford; address by Mrs. Henry Fawcett; votes of thanks. In the evening there will be a reception at the Town Hall, by the kind invitation of the Mayor and Mayoress. Admission by the Mayor's invitation card only.

Fourth day.—Friday, October 29th. 10.0—Devotional Meeting in the Rest Room, Mrs. Creighton presiding. Forenoon—10.30—Rescue Workers' Conference. Admission by special ticket, free, to be had in the Inquiry Room. No papers will be read at this meeting. Subjects previously decided upon will be dealt with. 2.0—Service at the Parish Church.

The National Union of Women Workers is co-operating with the Women's Industrial Council in the organization of a Conference to be held in London in November.

Toynbee Hall is taking another new and wise departure. Afternoon classes for girls over fourteen, who have passed through the Board schools, are now open at Toynbee Hall under qualified teachers from the County Council and elsewhere. These classes appear to fill a want by continuing the education of girls who are remaining at home after school life, and who can best be spared for a couple of hours in the afternoon. The subjects are chosen with a view to future usefulness, and include dressmaking, cooking, book-keeping, writing and composition, French, musical drill, etc.

## A Book of the Week.

### "DREAMS AND GHOSTS."

MR. ANDREW LANG has given us a valuable contribution to the subject which is engrossing so much of our interest just now. His collection is a most curious one, and a great charm is, of course, added to it by his own inimitable style. His method of classification is, briefly, to relate first those things which are on the borderland, which are not wildly improbable, which make the least strain on our powers of belief, and thence to lead us gently on to the more marvellous.

He selects the best and most widely known of the old stories—the Tyrone ghost, the dream of Mr. Perceval, Lord Brougham's ghost, and so on—and comes down to the very modern and latter-day ghost which is now with us, and which, as he points out, differs curiously from the old-fashioned kind. It seems a pity that he could not have included in his collection the most interesting story of the haunted house near Spilsby, which was contributed to the RECORD last week.

One of the most curious features of his fascinating book is the light which it seems to throw upon the strange connection between hysterical girls and hauntings of a certain character. He gives, at length the story of a ghost who troubled the Wesley family, and who went by the name of Jeffery among the inhabitants of the parsonage. It certainly does seem as if this riotous demon were in some sort connected with the personality of Hetty Wesley, though Mr. Lang does not appear to think so. The truly remarkable story which comes from Nova Scotia is of precisely the same class; so is a tale of the disturbance of a farmhouse at Wem, in Shropshire, and of a Russian country house. All these stories present almost the same features as the celebrated Cock Lane ghost, which Mr. Lang leaves unmentioned, though Dr. Johnson and his coterie used to go and investigate the case. It was said, in the Cock Lane story, that the young girl who was the centre of the disturbances, afterwards confessed to having produced the various phenomena herself; but the peculiarity seems to consist in the fact that no girl, in a normal state of physical power, could have produced the effects observed by the presumably sane spectators. It is also noteworthy, that when an enterprising showman proceeded to hire out Esther Cox, the girl who perturbed Nova Scotia, the result was a complete failure; the demon quite refused to work to order. This by no means tallies with the idea of fraud.

If nurses who have to nurse hysterical cases could carefully observe symptoms like these, and let us have any data they can collect, they would make a most valuable contribution to the cause of science.

The most extraordinary story in Mr. Lang's collection I hold to be that which he has called "Half-past One o'Clock" (page 175). If this story, which is quite a modern one, be true, then it is an established fact that the dead can return to rearrange their earthly affairs, that they selected as their confidante a lady with whom they had absolutely no connection, and that they visited her in a house in which she was casually staying for a few nights, and with which they themselves had, so far as appears in the story, not the remotest acquaintance in the days of their flesh: this house being at a distance

\* "Dreams and Ghosts." By Andrew Lang. (Longmans & Co.)

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