

WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

THE Queen has sent a donation of £50 to the Children's Aid and Refuge Fund, for the rescue of neglected and destitute children.

THE new periodical, called *La Jeune Fille*, has for its editress the Queen of the Belgians. It is intended to teach girls the elements of domestic knowledge, and to keep them well informed concerning events that are taking place in the world around them. The Queen herself contributes all articles relating to household affairs, and her pseudonym of "Madame Reyer" appears also above the theatrical news and criticisms. Princess Clémentine, as "Marthe d'Orey," writes the critical articles on art and literature. "Carmen Sylva" is to contribute a poem to every number, and the pictorial attractions of the new *revue* are to be supplied by the Crown Princess Stéphanie of Austria-Hungary. Archduchess Marie Valerie's assistance has also been solicited—altogether a right royal gathering of contributors.

THE Comtesse de Paris, says our influential contemporary, the *Daily Telegraph*, has conceived the idea of nominating several ladies in each department to the post of superintendents of the local branches of the "Rose League," which she founded a few months ago in imitation of the "Primrose League" on this side of the Channel. These superintendents are to be styled "lady treasurers," and in inviting the Marquise de Coriolis and Madame Félix Fournier to undertake this charge in the Department of the Bouches du Rhône, the Comtesse de Paris says that the League has already made so many recruits that a regular organisation is now necessary. It will be remembered that the "League of the Rose" was founded for the purpose of rallying the women of France to the Royalist cause.

THERE is no doubt that public opinion is inclining towards better technical education for children of all classes, and the sooner it becomes obtainable the better. Without question girls should become proficient in the use of the needle, should be able to cook, get up fine linen, keep the home clean and healthy, and assist the sick. This knowledge, acquired in their teens, will not unfit them for a more intellectual course of study later on.

MISS FANNY CALDER recently read an interesting paper dealing with "Domestic Education in Elementary Schools." Miss Calder spoke of the large number of women who dragged on an existence, engaged in the roughest employments, whilst

occupations requiring a little thought and a little skill went begging. The fact that so many women were found wanting in capacity to take up women's employments went far to prove that there was a mistake somewhere. Much of this incapacity she attributes to our present system of elementary education. The system, as it at present existed, gave the idea that domestic matters had nothing in common with intellectual work. It failed, in short, to prepare the children it dealt with for their immediate future. It gave, as Sir Henry Roscoe said, that "varnish" of instruction which vanished in ordinary life. Especially was this the case of girls whose future chiefly lay in the direction of home management. Domestic training in schools was that which should connect school with practical life. No amount of money could buy a well-ordered home and thrifty management of its resources. In schools for girls instruction should be at least given in the art of selecting and preparing the best and most nourishing foods, and the rapidity with which such practical training had gained the approval of educationalists was a strong argument in its favour. It could be easily introduced, for less time might be given to English grammar and analysis and advanced arithmetic, with which children were frequently crammed, and the latter of which, the Education Commission had spoken of as useless.

CORRESPONDENCE

(Notes, Queries, &c.)

. We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by Correspondents. Brevity and conciseness will have first consideration. See Notices.

. British Nurses' Association.—We are requested to state that Miss Wood (Secretary) will be at 20, Upper Wimpole Street, W., daily, from 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.), to see Nurses or others who may wish to make inquiries; also that annual subscriptions became due on January 1, and that early payment of these will save much trouble to the Secretary and much expense to the Association.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—In a large London Hospital, in which I have lately worked, holding the position of House Surgeon and House Physician, the terrible evil (the words are not too strong), to which you allude in your leader of the 3rd inst., prevails to a scandalous extent. Not only were the Probationers moved almost weekly, but the Staff Nurses, or rather Probationers taking Staff duty, seldom remained in a Ward more than three months at a time. The discontent amongst the Sisters of the Hospital was almost universal, and I have no hesitation in stating that patients under my care have died, who might have recovered with really good experienced nursing. A new cause of just dissatisfaction

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