

"A blue bandbox?" I says; "and she overlaid her child. If anyone oughter to 'ave a coffin—and be buried decent, why it's that poor murdered innocent—and if yer buries it in a blue bandbox—why yer deserves to 'ang—that yer do, and wi' that I bangs the door in 'er face."

But the law of the land is lenient with many crimes. An inquiry took place, but 'Allam's Sarah, in spite of her thirty years, and a villainous squint, proved her innocence to the satisfaction of a bucolic Bench, as she swore "she slep' all night wi'out waking—and i' the morning feeling a lump i' the bed, found 'as 'ow she'd slep upon 'er blessed infant, and screeched out as 'ow the child was dead."

And sure enough one summer's day, when the flowers were all a-blow, and flies fluttered on the wing, a passing bell tolled from the Norman tower of the village church, and 'Allam's Sarah, her "Follow me, lads" flowing, and beflooned to the waist, came tripping down the village street, as bold as brass—carrying a blue bandbox under her arm—and acted as chief mourner, whilst the vicar, a large-hearted soul, read tenderly the solemn service which consigns "earth to earth," over the bandbox and its pathetic contents.

Statistics go to show that hundreds of infants yearly meet their deaths by "overlying." This last week several piteous cases have come to light, and have been duly reported in the press. Is it not time that this crime should be met with punishment? Many of these "Saturday night deaths" are the result of drunkenness, and yet more are the result of premeditated murder.

E. G. F.

WOMEN.

MISS EMILY DAVIES, the Hon. Secretary of Girton College, Cambridge, has addressed a letter to the *Times*, appealing for monetary help to enlarge the borders of this institution. The time has gone by when it was considered justice to bestow a sound and thorough education upon the boys of a family, and to equip their sisters for the battle of life by bestowing upon them a smattering of accomplishments; and a knowledge of French, "as she is spoke," by an English governess. It is now conceded that the education of girls should be as thorough as that of boys, and this being so it is small wonder that the two small colleges for women at Cambridge are full to overflowing. Miss Davies asks for £50,000 to make the necessary additions to Girton College, and we sincerely hope this amount may be forthcoming. As the endowments bestowed upon the old colleges of our universities were freely left to them by women as well as men, and these colleges have been devoted entirely to the education of men, it would only be an act of reciprocal justice if a man were to come forward at the present crisis and provide the sum required. But we confess we should prefer to see the money given by women. Wealthy women frequently give and bequeath large sums of money to objects in no way benefiting their own sex. Money and, therefore, power constantly pass into the hands of men whose interests are by no means identical with those of women. Women are sufficiently handicapped already by their inequality with men before the law, without being further crippled by want of means to carry out their projects

for the good of their own sex. Let the *women* of England, then, come forward, and endow our women's colleges, and, more especially, let those women who have received the benefits of a University education, and who know what an advantage this gives to them in a subsequent career, strive both to give, and to obtain, gifts from other women, towards the endowment of women's colleges. Contributions towards the £50,000 now needed for Girton College will be received by Miss M. Pickton, 13, Leinster Square, W., bursar of the College, or by Miss Emily Davies, 12, York Street, Portman Square, W.

We regret to see that Lady Henry Somerset has, by the advice of her physician, relinquished all the public work in which she has been engaged, and has tendered her resignation as President of the National British Women's Temperance Association. The loss which the resignation will be to the Association can scarcely be over-estimated, while it must, we are sure, be a matter of much regret to Lady Henry that she is compelled to sever her official connection with the Association for which she has done so much.

The National Union of Women Workers are to be invited to hold their annual conference at Norwich next October. A strong local committee has been formed for offering hospitality and welcome to the delegates in the event of the Union's acceptance of the invitation.

Only two women are announced as lecturers in connection with the London School of Economics during the coming term. They are Mrs. Sidney Webb, who will lecture at the school on February 10th at 8 p.m., on the subject of "Methods of Social Investigation," and Miss Lilian Tomms, who will give three lectures, commencing in March, dealing with the question of the Referendum.

A Book of the Week.

"A LONELY LITTLE LADY."

THIS book belongs to the increasingly numerous class of books which are all about children, and yet utterly unfitted for the perusal of children. Perhaps "Misunderstood" was the pioneer of the tale which centres its interest in the analysis and consideration of the feelings of a child.

After that came Mrs. Ewing's masterpieces of style, "Jackanapes," and the "Story of a Short Life," absolutely admirable and, one might add, incomparable in their way; Miss Crompton's "Gentle Heritage" was another of the same kind; and lately Mr. Henry James has entered the lists with his curious story of "What Maisie knew."

The name of Dolf Wyllarde is new to us; evidently it conceals someone of the feminine gender, and one who—we mean no disparagement—is a connoisseur in frocks! There is much that is pathetic and striking in the little lonely figure of the Brownie; and the outlines of the coming of the tragedy that is to darken her little life with shadow, are very skilfully suggested.

"The Brownie's world consisted of a limited circle of intimate acquaintances, begining with Nurse—a tall flat

* "A Lonely Little Lady." By Dolf Wyllarde. (Hutchinson.)

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