

## Review.

## "THE ENGLISHWOMAN'S YEAR BOOK."

WE have received a copy of the "Englishwoman's Year Book and Directory" for 1899, published by Messrs. Adam and Charles Black, and edited by Miss Emily Janes, Secretary to the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland. This is the first year that the book has been edited by Miss Janes, and she is heartily to be congratulated upon it. It is the evident outcome of much laborious and painstaking research, and is an encyclopedia not only of women's work, but of the many subjects in which women are more especially interested. The value of the book is very materially increased by the signed articles on various subjects from the pens of women who are practically acquainted with the subjects upon which they treat. For instance, Miss Adeline Sergeant writes on "Story-writing," Mrs. Naylor of the *Daily Chronicle* on "Journalism," Miss Cecil Gradwell on "Secretaries," and so on. In this way much information, which is of the utmost value, is given with regard to the various professions and occupations open to women, by those best qualified to tender it. The chapter on Public Work will be read with extreme interest by the many thoughtful women who are beginning to realize that they have public as well as private responsibilities, and who are conscientiously seeking to learn how they may best discharge them. An historical summary, giving the leading dates in the movement to give women a share in Local and Imperial Government, is a valuable record of what has been done in this direction, and the work of women on the School Board, in connection with the Poor Law, on Rural, District, and Parish Councils, and other public bodies is discussed. An article on Women's Suffrage appears from the pen of Miss Helen Blackburn.

It is impossible to touch even briefly on all the departments of the book in the limits of a short review, but we have no hesitation in saying that all who take an interest in any form of women's work should at once expend 2s. 6d. in procuring the Year Book. They will find it brimming over with useful information.

An article on "Sick Nursing" discloses the discreditable fact with regard to nursing organization that "the great training schools are working as units, there is no generally adopted scheme of training, nor is there any censorship of results by an independent body." It remains to be seen how long the public will be content with this condition; we have no hesitation in saying that if the training schools continue to work as units, and persistently maintain the course which they have hitherto adopted of declining to combine to regulate the profession of nursing, and to protect the public, that the public will, in self-defence, demand the passage of some measure controlling trained nurses. The information given as to technical education in connection with the County Councils is interesting, more especially as various County Councils give nursing scholarships, but it is to be regretted that in every case either the course of nursing to be pursued by the holder of such scholarships is entirely undefined, or is altogether inadequate. It is to be hoped that the standard may be raised materially in the future.

The book closes with a list of the events of the year as they affect women.

## Outside the Gates.

## NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

THE following Sessional Notes, issued by the Women's Suffrage Societies, will, we feel sure, be of interest to many of our readers:—

*Section 1.—Change of Leadership in the House of Commons.*

*Section 2.—Conference of Parliamentary Friends.*

*Section 3.—The result of the Ballot.*

## I.—CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

In consequence of his acceptance of office as Under Secretary for War, Mr. Wyndham, M.P., retires from the leadership of the Women's Suffrage question in the House of Commons.

The letter in which Mr. Wyndham intimated his retirement to the Executive of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, contained also a strong recommendation that Mr. Faithfull Begg should be asked to take the position, as one who had already rendered the cause most efficient service. This letter was communicated to all the Committees forming the Union. All sent in replies unanimously desiring that Mr. Faithfull Begg should be approached.

The following resolutions were accordingly passed at the Executive of the Union at their Meeting on January 19th:—

(1) Moved by Mrs. Fawcett from the chair, seconded by Mrs. Russell Cooke, and carried unanimously:

"That the Executive Committee of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies desire to heartily congratulate Mr. Wyndham on his accession to office; at the same time they deeply regret on their own account that such accession involves for them the loss of his assistance as leader of their question in the House of Commons.

"The Committee beg Mr. Wyndham to accept the expression of sincere gratitude, which they offer on behalf of the Union, for the services he has rendered them by his leadership during the past four years, and trust that whatever political distinctions may await Mr. Wyndham in the future, they may still have his advice and support on critical occasions."

(2) Moved by Mrs. Fawcett, seconded by Mrs. Russell Cooke, and carried unanimously:—

"That in consequence of the retirement of Mr. Wyndham, on the occasion of his taking office, from the leadership of the Women's Suffrage Question, on the Conservative side of the House of Commons, the Executive of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies hereby resolve to convey to Mr. Faithfull Begg their earnest request that he will take the position thus rendered vacant.

"That in doing this the Executive assure Mr. Faithfull Begg that they are expressing the unanimous feeling of the societies forming the Union. All are of one mind that the steady, practical help he has already given, inspires them with confidence in his leadership, and the earnest hope that he will accede to their united request."

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