

good—for carefulness, for economy, a lessened tendency to jobbery, and altogether a more conscientious execution of the duties entrusted to the bodies of which they are working members, than have always been characteristic of those composed entirely of men. And, finally, it is a point of no small importance, that the educated gentlewomen who now engage in public work, exercise a decidedly refining influence in the working of the institutions with which they are connected—the benefits of which to the inmates it would be difficult to estimate.

The second question which has been asked has not received the consideration it deserves, for its importance cannot be exaggerated, both for those women who are prepared to undertake public work, and for those branches of such work to which they might devote themselves—for the benefit of the whole community.

What are the effects of public work upon women? To the eyes of their colleagues, the majority of the women now engaged on such work do not seem to be particularly affected thereby. Indeed, it is often remarked that prolonged Committee meetings and long hours of inspection appear to be more easily borne by the women than the men. But two facts are forgotten—that hitherto comparatively few women workers have succeeded in gaining public positions—and the mere fact of their success proves, therefore, that they possess more than average powers; and secondly that these picked workers are on their mettle to prove themselves worthy of the positions they have won. But those who are behind the scenes—who see these women when the fierce light of publicity is removed, and the tension is relaxed—know at what a tremendous cost the work has been performed; how heavy the burden, which in public seemed to sit so lightly, has pressed upon mind and spirit; and how sooner or later Nature takes her revenge for extravagant expenditure of mental and bodily strength. These results occur in too many instances, to be accidental. They are capable of a simple physiological explanation. They teach a lesson which cannot be ignored with impunity; they demand the careful attention of all who believe that the work of women in public affairs makes for the good of the whole community, and who therefore, even on the most selfish grounds, must desire to preserve such valuable powers from injury.

(To be continued.)

Medical Matters.

NETTLERASH.



ONE of the most uncomfortable of skin affections is that which is known by the technical name of Urticaria—or, in popular language, Nettlerash. It derives the latter description from the similarity of the wheals upon the skin, which are typical of the complaint, to those caused by contact with a stinging nettle; and the sensation is much the same, being usually described as smarting and itching. Instead, however, of being merely local, as in the latter case, the skin of the whole body is more or less affected in Nettlerash. It is recognised as a form of poisoning, and is most commonly, in this country, caused by eating stale or decayed fish, especially of the shell variety. It is most commonly associated with gastric and intestinal disturbance—nausea and vomiting; and the treatment of course is directed to carry out the indications given by Nature, and to remove the offending matter from the system as speedily as possible. A curious case has recently been published in which an extreme form of Urticaria followed the sting of a jelly-fish. Those who have been unfortunate enough to suffer from such an accident are aware that, at the point of contact, the skin becomes raised in a large wheal, and extreme pain is felt at first which gradually lessens. In some parts of the East Coast of England, there is a popular belief that the pain of a jelly-fish sting will last until the sun goes down; and there is no doubt that in many people of highly strung nervous systems, the pain may persist for hours. In the case referred to, a man aged thirty-eight, who was apparently in good health, suddenly became chilled while bathing, and considerable nausea and a feeling of extreme exhaustion followed. He was found to have been stung by a jelly-fish, but instead of there being merely local irritation, swellings appeared all over his body, especially on the face, while the soft palate and uvula became so swollen as almost to close the throat. It was impossible for him to swallow, and even the breathing became very difficult. In fact, his condition became alarming. Under active treatment, however, the swelling in the throat diminished, and in twenty-four hours he was sufficiently recovered to move about, although there was

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