

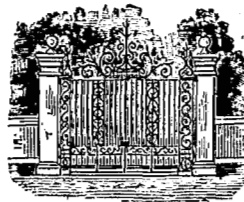
**Preparations, Inventions, etc.****VIYELLA.**

NURSES who are thinking of replenishing their wardrobes, whether with underclothing or with blouses, should not fail to obtain patterns of Viyella before deciding upon a material. Viyella is now so well known that, perhaps, an introduction seems scarcely necessary, but its special merits are not so widely known as the material itself, and a few words on the subject at this season may be welcome.

Viyella is a woollen and cotton fabric. Not that wool and cotton form the warp and woof of the material, they are blended in the twist of the yarn, and the result is a material soft and warm, unshrinkable, and durable. As such it commends itself for combinations, night-dresses, and petticoat bodices, and may be recommended with confidence to fathers and brothers for pyjama suits. It is made in three varieties—thin, medium, and heavy, so that it is suitable for both warm and cold climates. Not only for underwear, however, but also for blouses it is an ideal material. The patterns for the present year include a charming variety from the most delicate to the most durable, and the woman who cannot find something amongst them to suit her taste, must be hard, indeed, to please. Viyella may be obtained from all the leading drapers. It may be seen in great variety at Messrs. Debenham and Freebody's, in Wigmore Street, Messrs. Garrould's, in Edgware Road, Messrs. Peter Robinson's, Oxford Street, and elsewhere. The genuine article always bears a label attached at intervals of five yards on the selvedge, and bearing the word "Viyella," and care should be taken to notice this, or an unsatisfactory substitute may occasion disappointment to the purchaser.

**POND'S PATENT TOE SPRING.**

AN ingenious invention, designed to cure bunions, has recently been submitted to us. It consists of a steel spring so adjusted as to draw a great toe, affected by reason of its distortion with a bunion, into the normal straight line, and thus, of course, effect the cure of the outgrowth over the distorted phalanx. In theory, the invention should be well adapted to effect this end, but, as the maker very justly points out, it is necessary that properly-fitting boots should always be worn, in order to obviate the recurrence of the complaint. It is suggested that this toe spring should only be worn at night. We have had it tested, and find that it certainly corrects the distortion of the toe whilst worn, and with perseverance it is fair to conclude that it would effect a permanent straightening of the toe. It can be obtained from Mr. Bond, Castle Meadow, Norwich, or through any instrument maker.

**Outside the Gates.****WOMEN.**

The Annual Conference of the Women's National Liberal Association, a Society which has done good and useful work, will be held at St. Martin's Town Hall, Charing Cross Road, W.C., on Tuesday, and Wednesday, May 15th and 16th. After the ex-

periences of others the Association shows some courage in announcing a "Discussion on the War." It is further stated that the speakers will represent various views, and the right of free speech will be strenuously upheld. The subjects for discussion have been selected by the vote of the branches, whose members come mostly from the working classes. The debate on Temperance Reform will be opened by the Lady Batterssea, and Mrs. H. J. Tennant, Chairman of the Industrial Law Committee, will speak on the Factory and Workhouse Bill, and criticize the various points in which it falls short of what Trades Unionists consider essential.

A memorial has been presented to Mr. Balfour at the House of Commons, signed by eighty members, in favour of life pensions to the widows of petty officers and seamen in the Navy, and of non-commissioned officers and men in the Army, who have been killed during the war.

Out of five prizes offered by the *Academy* for the best original poem, short story, and essays, four have been carried off by ladies. The single prize that fell to a male contributor was awarded in an "epigrammatic criticism" competition.

Lady Mary Arkwright has retired from the Farnham Board of Guardians, after being a member of that body for six years.

Another sphere of work for ladies has been inaugurated by the members of the Parish Council of Langley, near Slough. They recently choose a woman as their slaughterhouse inspector, and so perfectly has she performed the duties, and so greatly have her keen eyes and assiduous attention been appreciated, that they have re-appointed her for the ensuing Local Government year. She is the widow of the gentleman who formerly occupied the position. The appointment carries with it a fee for every animal prepared for the market, and is a lucrative one.

A Servants' Union has been formed in Copenhagen by Marie Christensen which already numbers 1,500 members. It demands nine hours' labour for women doing household work, further work to receive extra payment. The servants further demand the same food as the family, a room each, and if they remain in the house after their hours on duty that they shall not be called on for service. Miss Christensen has received some financial support to her scheme, and has sent delegates to several foreign countries. She holds that there is no reason why domestic labour should not be regulated in the same way as other labour.

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