

whether it was desirable to have a test question at all, but it would be time enough to consider the desirability when they obtained the vote which would remove the disabilities that at present existed and made women worse off than infants.

Mrs. Eva MacLaren said there was not a woman in the Federation who was not in favour of suffrage, but it was the method of getting it that was not agreed upon by all. The best way to get the vote was to make men feel that women really cared for it, though she could not agree that a man was a good liberal who refused to help to a vote the women who had assisted him to his place in Parliament—refused to help them to the vote which was their right and which was undoubtedly the weapon with which they would get everything they cared for—purity, peace, and temperance.

Mrs. Parkinson supported the amendment, stating that it was necessary that the women should convince the Liberal party now that women ratepayers earnestly desired the suffrage and meant to have it. Without it they were, as Professor Stuart had said, like a person at the telephone with no one at the other end.

Although the Liberal Women's Federation will not carry their demand for the vote to a logical conclusion and refuse to support all those so-called Liberal candidates who prove their lack of liberality by keeping women disenfranchised, and thus classed before the law with criminals, lunatics and paupers, they as usual passed a resolution in favour of Women's Suffrage, which under the circumstances will not be taken seriously by our legislators.

The Hall of Residence for Women Students, which was opened in Liverpool last autumn and which is in connection with University College, is already proving a much-needed institution. The hostel which affords students the opportunity of enjoying practically the same advantages as in years past have been reserved for those fortunate enough to enter at Girton or Newnham, is worked by a committee of ladies.

Several Viennese ladies of high rank, says *Le Siècle*, are about to form an association which has for its object the establishment of a University for women. The lectures will commence this winter.

Dr. A. de Neuville has had something very interesting to say in the *Revue de Revues* upon the "Inventive Genius of Women." He begins by remarking that those ideas which have been patented by women are more original than any of those conceived by the men. He deals chiefly with the inventions of American and French women. Women as patentees were almost unknown in America before 1860, while since that time their number has increased to several hundreds. Recent women's patents have mostly related to articles of furniture, typewriters, weaving machines, children's playthings, games, musical instruments, household utensils, gardening tools, or agricultural implements. The best paying patents are those for household filters and children's playthings and puzzles; but one lady has earned a small fortune merely through a glove-button hook, and another through a stay-busk. All the inventresses are not successful any more than all their brothers are. But the proportion, be it noted, of those who profit by their patents is about the same in the two sexes.

## A Book of the Week.

### BEQUEATHED.\*

The author of "The Awakening of Mary Fenwick" has a charm which is difficult to analyse. She is not very deep, and her plots are usually conspicuous by their absence; and yet she has never written a book that was not very pleasant reading. The book before us is highly conventional in its opening chapters, but the reader must not be deterred by this. Gilbert Wykeham, young, well-off and well-intentioned, staying at a dull place in bad weather, is taken by his friend to see an old lady with a lovely niece; follows the inevitable.

The girl whom Gilbert marries is something more than lovely; she is wise with the wisdom of intuition one must suppose, since her rearing has been undoubtedly narrow. Gilbert's house has been kept by his dowager mother, an imperious, undemonstrative, but excellent woman; and Ethel settles that it will be hard for Madam to have to retire from the place she has ruled so absolutely and so capably—there is not even a Dower House—and that she had better remain with the young couple. In spite of her lover's urging to the contrary, she carries her point and the arrangement works admirably for the short year in which Ethel is spared to gladden the home. Gilbert is then left a widower with one little girl.

Now there comes upon the scene the character upon which Miss Whitby has spent most care, and which is so decidedly successful.

Evelyn Bradshaw, the youngest of the Vicarage girls, captures the post left vacant by Ethel. Not the heart which Gilbert has buried in his wife's grave, but the much coveted position of mistress of the big house. Poor Madam is quickly relegated, by her new daughter-in-law, to a flat which on one page is said to be in Ashley Gardens, and in Oakley Gardens a little further on.

The Bradshaw girls were the outcome of the present transition period.

"They have been infected with the black plague of their century, a dawning horror of grooves and narrowness, which led them to a dissatisfaction with a limited home. Nothing at Woodsford was broad enough to suit them. Their neighbours certainly were born and were reared, and were married, and breathed and died much as folk further afield have a knack of doing. It is not easy to find original ways of doing these common-place things though the Misses Bradshaw thought otherwise. The critical spirit of offspring was theirs. They tried to be tolerant of their parents' weakness; but between them they compelled their gentle mother to realize her incompetency. . . . The girls cast no veil over their parents' foibles, they discussed them among themselves and with their friends; loyalty was nothing accounted of at the Vicarage."

Evelyn, the youngest of this trio, who marries the sweet-tempered easy-going Gilbert, is a study of a perfectly selfish woman, drawn completely without exaggeration. There is some want of spontaneity in the love part of the story, but Evelyn as a stepmother is a complete success. The author draws upon her knowledge and love of children in the pathetic account of little Fulke; and altogether, as a character-study, the story is interesting and instructive. G. M. R.

\* By Beatrice Whitby. Hurst and Blackett.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)