

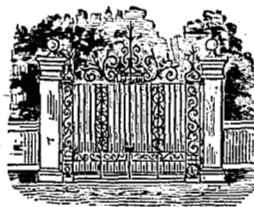
**The Education of Crippled Children.**

Mrs. Humphry Ward's practical interest in the education of crippled children is well known, and she recently took the chair at 20, Hanover Square, when Mr. Maurice Hewlett delivered a lecture on "History as Saga and Small Things in History." The lecture was given in aid of a fund for continuing the systematic teaching of children at the National Orthopædic Hospital by a properly-trained lady, an experiment which has been tried with much success during the present year.

Mrs. Humphry Ward expressed her warm sympathy with the object in aid of which the lecture was to be given. She said that the experiment which had been tried at the hospital was not only in itself most worthy of help, but it was particularly interesting at this moment, because it was part of a large movement for the improvement of the education and training of crippled children, which was taking now a good many forms among us. In ten or fifteen years this movement ought to exercise a very great influence upon the lot of the sickly and feeble children of our great towns. That gathering and the experiment made by the Orthopædic Hospital represented the hospital contribution, which she hoped would be taken up in other quarters, for it was a very important part of the work. Miss Lawrence, who was present, represented the School Board side of the work, and she herself, from her connection with the first public invalid school in London, at Tavistock Place, might perhaps be said to represent that co-operation of the outside public which was so valuable to this whole movement, and on which really its full and perfect success depended. The lot of these children had been in the past a very hard one. They had floated between school and hospital and convalescent home with no education that could be called such, in many cases backward and neglected, sometimes spoiled, sometimes ill-treated, but in no case prepared as they might have been for the struggle of life. She hoped we should now see their lot improved by the use of trained and skilled attention in all directions.

After Mr. Hewlett's delightful lecture the Hon. Maud Lawrence, who presides over the Special Schools Sub-committee of the London School Board, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Hewlett. She said that the Board had started three or four cripple schools on the lines of the school started in the first instance by Mrs. Humphry Ward, who was the great pioneer of the movement in London. Not only did the children receive ordinary instruction, but it was hoped to provide them in the latter part of their school life with some form of technical instruction which would enable them to become earning citizens. The Board owed a debt of gratitude to the hospital for the step which it had taken to prevent the interruption of the education of children in hospital, and she hoped it might be possible for the Board and the hospital to join hands in the matter.

Now that this good work has begun it is difficult to estimate the extent to which it may grow. It must be remembered that the majority of children admitted to an orthopædic hospital for treatment are in ordinary health, and their education may be continued with great benefit.

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

Queen Alexandra has been in London doing her Christmas shopping. Half the joy of a gift depends upon the sympathy with which it is selected, and nowadays we all have our pet hobbies, our kind Queen spares no thought and trouble in selecting just the very thing for each friend, that she knows will be appreciated. It is the spirit which prompts the giving, which is after all of real significance, and not the cost of the gift.

A selection of books bound by the "Guild of Womenbinders"—a body of some forty ladies, who earn a living by making beautiful bindings for books—was recently placed before the King for inspection and purchase.

For some time now it has been the practice of the sovereign to buy some half-dozen of these volumes, and needless to say, to give a handsome price for them. The late Queen was a consistent patron of the Guild, and it particularly values a kindly letter which was sent by her late Majesty.

The books which the King has selected are an illustrated edition of Tennyson, bound in red morocco, with woodcuts by Millais, Horsley, etc.; a volume of De Musset's, with 30 coloured etchings by Lalauze, and a beautiful border design; Voltaire in Japan vellum; Songs from the Plays of Shakespeare in Niger morocco, and "London in Song," compiled by Wilfred Whitten, in green morocco, with an exquisite inlaid floral design.

It is interesting to note, as showing the flourishing condition of the women binders, that the Guild held its first annual dinner at the Criterion on Monday.

At the Coronation, says the "Onlooker," the coronets are to be carried in the hand like a basket, and put on at the time the monarch is crowned, and the great question which is agitating the peeresses is, how they are to be placed at a becoming angle and remain steady without the aid of hairpins or looking-glass. It does not seem generally known that two long gold pins can be used to fasten the coronet firmly to the hair.

Medical women all over the Kingdom owe a debt of gratitude to Miss Murdoch Clarke, the junior house-surgeon at the Macclesfield Infirmary, for her decision not to resign her appointment *on principle*. Her resignation would encourage ignorant and intolerant persons to persecute women out of the practice of medicine in this country. If women are not to be eligible for the positions of resident officers in general hospitals, they cannot gain the best practical experience in medical and surgical work, and cannot therefore hope to attain to a high standard of skill, or a remunerative practice. Much more hangs on the result of the present contest at Macclesfield than is apparent to the casual observer, and the RECORD says "sit tight at any cost."

As we go to press, the deadlock continues. In reply to the resolution of the Governors, inviting them to withdraw their resignations, the six honorary medical

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)