

cation authorities is by the introduction of a Bill enabling them to 'serve on County and Borough Councils.' In proposing this, Mrs. Brownlow showed with much force that the London County Council would be much the better if it were legally possible for women to be included, seeing that it undertook the management of baby farms, the supervision of midwives, the provision of homes for inebriate women, and of houses for the working classes, the speaker, amid much applause, emphasising the fact that it required the suggestion of the Queen to provide cupboards in the model dwellings at Millbank. The seconder, Miss Kilgour, suggested that if the exclusion of women from public bodies continued it would have the effect of causing the next generation of men to consider that women were incapable, and of causing the next generation of women to fail in capacity. The best way to conduct a fight was in the open, and the best way to fight the battle of female representation was at a public election and not by wirepulling in seeking to secure co-optation.

Mrs. Homan, who is so well known for her work as a member of the London School Board, is President of the Association of Teachers of Domestic Science.

At a large meeting of women held in Hyde Park, presided over by Miss Emily Toon, a housemaid, a resolution was carried protesting against the invasion of foreign boys to do maidservants' work, and calling upon the Government to protect English female servants. It appears that a number of foreign agencies have been started in the metropolis to supply householders with foreign boys as servants. There are at present about 5,000 of these lads employed in the West End, who, from cleaning boots to waiting at table, will undertake every kind of housework for their board and lodging and three or four shillings a week. The protesters must remember that the wages they demand are from 30s. to 36s. a month, and then a boy must be kept as well to clean boots, knives, and windows.

The Dublin University Council have recommended to the Senate to approve of admitting women to the rights of the University. They also approve of the abolition of compulsory Greek.

Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. James Young Gibson, the ladies who discovered an important codex of ancient Syriac Gospels, have told an interviewer of *Great Thoughts* how the feat was accomplished. The ladies speak modern Greek, and so were able to converse freely with the monks at the monastery on Sinai where they were resting.

The monks brought the old parchments to them in a box, and Mrs. Lewis found one which had not been opened since the eighth century, as well as many other precious documents.

The ladies returned from their first visit to Sinai with upwards of a thousand undeveloped photographs of the MSS. which they had taken themselves. And when these photographs were all developed their next task, and a very troublesome one it was, too, was to arrange them all in proper order. Mrs. Lewis took charge of all the Syriac films, leaving the Arabic ones to Mrs. Gibson.

The Queen of the Ants.

A most interesting article on ant life appears in *Harper's Magazine* for June, describing principally the life of the queen ant. There is need for an immense number of ant eggs, for there is great loss of life in an ordinary ant-hill. All sorts of enemies lurk in the way to devour them. The feet of passing beasts and human beings crush multitudes. These frequent losses have to be made up by the fertility of the queen ant, and it becomes necessary for her to devote herself wholly to increasing the colony. Foraging for supplies is abandoned. Household work, domestic service, nursery duty, are gradually given up, and the workers of the growing community take those tasks upon themselves. The queen is restricted to the function of motherhood.

The ant queen's subjection to her subjects is not reached without resistance on the part of her emmet majesty. But resistance is useless, and she becomes in the end subject to the powerful house which she has reared around her. She is confined closely to the interior of the formicary, and wherever she goes, through chambers and halls, is attended by a circle of workers known as "courtiers"—a name that has a large and dignified sound. But the courtiers are simply a body-guard; and their chief office is to restrain the liberty of their sovereign within the bounds prescribed by the communal needs, and to look after the eggs when they are dropped. The circle of "courtiers" never ceases to close around her as the queen ant passes from place to place. Sometimes the queen, falling into a fit of stubbornness, will attempt a course different from that which her court prescribes. Then one attendant gently nips a leg and gives it a little push; another closes the mandibles upon the body and gives a slight pinch; a third tenderly seizes a quivering antenna and draws it to this side or that. The whole body-guard meanwhile closes around the queen, and by pushing her and obstructing her path diverts her course, or quite turns her around, her huge body, several times as large as a worker's, moving sometimes readily, sometimes with sullen resistance. Thus at last the courtiers carry their point.

Once a queen escaped from the surface gate of one of the formicaries. Not a courtier was in sight. She was free! Off she ran, as though intending to have a good romp and enjoy her freedom. But she had reckoned without her host, for she had gone but a little way when her body-guard pursued and seized her somewhat roughly, and immediately began to pull her backwards towards the gate. She resisted sturdily, but at last gave way, and was drawn down the opening into the royal domicile. Poor queen!

How long may an ant queen live? The oldest emmet queen known to science was one preserved under the care of Lord Avebury. When this ant died her body was surrounded by a crowd of workers, who were tenderly licking her, touching her with their antennæ, and making other demonstrations as if soliciting her attention, or desiring to wake her out of sleep. Poor, dumb, loving, faithful creatures! There was no response. Their queen-mother lay motionless beneath their demonstrations.

Another queen died at the age of fourteen. The ants dragged her body about with them when they moved, until it fell to pieces.

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