

Women's League of Australia, which has as its high aim the exercising of the franchise in such a way as to benefit the whole of the Commonwealth.

Speaking recently at a meeting convened by Lady Clarke in the beautiful ball-room of her residence, Cliveden, Melbourne, Sir John Forrest told us that a good many people believed that now women had a vote many political evils that had been deplored in the past would gradually disappear, and a Parliament would be elected so wise, so honourable, so virtuous that it would be a credit to the women of Australia. He reminded us of the great responsibility which the franchise cast upon us. Senator Best urged upon us the necessity for organisation, for, even with votes, without organisation we should be powerless. Even our old opponents were present ready with warnings and advice.

Now that hospital nurses have votes we do not anticipate that it will be very long before they will be up and doing about their Registration Bills. In your admirable journal, which is widely read and appreciated in this Colony, they have long had an organ which has inspired them with the highest professional and human ideals, and which has played an inestimable part in forming public opinion on all questions of vital importance to nurses from a professional and social standpoint. As you have often said, this nursing question is but a part of the woman question, and now that we are free women we have the power to help one another. There is no doubt "the vote" gives one a sense of self-respect which it is impossible for the disfranchised woman to realise. With apologies for so long a letter,

I am, yours, &c.,

VICTORIA.

THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—Monday next, November 9th, will bring the time-honoured Lord Mayor's Show, unfortunately shorn of late of its prettiest feature of the old days—namely, the Lady Mayoress's Procession which always joined for the return journey from the City. Why has it been dropped out? And why will not some young and enterprising Lady Mayoress take the matter in hand and revive the good old custom in all the quaint picturesqueness that used to obtain until the last few years? The lady in her Court garb and State coach, with her maids of honour in their satins, and bouquets, and "dress" carriages, used to be the most attractive part of the show, and most of us would like to see them reinstated. What has the Lady Mayoress done that these ancient honours are taken from her?

E. CRAWFORD.

QUARTER SESSIONS AND THE BIRCH.

To the Editor of the "British Journal of Nursing."

DEAR MADAM,—At the last meeting of the Worcester Quarter Sessions, Mr. J. Willis Bund sentenced a male offender, indicted of being a rogue and vagabond, to receive eighteen strokes of the birch and to be imprisoned for fourteen days with hard labour.

At a previous sessions of the same court, held on July 11th, a similar sentence was passed by the Deputy-Chairman. In reference to this case, the following resolution, passed at a meeting of the Prison Reform Committee of the Humanitarian League, was

sent to His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department:—

"That this Committee of the Humanitarian League protests against the infliction of the punishment of flogging in the case of so-called rogues and vagabonds under the obsolete statute of George IV., which has been condemned by several Home Secretaries as one urgently needing to be repealed."

It may interest your readers to know that it is agreed on all hands that the power possessed by magistrates in regard to flogging under the Vagrancy Acts ought to be taken away. As Sir Ralph Littler has pointed out, "the power to flog for every other offence is taken away from quarter sessions, whereas for this (vagrancy) corporal punishment, unlimited either as to amount or instrument, may be inflicted, and apparently in public. Surely this ought to be repealed." Humanitarians agree with Sir Ralph Littler that this Act should be repealed. In Mr. Wharton's Corporal Punishment Bill (which was defeated on its second reading on March 28th, 1900, by a majority of 123 because it proposed to extend the loathsome penalty of the lash in other directions) the Vagrancy Act was scheduled for repeal.

In view of the foregoing facts it is to be hoped that the Home Secretary will remit all such sentences of flogging.—Yours, &c.,

HUMANITARIAN.

Comments and Replies.

J. P. J.—Tincture of iodine is sometimes used in the proportion of 20 minims of the tincture to one ounce of distilled water, but it is not in frequent use.

Probationer.—The Spring Arch supports are obtainable from the London Shoe Company, 116, New Bond Street. They are intended to give support to the instep, in cases of abnormal walking and long standing. If you have a tendency to flatfootedness you should acquaint your Matron, and she will no doubt see that you have medical advice.

Traveller.—In choosing a uniform for tropical wear you should be particular to select fast colours which are likely to stand the tropical sun and native washing. Some kinds of gingham are suitable. White is not practicable to wear all day long, as it quickly soils when ward work is being done, and the "tail" of a white dress becomes dragged before the early morning work is over.

Mrs. Robinson.—It is of great benefit to a nurse to know something of the relative value of foods, and also of the best methods of preparing them for invalids in a dainty and appetising manner. We are beginning to realise that it is a mistake to leave this important branch entirely in the hands of domestics who have no scientific knowledge of the nutritive properties of the dishes they prepare. The study of dietetics seems likely in the near future to be placed on a basis more worthy of its importance than that which has so far been accorded to it in educational schemes.

Notice.

OUR PRIZE PUZZLE.

Rules for competing for the Pictorial Puzzle Prize will be found on Advertisement page VIII.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)