

Preparations and Inventions.

GREENSMITH DOWNES' SPECIALITIES.

Those who are in search of cosy and attractive materials for winter underwear should write to Messrs. Greensmith Downes and Son, 143, George Street, Edinburgh, for patterns of their specialities. Macgregor's soft-dressed Scotch wincey, for which this firm are sole agents, is a creamy white material, two-thirds wool, delightfully soft and fine, and just the thing for nightdresses and dressing-jackets. Most excellent characteristics are that it will not shrink, and that frequent washing improves, rather than damages, its texture. This Scotch wincey can be obtained in pink or blue, as well as in a large variety of shades and colourings for blouses. This charming material can be obtained in medium and stout textures, 31 in. wide, at prices from 1s. 6d. to 2s. a yard. Made-up garments can also be supplied, nightdresses from 16s. 6d., shirt blouses from 8s. 6d., pyjama suits from 13s. 6d. Other specialities of this firm in woollen underwear are Australlama and Llanola. The wool of the Australian Merino sheep is of great length and beautifully soft, while the Indian Cashmere fleece is extremely silky. When these two are spun together they produce an ideal yarn for underwear. Australlama, which is made of this yarn, is thus made from wool grown on British territory, and manufactured into underwear in Scotland by the most modern methods, and under the most approved conditions of labour.

Llanola is made from selected colonial fleeces only, thus saving considerable expense. It is very soft, and will be found a reliable material for underwear at a moderate cost.

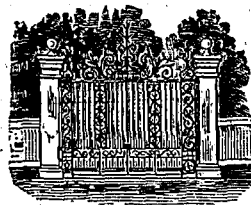
The Pyrenees wool dressing and bed jackets supplied by this firm are light and warm and wash well. The price is most moderate, beginning at 6s. 6d.

FRY'S COCOA AND MILK.

A new and valuable preparation has recently been submitted to us by Messrs. Fry and Sons, of Bristol. It is a combination of cocoa with the finest sweetened milk, and prepared, as it is, by a firm whose name is synonymous with excellence, the purity of the ingredients used may safely be taken for granted. A teaspoonful of the preparation is made into a smooth paste with the same quantity of water in a breakfast-cup, which is then gradually filled up with boiling water, and a delicious and delicate fluid is at once obtained without the addition of any further milk or sugar, whilst it is needless to say that it provides in the most easily procurable and most pleasant form an ideal form of nourishment for persons of all ages, and one which is especially valuable for children and invalids.

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN WORKERS IN CONFERENCE.



The Annual Conference of the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland, held last week at Cheltenham and Gloucester, was an intensely interesting and uplifting gathering, and proved once again the wonderful thoroughness with

which women are doing their work. Each paper presented, every speaker in discussion, proved that she had given conscientious consideration to her subject, and one had but to be of the audience to appreciate keenly the vast amount of thought and research given to each question, and the untiring practical work expended by each expert before she considered herself qualified to participate in the deliberations of this most thoughtful body of women. For years we have attended these Conferences, and each year we appreciate more and more the inspiration of personal intercourse with this vast army of workers, for it is only the real workers who make any impression on these earnest audiences.

Each year the value of the Conferences becomes more apparent. We all realise that one life one subject is our natural limit, and it is just this fact which makes us want to listen to the ripe experience of those interested in other lines of work to our own. Again, each year women have their opportunity, in this Parliament of women, of giving wide publicity to work of national importance—an opportunity which in the present reactionary political atmosphere is becoming more and more rare. Thus, interested as we are in the all-important question of the housing of the people both in town and country, the masterly manner in which this question was handled by Mrs. Edwin Gray, of York, and Dr. Fry, of Berkhamsted, placed at our disposal a hundred facts, which we could not otherwise have acquired.

Infirmity management, education, public health, all found expert expounders at Cheltenham and Gloucester, so, unless one is of a loquacious temperament, one can just sit quiet and imbibe the results of endless research and the personal experience of others, and so sop up an extraordinary amount of valuable information which is educative in the highest degree, and which helps one to realise the endless amount of good our women are doing in every direction for the benefit of the community, without reserve or reward. Is it *because* their work is so whole-hearted and unselfish that the nation at large fails to grasp its significance, or to appreciate its true value? It would seem so. Anyway, the world would be a much sadder and poorer place without it.

"THE GUARDIAN ANGEL."

Miss Mary Clifford, of Bristol, has been elected President of the National Union of Women Workers for the ensuing year, an eminently popular choice.

Miss Clifford's personality is full of charm, being strong for right, wonderfully forceful and sympathetic. She is always attired in a perfectly tasteful and

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