

the Local Authorities (Qualification of Women) Bill, and expresses its great solicitude that a measure so much needed in the public interest may receive such support from all parties as to ensure its speedily passing into law.

And this Meeting urges friends to assist in obtaining Parliamentary support for the Second Reading on March 31st."

Throughout Russia women are agitating to participate in the prospective reforms with a view to obtaining equal rights for men and women. A petition in this sense has been addressed to the Moscow Zemstvo.

A Home for British Governesses and Lady Teachers employed at or passing through Hamburg has been recently opened at 8, Verbindungsbahn, where English ladies may find board and lodging and a comfortable home for shorter or longer periods at very moderate rates. The home is managed by a committee of ladies, the president being Lady Ward, wife of the British Consul-General.

The number of medical students at the five Swiss Universities for the winter term 1904-5 amounts to 1,724, says the *Lancet*. There are 958 female students enrolled in the lists, and only 766 men. The number of female students goes on increasing rapidly, especially at the Universities of Bern and Lausanne. The numbers stand thus:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Basle ...	123	6	129
Geneva ...	144	144	288
Lausanne ...	103	223	326
Bern ...	187	407	594
Zürich ...	209	178	387

If the increase of female students goes on at the same rate in the next five years as in the last five years, the medical faculties at Bern and Lausanne will be almost monopolised by the fair sex.

Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee, who served as an acting assistant surgeon in the war between the United States and Spain, has been elected a member of the United Spanish War Veterans. She is said to be the only woman who has the privilege to belong to that body.

Miss Tada Urata, of Kumamoto, Japan, has just obtained the degree of Doctor of Medicine at the Marburg University, this being the first time that Marburg has granted a doctor's degree to a lady.

A Japanese lady, Miss Mitakama, said recently that Japan was a poor country, but it had some customs knowledge of which might be found useful in the poorer quarters in England. Among these was the custom of hot bathing. She had been astonished to find in the Liverpool truant schools hot-water baths in which some twenty boys were allowed to wash as well as to bathe before the water was changed. On visiting the girls' bath she found the water there also very black. Baths on the Japanese system would be found more economical, cleaner, and warmer. A public hot bath in England on proper principles would cost about ninepence a day. In Japan it cost about two farthings; a baby's bath one farthing. Describing the system in detail, she stated that no one was allowed to enter the hot-water bath before washing.

A Book of the Week.

THE WEDDING OF THE LADY OF LOVELL.*

Miss Silberrad's work is always interesting, and always original. It is needless to say that this is high praise in a world where originality is rare. Her present collection of stories breaks altogether fresh ground. All of them are of the purely romantic order, and put together with a technical skill which one can but admire. There is a very curious thread of unity and connection running through the tales; and this is the hand taken in everybody's business by Tobiah the dissenter, a godly man of fervent zeal, who wrestles mightily for the Lord with blacksliding souls on every occasion when he can obtain either leave or opportunity to meddle in their concerns. It is but fair to say that the personages with whom he comes in contact are all the better for his industrious ministrations, and that he confounds the devil in a highly thorough and satisfactory manner, even though we could not honestly recommend him as suitable to become guardian to a young and pretty girl.

The tale which gives its title to the book is, in my humble judgment, the least able, and certainly the least convincing of the set. It was a blunder to give it first place, as its highly artificial style and the incredible nature of the adventures therein recorded might dissuade the reader, and in particular the reviewer, from going farther. But whoso proceeds to the next story, "The Wedding Chest of Ann Ponsford," will find a reward immediately to hand. This is a wholly delightful story, fired with the true spirit of romance.

The tale of the young Roman Catholic fugitive lady who was taken to be a witch by the ignorant folks—the scene is laid, apparently, in the seventeenth century—is also of a very artificial order, but is noteworthy as giving so rich an account of the methods of Tobiah. He finds the witch hunt in full cry, and seeing at once that he cannot do anything to stem the torrent, cordially agrees with them that the woman should be apprehended; but it is for her own safety, and not that of the marshmen, that he intends to apprehend her, hoping, like Reuben, that by pretending to go with them, he may deliver her out of their hands. The scene in which he and the proscribed Roman priest fight shoulder to shoulder in defence of the helpless girl against the mob is really choice, but all Tobiah's onslaughts against Satan in his many forms are provocative of real glee. One feels the spirit which animated the old Ranters and made them a power in the land.

The last story of all, "The Wooing of Elizabeth Fothergill," is the best in the book.

Elizabeth is the owner of a fine farm and homestead. Her father, before his death, betrothed her to Will Gifford, a scamp and a gambler, whose real character, though well known in the town, was hidden from the simple villagers. Gifford, gaming at the Fox and Grapes, meets his match in the person of a wandering student, who plies the trade of a tinker. This Jeremy, winning by degrees all that Gifford has, the wild gambler stakes Elizabeth Fothergill and her estates, and loses these also.

Now Jeremy is a rover, and, though he can but feel that he has done a kindness to the unknown Elizabeth Fothergill by releasing her from such a husband as

* Una L. Silberrad. (Constable.)

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