

The speaker of the afternoon was unquestionably Miss May Hughes, a daughter of Thomas Hughes, the friend of Charles Kingsley, and the author of "Tom Brown's Schooldays." While taking quite as strong a stand on the temperance side as the previous speakers, she introduced into the discussion of subject a more sympathetic atmosphere. Perhaps her upbringing had taught her to "understand humanity, and so work humanly," perhaps her work amongst the Whitechapel poor had given her the broader vision and large hearted tolerance which so often characterise those who have worked in the depths. Introducing herself as a "fraud," as she was not a mother, or an infant, or a midwife, but just a "homely temperance tramp" in Whitechapel, she spoke of the influence of the nurses there, of their sweet and bright faces, and how a girl had more than once thanked God in a local prayer meeting for the sweet faces she met in the street. She graphically described scenes she encountered in her Whitechapel life. Total abstinence was the best remedy that could be devised under the circumstances to remedy existing evils.

Miss Alice Gregory, a daughter of the Dean of St. Paul's, and Lady Superintendent of the Home for Mothers and Babies at Woolwich, urging the value of total abstinence, spoke primarily as a midwife, which she said she would rather be than anything in the world. She pointed out that midwives who were total abstainers gave practical proof that they could do as hard work as anybody without alcohol, for their life was a very hard one.

Dr. Mary Rocke announced the number of members of the League as 160, and after a vote of thanks to the Dean for the use of the Chapter House, and to the speakers had been proposed by Miss Ritchie, seconded by Miss Rosalind Paget and carried unanimously, the audience dispersed, some to enrol themselves as members of the League, and others to enjoy the tea hospitably provided.

The League is doing a good work, and we wish it all success. Probably no class of workers has greater opportunities of inculcating temperance principles than have the midwives of this country. Further, no one has greater temptation to have recourse to stimulants to tide her over a crisis than has the lonely midwife, who, tired and worn out, must yet "keep going" till a rush of cases is over. Her safety lies in self-control and simplicity of life.

Previous to the meeting a party of midwives was conducted round the crypt of the Cathedral by Miss Alice Gregory.

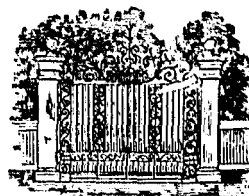
The Central Midwives' Board.

The examination paper set to the candidates at the examination of the Central Midwives' Board on October 25th, was of a very practical character. Here is one of the questions:—

"You are attending a breech case in a multipara. When the child is born as far as the navel no further advance occurs. Explain exactly how you would endeavour to ascertain the cause of delay, and what treatment you would adopt."

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



Mr. Arthur Henderson, M.P., writing to the Secretary of the Lancashire and Cheshire Women Textile Workers' Representation Committee, states that the Labour Party is anxious to press forward the question of women's enfranchisement as early as possible. The Labour Party has decided that the question shall be among the first to be balloted for next session.

The most discussed topic this week has been the imprisonment of the eleven women suffragists in Holloway Gaol. They have had their share alike of praise and of blame, but, as Miss Beatrice Harraden has pointed out in a letter to the press it is impossible that any intelligent man or woman can ignore the fact that these women are making immense personal sacrifices for their cause. Honest convictions coupled with the willingness to suffer for them, always command respect, and whether or not all suffragists have the courage to go to prison for the faith that is in them, they can at least respect those who do possess it, and this is the general feeling in regard to the women suffragists now imprisoned in Holloway.

Mrs. Fawcett is proving herself a real leader of the Women's Suffrage cause, and her speech at the Prince's Hotel "At Home," on Tuesday, will make many women rally round her, who have stood aside. They are sick of the open contempt, or miserable platitudes of the British politician. We are all rejoiced to hear Mrs. Fawcett state: "I hope to the utmost extent in my power to stand by the women who are in prison, not that I approve of all their methods, but because I so very greatly admire the courage and self-sacrifice that they have shown."

These women were at first not treated as political prisoners, but as common felons. They had ordinary prison fare, and wore coarse disfiguring clothing, which had previously been worn by prostitutes and thieves. Yet when Parnell, Bradlaugh, Leigh Hunt, Dr. Jameson and others were imprisoned they were otherwise treated. They had writing materials and books, and were allowed to receive letters and occasionally to see callers, and when a Duchess of Sutherland was imprisoned for a serious criminal offence, that of burning a will, she was allowed to have her cell comfortably furnished and her meals were sent in from outside. So strong was the consensus of public opinion that the women suffragists ought to be regarded as political prisoners, and the Parliamentary pressure brought to bear on this point, that on Wednesday morning the magistrate at Westminster Police Court sent an order to the Governor of Holloway Gaol to treat the suffragists as first-class misdemeanants.

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