

thusiasm for social progress and an intelligent sense of social responsibility. These young women have a great work before them, and they all realise it. It is no light matter to be the pioneers in replacing a nursing system which has lasted for fifteen hundred years and which, in the past, has represented self-sacrificing devotion to the world in general.

Returned to my dear little inn I discovered quite accidentally that Monsieur, the head of the house, was one of the City Council, and on the Board of Administration of the hospital. He told me all about the change, and it was most interesting to hear the story from the point of view of the lay citizen and, as I take him to be rather typical, let me try to give an impression of what he said. He is a *libre-penseur*, serious, not a cynic. He respects the opinions of others, and would harass no one in their religious convictions. But he holds that religion on one side, and sanitation and modern hygiene and medicine on the other, are different things, and must not be confused together.

If there appears now to be war between them it is because of ignorance—because for many hundred years the people have believed that prayer alone was efficacious to preserve health and dispel sickness. For himself, he has been accustomed to follow the study of hygiene and of bacteriology in connection with his own profession—that of an expert cook. He applies these principles in his kitchen, and he is familiar with the teachings of Pasteur. He realised that hospitals must be guided by these teachings and not by religious belief. By analogy from his own expert knowledge as a skilled cook, he is convinced of the necessity of a special and careful training for nurses. (It was really very striking to hear how this excellent *bourgeois* had reasoned out a most sensible and accurate estimate of the need for teaching and training of nurses. I fear all city councillors are not as intelligent.) It was by such convictions that the City Council was permeated, and these convictions made them stand steadfast through the bitter hostility that they at first encountered, and which was quite natural. Now, this opposition is all past. The change is an acknowledged success, and they are all greatly pleased and satisfied. He spoke most highly of the nurses and their work.

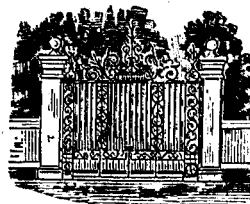
I had seen in the morning a poster pasted on the cathedral door, protesting against the laicisation of the hospital—calling it “undemocratic,” and calling upon the City Council for more “social justice.” But it seems to me that to teach women their work, and pay them for doing it, is neither undemocratic or unjust, and it will open more careers to the women of the future than does the religious order, which once gave women their only opportunity for industry outside the family, but can now no longer claim this advantage.

L. L. Dock.

Miss Chrissie Price, otherwise Fraser, who is said to have worked for a time as a probationer in some of the Nottingham Hospitals, was on Monday committed to take her trial, at the next Quarter Sessions at Nottingham, on a charge of obtaining goods by false pretences.

## Outside the Gates.

### WOMEN.



Is there a nurse who has not read “The Soul Market,” by Olive Christian Malvery? Probably not—and “Baby Toilers,” by the same inspired writer. This work will reach a public in deep sympathy with the heart and work of the

writer, and if it induces some practical reform in the present terrible conditions, its mission will have been more fruitful even than that of “The Soul Market,” which, among other things, has inspired a scheme for providing a decent and cheap night’s shelter to homeless women and girls in London.

The National Union of Women Workers have been gathered together in Conference at Manchester since Monday, and to judge from the number of representative women attending, this year’s Conference it will maintain the high standard of thought and discussion for which this Women’s Parliament has now become famous.

The National Council of Women, the governing body of the Union, held its annual meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday, when the reports of the various Sectional Committees were received, and several important resolutions discussed.

Mrs. Edwin Gray, of York, was elected President in succession to Mrs. George Cadbury, who, during her two years’ term of office, has greatly endeared herself to her fellow workers.

In their report for the six months which ended with last August the Women’s Social and Political Union say that during that period the total number of meetings held throughout the country during the half-year was more than 3,000, and the sales of the Union’s literature amounted to nearly £400, though in the whole of the previous year the total was only £60. The sales in the last six months comprised 6,000 books, 70,000 pamphlets, and 150,000 leaflets. Between the House of Commons and the House of Lords there was nothing to choose from the woman’s point of view. Both were unrepresentative. The autumn campaign on behalf of woman’s suffrage had already begun, and bade fair to be far larger than anything attempted before. Three hundred meetings would be addressed by the leaders of the movement before the close of the year.

The London County Council has placed a memorial tablet on the house No. 18, Kensington Square, once the residence of John Stuart Mill, one of the most powerful champions of justice for women who has ever lived.

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