

this year's report is by her able pen. The success of Mr. Murray's work after many years of patient labour is told in pleasing language. The pupils, who are all beggars gathered in from the streets of the populous cities, after being taught to read by a system of Mr. Murray's own invention, are sent forth to read to their fellow-countrymen of Him who opened the eyes of the blind. Many who would flee from the pale-faced foreigner gather to listen gladly, wonderingly, to the words of Life. Curiosity, too, acts as a magnet in drawing crowds. A blind beggar reading? They can scarce believe their own ears. Thus does the well-known figure of the blind beggar and his raised Book find a counterpart in that strange Chinese Empire, which was at the commencement of the century as a sealed book, an unknown problem, to the western nations.

My readers will be glad to learn that Miss Ada Ellen Bailey (Edna Lyall) has quite recovered from her long illness. This deservedly popular authoress wisely objects to be "lionised," and is seldom seen in London society. Her home is with her sister and brother-in-law, at Eastbourne, sunniest of watering places; but it was beneath the triple spires of an old cathedral city her most famous books were written. She has travelled much, and most of her continental scenes are penned not by the aid of imagination but memory. She is still comparatively young, though she has been for many years a novelist, her first book, "Won by Waiting," being written when she was still in her teens. She is industrious and painstaking, but her books testify to both these qualities more than words of mine. There is a pleasant account of this young authoress and her home in the January number of the *Woman's World*—a periodical as good in style and pleasant reading as it is high in price.

A MOST interesting lecture on Greek Art was lately given at Leeds, by Miss Harrison, at the request of the Ladies' Council of Education in that town. The lecture, which was illustrated by lime-light illustrations of the subject, was much appreciated by a crowded audience. It was confined chiefly to one phase of the subject, *i.e.*, vase painting, on which Miss Harrison was herself quite at home, and succeeded in making her listeners more so than they were before, at least, though the lecture was chiefly noticeable for implanting a desire for still further knowledge—a fact which proves Miss Harrison is a connoisseur in the art of lecturing. VEVA KARSLAND.

A WEAK mind is like a microscope, which magnifies trifling things, but cannot receive great ones.

## INVENTIONS, NOTICES OF PREPARATIONS, &c.,

We are glad to be able to announce to our readers that we have now matured arrangements for an occasional supply of information in this column of new and interesting matter connected with inventions of a kind adapted to the character of this journal.

"Have you an idea for a patent?" Our readers are requested to send us any new ideas they may have, however simple, and they will promptly receive the advice of a leading patent specialist gratis.

All communications under this head should be addressed to the Editor, with the word "Invention" plainly written on the left hand corner of the envelope.

WE draw attention to a very useful invention, the "Damien" Patent Cushion Holder and Head-Rest, which can easily and instantly be adapted



FIG. 1.

to any kind of chair, couch, sofa, &c. This simple contrivance is well worth the attention of those interested, as we have personally tested its capabilities, and can vouch for its extreme simplicity, as well as for its being exactly what it is represented to be. Fig. 1 shows the rest ready for

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