

mangy, miserable, half-starved, crooked-legged, rat-tailed, *common* cat for my beautiful Blackie, who has won prizes at shows? I'd save my money for a visit to the oculist if I were you. Thank you so much for all your kindness. *Good-night.*"

(You may possibly object to the designation of Blackie as the hero of this truthful yarn, but I uphold the verity of it. He alone comes out of the whole affair without a stain on his character.)

JESSIE HARVEY.

#### WOMEN.

Sir E. J. Poynter, P.R.A., presented the prizes to the students of the Royal Academy of Art at Burlington House last Saturday. He said the male students must look to their laurels. In more than one competition they had been outdistanced by female students. He attributed this to the fact—which he had often observed—that female students seemed more earnest and more assiduous in their attention than men, who had a tendency to take things more easily. This was a failing which it only required an effort on the part of the men to overcome.

The Women's Social and Political Union states that two of the women prisoners in Holloway have been fed by force. They adopted the hunger strike as a protest against the treatment which they were receiving.

Miss Frances Mary Tozer, B.Sc. (London), of Liverpool, and Miss Annie Homer, D.Sc. (Trinity College, Dublin), of Cambridge, have been elected to Fellowships by the Trustees of the Beit Foundation for Medical Research.

The guests at the dinner in celebration of the part taken by women in the production of the 11th edition of the "Encyclopædia Britannica," at the Savoy Hotel, on Tuesday last, at which the editor, Mr. Hugh Chisholm, presided, included a most representative gathering of intellectual women, remarkable in education, politics, literature, journalism, and many other branches of work, and the occasion was a delightful and memorable one. The toast of the evening, "The Work of Women," was proposed by the Chairman, and responded to by Miss Janet Hogarth in a brilliant and witty speech. Miss Hogarth enumerated amongst the contributors to the Encyclopædia Mrs. Henry Sidgwick, Mrs. Humphry Ward, Mrs. Meynell, Miss Jessie Watson, Miss Bryant, Lady Lugard, Miss Gertrude Bell, Mrs. Alec Tweedie, Miss Adelaide Anderson, Mrs. Barnett, Miss Zimmern, Lady Huggins, Miss A. L. Smith, the late Miss Mary Bateson, Miss Agnes Clarke, Mrs. Wilde, Miss Anna Paues, Miss Bertha Philpotts, Dr. Hennessy, Miss Schlesinger, Mrs. Gomme, the late Lady Dilke, and Lady Welby. The work in connection with the Encyclopædia had, she said, given women an opportunity, such as they had never had before, of demonstrating their rightful

place in the learned world. The toast was also acknowledged by Mrs. Fawcett, Miss A. M. Anderson, and the Mistress of Girton.

French women are likely before long to obtain the right to vote for and be elected to municipal and departmental Councils. A Bill to this effect has already been introduced in Parliament, and it has the active support of 200 members, who intend to push it through without delay. As elected members of the Councils, women would also be Senatorial electors, and this would provide a practical transition towards future extensions of the franchise. We congratulate Frenchmen equally with Frenchwomen upon this step towards citizenship for the mothers of the nation.

#### Book of the Week.

PAM AND BILLY.\*

A CHRISTMAS STORY.

The story of Pam and Billy—two little London waifs—Billy Brown, a street musician by profession, and Pamela Payne, his only friend in the wide world, who, in the summer, sold flowers in the streets, and in the winter, thanks to the gifts with which Nature had endowed her, often obtained a pantomime engagement—is a pretty and wholesome tale, which would delight many children as a Christmas gift.

Billy, with "Her," his beloved violin, shares an attic with five other boys much bigger than himself, of whom he told Pam—"They doesn't know of 'Her.' They aren't never going to know of 'Her.' They'd be cruel to 'Her,' maybe drive 'Her' away, and I couldn't live without 'Her.' I've been out all day playing in the streets with 'Her,' the fairy what lives in my vierlin, and she's been singing to me all day long."

"He was the son of a musician with undiscovered genius—a genius which might perchance have been revealed had he not died a premature death from want of nourishment, leaving to his small boy no legacy save the violin, which he had taught the child to play.

Pam, cast to play the leading elfin in "Aladdin" at the Old Time Theatre, enshrined in her warm heart the Princess of the Pantomime who reigned as Queen. She loved the Play Princess and worshipped from afar. But Maisie Green, a fellow elfin, also adored the Play Princess with heart and soul, and trouble came of it, for deep down in her mean little soul she was jealous of Pam, and so Jem, the porter, with whom she was a prime favourite, warned her. "You mind that Maisie Green; she's jealous of you; that's what's wrong with her. She's jealous 'cause you've got a line part and she ain't; she's jealous 'cause the Princess spoke to you in the 'wings' the other night; so have a care of Maisie Green, my dear."

Maisie Green was a foe to be reckoned with, and when the Play Princess arranged that, besides

\* By Brenda Girvin. (George Allen and Sons, Ruskin House, 40-45, Rathbone Place, W.)

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