

Lile, whose energy no one can question, will only continue to look after the interests of the Nurses, he will achieve certain reforms and objects which will ever earn the gratitude of the large number of poorly paid, not too-well-fed, and decidedly over-worked women who so ungrudgingly and so ungrudgingly go about their work.

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IN an allusion to the "Invigorator Corset" in these columns of the 18th ult., we referred to Messrs. Hubbard as the inventors. It should have been "Reasts Patent Corset Company, 15, Claremont, Hastings." I have nothing but praise for this ingenious and simple invention.

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I AM informed that Miss H. Dalby has resigned her appointment as Superintendent of the Nicholls Hospital, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada, and before taking up any other work is seeking a rest for several months."

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A CORRESPONDENT writes from across the "Herring Pond":—"I value your Journal very highly, and have had some of the volumes bound, and do not want to lose any of the numbers."

S. G.

## WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

### BARMAIDS.

"A POLICEMAN'S life is not a happy one," according to W. S. Gilbert; and a barmaid's life is not a happy one, decides common sense, and yet, strange to say, the supply is far beyond the demand, a fact which causes the wages to be pitifully small, and even accounts for the appearance in one of the leading dailies of an advertisement like the following:—"Wanted, situation at a respectable bar; time given and small premium offered." The hours are long—sometimes very long—but they differ according to the house. I heard the other day of one restaurant where the girls did not get to bed until between two and three, and were at work again by six; the only leisure time they had all day was between 12.30 and two, and during that time they were obliged to make their beds and tidy their rooms. The salary is usually very low, from seven to ten shillings per week, fifteen being considered very good, and £1 excessive; but it is very difficult to estimate rates of payment when nearly every house differs. One can only give a proximate average. Also the life is one of many and varied temptations. How then comes it to be so eagerly sought? For one reason the work is

easily learnt, even by the most stupid or most ignorant; another, it permits of nice dressing and of presenting a genteel appearance, and gives an opportunity for a little innocent flirting; but mostly it is sought so much, I believe, by young girls who are obliged to work for a living simply because of the chance—a very far distant chance, only they do not realise it—of perhaps making a good match, which it gives to them. "Man"—nor woman either—"is but always to be blest," and daydreams—romantic daydreams—savouring oftentimes of the last penny novelette, light the future, and prove a balm for every present ill and every hardship. This day dream is strengthened by the fact that barmaids in one or two instances have married very well. Besides, all barmaids are pretty, or think themselves so, and pretty girls ever consider they have only to be seen to captivate. But in most trades no fairy prince would think of penetrating the gloomy shades of work-room or office, and the rose must be content "to blush unseen and waste its sweetness on the desert air." But, alas! these day-dreams are rarely realised, but are obliged to be reluctantly laid aside as the years steal the contour from the fair cheeks and the brightness from the shining eyes; and the pretty romantic girl finds herself, what with long hours, unwholesome atmosphere, and very little recreation, an old woman before her time; and now her chief recommendation—her beauty—is gone, obliged to make room for one younger and gayer, and seek at her age other work. Or sadder still, an innocent flirtation may have been carried on once too often, and the weary lonely girl, unprotected, surrounded by temptation in every form, may have yielded at last to the fierce flame and become "one more unfortunate." These barmaids are obliged of necessity to drink, and thus to allure others on to taking yet another glass for the "good of the house." The employers exact this. They also oblige them to pay for all broken glasses, a very hard rule, and yet they expect them to present always a neat nice appearance. How can they on their paltry pittance unless with outside help? Poor girls, many of them are more to be pitied than blamed; but to all who give even a passing thought to this occupation as easy and pleasant (both quite mistaken ideas), and, above all, needing little instruction in many ways which look so intricate, I heartily give *Punch's* advice to those about to be married, "Don't."

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SITUATIONS can generally be obtained from looking through the advertisements of or advertising in the principal London dailies, or in the *Licensed Victuallers' Gazette*. References as to character are necessary. The Young Women's Christian

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