

IN connection with the agency is a search department, and for coin of the realm Messrs. Romeike and Curtice will hunt out for their clients in "museums, libraries, college of arms, patent and Government offices, &c., information on any subject, technical or otherwise." One gentleman, an university graduate, is employed entirely in seeking references, &c., in the British Museum. With regard to this department, Mr. Curtice states that "Ladies are found to be quick at searching, correct in copying, and that their reports give great satisfaction."

NEWSPAPER scrap albums, handsomely bound, "are kept at the office for presentation." The albums contain newspaper cuttings on special subjects or obituary notices of any great preacher or statesman. They are often bought by friends or admirers who wish to see what the papers say of the "honoured dead." Indeed, the obituary department is very large, and Canon Liddon's death has caused for the last few weeks quite a pressure of work in it, as relations and friends are sending up their subscriptions for press notices of the late deeply-lamented modern Chrysostom.

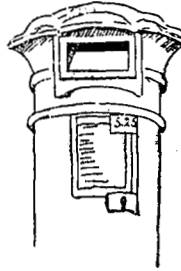
LADIES are eligible for the Ramblers' Club, started in connection with the People's Palace and in which Mr. Walter Besant takes so great an interest. The club has had a series of delightful excursions this summer, all undertaken by experienced gentlemen, who direct and rule the party, as well as choosing the place of destination for the day, and acting as guides for the occasion.

At a small town in Norway, Handoger by name, a law has lately been passed that no girl should be allowed to marry unless she could spin, knit, and bake. If such a law was to be passed in this country, there would be a lull in marriages and no banns for the clergy to read for at least a year, and by then the English girls would be up and ready for the fray. But evidently in this remote Norwegian city there are no spinning machines and no automatic knitting companies, for the authorities seem to take it for granted that these old-time feminine occupations are to be still done by hand.

MISS YONGE, the veteran novelist, is about to commence her hundred and first novel. Although losing something of her former power, she is as energetic with her MSS. as ever, and her pretty books are equally readable now as in the 'Sixties, although tennis has taken the place of croquet at

the garden parties, and tailor-made costumes the place of the formerly fashionable frills and flounces. But men and women are still the same in spirit, and the charm of this clever authoress is that she paints with her facile pen men and women as they are.

VEVA KARSLAND.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

(Notes, Queries &c.)

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not IN ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

We shall be happy to answer, as far as we can, all questions submitted to us.

Communications, &c, not noticed in our present number will receive attention when space permits.

INFANT FEEDING.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

Sir,—I was very glad to find in one of your recent issues an article on the subject of "Infant Feeding." The subject is one of great importance, for does not the health—nay, even the lives—of our children depend in a great measure upon it? I hope, therefore, that you will recur to it again and again.

But I was sorry to learn from that article that "the hand-feeding of infants is gaining in favour with the profession." Surely, Sir, the natural food of every mammal is its own mother's milk. Nursing her own child has always seemed to me, if not the whole, at any rate the highest, duty of woman. It may be "a great tie," but what tie can be more tender, or more sacred? It may be that in order to keep her child in health, the mother must herself live a healthy life, and be careful about her eating, drinking, and exercise; but is not this self discipline of the greatest value to her, morally as well as physically? The real reasons why so many infants are hand fed are, I fear: (1) That to get them to take the breast in the first instance involves in many cases the exercise of more care and patience than most Nurses possess; and (2) because Nurses and Doctors know that many mothers now-a-days are only too glad to avail themselves of any excuse to get rid of "the tie" which nursing involves. It is, I fear, in this way that the vital interests of too many helpless infants are sacrificed.

I quite agree with the writer of the article, that with a healthy infant hand-feeding may have its advantages, if it is properly carried out, and due precautions are observed. But upon whom are you to rely to do the work of beneficent nature? Upon a Nurse who may be, and too often is, either ignorant, careless, or indolent. Why, Sir, a case came under my own observation where a trained Nurse and "a lady," as she styled herself, actually poured into the feeding-bottle hot water from a nearly empty kettle, and with this mixture of milk and water, and *particles of sand from the kettle*, was proceeding to feed a helpless infant, scarce five weeks old. If such things are done in the green tree what will be done in the dry?—Yours, &c.,

PATERFAMILIAS.

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