

operators are employed, all of whom are of the feminine gender.

THE National Telephone Company is by far the largest in England, its only rivals being the Brighton Company, which supplies the southern counties, and the South Wales Company. A large business is done in the great northern commercial towns, especially in Liverpool and Manchester. The manager of this great company kindly gave me the foregoing particulars about the salaries, &c., of their young lady operators. On my enquiring afterwards if he had any complaints from the employées as to deafness caused by the constant using of the telephone, his reply was an emphatic "Never!" as far as their company was concerned, and that he heard that some such complaint had been made in America, but he thought that the cases must have been grossly exaggerated. "I don't believe," he added, "anyone uses the telephone more than myself in the whole of England, and I have never found any inconvenience to accrue therefrom."

THE young ladies on the Telephone Exchanges have not only ears to hear, but also tongues to reply sometimes, as the following story illustrates. "Are you forty-five?" shouted an irascible old gentleman once, thinking himself already in connection with the owner of that numeral. "No; I am only seventeen!" was the demure reply which came back to his listening ear, and then little Miss "Sweet Seventeen" hitched him on to the desired number as speedily as possible. I do not know if the authorities in high places knew later of this little episode in the life of a young lady telephone clerk.

A NOBLE woman and a true helpmeet to her husband was gentle Lady Baker, the first and the most intrepid of lady travellers, who dared the African savage and the African forest rather than leave her husband's side when he faced danger. Mr. Mounteney Jephson, Mr. Stanley's able lieutenant, tells how even now, after the lapse of so many years, the memory of Nyadué, as she is called by the wild African tribes, is still revered amongst the sons and the daughters of "Darkest Africa." Nyadué means the "Morning Star," and the name was given her in allusion to her fair English beauty.

I DO not know if any of my readers ever see the *Woman's Penny Paper*. In reference to some remarks made in it about my article in this journal a few weeks ago on tailoresses, I can only say I obtained my information direct from one of the women working in a large City warehouse.

With regard to the rate of wages it is no higher than that of feather workers, artificial flower workers, book-folders, &c., but the women make no complaint as to the amount of wages when in regular work, but of the difficulty, nay, impossibility of obtaining regular work. With regard to the women to whom "E. E. B." refers, my article did not touch on such, for those who work at home are seldom skilled workers, and also all home work is of necessity paid badly—partly because it is much sought after, partly because the fear of loss must be covered by the employers. To illustrate my meaning, the difference between the two classes of workers is as great as that between the embroideress and art needleworker in the famous school at South Kensington, and the lady or woman who tries to earn a few pence by selling the crude results of her unpractised needle.

DR. ALICE STOCKHAM has become Director of the Pedagogical Slöyd Institute at Chicago. The advantages of the Slöyd system are described in her circular in glowing language thus: "Slöyd is a handicraft of educational work in wood. In this system there are primary grades of children from five to ten years, and secondary grammar grades for children above ten years of age. Slöyd develops, it continues practical intelligence, the ability to judge and utilise circumstances, gives skill to the hands, and trains the eyes to see, to calculate, and judge. It fortifies the habit of self-activity, inculcates the important charms and advantages of order, neatness, and accuracy, and cultivates diligence, perseverance, and circumspection."

VEVA KARSLAND.

"NURSING RECORD" BENEVOLENT FUND.

Mrs. Sarah Duyck, aged 48, is a widow, and has broken her leg so badly, that she will probably be a cripple for the rest of her life, besides dislocating one shoulder some years ago, so that she is even unable to use her crutches for long at a time.

Mrs. Duyck wishes to obtain an annuity of £20 a year from the British Home for Incurables. To do this at least 1,000 votes must be procured from subscribers to the Institution. Lists of subscribers can be obtained by sending eight stamps to the offices, 73, Cheapside, E.C.

Will every reader of this journal please do what she or he can to obtain votes for this sad case—to assist, in however small a measure, to bear another's burden? Such help will be gratefully welcomed by the Editor, *Nursing Record*, St. Dunstan's House, Fetter Lane, London, E.C., and all subscriptions, &c., will be duly acknowledged.

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