

should she gain her cause, for what evokes such anguish in the heart of man as parting with the "precious gold" his soul loveth?

I HEAR that Miss Evelyn Malcolmson, of Merrysbury House, East Barnet, has succeeded in obtaining the silver medal of the Royal College of Music this year. Miss Malcolmson is to be congratulated, for the medal is eagerly sought by all the students, being a greatly coveted honour; and amongst the clever band of musical students which crowd the College, she must have proved exceptionally clever to have gained it.

"SMALL beginnings have often large endings." This saying is illustrated by the book of Nature. The tiny acorn in time becomes the giant oak; the mustard seed, as the Lord of Nature Himself tells us, "is the smallest of seeds," yet the birds of the air, in time, sit on the branches of the tree which has sprung from that puny source. So is it with words and actions. From small endeavours, from feeble efforts to save, to help others on the pathway of life, great fruit may spring, and the good seed increase, indeed a hundredfold. This is the case with regard to Mrs. Maria Wood Jeffreys. This noble woman was, says the *Queen*, "one of the founders of the first Home for Aged Couples in the United States. It was started in Philadelphia with two couples. It now contains eighteen or twenty couples, and owns its own building, free from debt, and is in a very flourishing condition." Besides this, it was through the same lady's efforts that the Philadelphia Medical Chirurgical Hospital was started. It commenced with three patients, and now hundreds seek admission beneath its hospitable walls.

ACCORDING to the *Woman's Penny Paper*, "the second annual amateur exhibition of decorative art work will be held on November the 4th, at the Berkeley Gardens, Campden Hill, under the patronage of Princess Christian. Among the judges are Mrs. E. M. Ward, Mrs. Jopling, and Miss Rowe." Several prizes are offered by well-known ladies, it is added. The *Woman's Penny Paper* is, by-the-bye, well worth the penny. The news is pithy and up to date, the interviews are always interesting, and even if the correspondence columns are replete with new and sometimes eccentric ideas, is not anything better than a narrow groove of thought? and novel ideas often prove very acceptable and true after once we have grown accustomed to them. Miss Alice Lush and Miss Julia Westcott, the successful competitors for the teachers' free trip offered by this paper,

started on August 1 for their three weeks' tour on the Continent, and a delightful tour it will prove, according to the programme, which includes some of the loveliest districts of Switzerland. Neither of the ladies have ever been out of England before.

THE SHAH OF PERSIA seems to have returned to his own country with a profound respect for European Doctors. On his discovering a little later that his wife was suffering from the almost epidemic of the East, sore eyes, which threatened her with blindness, he sent her to Vienna for medical treatment; and there about a month ago she underwent an operation. I regret to say it has, however, proved unsuccessful, and the poor lady has quite lost her sight. I fear this little incident may have the effect of shaking the belief of the Shah in Surgeons, and causing him to apply next time instead to his own magicians.

VEVA KARSLAND.

CHARACTER.—The differences of character are never more distinctly seen than in times when men are surrounded by difficulties and misfortunes. There are some who, when disappointed by the failure of an undertaking from which they had expected great things, make up their minds at once to exert themselves no longer against what they call fate, as if thereby they could avenge themselves upon fate; others grow desponding and hopeless; but a third class of men will rouse themselves just at such moments, and say to themselves, "The more difficult it is to attain my end, the more honourable it will be." And this is a maxim which every one should impress upon himself as an inflexible law. Some of those who are guided by it prosecute their plans with obstinacy, and so perish; others, who are more practical men, if they have failed in one way, will try another.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

* * * May we ask all those who desire to obtain information from us to please, before sending in their queries, kindly look through the BACK numbers of the "Record" to see whether the questions have not been dealt with before?

Mrs. Rose.—Should write to the Matrons of the chief London Hospitals. The age, we think, should be suitable for most of them. Try the Chelsea Infirmary, Cale Street, Chelsea, in particular.

Several other matters are left over on account of pressure upon our space.

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