

of our stock was unmarketable throughout the early months of this year through their extreme thinness. The weather prevented turf-cutting, and where a little was cut it could not dry—so that fires have been poor, and the bread difficult to bake. Our oldest men do not remember such a winter and spring as we have just lived through.

Practically the only consolation has been the good price for pigs.

Mackerel fishing was good on the whole last year, but buyers were few, and we have hardly sufficient hands to cure our fish. We ourselves were rather proud of our thirty-five barrels, since the buyer pronounced them the best he had seen on this coast—and what was still more comforting, the best cured. You know that it is our aim to bring in the Norwegian method of curing, and get the higher prices at present reserved for Norwegian-cured mackerel. We experimented also with some success in herring-curing.

Perhaps finance should be dealt with next. Our whole expenditure up to date has been £9,767 5s. 8½d., of which £5,258 11s. 8½d. has gone out in wages.

The farm did fairly well, and would have done better but for the overholding of our cattle. We made £72 9s. 9½d. between farm, garden and poultry, but the cost of feeding has been out of all reason. Our bees did badly, owing to wet weather and a want of proper attention. We were over-busy. A furious north-west wind destroyed our strawberries, just as they were ripening and had given us a foretaste of what should have been a magnificent crop. Some of our young trees have suffered severely also from the pitiless winds.

Well, we must take the bad years with the good. One day of sunshine fills us with hopefulness for the future; and two of them make us almost forget the past.

Our Co-operative Society is most progressive. Our turnover last year was close on £3,000. Our members increased. We keep adding fresh classes of goods to our stock, and our stores barely suffice to hold them. We have started in a modest way lately in the making of blouses, pinafores, and overalls. And to our own surprise have achieved a dainty house-dress and an infant's robe—both of them to order. Here, as in all our other ventures, finance is the sole limit to our possibilities.

Next year I hope to give you a photograph of the Hospital, which will show you better than words can do what your gifts have done for us. I cannot help feeling about it how applicable is the story of the donkey which was the serious bone of contention amongst the junior members of a large family. "It's *my*," said one. "'Tisn't, it's *my*," said indignant other voices. Then came the crushing decision of the elder sister of eight—"Be quiet! 'tisn't any of your donkey; it's all of our donkey." Well, it's all of our Hospital.

Come and see it—and us. An Irish welcome is a warm one.

Yours truly,

ALBINIA BRODRICK.

## OUTSIDE THE GATES.

### WOMEN.

When the deputation from the National Union of Women Suffrage Societies waited upon the Prime Minister at 10, Downing Street, on Friday in last week, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., pleaded for a Government measure, and reminded Mr. Asquith of his promise that his Reform Bill should be drafted to admit of women's franchise amendments which the Government would not oppose, and would regard, if passed, as an integral part of the Bill. The fruition of those promises was dependent upon a free vote, and that was impossible with a Prime Minister actively and ardently opposed to the principles of representative government as far as women were concerned. Mr. Asquith's promises remained unredeemed.

In the course of his reply, the Prime Minister said that when the Government came to introduce the Franchise Bill it was most carefully and deliberately framed with the object of admitting an amendment in the direction of women's suffrage if in the opinion of the majority of his colleagues such an amendment should be introduced. From causes for which the Government were not responsible it fell to the ground, and no one was more disappointed than he was. Did it not come to this—that no Franchise Bill, however wide its title, could be amended so as to include women's suffrage?

Mrs. Fawcett remarked that the Speaker did not say so, and the Prime Minister agreed, but said that he gathered that a Bill dealing with the existing franchise could not be amended in that sense. If there were any means by which it could be done he should be glad to have it pointed out. One member of the deputation asked whether it would not be possible to have an italicised clause, and another suggested that the title of the Bill should be altered to "The Representation of the People Bill" and asked whether women were not "people." The Prime Minister admitted that he supposed so, and added that highly technical and ingenious points were being raised, and he would like to consider them. Both were very well worth consideration.

The Bishop of Lincoln, in a letter to the Press, says that "the demand of women for the vote has come to be one of the greatest moral and social movements of our time. It gathers strength and volume daily; all the forces of progress are working in its favour; it cannot be set aside. It only awaits the handling of a sympathetic, courageous, and constructive statesman, who has imagination to conceive of the England that is to be."

Under the presidency of Lord Robert Cecil, a committee representative of the legal profession has been formed with a view to advancing the

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