

a time a person who kept a gig—Carlyle's "gigmanity"—was regarded as the representative of the species; and now it seems that in the opinion of certain critics of the management of London Hospitals, the status is to be ascribed to those who wear sealskin jackets. Among patients who derive assistance from the Brompton Consumption Hospital are ladies who come pretty well dressed—even wearing sealskin jackets. The secretary was minutely questioned by the House of Lords Committee whether these were proper people to receive the benefits of a charity, but he very sensibly pointed out that many respectably dressed people were by no means well off, and that very often ladies who wear remnants of better days in the shape of sealskin jackets—daughters of parents unfortunate in business or in life, who earn a precarious livelihood by teaching music or making embroidery—are otherwise scantily clad and badly nourished. A consumptive patient requires to be well wrapped up in going to and from the Hospital. "Sealskin gentility" is hardly a definition that common sense will accept as a bar to treatment in an institution supported by the charitable. S. G.

### WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

MDME. MICHAELIS has re-opened at Norland Place, Holland Park Gardens, the Froebel Training School of Primary Instruction, calling the new college, however, "The Training College for Kindergarten Teachers." There is a large field open to women as successful kindergarten teachers, for at present the demand far exceeds the supply, but then there must be a very high average both of training and of talent for this work, ere the teacher can prove successful; and it is almost necessary also that she should have a good knowledge of drawing and of music, besides being a careful and observant student of nature, and, above all, fond of and able to win the love of children. Thus this is really the highest possible peak to climb of the mountain of teaching; but yet Mdme. Michaelis complains that ignorant and badly educated girls—who have failed to pass the examinations necessary ere becoming high school or elementary school teachers—often apply to her, thus showing how entirely the true principle of kindergarten teaching is misunderstood by the majority of English people.

AN enterprising young American lady has, says the *Gentlewoman*, started a "House Cleaning Brigade." She has with her a band of practical

capable women, who take possession of the home "while the family spend a week elsewhere, at the end of which they return to find the house swept and garnished, and a delight to inhabit." If only there was in England such a brigade, they would earn plenty of money, and also be a "boon and blessing" to many a weary house-wife. I hate spring-cleaning. Everything gets lost, and is never found again all the summer long; besides the worry of it all, and then the servants are sure to give warning just in the very midst of the woe.

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KNITTING and women. Still the words are synonymous, and a man who can knit is still a phenomenon, and worthy of being exhibited in Barnum's famous show of curiosities. On making inquiries I find all the "knit, knit, knitting" of the Sanitary Knitting Corset Company is done exclusively by women. By-the-by, this large firm does not believe in the middle-man or retail shops, and these corsets can therefore only be had direct from the Company, 44, Mansfield Road, Nottingham. From corsets to underclothes is but a step; this step the firm has also taken, and their knitted vests are simply charming—so warm and yet so light. They have also a specialité in knitted gloves, the latter being very useful in travelling to draw on over kid ones, thus doing away with the necessity of carrying a muff in winter, a decided advantage when hands are wanted to be free to carry parcels, for if a porter is especially wanted, is he visible ever? Echo answers, visible never.

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POOR Jane Carlyle! She has been one of the most discussed women of the age, and fierce arguments have raged over her and her diaries. Even now we have not heard the last of her or them, for yet another book has been written on the subject by Mrs. Alexander Ireland, and this will shortly make its appearance in the literary world.

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If anyone came to me and asked me how best to obtain employment, I should answer, "Think of some brilliant and, above all, original idea." "Easier said than done," would answer my interrogator, as she turned sadly away; and truly everything that can be thought of has been thought of apparently. Still, a novel, if not brilliant, idea has been not only thought of, but carried out, by an ingenious lady in search of something profitable to do. It is a home, or rather Hospital, for pet dogs, who, over-fed and indulged, are often the victims of their mistresses' carelessly lavish petting, and become so fat and ill that verily their poor "lives are a burden to

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