

WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

It is rumoured that the biography of the late Mrs. Booth will be shortly written by her son, Mr. Bramwell Booth, the title *on dit* to be "From the Banks of the River." The Booths, both father and son, are good at a title; and after all, now-a-days, it is often the title that makes the book. Nevertheless, in this instance the book itself ought to be interesting, only it would have been far better if the author had not been a relation, for from such there must ever be a certain amount of biased fact, and a memoir or biography ought always to be disinterested.

WHAT will women take to next, I wonder! According to a contemporary the last new fashion amongst ladies is hockey. Several fair ladies played a match lately on Wimbledon Common, the play being vigorous and smart. The game is suitable to the old-fashioned Christmas we have had this winter, a real snowy Christmas like the good old days of yore; but our granddames would, I expect, have been much surprised could they have beheld the hockey-sticks in the hands of these demoiselles of the nineteenth century; but the "gentle sex has dared the lion in his den" triumphantly in games as well as in mathematics, *littérature*, and art.

SISTER ROSE GERTRUDE is now teaching in Honolulu, her leper-nursing dream having faded beneath the stern realities of life, as dreams have a disagreeable habit of doing. Poor young reformer! She went forth to do and dare with brave devotion, only to find she must not expect to "change Rome in a day," and to learn the lesson that all true reformation must be gradual, and must, like the acorn, grow awhile unseen ere the oak tree even begins to sprout "a tender green," presage of the noble branches beneath which some day the birds shall sing right merrily.

LITERARY women in France have lately made a move in the right direction by forming into an association under the title of "Union des Amies de Lettres"; the president being Madame Vattier d'Ambroyse. I can only hope, however, that French *littérateurs*, with the feminine "e" added on, are less jealous than those on our side of those waters which form the English Channel. If not, I fear the union will be of but short duration, even although it, or rather its members, gives literary soirées occasionally.

MRS. THOMSON, the wife of the late Archbishop of York, used to be called in her Oxford days, when her husband was Provost of Queen's, the

fair "Maid of Athens." She is half Greek, as her romantic name, Zoe, suggests. Her mother was a modern Athenian; her father, the late T. H. Skene, the author of "Anadol; the Last Home of the Faithful." She was, in her youthful days, famous for her beauty, which was of a pure Grecian type; she is also a very able woman. Everyone will sympathise with her in her recent bereavement, for on Christmas morning, 1890, her beloved husband passed away at the Palace at York. He had aged much of late years, and had been obliged to seek the aid of a suffragan bishop.

TALKING of the Archbishop reminds me how he, as all the world knows, was the original of John Strange Winter's ideal (?) bishop, introduced into so many of her earlier books. Altogether Mrs. Stannard loved not the old City of York, and resenting the slights she once received from the inhabitants of this most "cliquey" of cities, she, with her ready pen, took her revenge in salient sarcasm on her unfriendly neighbours.

MISS ISABELLA O. FORD—who, by-the-bye, is a connection of the famous Quaker family of the Peases, of Darlington—is a well-known figure in Leeds society. Her first novel, "Miss Blake of Monkshalton," which ran through *Murray's Magazine* last year, and has just been published in a single volume by Mr. John Murray, has been noticed by all the literary journals as an exceedingly promising work. She is, however, better known in Leeds as the friend of the women workers than as a novelist. During the strike of the work girls at Arthur's last year, she showed great capacity for organization and a warm-hearted liberality; the strike, indeed, failed owing to its being undertaken at the wrong season, but its result is to be found in the successful union of the workgirls employed in the great wholesale clothing establishments of Leeds, of which Union Miss Ford is the guiding spirit.

It is stated that the wedding of Princess Louise of Schleswig-Holstein—the eldest daughter of Princess Christian—with Prince Aribert of Anhalt-Dessau will take place in the private chapel of Windsor Castle, but no date is yet fixed. The young Princess is a great favourite at Windsor, where she has lived most of her life; and the royal and loyal town will be *en fête* on the occasion.

THE pretty young American actress, Miss Attalie St. Clair, has been, or rather is, a great success at the Prince of Wales' in the new operetta panto-

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)