

Mrs. Oliver Strachey has been adopted as prospective independent candidate for Brentford and Chiswick.

Dr. H. Wansley Bayly has been adopted by the Imperial Conservative Association of Plymouth as candidate for the Sutton Division of that town at the next Parliamentary election, in opposition to Viscountess Astor, M.P., who at present represents that constituency.

In reply to a question in the House of Commons by Viscountess Astor, M.P., the Prime Minister stated that it had been decided by the Cabinet to send some women in an advisory capacity to the Assembly of the League of Nations at Geneva. The British Representatives at the Assembly will be the Earl of Balfour (Lord President of the Council), Mr. Fisher (President of the Board of Education), and Colonel J. Ward (C.L., Stoke-on-Trent).

All the money required for the canopied statue of St. Joan of Arc to be erected in Winchester Cathedral as the English Memorial to "the Maid," has now been received, and the work put in hand.

Miss C. C. Monro, of the Universities' Mission to Central Africa, speaking at the recent anniversary meeting at the Central Hall, Westminster, said: "African women do work so hard and they so seldom if ever complain about it. You meet them working in the field from morning to night, carrying these heavy loads, and you say, 'Much work?' and they smile back to you and say, 'Yes, much work,' but they never say, 'Too much!' I have heard a sermon preached by an African padre, Yakobo Timpwa, and African padres can often say much sterner things than the white padres do, and Yakobo Timpwa said to the men, 'You men do not treat your wives as really companions but as servants. You want a rice field: your wife goes and plants it while you sit at home and smoke your pipe; your wife weeds it, your wife guards it from birds and pigs, and at the time of harvest your wife reaps it and you tell her to take the rice to market and sell it, and when she comes home you stretch out your hand and you say, 'Give me the money!'"

EDUCATION IS LIGHT FROM GOD.

"The struggle for *light*, with its wide fellowships and high enthusiasms, will displace the struggle for *power*, with its mean passions, its monstrous illusions, and its contemptible ideals.

"The struggle for power will end, not, as some predict, in universal revolution, which would merely set it going again in another form, but by being submerged, lost sight of, snowed under, by the greater interests that centre round the struggle for light."—(Dr. L. P. Jacks.)

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

"MY YEARS IN PARIS."*

This very interesting book gives an account of the Court of Napoleon III between the years 1859-71. It is written by Princess Pauline Metternich, the wife of the Austrian Ambassador, of whom the *Times* speaks as a queen of wit, caprice and fashion. This remarkable woman died only last year at the age of eighty-five. Her reminiscences are full of fascination, and her intimate experiences of the beautiful Empress make very good reading indeed.

The Princess, writing of their first interview, says: "The general effect of the Empress was charming. She was wonderfully graceful. She was very simply dressed. She wore a black silk skirt looped up all round, a fashion which she herself had introduced in order to do away with long dresses while staying in the country. A very sensible fashion, too, although the Faubourg St. Germain took exception to it, saying she went about in short skirts like a ballet girl. With this skirt she wore a perfectly simple red flannel shirt, with a belt round her waist."

"Practically everyone succumbed to the charm of the Empress, and I was absolutely fascinated by her grace, her kindness and her wonderful beauty. But even greater than her beauty was the incomparable grace of every movement."

An amusing episode is recorded of the Société de la Charité Maternelle, founded by Queen Marie Antoinette. No one but the reigning sovereign was allowed to be its president and protectress.

The Archbishop in his ecclesiastical robes, and accompanied by his grand vicars, came officially to beg the Empress to accept the presidency. A great many people were present. The Empress was quite wrought up, but was satisfied that she knew the little speech she had prepared by heart.

The poor Archbishop, overcome by nervousness, could get no further than "Madame." Three times he repeated this, followed by an interminable pause, during which everyone present went through torture. As for Madame de la Beydoyère, she completely lost her head and suddenly cried "Bravo"!!! at the top of her voice. But the climax was not yet reached. A moment later the Empress burst out crying. Stumbling down the steps and sobbing hysterically, her Majesty bowed to the wretched Archbishop and retired to her own apartment, followed by the entire Court.

Afterwards the Emperor pointed out to her that a few words from her would have put the Archbishop at his ease. But the poor Empress protested that she had prepared nothing but a little speech thanking him for his touching and eloquent words!

One thing the Empress thoroughly enjoyed was a day in the country, and the dullest person could not fail to be amused at the account of the ascent of La Rune. The party numbered about fifty. Apparently Her Majesty's appreciation was not

* By Princess Pauline Metternich. Nash & Grayson: London.

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