

friends to your table and to your fireside. The better fare you can give them justly, the pleasanter for you and for them; but, above all, a warm welcome to whatever you can command! And, here again, let me say, a cheerful fire is a welcome in itself. All sentiment apart, life becomes more easy when cheerfulness and order have sway.

MRS. S. W. OAKLEY.

The Maternity Society.

THE Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, in Twenty-ninth street, just out of Fifth avenue, hides itself behind its trees, and flowers, and fountain, until it seems smaller than it really is; until, in fact, we hardly wonder that, in spite of its capacious aisles, it should be known as the Little Church Around the Corner. It is a church with a pastor who delights in parish work, and it is a pleasure to be able to say that this parish work is well planned, and that its results are brought about more by time and brain than by the mere lavish and indiscriminate expenditure of money to which, alas! so much of our charity is confined.

Among the many societies of this church, is one originated by it and deserving description here. Already has it been imitated in St. Louis, and it needs only to be more widely known to be more generally emulated. It was the result of a feeling on the part of certain ladies of the parish that in the life of every mother there was a time when she needed all the help, and care, and sympathy possible, and that in many a case, when this trying time came, the poor woman was without care or help of any kind, without medical attendance, without clothing for her infant, and even at times without food for herself. To send needed clothing and supplies before their presence is called for; to render proper medical aid; to give the services of a skillful nurse; to provide for pressing temporal wants; to care for the body and comfort the mind—these are among the objects of the Maternity Society. It is now over two years old, and it is beginning to get more and better known among the class it seeks to benefit. With the experience gradually acquired has come a knowledge of further utility. One year after its organization, the society saw the need of a regular nurse and visitor, and for this purpose it found an excellent

woman, kind, intelligent, patient, and not too well educated to make those among whom she had to work think her in any way above them. Fitting rooms were at the same time engaged as apartments for the nurse, as head-quarters for the society, and as a store-house of supplies. Here are kept baskets containing such articles of clothing as may be needed by a new-born infant. These articles are merely lent to the patient, and must be returned in good condition, although when needed, as is generally the case, they are allowed to be kept.

Perhaps an idea of the work of the Maternity Society cannot be better given than in the brief and eloquent words of its second annual report, which will, doubtless, be sent to any one who may desire to borrow the methods of the society, on application to the secretary, care of the Church of the Transfiguration, No. 1 East Twenty-ninth street, New York City. The report requests permission "to describe in few words the details of our work. Applicants for relief are requested, if circumstances permit, to come to the Mission Rooms, No. 3 Pacific place, West Twenty-ninth street, on Wednesday mornings, when the executive committee meet for work. If the case is approved, Sister Rebecca at once visits the woman, places her in charge of one of our physicians, supplies (through the gifts of individual members of the society) her most urgent needs until confinement; cares for and nurses her at that time, visiting and remaining with her when needed, giving food for the mother and clothes for the baby, lending, and sometimes giving, clothes for the mother also. At the proper time, both the ladies of the visiting committee and the Sister urge the baptism of the little one, either in our own church or that of its parents. And in all cases where there seems to be hope of lasting good, the mother is drawn to join the sewing society, the children are cared for,—the whole family, in short, is brought under the influence of kindly sympathy, and taught lessons of self-help and self-respect.

"The growth of the work during the past year can best be told in the following figures: In 1876, 18 patients, 10 baptisms in our communion, 63 garments given away; employment given to poor women amounting to \$73.20. In 1877, 58 patients, 24 baptisms in our communion, 1,200 garments given away; employment given to poor women amounting to \$111.98."

J. B. M.

CULTURE AND PROGRESS.

Eggleston's "Roxy."*

It is not as a mirror of life and manners in the West that Dr. Eggleston's story is of most value, though we cannot conceive of a time to come when it will not be indispensable to a just estimate of the times and people with which it deals. The body

and spirit of the Indiana village are reflected with such skill and with so little admixture of the accidental, that the story is still broadly representative of the slow-changing river-towns of that state. But it is not this feature that gives the book its highest value, since this presentation requires only sympathetic observation and a good memory,—qualities neither rare nor great. That Dr. Eggleston has

* New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

Richly as the Institute is endowed, it offers only one prize, a sum of twenty-five dollars annually, for proficiency in chemistry, and it makes no provision for boarding its students, except in keeping a list of desirable houses for their consultation. The catalogue mentions eight dollars a week as being about the average cost of board, but it is not easy to be specific in writing upon this matter without misleading, as much depends on the resources of a student and his previous habits of life. It appears to us that eight dollars may be said to be the maximum, rather than the average. For that sum he should be able to obtain a well-furnished single room and a liberal table, while numerous comfortable boarding-houses are open to him at six or seven dollars, and others at a still smaller sum. If his means are small, he may be able to find accommodations for five dollars a week, and by clubbing with other students in circumstances similar to his own—perhaps renting one of the small cottage houses that abound in Hoboken, furnishing it frugally and catering personally (a somewhat dubious but an interesting experiment), he may teach the world undreamed-of domestic economies.

A graduate is not likely to wait long for employment at any time, and in a favorable season he is pretty sure to find an opening as soon as he leaves the Institute. His salary as a beginner may not be large, but it will probably be sufficient to support him. The profession is not overcrowded; it is dignified and lucrative; and in an age of iron and steam, of wonderful engineering accomplishments and potentialities, an alumnus of the Institute need never despair of securing an ample livelihood, and obtaining a good position in society as he matures. Of the students recently graduated, one is now engaged in a steam-heating and ventilating establishment; another has a position on the Michigan Southern Railway; another is employed as instructor in the Institute; another as a consulting engineer; another in the Midvale Steel Works; another as assistant-editor of a technical publication; another in the Franklin Paper Mills; another in the engineer corps of the United States navy; another in the car-shops of the Pennsylvania Railway; another in a manufactory of brick machinery; another as professor of engineering at Yeddo, Japan; another as a patent lawyer; another at ship-building works in St. Petersburg, Russia, and another on a survey and exploration of the western territories. These, in brief, indicate the variety of positions to which a graduate is eligible.

WILLIAM H. RIDEING.

Note.—The Maternity Society.

IN the December number of this magazine, mention was made of the Maternity Society of the Church of the Transfiguration of this city, and some explanation was given of the aims and motives of this most worthy organization. The third annual report of the society has recently been issued, and in it the secretary, referring to the notice of the association in these pages, says: "We are indebted to SCRIBNER'S for making our work known in different parts of the

country: letters have been received from western and northern cities, and from Manchester, asking for more information on the subject that similar societies might be established on our plan." In all cases this information has been cheerfully given; and any one who may desire to have further knowledge of the workings of this novel, useful and self-respecting charity, or who may be glad to read the annual report giving particulars of its work, has but to apply to the Secretary of the Maternity Society, Church of the Transfiguration, No. 1 East 29th street, New York.

A Design for a Fire-place.

An English gentleman, who seems not to be aware of the extent to which fire-places are in use in this country, sends us the following description of a fire-place (shown in the cut), for which he claims unusual advantages. The use of fire-brick in making ornamental tiles is, we believe, entirely new. He says:

I SEE by your pages that the open fire, which is all but universal in Britain, is strongly recommended for adoption in the States. It is of some importance that a good form or pattern of fire-place should be introduced, otherwise the experience may be so unsatisfactory as to prejudice the users against open fires altogether. There is no question that many fire-places in England are as ill adapted for their purpose as fire-places can be, and that many of them afford the minimum of heat for a given expenditure of coal. I venture to send you a drawing and description of a fire-place, which is, in my experience, unsurpassed for radiation of heat and perfect combustion of coal, and which has also proved itself a remedy for a smoky chimney.

The first thing to note is that there as little iron as possible is made use of. There is a bottom grate and front bars only; the combination is here called "Leamington bars"; but there are two points to be studiously attended to in these; first, the front bars must be beveled inward on the opposite side; second, the bottom grate must be set below the level of the lowest bar from a half to three-quarters of an inch. Unless these points be observed the coal will fall out and litter the hearth, and the action of the grate be imperfect.

The next thing to note is that the jambs or cheeks of the fire-place are set at an angle of 45° from the wall face, so as to form a right angle where they meet. Thus, if the width of the opening be three feet, the depth of the triangle will be eighteen inches. The depth may be increased a little without much detriment, but if it be diminished so as to make the angle at the apex greater than 90°, the fire will lose its power, in proportion to the increase of the angle. These jambs may be built of fire-brick, but for appearance I have had blocks made to form the side and back of the fire-chamber, and tiles 6×6×2, of glazed fire-clay (salt glazed) for the jambs; and again, for superior work, painted or majolica tiles are used at the front part of the jambs. All these details are shown on the drawing, but I draw attention to them in order to indicate what is essential and what merely accidental.