

"I'll do my best, Davy. Whatever should we have done without you, I wonder?"

"Gone into a family mansion, and been robbed and ruined before quarter-day. Now mind, Miss Nell, you don't keep putting up this and that and the other, because a small house *can't* hold more than it can: mind that; and expect the vans at six o'clock on Monday morning."

Without another word Davy marched away, leaving the girls astonished at his energy and decision.

"I have heard lots about house-hunting," Doris said, "and I remember when we came down here, it was months before everything was settled. How Davy is to find us a house fit for immediate occupation in five days is a puzzle to me."

"And to me also. But I suppose he has some place in his eye. He knows London so well, and is

used to business. We must commence to pack up at once, Doris; we have not a moment to spare, there is so much to be done. It certainly was a 'happy thought,' my writing for dear old Davy Dunderdale."

Davy meanwhile was hurrying towards the railway station, grumbling and growling to himself in no measured terms. "A pretty old fool I am, to be sure!" he cried, pausing, and banging his stick viciously against a stone. "A meddling silly old blockhead to bother myself about other people's business, to turn out of house and home, and go into apartments to be robbed and pillaged in my old age, and for people, too, who think they're going to have a family mansion, and won't thank me for my match-box of a place. A rare old fool you are, sure-ly, Davy Dunderdale, and if you weren't an annuitant, I'd say—You were going to die."

END OF CHAPTER THE THIRD.

PROFITABLE EMPLOYMENT FOR GENTLEWOMEN.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.



Y heart will be gladdened if by the means of my pen I can give counsel and afford practical help to any among the vast number of gentlewomen who are compelled by adverse circumstances to earn their own living. I have a full and ready sympathy with all those who strive to stand alone unaided by charity, and who feel miserable at the idea of their

work being bought and paid for from a mere sense of pity. It is now just twenty years since I was left penniless, and it may be some encouragement to others in like strait to hear that during this length of years I have always been able to pay my own way. A sturdy and inflexible feeling of independence rules me with a rod of iron, and forbids me to accept help (as long as I have health) from relations or friends, whether offered from motives of love or of pity.

I was not educated with a view to earning my living. I had been taught music very indifferently; drawing and painting had been omitted from the list of my accomplishments; the only language with which I was then acquainted was French; my needle was too clumsy an one to sew finely or to embroider.

How, then, have I managed to gain enough for my needs?

In reviewing these years, as I am now led to do, it seems to me that I succeeded in my efforts owing entirely to these resolutions, which have accompanied me throughout:—I only undertook to do the kinds of work which I felt that I could conscientiously accomplish satisfactorily. Whatever work I did undertake, in it I threw all my interest, on it I concentrated all my thoughts, and to it I applied all my energies. My aim and object was to be *thorough*. Also, I steadily pushed aside all those words and phrases which rose up in my mind like ogres, endeavouring to daunt me, or were uttered by people around me, who from a sense of mistaken kindness tried to create a spirit of false pride—such words as "derogatory," "beneath you," "wretched payment," &c.—and I ordered my mind to fix itself resolutely on the fact that however mean or small any employment may look when we first face it, we can ennoble it if we will, but it cannot degrade us. Circumstances never obliged me to do what is termed menial work, but I had many ups and downs and fluctuations of fortune in the higher fields of labour. Had I been blessed with any special talent, I could much more easily have secured an assured income; as it is, I have always to be satisfied with a particularly modest competency, and as even that is not a certainty, I have often to recall to mind the old saying, "Bread is promised and water is sure."

I do not propose to give you full details of the ups and the downs. Sometimes—on rare occasions, when the sun of prosperity shone very brightly—I could wear a silk gown, and at the same time put a little money aside for the "rainy day." Sometimes, when the sky was cloudy, I appeared in cotton dresses manipulated by my own incompetent hands. For a stretch of months at a time I have breakfasted off dry bread and

sugarless coffee in a fireless room. But I have also been able to grasp many pleasures, to see other countries, and enjoy delights felt only in their supreme intensity by those who have to provide the rarity for themselves.

My employments have been very various. I have invariably found when one thing was finished there was another ready for me to take up. First of all I undertook to teach some little boys. With the help of average intelligence, a steady determination to make the groundwork firm and perfect, and a daily desire and exertion to create an interest for their lessons in the minds of the lads, I succeeded in my untried post, and thus kept it as long as the post was there. Then, when it was known I was at liberty, I had other similar posts offered to me, and in this way a few years passed on.

Afterwards I spent some time with an old lady, who was exceedingly prim, precise, and sedate. Shut up week after week in a large silent house with stately ways and stiff ceremonies, my life was necessarily dull and solitary, and people said, "How can you bear it?" This separation from the outward world gave me an opportunity for practising my pen in leisure hours. I have spoken of the necessity for energy and concentration of thought, and the essential need for a vivid interest being felt in every undertaking, whatever it may be; but with the possession of all these at high-pressure point, one must be fully prepared for perpetual disappointments, nay, even for total annihilation of the hope of success in authorship.

To run hastily along the line of my life, I accompanied a young lady whose delicate health obliged her parents to send her abroad; I read English to, and wrote Latin for, a blind scholar while he was in need of that help; I took charge of a family of little children; I knitted and netted; I undertook a responsible post in a charitable institution for a term of years. Thus, in one way and another, accompanied by much actual enjoyment in the work, and real interest felt in each of my varied employments, I have, as yet, succeeded in accomplishing my endeavour to be free from debt and to be independent of charity in any form or shape.

All this recital I greatly fear may seem to be proud boasting, but truly it is not for this purpose that I relate my doings. Those who know me personally do not know the full details of my scrambles, and you to whom I tell them do not know who I am.

I am moved to speak of them thus publicly for this sole purpose—because I constantly meet with gentlewomen who tell me that they are striving ineffectually to maintain themselves. I as constantly meet with people in the middle and upper ranks of life who complain that they cannot find efficient workers when they require them. I also often come across, and hear of, women bread-winners who cannot get through the amount of work pressed on them: if they are what is termed "useful" they are continually wanted in half a dozen places at once; if they are competent in the higher arts, their pencils cannot design, their brush cannot delineate; their pens cannot translate; their fingers

cannot engrave with sufficient rapidity to supply the demand for their work. How does all this come to pass—work sorely wanted, workers greatly needed? I think the solution of the problem will be found to lie in this:—Women who find constant employment are those who can do at least one thing perfectly, whose work is real and thorough. A lady of high degree who takes a large interest in this subject said to me a few months ago, in reference to a gentlewoman who was relinquishing a post, "There are so few women who are *thorough* in their work that we cannot afford to lose one such when we get hold of her." I believe that word "thorough" is the key-note to success in all undertakings. "The force of merit makes its way," says Shakespeare; and this axiom always proves itself true. I wish to press home with all the power I possess that thorough work will invariably command its value. I do not wish to sermonise, but I press the point for this reason—that repeatedly during the last dozen years I have heard this averred by those who have employed women of all grades in different ways: that women are not willing to serve an apprenticeship; that whereas men have to learn for years to overcome difficulties and make themselves masters of their craft and art, the majority of women will not apply themselves to diligent patient study or practice, but try to realise an income by the aid of imperfect knowledge and work, and quickly grow disheartened if they encounter impediments or obstacles to immediate success.

Another class of women who find constant employment are those who are pliable—who will adapt and bend themselves to do the work put before them, even if it is not quite to their taste. Women workers can rarely be choosers; if they possess some special talent there is certainly more chance of their being able to pick and choose. According to my idea it is better to try and earn sixpence if one has not the opportunity of earning a shilling, but I constantly find gentlewomen standing in their own light by standing on their dignity.

It is not a month ago since a gentlewoman, highly educated, a good linguist, and competent to teach what are termed the higher branches of education, came to me and besought me with tears in her eyes to help her to find employment. I knew from her introduction that she was a strictly honourable woman. I asked a friend to give a helping hand. She did not just at the moment know of any one wanting an instructress, but she asked if the lady could use her needle, and on hearing that she could employ it in a certain class of work, my friend offered to buy the necessary materials, and pay for some needlework to be done for a bazaar to which she wished to contribute. The (to my mind misguided) gentlewoman declined the offer, saying that her gifts were of the mental order, that other kinds of work were distasteful to her, and she thought it would not be worth her while to do it. I could relate other instances of this mistaken rigidity of purpose were it necessary to do so, but the one serves as a sample.

I have only made general remarks in this paper, because I am speaking on the subject in the widest and

broadest manner, but my aim and object is to be definitely helpful, and of practical use in the future.

For this purpose I propose from month to month to give information respecting the various remunerative employments open to gentlewomen.

In some respects the members of my sex resemble sheep. One woman makes an antimacassar or some such comparatively useless article, and immediately a whole flock of her fellows proceed to follow in her footsteps, regardless of the fact that although there may be a ready sale for six, or even perhaps for sixty articles of that description, there will not be a demand for six hundred, or six hundred thousand! It is, I am

fully aware, a somewhat difficult matter to ascertain what is really marketable, and to discover the new fields of labour, but this I shall endeavour to point out.

There are some paths long trodden by women which will always, we presume, remain in their possession—paths of usefulness in house and home; but the ornamental grounds are constantly varying, and are subject to the perpetual caprice of fashion. New modes, new styles, new ideas spring up suddenly, are greatly in vogue, and then decline, fall into disuse, and die out entirely. Thus, one has ever to be on the alert, and ready to seize each opportunity that occurs by the help of which we can keep ourselves afloat.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS, AND HOW TO MAKE THEM.



WE are often compelled to forego the luxury of present-giving, because we find there is a limit to our means. But "where there's a will there's a way," and where time represents no money value, women can make most acceptable gifts at little expense. It occurs to me that, with Christmas before us, I may offer some useful

hints on this score. To begin with a thought for the poor folk we have always at our gates. We may materially help them in their struggles for subsistence, even with trifles which are of little moment to ourselves. A warm counterpane, for example, can be contrived of strips of any woollen stuffs half an inch wide, stitched in lengths, and knitted twelve stitches deep on coarse wooden pins, subsequently sewn together. Or sheets of newspaper tacked together, and laid between a double layer of unbleached calico, will keep a sleeper warm through the most frosty night.

A houseful of children may be amused, and at the same time healthfully employed, in assisting in the manufacture of presents for the poor. A pillow stuffed with old writing-paper torn into infinitesimal pieces would be a boon to an old or sick person, especially if it has a loose cover to be removed and washed. Children could tear up the paper better than grown-up folk. Where there is any infectious complaint a pillow of this kind is burnt without any serious loss. Old clothes, likely to be of better materials than the poor can afford to buy themselves, if thoroughly mended before given, are priceless treasures; but time is money to a hard-worked mother of a family, and mending and renovating comes hard upon her. Keep your eyes about you next time you go to a village church, and note the form of the old dames' bonnets. Buy a shape as near it as you can, and try your hand at covering it with pieces of silk, add a curtain and strings, and if you give it away, and do not give

infinite satisfaction too, you will be less lucky than I was under similar circumstances.

The shops assist the charitable at Christmas in many ways, and a charity bundle of flannel and calico, at a low price, may be turned to wonderful account. It takes four yards of flannel for a shirt, two for an under-vest, three for a woman's petticoat, and the odd pieces will make capes, jackets, aprons, and cloaks. I need not describe how to make these, but I have an easy plan for chemises. I take the width of the calico and twice the length of the garment; double it, join the sides together, cut the upper part to shape for neck and sleeves, adding gussets to the under-sleeves, and the work is done.

Drapers' cuttings and list are a mine of wealth. For waistcoats, cut the shape in unbleached calico, which may cost 2d., and cover with the pieces herring-boned down. Cradle quilts, children's petticoats and bodices, can be done after the same fashion, and mats be made by sewing list when plaited in a three plait on a circular foundation. Keep any odd length of wool, knot it together and crochet it up into muffetees, collarettes, &c., or knit the foundation of twine, and use the wool for loops knitted in with the twine, by passing it round the finger; and a number of delightfully warm articles may be produced, such as caps, slippers, muffs, &c.

If you are a knitter, innumerable are the presents you can make. Space forbids me to give receipts, but you will find them in the many cheap handy volumes continually published. These will teach you how to knit vests, shooting stockings, cardigans, knee-caps, leggings, gaiters, cricketering and smoking caps, infants' boots and socks, bassinette quilts, and much besides which will be gratefully received by many friends, masculine and feminine, whom you desire to please at Christmas time. If, however, you want something quite new for head-dresses on leaving the theatre, caps for children, cuffs, infants' boots, &c., let me recommend to you the new knitting arrasene, stronger than the embroidery kind, sold in wool and silk, which are charmingly light and pretty-looking.

If you wish to make a boy thoroughly happy, let him appear as Robinson Crusoe in knickerbockers and paletot and cap of fur, with robins sewn about it, a parrot perched on the shoulder, a belt round the waist, carrying a fowling-piece, pistols, hatchet, and



BARRISTER.

umbrella; and a little friend to accompany him as Man Friday with blacked face and hands and feet, wearing a striped shirt and trousers. Lalla Rookh and other Eastern dresses suit dark girls well. If I describe Lalla Rookh I shall be describing the ordinary run of Oriental dresses. She has full red silk trousers to the ankle, a short petticoat to match, a green satin overdress with open sleeves trimmed with gold, a pink satin bodice over a gold-spangled chemisette. A few illustrations will make this paper of more practical use; they are as follows:—

No. 1. *Jill*.—In a flowered cotton frock and petticoat; soft silk kerchief, knotted at the throat. The large brim of the bonnet should be lined with a colour becoming to the wearer.

No. 2. *French Dress about 1787*.—Pale blue and yellow striped silk coat; yellow satin breeches; long blue waistcoat, fastening to the waist, then opening to disclose a blue under-vest trimmed with gold braid. Chain and seals hanging at the side. Large lace jabot in front, and lace ruffles at the wrists. White wig; tricornered black hat; gold-headed cane.

No. 3. *Lady of the Twelfth Century*.—Dark woollen dress, with three-inch border of contrasting colour; the long sleeves match the border, likewise the pointed

fichu in front. Velvet collar. The pointed head-dress is white and gold; the veil is white; a velvet band borders the edge, and lace frills fall on the hair. Gold ornaments, pointed shoes.

No. 4. *Fishwife*.—Woollen dress, either dark blue or dark terra-cotta red; soft silk pink kerchief for the head. Stockings striped to match dress.

No. 5. *Forester*.—Dark woollen tights, hood, and hose. Boots, belt, jacket, and gauntlets of soft leather. Felt hat; staff in hand.

No. 6. *Page*.—Tights and vest joined by ribbons, and showing a soft shirt at the neck, waist, and wrists. Hanging sleeves lined with a contrasting colour falling over close ones. Long hair and round hat.

No. 7. *Moorish Servant*.—Striped silk trousers; embroidered satin jacket; Oriental scarf round hips; soft muslin turban. The hands and face should be stained.

No. 8. *Barrister*.—Black gown, either in black lustre or rich corded silk; scarf in either black or crimson silk; wig; brief in hand.

No. 9. *Dutch Woman*.—Short-waisted dress, with square velvet-trimmed bodice; gauntlet sleeves with a puff of cambric at the elbow; elaborately gathered chemisette; lawn apron with handsome lace border.

In fancy costumes everything depends on brightness of colour, freshness, and suitability. Nervous children should not be put into dresses which are associated with a marked bearing or the quiet self-possession of a woman of the world; they can hardly help looking well whatever they wear, so let them have all the enjoyment they can.



DUTCH WOMAN.

PROFITABLE EMPLOYMENTS FOR GENTLEWOMEN.



HERE are certain things which people *must* have, and there are other things which people *will* have. Articles of clothing they must have; ornaments of various descriptions the majority of people will have. It comes within the province of gentlewomen to supply both these demands, not altogether in full, but if they will it so, certainly in the greater part. You may remember that when we last discussed the subject, I asserted that work well done would always find a customer; my further numerous inquiries

leave me still impressed with the same belief; there is but one proviso, that the work does not exhibit a fashion which is decidedly on the wane, or altogether obsolete.

With regard to the first and really the most important of the two classes above named: it is now midwinter, and the chief demand is for articles of warm clothing, for the kinds made by crochet and knitting needles. There is a constant sale for petticoats of all sizes, for vests, bodices, cardigans, veils, hoods, shawls, for socks and stockings of every size, whether for every-day wear or for shooting, fishing, and football purposes. The principal new additions made to these ordinary articles, long in usual demand, are knitted gloves; for these the knitter

ordinarily receives eleven shillings per dozen pairs, when employed by a shopkeeper and provided with wool by him. Secondly, sleeping-gowns, which are knitted loosely with thin wool: these are now extensively recommended by the medical faculty for the use of children, invalids, and elderly people, as being more porous, and consequently less heating, than flannel. The price of these to the purchaser is from five to ten shillings, according to size. The third and latest idea is that of knitted hoods for gentlemen, to be worn when travelling by sea or on a night railway journey. Their appearance is that of a ribbed sock, the foot of which has stopped short a little distance past the heel; the stitches are there cast off singly, without being taken together. The sock is pulled over the head and neck of the wearer, the back of the head fits into the heel, and the face appears through the aperture left where the half of the foot ends. The price of these articles varies according to the quality of the wool used.

It may seem trivial and an unimportant matter to discuss here any details connected with this department of work; but my aim is to be helpful, and to be that one must be practical, and therefore it is essential that we bring common sense and intelligence of action with us into this, as into every field of labour into which we enter. Our object is to find a ready and a steady sale for our products; so to please and satisfy the purchaser that he or she will not decry and not regret their investments, but will wish to buy again, and will, moreover, recommend the wares to others. If you will examine the heaps of things remaining unsold at the depôts for the sale of ladies' work, you will see the chief reason why so very many remain unsold—they are unsatisfactory or comparatively useless.

Let me descend to particulars, and give hints which are, I am certain, worthy of attention.

Crochet is much more rapid and an easier method than knitting; it is for this reason, I suppose, that such numbers of articles of clothing are crocheted—petticoats and shawls, jackets, vests, hoods, gaiters and boots for babies, all of which present a pretty and attractive appearance, but are only bought by the inexperienced buyer.

The thrifty woman eschews crocheted garments for herself and her children, for she knows that the beauty, and to a great extent the utility of such, disappear in the wash-tub, whilst knitted garments can be washed many a time and oft, without perceptible deterioration, and also will wear for a much longer period. A word, too, with respect to shawls, for which there is always a large demand at this season, for the use of invalids, infants, and busy housewives. Rapidity of production appears to be the chief aim of the producers, rather than comfort and use for the purchaser. The greater number of shawls which are hand-made, whether knitted or crocheted, are considered useless by invalids, because the large apertures let cold air pass through them; they are considered undesirable for infants, because their tiny hands are perpetually entangled in the wide-meshed web, which entangle-

ment vexes the infants, and causes many a scream and roar. And this same hastily manufactured shawl is disliked by the busy woman, because in her rapid flittings to and fro she is continually retarded and brought to a sudden standstill by door-handles, knobs, keys, and pegs falling through the said large holes, which make the open gaps yet larger. Shawls woven by machinery, and indeed all the articles mentioned in the list, so manufactured, are largely bought; but hand-made shawls and other garments, when sensibly made, will always meet with the preference, for the reasons that they are found to be considerably warmer, are lighter in weight in comparison to the warmth, and will wash very much more satisfactorily.

Before leaving this department I may as well mention that knitting consumes less wool than crochet, so that the first outlay for the workers is less, and also that the former commands a higher price than the latter.

Kendal is the place most famed for the superiority of its wool, and any kind, in any quantity, can be obtained from Waddington and Co., Duckett Mills, in that town.

The possession of a knitting machine might prove a source of income, and would doubtless do so if arrangements were made to supply some large buyer of this class of goods. Their cost ranges from ten to thirty guineas; the advantages gained by the greater cost are that these machines are adapted for any thickness of yarn or silks, and also possess the capabilities for making any size of stocking and other garments. The latest invention is that which knits stockings and other garments in round form—the earlier inventions knitted in flat form only, and required the stockings to be sewed afterwards. The machine patented by Harrison and Co., of Portland Street, Manchester, completes a pair of stockings in an hour, and a pair of socks in half that time. For the actual work of knitting the usual charge is one shilling per pair for ladies' stockings, fifteenpence for gentlemen's stockings, and fourpence per pair for re-footing. My own experience, which however has not been very wide as yet, leads me to place stockings so made, in front of those woven, but not on an equality with those knitted by hand. With respect to the different kinds of fancy work just now in fashion, the chief of them are the following:—

Russian Embroidery, particularly suited for all articles which require to be washed often, such as cloths for the tea-table, slips for sideboard, toilet-covers and towels. The work is small cross-stitch, worked with red or blue ingrained cotton, or with a combination of both, on the outline of the pattern into which the linen may have been woven.

Aviary-work is effective: representations of birds are painted on sateen, the pictures are cut out medallion form, and fastened by means of braid or embroidery on fine marcella for toilet-table garniture.

Trellis-work is a fashionable method for white chair-backs, as antimacassars are now named. A border is worked at one end only, but much work is put there; the ground is covered with a cobweb of small stitches

dotted over the surface in silk of one colour, and the actual pattern is of a running, trailing character, the flowers of which are worked in crewel-stitch, and the leaves in outline, all with the same-coloured silk as the cobweb.

Several other kinds of fashionable needlework I must defer mentioning until next month.

Your natural inquiry will be, "How and where are we to dispose of our work?" You will readily see that lists of addresses could not be given in a paper of this kind, but general help can be afforded to all who seek for information.

In London and in many of our large towns, there are shops opened for the sale of, and supplied entirely with, ladies' work. The Gentlewomen's Self-Help Institute, 15, Baker Street, Portman Square, has been in existence for some years. Any lady who wishes to offer work for sale is required first to make a statement showing that she is a necessitous gentlewoman, and then she has to procure a nomination from a subscriber of a guinea to the institute. Each lady puts a price on her own work, and when it is sold the whole amount is given to her. This plan is adopted at most of the depôts of this kind.

The "Ladies' Aid Society" is organised with the sole view of giving opportunities to gentlewomen to help themselves. A list of the ladies through whom an introduction can be obtained may be seen at 208, Piccadilly, London, W. I shall give further details next month as to the various ways of disposing of work in London and the country.

As yet I have only mentioned work which is done by needles; we will now turn to consider other employments.

The demand for Christmas, New Year, Easter, and birthday cards and valentines is still very great, and seems to be on the increase; on the other hand, those who try to supply the demand increase in number, and this field is very crowded with competitors. Originality of design, or taste and skill in execution of one which may not be particularly clever, are the chief aims on which to raise hopes of success. It should be remembered that the firms who publish these cards make their preparations many months before the Christmas season, and therefore designs for special seasons should be offered many months in advance. The firm of Hildesheimer and Faulkner, 41, Jewin Street, E.C., will receive designs or rough sketches of such at any time during the year. They prefer that artists should put a price on the designs sent to them. A few years ago the verses printed on cards of this class was not of very high order, and the poetry of unknown poets and poetesses appeared; but now the majority of card publishers affix the name of the writer, and consequently those of unknown fame have little chance of their poetical compositions being accepted.

For artists who ascend to the higher branches there are each year more opportunities for showing their pictures. Every year there are fine art exhibitions opened in different towns in the provinces. The best

way to ascertain where and when these will be held is to get the "Artistic Almanac," published by George Rowney and Co., 52, Rathbone Place, and 29, Oxford Street, W. This helpful little book mentions the towns and the probable dates, also gives the dates when London exhibitions open their doors.

As the season for this is drawing on apace, when artists wishful to exhibit must make preparations, I will give a short summary of the galleries open to them in London. In each case it is necessary for the would-be exhibitor to write to the secretary, and ascertain the precise date when pictures are to be sent on approbation; particular and strict observance has to be given to the rules laid down with regard to time.

The Society of Lady Artists, 48, Great Marlborough Street, Regent Street. Amateur artists wishing to exhibit are required to pay for the permission.

The Society of British Artists, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall East. No work previously exhibited in London, and no copy, is admitted. A rule has lately been made that no picture of less value than £5 will be accepted. A commission of ten per cent. is charged on pictures sold at this gallery.

Royal Albert Hall, South Kensington. Artists are not restricted as to numbers, but their works have to be submitted to a committee of selection. Copies are not admissible. Pictures when sold may be removed in three months' time. Seven and a half per cent. is charged for commission.

The Institute of Painters in Water-Colours, 53, Pall Mall, S.W. This gallery is newly built, and will be open this year to the works of all artists, subject to selection.

The Dudley Gallery, in which heretofore so many ladies have exhibited their pictures, is not to be opened this year. Last spring, within the first fortnight, fifty pictures painted by lady artists were sold: this fact, and its well-known name, seem to make it a matter of regret that its doors are closed.

Of course there is no certainty of selling pictures at any of these exhibitions, but the opportunity is given and the chance is afforded of so doing. A gentlewoman of my acquaintance with no special talent, no advantages of instruction in early life, who exhibits no originality of design, and has no interest in the artist world, has realised between two and three hundred pounds during the last ten years, by exhibiting in the London and provincial galleries. This sum cannot be reckoned to be a yearly competency, its value was that it served to help a small regular income; but I cite this instance to show that ordinary mediocre talents can be made to pay if real, thorough, honest, painstaking work accompany them. The instructions given at schools of art include every style and branch in which pencil and brush may be used. These schools are to be found in almost every large town, and off-shoots of them in many of the smaller towns. The charge for instruction is exceedingly small, and there are classes arranged for day and evening hours, so that every one has the chance of attending them.

REMUNERATIVE EMPLOYMENTS FOR GENTLEWOMEN.

HOW SHALL WE DISPOSE OF OUR WORK? BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.



Y I WILL now speak more fully upon the subject of depôts which have been opened for the disposal of work done by gentlewomen.

These Self-Help Institutions, or Aid Societies, need not be regarded by sensitive spirits as charitable institutions. They are doors set open for the express purpose of giving ladies of limited means, and those

who are entirely dependent upon their own exertions, an opportunity to earn their own livelihood—to help them, in fact, to be independent of charitable gifts. The object for which the depôts were set on foot is to enable gentlewomen who are thus silently struggling, to sell their work with a fair share of profit, one which will give them a chance of subsistence, and at the same time to do so without publicity. There can be no doubt that these depôts might prove an immense boon to all of us whom necessity compels to “fend for ourselves,” as the North Country folk say. Whether there is custom sufficient to enable the managers to keep open these doors depends mainly, if not entirely, upon us who supply these stores with their contents. I am speaking from knowledge when I say that there is a large class of ladies who would gladly give their custom if they found that satisfactory work was to be obtained. Numbers give a trial and, finding badly-cut garments or inferior sewing, they do not go a second time.

A friend of mine, who can afford to buy expensive and pretty things for her children, bought, a few weeks ago, a dress made by a gentlewoman for a child of two years old. The material, the crewel embroidery, and the style were suitable for a girl of that age, but on taking it home she found that in all respects in size it was only suitable for a baby of about six months old. There would never be a demand for a flounced, crewel-embroidered dress for an infant, would there?

You will think that I am a determined fault-finder if I relate another instance, but this reiteration on this subject arises from my earnest wish that these depôts should continue to hold their doors open to us.

A lady who was not aware of my interest in this matter was bemoaning to me but a month ago the inferiority of the work generally sent to these depôts. She told me that a short time before the Lady Manager of a depôt sent a box full of things to a lady living in a large town who was wishful to help the efforts of gentlewomen. My acquaintance happened to be calling when the box arrived, and she offered to find customers, but when the two unpacked the box both were dismayed, and both felt that they

could only dispose of any of the things by pressing people to buy them as a matter of actual charity: the useful things were badly sewed, and the other articles were useless and unsaleable. Here was an excellent opportunity lost. Had the work been well done, these two ladies would, my informant assured me, have sold most if not all of it, and would most probably have secured purchasers for the future; as it was, that opening was closed.

Can you wonder, when I hear so many of these instances told me without solicitation by people in different parts of the country, that I urge greater care and attention being paid to work of all kinds by the majority of would-be earners, and that I draw attention to the fact that the ladies who set on foot and who superintend these depôts are really powerless to make these excellent schemes answer—their success or failure rests with those who supply the contents? I must not be supposed to make a sweeping assertion as regards unsatisfactory work against every one who sends her work for disposal at these depôts. I know of some and hear of others who can always obtain orders, and find a sale for their work, it being thoroughly good of its kind, and therefore I have no hesitation in asking all my readers, when they have the opportunity, to go to these depôts and see if they can buy their requirements there before going elsewhere, and in this way encourage and help forward “Self-help.”

Before leaving this subject I would suggest to those who send work to the depôts that the chief demand is for useful articles and those of an artistic character. There is not much sale for “fancy work” articles when entirely complete; designs for such work and patterns commenced have more chance of finding customers. With respect to useful work, such as under-linen, and clothing of all kinds for children, good, well-fitting patterns are essential as well as neat sewing. From experience I can say that the patterns sold by Butterick and Co., 171, Regent Street, London, are very dependable, and the relative sizes are in exact proportion, which is a great advantage to those persons not skilled in the art of increasing or lessening the size of a pattern; if one garment requires to be larger than another, it does not follow that every part of that garment is to be cut larger, in equal proportions: one part here and another part there is enlarged, and as some of us have not learnt the secret it is well to own our ignorance in this particular, and to depend upon those who have the key; then we shall not waste material and time, and we shall not aggravate our customers by sleeves inches too long, or as many too short, or waists close under their armpits, or otherwise torture their children by tight, ill-fitting drawers and shirts.

Now let me mention some of the depôts in various parts of the United Kingdom. In all instances,

requests for information will be attended to by application to the Hon. Secretary.

In addition to those in London mentioned last month, there is one at 31, Sloane Street, S.W.; another at the Crystal Palace; an Association of the same kind may be heard of at St. Mark's Vicarage, Surbiton.

There is a "School of Technical Needlework and Dressmaking" at 15, Dorset Street, Baker Street, W. Lessons in ecclesiastical and other embroidery are given at that address, also class instructions in plain needlework and darning, the terms for which are a guinea for six lessons; the same sum is charged for six lessons in cutting out dresses. At this school free instruction is given in dressmaking to any young lady who will give her time for twelve months, with the option of remaining afterwards as a salaried worker.

There is a "Decorative Needlework Society," which is located at 45, Baker Street, W. This is not a *dépôt* to which work may be sent. It is a business in private hands; the work is done on the premises; lessons of an hour's length are given there, for which half-a-guinea is charged for instruction in church-work, and seven-and-sixpence for embroidery.

There is a "Society for Promoting the Employment of Women," 22, Berners Street, W. This association does not undertake the sale of work of any sort, nor does it offer much hope of assistance to women of middle age, or to those who wish to work in their own homes. Its main object is to help young women of all classes who wish to fit themselves to earn their living, and in this particular way it renders real and valuable service. It is the opinion of its managers that for those who wish to gain a livelihood two or three years' training is necessary in many branches of work, and as this application for so long a period without remuneration is in very many cases an insuperable obstacle to the attainment of their desire, this society in this way helps those who wish to help themselves, by procuring them instructions, and finding remunerative work afterwards.

A "Needlework Guild" has lately been formed in London. The object of this has been widely misunderstood by so very many people that it is well I should here explain it. In no way is this association intended to help necessitous gentlewomen. Its purpose is to induce women of all classes and ages, who have time and money at their disposal, to work for a definite object, and to send articles of clothing to the members of the guild for distribution amongst hospitals, homes, prisons, &c., in London.

There are *dépôts* and associations for the disposal of work done by gentlewomen at the following places:

Clifton, Bristol.—18, Regent Street.

Bath.—2, Edgar Street.

Reading.—3, Castle Street.

Brighton.—55, Waterloo Street.

Southport.—207, Lord Street.

St. Leonards-on-Sea.—60, Church Road.

Leeds.—9, Oxford Place.

Newcastle.—24, Market Street.

Exeter.—101, Queen Street.

Leamington.—The Parade.

Kingstown, Co. Dublin.—6, Marine Terrace.

Manchester.—16, King Street.

Liverpool.—83, Bold Street. In this town there is also a "Decorative Needlework Society," 16, Church Street, which has been formed to promote a high class of needlework similar in character to that produced at the School of Art, South Kensington. Classes for instruction in design and embroidery are held: the terms for six lessons in each are a guinea and twelve shillings and sixpence respectively.

Cardiff, South Wales.—16, Angel Street. Work of any description, whether done by brush or needle, can be placed for disposal. A commission is charged.

Bradford, Yorkshire.—Chester House, St. Paul's Road, an "Art Needlework Society." This is in private hands; the work, which is of high order and excellence, is executed on the premises, and therefore the mention of this is of use to those only who live in that neighbourhood.

Some ladies possessing ample private incomes sell their handiwork, and in this way realise considerable sums. I know many instances of this kind. There are ladies who have much leisure and have talents, and wish to employ both; they are not actuated by the love of gain, but the fact of being able to sell their productions is a proof of their excellence. Some of these ladies give all the money made in this way to charities of one sort or another.

I would suggest that gentlewomen who in this way work for pleasure, and do not need profit, should devote these profits to the benefit of others less favoured by fortune than themselves; that they should subscribe towards the expenses of rent until the *dépôts* become self-supporting, or to a fund for the payment of lessons or instruction to those who need help to set them afloat.

There are two kinds of fancy work now in fashion; one, which looks particularly rich and handsome, is that called *arrasene work*. Whether on canvas, satin, velvet, or plush, the effect is excellent. Arrasene is made of crewels; it is of the character and appearance of chenille; this comparatively new kind of thread is particularly effective for all floral designs, whether conventional or otherwise; it is also a work which shows great results in a short time. I would suggest to those who intend to work for sale that they spend their labour only on a certain class of things. Friction does not agree with arrasenes; there will soon cease to be a demand for chair-covers, cushions, chair-backs, or in fact anything the beauty of which will be soon rubbed away; but for curtains for either doors or windows, borders for brackets, work-stands, and mantelpieces, screens, frames for plaques, and small mirrors—for the ornamentation of these and numerous other small devices, arrasene work is likely to be in great request. From three to six shillings may be charged for the actual work bestowed on chair-backs and cushions.

I saw the other day a most beautiful design and execution in arrasene work; it was a standing screen

of light brick-red canvas; bricks were marked out in shaded arrasene; against this wall rose up a black-thorn in full bloom, reminding one of the line, "When the thorn is white with blossom;" perhaps my description does not picture loveliness, but the reality did set it forth undoubtedly. The idea was a novel one, and perfectly carried out.

I am now going to turn to a very different mode of earning money. I fully believe—a belief grounded on actual knowledge—that an income can be increased by keeping poultry. I throw out the idea of this remunerative employment as a hint worthy of attention, and it is proposed to deal with the subject in a separate paper.



PARTED.

WHEN down the dusky valleys
 The sun at eve shines low,
 And through the woodland alleys
 The wild deer dreamily go;
 My inmost spirit listens,
 Though vain the listening be,
 Knowing that in the distance
 Thou breath'st a prayer for me.
 When, wrapt in quiet sleeping,
 The dim white lands at morn
 Wait the first red ray creeping
 Athwart the golden corn;

From restless dreams awaking,
 A memory faint and fair,
 Flight through my bosom taking,
 Leaves subtle fragrance there.

Ah, love! and dost thou wonder
 That I should thus repine?
 That, parted so asunder,
 My every thought is thine?
 Upon my heart, deep-yearning,
 O love expected long!
 The thought of thy returning
 Falls like an old sweet song.

M. C. GILLINGTON.

Norman's handwriting, saying the picture had been shown to him as a curiosity in a furniture shop, and that as the portrait reminded him of what his looking-glass showed him, the thought struck him it would be amusing to carry out the likeness by continuing the old man's apparent occupation of hiding bank-notes. He added that he knew Miss Saxelby's faith in him, and did not doubt her penetration would discover the secret.

My aunt was overjoyed. She forgave me for tampering with the "Work of Art," although she said that she would have liked still to possess the picture, and

generously fulfilled her promise of giving me half her cousin's legacy. She was chiefly delighted, however, in being able to return to her good opinion of Cousin Norman; and she would never listen to impertinent suggestions as to the absurdity of such a mode of conveying a fortune, and the risk run of the treasure being lost altogether.

I think, however, that the "Work of Art" will never be a favourite subject of conversation with my aunt; while to me it has always been a proof that John Norman was scarcely worthy the affection cherished for him by Joan Saxelby.

REMUNERATIVE EMPLOYMENTS FOR GENTLEWOMEN.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.



IN my last paper I spoke more particularly of employments which could be pursued at home; to-day I will go further afield, and mention several branches of decorative art in which women may engage. Before speaking of each individual branch of work of this description, I would draw the special attention of those who desire to earn, by means of pencil or brush, to the Schools of Art which are now opened in most of our large towns. In them instruction can be obtained which will prove most valuable help, for it forms an excellent foundation for superstructures of all kinds; students of all ages are there taught the art of drawing in a thorough and systematic way, and are thus the better fitted to appreciate the instructions in the higher branches when they wish to follow them; therefore it is advisable to make use of these opportunities before taking lessons in special lines of decorative art. There is also the chance afforded of gaining employment. An acquaintance of mine, a young girl who was attending classes at the South Kensington School of Art, was asked, together with other of the students, to paint flowers on sunshades for a firm who intended to introduce that novelty in the approaching season. The payment offered was decidedly remunerative. At these schools the length of each term is three months. Classes are held twice a week, and are of two hours' duration; the fees vary in different towns, but are always very moderate. Two guineas a term, which seems to be the maximum, is a small fee, considering the number of times a student may attend.

I will now mention several branches of decorative art which are calculated to afford remunerative employment. It will be readily understood that it would be impossible to mention every place where special lessons can be obtained. It is said that the best of everything is to be had in London; be that as it may, there are in that big city great numbers of

gentlewomen striving to earn a competency; I therefore mention where instruction of known and tested worth is there to be obtained. Whether the money thus invested will in the future yield a fair percentage depends partly upon the ability of the student, and partly upon the amount of energy and of determination to be a proficient which is existent in the student's mind. The task is not always ended when a mastery of the art has been attained; but from all I gather from different sources, steady, persevering efforts *will be successful*, and the outlay of time and money *will be repaid*.

Wood-Carving.—The present fashion for houses built in "Queen Anne" style has created a considerable demand for carved cornices, panels, mantelpieces, and numerous other decorations in wood, which are placed in houses of this character. Hitherto the majority of orders for this work have been sent abroad, and most of these decorations have been brought over from the Continent, but there seems no reason why more wood-carving should not be done in England, and by the hands of women.

A school has been established with this view at the Royal Albert Hall, Kensington. Classes are held in a room in that building, where students receive instructions from an able master, an Italian. The fees charged are £2 a month, £5 a quarter. Students may pursue their work daily from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m., and they may take away for disposal work executed by themselves, when on materials provided by themselves. As to the time required for achieving a competent knowledge of wood-carving, much depends upon the ability and also upon the previous knowledge of drawing possessed by the student; in some instances three and six months' attendance at this school has sufficed.

I should be glad if, through this medium, the existence of this school could become more widely known. My wish to give it publicity arises not so much for the purpose of inducing students to enter its doors, as to invite firms and private purchasers to pay a visit of inspection. Wood-carving for the trade is undertaken; if more orders were received, the

managers could then pay a regular staff of workers, and thus there would be more remunerative employment for those gentlewomen whose talent lies in that direction.

Painting on Glass.—This is another branch of decorative art which has been brought into more general use with the present fashion of architecture. Both in town and country houses, windows, or portions of windows, very frequently exhibit painted glass. There is also an increased demand for the embellishment of places of worship and public buildings. Hitherto only a few women have entered this field. Some have engaged in the work of making designs, but there are not many who have entered the next stage. There seems no good reason why gentlewomen should not be successful in this employment, it being one thoroughly suited to them.

Classes for teaching this art are held at Cameron and Co.'s Studio, 69, Wigmore Street, Cavendish Square, W. The fee for a course of six lessons is one guinea. These classes are held daily, and are of two hours' duration.

Designs for Wall-Papers.—Every season a large number of new designs are brought out by different firms, and take the place of those exhibited during the last season by them. Wall-papers, as we know, are always in demand in all parts of the United Kingdom, and therefore the art of designing them should be a remunerative employment, and one within the scope of gentlewomen. Many of the most beautiful wall-papers come to us at present from France, and are noted, not only for the beauty of colouring, but for the delicacy and elegance and excellence of design. Increased knowledge and study will, we hope, enable Englishwomen to vie successfully with their neighbours across the Channel.

Lessons in this art are given by a lady (to whom several firms apply for designs) at 9, Beaumont Street, Devonshire Place, W. The fee for eight times attendance is a guinea and a half, and the hours of attendance are from 10 a.m. till 3 p.m. Articled pupils pay a premium of £25 for eighteen months' instruction. During that time 25 per cent. is paid to them at once for any of their work which is sold.

China-Painting is a decorative art by which many ladies seek to gain remuneration, but very many of them fail to do so. One cause of this non-success is that there are great numbers of ladies who paint china for their own amusement, and who adorn their own houses and those of their friends with their productions, so that ordinary mediocre artists have but small chance of selling theirs. Good artists can command high prices for their work, and do realise large sums, but these instances are in the minority. China-painting, as a remunerative employment, should only be attempted by those who have a real talent for drawing, and also that talent must be matured by steady practice.

Excellent instructions in this art are given at the Art Pottery Studio, 68, Newman Street, Oxford Street, W. The terms are at the rate of a guinea for three lessons.

Proficients in china-painting have constant opportunities for exhibiting their work, by sending specimens of their skill to the Fine Art Exhibitions which are held in various parts of the country. At York one is opened every year for some months.

I would here give a hint that there is little or no sale for painted terra-cotta articles. Amateurs abound in this particular branch of painting, partly because this substance is a particularly easy one on which to paint, and partly because it is not necessary to fire or bake terra-cotta after it is painted, a process to which painted china must be subjected.

Chrysoleum is an art which is just now very much in fashion. By the help of a certain process, photographs are transferred from the paper on which they were taken on to glass; the exact delineation of face and form is removed from the one to the other; the artist then paints the picture, and the effect produced is that of a portrait painted on ivory. For this work skill, more than actual talent, is required. Half a dozen lessons suffice to initiate the novice into the mystery, and for this instruction sums from a guinea to thirty-five shillings are charged by different instructors. The cost of the requisite materials with which to pursue this art is about fifteen shillings a box. It is, I believe, intended to give a special paper on this new art in an early number of the Magazine.

To turn to other kinds of employments. There are Postal Telegraph appointments. For these posts a salary commencing at ten shillings per week is given. The competition to obtain these appointments increases, for at a late examination there were 800 candidates for 30 appointments. The introduction of the telephone has supplied an employment suitable to the daughters of professional men who have received few advantages of education. For this a technical training is not a necessity; the qualifications demanded are good hearing, a clear articulation, and general intelligence. Candidates are required to be under twenty years of age. The salary commences at eleven shillings a week, and rises to sixteen shillings. Clerks in charge receive a higher salary. The requirements being small for this occupation, the remuneration is naturally not very large.

I have been suggesting ways and means mostly, it would seem, to dwellers in towns; before I lay down my pen I have a suggestion to make to residents in the country. There is a great and an increasing demand in all large towns for cut flowers. It is, I know, possible to make arrangements with florists to send them supplies of flowers, whether few or many. I was told by a friend a short time ago that an acquaintance of his, who lives in a warm Western county, adds £20 a year to an income by sending to London violets only, and I know of other ladies who gain money by the sale of flowers and ferns. In this way small plots of ground, glass frames, and tiny conservatories may be made to yield a profit with very small outlay, beyond a little time and a small amount of intelligent interest bestowed on the well-being and well-doing of our plants.

REMUNERATIVE EMPLOYMENTS FOR GENTLEWOMEN.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.



THERE is a wide opening and no lack of employment for those amongst our numbers who possess those peculiar and most valuable qualities which fit them for tending the sick and the suffering. Happily it seems always the case that those who have this capacity have also a real liking for the work—an interest in it

which increases rather than declines as time goes on.

Within the last dozen years there has been a great revolution in this particular department of women's work: the social position of nurses has been raised very many degrees from the low level to which it had sunk; the standard of necessary skill and excellence has been lifted considerably higher. In the present day numbers of gentlewomen have flocked to this standard, but as yet there is ample room in the field for more. Here gentlewomen may find a work for which in many respects they are more fitted than the ordinary nurses. The degree of culture and intelligence which they bring to their work cannot, I am told on good authority, be over-estimated in critical cases in which (humanly speaking) life depends upon the exact and intelligent carrying out of the doctor's orders.

There are three branches, so to speak, of this work which skilled nurses can make choice to follow. There are hospital nurses, nurses who attend private patients in their own homes, and nurses who tend the sick poor. For these alike, all who enter the ranks must first pass through a course of training. Instructions, both theoretical and practical, gained in the lecture-room and at the bedside, practice, and supervision, transform the novice into the skilled nurse—a title which she must prove herself to have earned before she can seek to be placed on any staff.

Hospital Nurses.—Those trained in London hospitals are specially sought after when appointments in town or country require to be filled. I allude to such posts as matrons and assistant matrons, superintendents and assistant superintendents, in Hospitals, Infirmarys, Convalescent Homes, and Institutions and Associations of various kinds. Posts such as these vary in value from £200 down to £50 a year (with board and residence in addition) according to the amount of work, weight of responsibility, and acquired experience demanded for the

appointment. Candidates who desire admission into a hospital for the purpose of being trained as nurses, should send their names to the matron some months before they wish to enter it. The age for probationers (who may be single or widows) is between twenty-five and thirty-five years, but I believe this limit is not always strictly kept. A year is required for the course of training; during this term the probationer lives in the hospital, and serves as an assistant nurse in the wards, and at the same time has instructions as before-mentioned. A probationer receives payment of about £10 a year, together with board and a uniform. When a complete year has been passed with satisfactory results, the probationer is placed on the regular staff of nurses, and then receives a higher salary. Every probationer is to consider herself bound to remain as a hospital nurse for the period of the two years succeeding the completion of training.

Among other endeavours which have been made to raise the standard of nursing, there is one of which it is well to make particular mention. A sum of money has been placed in trust to give a regular course to those who are desirous of taking up the employment of nursing. This is known as the "Nightingale Fund." The Nightingale Home, in which the nurses live while gaining proficiency, adjoins the matron's house at St. Thomas's Hospital, Westminster Bridge. It is in that hospital that training is given. To this Home, gentlewomen are admitted and trained in the practice of hospital nursing, with a view to become qualified for appointments in hospitals and infirmaries.

The age considered desirable for probationers is from twenty-five to thirty-five years. None are admitted under twenty-three years of age. The course of training is for the period of a year; during this term, payment in money and clothing is given to the value of £16, together with full board and a separate bedroom. During the three years next succeeding the completion of the training, the nurses are required to continue to be hospital or infirmary nurses. The committee have hitherto readily found appointments for their certified nurses in public institutions, at salaries commencing at £20, with board.

Private Nurses.—A nurse who wishes to act in this capacity should seek to be placed on the staff of some Association of, or Home for, nurses, to which those requiring such services will naturally apply. A nurse, even if clever and skilful, has not much chance of success if she keeps aloof and endeavours to live apart, for this reason: nurses of this class are most frequently wanted for immediate service. Cases of diphtheria, scarlet, or typhoid fever declare themselves unexpectedly; a sudden accident causes a broken limb, which requires immediate attention; the neces-

sity for an operation is suddenly decided upon, and a nurse's help is essential. In cases such as these and others, physicians and surgeons require instant help, and there is no time to waste in seeking it, to send here and there to ask whether this or that nurse is disengaged. The doctors, therefore, apply at once to some Association or Home, and the superintendent is able to supply the need.

No nurses are admitted into these Associations but those who have been trained satisfactorily at a hospital. The plan adopted in some of these Homes is for each nurse to receive a regular fixed salary—from £20 to £30. When disengaged, a nurse resides in the Home free of charge. The arrangements made in the Institution for Trained Nurses at 62, New Bond Street, London, appear to be on a more liberal scale. There a nurse receives the payment given by the patient—the sum charged is from one to two guineas per week—and she pays a certain percentage towards the expenses of the Home.

At the present time there are but few gentlewomen who have elected to act in this special capacity, but there seems to be no reason why they should not do so. One would imagine the disagreeables attendant upon hospital nursing would be greater than those encountered in the homes of private patients. From what I hear, however, there are not as yet so many requests for gentlewomen as for ordinary nurses. If the former would conform to the requirements of a private house as readily as they do to those more rigid rules in their hospital, there seems to be little doubt that their services would be sought. Many patients decline to engage a nurse of higher class, because frequently the engagement of such has involved the engagement of an extra servant to wait upon the nurse.

District Nurses.—Some seven or eight years ago, an Association was formed in London for providing a body of skilled and trained nurses to nurse the sick poor at their own homes. The Central Home of this Association is at 23, Bloomsbury Square, W.C.; it has a branch in the West, and another in the North of London. There are associations of this character in Liverpool, Manchester, Oxford, and other cities and towns: the broad lines of all are the same, although the details may differ. I will describe the scheme of the Metropolitan Association above-mentioned. One of its objects is to raise both the standard of nursing and the social position of nurses, and one of its distinctive features is that the nurses on its staff are entirely selected from the class of gentlewomen. Those who wish to join in this work—the required age is from twenty-three to thirty-three—apply to the Lady Superintendent of the Central Home, and with her permission they reside in this Home for a month on trial, in order to enable them to become acquainted with the nature of the

work of nursing the poor at their own homes. If at the end of a month they still wish to become a district nurse, arrangements are made for a course of training. This course lasts for one year, and is passed through at the Hospital Training School for Nurses. When the probationer has satisfactorily completed the hospital course, she returns to the Central Home and there receives training in the practice of district nursing for a period of six months. All nurse probationers who complete their training to the satisfaction of the committee of the Association are entered on a register; they are then engaged by the Association, or recommended as district nurses in other branches. As yet the Association experiences no difficulty in finding employment for trained and skilful nurses.

And now I will detail the outlay required to secure employment of this kind, and the remuneration given in the future.

A nurse candidate pays £5 for the month's trial residence in the Home: this sum is deemed to cover the expenses of board, lodging, and washing during that month. A nurse probationer pays £30 in two instalments for the year's training in the Hospital School, and in return she is provided with instruction, board, a separate bed-room, a uniform dress, and an allowance of eighteenpence per week for washing expenses. On her return to the Central Home, the nurse pays a fee of £5 towards the expenses of class instruction, books, &c. By the above details it may be gathered that the total expenditure for the training amounts to the sum of £40.

A nurse on the staff of the Association receives a salary (the salary begins from the date of re-entry to the Home after leaving the Training School) of £35 for the first year, £38 for the second year, and so on, increasing £3 every year until it reaches in the sixth year £50. A nurse on the staff resides in the Home, has a separate bed-room, is provided with board, a uniform, and an allowance of half-a-crown a week for washing expenses.

An Association of this kind has lately been formed in Berlin under the direction of the Princess Royal. The German lady who is to superintend this foreign Home has just completed her training at the Central Home in Bloomsbury.

District nursing has its dark and bright sides. A nurse is responsible for the personal cleanliness of each patient and room under her charge. Naturally, there is much that is disagreeable included in this duty, and many relinquish the wish to continue after a month's trial; on the other hand, those who have once thoroughly entered on the work find great and increasing interest in their occupation. I, who have been personally acquainted with many district nurses, can testify to bright and cheerful faces, a good evidence of the interest their work affords them.

A. S. P.



MAY TIME.

ALL garlanded in glory comes the May ;
 The world, the happy world, is full of light ;
 The glower and gloom of winter past away
 Like some dread dream, the earth in joyance bright
 Moves to the music of her own true heart,
 And fills surrounding space with songs of love ;
 Proud, humbly proud, she can again impart
 Pleasure to all, in valley, field, and grove.

The bonds are broken that did once enchain,
 And in the presence of her new-born joy
 Forgotten is the travail and the pain
 Of bygone hours ; and ever sweet employ
 Findeth her gentle, beautifying hand ;
 With velvet verdure doth she hide the scars
 Left by the North-King on her stricken land,
 And decks the bruised bluff with daisy-stars.

The tiny nestler in the tangled hedge,
 The nimble coney frisking through the chase,
 The primrose cluster, and among the sedge
 Full many a modest weed with vernal grace

Quickens the landscape, while the reed-fringed lake,
 Catching its inspiration from on high,
 Unto its placid bosom now doth take
 The golden grandeurs of a cloud-isled sky.

And gentle winds come whispering through the woods
 Their wondrous legends of far tropic isles,
 Or toy with blossoms, from their baby-hoods
 Just peeping forth, all innocence and smiles ;
 Or seek the source of that melodious cry,
 That tuneful echo that delights the ear
 When Summer, generous Summer draweth nigh,
 And feathered emigrants again appear.

The tiny brook, just bubbled into life,
 Prattles with pleasure like a child at play,
 And finds enjoyment in a constant strife
 With tuft and stone that would impede its way.
 Beams everywhere beneficence Divine,
 And mother Earth in adoration bends
 With her best offerings at her Maker's shrine,
 And their sweet savour heavenward ascends.

JOHN GEO. WATTS.

REMUNERATIVE EMPLOYMENT FOR GENTLEWOMEN.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.



TO-DAY I wish to make suggestions for, and to speak exclusively about, home employments. Inventive and artistic minds should just now turn their attention to, and bestow their thoughts on, the subject of lamp and candle shades.

Gas is quite in disfavour for lighting sitting-rooms ; lamps and candles are in great requisition, and the present fashion is to shade both these kinds of light with some transparent substance. Devices for these shades, graceful or uncommon in substance, form, or decoration, are likely to meet with purchasers. The other day I saw painted candles ; a spray of flowers was painted on the wax midway.

In all the little etceteras which appear from time to time, the chief attraction to the buyer is novelty of idea. Of course the execution of it, the workmanship, whether of needle, paint-brush, or any other helpmeet, must be satisfactory and well done ; but with respect to the small trivialities—if I may use the term—to which I now particularly allude, superior work alone will not be certain to meet with a purchaser. For instance, no one buys pen-wipers made in an ordinary common-place fashion, however neatly they are made ; but if a novelty in form or ornament, if a new idea is brought forward, the probability is that some one seeing it will wish to possess it. The same remark holds good with regard to toilette cushions ;

one simply covered with muslin and lace, however daintily adorned, would doubtless stand many a day waiting to be bought ; but when something out of the common appears, the waiting is shortened. Speaking of these cushions reminds me of pretty ones I have seen lately. A small square cushion is covered with bright-coloured silk or satin ; a pretty little picture—of one or two figures, of birds, of flowers, according to desire—is painted on a small square of white or cream sateen ; this square is bordered with lace, and placed diamond-wise on the larger square of the cushion. All toilette cushions in the present day are much less in size than those in use some years ago. To return to my former theme. There are various kinds of letter-weights ; many of them are not ornamental. The other day I saw one which was so. A rather large stone, grey in colour, oblong in shape, rounded in form, such an one as can be picked up any day on any sea-beach ; on this common-place stone a red single dahlia was painted, and this simple idea made an ornamental letter-weight for a drawing-room writing-table. These instances will illustrate my meaning ; of course it would not repay us to spend all our time in making trifles of this kind ; but if new ideas come into our minds, we may perchance be able to make some profit out of them.

I will now tell of a newly-introduced idea, which I think will meet with general approval ; this is, ornamental covers for Cassell's Time Tables. We know how easily and quickly the paper covers of this

much-used book become crumpled and torn, therefore covers which keep the book in a tidy condition, and are available for each month's issue as it appears to take its predecessor's place, are of use, and may fairly expect to be recognised as a necessary adjunct to every house whose inhabitants take frequent journeys, and where a Railway Guide always has a place on hall or library table, and in the travelling-bag.

These covers are made thus :—Two pieces of thick unbendable cardboard are cut slightly larger than the size of the book ; these are encased in one piece of material ; sufficient room is left between the two cards to allow for the breadth of the back, which has the material only over it ; a piece of elastic is stitched to this back, which is slipped into the middle of the book. The material can be dark-coloured satin or fine cloth, on which flowers or coats-of-arms can be embroidered in silks ; or of black sateen, on which floral designs can be painted ; or of plush left unadorned ; or of veritable brown-holland, on which a cobweb in gold thread is worked ; this latter device significant of the contents of the book. Fancy and imagination can employ themselves in bringing forward more variety than I have here set down.

The newest idea for chair-backs seems to be that of abstracting pictures from cretonnes (it is only the most expensive cretonnes which possess designs of this character) ; these are placed on some thick material which should be soft and white. A lighter style is that of taking a piece of cheese-cloth—so called because it is sold for the purpose of covering over new cheeses—on this piece small squares are marked out by drawing out threads and making open-hem divisions ; in each of these squares a dainty flower, a spray or a sprig, is worked in silks.

A work to which I recommend attention is that of cambric embroidery. This is always in request for under-linen, and that worked by hand is always chosen by every purchaser who desires and can afford to have the best of everything, in preference to that embroidered by machinery. For some years foreign countries have supplied English purchasers and their customers with this class of needlework. Latterly the price of Swiss embroidery has risen. Many English ladies can embroider skilfully and rapidly ; these could add to their incomes in this way. "Every little makes a mickle." A strip of embroidery is easily taken up and laid down at odd moments, and embroidery of this class will secure more continuous remuneration to good workers than knitting or crochet will bring.

There is another class of embroidery for which in some places there is a continuous demand. In University towns, such as Oxford and Cambridge, many articles of dress worn by the younger members of the colleges exhibit embroidery. The arms of the colleges and other distinctive marks are embroidered on boating and cricket coats, on football jerseys, on caps, on tennis hats, on ribbons for straw hats. I verily believe that not a man could be found among the many hundreds of undergraduates, who had not at least one garment which bore an embroidered device. Then many men think that a constant renewal of coats and

jerseys, of caps and straw hats, is necessary, and thus the amount of embroidery executed for these decorations is very considerable.

Also at the public schools, such as Eton, Winchester, and others which come in that category, and at many other schools where there are large numbers of boys, the members of the cricket, boating, and football clubs have their distinctive badges. Skilful and rapid embroiderers might try and put themselves in connection with some such school, or arrange to embroider for some tradesman in an University town.

In the same way I would advise knitters of stockings to get the custom of some school for the supply of football stockings. It is very usual for football clubs to exhibit the respective colours of their clubs in their stockings—thus, those worn by the Wasp club are of broad bands of yellow and black. Stockings knitted with very thick strong yarn are considered the best : they should be knitted much longer in the leg than ordinary stockings, they are required to be twice the usual length between the top of the stocking and the commencement to narrow, because footballers have a particular way of rolling their stockings at the knee, which keeps the stockings from slipping down, and does away with the necessity for garters or fasteners of any kind.

Then the feet of football stockings are quickly worn out, and when knitted can be re-footed. Thus, a connection once arranged with a large school, and satisfactory work done, a good many orders for knitting might be secured.

Before I wander away from the subject of knitting I will mention that the Automatic Knitting Machine Company, whose show-rooms are at 417, Oxford Street, London, and also at the Soho Bazaar, offer work, without limit as to quantity, to knitters who buy or hire of the company their machine, the Little Rapid. The remuneration is at the rate of 3s. per dozen pairs of gentlemen's ribbed socks, and they calculate that 15s. per week can be earned in this way. The wool used for these orders is supplied by the company, and they undertake to send orders to, and receive work from, country residents.

The cost of these machines is from five to seven pounds, the ribbing attachment by which hosiery can be ribbed is three pounds extra. These machines can be hired at the rate of half-a-crown to four shillings per week, which payments are considered as instalments towards purchase.

Before I close I must say a few words in allusion to the list of depôts in the provinces which appeared in the February Number of this Magazine. As far as I was able I authenticated the addresses of those with which I was not actually acquainted. In two instances my acquaintances were tardy in sending me the result of their inquiries as to the correctness of the information given to me, and thus it was not until some time after publication that I heard that the depôt mentioned at Exeter is no longer in existence, and on further inquiry I am told that there is not one at present in that city, nor can I hear of one at Ply-

mouth; so that I have so far failed to find help for the gentlewomen in that part of the western country who may require it. The women of Devon are so clever with their needles, perhaps their skill is far-famed, and they do not need aids to dispose of their handiwork.

I have to correct the address of the Clifton Dépôt. No. 2, Portland Street is the place where the dépôt will be found; the former address was the private address of one of the ladies who was interested in the cause. At this dépôt the number of workers is limited to fifty members; all of these must be gentlewomen in real need; they must also be excellent needlewomen; none others are eligible, and, to quote the words of one of the committee—"None others can succeed, and it is of no use for any one else to apply." I must also add with regret that there is rarely a vacancy in this dépôt. I say "with regret," because so much help is afforded in this particular dépôt to

its members, that one wishes more workers could be aided.

In a former paper I alluded to the poultry-yard as a means of income.* I find that the plan is carried out at Clifton, and that the demand for eggs has far exceeded the supply.

Bees, too, are sometimes a source of profit.† I say "sometimes," because, although there will always be customers for the honey, and in many parts eighteen-pence per pound is given for it, yet one cannot insure a supply of honey. Spite of all our efforts, care, attention, and skill of management, a wet, sunless summer, an ungenial season, will bring disappointment and loss of anticipated profit to the mistresses. On the other hand, it must be remembered that the outlay is small, and that bees find food for themselves. Therefore, to those who live near moors and commons, there is always the chance of the hives turning out to be profitable investments.

A. S. P.

THE FAMILY PARLIAMENT.

[THE RULES OF DEBATE will be found on page 375. The Editor's duty will be to act as "Mr. Speaker;" consequently, while preserving due order in the discussion, he will not be held to endorse any opinions that may be expressed on either side, each debater being responsible for his own views.]

SHOULD NATIONAL INSURANCE AGAINST PAUPERISM BE MADE COMPULSORY?

OPENER'S SPEECH.

MR. SPEAKER,

I take the affirmative side of this great question on the assumption that the thing proposed is possible in itself; since the right or wrong of an impossible thing is not worth discussion. This hint may limit speakers to a definite issue. The different question, "Can National Insurance be made Compulsory?" will need a separate debate.

On three points we must first be clear, namely: 1. That pauperism is a bad thing in itself. 2. That no present existing methods can prevent it. 3. That national compulsory insurance can do so without counterbalancing disadvantage.

The establishment of these three positions will, I trust, make the mind of this House clear upon a fourth—that national compulsory insurance should be established.

Pauperism, the deplorable condition caused by the existence in England of an exceptional Poor Law, differing from those obtaining in all other countries in being based upon the principle, self-evidently corrupt and unjust, that "every thrifty man, of every class, must pay for the support of every wasteful man," is in itself an undesirable condition. To be a pauper and claim relief from poor rates, a man must be *destitute*. A destitute pauper, claiming relief from rates for his *pauperism*, is an entirely distinct character from a poor man, not necessarily destitute, who suffers from *poverty*. The poor, we know, shall be always

with us, but in the legal sense we have only had paupers for 300 years; and they are surely not an indispensable class to us, if other nations, which have never established and do not possess them, are not only free from their presence but from the cost of their support: a cost which, amongst us, burdens the thrifty part of our nation to the extent of eight million pounds a year. But the condition of the pauper is not merely undesirable; the Poor Law system demoralises and renders miserable. It vainly but persistently tries to oppose nature, which requires every class of living thing to provide for its own existence. The Poor Law tells the thoughtless and inexperienced youth, just in the few years when he is strong and unburdened by a family, when he has his best, often his sole, opportunity for forming independent thrifty habits, and founding a secure provision for sickness and old age, that he need deny himself no immediate indulgence which his earnings can procure, since, in case of necessity, other people must support him. Contrary to nature, it teaches him that his policy is not to save, since his possession of any means deprives him of his one qualification, destitution, for support by other men. So he loses the chance of self-provision and independence, and by the corrupting influence of the Poor Law elects a miserable life, bordering every day on destitution, instead of a self-provided one. This policy of destitution implies a policy of squandering, instead of keeping, what he

* See p. 350.

† See p. 335.

"Go, Sorrow, by, and give Joy place!
 For happiness is yet alive—
 I am the winner in the race;
 While skies are blue, in vain shall strive
 Dark griefs to run more swift, and at the goal arrive."

When music, like a year of light
 Without a night throughout the year,
 Shall blind us with the sudden sight
 Of all we know both glad and dear,
 Then vanishes discordant fear,
 Then only love is left on earth;
 June is the music that we hear,

That sings the song of summer's birth,
 Red roses for the rests, white lilies of pure worth.

O sunshine dancing in the air
 O flickering lights upon the ground!
 More lovely than all faces fair,
 More like the spirit of sweet sound
 Than anything but love is found;
 Eyes of the summer, heart of noon,
 Feet of the year that swiftly bound,
 By day you dance, by night the moon
 Crowns with a crescent crown the sleeping brows
 of June.

REMUNERATIVE EMPLOYMENTS FOR GENTLEWOMEN.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.



AMONGST these employments, that of Wood-Engraving deserves special mention, as one which will certainly yield more remuneration than many others which are resorted to for a maintenance.

The use of illustrations in the literature of the present day is constantly and steadily increasing, and this fact would seem to assure us that there will be no lack of work for those who prove themselves proficient in the art. Some half-dozen years ago I was told by an editor that his firm was paying five guineas a week to a lady who engraved her own designs on wood for a serial publication; and since that date the production of pictorial publications and illustrated books has been greatly multiplied. The talent to design is bestowed on comparatively few, but ordinary intelligence and a patient continuance will enable those not so highly gifted to copy designs and engrave them on wood. In this way an income of from £1 to £5 per week can be earned.

This employment has its own advantages. It is essentially a home occupation; it is cleanly in its nature and free from any unpleasant accompaniment; delicacy of touch rather than strength of hand is required; thus all these peculiarities make it a fit occupation for the class to whom I speak.

While thus setting forth its attractions, I feel however that it behoves me to sing my old song over again, before my readers rush along what would seem to be a flower-strewn path, the burthen and refrain of which is, that this art, like each other which I have beforetimes mentioned, demands, even more emphatically than they, that its followers should serve an apprenticeship. A smattering of knowledge, or a short length of practice, will not secure silver shillings, much less golden guineas.

It has been said that women can attain a certain level so easily that they are tempted to be content to

remain there, and to refrain from scaling the heights beyond. A critic of this criticism says that the chief reason for non-success is that the majority of women lack the power (will?) to labour quietly and unremittingly. Miss Nightingale avers that "three-fourths of the mischief in women's lives arises from their exempting themselves from the rules of training considered needful for men."

Another writer, who takes great interest in the subject, says that partial training has been the ruin of many attempts to gain new employments for women. It is considered desirable that they should be able to do "a little work," but the "little" which is meant to apply to the matter of *quantity* is easily transferred to that of *quality*, and this effectually bars the way to success. One often hears it affirmed that girls "take up things" more quickly than boys, but even when this is the case, the intuitive quickness of perception which rapidly obtains some knowledge of the art, will not do away with the need for that time and experience which alone will give power to practise it.

The above remarks, made at different times by people who have really had our interests at heart and have been anxious to forward and to further them, are, it seems to my mind, well worthy of our thought and consideration. For this reason I have culled them, and if they have had the proper effect my readers will not feel the shock on being told that *years* of practice are necessary to insure proficiency in wood-engraving. Three to four years, say some who have actual knowledge on the subject, five to six years say others. The return for acquired knowledge may be quoted at from £1 to £5 a week. A still higher scale of remuneration is reached by those who attain superior skill in this very interesting occupation.

I am told by a master-hand that it is not positively necessary that a pupil should possess a knowledge of drawing, but such a knowledge certainly assists the pupil to a quicker appreciation of the real elements of the art of engraving. This one can readily understand. There is no special age for a pupil to begin to learn,

but all instructors agree that the one who begins while yet in her teens has a better chance of success than those who have more years over their heads.

Classes for teaching this art have been formed in Edinburgh, in Dublin, and in London. I will mention those in existence in the latter city. At the South London Technical Art School, whose premises are at 122, Kennington Park Road, S.E., a class is held where engraving is specially taught with a view to its proving in the future a remunerative employment to the learners. This studio is opened six hours daily, except Saturday, and each evening there is a class of two hours' duration. All the members are required to have gained the second grade certificate of the Science and Art Department. The list of Sections taught proves that a thorough and comprehensive course of instruction is given. The fees are £3 a year. No student is admitted for a shorter period than one year. I am sorry to be obliged to add that only twelve pupils are admitted into this class, and that there is rarely a vacancy. The students so far have had no difficulty in procuring work and fair remuneration.

As yet this is the only class of its kind which has been formed by the City and Guilds of London Institute, but that body has it in contemplation to establish—some time not far distant—a second class, which will be in connection with Finsbury College. There is another class which is strongly recommended for the efficiency of the instruction there given, by those who can speak with authority. This ladies' class is superintended by Mr. R. Paterson, an engraver of well-known skill, and an instructor of well-tried excellence. It is held at 21, East Temple Chambers, Whitefriars Street, Fleet Street, E.C. The class meets every Monday and Thursday, from 2 to 3 p.m. The fees charged are two guineas for instruction in engraving, two guineas for instruction in drawing on wood, or three guineas for both inclusive. These sums are quarterly payments. No pupil is received for less than two quarters.

At the Female School of Art, 43, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, W.C., instruction is given in drawing on wood, but the process of engraving is not taught there. I mention this because I saw a notification not long ago that wood-engraving was there taught.

For the past dozen years I have wondered why gentlewomen who possessed the required faculty to "cut out and fix" have not taken up one branch of work in which there is always and everywhere a great scarcity of followers. There are many ladies who like to have their own and their children's garments made in their own homes. They themselves have time to assist in the sewing together, they can manage their sewing machine, but have not the skill to cut out and fix work. They are obliged to be economical, to make small dresses out of larger ones, and to make use of

remnants. These and divers other reasons make it desirable that the dressmaking should be done in the house. The difficulty of finding any one to help in this class of sewing is very great. I am convinced that many a mother would gladly pay double the daily amount which is usually asked, to any efficient worker who would help her to arrange her children's wardrobe. In large towns this kind of work could be undertaken without publicity, and as a sitting-room is always set apart, and the mother chats and works with the worker, the days might pass pleasantly, and would do so whenever the worker took an interest in the occupation.

An association has lately appeared in London which teaches a scientific system of dressmaking. The terms charged for a series of lessons at the office, 272, Regent Circus, are £2; for printed instructions and explanations sent, £1 is charged. This particular system has been imported from America, where double the amount was charged to learners. I should think from all I hear that the system is satisfactory, but no one with whom I am personally acquainted has yet tried it, therefore I am only repeating hearsay recommendations.

We have received the following letter, to which we beg to draw the attention of our readers:—

TELEPHONE-WORK AS EMPLOYMENT FOR LADIES.

SIR,—Among the many occupations that have during the last few years presented themselves for ladies who, through force of circumstances, have been compelled to work for their own living, none perhaps have made greater progress, and proved more beneficial to them, than that afforded by the United Telephone Company.

Originally this company employed male clerks in all its branches, but the idea presenting itself to the minds of the chairman and the directors that the work might easily be carried out by ladies, they decided upon a trial, with the determination to obtain the services of those whose birth and respectability, though reduced circumstances, rendered them suitable for the employment.

After having mastered the necessary details required in the performance of the duties, I was appointed Lady Superintendent. We commenced work in the United Telephone Company's Exchange at Westminster in September, 1880. Since then we have increased steadily, and at the present time nine of the company's exchanges are being worked by ladies, the staff now under my charge consisting of over one hundred assistants.

As an employment for ladies it has proved, therefore, not only a success as regards the work, but also as a channel for providing many of those employed with the means of supporting themselves entirely, whilst in the case of others it has not only been an advantage in a monetary sense of view, but at the same time has developed business-like habits and ideas, which are so essential to the progress of the work for women in the present day.

I must add that every facility has been afforded me by the managing director of the company towards promoting the welfare of the young people who have come under my care, the exchanges having been altered and re-fitted with every improvement both to further the work and to insure the comfort of the employées, whilst the good conduct and cheerful perseverance in their duties has met with the entire satisfaction of the chairman and the directors, and has been most encouraging to me in my efforts to make this work for ladies a success.

LOUISA ELLINOR MERLIN,
Lady Superintendent, United Telephone Company,
36, Coleman Street, E.C.

April 8th, 1883.



with thirst and exhaustion. Tam's fine frame had battled through, and he was working his way back to Scotland; but his companion in peril had succumbed and was laid in a Norwegian grave.

* * * * *

Mamie walked without her crutch before I left Clanhead; and Ben's bone was doing famously. I was in high spirits at my success as surgeon on my own account. I had gained friends too, staunch and leal. Said Tam at parting—

"Ye'se gi'en me a bonny wife for a sickly ane, an' I'll ne'er thank ye enoo, sir."

"All right, Tam; you saved my life when you leaped from the *Jarl Hakon*, you know, so we're more than quits. And look here, lad, if ever you want a friend, send to me."

"Sae I will, sir; an' suld ye e'er need an act o' reet willin' an' faithfu' service, ye'll send to me?"

That compact was an honest one, and it will stand.

M. ONLEY.

REMUNERATIVE EMPLOYMENTS FOR GENTLEWOMEN.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.



ACCORDING to the information I can gather from members of the medical profession and other persons who know somewhat of this question, I am quite inclined to think that the employment of Dispensing would prove a remunerative one to gentlewomen. In large towns doctors' prescriptions are dispensed by chemists. It is open to women to pass examinations and act as such. I know one instance where this has been done and the result has been satisfactory. I have been told of two other such instances. In country places and small towns, doctors' prescriptions are dispensed at the doctor's house. In most cases a dispenser's services are required, because the doctor's time is fully occupied by the long distances to be traversed, as well as the many patients to be visited. Many doctors would, I am told, be glad to engage the services of a qualified woman dispenser.

Then, too, in our hospitals, infirmaries, and public dispensaries—whether on a large or small scale—dispensers are required.

Therefore for those whose inclinations lie in the direction of science, and who feel that they possess the particular talents requisite for this particular line of work, there seem to be many openings in which they would find remuneration in return for their knowledge. The deterrent to several who have wished to climb this ladder has been that of pounds, shillings, and pence. This ladder is a new and untried one for women; they, as a rule, have not much at their command with which to speculate, and they naturally hesitate to pay what seems to them a large sum for the privilege of climbing up the ascent. I will set forth the means by which the necessary knowledge may be acquired, and the cost of its attainment. It may be, as there are those who have had the courage to step forward in this direction, and do not regret the step taken, that yet others will set their feet in the same direction.

In order to be a chemist the examinations of the Pharmaceutical Society have first to be passed. These examinations are three in number, but only two are

actually necessary for ordinary purposes. The first, or Preliminary Examination, is in general subjects; it consists of Latin, English Grammar and Composition, and Arithmetic; it is held four times a year in many central towns in England, Wales, and Scotland. The fee is two guineas. Any one who possesses a certificate of having passed the Oxford or Cambridge Local Examinations is exempt from this Preliminary Examination.

The second, or Minor Examination, is held several times a year, but only in London and Edinburgh. No candidate under twenty-one years of age is allowed to enter for this examination; also each candidate is required to have been for the three previous years practically engaged (under supervision) in dispensing prescriptions. To give a brief outline of the subjects: the student is to show ability, to read and translate prescriptions, to weigh, measure, and compound medicines with accuracy, neatness, and quickness, to have a general knowledge of botany, and a practical knowledge of chemistry.

The fee for this examination is three guineas, and students who pass are registered as Chemists and Druggists.

The third, or Major Examination, comprises the same subjects as the Minor, but a much fuller knowledge of them is required. Students passing this acquire the title of, and are registered as, Pharmaceutical Chemists, and are legally allowed to dispense medicines.

As will be gathered, the fees for these examinations are not heavy ones; the real obstacle is the cost of the three years' training required to be passed through before presentation as a candidate is permitted.

The premium usually asked is £100 for the three years' apprenticeship. I believe I may venture to say that help would very probably be given by the Society for Promoting the Employment of Women, 22, Berners Street, W., to a student who wished to pursue this course but had not adequate means at her disposal. Miss Clark, 18, Spring Street, Paddington, who is a Pharmaceutical Chemist, receives apprentices and instructs them practically in the elements of the subjects they are required to study.

A short time ago an effort was made by the Women's Education Union to form a Pharmacy Association, with the object of affording practice and training to those wishing to pass the examinations of the Pharmaceutical Society, but the Union has been obliged to abandon its scheme as funds were not forthcoming to meet the consequent expenses.

So far I have spoken of the course the law of the land requires all to pursue who desire to be chemists.

Dispensers in hospitals, private surgeries, and such-like posts are not required to produce a certificate of registration. But for all such posts there is competition, often keen and close, and although it is not absolutely needful to have passed the examinations I have mentioned, there is no doubt that those who had done so, whether men or women, would be certainly chosen in preference.

Lady superintendents of infirmaries and cottage hospitals often wish to have some general idea of the work of dispensing. An opportunity to acquire this knowledge is afforded to them at the Women's Hospital, 222, Marylebone Road, W. No definite instructions are, I understand, given, as the dispenser has too many duties of her own to have time to give lessons; nevertheless, the opportunity is a valuable one, for much can be picked up by an observant eye and ear, and many have availed themselves of this privilege. The fee of five guineas is charged for a period of six months' attendance.

Drawing diagrams for doctors is an employment which I may here mention. At the same time I must draw your attention to the fact that this field is a small one. Medical men who give lectures to students in the medical schools connected with hospitals, require diagrams and sketches from time to time to illustrate their lectures. Sometimes it is a diagram in a book which has to be drawn on a large scale: the rate of remuneration for this is about five shillings per diagram. Sometimes the doctor requires a water-colour sketch made of a peculiar case of deformity or disease, and for such a requisition the sum of three to five guineas would be charged. Lecturers on scientific subjects at museums often require diagrams. For all this class of work, ladies whose fingers can guide their pencil and brush in an accurate and neat manner are very frequently employed.

Amongst articles which find a ready sale at depôts and bazaars are the following:—Bags, for use in the drawing-room or in the carriage. These resemble the old-fashioned long purse in shape, but of course greatly exceed it in size. Two large ivory rings take the place of the small steel ones of yore; the ends are not gathered up as those of the purse, but are left square, and fringe is placed across them. Plush is a suitable material for these bags, and one needing no further adornment. A newer material is a satin not so thick and more silky than that known as Roman satin; on

this, embroidery is worked in silks. I saw a bag of dull green satin with an Indian pattern embroidered in dim terra-cotta-coloured silk, and the effect was excellent.

Cases for blotters are in demand; they are made similar to those I lately described for railway time tables. Deep-coloured blues and crimsons are two colours greatly liked. Gold thread is much used for their embellishment, and the patterns are generally composed of stars, suns, or radii of some description. Gold thread is fastened to its place by means of sewing-silk the same shade; the golden thread is laid on its line, and the silk keeps it there by being passed to and fro over it.

The colours most used for table-cloths are terra-cottas in various shades, peacock-blues, rich reds, and dark greens. Corn-flowers embroidered in white silk look well on any of these colours.

With regard to depôts for the sale of work, a Ladies' Work Society has been lately opened at 131, Edgware Road, W. The entrance-fee is one shilling. The yearly subscription charged is five shillings; for half a year, three shillings. Commission on things sold is a penny in the shilling. The manageress assures me that she can sell work without difficulty when it is well done, and that she could give orders for plain sewing.

Another depôt not hitherto mentioned is at 52, King's Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, which is under the patronage of Lady Brassey and others. At this agency members pay half-a-crown, which entitles them to send work for six months: a commission of twopence in the shilling is charged. Here also gentlewomen seeking appointments as governesses, or companions, on paying a registration fee of five shillings can have their names on the books for a period of six months: a commission of five per cent. is charged.

I have to notify some changes which have taken place since I gave the list of depôts in a former paper. The depôt at 60, Church Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, is no longer there. The lady who took work for sale at Cardiff has changed her address from Angel Street to Duke Street in that town. I am told that so many unsaleable and badly-made things were sent to her, that she found her depôt was injured by admitting such, and that now she is more particular, and only takes work that is well executed.

I sincerely hope that all those readers who have no occasion to sell, but only have the pleasure of buying, will visit any depôt which is near them, and if possible make their purchases there.

I saw a notification in print (not an advertisement) a while ago that a Mrs. Genna, 2, Vere Street, W., assisted ladies to dispose of their work and also gave instructions. On inquiry there I was told that lessons were given only to those who were employed by Mrs. Genna, that no work was disposed of for ladies, that there were no vacancies, nor likely to be any.

A. S. P.



conceivable that, with the help of her children, the mother of a family may add fifteen shillings or a pound to the weekly income—a result in no measure despised by the hard-working, money-making dwellers in North Notts. In connection with women's work in this neighbourhood, I ought not to omit mentioning the blackberry trade. When plum-picking is over, women wander over the fields, armed with a hooked stick and

carrying a basket, in search of blackberries. Immense quantities of this homely fruit are gathered and conveyed—*viâ* the huckster—to the large towns of the neighbouring county of York. So remunerative, too, is blackberry-picking, that in a good season gleanings are utterly neglected, and the stray ears of corn lie unheeded among the stubble, until the blackberries are all gathered.

HENRY INGRAM.

REMUNERATIVE EMPLOYMENTS FOR GENTLEWOMEN.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.



SOME time ago I mentioned Arrasene Embroidery; it still continues in favour, and as some of the details connected with this work are, I find, not widely known, I will give a few which will, I believe, prove useful to many readers. Designs for this special work, and skeins of the arrasene yarn, are obtainable at 27, St. Paul's Road, Bradford, Yorkshire. The correct stitch is that known as crewel or stem stitch. Chenille needles are used, and short needlefuls should be taken. Fruit-blossoms of many kinds are effective, such as apple, orange, apricot, horse-

chestnut, blackberry, almond-blossoms; foxgloves, begonias, orchids, and the thicker, heavier flowers are more suitable for representation than those having delicate petals.

This embroidery can be worked without a frame, but experienced workers affirm that the work is much easier and better done when a frame is used. When finished, a damp cloth should be spread over the back of the work and an iron passed over it. When the work is not in a frame, its face must be placed upon a thickly-folded flannel before this process is gone through; but should the material be velvet or plush, the work must be held tightly out by hand when ironed.

In many old houses there are cupboards in the sitting-rooms; it is the present fashion to hang curtains over these doors, and for the decoration of these curtains arrasene embroidery is particularly suitable; I have also seen panels for the doors of old-fashioned chiffoniers and movable cupboards, and open cases for coal-boxes, embellished with arrasene embroidery.

Counterpanes and eider-down quilts are made ornamental in various ways. A pattern in Russian embroidery is often worked in blue or red cotton on white counterpanes. For eider-down quilts, devices in silk patchwork look well: strips or squares of this interspersed with strips or squares of dark velvet.

The old-fashioned plan of marking linen with cotton is being revived; the present style differs from that formerly in use, in that it is more ornamental; initials, monograms, and other devices are embroidered on a large scale in satin stitch with white linen thread on sheets, pillow-cases, pocket-handkerchiefs, and other household possessions. For ordinary cross-stitch marking, sixpence per dozen letters is the charge usually made.

Menu cards are still in request; their present form is that of a small square with a double leaf, so that they stand on the table without aid. The newest designs appear to be tiny pictures—little views and landscapes—with flowers scattered about: a kind of medley, such as one sometimes sees on a page in this Magazine, wherein the pictures are to be seen placed here and there as in a kaleidoscope, apparently without rhyme or reason.

"Guest cards" are also in demand. The newest form for these is the shape and size of a gentleman's visiting card. Floral designs are the prettiest for these. A gold line should be marked round the space wherein the name is to be placed; then a slit is made at one end, and a slip of paper bearing the name can be inserted. This provision makes the card useable on many occasions and thus increases its value. The rate charged for hand-painted cards is about 12s. per dozen for menu cards, and 6s. per dozen for the guest cards.

There seems to be a great dearth in the matter of ornamental invitation cards for "At Homes" and tennis parties. A few weeks ago I went in search of some for a friend, to a shop in London of well-known name; only three designs were there to be found, and they were so uncommonly common-place and ugly, that all people who saw the specimens exclaimed against them. A crouching frog was the principal object in one, and a stiff young man and an inelegant young woman standing at a tennis net was one of the others; the third was even less attractive. I could not meet with this class of card at several likely shops where I inquired for them.

I have lately seen flowers painted on the backs of ivory brushes, more particularly on the diminutive brushes which are for the use of infants. At the present time the market is overstocked with painted

china, of second and third-rate order, and therefore I would dissuade any one from painting or from learning china-painting, except the few who can produce work of first-rate excellence.

It is perhaps rather late in the season to talk of fire-screens, but it must be remembered that preparation has to be made a long time beforehand for coming needs. The present fashion of a standing folding screen gives great scope to artists; each division of the three or four can exhibit a different design, or one may embrace the whole. In these again, as on the cards, one often sees a medley of small pictures, and branches of blossoms, and flights of birds, and a scattering of flowers, and fluttering butterflies; the background is usually a pale colour, cream or blue. There is a "Ladies' Work Society" at 39, George Street, Baker Street, where work of a high order of excellence (chiefly embroidery) is exhibited. At present, I learn, there are no vacancies for members.

There is a class of work for which the fingers of some women are particularly suited. I allude to the making of artificial flies for fishermen. Great nicety and neatness alone do not suffice; deft fingers and sensitiveness of touch are required; these gifts are not very widely distributed, but they are possessed by some, and I would recommend those lucky ones to turn their attention to this employment.

There are feminine fly-makers who are considered to show great skill in their productions, and to whom fishermen send for baits of this kind; these have, I believe, full employment for their hands. This sport is on the increase rather than on the decrease, and therefore both in town and country the demand will still exist.

It is always well to get a private connection if possible; this might be done by sending specimens to members of a fishing club, or to the managers of the hotels frequented by amateur fishermen; at shops the

wholesale price given to the makers is comparatively very low. I gather that for trout flies from twopence to fourpence could be asked for those well made. The feathers for these are obtainable at a poulterer's shop, pheasant, grouse, partridge, and the fur of hares and squirrels being used. The manufacture of salmon flies requires greater art and cunning, and therefore higher prices for this branch of fly-making can be obtained. The manipulation of floss silk and gold tinsel, as well as the presence of macaw, jay, peacock, and other feathers, increases the difficulty and enhances the value of the work. The best plan for success is to buy a good specimen of trout and salmon fly, and to practise imitation until perfection is reached.

One other suggestion I would bring forward, and that is the mounting of microscopic specimens. This is rather a circumscribed field, but as it is a work which requires a peculiar delicacy of touch, which the majority of people lack, there would probably be employment for any one whom nature had adapted for it.

In an earlier paper I spoke of painted glass being more in request for private houses than formerly; at the present time it is yet more in requisition; squares of glass so decorated are fitted into narrow brass frames, and placed in the lower parts of windows in lieu of short blinds, in those rooms which are over-looked by passers-by. Larger glass screens are also used instead of the canvas or wooden cheval screen. The cheerful light of the fire is seen through the glass, although the heat of it is diminished. Ferns and flowers painted on clear glass are the prettiest for these fire-screens.

Lessons in this decorative art are given by Miss Collingridge, 9, Beaumont Street, Portland Place, W., who is a gold medallist, and has for the last eight or nine years trained pupils most satisfactorily.

A. S. P.



WAITING.

WAR away from merry England,
 In a strange and distant land,
 All alone, and bronzed and bearded,
 Toils a man with axe in hand;
 And he smiles amid his labour,
 As the day dies in the west,
 For he sees, as in a vision,
 White sail on the ocean's breast,
 And a form he loves the best.

"Blow, O winds," he cries, "and waft her
 To her new and happy home!
 Speed, O sail, and bring my true love
 O'er the wild and heaving foam!"
 Little reck's the busy toiler
 That the maiden of his dream
 Sleeps, the red sands for her pillow,
 Where the whirling sea-fowl scream,
 And the wild waves flash and gleam.

MATTHIAS BARR.

last day of the sweet communion they had enjoyed, and all the future seemed to be a blank.

John Layton was very silent as they walked on gazing straight before them, till, looking round, he saw that Fanny was walking with her hands clasped together, and that her tears were falling fast.

"Don't—don't," he cried passionately, for the sight of her grief unmanned him, "I cannot bear to see you like this."

She looked up at him wistfully, and the folio fell to the ground. Not another word was spoken then, but he caught her hands in his and stood gazing almost wildly in her soft wistful eyes. Then she snatched them away and covered her face, sobbing now aloud.

"Fanny," he said, laying his hand upon her arm, "this has come like a surprise. I ought not, perhaps, to speak, but I am carried out of my ordinary way of thinking by—by this shock. I am so poor—merely a country parson—but I love you better than I can tell."

"Oh, hush!" she said, between her sobs.

"I ought not to have spoken—I ought not to have sent you away thinking of my folly, but the words would out. I ought to have had more self-command, but this news seemed to tell me how necessary you had become to my existence. It has been so sweet a time, and now—forgive me—it must end."

"Must end," she said softly, repeating his words.

"I have been cruel to you to speak as I have. It was my want of self-control. Fanny, God bless you! Good-bye. I cannot stay."

He had turned to go, but a faint cry arrested him, and, as he saw the blank despairing face and anguished eyes of her whom he was about to leave, his heart leaped within him, and the next

moment Fanny Anderson was sobbing upon his breast.

It was a very solitary place fortunately, but they came to their senses after Fanny had softly owned that it would break her heart to have to leave that pleasant simple Eden now. Perhaps if the Adam had been transferred to town she might have altered her opinion, but he was not going to be transferred to town, and so they went on, in and out among the willow-trees, talking of their future, when they both started guiltily as a voice behind them said—

"Ah, here you are then, eh?"

It was the doctor, and a quiet smile full of drollery stole over his face as he said—

"I found a letter at home from auntie saying you are to go back at once, and I went to tell Layton, but I found he had come here, and—is it all right?"

No one answered.

"You'll come back again, won't you, my darling?" said the doctor.

"Oh, uncle!" she cried; and the tears overflowed once more, as she flung her arms round his neck, kissed him, and then fled towards the cottage.

"Ah!" said the doctor, "I've never said a word since I brought you over that day. I thought I'd let matters take their own course. I prescribed, and you took the medicine like a man. John Layton, you've won about the best and truest girl I ever knew."

"The best and truest," said the vicar, holding out his hand.

"And not the poorest either, for I always look upon her as my child, and some day perhaps—Well, there, John Layton, I'm very, very, very glad."

The sequel to this needs no telling.

REMUNERATIVE EMPLOYMENTS FOR GENTLEWOMEN.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.



SOME few years ago the art of lace-making was much practised by gentlewomen; their dresses were profusely trimmed, and furniture also was decorated by this class of lace. The fashion for home-made lace has died away, but I think that the knowledge then gained may easily be turned to account. Very many workers studied and made themselves proficient in the execution of a great variety of lace stitches. Might not these use this knowledge, and pursue with advantage the occupation of mending lace of different kinds? There are many people who possess old and valuable lace who would, I feel sure, be glad to place it in skilful and careful hands to be restored—not with the expectation of its being restored to its original beauty, but that it may be repaired and rendered wearable, and so be useful to its owner, instead of lying useless in a drawer. Old

lace has been always fashionable as a trimming, but at the present time it is more particularly so, and drawers, boxes, and chests are ransacked for any and every kind of ancient lace—for pieces long or short, for scraps and specimens, however worn, torn, or ragged. Of course, when found in the two last-named conditions, the owner has to return it reluctantly to its resting-place, unless she knows of a lace-mender. I think that a notification sent to a dépôt would probably be the best course to secure work, for ladies would naturally fear to send lace unless they knew something of the worker.

Allied to the mending and transference of lace, there is the operation of washing it, getting it up, or cleaning it—by whichever of the three terms you prefer to call the operation. In these days, when so much lace is worn, this department might be made very profitable. True, much of the lace that is now bought is of too common a quality to be washed, and would

not repay the trouble ; but, on the other hand, much that is bought is of an expensive kind, and in towns where laces and muslins soil quickly, the owners of them require them often to be cleaned. A short time ago I sent four lace articles—not of large size—to be cleaned, and the sum charged was four shillings. I knew that, if surrounding circumstances had not prevented me, I could have made the appearance of those laces just as beautiful in a very short time, and with little trouble. The process is really very simple, although so many people fail in their attempts to renew the freshness and purity of their laces. Separate and delicate treatment—softness, smoothness, and clearness—are the chief things to be aimed at, and these are the things most frequently unobserved by the generality of amateur lace-cleaners ; hence the texture is stiff and unlacelike, and the web is indistinct and not clear. One hint I must give : lace ought never to be rubbed ; when in water it should be pressed by the hands, and when straightened it should only be pressed by the iron.

There is a "Working Ladies' Guild" in London, about which I will give some information. Admission can only be gained by an introduction through an Associate of the Guild. The address of the Head Office is 113, Gloucester Road, S.W., where further information can be gained from the Secretary.

The object of this Guild is to provide gentlewomen with work of various kinds—plain, fancy, and art needlework, knitting, painting, and drawing. No charge is made for training, but until proficiency is attained, only partial remuneration is given. The payment given to proficients is sixpence per hour. A certain number of hours is named as necessary for the piece of work on hand, and if the worker exceeds that time, she does not receive payment for the extra time taken for completion ; therefore, a quick worker reaps great advantages.

Work can be done at home, or at a branch office of the Guild, at 3, Lower Grosvenor Place, S.W. (not far from the Victoria station). Workers on the staff are allowed to keep two pieces of their own work at the dépôt on sale ; one penny in the shilling commission is charged.

From what I gather, I am afraid that not more than from twenty to twenty-five pounds a year can be earned by the members ; but this is a welcome addition to a small income.

Fans made of feathers are in fashion, so that those painted by hand are not in demand, at any rate for personal use ; but lately fans of large size have been made to serve as window-screens, and if the liking for these continues, those painted by hand may be required.

China plates for drawing-room doors are now painted by hand, and the painted tiles for the sides of fire-grates still continue in favour.

Splashers for the backs of wash-hand stands are in request. The light blue American cloth on which the artist paints can be bought at Shoobred's, and the like shops, at the cost of two shillings per yard ; three-quarters of a yard is the usual size ; oil paints are used for this purpose. Twenty-five shillings was the price asked for a splasher of this kind at a shop at a fashionable sea-side town.

In needlework, a new idea is to make bag-pockets to hang at the side of the mantelpiece, or pendant from other places. The Chinese hand-screens form the foundation ; the front is hidden by a fulness of satin or brocade, and another fulness is put half-way up to form the pocket.

An effective style of work for table and mantel borders is that of work on plush. Rather coarse canvas is stitched on a strip of fine smooth plush, and on this canvas a formal pattern is worked in cross-stitch with silk ; the canvas threads are afterwards drawn away.

I know ladies who, for their own pleasure, cover frames for tiles, pictures, and plaques with velvet or plush ; this might be made a remunerative employment, more especially if orders were taken at dépôts for frames to suit particular requirements. I saw a small square velvet frame the other day, for which my friend paid 4s. 3d., to hold a tile she had painted.

Before I close, I will draw the attention of those not strictly tied to home employments, to one which seems to be opening wide its doors to those amongst us who can steadily guide a pencil. I allude to the employment of Plan-Tracing. The plans of architects and engineers are in many instances traced by feminine fingers, and some are also employed on the charts of the Meteorological Society. There is a "Ladies' Tracing Office" at 8, Great Queen Street, Westminster, where the Principal trains ladies for three months. There are very seldom vacancies, and I know of no other office of this kind ; but it seems to my mind very possible that gentlewomen might make themselves proficients who have relations or friendly friends who are engineers or architects, from whom the would-be tracer could receive hints and directions which would serve as a foundation on which to learn. Definite instruction would be needed, even if drawing had been learnt previously at a School of Art. The great benefit of learning at the above-named office is, that further work is supplied to proficients. About one pound per week can thus be earned.

A. S. P.



WOOD-CARVING AS A REMUNERATIVE EMPLOYMENT FOR GENTLEWOMEN.



WIDESPREAD interest has been taken in the articles which have recently appeared in this Magazine respecting the remunerative employment of gentlewomen, and this has induced me to suggest that wood-carving be added to the list of such employments.

It will be readily understood that in a profession like that of wood-carving ladies cannot expect to compete successfully with men who have undergone a long training, and who have devoted years to the study of the art. There are, however, various branches of the art that do not require a very great amount of artistic ability, and it is to this description of work that I wish more particu-

larly to draw attention. Ladies do occasionally attain to great proficiency in wood-carving, and in exceptional cases are able to hold their own even with professional carvers; but such cases are rare, and when they do occur it will be found chiefly owing to years of study, combined with great natural ability.

Of course there are difficulties to be encountered and overcome before a lady can expect to earn money at wood-carving. In the first place, a certain degree of proficiency in the art is required, and this cannot be attained without practical instruction and study. It is, comparatively speaking, easy to obtain the necessary instruction, but this involves expense and loss of time. In the second place, the work executed has to be advantageously disposed of, and this is frequently a matter of difficulty, facilities for the sale of wood-carving being limited.

Ability, however, coupled with energy and perseverance, will in time overcome this latter difficulty.

Before proceeding further, I may state that it will be quite useless for any of my readers to think of following wood-carving as a remunerative occupation unless they possess some knowledge of freehand drawing. As practical or oral instruction is also absolutely necessary, I purpose giving a brief description of the School of Art Wood-Carving where this instruction can be obtained. The School of Art Wood-Carving, South Kensington, is in connection with the City and

Guilds of London Institute for the Advancement of Technical Education, and has been in existence at South Kensington a little over three years, it having been originally started under the direction of Messrs. Gillow and Co., and the Society of Arts, at Somerset Street, Portman Square.

It was established for the purpose of encouraging the art of wood-carving as a branch of fine arts. Both day and evening classes are held in the school, and the day classes are largely attended by ladies.

The fees for day students are £2 a month, or £5 a quarter; and for evening students 15s. a month, or £2 a quarter. All the students are required to provide their own tools, and the work done by them on their own materials may be taken away by the students.

After having been in the school twelve months, students may, on the recommendation of the instructor, receive such payment for their work as the Committee may determine. In addition to these classes instruction is also given by correspondence, £2 2s. being charged for a set of five elementary lessons, or 10s. for a single lesson. Each lesson includes a carved example to be retained by the pupil, and a block for copying the same, with instructions for commencing the work.

These lessons by correspondence are a great advantage to ladies who are unable to attend the school for any lengthened period, and a pupil who was only able to attend the classes irregularly for a short time would be able to continue her studies at home with the aid of these lessons. It is necessary for students to first undergo a short course of oral instruction under a properly qualified teacher, to enable them to acquire some facility in the working and sharpening of the tools.

One lady, who was only able to attend the classes irregularly for a fortnight, writes in most favourable terms of this system of correspondence.

The school is open to gentlemen as well as to ladies, and to professionals as well as to amateurs; there are, in fact, Free Studentships for persons of either sex of the industrial class, who intend to adopt wood-carving as a profession. Candidates for the Free Studentships are required to have passed the Second Grade Art Examination of the Science and Art Department in Freehand Drawing at least; but preference would be given to those who have some knowledge of wood-carving, or have passed in the other subjects of the Second Grade Art Certificate, or in drawing from the antique and the figure, architectural drawing or designing, or in modelling.

Students have at first to undergo an elementary course of carving simple patterns in deal, and are required to completely finish off their work with the tools alone—the use of files and sand-paper being wisely prohibited.

Students are also taught the proper method of sharpening carving tools, this being very necessary,

as unless the tools are properly sharpened the work cannot be finished in a satisfactory manner.

Carving in deal forms a first-rate introduction to carving in hard wood, as the students are able to carve the latter with much more finish and sharpness after they have succeeded in mastering the difficulties of soft wood. After this preliminary course students are at liberty to choose any patterns they may desire, but the work chiefly executed at the school appears to be panels for cabinets, fireplaces, &c.

Several ladies who have left the school are following wood-carving as a remunerative employment, and one lady who was formerly a student for eighteen months, received the first prize at the Peterborough Exhibition for examples of wood-carving, although several professional carvers were also competitors. Others who have left the school are doing well, but experience some difficulty in procuring work from any of the large firms.

Success is more frequently obtained by exhibiting specimens of work at the industrial exhibitions that are frequently held throughout the country.

Good examples of work shown at these exhibitions frequently lead to orders for similar descriptions of work, especially in small provincial towns where orders for wood-carving are not sufficiently numerous to give continual employment to a professional carver. Giving lessons in the art of wood-carving is also a remunerative employment, the usual fees being 2s. 6d. an hour, and success at an exhibition is frequently a good introduction to those desirous of obtaining lessons and who may not be able to attend at the School of Art Wood-Carving.

Constant employment is no doubt difficult to obtain by ladies, but as an occasional occupation wood-carving will be found not only interesting, but also remunerative, as the prices paid for this work are far in excess of the prices paid for fancy needlework, which in many cases barely suffices to cover the cost of materials. Many carvers to the trade are in the habit of giving out work to those whom they employ, to be done at their own homes, these carvers to the trade being in fact middle-men. A certain price is fixed upon, a specimen of the work required is given, and the working carver executes the work at his own home and at his own hours.

By a little perseverance a lady could obtain a connection of this kind, and if capable of doing the ordinary run of work would be able to obtain good prices. Unfortunately ladies do not, generally speaking, devote enough time to become thoroughly grounded in the rudiments of the art; they are too ambitious, and want to be doing Italian foliage before they have mastered simple diaper-work.

Ladies should consider first of all what description of work is most likely to find a ready sale, and it must be acknowledged that articles of use are far more suitable in this respect than articles intended for ornament alone, and a tastefully executed bracket or book-cover would find a more ready sale than an elaborately carved fireplace.

Brackets and picture-frames are continually required, and many persons would more willingly purchase them if they were artistically carved. I would not recommend a great deal of elaborate work, but merely designs of oak-leaves or ivy-leaves conventionally treated. Work of this description could easily be done by any lady of average intelligence who had received a few months' training at the School of Art Wood-Carving.

Then, again, employment could be obtained from some of the large jewellery firms in carving the so-called bog oak jewellery. These ornaments, chiefly brooches, earrings, and bracelets, are in nearly every case carved in ebony; and as the designs are, generally speaking, of a simple character, this work could easily be executed by ladies.

I may mention that I know of one case where a lady obtained a great deal of this description of work from a large firm of jewellers, and received remuneration at a rate that was highly satisfactory. She obtained the orders by personally visiting the jeweller in question, and exhibiting to him specimens of her work, which were, if I remember rightly, sets of brooches and earrings of her own design, simply an artistic arrangement of ivy-leaves in one case, and lilies of the valley in the other.

Another source of employment would be found in the tastefully designed incised work, which is so lavishly introduced in the fashionable black and gold style of furniture. This style of work is, in my opinion, especially suited to ladies, as there is absolutely no manual labour required, and I know of no more pleasant and interesting occupation than carving these delicate patterns. It is a class of work, however, that requires to be done by daylight, as artificial light renders it trying to the eyes. To do the incised work properly a good eye for graceful curves and lines, and firmness coupled with delicacy of touch, are necessary.

This style of ornament is introduced principally on mirrors and pianos; and in the case of the former, panels, with designs of flowers, fruit, or birds, painted in bright colours on a gold ground-work, are also introduced, and these panels would also afford employment to ladies capable of using the brush effectively.

Incised work does not require so much ability as bold relief-carving, and is quite as remunerative to the carver. Manufacturers of this style of work in most cases give out the work, and ladies who could give proofs of possessing the requisite skill would not have much difficulty in procuring employment.

I have endeavoured to show that wood-carving would prove a remunerative employment to ladies possessing sufficient energy and perseverance to follow it up; and in these days of competition, energy and perseverance must be shown by those who are compelled to work for a livelihood. Employment is frequently hard to find, still it cannot be expected even by the most sanguine that work, and especially remunerative work, will come unsought.

uncovers the vanished shore. All the houses standing now are built on shingle, and each one has as good a chance as the rest of being swept away. The winter visitor is always told this, and the remark seems more prophetic than cheerful as he listens to the loud voice of the March wind and the roar with which the sea responds.

The storms raged last March with a fury unusual even for the east coast. "It is no end of a sea in the winter," a schoolboy who knew it well once remarked to the writer, "so part of it drops in occasionally to say how do you do, and then goes and prospects round the town a bit." And this was a much more literal statement than it might have been imagined. A coastguard, or a boatman, or some other local personage knocked at the doors of the houses facing the sea on the night of the great storm. "There's a big sea coming up soon," he said, "you had better be boarded up a bit." So the houses were boarded up a bit. The street door was planked over, every chink was filled, and there was a time of anxious waiting.

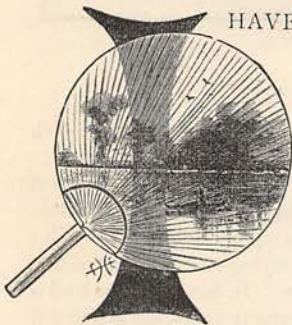
But soon enough and sure enough the waves came, nearer and nearer, and louder and louder, over and over the last bit of beach, over the narrow esplanade, and in no time they were dashing against the street doors; then, as if angry at gaining no admittance, spread past the houses and down the narrow streets behind. But the back doors had been planked over too, and the houses were all boarded up and fortified with earth and sawdust and planks, and looked as though they had made ready for a battle, as indeed they had. And still the sea fled on, until the narrow streets were flowing, and not a soul could anywhere be seen, or any sound be heard

save the raging of the storm. And still in front the sea roared and rushed and foamed, and lower down the beach it spent its fury on some poor fishers' cottages, sweeping them away and leaving literally nothing but the walls to show where but an hour before had been some simple homes of simple folk. The men were about till the last moment doing the best they could, leaving their women and children in-doors, thinking perhaps that the simple lives within would act as a charm against the fury without, or hoping that the merciless sea would be merciful. The hope, if they had it, was vain enough, and mothers and children were rescued from the top windows by means of boats, just in time to look back and see all they had possessed swept into the storm. They were not wholly surprised or wholly cast down. "It was bad enough when the herring harvest failed," one man said quietly without either excitement or dismay in his voice, "but that was no bad luck at all compared to this;" he said no more, and he looked as if he thought no more about it.

The people are used to storms, used to seeing a certain number of houses, and even of lives, paid in as toll to the great sea that is the means of helping them to live. It gives them a livelihood, shall it not also take it away if it will? It gives them life, shall it not also sometimes give them death? This seems to be the philosophy of the place. Besides, the winter sleepiness of the people perhaps helps them through their winter sorrows; they take them placidly enough, and placidly help each other to begin the world again. And so the year goes on and the summer comes; and the winter storms—where are they, that they should be remembered?

REMUNERATIVE EMPLOYMENTS FOR GENTLEWOMEN.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.



HAVE beforetime spoken of the art of engraving on wood (page 434). Up to the present time, I have not heard of the existence of any other school besides the one I mentioned, as established by the City and Guilds of London at 122, Kennington Park Road, S.E. In addition to the small fee charged for instruction, which is only £3 annually, there is the further advantage attached to this school of a Lady Superintendent, who resides in the house in which the class is held, and also of dinner and tea being provided and supplied to students at a fixed tariff. I learn that, through the kindly help of the "Society for Promoting the Employment of Women," those taught at the above-named school have the chance of still further privileges, namely, of working in

an office in Chancery Lane, under the supervision of an adept; there they have the great advantage of gaining an insight and experience in the requirements of the business, such as could not be gained in any school. This privilege gives the engravers an opportunity of obtaining remunerative work as soon as they have acquired sufficient rapidity of execution. A natural artistic faculty is required to insure rapid progress, as well as a knowledge of drawing; but, as I pointed out beforetime, a commensurate remuneration is sure to be reaped by those who possess talent and industry; and, for the encouragement of those who are soon daunted, I would further point out that the highest order of talent is not essential for engraving, whether on wood or stone.

Allied to the art of wood-engraving is that of Lithography. To those uninitiated in these two crafts, I may say that engraving on wood gives its results from the projecting surface of the block, or those parts not cut away by the engraver, while on the other hand the lithographic process is that of tracing letters or designs,

figures or pictures, on the level surface of stone, after which the impressions are transferred on to paper. There are various styles of lithography; there are the lower grades which merely imitate writing, and the higher forms, where the artist copies etchings and pictures on a large or small scale; great manual dexterity has to be brought into play when pictures are copied, for the different tints, often of the greatest delicacy, are produced by the clever hand guided by the clever head of the artist.

This occupation is one which can be followed at home, as stones ready prepared are supplied and sent by lithographing firms to those whom they employ, and who wish to work at home. Many of our sex on the other side of the water earn a living by this employment, and therefore we in England might take it up, for it is a field which appears to be not overcrowded, and one which is growing larger and extending its boundaries.

Chromo-lithography is another branch which is more interesting and very remunerative in the present day. As we know, coloured pictures are extensively used in books of all kinds. They abound in books for children, they appear in magazines, they are introduced into almanacks, they are necessary to illustrate flowers and botanical specimens, in fact coloured pictures are scattered broadcast over our country at the present time. It is by means of chromo-lithography that these coloured pictures are produced. As the name implies, the drawing is made on stone, but a step is made in advance of lithography, for colouring is added. This art of colouring adds a special charm to the work, and takes away what may be considered the monotony of lithography. I am assured that in this branch also the demand for good artists is greater than the supply. Lately, gentlewomen have taken up this work, and many are earning fair incomes by it. The necessary training can be obtained at the "Female School of Art," 43, Queen Square, Bloomsbury. The fees for instruction are six guineas for one session, or ten guineas for two sessions. The students may work five whole days weekly. The entrance-fee is half a guinea. Evening classes are held three times a week, the fees for which are from one to two guineas per session, and the entrance-fee is five shillings. There are two sessions during the year, and students may join the school at any time.

In connection with this school, a Home has been opened at 4, Brunswick Square, W.C., for the purpose of accommodating students attending the art classes. The charge for board and residence is at the rate of a guinea per week. In this house there are rooms for study as well as drawing and dining rooms.

I have lately seen a new kind of work, and it is one which I think will be popular. I am inclined to think, too, that there will be many purchasers, but only comparatively few who will learn the art; and therefore,

unlike many arts, the market of this speciality will not be overstocked.

I allude to Paper Mosaic-work. The effect actually produced is most striking and unique; the result of a judicious selection of colours, and delicate manipulation of the tiny rolls and coils of paper, is surprising, for a beautiful rich jewelled appearance is obtained, and picture-frames, blotters, hand-screens, Christmas, birthday, and menu cards, and a hundred and one things can be made to look pretty and unique in this way. Those who see this work when finished never guess that paper is the substance; when the coils are placed close together, the idea given is that of embossed gold or metal work. Instruction in this art can be obtained at 93, Fairfax Road, South Hampstead, N.W. (not far from the Swiss Cottage), from Madame Putz, who charges a guinea for the instruction; the number of lessons is not limited; the hours of attendance are from eleven to four o'clock daily. Deft and sensitive fingers are required for the manipulation of the tiny slips of paper; the design is marked out by the instructor. I believe that work would be supplied to those learners who showed aptitude.

A useful idea is that of small barrels or round tubs for the purpose of holding tennis-balls. They should have a lid and a handle, and when flowers are painted on these receptacles they look ornamental when standing in the hall and on the tennis-ground.

I saw an uncommon piece of furniture for drawing-room use the other day, and that was a wooden milking pail! Flowers were painted on the smooth wood outside, the iron bands were covered over with velvet, the inside was lined with wadded satin, a thick cord was put round the brim, and two or three pieces twisted together were fastened to each wooden handle of the pail; the use was for holding needlework, &c.

I learn that an Association is about to be formed to establish depôts in various towns, in order that gentlewomen who seek to earn a livelihood may find employment in various ways. Many depôts have from time to time been set on foot, and have been obliged, from various reasons, to close their doors; it is hoped that this Association, which is called "The Women's Trade Association," will be able to carry out its plans and establish depôts in various inland towns and sea-side resorts, on a firmer basis. The scheme is not yet fully matured; its object is excellent; we will hope that it will be helped forward. When it is in working order I will give further details. Those who wish to give a helping hand may make further inquiries of the secretary, Miss Meyer, 20, Frant Road, Tunbridge Wells.

This Association proposes to establish shops and workrooms in which gentlewomen only shall be employed, and thus to give them an opportunity to turn to profitable account the energies and abilities which many possess.

A. S. P.

