

on the reverse side, which will show up the head to advantage.

A PRETTY WINDOW TRANSPARENCY.—Get two panes of good white glass, of equal size. Make them perfectly clean. Lay one of the panes down on the table, and cover it with a piece of the sheeves and tarlatan or India muslin, pressed smooth. Be careful to have the threads of the muslin perfectly parallel to the sides of the glass, fasten it to the edges with fine paste. To get this on right is difficult to manage. Arrange on the tarlatan a group of ferns and leaves, securing them in place by a drop of mucilage. Now lay over it carefully, so as not to disturb your picture, the other pane of glass, fasten the two together with a narrow strip of linen or muslin pasted on. Put an extra binding of tape across the top edge, on which, when dry, sew in the middle a loop of the same to hang by. Bind it all with a ribbon wide enough to cover the other, paste on, cutting a slit in that which goes over the top, through which pull the loop.

A NEW HANGING BASKET.—Pretty hanging baskets are made of Japanese umbrellas. Take the stick out of a medium-sized one; sew a strip of cardboard together to form a circle of suitable size; fasten it to the inside of the umbrella, so as to keep it in shape and falling open. Put a bow of ribbon, or a cord and tassels at the top, which will be the bottom when inverted; hang it, with ribbon, to your chandelier, or in one of your windows. Fill with pressed ferns, dried flowers and autumn leaves, and it will be a pleasant bit of color for your sitting-room. The newest umbrellas have flowers and figures on a brilliant red or blue foundation. Costs 10 cents.

"CURIOSITY."—Martin Luther's betrothal ring has come into the possession of a Dusseldorf jeweler. A Silesian nobleman was its last owner, and its authenticity is fully attested by documents. The ring is of gold, and bears the inscription: Dr. Martino Luthero; Catherina V. Bora, 13 Juni, 1525. It is elaborately carved to represent the Passion of our Saviour. In the middle is the crucifixion, and on either side are shown the hammer, nails, ladder, sponge, hyssop, etc. The head of the high-priest also appears, and a group of Roman soldiers, while a tiny ruby represents a drop of the sacred blood.

"HERBARIUM."—The University of Gottingen has just received a splendid herbarium, which was left to it by Dr. Griesbach, the director of the Gottingen Botanical Gardens. It includes more than 40,000 species belonging to all parts of the earth, and has long been known as the most important private collection in existence. When the herbaria of the East India Company was given away to distinguished botanists, Dr. Griesbach received more than 5,000 East Indian plants. After his death an attempt was made to secure the collection for Paris, but its acceptance by the Gottingen University has been sanctioned by the King of Prussia.

QUESTIONS.

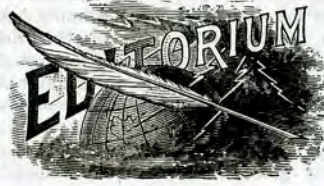
"COR. CLASS."—Will you give me directions for painting upon velvet and satin, in oil colors?

"MRS. D."

"COR. CLASS."—Will you inform "De Vries" how to restore oil paintings that have become cracked?

"COR. CLASS."—Can you give me a few hints to crystallize some natural flowers? ARIVLE."

"COR. CLASS."—Can you give me directions for painting or staining glass windows, doors, etc., in interior decorations? HOME DECORATION."



Women at the Front.

WHATEVER may be thought or said about it, there is no gainsaying the rapid strides that have been taken by women within the past ten or fifteen years, and which are limited to no class and no country.

It is true, in all ages, that clever women, like religion, have never been left without witnesses; but for the most part they have been exceptional instances, which were only supposed to prove the general rule of man's superiority in active affairs—in whatever indeed required the exercise of thinking, reasoning, intelligence. But events are fast causing many persons, men as well as women, and women as well as men, to retract their opinions, and at least to ask themselves if the difference between men and women is not largely physical, one of function merely, and if women, while lacking some of the brute force of men, cannot more than make up for it by moral courage and endurance—while so far as mere intellect, and even the administration of affairs is concerned, they are certainly proving their capacity to stand alone. One of the largest public gatherings ever known in the city of London convened during the month of May at St. James's Hall, and was presided over with signal ability by a Viscountess (Lady Habberton), while the overflow organized itself into a second convention in another part of the same building, found a second equally excellent presiding officer, and another list of speakers, which "exchanged" with those on the main platform. The conduct of the whole affair is acknowledged to have been perfect. Preparations had been made with the utmost care and forethought. The speeches were short. The best speakers were called to the front, and they voiced the meeting in a clear, decided, but wholly moderate and unobjectionable way. Some of the cleverest women in England were represented on this occasion, and it was, in all respects, a demonstration of which their sisters in this country, as well as elsewhere, have reason to be proud.

At almost the same time, the Empress of Austria, a woman as proud as she is beautiful, presided in person over a public meeting of the Woman's Hungarian branch of the Red Cross Society, while the number occupying public positions of responsibility has become legion. All these, it must be remembered, have won their way through eminent fitness, and usually notwithstanding the bitter and determined opposition of unfit men.

It is doubtless natural that men should resist the loss of power, but it is inevitable, unless they can keep sufficiently in advance, and are sufficiently many-sided to enable them to meet all the new emergencies, solve all the new problems, provide for all the new requirements, and in other ways show themselves equal to the entire situation. If that was or is the case, there would be no excuse for interference; we might consider the ability of women in the light of a reserve, but only to be drawn upon when necessity demands it. But it is useless to blind one's eyes to the fact that women are at the present time shouldering one-half of the responsibility of the human race. Setting aside the fact that it is women who bear the burden of children, and bring them into the world—a necessity that ought to bring her some immunity—it is women who do four-fifths at least, of the cooking, sewing, cleaning, nurs-

ing, and care taking for the entire race. Not more than one-hundredth part are "supported" by men in the sense of having money provided for their wants—and these usually give them children, and act as their social representatives, while an immensely larger number not only support themselves, but assist in the support of the family, by steady, drudging labor in the arts, in the professions, in the industries, in shops, by keeping boarding-houses, by working farms; either of which is in addition usually to harassing family duties.

It is a mistake to suppose that men, at least nowadays, take the burdens of life upon themselves. Thousands upon thousands of married men get the credit of it, when in reality, it is the wife who stands in front, and carries the weight of responsibility, and permits the man to act as her representative because it is more "respectable," because a family loses tone and character through the degradation or lack of manliness of its presumed head and provider.

If illness or disaster step in to bring calamity, it is rarely the boys who feel called upon to put their shoulders to the wheel for the common welfare, but in nine cases out of ten, the girls, from whom little or nothing was expected. The great difficulty is, as before remarked, that women have always to carry a double burden. Earning a livelihood for themselves or others does not excuse them from the cares of home, the demands of sick friends and relatives, or the requirements of a wardrobe, which is infinitely more perplexing than that of a man, and which it is a great mistake to suppose they can alter or revolutionize; for whatever is, is right, in the sense that it must be accepted by the majority.

The present age, however, furnishes a marvelous exhibition of the power and influence of women in quite new directions, and while we deprecate any loss of the diviner gifts, which are felt rather than seen, yet it is useless to shut our eyes to facts, or fail to acknowledge that a good deal of the reason why women come to the front, is because men occupy the rear.

The Influence of Women in National Affairs.

THE death of the Empress of Russia has afforded occasion for considerable comment on the influence which women have heretofore exerted in national affairs, and it cannot be said to be always for good. The narrow views of life, the social prejudices, the bigotry in religion, which women are apt to cherish, they carry into such contact with larger affairs as they are permitted to find, or rather as is inevitable to their position, and the result is not favorable to growth, progressive development, or the happiness of the state.

Notably this was the case with the Empress Eugenie, as well as with the recent consort of the Emperor Alexander, and in both cases the consequences were disastrous; in the one case plunging the nation into a war, which cost Eugenie her crown, her husband, her everything; in the other retarding the progress of a people, and embittering every natural tie. There can be no real sorrow over the death of such a woman, except on the part of those who remember the sweet, simple, innocent young girl, before her morbid nature had exerted its baleful influence upon the nation and individuals. The suffering she endured was largely self-created, from much of what she might have known she was mercifully protected. Poor woman! she was indeed, and after all, much to be pitied; for, having lost the confidence and love of her husband, she had nothing else—and life must have been very wearisome to her, even though she was an empress.