MORE OCCUPATIONS FOR INVALIDS.

amongst the non-artistic work, while closely bordering on it, is modelling in perforated cardboard, a delightful work for invalids, as it provides just that degree of absorption which is needful to make them oblivious of their discomforts. An invalid lady we have lately heard from, who was completely incapacitated for all active work by spinal complaint, managed to do much of this work, and most artistically was it performed. Amongst the really beautiful works done by her were models of churches, monuments, and houses, which were exquisite in their neatness and finished beauty. She also did flat punchings, needlebooks, &c., with raised patterns on them, made by laying the perforated cardboard on in layers, each one being smaller than the other, till they ended in one single line at the top of the pattern.

Paper-flower-making is another non-artistic employment, which is very profitable in some cases. Lessons in this art can be procured in London, and the beauty of the flowers made is quite a subject of wonder; and, judging from a story told in the Gardener's Magazine some time ago, the really good examples have taken in even experienced gardeners, who demanded to know where that exquisite new species came from.

Wax-flower making is akin to this, but is not in demand, so far as I hear, though as an amusement it would be delightful, it would not be a profitable form of work. Modelling in leather is another non-artistic work, which only requires a good eye and some artistic taste to carry on. There is, perhaps, one drawback in the amount of strength required, as a finish, the tongue should be of a deep-pink flannel.

These stamp-snakes sell well at sales and bazaars, and appear universally popular. They are excellent occupation for the invalid, as they are interesting, and need a certain amount of individual taste exercised in their making to render them effective. The only other method of using stamps that I am acquainted with I may as well mention here, and that is one which was recently seen by a lady traveller at the Hague—"In a glass case, in which photographs and other articles were exhibited for sale in the coffee-room, I saw several saucers, cups, and plates, which struck me as novel. On examination I found they were covered with old postage-stamps, arranged with great effect in patterns. These were evidently gummed on the crockery first, and then varnished, so that they could be washed without detriment. The patterns were mostly produced by the higher-priced English and foreign stamps, while the background was composed of the common penny English ones. I have also heard of common deal tables being ornamented in the same way, the legs of which were stained and varnished."

Macramé lace—or, as it appears to be now called, Irish string lace (probably from the manufacture having been lately introduced into that country, in the hopes of giving employment to the women and children)—is another good employment for our invalids. It is the most delightful work, when once thoroughly mastered, and the pleasure of being well enough versed in the art to compose your own patterns is very great. It is now much used for the trimming of dresses, especially linen ones, which are thus called string dresses, the over-skirts being nearly all composed of the open macramé.

And now we come to the more difficult question of those unfortunate invalids who can only work with one hand. If it is the right hand the difficulty is less, of course, than with only the useless left hand to depend upon.

It has often occurred to me how much wiser it would be to make both hands equally useful, so that being deprived of the use of one we might not be so helpless. Some children are by nature ambidextrous, that is, they have the use of the left as well as the right hand; and in such fortunate cases it seems to me it would be well to foster the good gift moderately, and endeavour to make it useful in some cases. As the left hand often merely acts as a holder, the work being done by the right hand alone, of course most things can be managed, even when the use of the left is lost, as a leaden pin cushion can be made to answer, and work can be fastened to it. Plain needlework, however, is impossible under the loss of either hand, and so is tailoring and crochet. If the scissors can be used with either hand that is a great step in advance, and opens the door to many things useful. For instance, a pastime of patch-work we give can be then managed with either hand, and with the aid of a leaden...
THE DISADVANTAGES OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

We hear a great deal nowadays about the advantages of the higher education of women. During the last few years high schools have multiplied in every direction; colleges and halls have been opened at both Universities, and girl graduates are no longer rare events. Does not that mean that while the talented women of this generation are studying to equal men on their own ground they are leaving the women's posts for the incapacibles? If this comes to be the rule may God help the men!

Another side of woman's influence follows naturally on this. Do we not all know dozens, if not hundreds, of cases, even among our own friends, where "the young woman of the household is sanctified by the wife"? Where the man who has been careless and irreverent in gradually brought into the right way by his wife? Where a mother's quiet wisdom keeps her sons straight, among the innumerable temptations which beset them at school, at college, and on their going into life? Do we not all know at least a few of the women of whom it might be said—

"She never found fault with you; never implied your wrong by her right; and yet men by her side grew not less, but rather purer, as through the whole town the children were gladder that pulled at her gown."

We cannot help thinking that the great advantage of the present day is that the learning is made an end, and not a means. There is an old-fashioned notion that education is a preparation for life, and that no amount of knowledge can take the place of practical usefulness. No doubt a certain amount of knowledge is necessary to fit us for this life; but, married or unmarried, a woman (if only she knows what she knows, and is taught when a child to do her work thoroughly) can find plenty of work lying ready to her hand, and she will be far more useful doing than studying.

A woman's natural quickness of perception may often be of the greatest possible use in matters which seem above her ken; but if she tries to advance too far she will certainly fall. Dwarfs on giants' shoulders see farther than giants; but we all know the fate of the dwarf who fought by the giant's side.

M. P. S.

VARIETIES.

SHORT-SIGHTED MORTALS.—When waves and trouble come over us, we say that troubles will never end; when God sends a fair wind, we think that the fair wind will never cease blowing.

NEW AND SECOND-HAND.

If thou wouldst tidings understand Take them not at second-hand.

IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF THE CAT.—People who have a strong distaste to cats detect their presence by the odour, in circumstances which would be thought impossible. A lady in my study one day suddenly remarked, "There is a cat slinking on the hearth, but on the hearth-stairs, looking through the railings, sure enough, was the cat.

—G. H. Lewes.

A GREAT INFLUENCE.

CHEMISTS tell us that a single grain of iodine will impart colour to seven thousand times its weight of water. It is so in higher things; one companion, one book, one habit may affect the whole of life and character.