I N A L I E D U P A F E W L A R G E C O L O U R E D P I C T U R E S."

"To induce the woman to make herself look neater was a more difficult matter, but with a considerable amount of argument and pleading I also succeeded in prevailing on her to mend some reins in her dress, and by plentiful application of soap and water improve her appearance very greatly."

Her husband was certainly struck by the change in his home, but drink had too decided a hold on him to be so easily shaken off. My next plan was for the woman to send her husband a can of coffee, hot and strong, just at the time of his watching him to have his supper waiting by the time he reached home. This proved very efficacious; the coffee in a great measure stays the craving for alcohol, and has been found of great benefit in many cases. I lent him some illustrated papers, and promised to do so every week, and he seemed quite content to stay at home and show the pictures to his children. Happily, soon after this, a temperance club and reading room was opened in the neighbourhood; my friend the bricklayer signed the pledge, became a frequent visitor at the reading-rooms, and now, several years after the change took place, is amongst the most staunch upholders of temperance.

I must not omit to mention a powerful agency for good which is good where it is good, and that is the Sunday-school in London where my district lies. It is a society which offers prizes for a variety of objects—flowers, plants, needlework of all kinds, carpentering, and woodwork. It has always kept me, in fact, anything and everything for the improvement of the homes of the competitors. On payment of 2d. any one may purchase a card of membership, and is entitled to compete and exhibit at the three shows which are held during the year in a school-room, borrowed for the purpose. We easily find friends willing to offer prizes for different objects, and also to undertake the arduous task of judging the competitions. Each district visitor in the neighbourhood persuades as many as she can to join the society, and gives any suggestions she is able to show what to make and how to make it. Special visitors have to be appointed to visit the homes of those who compete for the next room and window gardening prizes, as, of course, are required to be always neat and the window-boxes always in good condition, and not merely just at the time of the visit. It is found that a society of this sort succeeds admirably in exciting amongst the poor a feeling of interest and pride in their homes. When this is obtained the public-house loses much of its fascination, and a blow is struck at the root of our national sin.

In conclusion, let me add one caution, which will perhaps appease the uneasiness of some workers. Do not let your thoughts and energies be so much engrossed by schemes for the improvement of the homes and way of life of your poor as to forget the higher claims of their immortal souls. The need for domestic and social reform is so glaring that it cannot fail to attract and occupy attention, and is sometimes apt to take up an undue share of care and time, to the neglect of the far more important question of eternal salvation. The things which have been seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal."
BY THE NATURALIST, and the stalks along the leaves quite as remarkable for their beauty as much still to admire and investigate. We gained a lesson from the nettle one day, for I taught the girls how to grasp it so that it would not hurt their fingers. The stinging nettle (Urtica dioica) is well known for its sharp sting. The leaves are tapering at the end, broad and heart-shaped near the stem, and are serrated.

The stamens and pistils of this tribe are generally in separate flowers. If you look at the nettle leaves with a magnifying glass you will see the small branches of flowers on either side of the cells and over the stems also. There is a minute quantity of thin, burning, acid juice in each of these stings, and this causes the pain when one comes in contact with them.

In some of the nettles that grow in hot climates the poison is very strong indeed. If the hand touches them it is as though a hot iron had scorched the skin, the whole arm swells, some of the fingers are affected alike, and it takes even days before the pain passes away.

Still, there is beauty in the nettle. Each little stinging is elegantly formed, and when all the parts are brought to the light, the poison is nearly packed away until the plant is disturbed.

The hop plant is one of the same tribe, and is, I suppose, rather an important member. In the hop season the farmer and the hop hop as one of their chief sources of profit, and in good seasons, when there is a favourable sale, no doubt large sums of money are made. But the seasons fluctuate, and from various reasons the hop harvests of the present are not as remunerative as they formerly were. The stamens and pistils of the hop are on different plants, and it produces a kind of flowers, unlike any other in appearance.

The barren flower has fine leaves and fine stamens, while the fertile flower looks like a drainpipe. It is a rather tall plant in Common scamps. At the base of each of these scales are to be found two styles, and one little seed.

The Kentish hop fields look very pretty when the hop is in blossom; it is long twining stems are tied to high poles, and it spreads its clusters of flowers and its pretty-shaped leaves in wreaths of great beauty and luxuriance. The field of the Kentish hop man is a field of flowers.

The banks are dotted with the hop-harvesters, their emblem of a hop plant in their cap, and thus the banks and hedge are covered with flowers for miles around. The hop harvest is one of the most important and lucrative crops in England.

The look of the hop-leaf again. The part next the stem is called the base, the end of the leaf is the apex, the part that joins the stem is the petiole.

Have you ever heard of the sleep of flowers?

"Surely they do not sleep like animals," exclaimed Fanny.

"They certainly do sleep, and it is beautiful to watch them. It occurs usually when the shadows of evening come on. You may notice it in many flowers. The daisies, which seem to delight in sunshine, no sooner lose the heat than they gather their star-like rays into the form of a little tent, and thus they remain until the sun rises on the next morning. The bellflower closes up its leaves the last of all; so do numbers of other blossoms, and the pinioned is still more sensitive, for it refuses to open at all if it is wet the previous day. Some flowers drop on their stalks at night, others fold up their leaves, and retire to rest so suddenly that no poor insects that have crept inside the petals for a sugar of honey find themselves caught in the trap, and are unable to get out until the leaves shine out and the petals open to the light. But now it is getting late, and we must retrace our steps homeward. I hope our next walk will be in the pine wood."

**BITS ABOUT ANIMALS.**

**INJUSTICE TO THE BUTCHER.** A sheep was entrusted into a yard for the night. When the owner returned, the sheep would not move, but kept possession of it. Poor thurlinde, finding she was not likely to regain her home, flew away to seek her own safety. She was accompanied by about ten swallows; but the swallows open their beak, and well enmeshed, as in a fortress, defied their attack, and main-

**THE GIRL'S OWN PAPER.**