

If our Parliamentarians were not so much like jelly-fish they would tackle the question of Liquor Reform in a statesmanlike manner, and enact laws that would remove the excuse for these everlasting referendums, that do so much to excite enmity and divide the people against themselves. As it is now the Licensing issue overshadows the elections, and the country suffers from the fact that we do not have the selection of candidates for parliamentary honours we deserve. Most of those seeking the suffrages of the electors nowadays rise little above the status of party hacks, and so instead of New Zealand progressing on broad lines towards a model state governed by forceful, intellectual and patriotic statesmen, we have perforce to make our selection from a varied assortment of candidates of a nondescript order, more gifted as talkers than legislators.

The Aim Not Abolition

TO revert to the Liquor Question (without political implication) let us hope our next Parliament will be led by a Government sufficiently strong to introduce some sense into our licensing laws.

Our hotels should be remodelled. The sale of liquor should be a secondary consideration; not, as it is, the sole reason for their existence, an enemy of family life, an occasion of dissipation and all manner of social evils—often the subject of much exaggeration. This revolution can be made, and the men you send to Parliament, if they will (this is written advisedly) can bring it about. We believe that the present licensing laws are hindering the growth of real temperance. If only the Trade had not such a grip on the licenses and there was freer competition, we might in time evolve a type of public house which would serve as a social rendezvous. It is, we contend, safer and better to try to reform, not to abolish. To this end the first principle is that the consumption of drink should be made an incident, and not the object of a publican holding a license. Our present system goes on the opposite principle.

Rational Drinking

SO far from insisting that hotel bars should offer no counter-attractions to the consumption of liquor, we would suggest creating other attractions, in the expectation that drinking habits would thereby lose their coarseness and become rationalised. The idea might, indeed, be carried further and extend to *bona fide* restaurants and club licenses. This would tend to encourage enterprise in catering for the people upon rational lines, so that people could get away from the cares of work and business, hear some good music, get some good talk, perhaps have a dance, or a game. Does the mere man never reflect that the home is a woman's workshop and business, and that she, too, has a right to get away from it sometimes and meet congenial company under congenial surroundings?

As it is now the hotel is a man's domain, where for the most part he would be ashamed to introduce his wife or sweetheart. It should not be so. The hotel should be as accessible—under rational conditions and

proper control—as much to the woman as to the man. Let us be progressive: let us be tolerant: let us be cheerful.

Our Lady Candidate

MISS MELVILLE is the only member of her sex who has braved the hustings at the General Elections as an aspirant for Parliamentary honours. Whether Grey Lynn will be represented in our next Parliament is for the electors to decide. Possibly the novelty of a woman being privileged to put M.P.

Equality for Men

IN the feminine campaign for political and civic equality its champions have ever made their battle-cry "Equal rights," and (very humanly) said nothing about "Equal liabilities." Our predecessors were at least logical in treating the woman as the inferior and when they limited her rights also limited her liabilities. Admittedly they did not strike a fair balance; the penalties of sex far outweighed the privileges. But now the balance has swung the other way. The penalties have van-

ished, for the reason that the managing director of the firm that employed him was his wife. Plainly, this "equality" business is not working out according to Cocker.

Husbands and Wives

WILL woman, in her quest for equality, ever bring herself to demand that the present legal obligation on a husband to support his wife shall be remodelled to cover the obligation on a wife to support her husband? We are doubtless approaching that consummation. It may be thought that this is written in half-jest, not in dead-carnest. Still, many a true word is spoken—and written—in jest, and this particular jest does pull the full equalitarian up sharp. Equality of opportunity and status is a one-sided affair unless it carries with it equality of obligation also. It is one of the banes of to-day that we are loud in the assertion of our rights and silent about our duties. Sex equality has aroused a good deal of thoughtless enthusiasm among those who have not followed out its full implications. Equality is attainable over a large field of life, but it may be doubted whether women will accept the legal responsibility of keeping their husbands.

Our Competitions

THE Editor has received a number of letters from prospective entrance for our Photographic Competitions complaining that there was not sufficient time allowed between the announcement of the conditions and the date of the closing of entries.

We appreciate that some readers do not receive THE MIRROR until towards the end of the first week in the month, and that to close the Competitions on the Tenth of the month does not leave much time to prepare prints.

Naturally we are anxious to meet the convenience, as far as possible, of competitors; consequently it has been decided to extend the date of closing of the Competitions announced last month until *Wednesday November 25*. See page vi.

Our Holiday Number

THE next number of THE LADIES' MIRROR will be an especially attractive issue. In addition to the usual popular features of our Journal it will be enlarged and finely illustrated on art paper with numerous pictures depicting the beauties of our country and reproducing many charming studies of the youth and beauty of New Zealand's fair inhabitants. Also the outdoor life and national activities of our people will be shown with pictorial grace.

Of recent months the popularity of THE LADIES' MIRROR has been most generously manifested in the ever-increasing lists of subscribers, and also by the big demands of newagents for more, and still more copies. The order for our December issue, which will be both a Christmas and Holiday Number, will be a record one, but even so readers who are not actual subscribers or who have not already bespoken their copies for December, should be sure to place their orders early to save disappointment.



"Joan," a Bonny Child Study by Marie Dean, Wellington.

after her name may be her heaviest handicap because the public mind in this Dominion is slow to adapt itself to the idea of the fullest emancipation of womenkind. However, whether Miss Melville succeeds or fails at the polls, and apart altogether from her political leanings, this energetic social worker and city councillor is to be admired for her pluck, and will in days to come be remembered as one who helped to blaze the trail to the eventual goal of women's rights.

ished, but the privileges remain.

Hence the rising in the House of Lords recently of Lord Danesfort, that former anti-suffragist, to plead for equality for men. He demands protection under the law for the married man. The wife cannot have it both ways. If she won't be a chattel but an equal, she must stand on her own feet and be responsible for her own actions.

Meanwhile we note that a woman has appealed to a magistrate because her husband only worked when he