

NOTES FOR WOMEN.

LONDON, October 21.

Famous American Women.

Following shortly upon the lamented death of Miss Florence Nightingale comes news of the death, last Monday, of a famous friend of "the angel of the lamp," Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, widow of the brilliant philanthropist, Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe.

Mrs. Ward, whose name has been joined with Harriet Beecher Stowe's as "an oracle of humanitarian America," was not only a Unitarian preacher, lecturer, writer, a prominent leader in the women's suffrage, prison reform, and peace movements, but the composer also of the battle hymn of the Republic, written early in the Civil War, while she was visiting the camps around Washington. It was set to the music of "John Brown's Body," and immediately became popular with the soldiers. The first verse runs:—

"Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is tramping out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fatal lightning of His terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on.

Other of her works are "Passion Flowers," "A Trip to Cuba," "Sex and Education," "Is Society Polite?" and "Sketches of Representative Women of New England, 1903."

Before the Civil War Mrs. Howe and her husband conducted the anti-slavery organ, the "Boston Commonwealth," and after that question was settled she became active in the causes of female suffrage, prison reform, etc. Despite her advanced years (she was ninety recently) the famous writer was in full possession of her faculties and mental keenness, and still showed great interest in all the great public questions of the day.

Among her very large circle of friends Mrs. Howe has numbered such famous people as Sydney Smith, Florence Nightingale, Longfellow, Thomas Carlyle, Samuel Rogers, Dickens, Lord Houghton, Landseer, Wordsworth, the Hon. Mrs. Norton, Gregory XVI., and Miss Edgeworth.

It was in the early '50's that Mrs. Howe's first volume of poems, "Passion Flowers," treating of the struggle of the Hungarian and Italian patriots, appeared. This was followed by another, "Words for the Hour." A play, "The World's Own," described as "full of literary merits and of dramatic defects," was produced at Wallack's Theatre by the elder Sothorn and Mathilda Heron. Another was written for Edwin Booth, but never produced.

Women's Hostels.

The Duchess of Marlborough presided at a conference held on Monday at the British Institute, at which the subject—undoubtedly an urgent one in this great city where it should long ago have been attended to—of hostels for women was discussed.

There is already established in Manchester a municipal home for women, which is very successful. The Duchess has urged that hostels be run on similar lines in London.

A speaker in proposing a motion in favour of approaching the L.C.C. in order to get them to more in the matter, spoke of the dangers which a young girl encountered when looking for a night's lodging in London, and said it was a disgrace to society that such things should be possible. Now that public attention had been focussed upon the evil, a definite effort should be made to cope with it immediately. This lady also quoted a number of reasons for showing how necessary it was that municipal rather than private enterprise should undertake the establishment and control of lodging-houses for women.

In order to call attention to the urgency of this question a National Conference is to be called in the spring,

opportunity for building strong, capacious jaws, and sound, long-lasting, shapely teeth has passed, if the mother has not been in the habit of giving plenty of hard food and paying due attention to training her offspring to eat slowly and chew thoroughly. If she has not done this, she has let slip the period specially intended by Nature for the efficient building of organs which should last strong and good for the rest of life, but which so seldom do so nowadays.

under the auspices of the National Association for women's lodging homes.

Women Jurors.

A somewhat unusual incident took place at a county court in Northamptonshire this week. A woman who was defending an action against a dressmaker wanted to have the dress tried on in court to show that it was a misfit. The judge thereupon asked all the women in court to decide the point, and they retired with the defendant to another room. There they saw the garment tried on, and by a majority reported that the dress was too long, but that it could be remedied. His Honor said the plaintiff must put matters right before she got a verdict.

New Zealand Anti-Suffragists.

A large number of New Zealand ladies, resident more or less permanently in this country, who have practical experience of the working of the female franchise in their own Dominion, are being circularised by the Women's National Anti-Suffrage League. Representations have been made to the league that many of these ladies desire, without undue publicity, to dissociate themselves from those of their fellow-countrywomen who advocate the passing of similar legislation in England, on the ground of the benefits that it has conferred on women in New Zealand. After consultation with several ladies in London the league has issued a form of letter for signature, denying that female franchise in New Zealand has been for the benefit of women.

A Wonderful Lily.

The Victoria Regia, the great Amazon lily that has been for many years the pride of the Botanic Gardens, that lives in a glass palace in a perpetual tepid bath, has a bloom that is a foot across. The great spiked leaves are in some cases, even in London, eight feet wide. The Victoria Regia has only once been known to disclose more than one bloom at a time, and when the remarkable flower opens it generally only lasts for a couple of days.

Woman Manager's Enterprise.

A correspondent in this week's number of the "Era," in replying to Mr. Redford's contention that no theatre in England booked all its seats, points out that Miss Horniman—on whom it may be remembered, the degree of M.A. was recently conferred by the Manchester University—has, since the reconstruction of the Gaiety Theatre in Manchester, allowed all the seats in the place to be numbered and reserved.

Foreign Waiters.

As every travelled New Zealander will agree, one pin-prick which irritates one during a stay in London is the omnipresent foreign waiter. Now, there is hope of a change. One of the most hopeful suggestions yet put forward for dealing with such "blind-alley" employments in England as that of the boy messenger is the proposal made by the manager of the Inns of Court Hotel, London, that these boys should be trained to become waiters. There is an enormous demand in London and other English cities for good waiters, but for some reason it is impossible to obtain a sufficient supply except by importing foreigners. Much of the feeling—or alleged feeling—against foreign waiters is doubtless altogether absurd, but there is no reason why the country should remain dependent upon foreign enterprise for filling a useful and honourable profession. A good English waiter need not fear comparison with the waiters of any other country, and is generally able to add a delightful note of friendliness to the discharge of his duties. But, unlike poets, waiters are not born, they are made; and the essence of the new scheme put forward by Mr. Aobott is to train raw youths to become efficient waiters. Post Office messenger boys, it is suggested, will make excellent material for the kind of work they have already done in carrying messages and running errands leads more naturally to the work expected of a waiter than to that of an artisan. It is proposed that the boys should first have a training in the rudiments of the waiter's art in England, and should then be sent abroad to learn one or more foreign languages. On their return they will be fit to take highly-paid posts, and it is interesting to note that a good waiter can earn considerably more than the average bank clerk.

"First Rhodes Sister."

£300 A YEAR IN ENGLAND FOR TWO YEARS.

AMERICAN SCHOLAR.

(From Our Lady Correspondent.)

LONDON, October 23.

When Cecil Rhodes introduced his great educational scheme by endowing scholarships that enable Britons of the overseas dominions to come to England and enter Oxford, he made no provision for women scholars. This undoubted gap has not been filled so far by any English educationalists, but Americans have taken the matter up, and there is already an American woman "Rhodes" scholar in London.

She is Miss Juliet S. Points, and the first winner of the scholarship endowed by the General Federation of Women's Clubs in America.

The idea of an international and inter-colonial scholarship scheme for women, laid down on somewhat similar lines to the Rhodes Scholarship for men, has struck more than one woman, but to Mrs. Thayer, an American lady, must the credit of the present scheme be given, since it was she who formulated it, and she who mothered it with wonderful pluck and perseverance through the many trying years that it took to work up the necessary enthusiasm to set it in working order.

The Scholarship, which is endowed with £200 a year, is to consist of two years' study at Oxford, Cambridge, or London University, by distinguished women graduates, and it is hoped that there will eventually be a "reciprocating side" consisting of two years' post graduate study in the States or Canada by Englishwomen.

I was this week fortunate in obtaining an interview with Madame Thayer, who is a delightful New Englander, and a well-known educationalist, and asked her then whether there had ever been any suggestion that New Zealand and Australian women graduates should participate in this scheme.

"I saw Mr. Hogben, of New Zealand, when he was in London," Mrs. Thayer replied, "and got his promise to lay the scheme before his Committee. He wrote that he had done so, but that the Committee did not see the necessity for such scholarships, as in New Zealand men and women shared alike, and all scholarships were open to men and women, which showed an absolute ignorance of the raison d'être of Mr. Rhodes' scholarships, and consequently of these."

"I am not pleading from an academic point of view, but from a much wider, broader, deeper conception of this work. This is an age of development, and in this work I maintain that women are a far greater factor than men. I plead that, as the training of the children is in their hands as mothers and teachers, that they should themselves be trained and allowed to take their part in the development of their country."

"Isolated scholarships have no value in this work. You want the workers banded together, working with the same object, animated by the same ideals."

"How is the money for the scholarship provided?" I asked, "and of what nature are the clubs involved?"

"Miss Points' scholarship was raised by the General Federation of Women's Clubs in America, and every State contributed to it. The Federation is composed of all the clubs in America, of any importance, federated to work together, 800,000 in all.

"It is an enormous and a powerful body, and if it could be animated by one ideal it could sweep anything to success, but most women require educating in 'seeing big.' They are too provincial, and waste too much time and energy on trivial details and things of no essential importance, and so the greater does not always include the lesser."

"What it is hoped ultimately will be done, is to endow one scholarship in

each State, but a beginning had to be made, and so Miss Points has come as an 'avant courier,' but before her two years has passed others ought to be over here."

"The overseas dominions ought to make a beginning, and so the generous rivalry should go on until real progress has been made."

"Will you, when the scheme is complete, appoint a student every year from each State?"

"No," Mrs. Thayer explained "a scholar would not be sent from a State until the term of her predecessor had expired."

The Rhodes Trust has set the stamp of its machinery on the scheme by allowing candidates to take the same examination as set for Rhodes scholars, and the object of the scholarship is to give to American women the same opportunity of studying English life as the Rhodes' offers to men.

A sub-committee has been formed in London, under the auspices of the League of Empire, to watch the development of the scheme on this side of the Atlantic. Sir Wm. Hall-Jones, High Commissioner for New Zealand, is a vice-president of the League, and the sub-committee has for its president Sir John Cockburn, while Mr P. A. Vaile (N.Z.), of the "Travelling Scholars' Scheme," is also on the sub-committee. New Zealand is still further associated with the new departure in that Miss Points, having chosen to study economics, will be under the guidance of Mr Pember Reeves, ex-Agent-General for New Zealand, and now Director of the London School of Economics.

"I have chosen London University," Miss Points said this week, at a social gathering held in her honour at the Lyceum Club, "because the London School of Economics stands before the whole world as the foremost institution for the teaching of political science, history, economics, and sociology, and because there I shall be studying under a set of men so distinguished that their names are known all over the universe. Economics I have selected because it seems to me that, in taking such a subject, I shall come in contact with the English personality and the English point of view, and so," she smiled, "shall be armed for spreading knowledge and good influence when I go back to America."

Sir John Cockburn, a vice-president of the London School of Economics, in welcoming Miss Points, expressed the hope that so promising a movement would spread, and that the "First Rhodes Sister," as one of the Rhodes men had called Miss Points, would have a very happy time at the school.

"Women in educational work," he said, "are a far greater asset than men, since women it is who mould their sons' lives in the most impressionable years."

"Education is necessary for men, but it is doubly necessary for women, who possess the faculty of passing on their knowledge in a much greater degree than do men, quite apart from the fact that the mother sees so much more of her child than does the father."

"Education for men is a trivial, accidental circumstance, as it were," Sir John declared, ending up, amid laughter, with the reflection,

"It is a great pleasure to be able to mention a woman's movement without any feeling of alarm, since we all know that the very word 'woman' will make a Cabinet Minister scowl round a corner, and make everyone instantly search for umbrellas, etc.—cherchez la femme!"

AS SPOKEN.

In the dining-room of an hotel at Nice, on a huge placard posted over the mantelpiece, you can read the following:—

"Our English visitors are kindly requested to address the waiters and servants in English, as their French is not generally understood."

C. BRANDAUER & Co's, Ltd.
Circular Pointed Pens.
 These series of Pens neither scratch nor spurt. They glide over the roughest paper with the ease of a soft lead pencil. Attention is also drawn to their patent Anti-Blotting Series.
 Seven Prize Medals.
 Works Birmingham, England.
 Ask your Storekeeper for an assorted Sample Box.

