

Our Sketch.

Now let me discuss the charming sketch shown on this page, and specially designed for the readers of the "Graphic." Here we see a dainty mon-laine garbed in the most up-to-date demi-toutette frock. It consists of a sheath of pale celadine-tinted taffetas with an over-dress of ninon in the same colour. The bodice is cut on kimono lines, the round



neck showing a tucker of filmy white tulle, the embroideries being in two-toned tints of ochre. The skirt is high-waisted, slightly gathered, and arranged in two tiers edged with silk fringe and handsome embroideries.

Notes for Women.

LACE WORKERS' WAGES.

The minimum wage arranged by the Board of Trade for women lace workers in England has been fixed at 25s. an hour.

WAR ON HATPINN.

Stern laws concerning hatpins are spreading. The Prefect of the Department of the Rhone, the chief city of which is Lyons, has declared that no woman in the department whose hatpins are not protected and rendered harmless will be allowed to enter a tramcar or other public vehicle, or any place of amusement.

Similar action, it is said, is contemplated in Paris.

SCHOOLS FOR MOTHERS.

These institutions, that are doing more than anything else, probably, to stem infant mortality in this country, are, fortunately, increasing, and, in Kensington district alone no less than 20,000 dinners for specially nourishing food, supplied at a low price, were partaken last year by nursing or expectant mothers. There are three such schools, and at these infant consultation days are held over a week, sewing classes often, and lectures on the rearing of babies given.

PARENTS' ADVISERS.

The newest move of the London County Council is an exceedingly interesting decision to open offices in many parts of London known as Local Juvenile Advisory Committees (in connection with Labour exchanges), where children

will be able to be entered, after special advice has been given, for work, and no longer need be rushed into the blind alley employments that have wrecked so many young people's chances later.

MRS. BRAMWELL BOOTH, SUFFRAGETTE.

Mrs. Booth, wife of the new leader of the Salvation Army, a woman whom the writer heard described by the chaplain of the Chapel Royal, Savoy, recently, as one of God's greatest saints on earth, is, it is interesting to note, not only of the opinion that women ought to have a vote, in order that certain much-needed reforms directly affecting women and children could be quickly effected, but thinks that women should be able to serve as jurors and policemen—the latter, it is assumed, for their own sex.

GIRLS' COMMERCIAL SCHOOLS.

A great experiment is to be set afoot in Berlin in a few weeks, though from the details the writer is supplied with, it is not quite evident whether the new system of continuation schools means that they are compulsory—it would appear so.

At any rate, on the new plan every half-year 1,250 girls will be turned out fully trained in trade subjects, 1,550 in commercial subjects, and 1,900 unskilled workers will be prepared for accepting better employment.

Berlin is to be divided into ten districts, so arranged that unskilled working girls will be sent to the school that is nearest to their dwellings, and skilled work girls to the school that is nearest their workshops. For sales girls there will be one school as near to the centre of the city as possible.

Domestic teaching of a first-class description is to spread over the whole time.

MAMMOTH FOUNDLING HOSPITAL.

The world's largest foundling hospital is in Moscow. It houses every year an average of fourteen thousand babies. The institution is kept up in extraordinarily handsome style, its income being derived mainly from the duty levied on playing cards.

Children are never refused admittance, and mothers may claim their little ones again at any time, up to the age of ten years, by giving back the receipt and number supplied when the baby is taken in. As the majority of the huge staff of nurses required are peasant women, there are always groups of poor mothers anxious to become nurses, and there is no doubt that, if it lives, a peasant child has a much better chance for the future in the hospital than out of it, for if a boy shows any special aptitude, he is later sent to a university, while girls are trained as governesses. And if a girl marries before she has attained her majority, the hospital provides her

trousseau. If a baby has not been baptized prior to its entry, it is received into the Orthodox Church that day, and given the name of the Saint of the day.

Why Do People Marry.

Dear Sir,—I have often tried to think why I did it. My wife knows it was not on account of her money, and I know it was not on account of her looks. I really fancy it must have been a case of heredity, for I find that both my parents and my grandparents were married.—Yours, etc., S. Ingleton.

Dear Sir,—I married because I never could say "No" to a lady.—Yours, etc., Bert Pipkin.

Dear Sir,—I married for a somewhat uncommon reason. I wanted a son and heir. Up to date I have seven girls. Sometimes I think my wife does it out of spite.—Yours, etc., The Major.

Dear Sir,—I married my wife for a bet. She is 5ft 2in high, and I am just over 4ft, and someone dared me to propose to her. I enclose her portrait, and hope it may be a warning to others.—Yours, etc., A. Wippersnaff.

Dear Sir,—I was the only well-to-do one in my family, and the poor relations were always at the rich bachelor. So I married in self-defence.—Yours, etc., Arthur Close.

Dear Sir,—I work hard in the City, and accumulate a great deal of money, but have no time to spend it. So I took unto myself a wife.—Yours, etc., C. Dibbs.

Dear Sir,—I married because I had red hair. I wanted the beastly stuff turned grey.—Yours, etc., Rufus.

Dear Sir,—I married for love. I have just completed my first eleven, and my relatives, whom I had considered sportsmen, are refusing to help me any more.—Yours, etc., One Who Trusts to Providence.

Dear Sir,—My marriage was due to a silly mistake—for which I have never forgiven myself. I was introduced to her at a dance. I did not quite catch her name, but I thought it was "Mrs. Someone." I had a great flirtation with her in a corner of the conservatory, and kissed her, and, when she told me I ought to be married, I told her I would marry to-morrow if I could find a woman like her!—Yours etc., A Caution to Flirts.

And now for the ladies:—

Dear Sir,—I married because that is the only way to become a widow, and I do think that a widow's costume is just too sweet for anything.—Yours, etc., Pet Simpson.

Dear Sir,—My maiden name was

Smith, and I hated it because it was so common. That's why I married.—Yours, etc., Jane Jones.

Dear Sir,—I should have thought the reason was obvious. I would ask you what more admirable foil is there for a pretty woman than an ugly man?—Yours, etc., Sylvia Wartz.

Dear Sir,—I married because the year I did so it was all the fashion for women to marry.—Yours, etc., Up-to-date.

Dear Sir,—Poor mamma in her will left all her jewellery to whichever of us girls got married first, so I married my music master.—Yours, etc., Little Wide-awake.

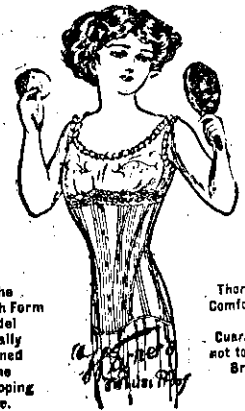
Dear Sir,—When one received on the average two proposals a day (not excepting Sundays) one had to do something for peace and quiet.—Yours, etc., Anna Nyas.

Dear Sir,—We are not married, and we do not intend to marry until the Marriage Service permits us to promise to hate, neglect, and disobey our husbands.—Yours, etc., Susan Snape, W.A.S.P., Maud Kickman, W.A.S.P., Carrie Hamer, W.A.S.P.

A "Radium Palace."

The Radium "Palace" which is to be built in Paris for the use of Madame Curie and the Pasteur Institute will, it is said, cost £16,000. Probably all the radium it will contain when finished could be accommodated in a thimble, though necessitating an expenditure greater than the cost of the "palace." The elaborate precautions against burglary which are to be taken scarcely seem necessary; no burglar would waste his time stealing a few grains of dirty-looking salt which could be disposed of in no channel he could use. But the leaden walls of the safe in which the radium is to be kept are all essential, for lead offers the most effective resistance to the passage of the potent rays which, night and day, radium shoots out in every direction. And, curiously enough, lead appears to be the final product resulting from the successive transformations the wonder-element undergoes.

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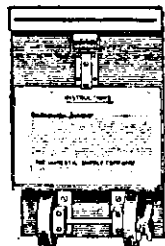
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