

his allotment for three years. At the expiry of that term he will receive a lease, and be called on to pay rent (4/- or 5/- per acre).

A Homestead Association signifies a number of persons (not less than six), who may be desirous of settling on adjacent blocks of land, no settler holding more than 50 acres. In Victoria, unfortunately, these associations have not proved a success.

The Labour Colony at Leongatha has, on the other hand, turned out remarkably well since Colonel Goldstein generously took charge in 1894 as honorary Superintendent. Mr March notes the objects of the establishment of the colony to be the following:—(1.) To provide employment for the unemployed. (2.) To enable citizens to direct "unemployed" labour to a place where they can obtain good food and shelter, and a wage according to their ability in exchange for their labour. (3.) To prepare them by proper instruction for work on the land. (4.) To obtain more profitable employment for all deserving men at the earliest possible moment.

The fact that since the establishment of the colony, in June, 1893, no fewer than 1,307 men have been received from the streets of Melbourne, speaks for itself as to the success of the movement.

In South Australia provision is made for homestead blocks and village settlements. The homestead blocks contain on an average about 13 acres (near Adelaide only 5 acres), 2857 blockers holding their land under right of purchase, and 480 on perpetual lease. A small advance is made for buildings and other permanent improvements. The system is undoubtedly a boon to working men who can find but partial employment in towns, or on farms, etc. The Village Settlement Association scheme of South Australia Mr March characterises as a new departure, and one of the most interesting systems of land settlement he has seen. The Land Settlement Aid Society was formed to assist the Government in its attempt to solve the unemployed question. All classes have helped, "the squatter sending 1000 sheep, and the wage-earner his packet of cornflour." Space forbids our giving particulars of these happy settlements, with their co-operative works, and possessions in common. Suffice it to say that a small army of almost destitute men, women, and children have been lifted from streets and highways of cities, and made self-supporting and self-reliant. The value of such work to the nation cannot be over-estimated.

"Supper Flies," and other Pieces, by Louisa Blake.

Many kindly and some noble thoughts run through this little volume. The sentiments which

inspire "The Milky Way," "Thy Brother's Blood," and other verses, reflect the graciousness of a very fine humanity. We may be allowed to subjoin the quatrains entitled "Wishing."

WISHING.

Why should mankind for ever wish
Their friends a dainty mental dish?
Nay! rather wish them opening eyes
Until the day of death's surprise.

Yes! when the heart's desire is stilled,
Most surely then a grave is filled;
On wings of wishing men should rise
Till from the earth cease anguished cries.

Content! we take thee by the throat,
Till every man is in the boat;
And on the sea of life is seen
No more the shipwrecked "might have been."

Notes and Comments.

WE are again reminded of the scanty information possessed by English people generally anent N.Z. geography. By the last English mail we see that Auckland is supposed to embrace the whole of New Zealand. The Auckland Women's Liberal League is magnified into the "N.Z. Women's Liberal League." A resolution in favour of the introduction of the C.D. Acts passed by a handful of women in one society of our northernmost city is regarded as the opinion, not only of all the women of Auckland, but also of the women throughout New Zealand, and is made the subject of a pathetic pamphlet by Mrs Josephine E. Butler. Surely a little enquiry would have made the matter clear. The very fact that a measure repealing the Acts was passed by the people's representatives should be sufficient of itself to dispel any doubts as to the soundness of N. Z. women generally on the subject.

SCRIPTURE TEXT BOOK.—Mr G. J. Smith, M.H.R., has been somewhat condemned in some quarters for moving in the matter of introducing a Scripture Text Book into the State Schools. We are reminded that the tendency of the age is to make the State responsible, not only for the intellectual welfare of the child, but also for the physical, where the parents are unable to fulfil or neglectful of their duty in the matter. Is there absolutely no necessity for the State to interfere in the case of moral training? Has every child in the colony parents able and willing to supply *mora!* culture?

OUR UPPER HOUSE.—It has been averred by the opponents of "the woman's age" that halls of legislation are not fit places for the feet of women to tread—too impure, too sordid, too grovelling are they. At last we agree. Who among us would care even to sit in the presence of men who openly