

## Concerning Women.

### The Needs of China's Women.

In the general awakening of China nothing is more momentous for good or evil than the change in the status and education of women. Even under the old system women had much influence; under the new that influence will be vastly greater. Here the deepest and most lasting effects of the general awakening will be felt.

"The twentieth century in China," says one Missionary, "will be the women's century."

The perils and the opportunities accompanying this movement are both stupendous.

"The one indispensable safeguard at this time is a wisely conducted education and an enlightened Christian ideal. But there are two hundred million women and girls in China, and only a handful are as yet under the influence of Christian ideas."

### Woman Mayor.

The third British woman to be chosen a Mayor is Mrs Lees, of Oldham. The *Common Cause* says:—

"Only those who have lately been in Oldham can fully realise the popularity of the appointment. The passionate devotion and reverence felt for her by the people of Oldham must be something quite unique. 'Love isn't a strong enough word,' they say; and all they seem able to express is the inadequacy of any expression to give the least measure of her goodness and kindness.

"Her entrance was the signal for an outburst of extraordinary enthusiasm. All sprang to their feet, waving hats and handkerchiefs clapping, shouting, cheering. It seemed as if they would never have done. The robe and chains were donned, and Mrs Lees rose to speak. Again the applause was deafening. Then she thanked her colleagues for the honour they had done her, with a little allusion to those who disapproved of the election of a woman: 'They have a perfect right to their opinion, and they also have a perfect right to change that opinion!' Nothing short of a full report of her speech, with notes on local history and affairs, could do justice to its aptness and humour. Suffice it to say that the Town Hall echoed with delighted laughter, and the Mayor seemed to be enjoying herself as much as anyone!

"Again, when her speech ended, the whole audience rose to their feet to cheer

and applaud. Words are inadequate. There was a beauty in the spirit of the whole thing which must be felt to be understood. One can only say that she seemed like the mother of a great family, before whom her children rise up and call her blessed."

### Women Legislators.

Four women have been elected to the Colorado House of Representatives—Mrs Louisa N. Jones, Mrs Louise M. Kerwin, and Mrs Alma V. Lafferty, all of whom were elected from Denver on the Democratic ticket; and Mrs Agnes L. Riddle, Republican, who was chosen to represent the Counties of Adams, Arapahoe, and Elbert.

Mrs Antoinette D. Leach was chosen President of the Sullivan County (Ind.) Bar Association at its recent annual meeting. She is the only woman lawyer in the County. Mrs Leach was a candidate for the Legislature at the last election, believing that women are eligible to serve though not to vote. She has been doing organizing work for the Indiana Suffragists.

### Treatment of Suffragettes.

#### DOCTOR PROTESTS.

Mr C. Mansell-Moullin, Vice-President of the Royal College of Surgeons and consulting surgeon to the London Hospital, has written to the press as follows about the ill-usage of the suffragettes:—

"The women were treated with the greatest brutality. They were pushed about in all directions and thrown down by the police. Their arms were twisted until they were almost broken. Their thumbs were forcibly bent back, and they were tortured in other nameless ways that made one feel sick at the sight. I was there myself and saw many of these things done. The photographs that were published in the press of November 19 prove it. And I have since seen the fearful bruises, showing the marks of the fingers, caused by the violence with which these women were treated. These things were done by the police. There were, in addition, organised bands of well-dressed roughs, who charged backwards and forwards through the deputation like a football team, without any attempt being made to stop them by the police; but they contented themselves with throwing the women down and trampling upon them. As this behaviour on the part of the police is an entirely new departure, it would be interesting to know who issued the instructions that they were to act with such

brutality, and who organised the bands of roughs who suddenly sprang up on all sides from nowhere. The Home Secretary, who does not want women arrested, is credited with the statement that he has devised a new method of putting a stop to deputations. Is this the method?

"The women were discharged without a trial by the Secretary of State on the grounds of public policy. Is it public policy that there should be no trial, and that the evidence which might otherwise have come out should be suppressed in this way?"

### Hobbled Women.

Much has been written of the limitations put upon women for ages. Statesmen have spoken, poets have moaned, patriots have orated, and women themselves have spent their lives seeking to break down the barriers which hedged them in—which made them slaves, or forbade equal rights in the family, the church, the university, the government. Progress has been made. Much has been gained. The rich and the powerful the educated and the practical, have been won to espouse the cause of women, even to their political enfranchisement. Our hopes for the full equality of the sexes had become high. We thought we saw the end of the long struggle, but now—we hate to speak of it—we will not. It is in our caption and that is a sufficient wound to our feelings. We tied a rope around the bottom of our own dress one day. We had several friends do the same and we all performed and experimented. It was horrible! as bad as the Chinese bound feet! Carried to perfection it meant stagnation and stagnation is death. It meant insanity—where one had the requisite mind. It meant insanity in every case. The mad house and the idiots' asylum shot into our vision. Tamed and exhausted we cut the ropes and applied restoratives.

"Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Ascalon," let it not go down in history that women were hobbled in the year nineteen hundred and eleven.—*Selected.*

### The New Zealand Drink Bill for 1910.

The Rev. Edward Walker's estimate of the drink bill of the Dominion for 1910 is £3,803,438, or £3 13s. 1½d. per head, being an increase of £175,303 in the aggregate, or 2s. 0½d. per head. Mr Walker says the retail rates bring the total to fully £5,000,000. The bill per head dropped from £3 16s. in 1885 to £2 19s. 8d. in 1896, rose to £3 15s. 10d. in 1907, and dropped to £3 11s. in 1909.