

audience the wives of millionaires and the wives of workingmen, as well as fifty men, some of whom took notes, some of whom asked questions, and all of whom showed how important the subject was to them.

Not the least valuable part of the demonstration was the perfect neatness of the lecturer; a glass finger-bowl stood on the table, and it added greatly to the daintiness of the whole process to have this serve for rinsing the hands, and it showed a conservation of force; no steps were wasted in going to sink or basin.

The Children's Building, long delayed in its opening, is at last an evident fact. It no longer stands four white walls surrendered to workingmen. Its doors stand genially open, and its cheerful interior resounds to the cries as well as to the laughter of the children. In the center, on the ground floor, is a perfectly equipped gymnasium, where the small-boy visitor is invited to try his muscles and test his athletic ability; at certain hours of the day he has the benefit of training under one of the best professors of athletics in this country, and nobly does the young American make use of his opportunity. At one end of the building is a model day-nursery, and fifty-three happy, hearty children are given to the care of its managers each day, while the mother gives herself up to the pleasure of the Midway Plaisance, the Art Gallery, the Government Building, the Lagoon, or any other part of the grounds that attracts her attention. The day-nursery is in charge of young women who have been trained in one of the nurses' training-schools at Buffalo. Toys of all kinds are at the disposal of the small children, who are fed, put to bed, and amused on scientific principles. The small ones are taken into the model kindergarten, which is the friendly rival of the model kindergarten in the Illinois building, and here the small person may carry on the training with which he or she is familiar, or may be introduced to the absorbing pleasures devised by Froebel. In the afternoon the little girls may enter the kitchen-garden, so ably managed by Miss Huntington; and here always a group of delighted visitors may be found, while the small maidens take their lesson in setting table, in dish-washing, and in sweeping, to the dulcet strains of a piano. In another corner, through the generosity of Mrs. Quincy Shaw, the sloyd is maintained. A little further along is a girls' industrial school. Then there is a bewitching library under the care of a lover of children, whose name is well known to them, while the solemn, the cheery, the benignant, the poetical faces of those whose writings have delighted the children of many generations look down from the walls. Then there is the Assembly Room, where the wisdom and science of this nineteenth century will eloquently train the fathers and mothers of these latter days into the best methods of training the mind, the soul, and the bodies of their children.

One leaves this building regretting that one was not born three years ago; that so many fathers and mothers, who have had a college training, are too poor to keep a nurse trained in scientific methods. O for the years to see the children born three years ago reach middle life! In the Woman's Building one of the most interesting of the exhibits is a collection of photographs of children whose parents have had a university training. Perhaps it may be one's good fortune to see these children the parents of children, and that will be the next best thing to being the child of university parents, and born after 1885.



Vacation Fund

Previously acknowledged.....	\$406 74
M., New York, N. Y.....	30 00
J. R. M., Stroudsburg, Pa.....	3 00
J. K., Milwaukee, Wis.....	5 00
Troy, O.....	4 00
E. D. M., Minneapolis, Minn.....	1 00
Mrs. E. L. S. H. and S. H., Norwalk, Conn.....	10 00
M. A. K., Chautauqua, N. Y.....	1 00
M. B., Bayonne, N. J.....	5 00
E. F. G., Madison, Conn.....	3 00
A. M. K., Plymouth, N. H.....	50 00
Total.....	\$518 74

Also received from Troy, O., for flowers for the poor, \$2.

Are They Necessary?

A few weeks ago there appeared in this department a verbatim account of two recitations in a public school in Brooklyn. The article called out a vigorous protest from a teacher of many years' standing. Familiar as this teacher is with the methods of the system, and with many of the teachers, the account given seemed to her exaggerated. A letter was sent to her, assuring her that the account was verbatim, and, had it been thought wise, the names of the teachers would have been given her. A second letter came from her, in which appears this sentence: "I am glad to know that the article did not affect others as it did me, and especially glad that it has reached some parents. I hope they are not of the usual kind, who, when such facts are brought to their knowledge, express indignation, the only outcome of which is the despairing question, 'What can we do about it?' Fathers and mothers are the ones to do something, and they could do it, if they felt as strongly on the subject as they ought to feel."

When that letter reached us, there was lying in the pigeonhole of the desk the prospectus of a new society, which, it is claimed, is interesting a number of people in New York. To quote from that prospectus, "A permanent practical movement is now being inaugurated to elevate and improve home life in all its surroundings and aspects. To accomplish these objects it is proposed to organize the Home Culture Association of New York." It then goes on to show the necessity of a professional knowledge to properly discharge the duties of a parent. "Parents themselves should be thoroughly educated to rear healthy and well-endowed children. They are the trustees of their children's welfare, and upon them depends whether or not they shall possess good constitutions, well-formed and healthy bodies, and upright natures." The circular further tells us that its object is to be especially devoted to the home itself; to make it bright, cheerful, happy, and abounding with health and culture. The idea is to form groups who will meet and listen to parlor lectures in the churches, on the subjects outlined.

Shortly after that prospectus was received, another was handed to us which set forth the objects of an association to be known as The Parents' Association of America. The objects of the Parents' Association are set forth as follows:

- (1) To afford to parents opportunities for co-operation and consultation, so that the wisdom and experience of each may be made profitable for all.
- (2) To stimulate their enthusiasm through the sympathy of numbers acting together.
- (3) To create a better public opinion on the subject of the training of children, and, with this object in view, to collect and make known the best information and experience on the subject.
- (4) To assist parents of all classes to understand the best principles and methods of education in all its aspects, and especially in those which concern the formation of habits and character.
- (5) To secure greater unity and continuity of education, by harmonizing home and school training.

This latter Association proposes to form a membership at two dollars a year, husband and wife each to be considered members. That these two Associations should be considered necessary is a serious commentary; that an intelligent woman, who has had a wide experience in the public schools, should believe that parents would not rouse to the needs of their children in educational matters, has a tendency to discouragement. Surely we would say that the intelligent fathers and mothers of this country do not stand in need of organizations to arouse them to the necessities of their own homes and of the children who are a part of them; yet within a year two such movements have been organized in the city of New York, the purpose being to have men and women who make a specialty of certain lines of study present papers to a group of parents assembled, with the hope of arousing them to a sense of their responsibilities, and, having aroused them, to guide them intelligently to meet them.

Now, if these movements were aimed at that stratum of

society which we usually classify under the head of the "poor," or "tenement-house population," it would not be surprising; but such is not the intention. The effort is to arouse people above that grade to a sense of their responsibilities. When one of the projectors of one of these enterprises made a call at this editorial office, it was said to him, "Why, there isn't a paper published to-day, even among the daily papers, that does not give space to special questions relating to the home, to women, to children. What do you expect to accomplish that cannot be accomplished through the medium of the press? Look at the magazines, the women's magazines, the children's magazines, all having this very object in view that you have, only you propose now to add another burden to society, to have men and women join another society, have another set of meetings, another set of committees. Surely the press can do all that you have in mind?"

"You are mistaken," was his answer, "if you think men and women read this matter in the papers. They do not have the time; they must be approached personally."

"And do you really think that, as a nation, we are so lax in our domestic relations that we need to be organized in order to meet them?" And his answer was, "Yes," and, drawing from his pocket a list of names, he said, "I can show you the names of over two hundred people in this city of New York who agree with me, and I believe that our home life will be elevated only as men and women are organized with that object in view."

With this teacher we are compelled to sympathize. It is discouraging when one thinks of the condition of the schools in most of our cities. The pupils in these schools in the main come from that class which is the hope and support of every nation—the middle class. We know that the systems devised do not meet the needs of the children who attend the schools; that they do not educate them, that they do not give them the command of their powers. A little fellow ten years old, who for five years has been attending one of the public schools in New York, was, through the instrumentality of a friend of the family, entered in the model school at the College for the Training of Teachers. The teacher under whose care he was placed said, "It is a most pathetic thing to watch that little fellow's struggles; he has never been taught to use the brain, and, as his memory is poor, and he could not meet the requirements of the teacher, who is held in the bonds of a system, he has been simply neglected. It will take a year to overcome the effects of the bad system of which he has been the victim." That boy is the son of New England parents, who married and came to New York, and have since found life just one struggle to keep a home and find food and clothes for the family; the mother has been compelled to become a wage-earner in her own home to accomplish this. This little fellow has been three years in the same grade in the public schools. One of his comments to his new teacher was, "You don't hit boys on the side of the head, do you?" That seemed to be his clearest recollection of the class-room in which he had spent one-half of all the time that he can ever spend in a school-room; and this condition exists in the schools in New York City almost without exception, and Dr. Rice's articles in the "Forum" prove that it is a common condition in all our large cities.

Parents could remedy this condition of affairs if they would. They pay taxes; the men vote; but even the intelligent men do not see the connection between the vote they put in the ballot-box and the education of the child who is as dear to them as their own lives. They admit the close connection between the politicians and the schools, but they refuse to see the connection between politics and the schools before election. It is appalling to realize that parents will allow their children to spend the greatest portion of their waking hours under the influence of men and women whom they could not call by name, and under conditions of which they have absolutely no knowledge. Perhaps organizations are necessary to teach intelligent men and women their duties as parents.

The Needlework Guild of America

By Hester M. Poole

This Needlework Guild is not, as the uninformed might suppose, a society interested in the production of dainty feminine goods and chattels, neither is it devoted to the introduction of new and elaborate stitches and patterns for the delectation of those women of leisure whose busy idleness prompts them to seek every unhackneyed method of domestic ornamentation.

The Guild is simply an unobtrusive charity. So unobtrusive is it as to have no salaried officers, and no expenses which are not met by the voluntary contributions of its members. And yet so important an agency is it for ameliorating the condition of the sick and suffering among the poor that its friends wonder that it had not become an established institution long years ago.

As the object of the Association is to collect new plain garments and to distribute them to the sick and needy, all that is necessary to become a member of the Needlework Guild is to contribute annually, to the nearest branch, two or more new articles of useful clothing.

A branch consists of a President, Secretary, and three or more Directors, tributary to the parent Guild, having headquarters in the city of Philadelphia. To these officers may be added Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, and any number of Directors. Any member obtaining contributions from ten or more persons, or giving the equivalent, twenty-two garments, thereby becomes a Director.

At the annual meeting, held in October or November, the garments which have been received and assorted are distributed to such charities as may be selected by the votes of the officers and directors. Opportunity is given for each to set forth the needs of any hospital, nursery, home, asylum, children's aid society, or emergency department in which he or she is particularly interested, and to direct a portion of the timely beneficence afforded by the Guild into such avenues as are known to be more especially in need of immediate help.

A little reflection will show the necessity of such aid, not only from the philanthropic point of view, but from the economic.

A poor woman, perhaps the mother of fatherless little ones, crippled by rheumatism or prostrated by fever, is sent to a hospital where she remains until convalescent. She is yet weak and sensitive to changes of temperature when discharged, yet she must don the shabby, insufficient clothing in which she was brought to that warm, sheltered refuge. Forth she goes, with perhaps only a thin calico frock and an old shawl to protect herself from inclement storms. Is it any wonder if she relapses and is brought back to the hospital to suffer more keenly than before, if indeed she survives the shock?

"How many garments could you use to advantage in one year?" was asked of the head physician of one of New York's large hospitals. "We need eight thousand every year," he replied; "and yet we see these poor, ill-clad creatures go from our door without sufficient clothing to make them comfortable. In many cases we know they will be returned to us in a worse state than when they first came."

Founded in England by Lady Wolverton some nine years ago, the Needlework Guild is established in almost every civilized country. Organized in America in 1885, its work has been unheralded and noiseless, yet in almost half the States of the Union its branches are established. They who best know its quiet and systematic helpfulness to those who most need help are its staunchest allies and co-workers.



Picked Up

A bright woman recently announced that she was going to start a school of pedal culture for men. It seems necessary. In the cars, on boats, even in parlors, there are men who force your attention to their feet. The thought of keeping the soles of their boots in close connection with

