

Litchfield's report, and does not carry the weight which would be carried if the Commission had themselves conducted the investigation, or if the sub-committee of three as originally constituted had continued the investigation to its close. On the other hand, the evidence does seem to justify, we are sorry to say, the conclusion of the New York "Evening Post" that the case "shows afresh the perils of arbitrary power, no matter in what hands, and the constant temptation to use brutality in dealing with brutal criminals." But the essential principles of the Reformatory—namely, the indeterminate sentence, and the discharge upon satisfactory evidence that the convict is capable of earning an honest livelihood, and determined so to do—are not, in our judgment, affected by this investigation.

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As to the general conclusions of this report, we heartily agree with the recommendation of the State Board of Charities that the administration of corporal punishment be allowed only upon the judgment of a majority of the number of managers sitting as a court, after opportunity to the accused to be heard in his defense; and we think also that persons discharged under parole should not be liable to be brought back without some sort of a trial—either, as suggested by the State Board, before a court of record, or perhaps before the Board of Managers. We also agree heartily in the recommendation that a second reformatory be constructed to be conducted upon the same general principles as those upon which the Elmira Reformatory is conducted. In conclusion, it should be said that the judgment of the State Board, founded as it is upon the report of one member, is to a considerable extent counterbalanced by the testimony of prominent citizens who have familiarized themselves with the facts and have known something of the interior history of the institution. Among them may be mentioned the Hon. Charlton T. Lewis, President of the present Reform Association; Mr. William F. Round, an expert in penology; the Hon. Frank B. Sanborn, President of the Massachusetts State Board of Charities; Charles Dudley Warner, whose testimony respecting the working of this institution has been frequently given; and perhaps we may be permitted to add our own knowledge of its working, derived both from personal visitation at the institution and from personal conference with those who have passed through its discipline.

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It is not often that physicians write upon social reform questions, though the work of social reform, if it is the carrying forward of the work of Christ, demands the caring for the sick almost as much as it demands the teaching of the poor. It is with peculiar pleasure, therefore, that we welcome the careful and humane study of the social environment of hospital children by Dr. H. D. Chapin in the March "Forum." Dr. Chapin is a physician to the New York Post-Graduate Hospital, and has made a record of six hundred cases that came under his care. His object was to determine how far the diseases of very little children were occasioned by heredity and how far by the conditions in which they lived. Most of the children were under two years of age, and nearly half under one year. At the time of birth, 508 of them were reported to have been in good condition, and only 20 were reported to have been in bad condition. In 12 cases the report was "only fair," and in the remaining cases there was no report. The children as a whole, therefore, seem to have started life well. What, then, had been their environment? It was found that in 106 cases the mothers were the sole bread-earners, and that in 88 cases the fathers were out of work when the children came to the

hospital. Besides these there were 176 cases in which the mothers as well as the fathers were obliged to work. The results of this were very striking. "Two hundred and fifty-seven of the cases," says Dr. Chapin, "were deprived of maternal nourishment before the proper time, and 101 of the babies never received it at all. The usual reason was that the mothers were obliged to go out to work and remain away for too long intervals to care properly for their infants. As a direct result, a large number develop rickets, which is usually accompanied by a softening of the bones, together with great irritation of the nervous system. Almost all these diseases could have been prevented by proper diet and care, and yet when brought to the hospital they were frequently so far advanced as to result either in death or in a more or less permanent crippling of a healthy life." The family incomes in nearly half the cases could not be obtained with any definiteness, but in 150 cases they were reported to be between \$5 and \$10 a week, and in 117 cases to be less than \$5. In only eighty-five cases were they reported to exceed \$10 a week. The large proportion of the families having less than \$5 a week reveals a stratum of society which factory returns show nothing of. With such incomes, insufficient nourishment and unhealthy, overcrowded rooms are inevitable. When families are reduced to these conditions, physical degeneration is likely to destroy the power to rise. "It is evidently time to consider," says Dr. Chapin in conclusion, "whether some reasonable form of co-operation cannot be substituted for the bitter competition so wasteful of human life." The individual work to change character must not be slackened, but the social work to change environment must be pushed forward with all the earnestness which the religion of Christ can inspire.

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GENERAL NEWS.—The students at Budapest, Hungary, last week started a patriotic demonstration in memory of Kossuth which ended in rioting that was suppressed by the military; many persons were wounded, and a great many arrests were made.—It is reported that President Peixoto, of Brazil, has revived old laws of the Empire authorizing the execution of rebels without trial; Admiral Mello has not surrendered, but is still in command of two large war-vessels, and is probably in communication with the disaffected Southern provinces.—The Cabinet of Belgium has resigned.—It is expected that an operation for cataract will be performed on Mr. Gladstone's eyes within a month.—The trial of the new 13-inch gun took place at Indian Head on Wednesday of last week, and was in every way successful; this is the largest cannon ever made in this country.—In the Gravesend (L. I.) trials, Justice Newton has pleaded guilty to a charge of conspiracy in the election fraud cases and has been sentenced to the penitentiary; Constable Jamieson has been found guilty of the charge of perjury, and there have been several other convictions.—A new tariff bill is to be introduced into the Canadian Parliament; it is said the net result of the reductions which the Government will propose will involve a falling off in revenue amounting to \$1,500,000.—The execution of Prendergast, the assassin of Mayor Harrison, of Chicago, has been postponed for two weeks, another judicial inquiry into his sanity having been undertaken.—Alfred Holt Colquitt, United States Senator from Georgia, died at Washington [on Monday of this week, at the age of seventy; Senator Colquitt had twice been Governor of Georgia, and was serving his second term in the Senate; he served with distinction in the Confederate army; throughout his career his personal character was never attacked; he was recog-

nized as one of the leading laymen in the Methodist Church, and was a warm advocate of temperance and other reform movements.



The New Order in England

When Lord Rosebery spoke at Edinburgh a week ago, public interest centered in his declarations on the Irish question; but his most significant speech was made last Wednesday in London—a speech which promises to mark a new departure in English politics. The Premier had already indicated the lines of policy which the Liberal party will pursue, and had pledged the fidelity of that party to the course of action already marked out by Mr. Gladstone. In the London speech he went further, and declared that hereafter English public life is to be permeated by a new spirit, which shall seek first and foremost the advancement and well-being of the workers of the nation—a spirit which will embody itself in legislation very widely different from the traditional legislation of the past. The extension of the suffrage, by lowering the conditions of the franchise so as to include the great mass of the people, has reached and brought out the conscience of the community, which is now alive to its duty to all classes. The speaker made his appeal to the great body of English citizens, without respect to party, to unite in caring for the condition of the worker, and closed by saying that he hoped that at no distant day there would come a Prime Minister who, standing aside, from time to time, from party affiliations, would speak straight to the hearts of the English nation. He entreated the English people, not on behalf of his own Ministry or of himself, to take some effective action which should save them all from perils which beset England, more terrible than were ever threatened by war, and which it was his deepest prayer that England might escape.

It is not surprising that such words as these should produce a very deep impression, and that they have confirmed the feeling that Lord Rosebery, though he wears a title, is heart and soul with the great body of the English people in their passionate desire for more wholesome conditions, both political and vital. In these words lies a definite declaration that the deepest tendencies of the day are not political but economic, and that the legislation of the future must turn much more on social questions than on those political questions which have hitherto, for the most part, made up the history of legislation. The English democracy is at last coming to the front, and it is to that democracy that the Prime Minister speaks. The conservative policy of ignoring it, beguiling it, or defeating it will, in the long run, prove futile. England is to be governed, not by her classes, but by her masses, as every country ought to be; and the only wise policy is one which clearly recognizes that fact, and seeks, by sympathetic leadership, to restrain unregulated impetuosity and guide badly directed activity. It is by no means an accidental coincidence that Mr. Gladstone, in his letter to his Midlothian constituents (commented upon in a paragraph in *The Week*), recognizes the same great change which the Prime Minister sees. "Now is the time," says the great retiring statesman, "for the true friend of his country to remind the masses that they owe their present political elevation to no principles less broad and noble than these: the love of liberty, and of liberty for all without distinction of class, creed, or country; and the resolute preference of the interests of the whole to any interest, be it what it may, of a narrower scope." Never, surely, was the fundamental principle of democracy, which is the custody of the best interests of the greatest multitude, ever more clearly put;

and it is significant of the sagacity and open-mindedness of Mr. Gladstone that, as his last words in the House of Commons indicated the next practical advance in constitutional growth, so these words, spoken to his own constituents, revealed his prevision of the rule of the English people instead of the rule of classes of that people.

In his very interesting comment on the accession of Lord Rosebery, which appears elsewhere in this issue of *The Outlook*, Mr. William Clarke, a London correspondent, emphasizes the fact that the new Premier is a representative of social radicalism rather than of political radicalism, and that his appearance at the head of the Government marks a transition so great that it is not an exaggeration to call it a change of the old order and the coming in of a new order. Lord Rosebery holds an exceptionally strong position; a position which will permit him to do almost anything if he has the courage, the character, and the ability. He is not only a young man for his position, but he is a man of great ability, of many kinds of accomplishments, of physical vigor, of the highest social position, and of practically unlimited wealth, for, owing to his near alliance with the Rothschilds, he stands in the closest relations to the foremost financiers of the world. In a position which allies him by birth, training, taste, and immediate interest to the English classes, Lord Rosebery is believed to be honestly and sincerely a man of democratic temper, spirit, sympathies, and beliefs. He has shown what has apparently been a perfectly sincere disregard of his title and his position, and his ambition has apparently been to make his place and do his work as a man among men, and not as a nobleman or a capitalist. On every occasion—and there have been several such occasions—of critical importance he has shown not only the deepest sympathy but the clearest insight into the needs and positions of working England, and his sagacity and judgment, with the confidence inspired by his character, have given him immense popularity with the working classes. It is possible, therefore, for Lord Rosebery to be an almost ideal leader of England in the great revolution which is now taking place in that country. If his sincerity, his courage, and his ability are equal to the demands that will be made upon him, he can safely lead England from the old to the new order; for, being in sympathy with the public movement and believing in it, he can restrain its excesses, direct its impulses, and lead it forward along normal and constitutional lines. One could imagine no better fortune for England in this critical period of her history than that such a successor should follow the great statesman whose retirement has just closed one great chapter of English constitutional growth.



Woman Suffrage

A petition is being extensively circulated in the State of New York, to be presented to the approaching Constitutional Convention, asking it to strike out the word "male" from the provision regulating suffrage. This amendment, if adopted, would confer suffrage upon the women of the State. It is hoped to secure a million signatures to this petition, and it is being so numerously signed that this hope is not irrational. Woman has the suffrage in Washington and Colorado; she has suffrage on certain matters in several of the States; many women who have no political ambitions are yet desirous of suffrage on school and excise questions; but it is at least doubtful whether any line can be legitimately drawn between topics on which women may and topics on which they may not vote. The movement for woman suffrage cannot be laughed down; it