

Women Speakers in England.

The late Lord Derby once declared that the best political speech he had ever heard was delivered by a woman and Mr. Gladstone, much more recently, expressed the fear that in a few years men would find themselves eclipsed on the platform by the oratory of the other sex. Lord Derby's statement may have been prompted by feelings of gallantry, and Mr. Gladstone evidently spoke more in jest than earnest; but there remains the fact that of late years the success of women as public speakers is second to none which they have obtained in other spheres.

Lord Derby's compliment was paid. It is believed to Mrs. Fawcett, and this lady is certainly to be regarded as the pioneer of a movement in which several other names have since obtained a distinction equal to her own. Mrs. Fawcett doubtless gained much from constant association with the public work of her distinguished husband, at whose side she sat—in consequence of his blindness—on every platform from which his vigorous and robust oratory resounded. It was as the reader of a paper contributed by Prof. Fawcett to the Social Science Congress of 1869—the year after his marriage—that she first lifted her voice in public. Her first speech was delivered later in the same year at one of John Stuart Mill's meetings in London in favor of woman suffrage. In the opinion of all who heard it the speech was an unqualified success, but in the House of Commons it was referred to as bringing "disgrace" upon Mrs. Fawcett's sex. Some time after when lecturing on the same subject at Brighton, which her husband then represented in Parliament, Professor Fawcett was asked by some of his most influential constituents to persuade his wife to give up her public speaking, as it was believed to be injuring his own electoral prospects. So far from doing anything of the kind the Professor gave his wife all the assistance and encouragement in his power, and to this must be attributed the courage with which Mrs. Fawcett continued her work on the platform in face of public ridicule and obloquy, on the one hand, and her own nervousness and diffidence on the other. Some of the qualities of his own speeches, too, are even yet to be discerned in those of his widow's—their orderly arrangement, concentrated strength, and clear enunciation. During the last year, or so, however, when Mrs. Fawcett has been largely engaged in putting before the country the Unionist view of the Irish question, there has been observable a greater development of rhetoric in her speeches. This has given them—with her clear if not very powerful voice—an increased charm for popular audiences at some cost, perhaps, to their argumentative value.

The force of Mrs. Fawcett's example was soon felt by other fervent advocates of the suffrage for the sex and brought Mrs. Fenwick Miller and Mrs. Ashton Dilke (now Mrs. Russell Cooke) to the front. Mrs. Fenwick Miller delivered her first speech on woman suffrage in 1878, when still in her teens, and she has been a familiar figure on the platform ever since. On the London School Board, of which she was a member from 1878 to 1885, she had not her superior in debate, although at the time of her election she was only twenty-two years old. Even earlier than this, she had frequently attended the old London Dialectical Society, where some of the ablest men of the day used to engage in political and philosophical discussion. To cogent reasoning Mrs. Miller adds great charm of manner, a pleasant voice and an easy and effective gesture. Of late years she has rarely spoken on public questions, devoting her time rather to lectures on literary themes. But Mrs. Miller's lectures are not read from the manuscript—they are full of her talent for extemporaneous speech, of which she sometimes gives further proof in a few eloquent words uttered in response to a vote of thanks.

Those who remember the quiet force and graceful power of Mrs. Ashton Dilke's speeches in the woman's suffrage cause, must greatly regret that since her marriage with Mr. Russell Cooke she has but seldom appeared upon the platform. Mrs. Cooke's voice is of small compass, but before an audience it is so excellently "pitched" and is used with such clarion-like effect that every word as it comes in soft, measured cadence, can be heard. The movement with which she was at one time prominently identified has obtained other recruits, as Mrs. Bamford Slack and Miss Florence Balmagne, but clever speakers though they are, we miss from their speeches the truly womanly eloquence which Mrs. Russell Cooke exemplified.

It might be supposed that the establishment of the Primrose League in 1886 would have brought to light the latent talents of more than one fair orator in Conservative circles; but although the League has been true to its purpose in giving to women so large a share of its work and organization, no woman speaker, with the exception of Miss Mercedes Nevill, has achieved any special distinction under its auspices. On the other hand, the associations which bore to it the sincerest form of flattery have brought forth quite an array of speakers more or less gifted with eloquence—Lady Sandhurst, Lady Carlisle, the Hon. Mrs. Ashley-Ponsonby, Lady Stevenson, Miss Orme, Mrs. Wynford Phillips and Mrs. Charles Haller. Of this list, the late Lady Sandhurst was admittedly preeminent and the Women's Liberal Federation has yet to fill the place left vacant by her death about five years ago. Her ladyship's experience in public speaking, as she once told them to the writer, were full of interest. She never opened her lips on the platform till the winter of 1886, yet before her death

she was acknowledged to have the power of stirring a large audience, which many public men might envy. Her maiden speech was made in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Gladstone, who attended the inaugural meeting of the Marylebone Women's Liberal Association. It was but a few words, but they touched the heart of the great statesman, who, in passing out of the room, cordially shook both her hands. It was the inspiration of this hand-shake which gave Lady Sandhurst resolution to apply herself to the task of speaking in support of Mr. Gladstone's Irish policy. Before very long she was speaking at four or five meetings a week, sometimes holding the close attention of an audience for the best part of an hour, with the very smallest aid in the shape of notes.

As I have said, the Women's Liberal Association still feel the loss of Lady Sandhurst. It was expected at one time that Lady Carlisle, with her finely modulated voice, rich flow of words and wide knowledge of politics, would have taken her place. But, in addition to these qualities as a public speaker, Lady Carlisle has not that readiness to speak at all times, on all public questions, and under pretty nearly all imaginable circumstances, which rendered the late Lady Sandhurst so valuable an auxiliary to the party whose cause she espoused. In point of activity, the Countess Alice Kearney and Mrs. Wynford Phillips are now the leading women speakers for the Liberal party. The Countess speaks at almost every bye-election, and from time to time engages in what may be described as propaganda tours in various parts of the country. She is not a fluent speaker—in fact, she makes use of very full and ample notes—but her sweet, musical voice, clear enunciation, earnest manner and attractive personality have given her considerable popularity on the platform. She has spoken a night after night without fatiguing her voice in the slightest—a fact she attributes to the excellent musical training she received as a girl. Countess Kearney, who comes of an old Irish family, as her name would indicate, first graduated as a speaker on the platform of the South Kensington Women's Liberal Association. Mrs. Wynford Phillips, on the other hand, made her first efforts as a member of the Church of England Temperance Society, with the friendly encouragement of Canon Leigh, now dean of Hereford. Afterward becoming the wife of one of the Welsh members of parliament, she became more deeply interested in politics, and was soon welcomed with great warmth on both the Liberal and woman suffrage platforms. Mrs. Wynford Phillips has great dramatic talent, which, while rather too suggestive at times of the footlights, gives her speeches a force and distinction all her own. Although she confesses to the most careful preparation, Mrs. Phillips' utterance is quick and never faltering—indeed, at times she carries her auditors along with a torrent of words full of fine feeling and emotion. To the dry fact the smallest statistic such as Mrs. Fawcett or Mrs. Fenwick Miller would rejoice in, Mrs. Phillips is almost an entire stranger, and her speeches consequently appeal to the emotion rather than the thought of her auditors.

As was to be expected, questions of the heart rather than the intellect, questions of moral and spiritual well-being, have been the most effective in leading women to undertake the work of the platform. But for the temperance movement it is exceedingly doubtful whether Lady Henry Somerset, for example, would have become one of the most widely known public speakers of her time. Her ladyship first discovered that she possessed the gift of eloquence at temperance meetings held in the neighborhood of her Herefordshire estate and it was through the British Women's Temperance Association, that she soon had opportunities of addressing gatherings that numbered several thousand. Whether she is addressing five hundred or five thousand Lady Somerset is always audible to every one of her audience. Endowed by nature with a voice clear and musical, but not at all strong, her ladyship acquired, by two or three years of constant practice, the art of making herself heard without strain or apparent effort. She would take her maid to a meeting, post her at its farthest point, and by signals learn whether or not she was succeeding in filling the hall with her voice. This is the secret of Lady Somerset's great success on the platform, coupled with a rare faculty for seizing hold of the strongest points in her case and presenting them in vivid and graphic speech. For eloquence, pure and simple, another moral reformer, Mrs. Ormiston Chant, has won the highest praise from the critical lips of the junior bar. To those who have learned nothing of the success which women have achieved on the platform, a speech by Mrs. Ormiston Chant comes as a revelation of unsuspected power, poetic insight and dramatic force. Mrs. Chant has a musical voice, which from childhood she learned to use to the best purpose. Notwithstanding the hard usage to which she put it from time to time, it has never failed to respond, clear and true, to every call which her tireless energy has made upon it. As a speaker, Mrs. Chant has only one serious fault—a tendency at times to relapse into monotony, and that arises, there is little doubt, from the frequency with which she occupies the pulpit in Non-conformist chapels.

In the course of a few years the list of women speakers have become legion, I have mentioned, of course, but a few of the more conspicuous. There remains one name, however, which stands quite alone. Having heard all the ladies to whose platform abilities I have endeavored to do justice, there remains no doubt in my mind but that Mrs. Besant has the genius of the orator in a sense and to an extent that are true of none other. Whatever her theme—and they have been so varied as to alienate in turn the sympathy of most of us—the splendor of her voice, the richness of her diction, the truth of her gesture and expression, in short, the strength and amplitude of her equipment for appealing to the heart and brain of a multitude, were such as to command our admiration and wonder. —Frederick Dolman in McClure's Magazine.

THE DISTINCTION.

You charge a dollar a day more at one of your hotels than at the other, remarked the man who travels. Yes, replied the proprietor. But I don't see any difference. —There is a difference, though. At one we print the bill of fare in French and at the other in English.

HEALTH.

BREATHE PROPERLY.

Do you know what an "active chest" is? Probably not, but your chest ought to be active—that is, lifted up—two-thirds of the time you are awake. Stand up and take a long breath, as long as you can; now you lift your chest; keep your chest up while you go on breathing by movement of the abdomen and the muscles at the side of your waist. A very slight movement is all that is necessary for normal breathing; but now you have let your chest fall! You are so tired you can't hold it up! That shows a very bad, unnatural state of things; the normal human being, howthings; the normal human being, whenever he is not relaxed, walked with his chest up; and when he talks with vigor or interest, it is with his chest up; and you can't hold yours up three minutes without fatigue—you can't do it, at all, for five! Do you know that the preservation or achievement of a round, slender waist will be your reward if you will strengthen your muscles and learn to keep your chest up? It will certainly, except as you become hopelessly fat, and even then good breathing will do much to preserve some good outlines in your figure. Proper breathing and the habit of keeping the chest up will keep all the internal organs in their proper place and keep them from spreading the waist in any way that is unsightly, and shows not Greek health, but deficient vitality. The first thing is to get so you can hold the chest up. Walk across the floor three times, holding up your chest, just as you do when you try to fasten a tight skirtband, at the same time breathing deeply from the abdomen. After the three times you are exhausted; rest and try it again; to-morrow you can perhaps do it four; don't tire yourself, but keep at it till you have strengthened the muscles that hold your chest up just as you would strengthen the muscles of your arms, with use. Always practice out-of-doors or with your windows up; there are many good breathing exercises and but few can very well be conveyed in print, but the main thing is very simple; breathe with your chest up, and keep on doing so till you do it naturally, all the time that you are not relaxed in rest.

One good exercise that can be taught is to simply stand and take as long a breath as you can, chest well up, and then hold it as long as you can. This exercise used for a few minutes every day is most beneficial, and physicians recommend it for strengthening and expanding the lungs. Professor Tyndall said that, as a broad general rule, any air out of doors was better than any air indoors. Breathing exercises are most effective outside the house and generally they are not conspicuous even on a city sidewalk.

CONCERNING THE FEET.

One of the best means of keeping tender feet in a healthy condition is to bathe them daily, and frequently change one's stockings. The feet should be bathed every morning in tepid water, to which a little vinegar, alum, or salt has been added; it will render the flesh firm and healthy, and prevent corns, bunions, and swelling. If the feet become hard after a long walk, or extra exercise, rub them with a slice of lemon.

Stockings should be changed daily, if possible, and also shoes or boots. No one, therefore, should have less than two pairs of boots or shoes in daily wear, and changed alternately.

When the nails become—as is sometimes the case—embedded in the flesh through wearing tight boots, the best means to follow is to soak the feet till the nails are perfectly soft, then to cut them gradually, little by little each day.

To remove corns, patience and perseverance are necessary, and there are numerous remedies, but all must be more or less persevered with.

A corn touched with strong soda water or even with pure vinegar, as often as may be convenient, will soon disappear. A fresh rose leaf tied over a corn daily is said to be good.

Scrape your corn for some time before bathing your feet each morning. This will gradually reduce the corns, and by continuous use prevent them reappearing.

Another good thing is to soak the corn well, then pick it out with the nail or with scissors.

Undue perspiration of the feet is frequently hereditary, and when an unpleasant odor is given forth much annoyance is afforded to the sufferer.

One of the best remedies is to bathe the feet night and morning in soda and water, and to powder them with boracic acid. The stockings must be changed daily, or even twice a day is preferable.

There are several varieties of bunions, and they may be soft, hard, or even more or less inflamed, and the joints itself is often disfigured. When inflammation is present, rest and warm fomentations must be given the affected toe. Bunions may be painted with iodine and given full rest until well.

Boots that are sufficiently long, and also that cause no pressure over the part, should be worn.

When the great toe-joint is deformed, place a pad between the great toe and the next one, and this pad should be wedge shape, thicker at one end than the other, the thick end being at the nail part of the toe. Having placed the pad in position, another pad must be placed over the eminence on

the inner side of the foot, then the toe part of the foot be bound round with a piece of lint or linen, to press the joint outwards as much as possible; be sure and see that the boot or shoe is sufficiently long to give the toe full play.

At night rub well into the affected joint iodide of potassium ointment. This can be done with one finger, which previously cover with a piece of oilskin, or rub the ointment in with a piece of linen.

IMPROVE THE COMPLEXION.

The clearness and consequently the beauty of the skin depend so much upon the health of the body that no one can hope to have a brilliant and healthy complexion who suffers from indigestion, neuralgia, anaemia, etc., therefore due regard must be paid to everything which affects the general health if you want your skin to be in good condition. The best aids to beauty are abundant ablutions of the entire body, wholesome and easily digested food, plenty of fresh air and sufficient sleep.

CYCLISTS CAN'T DANCE.

At least, an Englishman Says They Can't Do It Gracefully.

A new terror threatens the cyclist. It is asserted that bicycling injures the power of dancing. People who cycle a lot, according to a medical man, find it almost impossible to perform the graceful movements required by waltzing.

"Wheeling," says the doctor, "causes the muscular portion of the calf of the leg to bulge out considerably beyond its natural line, and any cyclist will admit that after a ride of ten or fifteen miles walking is irksome.

"The muscles that are brought into play by dancing are deadened by riding a wheel. The lightness of toe so necessary to the man or woman who is continually pedaling, as the one set action contracts the muscles, and the whirling twirling motion of a dance can only be performed in a clumsy fashion.

"The joints should be free for dancing. After a spin on a bicycle they are stiff and clogged. The continual bending over the handles, too, makes the upright posture used in dancing painful. A cyclist who uses the wheel in moderation would be very little affected; it is those persons who cycle for morning till night that are the sufferers."

THE HABIT OF SIGHING.

One of the most depressing of human beings, as a companion, is the person that is always sighing. The last sound heard at night, and the first to greet us in the morning, with no end of repetition during the day, is the long-drawn, soblike respiration. A genuine outburst of grief that would spend itself and would be over would be far less wearing for the one compelled to listen to it, just as a good stiff blast is more easily borne than the weary wind that hour after hour moans and sighs, or a pouring rain than a continuous drizzle. Even though there may be adequate cause for sighing, it is vastly better, as a rule, to smile—better for us and for all with whom we come in contact—for the sighing is a species of self-indulgence that soon becomes automatic, and long after the cause has ceased to exist the sigher keeps on sighing from sheer force of habit.

The man that diffuses gladness is a much truer philanthropist than he who scatters gold and silver for his fellow-men to wrangle over.

"She always brings sunshine with her," was the comment of a dear old lady in speaking of a young girl who was in the habit of running in to see her. And there is nothing else one can bring to the aged that so helps to lift the weight of years.

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine," and a sunny presence will carry better cheer into a sick room than the choicest of fruit and jelly.

Sighs are no less contagious than smiles, and unless a determined effort is made by some one more cheerfully disposed, one habitual sigher will in time demoralize an entire family.

Old people often sigh from physical weakness, and with such we can be patient. But perhaps if they had begun in time they might have headed off the habit, and saved the imposing of this tax on the sympathies of their friends.

It is a habit to which old age has a peculiar tendency, and it behooves those of us who have reached life's meridian to guard against it with the utmost care. It comes upon us so stealthily, and there are seemingly so many things to make us sigh. We sigh over the tasks that were once a pastime, and so add to our weariness; we look into our mirrors and sigh for our lost youth, forgetting that every sigh helps to silver the hair and deepen the wrinkles—forgetting, too, that we shall presently renew our youth. We sit sighing over the mistakes and failures of the past, instead of pressing on with fresh courage, remembering that even these "shall work together for good"; we sigh for the friends that have passed beyond our ken, unmindful in our selfishness that they have reached the land where there is no more sighing, and that we shall shortly overtake them.

"I laugh that I may not weep," said Byron; and for most of us there are days when the tears lie so near the surface that it would be infinitely easier to weep than to laugh. But let us laugh if we can; there is so much of sorrow and sighing in the world, and so many of our fellow-travellers are so sorely in need of cheering. Besides, a radiant, heart-felt smile will make the plainest of faces beautiful.

EN REGLE.

Suicides pay Niagara Falls one compliment, at least.

What is that?

Those who jump over are always described as being well-dressed.

WHAT UNCLE SAM IS AT.

ITEMS OF INTEREST ABOUT THE BUSY YANKEE.

Neighborly Interest in His Doings—Matters of Moment and Mirth Gathered from His Daily Record.

At Jackson, Michigan, a father playing leapfrog with his boys fell against a stove and broke his neck.

Mr. J. H. Mills is President of the State Bank, of Crosswell, Mich., one of the directors of which also is a woman.

Moles are so destructive in Bloomingdale township, Mich., that a bounty of five cents a head has been offered for them.

Judge Righter, of New Orleans, has decided that New Orleans must support all the infirm, sick and disabled paupers in its limits.

California claims the largest boy of his age in the world. His name is John Bardin. He is 15 years old, six feet five inches tall, and weighs 220 pounds.

In Marion county, Tenn., a farmer driving a cow stopped to throw a stone at it and was seized with a pain at his heart just as he drew back to throw. He fell over and died within a minute.

A marriage in the American Volunteers, performed at Wichita last month by a woman of the band, who is a duly ordained minister of the Gospel, was the second marriage to be solemnized by a woman in that State.

John Tannis and his nine sons voted at the spring election in Sheridan township, Newaygo county, Mich., and had to pay the penalty afterward by sitting for a photograph as the biggest family of voters in the Wolverine State.

Eight inches from the bark, in the trunk of a red oak tree which was cut down on James Maynard's farm at Portland, Mich., an iron horseshoe was found. The tree's rings show that the horseshoe had been imbedded there for thirty-eight years.

At West Brattleboro, Vt., a man who had jumped from a load of hay looked up just in time to be struck by a hay fork. One time entered his face just under the eye and went through the roof of his mouth, but the wound did not seriously inconvenience him.

When in danger of drowning in a wild river which he had attempted to ford a German of Indianapolis prayed to be saved, promising that if he was rescued he would never again drink beer, and he was presently hauled ashore. He had kept his promise up to last accounts.

Mastro Valerio, of Daphne, Baldwin county, Ala., has succeeded in raising an Italian pea of the variety known as "fave," which he represented as a staple food supply among the Italian peasantry, and the plant of which he advocated as a trustworthy agent for the renewal of exhausted soil.

J. C. Humphrey, of Poultny, Vt., has a copy of the "Royal Standard Dictionary," published in 1777 at Boston, by William Perry, who announced that he exhibited the pronunciation of words according to the polite speakers of England. The book is six inches square and is said to be rare.

The last of seven escaped Siberian convicts who were found at sea in a small boat and taken to San Francisco a couple of years ago, has recently been disposed of by the State authorities, who sent him to prison for burglary. One of his fellows was some time ago hanged for murder.

Schools of Michigan City, Ind., under the inspiration of a member of the Board of Education, Martin Krueger, celebrate "Bird Day," when a special study of song birds is made and addresses upon them are delivered. The custom has spread to other towns of northern Indiana and is said to be making its way into Illinois.

William C. Baker, of Grand Rapids, Mich., still has a good memory at the age of 89. He says that he remembers very well Lafayette's visit to the United States and also meetings with the Marquis at La Grange and at Paris. Mr. Baker is said to be one of the three oldest graduates of Princeton, where he was graduated at the age of 17 in 1825.

Ruthy York, 16 years old, accused of moonshining in north Georgia, was discharged at Atlanta and a negro boy arrested with her was held. It is said that of late years women moonshiners have been few in that section of the South, although there were many of them before juries began some time ago to punish them as severely as men.

Two men who cannot feel themselves at home in Kansas called upon the Mayor of Lindsborg, the other day and paid him \$1, the sum which the city had paid for their lodging one night in July last, when they were caught short there. They explained that they had reached a condition in life which made it practicable to pay what they considered a debt.

Work was begun in the latter part of April in the fields of southwestern Michigan, where a large acreage had been planted of late years to peppermint. The English or black mint has been the chief crop for several years, but better prices are offered for the American plant, and that is to be the leader this year. Greater areas also are to be planted this year than heretofore.

A farmer of Clare county, Mich., has found that he can increase the egg-laying abilities of his hens by feeding to them old newspapers torn to bits and soaked in sour milk until the whole becomes a pulp. The hens, it is said, like the new food and the inventor expects to see almost any day one of the freak papers come out with the picture of a hen that sets type.