

which is lingered over with unexaggerated pathos. We sincerely hope that this beautiful composition will be adopted and much sung by our intelligent girl-singers, for it will afford real pleasure to all lovers of music.

Liebe, Liebe, ach die Liebe. Words translated from the Hungarian of Alex. Petrófi. Music by Maude Valerie White.—The song before us is a pretty and simple composition, both melody and accompaniments being in admirable keeping with the words.

Golden slumbers kiss your eyes. Serenade for a choir of mixed voices. By Henry Leslie.—A charmingly descriptive part song. There are no difficulties to be surmounted by tolerably trained executants. The treatment requires great delicacy.

WEEKES AND CO.

The Song of the Wood. Words by F. E. Weatherly. Music by Mrs. Arthur Goodear.—A melodious setting to verses by the popular song-writer.

True as of Yore. By the same composer. Words by Clifton Bingham.—An agreeable song of average merit in the conventional style.

A Whispered "Yes." Words by Spencer Henry. Music by Edmund Rogers.—Pretty and vocal, and very nicely accompanied. Published in three keys.

The same may be said of *Not Alone.* Words by E. M. A. F. S. Music by R. W. Lewis.

C. B. TREE.

Songs for Little Ones. Words by F. A. R. Music by Merelina Gopp. Illustrations by C. L. Hardcastle.—In every respect a charming gift book. The rhymes, illustrations, and music are equally attractive. It contains twelve simple airs, most of them pretty. The book is got up in a most charming style, price 4s.

WILLIAM CZERNY.

Our Darling. Words by Ray Lotinga. Music by Lindsay Proctor.

My All in All. Words by E. Oxenford. Music by Theodor Bradsky.

CONRAD HERZOG AND CO.

A Love Lost and Found. Words by Arthur Holloway. Music by Thomas J. Mallet.

These three songs may be commended as being interesting, tuneful, and well written.

THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN'S WORK.

By the Rev. E. J. HARDY, M.A., Chaplain to Her Majesty's Forces.



BECAUSE women's work is done for the most part in the privacy of home we are not for that reason to undervalue it, or regard it as of less importance than the more public work of men. In the course of a conversation with Madame Campan, Napo-

leon Buonaparte remarked, "The old systems of instruction seem to be worth nothing; what is yet wanting in order that

the people should be properly educated?" "Mothers," replied Madame Campan. The reply struck the Emperor. "Yes," said he; "here is a system of education in one word." Is there any work done by men so useful as that which is done by a good mother? The work of the Prime Minister or chief servant of England is no doubt very great, but it may be that the best mother of England, whoever she is, serves her country even more. One good mother is worth a hundred schoolmasters. She influences far more than does the father the action and conduct of the child. When people grow up and get fixed habits, clergymen can do comparatively little to reform them, but a mother can harden in goodness the pliable character of her child. Thus it is that posterity may be said to lie in the person of the child in the mother's lap.

After the work of training children, the next noblest and most useful employment of women is, in our humble and old-fashioned opinion, the skilful and economical preparation of food. If that man is to be regarded as a benefactor of his species who makes two stalks of corn to grow where only one grew before, not less is she to be regarded as a public benefactor who economises and turns to the best practical account the food-products of human skill and labour.

"The man may spend,
And money lend,
If his wife be aught;
But he may work,
And try to save,
And will have nought,
If his wife be naught."

Call cookery a department of chemistry, and cook herself a scientific chemist, and you can see at once the dignity of her work. Indeed, it would seem that the only reason why good cooks do not occupy the social esteem now enjoyed by medical men is the universal forgetfulness of the fact that "prevention is better than cure." Trained cooks prevent ill-health, while physicians, though they drive in carriages and appear much grander, only cure it. Nor is it only the physical nature that is benefited by good cookery. Its effect upon the temper and moral nature generally of a husband and children is very great indeed. Waste, impatience, quarrels, ill-health, are prevented when girls come to their husbands with a practical knowledge of cookery and other household duties.

Another department of woman's work which rivals in usefulness the physician's calling is the work of nursing the sick. The most skilful practitioner gives instructions in vain if they are not carried into practice by an intelligent nurse. In the majority of cases good nursing has more to do with the patient's recovery than good doctoring.

Mr. Ruskin said a girl's chief virtues were dancing, dressing, and cooking: he might have added teaching and training children. What did he mean? Dancing meant a girl was happy. It was her first business to be happy—a sunbeam in the house, making others glad. Dressing meant not buying only, but making dresses, and seeing that others had them: dressing the poor, and teaching them how to dress. Cookery included knowledge of botany, herbs, balsams, all sweet things that grew in the fields and woods for food—in short, the economy of our great-grandmothers, wedded to the science of modern chemistry.

No one who has an eye for beauty of form can avoid seeing the difference between an artistically dressed person, however simple the toilette, and one who is ill-dressed. The human shape is beautiful by nature, and ought not to be disfigured by its covering. Thus the work of dressmaking is really a form of art. It has been well said that "to throw a

pot of paint at a canvas does not make a picture." So it is not making a gown to throw a quantity of material together in any slipshod fashion. The value of a gown consists rather in artistic make than in costly material; a velvet gown ill-made is a bad gown; a serge at 1s. 6d. a yard skilfully made is a gown that might be worn by the highest lady. A girl should desire to do her best on the simplest thing. It may be said of dress-making, as of other work, that true greatness consists not so much in doing extraordinary things as in doing ordinary things extraordinarily well.

We often speak of "business men," but are there not business women too in the world? Certainly; for the management of a household is as much a matter of business as the management of a shop or of a counting-house. It requires method, accuracy, organisation, industry, economy, discipline, tact, knowledge, and capacity for adapting means to ends. All this is of the essence of business; and hence business habits ought to be cultivated by girls who aspire to succeed in life. Mr. Bright has said of boys, "Teach a boy arithmetic thoroughly, and he is a made man." Why? Because it teaches him method, accuracy, value, proportions, relations. But does not a girl require to learn arithmetic as much as does a boy? She does; for when she becomes a wife, if she is not up to her business—that is, the management of her domestic affairs in conformity with the simple principles of arithmetic—she will, through sheer ignorance, be liable to commit extravagances which may be most injurious to her family peace and comfort. Method, which is the soul of business, is also of great importance in the home. The unpunctual woman, like the unpunctual man, occasions dislike, because she consumes and wastes time. To the business man time is money; but to the business woman method is more: it is peace, comfort, and domestic prosperity.

We might go into other departments of women's work and show that they are quite as useful, and ought to be considered as dignified and as honourable as men's; but these few illustrations are enough if they set girls thinking on the subject. In all kinds of work a good woman can earn esteem and can find an opportunity of doing her duty. Only let her put conscience into her work, and remember that there is no work or position in life which cannot be raised, and none so high that it cannot be degraded. Is your work occupied with uninteresting trifles? Think what Michael Angelo said about trifles. One day a visitor at his studio remarked to that great artist, who had been describing certain little finishing "touches" lately given to a statue, "But these are only trifles." "It may be so," replied the sculptor; "but recollect that trifles make perfection, and perfection is no trifle."

We conclude with a few practical words of Rev. H. R. Haweis in reference to a girl's preparation for woman's work: "Order, neatness, cleanliness must first be learned. A slovenly girl will make a slatternly wife. Go home and look at your cupboards. How many things can you find without a hunt? Peep into those corners—drawers—nondescript places, where everything gets stowed away. Do you notice grease-spots quickly? Do you take them out or merely fold them over. A lady said to me, 'What can be worse than a glove that has been mended?' 'A glove that wants mending,' I replied. Every girl should be taught some trade or handicraft. You can never tell how soon you may want it. How do you know that your father is not spending his capital—has not speculated, and will not leave you all penniless? Half the women in the United Kingdom have to support themselves somehow, and not a few of them, I blush to own it, support the men."