

LADY SOMERSET'S VISIT.

Famous Reformer Tells of Her Work—Progress Made at the Duxhurst Home—Courtesy, Love and Occupation.

Lady Henry Somerset, of England, President of the World's W.C.T.U., is in this country, and will attend the 25th convention of the Ontario W. C. T. U. in Toronto, before going home about the middle of November.

Women interested in social purity work and the reformation of women from drink will be interested in the reports which Lady Henry brings with her of the success of her Industrial Farm Colony at Duxhurst, Redgate.

This colony founded by Lady Henry is maintained in connection with the National British Women's Temperance Association, and its purpose is to deal with the problem of inebriety among women which has been so rapidly increasing in England. The idea of the colony was first suggested by some investigations which she made years ago in New England and as to low tempered women were treated there.

Lady Henry found that the authorities were treating women inebriates with kindness; that instead of punishing them, they were being met with mercy and charity; that the law of love and not that of force was being used in their cases, and that the reformations secured were more lasting than any under the old system. She was so impressed with the results of the New England work brought to her attention that she believed she had found in it a partial solution at least of the women's drink problem in England. On her return to England the first steps were taken toward the founding of the Industrial Farm Colony, which now is an accomplished fact.

As to this colony, in her last report Lady Henry says:

"During the past year some progress has undoubtedly been made toward solving the great question which stands prominently before us as to how to deal with inebriety among women, which is so rapidly increasing in our nation. The amendments to the inebriate act, enabling magistrates to deal with cases of habitual inebriety, by sending the offenders to a reformatory instead of to prison, is an advance in the right direction."

A little further on in her report Lady Henry says of one of the difficulties confronting the reformatory or colony:

"We have proved beyond a doubt that there are many consigned to reformatories under the supposition that they are habitual inebriates who are distinctly criminals to whom drunkenness is a natural part of existence; whereas there are some who, under the influence of drink, have committed offences which, if it had not been for this failing, they would probably never have dreamed of."

"The patients whom we receive at Duxhurst are of another caliber; they are the people who have not been habitual criminals, but whose drunkenness is desolating their homes."

At Duxhurst the woman who has stooped to toy with gin, small beers, whiskey and wine, is given courtesy first, love second and occupation third. Preferably, where occupation is provided, outdoor work is selected.

"Our medical officer's report," writes Lady Henry, "gives us the best encouragement as to the way in which the work has prospered, and the method by which we divide our colony into small homes has each year proved its value more fully, while the occupation in the gardens, the wholesomeness of outdoor work and the invigorating effects of fresh air are demonstrated by the improvement in the patient's health and morals, and confirm us in our belief that our theory of outdoor occupation is based upon sound principle."

"The very nature of the employment in the forcing-houses, the garden frames, the fruit picking, is necessarily foreign to the women who come to us, and consequently it has the desirable effect of breaking all continuity of thought with the past by giving them an extremely new outlook in their daily work. I believe that the possibilities of outdoor employment for women have not yet been developed, and that in many of our reformatories these methods will be adopted in lieu of the more remunerative laundry work or plain sewing. Last winter we started the industry of seed sorting, and we have found this meets with a measure of success. We have also introduced basketmaking, which has proved useful during bad weather in the winter months."

In the garden work to which the inebriate women are put extracted honey is produced, wax, fruits and vegetables. All the fruit is picked and packed by women. In the workroom there is embroidery, weaving, carpet-making and the like. Linen dresses in large quantities are woven.

How to Get Rich:

Take a quantity of silica costing one-fourth the price of oil; mix it with oil, and sell the compound to the public at the price of pure oil; offer "prizes" with the compound to make it sell. It is such a compound the public get when they buy common soaps. In Sunlight Soap—Octagon Bar—the public buy a pure and well-made soap. Sunlight Soap reduces expense by prolonging the life of the articles washed with it, which is much more profitable to the public, than common soaps with "prizes."

on my women who previous to their entering the colony had never had any experience in this class of work. As to whether these women like this work, as to whether they are happy in the thought of freeing themselves from the influence of drink, some letters published may show:

"We are happier together now, my dear husband and myself, than we have been for many a long year."

"I shall ever wish to keep Duxhurst green in my memory, as I feel it has been the means of restoring happiness to me."

"I am full of thankfulness for all this place has done for me."

"I owe you a debt of gratitude."

"I feel stronger in both mind and body."

Henry S. Sanders, warden of the colony, in writing of his knowledge of its work says:

"I have been able during the year to pay several visits to the colony, and rejoiced to see how the work grows and prospers, and I cannot forbear further to mention that I have also in various parts of the country been brought into contact with not a few past patients, whose corrected, sober lives have been a source of deep thankfulness to me, as they must be to all who love Duxhurst."

The medical officer's report shows that in the five years existence of Duxhurst 241 cases of women's inebriety have been treated; that 110 have been successfully treated, and that in the case of 76 there was failure. Of the others, 11 died, 8 went insane, 17 were considered doubtful of recovery, 7 absconded, 5 were incorrigible and 5 were removed on account of ill health. Taking the successful and failed cases together 59.13 per cent. were successful and 40.87 per cent. failed.

Of the whole number of women received 167 were married, 60 single and 14 widows. All of the 84 had an inebriate family history, 16 had insanity in their family, 5 head epilepsy in the family and 12 were engaged in the licensing trade. There were 135 habitual drunkards, 81 periodic drunkards, 23 secret drunkards and 1 opium eaters.

Duxhurst, aside from caring for the inebriate mother, reaches out for the children of vicious homes and intemperance. The first consignment of little ones received consisted of six small, ill-used children, varying in age from 4 to 9, and one girl of 12. One little tot had chilblains which left her heel covered with hard, dry skin. She was told this was "dead" skin, but that did not satisfy her.

"What is the matter with my heel?" she asked. "You don't know, Sister Edith doesn't, Peeche doesn't—only God knows. It's very awkward, isn't it?"

Several of the children playing decided to have a Punch and Judy show and one of the youngsters was selected to be Punch and to suffer his fate of hanging. Just when the string was round her small neck for the final punishment, she exclaimed, entreatingly: "Amy, I have never been hanged before; don't hurt me much." All these little children have developed into bright and happy beings under the softening influences of the colony, or as their quarter is called, "the Nest."

Duxhurst is patronized by the Duchess of St. Albans, the Duchess of Bedford, the Countess Somers, the Countess of Dudley, Lady Arthur Butler and others of the nobility and clergy. The Earl of Stamford is a member of the advisory boards, also Lord Kinnaird and Lord Roberts. It has this prayer:

"That it may please Thee to strengthen such as do stand, to comfort and help the weak-hearted, and to raise up them that fall, and finally to beat down Satan under our feet. We beseech Thee to hear us, good Lord."

It is an experiment put forth by one of the most noble-hearted women in the world in a nation whose besetting sin is liquor-drinking. In England, as in no other country in the world is the liquor habit fastened on the women of all classes, and it has been one of the chief aims of Lady Henry Somerset to break this fastening, to turn the womanhood of England to a better life. Duxhurst cannot accomplish everything, but it is a beginning along the line of treating the tempted woman with kindness and love and of giving her occupation along common-sense lines.

The Daring Little Humming Bird.

Courage has little or no relation to bodily size. The humming bird is the smallest of birds, but also one of the most fearless and pugnacious. He attacks kingbirds and hawks, and those tyrannical creatures, though of monstrous size in comparison, seem not at all ashamed to fly from his onsets. The fights of humming birds among themselves are often fierce and protracted.

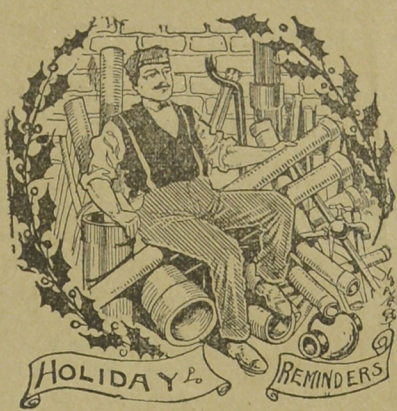
Economical.

There is a reminiscence of Caleb Balderstone in the utterance of an economical Scotch butler who was lately waiting at an important dinner. He had taken round a plate of beef in vain. After his last effort at persuasion had failed he set it down in front of his master with decision. "Ye maun tak' that yersel," he said. "I canna' get any ither customer for it!"

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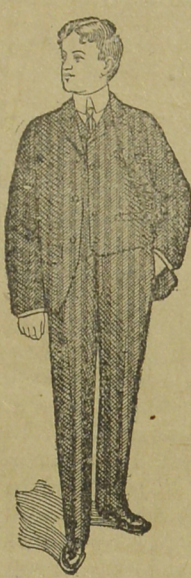
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No. 134 Express for Quebec and Montreal..... 18.00
No. 26 Express for Point du Chene, Halifax and Pictou..... 12.15
No. 8 Express for Sussex..... 17.10
No. 4 Mixed for Point du Chene..... 13.15
No. 10 Express for Halifax and Sydney..... 23.25

TRAINS WILL ARRIVE AT ST. JOHN

No. 9 Express from Halifax and Sydney 6.20
No. 7 Express from Sussex..... 9.00
No. 133 Express from Montreal and Quebec..... 13.50
No. 25 Express from Halifax and Pictou 17.40
No. 1 Express from Halifax..... 18.40
No. 81 Express from Moncton, (Saturday only)..... 24.35
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