

THE COURIER

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OBSERVATIONS.

Pauperism by Miss Jane Addams.

After many years' sympathetic, scientific observation of poverty Miss Jane Addams has presented a report interesting in itself and authoritative because of its author and her unique opportunities for observation. In the days when saints were made Miss Addams would have been called Saint Jane when much younger than she is now. But even saints in the olden time were proud of their mortifications, their fastings, their flagellations, even of their miracles which they did not claim to work of their own power but of their influence. Miss Jane Addams seems to have no desire for power or recognition. She has inspiration of a kind that the old saints may have had. Under the influence of her quiet, gray eyes, from which the signs of selfishness and self conceit have long since disappeared, one has an overpowering sense of unworthiness and frivolity. Where ever she goes she changes the values. Her company though it is of the cheerfulest, depresses the worth of money and position and elevates purity. The values change under the peculiar effect of her presence as though one were dying. Silver, gold, jewels, rugs, furniture, equipages, gowns—everything dear to the heart of woman—changes color and value as though seen by eyes about to close forever on the world of matter. Well,

this woman, who like St. Elizabeth, can transmute matter into spirit has the mind and the habits of a scientist with the heart and love of the apostle who followed Christ the closest. In her long residence in the slums of Chicago she has been studying paupers and recording the causes of poverty according to the laboratory method, not for her own honor or glory, not even for science, though her truly scholarly mind would thus be tempted, but for the sake of finding a way to help the poor eventually.

She says that drunkenness and laziness are the cause of but thirteen per cent of the cases of pauperism reported. Forty-one per cent of the cases were the result of sickness, due not to dissipation, but to the unsanitary conditions which surround the poor in large cities. Further she says that each succeeding generation, born in large cities, shows a decreasing physical stamina, most of the paupers coming from the third city-born generation. If forty-one per cent of pauperism is due to sickness and that sickness to unsanitary dwellings it would pay Chicago and all other cities to more stringently enforce all sanitary regulations, especially those in regard to the construction and cleanliness of tenement houses. Forty-one per cent would not only be saved but the paupers would become producers and add their share to the wealth of the community.

These evils are only slightly present in Lincoln, but more rigid inspection and condemnation of alleys by the health officer would result in a decrease of sickness. Among those who cannot afford to be sick, the cost of the sickness, and the support of the families meanwhile is borne by the city. A preventative cleaning up of the bottoms, now will save medicine, doctor and funeral bills later. These are not the ideal predictions of a sentimentalist but the conclusions of Jacob Riis and of Miss Addams who have studied the subject longer and more conscientiously than any other moderns.

The English and the Boers.

Since the English have been victorious in the Transvaal, newspaper comment on the wrongs suffered by the Dutch farmers has almost ceased. While there was a prospect of Kruger's eventual success the newspapers applauded him and expatiated on the tyranny of England etcetera etcetera. Because England is the most powerful nation in the world and because the English are the most enlightened people and because the Transvaal is a small oligarchy and its people the most ignorant in the world it was chivalrously concluded that England was abusing and tyrannizing over the Transvaal. "The Truth about the Transvaal," a small pamphlet of forty-three pages by William Robins, contains an unprejudiced statement of the negotiations carried

on between Mr. Chamberlain and President Kruger since 1881. The despatches between the British and Boer governments and the official report of the Bloemfontein conference are all the arguments that Mr. Robins uses. Everyone who still thinks that Mr. Chamberlain precipitated an unnecessary war should, for the sake of truth and justice and his own relation to them read this report. Between quotations from the Bible, President Kruger makes the most glaring misstatements. The dealings of the Boers with the British are characterized by insincerity and childish prevarication, the dealings of the British with the Boers by forbearance, patience and manly straightforwardness and anxiety for a peaceable settlement. If it were not for the difference in the relative size of the two nations there could be no sympathy in America for the Boers. The system of exclusion and of taxation adopted and insisted upon by the Boers would not work in any country today and it is only their insignificance, their exploitation of their piety, their claim of being a republic and the undercurrent of chivalry for the weaker that has made them advocates in America.

Women in Business.

Mr. Bok's editorials have not given the Ladies Home Journal its vogue. If he were not the publisher and principal owner it is doubtful if his manuscript would find a place in the L. H. J. This is severe, because the stories, essays and poetry in this publication have evidently not passed a rigid literary examination. No other magazine of national circulation publishes so much that is uninspired and commonplace, yet because of the hints on housekeeping, manners of good society, gossipy twaddle about literary people and innocuous reading prepared for the *jeune fille* and especially because of the advertising and brilliant business management, the L. H. J. claims the largest circulation in the country. Mr. Bok despises his constituency and expresses his disdain in nearly every issue. In regard to women in business, he says in the March number "that having proved themselves incapable of meeting the demands of modern business, they are rapidly being replaced by men."

There are so few women who go into business for fun or from discontent. The large majority of working women are working to support themselves and others. These cannot retire without electing starvation. And the arguments and remonstrances concerning the disturbance of the market by women, all the economic essays ever written are not convincing enough to make one woman give up a job, however poor, which feeds her, her children, or her tired male relatives. Women will work for hire in spite of angry male expostulation as long as starvation is fatal and hun-

ger is uncomfortable, as long as we freeze without warm clothes and artificial warmth, as long as the rays of the summer sun are perpendicular, as long as everything that decorates, amuses, or instructs us is bought with a price and not given away. Women have gone too far ever to find the way back and in spite of Mr. Bok who despises women because they take the Ladies Home Journal, comparatively few women who are obliged to earn their own living by typewriting, book-keeping, clerking, or by law or medicine will resign their positions. A greater authority than Mr. Bok, a more conscientious scholar, a more just and less prejudiced critic might discourage women in their attempt to make a living. As it is it is not worth while to take Mr. Bok seriously. He has the money making instinct, but from a literary and economic point of view his opinions lack authority.

An Inconsistent Verdict.

Juries come to their decisions by mazy processes, led or influenced thereto by advocates who understand how soft is the heart of man in the last analysis and how unwilling to punish a woman who has looked at them with large, if withal, feline eyes, during the days of her trial. Nevertheless Viola Horlocker was guilty, if she was sane, of a premeditated attempt upon the life of a woman whom she was jealous of, and of an attempt to poison all the other friends in the studio with Mrs. Morey, known and unknown to the assassin. If she is insane, for the protection of society she should be confined in an asylum for the rest of her life. But she was a woman, she cried and cast appealing glances and the jury forgot how small was the provocation for attempting the life of Mrs. Morey, and of how she had no excuse whatever for trying to kill Mrs. Morey's innocent pupils, and acquitted her. Miss Horlocker committed so grave an offense against society for so slight a reason that now she is loosed upon it and gone to a strange place, where the inhabitants may not know that she counts gratification of her desires cheap at the price of human life, those who surround her are surely in danger. Because Mr. Morey is a hypocrite and a coward and cannot be punished for posing before Miss Horlocker as an object of sympathy in want of a friend, is perhaps another reason why the jury refused to impose the punishment for a slaughter such as she attempted. Mr. Morey's hypocrisy and manifestations of sympathy before the poisoning and his cowardice afterward incensed and disgusted the people. The jury not being able to punish him, let Miss Horlocker escape the more readily. Provocation so slight as she had is likely to occur again. This experience will teach her to be slyer next time and reassures her, that if