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THE
ENGLISHWOMAN'S REVIEW
OF
Social and Industrial Questions.

"S'il y a une question au monde dans laquelle il soit nécessaire de voir clair et de ne pas se payer de mots, c'est celle-ci ; c'est une question de vie ou de mort." ('L'Ouvrière.' By Jules Simon. Page ix.)

"A certain man hath said, 'Withstand the beginning ; after remedies come too late.'" (Thomas à Kempis, Lib. i. cap. 13.)

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ART. VIII.—PARAGRAPHS.

MUSICAL COMPOSERS.—The list of feminine composers is a brief one, and most of its members are now living. There was Leopoldine Blahetka, daughter of a professor of mathematics in Vienna, a famous pianiste who published more than seventy songs and pianoforte pieces, some of which were greatly admired by Beethoven; Josephine Lang, the friend of Mendelssohn, who composed many charming songs; Madame Hensel, the sister of Mendelssohn; Louise Puget, whose vocal romances enjoyed an enormous popularity in France; Elise Polko, who, carefully educated as a singer, lost her voice prematurely, then wrote many pretty novelettes, and now appears before the world as a song composer; Madame Dolby, and Virginia Gabriel, the English ballad writer. Madame Schurman and Madame Garcia have both composed some fine works, though few in number. But women have not hitherto realized what long years of severe mental discipline and scientific training are necessary in order to master the art of composition. This is not much to the discredit of their patience and courage, for very few among musical students of the other sex are, in America, willing to devote themselves to such self-sacrificing study; too many when they begin to understand the amount of labour required, become discouraged, and abandon it; and none among them yet have acquired such thorough early training as will insure perfect development to their talent for composition, and lasting fame to its results. Mathematics, acoustics, psychology, foreign languages, and literature, the theory and practice of many instruments, as well as the science of music itself, must all be mastered by the composer, and gradually, through the application and assimilation of long years of study and practice, become the "second nature" of his mind.

A WOMAN MACHINIST.—The *Philadelphia Times* says:—The women of the United States resolved to display at the Exhibition a complete representation of their industries, art, and skill. They have accomplished their purpose, and, in so doing, were careful to exclude as far as possible everything emanating from the hand

or brain of the opposite sex. Though they did not actually build the Women's Pavilion, they paid for its erection, and their exhibits in that structure, with the exception of the machinery, are the work of their own hands. The same is to be said of their guests and co-exhibitors, the women of England, Canada, and other countries. The rule has been carried even to the engine-house, where the Baxter portable engine of six-horse power is run by a woman engineer. This engine is the motor of all the spinning frames, looms, and other machinery in practical operation within the pavilion, and its fair mistress is Miss Emma Allison, of Grimsby, Ontario. She is by no means a soot-begrimed and oil-covered Amazon, but on the contrary, of neat and cleanly appearance and a highly educated and refined young lady. Of the brunette type, medium height, well-formed, strong and active, possessing a gentle disposition and much vivacity and good sense in conversation, she affords no little attraction to visitors as she dextrously manages her iron pet and tells them all about it. Her dress is neat, and of grayish linen, prettily braided in black. She makes it a point to keep both engine and room in the perfection of tidiness, and while she would grace a parlour in a manner equal to that of any lady, no lady in ball-room attire could grace that engine room better than she. Her choice of this employment comes, she says, from three sources, namely: Her delight in the study of natural philosophy gave her a fondness for machinery which was developed into its comprehension through the assistance of her brother, a member of the Engineer Corps of the United States navy; her means being limited, she must follow some remunerative occupation, and she accepted her present position as the one of her choice, although hitherto she had nothing but theoretical knowledge of steam engineering, and she believed it the duty of some one of her sex to enter a "new departure" which is among those opening out to women employment far more paying and healthful, requiring as much knowledge and skill for its accomplishment, and carrying with it as great honour as teaching school, keeping books, or operating sewing machines, copying, etc. She believes that if so

many male engineers did not find such apparent delight in plastering themselves all over with soot and making their engine rooms perfect specimens of disorder and filth women would long ago have looked with favour upon the occupation. She does not, however, intend continuing in the work after the Exhibition, purposing then to start a literary magazine in San Francisco.

MRS. L. MARIA CHILD ON THE INTELLECTUAL EQUALITY OF MEN AND WOMEN.—The only argument I think it worth while to offer on the subject is this: If women have physical or intellectual strength sufficient to earn property, and consequently be taxed for it, they have intellect enough to vote concerning the use that shall be made of their taxes; and if they have sense and feeling enough to suffer from the effects of corrupt or imbecile legislation, they have sense enough to try to improve it. That women at the present time are not, generally speaking, the physical or intellectual equals of men, in general, is obvious. But I deem it impossible for the wisest thinker, or the most careful investigator, to determine how far the present inequality is to be ascribed to natural organization, or how far to centuries of impeded growth, and the dwarfing effects of habitual subordination. All I ask is perfect liberty to choose our own spheres of action, and a fair, open chance to do whatsoever we can do well. I am very willing to leave time to decide the degree of our capabilities, and I have no anxiety concerning the verdict. For myself, I believe in the perfect equality of men and women by nature, yet I think there is a difference in their spiritual, as well as in their physical organization; and that, generally speaking, though they might work in all departments equally well, they would spontaneously work in a different manner.

QUEEN'S INSTITUTE, DUBLIN.—The last report of this useful and valuable institution, contains the following sensible hint:—"It seems requisite to call attention to the necessity of steady application to work by those who wish to turn acquirements to account. It is a fallacy that a lady can make an income by working an hour or two in a day. No doubt, if possible, it would be very agreeable. If a lady becomes a writer for the