Woman's World.

MISS C. H. SPENCE (of S.A.)

ox
"The Domocratic Ideal."

The democratic movement is often charged with heing irreligious. Though this charge is false, it is true that the religious side of it is too often lost sight of; this, chiefly, because the loud-roiced demagogues, who speak in the name of democracy, are merely interested in pressing forward its material advantages. As a democratic paper we have therefore much piessure in giving our readers a resume of an able and impressive sermon, "What is the Democratic Ideal?" presched by Miss Spence in the Unitarian Church last Sunday

Miss Spence emphatically denounced the modern competitive systems, which makes money become more and more the power of the world. The economic struggle leads, inertiably, to the magnifying of material prosperity, so that in countries calling themselves Christian and professing themselves democratic, there is quite as little effort to realise the true Christian ideal, the true democratic ideal, as in old established monarchic and oligarchic countries. This is clearly seen in America, notwithstanding her democratic constitution. America is really the land of plutocracy, and the plutocrat is a greater enemy to democracy than the aristocrats. Miss Spence quoted Walt. Whitman's magnifecent idea of democracy:

magnificent idea of democracy:—

"By God, I will accept nothing that all cannot have their counterpart of on the same terms."

Here is the vital distinction: the plutocrat and the aristocrat love to menopolics what is pieceant and beautiful and luxurious; the true democrat wishes for nothing which his fellows cannot share with him. In the United States there are 900 men who possess more than one million sterling. In that country with such marvellous wealth, with its wonderful natural advantages, are the conditions of the workers so much better than those of their fellows in England? On all hands one hears "no." The keen competitive struggle produces only the piutocrats and the protectire. The plutocrat with his wealth, which is a burden to him, the protectire with his shortened life and nothing to show for it.

What the plutocrat calls progress—palatial residences, liveried servants, lucurious dresses, profusion of jewellery—sickens the soul of the true democrat; such rulgar display is really retrogression. All efforts towards the progress of the race should take the direction of increased simplicity of living. Combination and co-operation can do much, but the beginning of a truly democratic society must find its promoters willing to strip themselves of superfluities which others cannot uttain to—will accept of nothing which others cannot

have on the same terms.

Miss Spence concluded with an appeal to the churches to take hold of all social questions; they can only live by so doing. Christianity rightly understood, is a social bond as well as a religious influence, and the true Democratic Ideal is the true Christian Ideal. The spirit of Christis is not in those who would perpetuate the class distinctions of our time; there is no need to wait for a future existence before these are abolished, before all God's children are gathered together into concess of spirit.

There is at least one church in Melbourne which would satisfy Miss Spence's ideal of what a church should be—the Australian Church. Dr. Strong is the cone scholarly elergyman in Victoria, who has got a grip of the great social problems of the day. On Sunday evening he, too, delivered a sermon on Democracy, notice of which want of space compels us to hold ever

Dr. Lloyd asked whether the North McRourne Court in relation to its maintenance jurisdiction is not a little different to other course, very winely, replied — We calm that we administer the law as it sught to be administered, and more thereughly than it is achiestered in other courts." He also mad that "in the land law per own, "He also mad that "in the land lay per own, of the cases in which men are used for the maintenance of (Bugtimate obliders), and in which they deep the charge, there is takes overesting."

Mr. Wells Fink thinks that highlaten is required to compil heliops to support their circless. "Another as one to good does not help has family. There should be some ones of policy conversion every man against when

an order has been legally made, and he should be required to report himself to the Beach every week, who should have power to stack his property or wagen (or portions of such) for the benefit of his family. This should be supplemented by extending the Litzadition, Act, by that a man against whom a maintenance order has been made (whether for his legitimate or illegitimate childrep) can be brought back from other colonies. Is any case a wife is entitled to a just share of her hundred and any and the colonies and should have the first claim on his estate.

Ann Johnson was found dying in Geelong in a perfectly indescribable state of neglect and filth. She died just before the arrival of the police, and Constable Shields gave evidence that she had apparently received no attention for over a week. It is alleged that the husband refused to allow anyone to see his wife, who was thus left at the mercy of a drunken husband. The magnituates decided that death was due to natural causes, and the husband was acquitted. These magristrates evidently consider it auture! that a husband should neglect and starre his wife.

The relative value of men and women. In April, a young woman, walking quietly home with her brother, was violently attacked by a man Richardson, an utter stranger to her. Her face was badly cat and her brother wounded. For this atterly suprovoked and brutal attack Richardson was fined £2, or is default one month. Daniel Hayes, for brutally kicking an old woman (also a complete stranger to him) and breaking her umbrella, was fined 10s. or 46 hours!

But O'Neil, for throwing a stone at a man was centraced to three months imprisonment without the option of a fine, and on Wednesday last, John McGuire, for assenting William Kett, striking him a violent blow on the head, was fined £10 or three months. The Chairman of the Bench said he was determined to pet down such conduct and had it not been his first offence he would have been sent to prison without the option of a fine. The anxiety of the magistrates to put down awage attacks on women compared with their determination to engineers such conduct towards men is as 48 hours is to three months or £2 to £10.

hours is to three scouths of AZ to A.10.

Thomas Burns, whom Judge Hood recently refused to panish for bigassy on the ground that it would only gratify the "spite of the first wife," was brought up at the Sale Police Court for descring his children. The wife asked 7a, 6d, per week for each of the three children, but the Bench made as order for 3s, per week for the two younger children only—defendant to find a survey of £20 on each order. Thus his legal wife has to support his three children on 6a, a week, he is free from all responsibility, and announced his intention of returning to Tassmania, where he will be stempt from any further claim. Victorian women will do well to remember that bigany is not a punishable offence and so he prepared for desertion.

Miss C. H. Spense, of Adelaids, is to give a lecture under the anspices of the United Council for Wonsen's Suffrage on Tassaday evening, the 9th of June. Miss Spense is very proud of the fact that ahe is a free citizen of South Australia, and her lecture will be on Womanhood Suffrage in connection with the recent elections.

Miss Spence is a living denial of the statement that public life is injurious to the health of women. She is over 70, but has the vivicity and energy of one half has age, and looks the embodiment of health. She has just returned from a lecturing tour through America, where he met the prominent workers of the day, and is now most anzions to spend her remaining years in adventing proportional representation. Miss Spence is a believer in free education and the payment of members.

Being asked the most effective means of advancing the Suffrage, Mins Spence replied, "Reform the Upper House." She attributes the success of the Bill in South Australia to the fact the the members of the Upper House are paid, and consequently Liberals can contest the elections. In this way the Government has a good following in the Upper House, and can essure the sections of its measures. Mins Spence remarked that those who were most strongly opposed to women having the suffrage were the first to arge them to use their vote, and, shows all, to me it for the right persons.

and, above all, to use it for the right person.

We had hoped that the days of samplers and long hand even seams had goes past for ever, but Miss Teystmeir, Hon. Soc. of the Institute for the Advancement of Plain Needlework, wrote to the papers last week that the Institute heped soon to see "needlework acknowledged as one of the first and most important acknowledged as one of the first and most important parts of a gris advantina." The sawing machine, according to these ladies, although it has done much make the lives of the proc ensier, is by ne means an unmired blessing, since when a woman finds that she can finds a seem in two or three minutes by machine, she must representably refuses to do it by hand, and so the art of fine needlewerk is being lost. An interesting problem for these ladies to solve would be the following." A woman working It hours per day, can writh a machine make 6t. or 7t. per week. A mechine seven thirty times as fart ne a weman. How many hours would she have to work to earn the same meany without the machine?

At the recent convention in New Zankard, Mr. Tregues, R.H.R., and, "The thread of one which binds together the highest venue and the lowest, forms the ground the highest venue should under the test metual elevation. Until weath receptable the protound truth of their community of interest and inch, takes of when a moltomiten will be fails. Their work must be be the very lowest district of medicy, should in a stone of degradation. The greater and more constraint of the very lowest district of medicy, should in a stone of degradation. The greater and more constraint is under the velocity to make a hadding, the despoy most the projection dig for a foundation, often down into not

some fifth and darkness. Since the greatest missey and the greatest moral degradation occur among women of the lower classes, it is to their amelioration and their elevation in the occsomic scale that the first effects towards combination must be directed."

towards combination must be directed."

The defects of our law in regard to the custody of illegitimate children were clearly shown in the case of Jane Philips, seduced at the age of 18, who had tried by every means in her power to support her child. Being anable to do so any longer, she left it at the house where the faster, Richard Johns, lodged, and was then charged with child abandonment. Judge Williams advised the jury to bring in a verdict of not guilty as the girl had no means of supporting the child. Under our present law the man can neither be punished for seduction (unless the girl has a father or gnardian who will use for loss of her cervices) nor for shandoning the mother of his child. The State takes no section in the meters, as it would do in the case of a man obtaining money on false pretences, the girl can can for mainteannee, but maintenance orders are easily avaded, especially when the petitioner is poor and helpless. The great Athenian law-give Solom said that the object of law should be to make it casy for men to do right and hard for them to do wrong. Some of our laws on the countrary seems eminently calculated to enable a man to evade his responsibilities with the least possible troublet to himself.

Mr. Panton's opinions of exemplary punishment are worthy of record. Margaret Lernan charged her husband with brutally assaulting her, and stated that he also seriously interfered with her business by means of which she was trying to support berself and children. It was a customary thing for him to beat her violently with a stick, and on this occasion he had threatened to surder her, but the arrival of a constable on the accomprised him. Lernan was bound over to keep the peace for air monthe and to find two services in £50, failing that to pe to gool. It is not probable that the earety will be forthcoming, but it is diagraceful that an alternative abouth here been offered to a man, who, Mr. Panton said, "was not fit at present to be at large."

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We have been asked to state the mode in which the election to Boards of Advice takes place. The election takes place every three years, the next is to be held on the second Thursday in November. Candidates must be nominated 14 days before the election, the nomination paper to be signed by not less than 19 persons duly-qualified to vote at such election, viz., rate-payers, and also by the candidate. The names of candidates are tebes posted outside the place appointed for receiving mominations, and if the number of candidates does not exceed the number of members to be elected the returning offices, and it leads who candidates duly elected. If the number of candidates does exceed the number the returning offices shall include such candidates duly elected. If the number of candidates does exceed the number the preturning offices shall the parameter of the policy of the same of the policy payer to be printed. The sames of the persons so nominated and notice of the election shall be made of the polling place, such poll to commence at 8 elects in the morning and close at two calcels fin the atternoon.

In San Diego County, California, there are several young women whe are the heet managers of grain ranches in the state. In the Fomona Valley two women are successfully running stock farma. At San Pedre the most prosperous manager of the flabing boats is a handsome girl of 26 years. Santa farbars has a woman who runs a steam engine for threshers all summer, and San Diego that a popular steamboat pilot in the form of an ex-school-mistrees.

Marraret Ropers, of Monterey County, can fill the place of a vaquero as well as any young man. She is but 25 years, and has made a fortune in the horse and eatile business. She rounds up the cattle on her father and her own ranches, personally sees to the branding, and is able to plough, sow, and run a harvesting machine. She makes all the ploughs for ranch work on her own and her father's properties, she has the markets or grain, beef, and port at her fingers' ends, and sakes all the sales and contracts on the place. In addition, ale is a well read, cultivated woman, a good mulcian, a classical scholar, and owns a library of several hundred books.

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