

WOMEN'S COLUMN

EDITED BY MRS. SARAH A. EVANS

WOMEN'S WORK

Concerning Co-Operation

An eminent student and authority on sociology recently said: "All considerable eminence springs in a measure out of that which is called in common life the co-operative system. We are living in an epoch of miracles, but of mechanics of multitudinous social, scientific and professional complexities, and instead of its being true that a man of parts gets on faster and fares better without assistance and encouragement, the reverse is true. One mind aids another, one hand holds up another, one heart cheers another, and as a man is really an able man, the greater need and use he has for his supporters."

The substance of this utterance, upon closer analysis, will be seen to contain the first principles of a higher civilization, the groundwork of a broader humanity, and the keynote of the age.

The day when one man could stand alone and make a success of his business or life has passed away, as have the feudal lords of the days of which Sir Walter Scott wrote so charmingly. As every scientific element, as every work of art or skill, as every complicated principle of modern mechanism may be resolved back to nature, so every step in the refinement or uplift of humanity may be traced back to that divine spark in every human breast which longs for companionship, the desire to be helped and helpful. In short, co-operation means progression by love. That it is taking fast hold of the world, that it is coming to be recognized as the underlying principle of all good and perfect work, is made evident by the fact that "combines"—trusts, if you will; our labor unions, which are but a trust of another commodity; our fraternal orders and our women's clubs.

All have organized that by united effort each particular object or work may be better prosecuted. It is only the egoist who sees in these combinations a menacing danger, and at every labor outbreak, in every advance in prices, or in every fraternal breakdown or club row raises the danger signal.

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"Birds of California"—Mrs. Irene Grosvenor Wheelock, which will be from the press of A. C. McClurg & Co. this month, will appeal with peculiar interest to the bird lovers of Oregon, of which there is such a host, and will no doubt be seized with avidity by every member of the John Burroughs society throughout the state. To these students of bird life Mrs. Wheelock is not a stranger as her "Nestlings of Forest and Marsh" has won a place in the hearts of many who will await anxiously this new book, which is "an

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In the first place, they have succeeded in changing public opinion regarding the character of the school. Though supported by public money, it is not a charitable institution. It is on exactly the same footing as our university, except that the support of the school is derived from direct appropriation by each locality instead of from the tax on school purposes. This limits the progress of the work, confining it to the degree of perception of its importance manifested by our legislators.

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A PUBLIC SCHOOL

A ride of five miles out of Salem, over a rough, muddy road, brings one to a school building that is built upon the side of a hill. This is our state school for the deaf. Here we find 60 of the happiest children in the country—from little Edith, 5 years old, up to the boy of 19, who at the time of my visit was busily stitching away on the set of harness intended for the school exhibit at St. Louis.

Professor Clarke and his wife have made the teaching of the deaf their life work. Mrs. Clarke has devoted 20 years and Mr. Clarke 18 to this work, which requires self-sacrifice, patience and love at any measure of success.

Coming to our school from the state school in Michigan, they have succeeded in placing the Oregon school in the front rank among our state institutions.

In the first place, they have succeeded in changing public opinion regarding the character of the school. Though supported by public money, it is not a charitable institution. It is on exactly the same footing as our university, except that the support of the school is derived from direct appropriation by each locality instead of from the tax on school purposes. This limits the progress of the work, confining it to the degree of perception of its importance manifested by our legislators.

This school is first of all a school—a public school—differing from other schools in but one thing—that nature has denied to the pupils the ability to hear, and to some of them the power of speech. This one point should be emphasized, as all deaf children are not dumb; they do not speak because they have no conception of sound—that is, if the child has been born deaf. If it becomes deaf through disease, as in the case of the newest pupil at the school, who became deaf at the age of 5, the teacher's task is not so difficult. With the older pupils no attempt is made to teach speech, but with the little ones an attempt is never abandoned until it has proved a hopeless one. Reading the lips is taught with greatest persistency, as it gives to the deaf a new avenue of communication with the world. And it is surprising to note the readiness with which this is acquired. The teacher sits in front of her class with the eyes of her pupils fixed upon her lips, their faces shining with interest and anticipation. She tells them "to run," carefully forming the word with her lips and pronouncing it distinctly, and immediately thereafter she repeats the word, coming back to their seats ready for the next command. Or she will say, "Edith, you may run," whereupon Edith—who, by the way, is the pet of the whole school—takes a little excursion all by herself. Another child is then called upon to write on the board what Edith did, or Edith herself may be told

greater need and use she has for her supporters.

Many of the women of our state who have refused to give their assistance or even countenance to the Prisoners' Aid society, may be interested in knowing what has been done in an educational way, by a little interest and kindly humanity, shown the unfortunate criminal of another state for an educational accomplishment