The DAWN

phenographt to wind out sadly the whispers, pleadings, and demands of the sistershood. Here we will give publicity to women's wrongs, will fight their battles, seek to repair what evils we can, and give advice to the best of our ability.

Half of Australian women's lives are unhappy, but there are paths out of most labyrinth's, and we will set up finger-posts. For those who are happy—God bless them! we have not laid on the Breviary, the Psalms, the Hymn-book, and the Passion-songs.

We wear no ready-made suit of opinions, nor stand on any platform of woman's rights which have or yet seen crested. Dress we shall not neglect, for no straitener ever yet won the respect of any man worth loving. If you want "rings on, your fingers and balls on your toes," we will fail you where they can best be bought, as well as Sunday outside of books.

We shall welcome contributions and correspondecie from women, for nothing concerning woman's life and interest lies outside our scope.

Is it not a new thing to say that there is no power in the world like that of women, for in their hands lie the plastic unformed characters of the coming generation to be moulded beyond alteration into what form they will. This most potent contingency we seek to represent, and for their suffragettes we are.

The Divorce Extinction Bill.

There are fair questions no important for the consideration of women as those of the laws of marriage and divorce; since half the sorrows of women rise from marriages alluded to, or from nuptial ties which being made cry out for secession. Thank Heaven! there are many happy marriages—many men and many women who have found a matrimonial partnership double their stock of content, and whose ties of association are made up of so many mutual memories, so many joys shared and sorrows divided, that no legal sanction could bind the bond; but you men and women who have not—and we pray never may have—cause to name the hideous word "separation," are those who should take up the first weapon and fight to the front ranks for the liberation of unhappy spirits tied upon the chains of bonds. That man who being content and finding life and his home a blessing and a day-to-day comfort cares nothing for surrounding sorrows, nor longs to see the whole world happy as he, is one of those who must thank their fortune, not their deserts, for the pleasures they enjoy.

If there is one thing most calculated to make the blood of homes and manly hearts boil over, it is to see a woman bound by ill made laws, and by the cruel prejudices of public opinion to a life of hourly sorrow and perpetual torture. Have we not all seen women striving to do patiently and well their ordinary tasks, smiling on their friends and visitors; laboring with a noble persistence along the road they have thoughtlessly or blindly entered, while their hearts secretly bled from the hidden stabs of continual marital unkindness.

—Freedom through divorce is a method of escape sought after by women. There is every guarantee that on their side at least every case where divorce is sued for is a genuine one. Publicity they hate and fear with a shuddering inexpressible to see, the dread of comment of acquaintances and the unkindly criticism of outsiders, as well as the well-grounded fear that the world has no assistance to lend them, prove such barriers to women, that most will rather bear on and die than fly to such a remedy.

For these reasons the fact that Sir Alfred Stephen's just and amiable Divorce Extension Bill has been again postponed occasions both sorrow and indignation. Her Majesty's Ministers have not seen fit to recommend Her Majesty to grant her assent to the measure. The Bill must, therefore, be again sent home for approval, and at the next general election the readiness to support this measure, must be made one of the test questions. Then will fall the opportunity for women to work, and write, and use their influence in its favor. For the act, though not solely designed for the benefit of woman, will in effect be for her good, almost exclusively, for of its provisions men rarely need to make use.

The provisions of the Act are briefly that any man resident in this colony for two years and upwards may present a petition for divorce.

I. On the ground of desertion without just cause or excuse for three years.

II. On the ground that the respondent has by continued habits of drunkenness during two years left his wife without the means of support, or being petitioner's.
wife has rendered herself unfit for her domestic duties.

III. On the ground that at the time of the commission of the present act the house-
hold has been 12 months in goal, and is still confined under sentence for a capital crime, or under sentence for seven years or upwards for some other crime, or that being a husband has by frequent convictions left his wife for two years, has been repeatedly guilty of cruelty.

IV. On the ground that within the previous six months the respondent has been convicted of an attempt to murder the petitioner, or has been repeatedly guilty of assaulting and cruelly beating the petitioner, or that the respondent has during a period of two years been repeatedly guilty of cruelty.

If the petitioner's own habits or conduct contributed to the wrong complained of, the petition for divorce may be dismissed or the act allows the respondent in the suit to re- marry for a period of two years.

These are just reasons, and some day they certainly will be embodied in our Statute.

Women have power; they must use it to make this time come quickly. There is not one person in this room here: the Londoner at some time to be of more use in the world, and to benefit the universe by some noble act.

Well, here is our chance. Spread justice, widen the boundaries of happiness, help your sorrow-laden sisters. Men are more rarely the victims of criminal ties than women, and except in the case of drunks, it is impossible that any man ever feels the need of more aids to freedom. But the anomalies of the law as it stands, and the cruelties inflicted on women under its protection, are horrible.

The woman whom a brutal husband has attempted to murder finds herself doomed to support herself as she may during the long period of years during which her husband pays the penalty of his crime in goal, and finds no solace when the brute is released that she is still the felon's legal helpless and companion. Legally and in the eyes of society, bound is again entwined her life-to him-to run the gamut of his blows and offer him another opportunity for a more surely delivered thrust. So, too, a deserted woman is called upon to live alone, constant to the blackguard who has left her, though be, cursed by no restraints, name what part of her body the wife is left practically with no means of support, and she is then to fall into that most difficult of places—the single woman with no means of support. Should she be desperately poor, and should there happily become good fellow of a worship kind ready to marry her for all nothing. The choice lies between immorality on the one side and on the other continued poverty and allegiance to a deserter.

On the horrors of a drunken household (surely with a house of this kind it is not necessary to use here) we will not speak. There are few who have not at some time or other seen the tears of the demon servant. The macho track is artfully concealed—with loving patience its insidious attack is combated—strength, health, hope, gladness, wealth are all devoted in time.

As it asserted that these cases are rare! What then? The hideous injuries of them is such that they occur, but once in a hundred years there would be reason enough for the preparation of a legislative thunderbolt to exterminate on the spot: the intolerable wrong.

The soreness and strength of marriage ties can never be weakened by the severance of bonds which women's tears have already weakened. The marriage bond is only kind to persons.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SYDNEY PRO.
GLOSIVE LYCEUM.

A grand social was given last the members of the Lyceum on Saturday, March 31, by Professor West. After the entertainment the children recited songs, recitations, parts, and explanations very creditably. A vote of thanks to Professor West was moved, seconded, and spoken on by the children, and carried by acclamation. The whole concluded with the graceful dance. The lyceum is not forward to the children themselves. They elect from themselves a conductor, treasurer, secretary, and committee to manage. We believe this is the first institution of this kind started in this colony, and it is so far it angers a great success. Their motto is "Never ask other to do for you what you can do for yourself."

The benefit of conscience has carried the second raising of the fighters with armed White