

number of admissions is only rivalled by one other old-established Institution. Nor is even this all, for no less than sixty-eight applications for admission had to be refused by the proprietor on account of the want of accommodation. Into the causes of the preference exhibited toward the Church Stretton Private Asylum it is scarcely perhaps our province to inquire. Doubtless, it in some measure arises from the fact that while the highest skill and the results of a varied and enlightened experience are devoted to the cure of patients, certain social and domestic comforts and privileges—which form an integral part in the process of mental amelioration—are enjoyed in a greater degree at that establishment than is perhaps usually the case with that class of patients. A remarkable circumstance somewhat bearing upon this, is the large number—about one in six—of those who have been restored to a sound state of mind voluntarily remaining as boarders after discharge. However this may be accounted for, the fact is a very gratifying one, and speaks much for the kindness, care, and comfort bestowed upon the patients of the Church Stretton Private Asylum.

### WOMEN AND THEIR WORK.

PRINCESS CHRISTIAN has promised to open a grand bazaar and fancy fair, to be held in the Town Hall, Twickenham, at the end of February, in aid of the fund for the new vicarage house at Twickenham. It is a reason for general rejoicing that Her Royal Highness is regaining health and strength, which she expends so unselfishly for the common good.

As President of the Thimble League, the Dowager Countess of Winchilsea is anxious to make the objects of the Institution more widely known among the public, in order that its benevolent effects may be extended among the industrious poor. The League was established by a number of ladies taking a personal interest in the welfare of the destitute women out of work, to be found in nearly every part of London, its object being to provide opportunities of earning fair wages for those who, unable to obtain employment, are actually starving. The workers are put into communication with the centres by means of tickets, issued by the League to clergymen. Each ticket is filled up by the distributor, and contains the name and address of the applicant, together with the address of the person recommending her, and of the centre where work is to be obtained nearest to her home, and the hour and day when it is given out and paid for. The women attend at the

time and place appointed, and on presenting their cards to the vice-president are supplied with work, which is entered on the back of the card. What is given out one week is received and paid for the next, the sum being written on the card. The material used is obtained by gifts from the public, or members of the League, and by purchase from the Society's funds. It is hoped that members will use their personal efforts to induce their friends and acquaintances to contribute both money and materials. Centres are already open at Notting Hill, Lisson Grove, Clerkenwell, Holborn, Fulham, London Docks, Lewisham, Old Ford, Hoxton, Camberwell, Shepherd's Bush, Battersea, Bromley-le-Bow, Kensal Green, and Hammersmith. Numbers of the very saddest cases are being relieved, and women made happy, who were literally pining to death. More centres are urgently demanded, but they cannot be supplied for want of funds. Subscriptions are earnestly desired, and can be paid to the credit of the Thimble League with Messrs. Hoare, 37, Fleet Street; or will be thankfully received by the Dowager Countess of Winchilsea, at the Depot, 28, Fulham Road.

CARDINAL LAVIGERIE's lectures on slavery have attracted immense audiences in Rome, and he says that his chief hope in helping forward the anti-slavery crusade in Italy lies in the women. At the termination of a meeting for ladies only, he invited all those who were willing to do something for the cause to go forward and inscribe their names. A large number acted on this suggestion, including several members of the Roman aristocracy. The Cardinal's belief is this—that as women are the chief sufferers from slavery, so when all women are told plainly and clearly the whole system of kidnapping, and the horrible consequences which follow (young children often being left to starve or die in the native villages, while their mothers are dragged away in chains), that from women will come the main strength of the movement for repressing this dreadful traffic.

In consequence of the adoption of new rules at the recent General Meeting of the Central Committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage, a number of its members have issued a circular stating their objections, and the steps they intend to take. They contend that as women's political societies, with other objects than the extension of the suffrage, may now be admitted to the General Council, there is a danger of the work of the whole body being hindered by party dissensions. This risk is aggravated by the subordinate position offered to the local Women's

*previous page*

*next page*