

Poetry.

WHAT IS GOOD?

"What is the real good?" I asked in musing mood.

Order, said the law court;
Knowledge, said the school;
Truth, said the wise man;
Pleasure, said the fool;
Love, said the maiden;
Beauty, said the page;
Freedom, said the dreamer;
Home, said the sage;
Fame, said the soldier;
Equity, the seer.

Spake my heart full sadly,
"The answer is not here."
Then, within my bosom,
Softly this I heard:
Each heart holds the secret;
"Kindness" is the word.—*Selected.*

Gleanings.

IN the *Woman at Home* for May, Lady Laura Ridding, wife of the Bishop of Southwell, affirms that married women should engage in public work. She says, "The home life gains by its mistress' service in a broader sphere. Feminine sins of morbidness, frivolity, self-concentration, narrowness disappear under the friction of public work. Service on philanthropic committees imparts valuable lessons in the duty of weighing both sides of a question and in self-restraint. Service on the School Board teaches a mother important lessons in the responsibility of training children. Service on the Board of Guardians illustrates by pitiful examples the awful meaning of failure in life, and the importance of many apparently trivial causes of those failures. She must be a bat-eyed woman if the insight into the mysteries of pain and sin given her by her public work does not reveal to her a new conception of justice, pity, brotherly love, and fill her with an overwhelming sense of her own unworthiness. And this nobler view of life will permeate every detail of her home life.

To the majority of people who have not yet ceased to regard the German woman as the simple *haus frau*, whose interests are centred within the somewhat narrow limits of the home, it will come as a great surprise to read of four mass meetings in Berlin to demand woman's suffrage, both for the German Reichstag and the

Prussian Diet. There is, however, but little likelihood of any change being made for some considerable time in the suffrage laws of Germany.—*Woman's Signal.*

FRAU LILY VON GIZYCHI recently delivered a lecture in the Berlin School for the Education of the Working Classes on "The Position of Women in the Present Day." This is the first occasion on which a German woman of the middle class has spoken in a working man's club.—*Woman's Signal.*

IN a recent number of an English magazine Burmese women are described as having absolute freedom, and entire command, of their lives and property. They are on an absolute equality with men as regards laws, religion, and customs. None are more womanly, none possess greater strength. Almost every woman from the age of sixteen or seventeen, married or unmarried, has some occupation beside her home duties. All careers are open to them, though, strangely enough, sewing and embroidery are regarded as distinctively male occupations, while the women are the great shopkeepers. The bazaar lasts but three hours, so there is ample time for home duties.

PROFESSOR EWELL, Dean of the Kent Law School, with reference to women as law students, says that "he has never seen any difference in point of ability to learn the law between men and women." Women are received in his school on a perfect equality with men. Personally, in the past, owing to his opinion that women have not had a fair chance with the men, and had have much to discourage them, he has lent them a helping hand, and favoured them more than he would a man under similar conditions. He is glad to say, however, that this is no longer necessary. He believes that women have a good influence in a class composed mainly of young men.

Union and Temperance News.

DUNEDIN.—The annual social in connection with the Union was held in the rooms of the Y.W.C.A. In the absence of the president, Mrs A. C. Begg presided. The yearly report was read and addresses given by Revs. Laycock and Ready. On the following day all the sailors in port were invited to tea, provided by the members. Addresses were given by Mrs Kirkland, Mr W. Todd, Captain Neville, Mr Thomson, and others.