

Oct. 5, 1889.

THE LATE ELIZA COOK.

OUR YOUNGER READERS the name of Eliza Cook must sound like an utterance from a far-off time; it is only those whose age exceeds that of half a century that can fully realize the popular esteem in which the authoress of "The Old Arm Chair" and hundreds of other poems and ballads was held by the people at large...



Eliza Cook

she published verses, and soon after began to write in the Weekly Dispatch, which was the property of her patron, Alderman Harmer. One short poem appeared every week, and to the favour with which her verses were received no small share of the success of the paper was due.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF MONTENEGRO AND THE GRAND DUKE AND DUCHESS OF LEUCHTENBERG.

THE ALLIANCE of the Princess Milena of Montenegro with the Grand Duke Peter Nikolaievitch of Russia, whose portraits we published in The Queen of Aug. 31, has been quickly followed by the marriage of her sister, Princess Anastasia, to the Grand Duke George of Leuchtenberg.

According to the custom of the country, the couple had been betrothed almost from their cradles, but the marriage has turned out none the less a very happy one. Their family consists of one son and three daughters, all of whom have been carefully educated, and are said to be possessed of many accomplishments.

MRS E. M. OSBORN.

AS A MOTHER in whom so strong was the instinctive love of art that she herself desired to be one an artist, Miss Emily Mary Osborn found an appreciative admirer of a quaint little time she made when she was but a toddling child of four years.

friends to prophesy that the author of such precocious talent must develop into an artist. But the child's father, the Rev. Edward Osborn, was one who, as regards his family, was blessed "with a quiver full of them," and with sons to be educated at college there was but little to spare for the artistic instruction of his daughter.

With instinctive love of art making her feel that painting and drawing were not labour but a delight, the young artist speedily developed her powers, and in 1855 exhibited two pictures at the Royal Academy in "Portraits of Mr Sturgis and her Three Children" and "My Cottage Door," the latter being a small picture of a girl entering her cottage, with a basket of apples under her arm, which found a purchaser in Her Majesty the Queen.

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MRS BEAUFOY MERLIN.

HIS LADY, who has accepted the patronage of the college at Folkestone just opened by Sir Edward and Lady Currie, organized nine years ago the first London staff of female telephone clerks, and held the responsible appointment of Lady Superintendent of the United Telephone Company until its amalgamation with the National Company was accomplished a few weeks since.

handsome bracelet, a gratifying proof of the affectionate esteem in which she was held by the employes. During this long and arduous career in the Telephone Office, Mrs Merlin's experiences in connection with the employment of women quite coincide with the views expressed by ladies working in similar directions; the applications for vacancies are dishearteningly numerous, although the salaries paid are small.



MRS BEAUFOY MERLIN.

unlimited amount of patience, for occasionally, when an inexperienced subscriber rings up and requires to "be put on a certain number," and there is a delay owing to the wires being occupied, the some very severe language is conveyed under the shelter of the telephone, which would scarcely be uttered if the object of this unreasonable wrath stood face to face with the speaker.

Sometimes people speak with much severity of "the inattention and stupidity of the clerks." As long as it is considered good policy to employ novices, there will, doubtless, be considerable difficulty attached to the manipulation of telephones. The public would certainly be far better served, and probably the directors would find it to their advantage to encourage old employees to remain and to secure their interest in the system itself by a small annual increase of salaries.

The portrait of Mrs Merlin which accompanies this sketch is taken from a photograph by Mr Francis Green, of 20, Brook-street. She was born at Southampton, and her father, the late Capt. H. Foster, who was a commander in the P. and O. Company's service, was formerly in the navy. She married a well-known Australian gentleman, who died in Sydney in 1873, leaving her with four young children, three of whom are still living.

WEDDING PRESENTS.—Real Princess, Irish, and Old Father Loans, Fans, and Handkerchiefs. Hayward's, 108-A, Old-borough, W. (LAWYERS). WATERPROOF FOR LADIES.—J. C. Gooding and Co., Waterproofer, corner of Abchurch-lane, London. Have no other agent, nor are they connected with any other houses.—[Adv.]