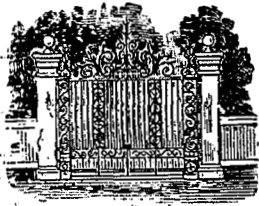


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



MRS. P. W. CLAYDEN, the wife of the Assistant Editor of the *Daily News*, has recently died. Mrs. Clayden has for years ranked as one of the most earnest, distinguished and able women of the day. She was a woman of great capacity and energy, and a most efficient helper to her husband in his literary, political, and journalistic work.

The death is announced of Miss Lowe, the editress of the *Queen*, who has held this important post for thirty years. Miss Lowe assumed this position when the paper consisted of but sixteen pages. The last issue brought out under her direction, that of May 1st, numbered 144 pages. Miss Lowe's death will be much felt, and her place will be filled with difficulty.

Mrs. H. J. Tennant has resigned her office of senior factory inspector. Mrs. Tennant, who was appointed (when Miss May Abraham) to this post by Mr. Asquith, is the first woman who has held this important position, and, by the admirable way in which she has fulfilled her duties, has added the calling of women factory inspectors, to the list of professions open to women, besides conferring untold benefits upon women factory workers.

An association is being formed, under the care of the Hon. Mrs. Bertram Russell, for the purpose of assisting the formation and management of clubs for working girls. Mrs. Bertram Russell, formerly Miss Alys Pearsall-Smith, is well known for her interest in all that concerns the welfare of women, and the fact that the new association is promoted by her, augurs well for its future career.

Sir Robert Owen recently presided at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Promoting the Employment of Women. Lady Jersey, Sir Joshua Fitch, Miss Eliza Orme and Miss Grosvenor were amongst the speakers. A point that was specially emphasised was that first-rate work of every kind should receive first-rate wages, irrespective of sex. This demand is based, obviously, upon a principle of elementary justice, but it is one which at present it is difficult to enforce. An important factor in determining the rate of wages is that of supply and demand, and so long as the women are to be found, wanting work, and willing to perform it, in order to obtain it, for smaller salaries than those which would be accepted by men, so long will the payment they receive be lower than that offered to the other sex. The remedy, doubtless, is for women to refuse work, which is open to them, at a reduced rate of payment; but at the present time, when competition is so keen, and the difficulty of obtaining a living wage so great, there are, we fear, few women who will sacrifice the certain "half

loaf" for an uncertain whole one, or who will consider that duty demands of them the ultimate well-being of their sex, before their own private interests. In any case, it is impossible for individual women to make an effective stand. The only means of their obtaining equality in payment, with the other sex, is by co-operation. Trade Unions have been a powerful factor in determining the rate of wages amongst men, but they are a means of furthering and accomplishing their ends which women seem slow to adopt.

The list of invited guests at the Women Writers' Dinner, last Monday, numbered among its names many distinguished women, including Mrs. W. K. Clifford, Mrs. Creighton, and Miss Mary Kingsley. We understand from the *Daily Chronicle* that the President, Mrs. F. A. Steel, exercised her genius in the department of the menu, and the result was a triumph of culinary skill, no less than skill in the art of rhetoric. Olive Schreiner, who returned from Italy with her husband this week, was present, together with several noted American writers who are now in London. Mrs. Humphrey Ward declined to occupy one of the places, her objection to large meetings confined to her own sex leading her to refuse the invitation. In this connection it is interesting to note that Mrs. Steel and other ladies are arranging a second dinner, to which a few men, of course only of the most distinguished, will be invited, to be followed by a reception of literati of all ranks.

A conference of head mistresses of endowed and proprietary schools was held at Bedford last week. The following resolutions were passed by an overwhelming majority:—

"That this Association deeply regrets the refusal of the University of Cambridge to grant titular degrees to women."

"That this Association desires to express its sense of the high value of the Tripos Certificates granted to women by the University of Cambridge, and its strong disapproval of the proposal to establish a separate University for women."

At a recent meeting, held in Manchester, the following resolution was passed: "That a Ladies' Domestic Association be formed for improving the Relations of Mistress and Maid, and collecting information on the subject, such Association to meet quarterly."

We learn from the *Times* that Mrs. Seddon, wife of the Premier of New Zealand, is presenting an illuminated address to the Queen on behalf of the Wellington and Christchurch Women's Social and Political League. The address, which is in book-cover form, is of magenta-coloured vellum, and bears in monogram form the letters "V.R." in solid gold. The lettering, which is shaded and of a tasteful and artistic character, is surrounded by borderings of red and gold, the colours of the League.

We learn from *Hearth and Home* that two old ladies, aged respectively ninety-seven and eighty-seven, have learnt to cycle. As the names of these latest devotees of the wheel are given, being Miss Elizabeth Smith, and Miss Jane Martell, it appears that there must be foundation for the statement, of which we confess we should otherwise have been sceptical.

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