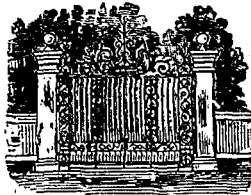


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



from the Association would be heartrending to Lady Henry.

The name of Miss Clough is familiar to everybody who has followed the progress of women's education in England. It was essential that we should have a biography of so gifted a lady, and Mr. Arnold now announces the book. There is a fragment of autobiography which affords a key to the high motives and strong principles that ordered Miss Clough's life. The rest of the work has been written by a niece, Miss Bertha Clough, who for years acted as her aunt's secretary at Newnham. Further, the volume has valuable reminiscences of Miss Clough by former pupils, and a couple of capital portraits.

Miss Adelaide Anderson has been appointed Senior Lady Inspector of Factories in the place of Mrs. Tennant (Miss Abraham), who held official rank as Superintendent Inspector with authority to institute prosecutions. This valuable power has not been granted to Miss Anderson, a fact deeply to be deplored by all those really interested in the protection of women's labour; and we hope that the Women's Trade Union Societies will not cease to agitate until the Home Secretary has restored authority to prosecute to the Senior Lady Inspector of Factories, whose high-sounding title will be useless without practical authority.

The Trade Union Congress met at Birmingham on Monday last, and the Women's Trade Union League made a determined effort to draw more women into the fold of trade-unionism. We wish this League, which now numbers 25,000 members, all success, as we are convinced that women will never obtain their just demands until they unite to gain them. It is noteworthy that it is now fully recognized by men's trade unions that if women's labour remains unorganized the result will be the depreciation of the value of men's labour. This being so, we may hope that men, in self-defence, will assist women to obtain more adequate remuneration for their work than they have hitherto been able to command. Birmingham is notably a progressive place, its citizens are warm hearted and generous, and its working-men perhaps as fine and intelligent specimens of the race as are anywhere to be found. It will be to their everlasting honour, if they show the way, as seems likely, in demanding for women a fair day's wages for a fair day's work. We understand that the Birmingham working men are quite alive to the necessity for women's organization, and are now working hard to attain this end.

A Book of the Week.

"LADY MARY'S EXPERIENCES."*

THIS is a story concerning which one's first feeling is astonishment, for it seems to belong to thirty years ago, when the ghost story, properly so called, was still with us. The author is evidently a spiritualist, and an intense believer in the power of the dead to appear to the living; though she seems to hold that only a few are "ghost-seers"—otherwise, mediums. Lady Mary Merton, a rich, fascinating, bicycling young widow of two-and-twenty, is the ghost-seer, and the heroine. She and her friend, Veronica Lawrence, are on a cycling tour, and come across a house which is so excessively haunted that to let it is impossible. Lady Mary has already seen two ghosts, and is so stimulated by the desire to see a third that she resolves on taking the house, though strongly dissuaded from so doing by the owner, Lord Artingdale, an old lover of hers. She certainly gets her money's-worth, as far as ghost-seeing is concerned—or, rather, Veronica does most of the seeing, owing to Lady Mary's powers of encouraging manifestations. The ghosts at the Grey Hall are, it must be admitted, exceedingly unpleasant company; though one of them is merely a voice, yet the other is apparent to touch as well as sight.

The three separate ghosts encountered by Lady Mary are of three completely different types. The first is the time-honoured family spectre, which appears to the members of the family who are about to die. The third—that encountered at the Grey Hall—is the ghost of a murderess, who haunts the scene of her crime. This ghost, I regret to say, was, in the days of her flesh, a hospital nurse; she nursed her sister through her confinement, and murdered her because she was in love with her (the patient's) husband. With all deference to Mrs. Robert Jocelyn, I think a hospital nurse would at least have done her murdering more neatly than to stand in the centre of the room where her victim was in bed, and drop something into her medicine from a phial visibly labelled "Poison."

It is fair to say that the parts of the book which deal with the supernatural are much the best told; but the part which appealed to me most was the account of the second ghost which Lady Mary saw, before ever she came to the Grey Hall. One room in Carson Abbey was haunted, noises were heard there, and people said they had seen the form of a child sitting to and fro. The only person who would sleep in it was Mrs. Carlow, mother of the owner of the house, whose own room it had been when she was mistress of the Abbey. But she, too, was growing nervous of sleeping there, and confided her nervousness to Lady Mary, who volunteered to sit up with her. So they sat over the fire together, and—

"Something made me suddenly look round. . . . And what should you think I saw? . . . It was a pretty sight. I am, and always was, devoted to little children, and the child who was sitting on the floor, not three yards away from us, was one of the prettiest little creatures I ever saw . . ."

This pretty child in the nightgown seemed about four years old, and was amusing itself with old-world toys on the floor.

* "Lady Mary's Experiences." By Mrs. Robert Jocelyn. (F. V. White & Co.)

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)