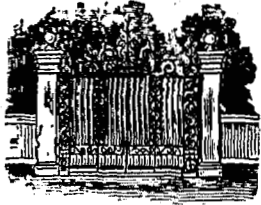


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



of the Island of Cyprus were on view.

The most interesting exhibit was a magnificent carved Baldachino and pulpit in chestnut wood, taken from the largest church of Aschelia, a mediæval village in the Papho district of the island. This exquisite piece of carving is Renaissance in character, and can therefore be little, if at all, earlier than the commencement of the sixteenth century, while in the middle of that century the last of the Hospitallers, by whom the church was erected at a not much earlier date, and adorned with this exquisite work, were expelled by the Ottoman invaders.

The industries of Cyprus are somewhat surprising—lovely silk curtains in exquisite shades, silk and cotton embroideries of the finest workmanship, and a great variety of summer dress materials in gauze—silk and cotton of the very loveliest shades were on view, and are to be had at very reasonable prices. The room devoted to the Cyprus exhibit was decorated by the works in water colours of Mr. Douglas Fox-Pitt—charming little bits of colour painted in Cyprus, and which give one a clear idea of the golden sunlight, the gorgeous tones of colour, and wealth of flowers to be found in this ideal spot.

The Women's Institute, which finds a home at 15, Grosvenor Crescent, and which was founded last year by Mrs. Wyndford Philipps, is, we are glad to hear, flourishing gaily. It has already four hundred members—may they soon be doubled. In three months no less than one hundred queries have been addressed to the Inquiry Bureau. Pupils are trained at the Institute in Secretarial Work.

The Annual Meeting of the Women's Local Government Society took place last week in the Westminster Town Hall. Lady Frederick Cavendish presided, and in the course of her remarks pointed out the dearth of women candidates for Local Government posts. Mrs. E. O. Fordham gave the welcome information that a Bill to regulate the Mason College, Birmingham, had been introduced into Parliament, and the Society had been instrumental in getting clauses incorporated which made women eligible for the Court of Governors, for the Council of the College, and for Life Governors. The Society was at present seeking to obtain a legal settlement of the question as to whether women were eligible for posts as relieving officers. Mr. Albert Spicer, M.P., spoke of the desirability of women taking part in Local Government affairs. He hoped that all women would do what they could to secure the amendment of the Irish Local Government Bill, now before the House of Commons, so that women in

Ireland might be allowed to take part in Local Government.

Why a Rational Dress League? If women choose to cycle in bloomers, nickers, or any other decent costume, why do they not do so; without any fuss? The costume worn by men for cycling—Norfolk jacket, flannel shirt, knickerbockers, warm stockings, sensible shoes, and close fitting cap or sailor hat—is the only sensible costume; therefore, dear ladies, wear it, whether the "gutter snipe" approves your taste or not. It is high time that "Arry" should be taught that his wit is immaterial. The information, "Pip, pip, yer wheels gyng rownd, Miss," or, "Oh, golly, yer cawves is out ter gress," is a sort of chaff which is not very high class, but quite harmless all the same. At the same time, "Bobby" should keep an ear open for the protection of the subject when chaff develops into obscenity.

The Postmaster-General has, it is stated, decided to make a considerable addition to the number of female clerks employed in connection with the postal establishments. At this moment about 2300 women are employed in connection with St. Martin's-le-Grand, and before the end of the year over 100 will be added to the Savings Bank establishment alone. Moreover, the Money Order office, from which female clerks have hitherto been excluded, is now to be thrown open to the sex. An experimental competition is shortly to be held in connection with that office for about thirty positions.

The honour of membership of the Royal Academy has not been bestowed upon a woman since the days of Angelina Kauffmann and Mary Moser, and these great artists have been at rest for the better part of a century. But we are glad to hear that a demand for the recognition of women's artistic talent by the Academy is on the tapis. It is a disgrace to the common sense of the nation that Lady Butler and Henrietta Rae have not long ago written R.A. after their names. We hope it will not be long before they do so.

La Fronde and women workers in France generally are jubilant just now. The Minister of Public Instruction (who, by the way, is a Protestant) has just named a lady to an important official post, namely, that of Professor of Drawing applied to plant study at the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris. Madame Lemaire's course of lectures commences in May, her colleague, Professor of Drawing applied to the study of animals, being M. Fremiet, a sculptor. The lady, now well known as a flower painter, first exhibited portraits and battle scenes so far back as 1865. Another testimony to the sex is the opening of the popular and delightful Georges Petit Gallery to women painters. This exhibition is attracting much attention, the portraits and flower pieces of several ladies receiving high praise, notably those of Mesdames Métra, Lamy, and Roy.

A new journal for women, *The Ladies' Field*, was issued last week. We wish it all success and prosperity. There is room for a paper which has the real interests of women at heart. Too many of the so-called "ladies' papers" are, at present, edited by men.

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