

the moderate price of £1 9s. 6d., being specially attractive. Two new caps, one trimmed with cambric frills and the other with lace, promise to "catch on," and it is impossible to do more than mention the text-books, pincushions, sick room slippers, chart boards, wallets, and all sorts of necessaries which are on view. A ward thermometer, in which the quicksilver is coloured blue, so that it may be seen for some distance, and which only costs a shilling, is excellent.

A walk down Oxford Street and Messrs. Evans' is reached. The reputation of the goods supplied by this firm is well established. It is satisfactory, therefore, to learn that they are now supplying nurses' aprons made by the Irish peasants. These appear to be made of strong and excellent linen, and it is claimed that, as the aprons are made in the dull season, they are the best possible value for the money. Nurses, therefore, may do a good turn to our needy and much maligned but warm hearted and loveable neighbours the other side the Channel, and at the same time benefit themselves by procuring a good article at a reasonable price by patronizing the aprons sold by this firm. Messrs. Evans also supply all other nursing requisites, and propose shortly to make extensive additions to this department.

Then to Messrs Debenham & Freebody's, in Wigmore Street, and here the fact that everything that a nurse is likely to want is shown in one room cannot fail to be appreciated. In the ordinary way, one gets somewhat tired of being told "That will be in another department, madam"; but at Messrs. Debenham's a nurse has only to sit still, in a comfortable chair, while everything is brought to her. She can, moreover, write a letter, or make an appointment to meet a friend in this same room. This should be a very real boon to nurses. It is often most difficult to find a place other than the top of an omnibus or a penny steamboat in which to meet a friend, and the fact that there is a very excellent tea room on the premises at Messrs. Debenham & Freebody's should be an additional attraction. We all like to be hospitable to our friends, but it is sometimes somewhat difficult. Some especially smart cloaks are on view here. The "Norah," price £2 2s., with detachable cape, is likely to be a great favourite; and the "Princess," price £2 5s., double breasted, looks especially inviting in a new and pretty shade of dark blue, though it may be had in all colours. Here, also, I saw quite the prettiest bonnet I came across in the course of my travels, a neat close-fitting shape, simply trimmed with black velvet. I hope I have said enough to make readers of the RECORD start off to seek for yet more novelties. When you see anything especially attractive, kind reader, don't be selfish, I beg of you, but drop a line to the Editor, and say what it is and where it is to be seen, so that others may have the benefit of your discovery.

M. B.

## Outside the Gates.

### WOMEN.

The Grosvenor House Committee has had the honour of submitting to the Princess of Wales, at Marlborough House, specimens of embroidery worked by the refugee women and girls from Thessaly at Lady Egerton's School of Needlework at Athens. Her Royal Highness, who was pleased to express great satisfaction with the enterprise, and admiration at the artistic merits of the patterns and colours, has given an order for work of similar patterns to those selected by the Queen.

Lady Henry Somerset and Miss Anna A. Gordon are appointed, by the will of Miss Frances E. Willard, her literary executors, and will issue a book, as soon as possible, covering Miss Willard's life, especially the last ten years. We shall look forward to the book with interest. If Lady Henry Somerset has the same marvellous gift of language at the tip of her pen as she has when speaking, the book will be a worthy memento of a most remarkable woman, as well as a rare literary treat. The will of Miss Frances Willard, which was written about three years ago and bequeaths only a small estate, opens thus:—"This is my last will and testament, after fifty-six years of my Heavenly Father's discipline and blessing to prepare me for better work hereafter (as I believe) in the wonderful worlds unknown."

Mrs. Haweis writes in the *Humanitarian* that "some certificate that people are constitutionally fit to marry would be just as judicious as any certificate that people are unfit to continue married." The same journal goes on to say that "it is marvellous that the women who are so loudly demanding a fairer set of things for our sex generally have not taken up this notice more fully. Freedom from physical disease should be a necessary qualification for marriage. Men would, of course, oppose such a measure. A very large proportion of men never think seriously of marriage until a reckless period of 'sowing wild oats' has rendered them, both physically and morally, unfit for marriage. Such men require nurses, not wives; they are guilty of brutal deception when they take wives from young, healthy, pure-minded girls."

The responsible officers of Queen's College, London, are to be congratulated upon the programme which they have issued and propose to carry out in the Commemoration Week, beginning on Sunday, May 1st, with a special service at St. Peter's, Vere Street. On Monday, May 2nd, there will be a conference at the College on the Aim and Scope of Women's Education, and other interesting papers will be read; while the fact that the "new woman" does not look askance at frivolity, is evidenced by the fact of the ball at the Portman Rooms, and the performance of Dryden's "Maiden Queen" by the Old Queen's Society. All past students are cordially invited to come to town for this occasion, which is a very special one, as the College this year celebrates its Jubilee. A little book, entitled "Memories and Records of Work Done," edited by Mrs. Alec Tweedie, and containing a reprint of the opening lecture by Frederic Denison Maurice, as well as numerous other articles, may be obtained from the Assistant Secretary, at the College, 43 and 45, Harley Street.

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