

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.

Thinking women are distinctly the poorer for the loss of the *Woman's Signal*, and it was with real regret that we learnt of the issue of the last number from the able Editress herself, Mrs. Fenwick Miller, who has put so much genuine good stuff into her paper during the past three years. Two Thursdays have passed, and no *Signal*—we own to a personal loss. And we know of no weekly paper prepared to take its place, in speaking out fearlessly on questions of importance to women, and keeping them abreast in the the progress of matters which are of vital importance to them to know.

Take the all important question of Woman's Suffrage, of which reform Mrs. Fenwick Miller has been a most ardent advocate for upwards of a quarter of a century—what paper is going to give us the inspiring reports of this movement from over seas, which have helped to buoy us up with hope so constantly in the pages of the *Signal*? We do not know of one—and without a voice, how are we going to make the people hear. Man edited journals give but scant space and consideration to this question which is all important in the best interest of humanity.

And yet how grievous that we women, because the fault is ours, have let the *Signal* die—sometimes one feels after all that the domination of men over women is but just, and that in the abstract we are poor things.

It is pleasant to know, however, that Mrs. Fenwick Miller will still use her pen on our behalf, as she will continue her extensive journalistic work on numerous leading papers on the staff of which she has been a permanent writer for many years, and in discontinuing her labours as editor of the *Woman's Signal*, we shall not lose touch with her altogether.

We have received the first Annual Report of the Central Bureau for the Employment of Women, which is now established at 60, Chancery Lane, W.C. The Chairman for the year was Mrs. Creighton, and the Hon. Treasurer the Countess of Dudley, the Hon. Secretary being Miss Margaret Bateson. The chief object of the Bureau is to give advice and information, an object which seems likely to be attained as 1,500

women have during this first year called for information, registration and advice.

The Bureau has also established a system of employment exchange, and issues fortnightly a list of situations not filled by it, which it exchanges with other Societies. The Bureau is maintained mainly by the generosity of private subscribers, as it is too early at present to say whether it will ever be self supporting.

The First Annual Report of the Women's Institute, Grosvenor Crescent, Hyde Park Corner, shows that a large amount of work has been inaugurated and accomplished. The Institute has become a centre of information for all kinds of

workers, besides establishing weekly reunions and monthly lectures. The Practice Debating Society, and Literary Society, and the Art Circle have also formed useful features of the Institute. The lectures have been chiefly on literary and historical subjects, and elementary lectures on subjects touching the civic life of women have been in great demand. A Library of over 2,500 volumes has been formed, and many branches of work have been inaugurated.

The Women's Industrial Council has once more presented a report of a good year's work. A chief feature has been the enquiry made by the Educational Committee into the employment for wages of school children. We notice that the Organizations Committee is endeavouring to establish an Association of Trained Charwomen. Should this venture prove successful the

Council will earn the gratitude of many housewives. The Investigation Committee has continued its enquiries into the conditions in mineral-water factories, and also of the type-writing industry. Such investigations must be beneficial.

The Annual Meetings of the Women's Total Abstinence Union will be held at St. Martin's Town Hall, and at the Friends' Meeting House, 52, St Martin's Lane, W.C., on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 2nd and 3rd. The chair on May 3rd will be taken by Miss M. E. Docwra, President of the Union, and the speakers will be Miss A. W. Richardson, B.A., Sister Lillian, Rev. J. W. Horsley, and Leif Jones, Esq., M.A.



MRS. FENWICK MILLER.

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