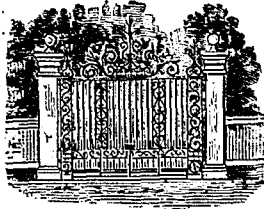


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



MUCH useful work was accomplished at the Annual Conference of the Women's Co-operative Guild at Plymouth, which was presided over by Mrs. Deans. A resolution was passed declaring that all schemes for pensions in old age which excluded the bulk of working women were unsatisfactory, and that the Conference was only in favour of any proposal which was non-contributory.

The following resolution was also carried unanimously:

"That this Meeting urges the Home Secretary to proceed without delay to the carrying out of the recommendations made in the expert's report on the manufacture of pottery; that it recommends the appointment of a woman inspector for the Potteries, and calls upon the Government for legislation which shall give the State a free hand to protect health in dangerous trades without the necessity of resorting to arbitration in case of objection on the part of the employers."

In seconding this resolution, Mrs. McDougall (Newcastle) made the practical suggestion that co-operative societies should, as far as possible, order non-poisonous goods.

During a debate on the London Government Act, a resolution was passed indignantly protesting against the action of the House of Commons in excluding women from Borough Councils, and proposing a combination of all women's organizations to promote a Bill enabling women to sit on town councils. This is business. We hope that the Women's Co-operative Guild will carry through this suggestion.

A letter appealing for funds to send factory and working girls and women into the country has been sent to the Press, signed by the following:—

Mrs. Temple, wife of the Archbishop of Canterbury; the Bishop of London and Mrs. Creighton, the Bishop of Rochester, the Duke of Norfolk, the Chief Rabbi (Mr. H. Adler), Mr. Frank Lloyd, Mr. Robert F. Horton, Mr. Arnold White, Canon Scott Holland, and Miss Margaret A. Wyatt, Hon. Treasurer, and the Rev. Edward Canney, Chairman of the Executive Committee.

The appeal is based on the following grounds:—National responsibility as regards the future mothers of the next generation, whose mental and physical faculties become atrophied by disuse if no change is ever afforded to them.

On economic grounds, as the work of over-tired workers inevitably deteriorates.

On religious grounds, in order that city workers may see and taste the works of God.

The cost of sending one girl to the sea or country for a fortnight is £1. Surely many of those who are now going out of London for their own enjoyment could leave this amount behind that one of those less fortunate than themselves may be able to enjoy fresh air and country scenes.

We announced in a recent issue the appointment of Frau Schwerin, of Germany, as Treasurer of the International Congress of Women for the next Quinquennial period. We deeply regret to record that Frau Schwerin, who was one of the most prominent leaders of the Women's Movement in Germany, died at Berlin on Saturday last, at the early age of 47. She was the editor of the central organ of the Union of German Women's Societies.

A Book of the Week.

THE ALLEGED HAUNTING OF B— HOUSE.*

Most people remember something of the correspondence which appeared in the *Times* in the year 1897 respecting the ghost or ghosts alleged to have made their presence unpleasantly known in a house in Scotland. The matter was introduced by a correspondent who obtained admission to this house as a guest, under the auspices of Sir James Crichton Browne, listened to confidential conversations, was treated by the hostess with all imaginable courtesy, made acquainted with the strong feeling of the whilom tenants that nothing should find its way into print that could possibly annoy the owners of the house; and promptly went away and put the whole thing into the papers.

It is also within the memory of some people that Miss Freer, the lady whose hospitality had been so grossly abused, took a very subtle and very delicate method of reproving the breach of honour. In her article in the "Nineteenth Century," published soon after, she remarked innocently, "I have been analysing my list of guests, and find that they consisted of eleven ladies, twenty-one gentlemen, and the *Times* correspondent." I suppose that Sir James Crichton Browne must have been able entirely to exonerate himself from any knowledge of his friend's intentions in going to B—; otherwise, one would have to fix the number of gentleman guests at twenty only.

The *Times* correspondent, it will be remembered, declared that the whole tale of haunting was a silly, vamped up story, taking its rise from some practical jokes played by the young men of a family who rented B— House, and left, forfeiting three-quarters of the rent paid, because they could not stand the uproar.

Every unprejudiced person will admit that the present chronicle completely knocks the bottom out of any such theory. That phenomena of a totally unaccountable nature took place, more or less constantly at B—, is proved, if evidence is of any value at all. The authors of the book offer no theory whatever as to the cause or the nature of these manifestations. The house was taken, for three months, simply and solely for purposes of investigation. It is a well-known fact that the inquiries into cases of reputed haunting organized by the S.P.R. failed because the methods adopted were not such as could prove effectual. No ghost can be expected to appear on a given occasion, just because someone is in the house who particularly desires to make its acquaintance. Therefore, Colonel Taylor and the Marquess of Bute determined to organize their inquiry upon different lines. The guests invited were not all mediums, nor seers, but simply

* By A. Goodrich Freer (Miss X.) and John, Marquess of Bute. Redway.

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