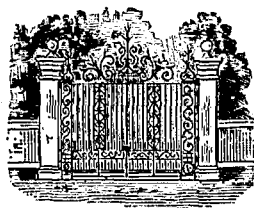


Outside the Gates.**WOMEN.**

FOR once we should like to be a Queen! The Kaiser brought to Windsor over a dozen cases filled with exquisite specimens of porcelain, manufactured in the Royal porcelain works at Charlottenburg!

Miss Alison Garland, who is well known in the north as a lecturer, has been appointed delegate for the British committee of the Indian National Congress, which will hold its annual meeting on December 26th at Lucknow. This will be the first time a lady has represented the British committee. The National Union of Women Workers had a party to meet her on Monday and wish her farewell.

Miss May Thorne, M.D., who is Lecturer on the "Theory and Practice of Vaccination" at the London School of Medicine for Women, has just been appointed Teacher of Vaccination by the Local Government Board, and is empowered to give certificates of proficiency to qualified pupils.

Miss Laura Stephens has obtained the M.A. at the Royal University of Ireland, and four ladies the B.A. degree. Miss Nora Scott has gained the Stewart scholarship.

John Oliver Hobbes' novel, "Robert Orange," a sequel to "The School for Saints," is now finished. It will in the first place appear as a serial in *The Ladies' Field*.

The Women's Local Government Society has just lately done a very good piece of work at Hampstead. A married lady, owning her house and paying all its rates and taxes out of her private purse, claimed the right to vote in Guardian, Vestry, and School Board elections. This was disputed by the rate-collector, the clerk, and the solicitor to the vestry, because her husband lives with her. The magistrates also refused to recognise her as occupier, and she appealed to the Society, supporting her claim under the Local Government Act of 1894. Legal advice was taken, and finally the dispute ended in her favour, the justices' decision was reversed, and it was proved that as occupier of her own house she had a right to the vote she claimed.

Miss E. C. Stubbs has been appointed by Government Assistant Examiner in Cooking under the Education Department. She has certainly excellent qualifications for the post, having had fifteen years' practical work and training in cookery, domestic economy, hygiene, and physiology. For ten years also she has been the practical examiner in domestic science for the National Union of Women Workers, besides examining for the Liverpool School of Cookery, the Manchester School Board, and very many other institutions.

A little heroine, named Ada Turner, aged only six years, of Deane, near Bolton, is to be presented with a testimonial by the Royal Humane Society for saving the life of a little boy from drowning at Deane.

A Book of the Week.**RED POTTAGE.***

"Good aims not always make good books; "Well-tempered spades turn up ill-smelling soils"—so says Elizabeth Browning; and it is with something of a shock that we find an authoress like Mary Cholmondeley electing to join the immense army of those who like to turn up particularly malodorous ground in the pursuit of the "good aim" which we are in charity bound to believe that they possess.

It is not so much with the actual theme of this unpleasant story as with the writer's treatment of it that I find fault. That so great a gift as hers should be employed in the evolution of doubtful morality and a great deal of false sentiment, does seem such waste! We have so many who can treat these subjects, so few Mary Cholmondeleys!

Hugh Scarlett has broken the seventh commandment with the wife of Lord Newhaven. This being so, he is in nowise ashamed—believing himself not found out—to continue to visit at the house of the man whose honour he has betrayed. Now the writer does not seem to see that this, at the very outset, alienates all sympathy. Nice men, even men of principle, may and do fall into flagrant sin; but if they have one spark of manliness they have the grace to be ashamed of it. This is the first slip as to probabilities. We are not led to suppose that any very strong temptation ensnared Hugh; he seems to have yielded to the passing desire to gratify a very ordinary, not at all lofty, animal instinct. There are such men, as we unfortunately know; but Scarlett, as afterwards revealed to us, is not one of them.

Now for Lord Newhaven, the husband. He has married a vicious little fool and he despises her. But, being the man he was, with a very deep sense of family honour and his children's good name, he would most certainly never have allowed his wife to proceed to the length of deadly sin, for the author distinctly gives us to understand that he was fully aware of the progress of the intrigue. That is improbability number two. Newhaven is represented as a man of strong character; from the fact that his marriage was a mistake, such a man would realise that his wife was not wholly to blame, and, though he had altogether ceased to care for her, he would continue, for his own sake, to protect her.

The author makes Lord Newhaven demand of Hugh that he should draw lots; whichever man draws the shorter lot to commit suicide within five months. Hugh draws the shorter piece of paper, and so enters into the ghastly compact.

Almost immediately after, he falls in love with a girl named Rachel West; represented as a girl of vigorous and fine character. Soon after making his acquaintance, Rachel is made the confidant of Lady Newhaven and learns the horrible secret of her relations with Hugh. Now, above all things, it behoves the novelist of to-day to make her characters modern; so, of necessity, the knowledge that this man and this woman are adulterers arouses little surprise and no repulsion on the part of Rachel. It constitutes no reason why she should not marry Hugh,—no reason why she should not be Lady Newhaven's friend. This seems a third improbability.

Rachel herself has, before she became an heiress, loved a man named Tristram; in the height of her

* By Mary Cholmondeley. Edward Arnold.

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