

Outside the Gates.



WOMEN.

THE event in relation to women this week which must have the most far-reaching influence is that the *Weekly Sun* has made arrangements with the Women's Liberal Association to allow the Association so many columns weekly, the Association supplying official information to fill these columns and taking a certain number of copies for distribution. This is good for the Liberal cause, and, indeed, for the woman's cause, because it is an open secret that the press generally "cannot find space" for questions of political or economic interest to women. The editor of the *Weekly Sun* is to be congratulated upon this wise and progressive policy, in thus giving articulation to Liberal women, a course which will compel those editors who carefully exclude everything alluding to the feminist movement from their columns to adopt fair play or be hopelessly left in the rear.

At a recent meeting of the New York League of Unitarian Women at Brooklyn, some remarkable papers were presented, notably, "Progress of Science in the Nineteenth Century," was divided into three parts. The first of these, "The Discoveries of Science," was introduced by Mrs. John S. McKay. She spoke first of the discoveries in astronomy, and then passed on to geology and biology.

The second part of the subject, "The Effect of Science Upon Daily Life," was treated by Miss Katharine Rolston Fisher.

Mrs. A. F. De Friese took up the subject of "Woman's Contribution to Science." She said in part:

The evolution of woman during the last half of the century has been of surprising swiftness. Since modern education and freedom opened the learned branches to her, woman has partaken with avidity of the fruits of the tree of knowledge once forbidden her. The recent finding of a new star by Miss Fleming, a young woman assistant in the Astronomical Observatory at Harvard, excites but little wonder, though it is really a brilliant performance. Miss Dorothy Klumpke, another American woman famous in the world of astronomy, is the first woman to obtain from the Paris University a doctor's degree in mathematics and astronomy. American universities are more liberal to women. Miss Charlotte Scott, of Bryn Mawr, Miss Whitney, of Vassar, and Miss Byrd are all astronomers of good standing. Mrs. Brown Davis is one of the chief computers engaged upon the Nautical Almanac at the Naval Observatory in Washington. Florence Bascom was recently employed by the Government to make the geological survey of Chester County, Penn. The late Annie Stockton Petit was accorded a doctor's degree by Columbia University, and her contributions to science in botanical research have been highly appreciated.

In the science of political economy women have made slow but steady progress. Last year a thesis written for the degree of A. M. of Columbia University by Jessie Wallace Hughan on "The Place of Henry George in Economics" was highly commended by Pro-

fessor Seligman and other political economists. In respect to woman's contribution to scientific and practical inventions, it was a young girl that invented the door hinge, and she merely copied the idea from her own elbow. Of the hundreds of woman's patents now on exhibition in the Patent Office in Washington nine-tenths have been issued within the past twenty years.

Give women a few more opportunities in the laboratory, and the great Koch, Edison, Westinghouse and other successful men will find their peers among the weaker sex. The first submarine telescope was the production of a woman, Mrs. B. Mather, of New York. Another New York woman has just perfected a torpedo. Other valuable inventions patented by women include a frost shoe for horses, a combined electrical vapour bath, improved methods for compressing sea salt and chemicals having the same qualities, building blocks arranged to lock together, a water filter, ingenious attachments to sewing machines, and an improved washing machine.

This activity of women is rich in results, the inventors sometimes securing large royalties, and the inventions being of so practical a nature that the labour of thousands of women is lessened by their introduction.

Dramatic Notes.

MR. F. R. BENSON AT THE LYCEUM.

Mr. F. R. Benson might well say in the course of the happily conceived and wisely brief speech, which he delivered, when called before the curtain at the close of the presentment of Henry V. on his opening night at the Lyceum, that he had never occupied a prouder position, than when he felt himself standing as Actor-Manager on the boards of a theatre, of late years remarkable for its Shakespearian representations, and in which he had obtained the earliest professional experience of his art. Mr. Benson has undertaken to present therein a series of some of the greatest and most admired pieces of our immortal dramatist. Regard being had to the unexpectedly grave military struggle in which the nation is now engaged, nothing could be more appropriate than the selection by Mr. Benson of Henry V. as the piece, with which to begin his efforts, since it is certainly a piece in which Shakespeare has supremely touched the chords which will ever vibrate in the hearts of Englishmen whenever their honour their prestige, and their sense of justice as a people, are involved.

How Mr. Benson has treated the piece, in view of the way in which the author constructed it, may be open to considerable question. The entire omission of the celebrated choruses—containing, as they do, some of the finest lines which ever fell even from Shakespeare's pen—is no doubt a matter to be deplored, and the reduction of the play into four acts must, to the mind of true Shakespearian students and critics, appear, notwithstanding the unfortunate example recently, and even at this moment, afforded in *another House*, to be taking an almost unwarrantable, and certainly unnecessary liberty with Shakespeare's own construction! Mr. Benson's own expressly declared views as to giving Shakespeare, as far as possible, in his entirety, and his present published intention to go so far in this direction as to give

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