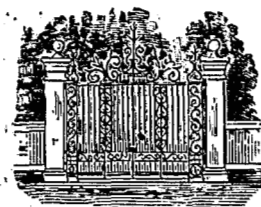


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



An amendment moved by Mr. Henry Hobhouse to the Education Bill last week, and which was carried without a division, made it compulsory that all schemes for the constitution of Local Committees under the Bill should provide for the inclusion of women as well as men on the educational committees. But even this small concession seems to have aroused some alarm. Mr. S. Evans contended that if the matter was pressed to a logical conclusion the amendment meant that women should be allowed to sit as members of that House, and become Ministers of State. He believed that generally there was no desire on the part of women to enter into public life, and men, he thought, could do all that was required without the assistance of women in matters of State.

The *Globe* is very frank in its expression of opinion: "It may be conceded that in the details of educational work the advice and the experience of some women, especially in regard to the training of quite young children, may be advantageous. But we view with jealousy the tendency to increase the feminine element in the conduct of affairs whether local or national." It is well that women should recognise the existence of this feeling.

Neither must it be forgotten, as we pointed out last week, that under the present Education Bill women cannot serve on the educational authorities, which are the town and county councils, but only on the committees appointed by these bodies. This point is clearly emphasised in a letter to the press signed by Mrs. Pennington, Miss Agnes C. Maitland, and Miss Ethel Hurlbatt, of Bedford College, who explain that the education authority is the only body with independent powers; that the right, therefore, of directly representing the electorate and of directly controlling the administration of education will be withdrawn after having been usefully exercised for many years by women, and that no alteration in the Bill can retain for women the authority they now possess. If the Bill passes, the only possible means of doing this will be by a change in the constitution of county and borough councils to enable women to serve on these councils. Let women note and ponder these facts. They have no right to relinquish positions which they hold in trust for posterity without protest.

Mrs. Grenfell, a Democratic candidate, has been elected Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State of Colorado, U.S.A., by a majority of 2,400.

Mr. Carnegie, after visiting the Ladies' College in Queen Street, Edinburgh, the oldest educational institution, in connection with the Merchants Company, made the following entry in the visitors' book:—

Surprised, delighted, impressed. Ruskin says there is nothing in the world that equals the Scottish mother in the tried perfectness of her old age. This institution does the important part of starting the future mother well—a greater service it is impossible to render.
—ANDREW CARNEGIE.

Mr. Carnegie himself, of course, had a Scottish mother, and no mother; as is well known, had ever a more devoted son.

For the first time in the history of Cornell University a woman student will enter the engineering department. The woman is Miss Nora Stanton Blatch, of London, England, about twenty years old, and a granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Miss Blatch was last year entered as a freshman in the art course of Cornell, but decided to change her course.

Miss R. O. Kanyeovsky, a Jewess, is the first woman student to take her degree at the *École des Ponts et Chaussées* in Paris. She was born in Zinkoff, Poltava, where she received her elementary education. She went to Paris in 1897, and, having read mathematics one year at the Sorbonne, passed brilliantly the entrance examination to the before-mentioned school of engineers at the age of twenty-five. She is soon to pass another examination, with a view to obtaining a post on one of the Russian railroads.

A Book of the Week.

THE RIVER.*

The River, as connoisseurs of this author will guess, is the Dart. An old distich of the country-side runs—

"Dart, Dart,
Wants a heart,"

the interpretation of which is held to be that the spirit of the river demands each year a human life. There is a curious being, Sorrow Scobhull by name, in the story, son of a mother whose husband was drowned in the Dart. To the distracted widow the child was born untimely, and in his blood the horror of the river amounts to mania. As Merryweather Chugg remarks, "He has the fear o' Dart in him, instead o' the fear o' God."

The book is written, almost throughout, in dialect, none of the actors in it being above the peasant class, with the exception of Timothy Oldreive, the villain of the piece, the reputed son of a farmer whose wife was unfaithful. The real father of Timothy was a "gentleman" who on his death-bed bequeathed his soul to the devil and his carcass to his hounds; and Timothy is the fitting son of such a sire.

To the reader who can make up his mind to the dialect, and to the monotonous burden of the quiet country-side, the book is eminently worth reading. Mr. Philpotts is never strained. Those who cannot follow him into the silent spaces of the moor, into the vast solitudes, peopled by the races of the past, may go elsewhere. He will tell his tale, simply, strongly; it has a limpid current, like the river that names it; it flows from a mind to which certain aspects of Nature have made a strong appeal; and thus it is able to convey, to the appreciative, a message of beauty and a call for sympathy for the simple souls whose own means of expressing what they feel are so limited.

Nicholas Edgcumbe is the hero. He lives in a wooden cabin on the most lonely part of the moor, and manages a rabbit warren at a salary of a pound a

* By Edon Philpotts. Methuen.

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