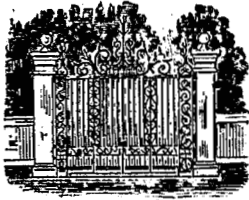


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



There are rumours of a penny "daily" for women. Frenchwomen have their *Fronde*, now Italy also has a special daily paper for women, conducted by women. Our new venture is the property of men well known in the business world, so it is to be feared it will merely be another "feast of fashion," and that our real interests will not be tackled. Personally, we are weary of *chiffons* and the records of the *déclassé monde*. What we want is a well-financed organ going bald-headed for woman's suffrage and a fair field and no favour in every direction—domestic, educational, industrial, and professional. "Dear lady," remarked an astute editor recently, "such a policy would spell bankruptcy; eradicate the parasitical disloyalty in women, and it might have a chance." "Woman suffers from the serf taint because she is pauper," we retorted. "Give her a fair chance of piling up a banking account, and away will go the parasitical instinct." "We doubt it," said the editor, and smole a bitter smile.

Sir William Anson last week received a deputation from the Women's Local Government Society, who attended to urge the importance of creating in London an educational authority on which women should be qualified to serve. Sir W. Anson said he hoped an honoured place would be assured to the work of women on whatever educational authority was created for London. Hope told a flattering tale!

Under the auspices of the Paddington Women's Liberal Association a public meeting in favour of a directly-elected Board of Education for London was held in the Paddington Town Hall, the chief speakers being Mrs. Homan, L.S.B., Mr. A. J. Mundella, and Mr. Cyril Dodd, K.C. The following resolutions were unanimously carried: "This meeting is of opinion that public education in London should be placed under the control of a directly-elected Board of Education, devoted exclusively to the administration of education, and that women should be equally eligible with men." And

"This meeting urges the members of the London County Council to unite in supporting Mr. Hubbard's motion in favour of a Board of Education for London directly elected *ad hoc*."

On March 25th the Women's Institute held its Council meeting and the annual meeting of the members. The reports were all most encouraging and the financial report left very little to be desired. The most amusing part of the proceedings was that concerning the extraordinary variety of questions asked of the Inquiry Department, and the methods employed in finding information for the replies. Mrs. Pollard was very warmly encouraged in her arduous and successful labours. Mrs. Boulnois took the chair in the open meeting.

Lecturing recently at the Women's Institute on "American Diet," Miss Stewart said that the Ameri-

can Department of Agriculture has for a long time past been prosecuting elaborate inquiries into the dietary conditions of American society, and handbooks have been issued giving the result of these researches.

Practical use has been made of these Government analyses in a great many institutions. All the New York City hospitals have appointed trained dieticians to their staffs. In the schools' cooking-classes the children are being taught scientific dietary and methods of selective marketing. No such work is even being attempted in England under Government or municipal auspices.

In the course of their inquiries the American Government elicited the following points of interest:—

A quart of milk, three-quarters of a pound of moderately fat beef, sirloin of steak for instance, and five ounces of wheat flour all contain the same amount of nutritive material.

Milk comes nearest to being a perfect food; it contains all of the different kinds of nutritive material that the body needs.

A lump of sugar represents about as much nutriment as an ounce of potato. Sugar is a useful and a valuable food. The consumption of sugar is everywhere increasing; seven to eight million tons are consumed annually in the different countries of the world.

Shakespeare and Bacon on Stimulants.

By Mrs. C. C. STOPES.

The so-called Bacon-Shakespeare question involves two distinct proofs—the one, that Shakespeare did not write his works, the other, that Bacon did. The Baconians heap scorn on Shakespeare's character and circumstances in their endeavour to show that he *could not* have done so; they collect instances of Bacon's learning and social superiority to suggest that he must have been the author. There is no need of taking the so-called ciphers said to be embedded in the plays as a serious argument, as there are so many of them, and their readings are so contradictory that the best Baconians refuse to accept any of them. We may be quite sure that no inspired poet would weight his muse with the burden of a cipher, especially one that conveyed twaddle and self-evident errors, however extraordinary. The best cure for the heresy is further study of Bacon, and it will soon be found that the man who "took all *knowledge* to be his province" was not gifted with much romance or poetic inspiration. Dr. Furnivall puts it very neatly: "Some men are born colour-blind; the man who thinks Bacon could have written Shakespeare must have been born *character-blind*." Bacon would have adhered to the classical niceties of time, place, and action, he would never have made the mistakes in classics, history, and geography that Shakespeare did; on the other hand, what did he know of the passion of love, of the self-devotion of friendship, of the wild thrills of a fierce gallop, a daring chase, or passionate absorption in Nature? Many stock phrases on politics and philosophy appear in the works of both, for both authors borrowed liberally from others without acknowledgment; but look at the different mental attitude in which they survey any great

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)