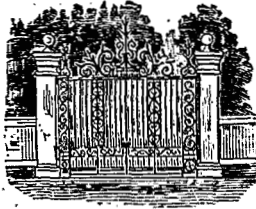


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



Last year a small committee of lady collectors received the happy inspiration to hold a sale of genuine works of art for the benefit of gentlewomen in reduced circumstances desirous to sell privately old family possessions. Beautiful things were sent to the committee—old porcelain and pottery, old needlework, lace, old prints, jewels, miniatures, old silver and Sheffield plate, cut glass, and other objects of art. A four days' sale produced nearly £1,000, much to the satisfaction of the vendors, and so successful was the result that the sale is to be repeated again this year, and will open on May 11th at 16, Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, the charming rooms of the Photographic Association. This sale is really a chance for collectors, and those who pay it a visit are sure to find something to their taste. Any further information can be obtained from the Hon. Mrs. W. Le Poer Trench, 3, Hyde Park Gardens, W.

The decoration of the Roman Catholic Cathedral at Westminster is far from complete. The interior is to be lined with marble, and mosaic work will form a feature of the decoration. This delicate work, generally done by Italian workmen, is being carried out by women. Over forty of them are at work in the side chapels, and are to be seen on the scaffolding sticking in the tesserae, some of the tiny pieces of which are as small as one's finger-nail.

The Royal Botanic Society has opened a new Botanical and Horticultural Laboratory in connection with the Gardening School which was started in the Park some five years ago. An interesting experiment in connection with the school is a class of lady gardeners, who will "garden" solely for their health! These are ladies who have been advised by their medical attendants to take up something of this kind. Classes will be held on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and the fee will be two guineas a month. We can imagine that the class will be a great benefit to many.

At last a woman has knocked at the door of Gray's Inn, demanding admission, and the Benchers will shortly have to consider the burning question of whether or not she shall be allowed to eat her dinners as a student.

Surely yes. The day for imposing sex disabilities has gone by. Medicine and surgery, dentistry, and architecture have opened their doors to women. True, they have opened them slowly, reluctantly and grudgingly. But the point is they stand open, and the constant stream of women passing through will never more give an instant's chance of closing them. In all these professions women have won more or less distinction. Why not, then, in the domain of law? Nor need the opposite sex fear a sudden influx into their pet preserve. There are comparatively few women to whom dry logic appeals. A profession

which touches the emotions and affections is more attractive to the majority.

We are inclined to think that things have changed for the better since the "Song of the Shirt" was written. It is well, therefore, that the conditions under which women still work should from time to time be presented to us. The *Social Gazette* says that many women are paid 4d. a dozen, or at the rate of 1½d. an hour, for sewing umbrella covers, and 6d. a gross (144) for sewing a button on the elastic, sewing on the ring, and hemming both ends of an umbrella band. Other home workers receive 8d. a dozen pairs for seaming cotton hose, each pair taking nearly an hour.

No lady preacher had ever occupied a Glasgow pulpit till recently, when Miss M. Pritchard, of London, preached at the Vincent Street Unitarian Church.

We wonder how many deaths are due to vanity. It is customary, according to the evidence of a doctor at an inquest at New Delaval, for girls and young women in certain colliery districts in Northumberland to eat uncooked rice, oatmeal, and starch in order to induce a pale complexion, which is held in those parts to be a mark of beauty. In the case under investigation a young woman had died of perforation of the stomach caused by eating uncooked rice as an aid to beauty. Other cases arising from the practice are, it was stated, under treatment.

John Oliver Hobbes (Mrs. Craigie) criticises the modern English girl in the May number of the *Pall Mall Magazine*. "Some girls," she says, "are to a morbid degree over-fond of admiration. They are restless at balls and parties unless they have the attention of every man present. They become vindictive unless they can feel that every other woman is neglected on their account. It is not enough that they should dance the whole evening or have a pleasant companion at dinner: they like to feel certain that they are envied. Their own partners do not satisfy them; their enjoyment is diminished unless they can see others left out in the cold. They wish, not so much from unkindness as from real vanity, to assert themselves to the disadvantage of their friends. Indeed, they regard every girl of their own age, not a comrade, but as a possible rival who ought to be humiliated on every occasion. It is not necessary to add that girls of this type can never be popular."

Mrs. Craigie believes that "at every period the essential qualification for success in the true sense of the word would be a natural manner—not, however, the affectation of a natural manner, a very different thing. All affectation is fatal, and no form of it is more so than a pretended bluntness in speech, a brutal selfishness which desires to be taken for candour, or that gross disregard of every obligation—a common enough failing—which claims distinction on the ground of its irresponsibility."

There is little doubt that the average American girl is far less vain than cousin Britannia, and in consequence she does not suffer from the terrible pangs of jealousy, which paralyses to a great extent the progress of women in this country.

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