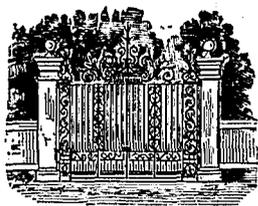


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



The Kaiser's intention to assist at the unveiling of the memorial brasses to Queen Victoria and the Empress Frederick in the British Church in Berlin will be heard of with interest. The event takes place on Friday, 22nd inst., the death anniversary of Queen Victoria, and the Emperor's presence will emphasise the tie between the reigning families. The church has some very beautiful stained-glass windows, given by the late Empress, who took much interest in the fabric and in the beautifying of the chapel.

The attempt to exclude women from the proposed National Church Council is to be strongly opposed, and a committee has been formed, with the Bishop of Guildford at its head, to prepare petitions to the two Houses of Convocation, asking that further consideration should be given to the question. In order to strengthen the hands of the committee a great meeting is to be held at the Church House on January 21, when the Bishop of Worcester and Sir Lewis Dibdin will champion the cause of the ladies.

The Lambeth Board of Guardians has appointed a lady doctor as medical officer to its schools at West Norwood. Of the fifty-five candidates five were selected to appear before the Board, and by a majority of eleven to ten votes over the nearest male competitor, Dr. Alice N. V. Johnson, junior resident medical officer at the Joint Counties Asylum, Carmarthen, secured the appointment, subject to the sanction of the Local Government Board.

At a Council of the Benchers of Lincoln's Inn the petition of Miss Christabel H. Pankhurst, of Manchester, to be allowed to enter as a student of Lincoln's Inn has been refused.

The *Daily Mail*, under the heading of "Professor of Motherhood," says: "Battersea Council's Health Committee has decided that an additional lady sanitary inspector, at a salary of £110 a year, shall be appointed. Her duties will be to instruct mothers in the feeding of infants and the nursing of them in illness."

The Norwegian Government has drawn up a Bill admitting women to State employment under the necessary qualifications. The Bill excludes them from the diplomatic and military services, and also from the clergy and the police.

The second stage in the lengthy and complicated process of the canonisation of Joan of Arc has been brought to a close by the official declaration that the Maid of Orleans had displayed heroic virtue, or, in other words, that she possessed the three theological virtues, faith, hope, and charity, and the four cardinal virtues, justice, prudence, temperance, and fortitude. By this decree Joan of Arc obtains the right to the title "Venerable," but it is not yet permissible to erect altars or address public worship to her. That

privilege will only follow when it has been proved that she performed three miracles, after which her canonisation will be complete, and she will take her place in the Roman calendar as Saint Joan of Arc.

According to the *Matin*, the real reason why M. Curie, who, with his talented wife, has made such important discoveries in radium, refused the proffered decoration of the Cross of the Legion of Honour was that the officials did not offer the same distinction to his wife. M. Curie, as is well known, accords his wife and fellow-worker an equal share with himself in the discoveries they have made together, and would naturally not seek to acquire honours to the exclusion of his wife.

A Book of the Week.

HETTY WESLEY.*

Before passing on to the brand-new issues of 1904, let us spend a few moments over the novel which may, perhaps, be fairly pronounced the most remarkable book of the year just closed.

Remarkable for this reason: that Mr. Quiller Couch, being a man, has given us, with consummate art, a picture of the intellectual woman of the eighteenth century, and her bondage, body and soul, to the men of her family. The tragedy of Mehetabel Wesley, with her great beauty and her remarkable powers of intellect and of imagination, needed telling; and we think it would hardly be possible to find a hand more delicate, more sympathetic, more impressive, than the hand which has given us the heart-breaking picture.

Mr. Quiller Couch is impressive because he never exaggerates. Neither does he, as would Mr. Seton Merriman, for instance, break through the atmosphere of his story to make comments upon the difference between those days and our own. He puts it all before us, in its pathos, its incredible sadness; and it is not fiction, be it remembered, but history.

Hetty was the child of a very remarkable couple. Her father had been brought up a Dissenter; he owed his Churchmanship entirely to personal conviction. His courage, his intellect, his endurance, his piety and self-denial are all beyond question; and his wife was to the full as far above the average as himself. Her brave spirits were not sunk when her three-weeks-old babe was overlaid by its nurse, when her husband was imprisoned for debt, when the Rectory was burnt over their heads by their affectionate parishioners. Yet, to the eighteenth century man, this woman was a creature to do his will and bear his children—specially male. For the female he had no use. They needed no education, no society, no employment, beyond what was menial. They grew up—seven of them, neglected, wild, wayward, in order that their brothers might have University educations.

When Hetty became troublesome at home, she was simply hired out to service in a neighbouring town by her father, as though she were a slave. The motive for sending her away from the starvation and servitude of the Rectory seems to have been that the magnificent, handsome, half-trained creature, with her soul and body alike craving to live, had fixed her affections on a wholly unworthy object. Of course Hetty, when away from home,

* By Quiller Couch. (Harpers).

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