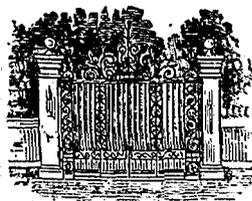


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



In a lecture on modern British sculpture, delivered at the London Institution, Mr. M. H. Spielmann showed a photograph of Mr. Brock's almost completed sketch model for the principal part of the Queen Victoria Memorial. Apart from the elaborate architectural scheme designed by Mr. Aston Webb, the monument consists of a seated figure of Queen Victoria in robes of state, flanked on the right by a group representing Justice, and on the left Truth. Above the statue the eagle of Empire spreads his wings. Higher still are the figures of Courage and Constancy, crowned by Victory, these last three being in gilt bronze, while the rest of the monument is to be of Carrara marble.

A meeting presided over by the Bishop of Kensington last week unanimously passed a resolution in favour of the inclusion of Churchwomen among the voters for lay representatives in the proposed National Church Council.

On Monday last Mr. John Morley met the Executive Committee of the Women's Liberal Federation at the offices of the Association, in Victoria Street, when there was also present a deputation from the Scottish Liberal Federation. The Countess of Aberdeen introduced the deputation, which put before Mr. Morley the claims of women to the Parliamentary franchise. Mr. Morley, in reply, said that the retrogressive action of Parliament in limiting the position of women on local bodies had, among more general arguments, convinced him of the soundness of the view that the possession of the Parliamentary franchise is the only effective way of securing the just claim of women to a full and direct share in that social work where their interests are most deeply concerned and where their influence and their services would be of the highest public value.

A similar deputation waited on Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman at 6, Grosvenor Place. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman said he believed that the country at large would become more and more favourable to the enfranchisement of women, in view of the fact that Parliament was dealing, or trying to deal one after another, with those social questions on which women might not only be held entitled to vote, but on which their opinion was even more valuable and essential than the opinion of men.

The Guild of Loyal Women are making final arrangements for the permanent care of the graves in South Africa, and are anxious to speedily learn the intentions of relatives, friends, and regiments with regard to graves at present unmarked. All interested are invited to communicate with the Guild through Miss Tillard, 8, Sunderland Terrace, Westbourne Gardens, hon. secretary of the Graves Fund of the Victoria League. Contributions towards completing the work will be gratefully received by the hon. treasurer of the Graves Fund, Miss Hall, 15, Grosvenor Place.

The Arachne Club, in Russell Square, just opened, has as an aim the raising of domestic work to the rank of a profession for ladies. Students are received for ten guineas for a course of three months, including board and lodging, and at the end of that time are deemed proficient in the duties of housemaids, parlour-maids, and cooks. The training of a cook-housekeeper takes longer, and included in the curriculum are the management of a household, the keeping of accounts, and general household supervision.

The Home Secretary has made an order under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, directing that the special exception as to overtime employment of women be extended to non-textile factories and workshops in which certain named processes, including the making of postage stamps, Christmas and New Year cards, cosques, meat-pies, mincemeat, Christmas puddings, and fireworks are carried on.

From the report of the latest monthly meeting of the Perth Town Council:—Bailie Keiller moved that it be remitted to the Cleansing and Sanitary Committee to consider the advisability of appointing a female assistant sanitary inspector. In reply to a remark as to what was the age limit, the Bailie said he had no age limit, but he would like a young, attractive, beautiful, tidy, well-dressed, well-educated, and talented female assistant sanitary inspector. The motion was seconded and unanimously agreed to. The Perth Town Council, when they have made the appointment, had better keep their eye on Bailie Keiller.

That "T. C. D." should open its degrees to women is only in accordance with the fitness of things in view of the fact that its founder was so distinguished a woman as Queen Elizabeth. As Trinity College, Dublin—to give it its full name—celebrated its tercentenary some years ago, the concession to Elizabeth's sex cannot be regarded as unduly hurried.

A Book of the Week.

THE ODD JOB MAN.*

It is not often that the reviewer is able to trace advance upon previous work with such extreme clearness as in this book. "The Compleat Bachelor" was a clever little trifle, in which immaturity struggled with smartness. There is little sign of immaturity in "The Odd Job Man," except inasmuch as that the writer still has a difficulty in handling his story, and is apt to grow discursive; which we forgive him the more easily, because his discursiveness is good, strong, and interesting.

Percival Oddy, when we meet him, has drifted to the depths. He has wasted his substance on riotous living. He has no excuse. He started with talents and a competency, and also, as afterwards transpires, with the capacity for much good. "Instead of which," as the immortal magistrate remarks, he went straight to the devil.

He is nothing but a casual, night-refuge tramp on this night of our introduction to him. Just as the Thames waits to receive him, he drifts up against Keppel, one of his old associates in his Quartier Latin days. Keppel insists upon his coming home with him. He also insists upon arraying him in his

* By Oliver Ontons. John Murray.

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