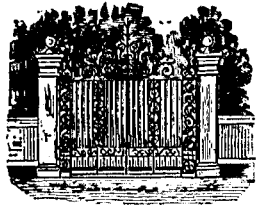


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



The Queen has been smiling upon science during the past week. She has accepted the invitation of the President and Council of the British Numismatic Society to become a Royal member of that body. The other Royal members are the Kings of the Belgians, Italy, Portugal and Spain, the Queen of Portugal, and the Prince and Princess of Wales.

So soon as the new Charter of the Linnean Society made it possible for women to become Fellows, it was thought right by the Council to ask the First Lady of the Land to accept the Honorary Fellowship of a Society which recognised in the fullest possible way the value of the scientific work of women. A gracious answer was sent—"Her Majesty will be pleased to comply with your request to become an honorary member of the Linnean Society." The election took place last week, and there was an outburst of enthusiasm on the part of the Fellows when Professor Herdman, the President, read to them the letter of her Majesty's secretary.

The Hon. Maude Lawrence, who has been appointed chief woman inspector under the Board of Education, is the youngest daughter of Lord Lawrence, Governor-General of India, who was chairman of the first School Board for London. She was for many years chairman of a committee of managers under the London School Board, and was a member of the board from 1899 to 1904, serving on the committees for school management, for works, for domestic subjects, and for school accommodation, and being chairman of the Special Schools Sub-Committee. In May, 1904, she was placed by the London County Council on its Education Committee, and she is vice-chairman of its Special Schools Sub-Committee and a member of two other sub-committees.

Miss Lawrence will direct a staff of women inspectors of special qualifications and varied experience, who will assist the Board in dealing with many questions for the treatment of which it has hitherto been somewhat imperfectly equipped. Among these may be indicated the education of very young children, the special education of girls and young women in public elementary schools, secondary schools, pupil teacher centres, evening schools, training colleges, and evening and other technical classes, and the suitability of the arrangements made for the boarding of women students in training colleges and hostels.

Instruction in various domestic subjects such as needlework, cookery, laundry work, household management, and hygiene has for some time past been given under the regulations of the Board for schools of different grades. But the report of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Physical Deterioration points to the need of a reform in the methods now commonly employed in the teaching of these subjects. It is considered that this instruction has been less effective than it should have been, because it has been too theoretical and has not been kept sufficiently in touch with the needs and habits of daily life.

The Board will employ the new branch of the inspectorate to assist local authorities in providing, as part of their educational system, ample opportunities for girls of various ages to obtain a training for home life, simple, practical, and adapted, where necessary, to the special circumstances of each locality. There are also many questions of importance involving the national physique, as affected by the studies, the life, and the treatment of children, and especially of very young children, from day to day in elementary schools, which women inspectors are specially qualified to investigate and to advise upon. The Board feels that it is of great importance to direct the attention of local authorities to these matters, and that this service will be most efficiently rendered by a competent staff of women inspectors.

A Book of the Week.

THE BELL IN THE FOG; AND OTHER STORIES.*

Mrs. Atherton's present collection of stories will not do anything to enhance her present reputation, but is sure to be very interesting to her admirers. It is—by the way—always interesting to know the special literary admirations of a literary person; and the dedication of the present volume gives us a sidelight of this kind.

To the Master, HENRY JAMES, is the inscription. The story from which the book takes its title has probably been selected as having taken Henry James for its hero. It is a very ambitious tale, modelled upon those extraordinary psychological studies which Mr. James published some years ago, and which were such masterpieces in the art of creating in the reader's mind the atmosphere necessary to the success of the story. Mrs. Atherton has not succeeded in investing her attempt with the proper aroma of things occult, which "the master" most certainly attained—one does not quite know how. The underlying idea is that of a woman who reincarnates herself among the descendants of the man whom in life she wronged, in order to be a source of comfort and blessing to them, and so in part expiate her life's errors. It is a somewhat attenuated vein of sentiment, and it is not convincing, except in the portrait it gives of the novelist who is the hero of the tale.

"His following was not a large one, but it was very distinguished. The aristocracies of the earth gave to it; and not to understand and admire Ralph Orth was deliberately to relegate one's self to the ranks. . . . He was too wary to become a fad, and too sophisticated to become a bore; consequently his popularity continued evenly from year to year, and long since he had come to be regarded as one of them (i.e., the exclusive). . . . A group of young literary men—and one or two women—put him on a pedestal and kissed the earth before it. Naturally, they imitated him, and as this flattered him . . . he sooner or later wrote 'appreciations' of them all, which nobody living could understand, but which, owing to the sub-title and signature, answered every purpose."

The two stories to which my individual taste gives the palm are "The Dead and the Countess" and "The Samall Survey." And of these the second is the best.

In this story we have a rich old man, named Webster, living in a large, shabby old house, with his old sister

* By Gertrude Atherton. (Macmillan and Co.)

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