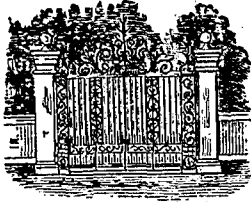


## Outside the Gates.

### WOMEN.



A public demonstration in favour of the Parliamentary vote for women, organised by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, will be held in the Queen's Hall, Langham Place, on Tuesday, March 14th, at 8 o'clock. The chair will be taken by the Right Hon. Leonard Courtney. Over eighty Members of Parliament, many of whom will speak, have already expressed their intention of being present.

A resolution in favour of the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women was last week adopted at the annual meeting of the General Committee of the National Liberal Federation at Crewe.

To calculate the proportion of women householders who earn their own living to the total number of women who would, if the present franchise were extended, be entitled to vote, the Independent Labour Party Council has decided to take a census of working women householders.

The Bishop of London, presiding at the Annual Meeting of the British Women's Emigration Association at the Imperial Institute, and advocating the emigration of picked people of proved character to Canada, said he was sick to death of seeing the women of this country enslaved to poverty, overcrowding, and bad housing. He wanted to see them with fresh air, proper wages, and proper food. He asked for £1,000 that day. He had a fund from which he could contribute £25.

Twenty thousand pounds is the amount of a proposed gift by an unknown benefactor for the provision of additional places in the Christ's Hospital Girls' School, on conditions which would ensure the places being filled by girls especially in need of help. Intimation of the gift was conveyed to the Council of Almoners of the hospital in the report of Miss Robertson, the headmistress of the Girls' School.

The £50 Physical Training Scholarship offered by the St. Bride Physical Training College has been won by Miss Melissa Matthews, of 4, Wellesley Road, Wanstead, Essex. This scholarship was the first physical one ever competed for.

A full description is given by the *American* of a new hotel, the St. Elizabeth, which is to be built for the use of children. Boys will be admitted up to the age of fourteen and girls to 12. There will be no suites containing less than three rooms, while some will have eight. All suites will be provided with scientific nurseries and baths. The feeding arrangements are to be superintended by trained nurses. Other leading features are to be a skilled house physician, school-rooms, and a superintendent of amusements. No child will be taken in without a nurse. The prices range from 80 to 150 dollars a week for two persons. The scheme is intended to relieve "society" parents of the trouble of looking after their offspring and to solve the problem of what to do with the children of divorced parents.

## A Book of the Week.

### PETER'S MOTHER.\*

Mrs. De la Pasture is one of those few writers who possess the secret of secrets—the one quality without which the story-teller is lost; namely, the power of enlisting sympathy, of making her reader follow the vicissitudes of her characters, simply because they are so interested, their sympathies are so excited.

This quality is most noticeable in her latest book, which slight, as a story, is yet fascinating to a strange degree.

The situation with which the book opens, is original, and so dramatic, that one feels it ought to be made into a play.

Lady Mary is the young wife of a middle-aged, common-place, prosy and stuffy Baronet, the son of a gentleman who married his cook. Lady Mary was left to his guardianship, he took advantage of her youth and inexperience to marry her when she was seventeen. At the time the story opens, she is the mother of a son of eighteen, and lives her dull life in the remote Devon Manor house with her dreary husband, and two intolerable old Philistine sisters, who are drawn with the humour we have learned to look for from this writer, but not, perhaps, with the delicacy and finish which characterised the character of Miss Philpote in "Cornelius."

Lady Mary, gay, natural, innocent, has lived all her life in an atmosphere of repression and disapproval. Her husband thinks her a foolish child, her sisters-in-law have never forgiven her for supplanting them. Sir Timothy, aware—painfully aware—of the irregularity of his father's marriage, and his own mixed blood, lives always in an agony of fear lest he should say or do anything unbecoming to his rank and position. He hems in his lovely wife in the narrowest of pens. She lives with straight hair, unbecoming gowns, monotony, and dulness. Her one passion, her one hold on life, is her son, Peter, her ugly, unresponsive, spoilt son Peter, who has imbibed the air of condemnation observable always in his aunts and father, and disapproves of his mother, though in his way he loves her.

Sir Peter suddenly discovers that he has a mortal disease. He goes to London, sees a specialist, an operation is agreed upon for ten o'clock the following morning. The Baronet, with fine reserve and self-control, has not mentioned this to his wife, wishing to spare her as long as possible. That very evening comes news that Peter has enlisted, and is sailing for Africa, leaving Portsmouth at ten the following morning.

Lady Mary, so long patient, breaks out at last. She is going to bid her boy good-bye. Nothing, nobody, shall stop her. Even if her husband declines to receive her back again, she will go.

Upon the doctor, who loves this beautiful, misunderstood woman, with silent, constant devotion, devolves the dread task of explaining matters to her; of showing her that she has to choose between letting her son sail without her, and letting her husband, in all probability, die without her.

The whole scene is before one. One sees it all with the eyes of John Crewys, Sir Timothy's barrister cousin, who arrives in the house that evening for the first time, and sees the anguish of the woman's soul.

The rest of the book, naturally, does not sustain this

\* By Mrs. De la Pasture. (Smith, Elder, and Co.)

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