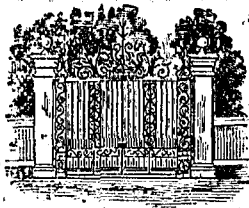


## Outside the Gates.

### THE LETTE-VEREIN, BERLIN.

By Miss P. CALMUS,  
*President of the Industrial Section.*



The Lette-Verein, which is under the protection of Her Majesty the Empress Augusta Victoria, is a society whose aim it is to improve the practical education of young ladies of the better classes.

In training them for a practical profession, it makes

them capable of earning their own living and of becoming self-dependant in life.

The Lette-Verein has its home in Berlin, W., Victoria Luiseplatz, 6. It is conducted by a committee of ladies and gentlemen, whose lady president has been Frau Professor Kaselowsky since the year 1897.

The Lette-Verein has existed since the year 1866. Its founder was the late President Lette, who died in 1868. He founded it under the patronage of the late Empress Frederick, who took the warmest interest in it until her death.

To-day the Lette-Verein embraces a considerable number of schools where the pupils are trained for numerous professions.

To give you an impressive picture of the schools and the number of their pupils I will give you the statistics of 1903:—

“The Housekeeping boarding-school had 134 pupils.”

“The Industrial school was visited by 2,066 pupils.”

“The School of Photography had 158 pupils.”

“The course for Office Work 37 pupils.”

“The Bookbinding course only opened that year, 5 pupils.”

“154 ladies resided in the boarding-house, which is called the Victoria Stift. The Compositors' school had 27 pupils, and 150 ladies dined daily in the restaurant, which is attached to the Lette-Verein.”

Besides these schools there is a fairly large studio for art embroidery, where girls are apprenticed who wish to earn their living at this kind of work.

It is clear that at the head of all these different schools there must be technical superiors, and as they are all for women only, the lessons that can be given by ladies are intrusted to lady tutors.

Each school, besides having its own superintendents and teachers, is put under a sub-committee of members of the committee. Every Friday morning during term time the Lette-Verein is open to the inspection of anyone who wishes to gain an idea of its work. The visitors assemble in the waiting-room of the office. The round begins punctually at 10 o'clock, and takes about two hours; the visitors then have an opportunity of seeing the schools in full work. One lady of the committee acts as guide, and gives the necessary explanations.

If you will kindly follow me mentally, I will try to make a round with you through the different floors of the big house.

We begin with the four large kitchens on the ground floor, where cooking and housekeeping are taught; in

the first kitchen we shall find young ladies who learn cooking in the course of three months; they come three times a week—twice in the morning for cooking, and once in the afternoon to learn baking.

These young ladies are not going in for cooking as a profession; they learn it in order to have some idea of it and to be able to instruct their own cooks.

The young ladies in the next kitchen, in their blue cotton dresses, white aprons, and white sleeves, are studying for their Government examination as teachers of housekeeping. They have to go through a course of eighteen months, and have many lessons in each branch of housekeeping. These pupils must make the most of their time, for there is a great deal for them to learn. They must all have passed through a High School, and besides knowing cooking, laundry work, the making of household and body linen, sewing and mending by hand and machine, they have to acquire a thorough knowledge of pedagogy, psychology, anatomy, and chemistry as far as they concern the hygiene of cookery.

We apply ourselves with great care to their education, for housekeeping teachers are much wanted nowadays, since many of our provincial towns are founding housekeeping schools for girls of all classes. In the next kitchen we find girls who are preparing themselves to take situations as ladies' helps and housekeepers.

The training for these lasts one year. In every kitchen there is a cooking mistress, who teaches her pupils practically and theoretically, and at the head of the cooking section there is a head mistress who superintends the whole.

The fourth large kitchen is for the restaurant; no pupil is admitted here. Here reigns a housekeeper with her under servants for the supply of the ladies' restaurant.

Having left the kitchens, we pass down the long passage and look into several dormitories, studies, and conversation rooms; these belong to the seminary of housekeeping teachers, of whom I have just told you. Farther on we pass the gymnasium and come to the bookbinding department. We are very proud of it, for Fraulein Lüth is the first German lady master bookbinder; she learned in Berlin, at Mr. Collins; in Dusseldorf; in London, at Mr. Cobden-Sanderson's; and in Hamburg, where she passed her master's examination.

She has girls in her class who are apprenticed for three years; besides these there are amateur pupils, who learn as much as they like or have time for.

The laundry classes are at the end of the ground floor, where the pupils learn the washing, mangling, and ironing of linen, both practically and theoretically.

We will now mount the staircase to the first floor. Here is the commercial school with its classes, which are not shown, as that might disturb mistresses and pupils in their studies.

But let us cast a glance into the large dining-rooms, where 150 ladies take their dinner daily, at 65 pfennige each, and a very good dinner it is. Farther on we see the committee room, and the room of the Lady President.

On reaching the second floor we come to the school of industry. There is, first of all, a large class for machine sewing; you will see twenty-four machines kept going, but they are so well kept and managed that there is no noise to speak of, each machine

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