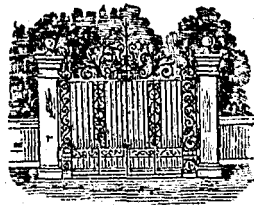


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



At a meeting at the Mansion House, on Monday, the Lord Mayor presiding, there were some interesting speeches showing the good work done by members of the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society in India and China. Sir James Bourdillon, who spoke as a servant of the Crown of thirty-five years' experience, and who is late Resident of Mysore, showed that for Indian women a life of seclusion and isolation are regarded as a badge of good social position; millions of women are therefore condemned to live this life. The number of Zenana pupils under regular instruction is now 7,419, pupils in the schools number 15,310, and there are seventeen hospitals maintained by the Mission. Other speakers were Dr. Mabel Panton and Sir W. Mackworth.

The Bishop of London, who took the chair at a special meeting of the Council of the Charity Organisation Society to consider "the need of efficient voluntary visitors for social and charitable work," in expressing his appreciation of the work of the Society, said that it was a sort of incarnate conscience to the metropolis. It was sometimes looked upon as extremely disagreeable, but that was the case of all consciences, which, nevertheless, were essential to our being. He desired all the more strongly to bear this testimony, because there was an idea that the Christian Church did not sufficiently appreciate the Society. He regarded it as a unifying force among the agencies for good in London. Amongst those present were Sir Edward Bradbrooke, the Rev. A. M. Pickering, Miss Octavia Hill, and Mr. C. S. Loch. The question under consideration was referred to the Administrative Committee.

The Autumn Programme of the Women's Institute contains many interesting items. On Monday evening, November 6th, at 8 p.m., there is to be a lecture by Mrs. Howe on "Finland—Past and Present." Amongst the Literary Conferences the address on the afternoon of Friday, November 3rd, at 3 p.m., by Mrs. Carmichael Stopes, on "Women in the Old Trades' Guilds," is sure to be full of information and interest, and an address on Wednesday afternoon, November 8th, by Lady Battersea, on "Frances Power Cobbe and Her Work" will attract an interested audience.

The eleventh annual meeting of the Society of Women Journalists will be held at 1, Clifford's Inn, Fleet Street, E.C., on Saturday, November 4th. Amongst the subjects to be discussed during the Winter Session is "How to get Work." The address on this subject, by Miss E. M. Tait, is sure to be attractive.

The final session of the Women's Suffrage Convention, which was held at Hull, and was a very enthusiastic and successful gathering, was devoted to addresses by lady doctors, who discussed the advantages of female enfranchisement from a purely professional point of view.

Dr. Douie said that, as there were no directly

Parliamentary claims to press forward, the suffrage could do little or nothing for medical women, but it would enable them to use their influence indirectly in favour of desirable reforms. Dr. Ethel Boutham said that women might have rendered very great assistance to Parliament in such legislation as that relating to vaccination and to the registration of midwives. Among other speakers was Mrs. Martel, the only enfranchised woman at the convention. This lady stated that she had a State vote for New South Wales and a Commonwealth vote for South Australia. The suffrage in the Colonies was granted through persistent advocacy of the women's claims among members of the Cabinet, and she could not understand similar rights being denied to Englishwomen.

We wonder if this lady realised that the great Dr. Mary Scharlieb, who is an M.D. and Gold Medallist of the London University, has no vote for the parliamentary representative. The fact would be grotesque if it were not so shamefully unjust.

A Book of the Week.

THE IMPROBABLE IDYLL.*

This author has always a sense of humour, and part of her new story is delightfully funny. In it she most wisely makes use of her strongest weapon—that is, an intimate knowledge of Galician Poland and its inhabitants, which alone would be enough to lift her book from the ranks of the common-place.

The Hamptons are a family of average English people, living in a very small way in the suburbs—apparently upon a fixed income of £200 a year, which the father makes no effort to supplement. But perhaps the author did not really mean anything quite so unlikely as this. At all events, they have been brought up—somehow; and more or less educated—somehow. But, being grown up, the problem of what is next to happen faces them. The parents have absolutely no ideas on the subject at all. This phenomenon, by-the-by, is by no means so uncommon as some people might think. Here is a family of four eager, active, healthy young people, with no prospects, no technical knowledge nor business training; and their parents sit and look helplessly upon the question of what their work in the world shall be.

Into their doubt and perplexity comes Miss Goldie, a globe-trotting spinster, who has just been in Galicia, and is charmed with the hospitality of the gentry, the unsophistication of the rustics, the cheapness of living generally. Incidentally, she mentions a house and land which is to be sold for £2,000, not a price which would strike the average person as dirt cheap by any means.

Meta is the moving spirit of the Hampton family. She is fired with the romance and adventure of the thing. She persuades her father to forsake Suburbia and subsistence on a pittance, in order to try farming in Galicia.

Now the fun begins. The arrival of this Philistine and hitherto stationary family in the wild country, among the even aggressively unsophisticated natives, is really intensely funny. They have already, even before arrival, fallen into the hands of the Jewish factor or agent, Simche Seidenstein. He it is who has arranged the purchase; and he it is who draws

* By Dorothea Gerard (Methuen.)

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