

tinuous efforts of lay orders to maintain a line beyond which the Church power should not advance."

The temptation of the Church seems constantly to have been to grasp at temporal power, in addition to the spiritual power which is its rich heritage. "It is not reason that we should leave the Word of God and serve tables" is as true to-day as when proclaimed by the apostles in the first fervour of their faith, and just in proportion to her grasp of temporal power does the Church lose in spiritual force.

The authors point out: "It is of interest to note that something in the very nature of nursing service naturally eludes strict monastic forms, and is resistant to solemn vows. Thus the great nursing orders of the Middle Ages were steady, if not always conspicuous, correctives of the tendency towards rigid monasticism, and brought a continuous counter-current to bear upon it. How much this essential characteristic of nursing as an occupation—the refusal to be bound by other than its own requirements—had to do with first delaying and then overcoming, enclosure, or, from a more general point of view, just how great a factor it has been in the movement of women towards economic equality, is a subject that has not yet received as much attention as it deserves."

One of the most interesting communities which clung tenaciously to self-government were the Beguines, who still flourish both in Ghent and Bruges. They, "on account of their striking innovations in community life, and their assertion of autonomy, met with clerical opposition, and even with a certain amount of persecution." St. Vincent de Paul, whose loyalty to the Church none will dispute, was strongly opposed to his Sisters of Charity becoming a religious order. He impressed upon them: "Fear this, and while you live permit no such change; never consent to it."

The interesting history of the Hôtel-Dieu, in Paris, illustrates the same point.

It is impossible to do more than briefly allude to the establishment of French hospitals in primitive Canada under circumstances of almost incredible hardship. The story excels in interest any romance. To the surprise of the brave pioneer Sisters they found that the "savage women" made excellent nurses.

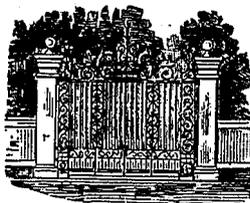
The chapter on "Early English Nursing" contains many interesting details, while the last one, on "The Dark Period of Nursing," is specially interesting, as showing the coincidence of the decline of nursing with the period of the almost complete subjection of women. The necessity for the control of nursing by nurses is the thread running through the book which it has been the object of this review to develop.

The scope of the first volume has, as far as possible, been indicated in the authors' own words, yet it seems to the reviewer that the merest surface of the book has been skimmed. It is a store-house of treasure in which to dig deep, a book to be bought, studied, and absorbed. Not the least of its delights are the illustrations which must be seen to be appreciated. A review of the second volume will appear next week.

M. B.

## Outside the Gates.

### WOMEN.



A petition received at the Comitia of the Royal College of Physicians, on May 9th last, from the London School of Medicine for Women, praying for the admission of women to the examinations of the College, was considered at an extraordinary Comitia on December 12th, and a resolution refusing the prayer was moved. An amendment to the effect that the bye-laws be so amended as to permit women to present themselves for the examination for the licence only was, after prolonged discussion, carried by 59 votes to 33. The hour being late, the discussion of this amendment, which had thus become the substantive motion, was adjourned. All this opposition to a fair field and no favour for women in medical practice is, after all, a conclusive compliment to their ability.

With all her statesmanlike qualities and faculty for ruling, Queen Victoria did not believe in the emancipation of her sex. The following story, told by Mr. George Russell in "A Pocketful of Sixpences," illustrates her attitude on the subject. Mr. Russell writes:—"It was perhaps remarkable that the lady who, by the necessities of her position, was by far the most active and powerful politician among English women should have been the most vehement opponent of Women's Rights. In 1870 a young matron, who bore a name highly honoured in English history, suddenly became conspicuous on political platforms, and the spectacle of her performances produced this remarkable protest:—"The Queen is most anxious to enlist everyone who can speak or write to join in checking this mad, wicked folly of "Women's Rights," with all its attendant horrors, on which her poor feeble sex is bent, forgetting every sense of womanly feeling and propriety. Lady — ought to get a good whipping. It is a subject which makes the Queen so furious that she cannot contain herself." Few of the most virulent anti-Suffragists in these days would be prepared to advocate the corporal punishment of women who demand the right to a voice in framing the laws they are compelled to obey. Let those who think the Women's Suffrage movement has made no progress take heart of grace.

Mrs. Despard, the hon. treasurer of the Women's Freedom League, received, like other householders, her income and inhabited house duty requisition form a few days ago. She has returned it to the collector and has written across it: "As taxation without representation is acknowledged in England to be a form of tyranny, I, being unrepresented, decline to pay this tax." Mrs. Despard adds: "I call upon all taxpaying women to follow my example."

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