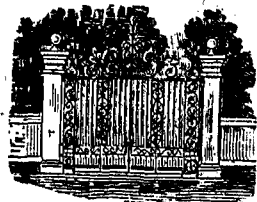


Outside the Gates.

WHAT TO DO WITH OUR GIRLS EXHIBITION.



days of adversity, and had no desire that other women should experience sufferings through poverty and dependence.

Now we have altered all that, and every sensible parent responsible for the future of daughters wisely provides that they shall study, or become expert in some remunerative branch of work, and it was to see all these bright and busy bees happily engaged in demonstrating their arts and occupations that we paid a visit to the "What to do with Our Girls Exhibition" now in full swing at Prince's Skating Rink, Knightsbridge, which will remain open until May 30th, and which visitors will find most interesting and instructive.

We were greatly impressed with the work of Mrs. Charles Muller—artist and organiser; a very rare combination. She has on view a case of her lovely work in enamels and jewellery. She has a furnace at her stall (13), where the art of enamelling on gold and silver can be watched in process. The jewels are of highly artistic design, and are immensely fashionable now that the public taste in personal adornment is so highly cultivated.

At Stall 111, Mrs. T. E. Cope has on view specimens of her fine silver, copper, and pewter repoussé work. She has evidently the real forcible craftsman touch, her work is strong and fine. A coal-bucket, an exact copy of one dating from the reign of Queen Anne—and bold and beautiful in design, made in a combination of copper and brass, would be quite in the right place amongst the furniture of the "walnut" period, now the ambition of all lovers of the antique. Some very fine alms dishes were displayed from Saxon designs. Mrs. Cope made the alms dish for the Bishop of Southwark, and carries off first prize in metal work wherever she competes.

As for the home, no one need have an ugly house in these days, however undeveloped their instincts, if only they will place themselves in the hands of the artistic lady decorator. At Stall 61 "Anne Austen Ltd." shows exquisite old chintz curtains of pink water lily design, quite inimitable in colouring, beautiful wall papers, and fine bric-à-brac. "Anne" is evidently a practical as well as tasteful lady, as she sells her own furniture polish, made after an eighteenth century formula, which is guaranteed to preserve the fine hand-polish on old wood, and not to stain or bleach it, as so many cheap decoctions do.

Miss Falcke, one of the most successful lady dealers in antiques, shows at Stall 38 a lovely selection of old lace, fans, bead bags, and empire combs. These works of art are beautifully arranged in a glass case, and can be depended on as "genuine old."

We greatly admired the china painting of Miss Mary Moncrieff at Stall 18. Sets of the loveliest buttons, umbrella handles, paper knives, and boxes, were mostly decorated with flowers, in brilliant and charming combinations of colour. The price charged is most reasonable for such good work.

Women are never too old to love dolls, and the stall (203) of Miss Flora de Rheims was alive with the most daintily dressed dollies we ever saw. The designs are patented, and well they may be, or we should all try to copy them. The exquisite fairies with silver wings, Little Red Riding Hood with her basket, My Pretty Maid with her pail, and the sweetest of babes in long clothes. Many of these delightful dolls have found their way into hospital wards, and some are specially designed for Christmas trees.

Of needlework there was a fine display. Ribbon work and embroideries, and the fine needlework of the Women's Social Work of the Salvation Army merited great praise. The Church Army also shows what it can do. Weaving and spinning, water gilding, artificial fly-tying, embossed leather work, wood carving, fan painting, and painting on velvet and satin are all on view, and have all been carried to great perfection by women.

The sun bonnets of "Elizabeth" (147) were too cunning, made in muslin and lawn with wide ribbon strings. Nothing could be more charming for garden wear, and, peeping out of her special Scotch bonnet, or "mutch," no face could fail to be comely.

Cakes, confectionery, and sweets were displayed in tempting piles. Mrs. Vidal kept quite a crowd interested and amused dipping nougat into a pan of chocolate, from which she rescued it most scientifically, placing it to harden on paper near by. Mrs. Vidal is a "sweet" artist, most patient and charming in explaining her methods, and the tints and taste of her crystallised bon-bons must insure their being sold by the ton.

The Mercia Steriliser invented by Miss Edith Bradley, one of our most successful horticulturists, and her system of bottling whole fruit, has but to be known to be widely used; and of gardening, donkey, dog, and chicken rearing, kennel-maids and other open-air invigorating occupations for girls, much might be written.

Last, but not least, is not a thing of beauty, a joy for ever, and whilst hustling in this rough and tumble world do not let our girls forget they must retain refinement and charm. Crude paints and

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