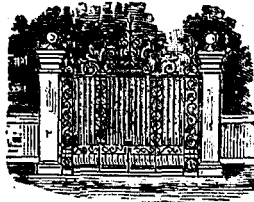


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



On Thursday, July 2nd, Mr. O'Neill presented a Bill in the House of Commons to provide for the Registration of Teachers of Music, which was read a first time.

The Women's Local Government Society have just published a leaflet in regard to registration in England and Wales, showing how a woman claiming to be registered must be qualified as occupier, either as owner or tenant. The leaflet also gives details of qualifications of women candidates for election to a county council, town council, London borough council, urban district council, rural district council, parish council, and board of guardians. This helpful information can be obtained from 17, Tothill Street, Westminster, S.W., price 4d. per dozen, or 2s. a hundred, postage extra.

Since our last issue a number of earnest women Suffragists have been sent to Holloway for agitating for the vote. The tyrannical part of the business is emphasised by their being treated like common criminals instead of political prisoners. However, we may console ourselves that John Burns marched through "durance vile" to a seat in the Cabinet.

A juror recently made a successful objection to service at the Old Bailey. The jury were being sworn to try several prisoners, including a woman, when one of the jurors, addressing the Recorder, said: "My lord, I have a very strong objection to serving to try a woman. I am a free man, and until women have a voice in making the laws under which they are tried I object to trying a woman or women."

At a Conference of the Association of Lady Visitors to Prisons, which took place recently at the Home Office, under the presidency of Adeline Duchess of Bedford, she stated that the lady visitors, who numbered about 160, had, during the past year, paid 3,253 visits to the gaols and had interviewed 15,431 prisoners. They had given lectures on moral and useful subjects in 28 prisons, and the results had everywhere been highly satisfactory. It was regretted that the lectures, which had proved so useful and acceptable, were not more frequent and continuous.

Mr. Herbert Samuel, M.P., Under Secretary for Home Affairs, expressed high appreciation of the services which the lady visitors had rendered in the prisons, and remarked with satisfaction that it was one of the features of the time that the State and the voluntary institutions, instead of standing aloof from each other as they did formerly, were joining in mutual help, the State calling to its aid

philanthropy, and philanthropy doing its best to assist the State. He pointed out that lady visitors could co-operate with the State and afford most useful and acceptable help in carrying out many of the provisions of the Children's Bill.

For the first time on record no woman was sentenced to penal servitude in Scotland last year. The Scottish police report, issued recently, makes that statement. The sentences of penal servitude on men nearly doubled.

Life histories of prisoners are given, from which it appears that about one-half lost a parent when young, and were thus neglected. The fathers were practically divided into tradesmen or labourers, but the report deduces that not restricted means, but environment, must be responsible for the lapse of the children.

At the first sitting of the Congress held recently in Paris, on the Civil Rights and Suffrage of Women, Mme. Bogelot, the great prison reformer, said that their main object was the ennoblement of mankind, and that, if women claimed to be the equals of men, it was only for carrying that great aim the better into effect. Amongst the questions discussed were the status of natural children and the rights of the mother.

Book of the Week.

THE ANCIENT LAW.*

"The Ancient Law," by Ellen Glasgow, is a book to be read and revelled in. It is a beautiful bit of writing—a wonderful character study. "You are reading it for the first time," one says to a friend, "Oh, I envy you!" That is the kind of book it is, and it is something more, for it bears reading again, and probably the second time there is the subtler enjoyment because one discovers new points which, in the eagerness to discover how the plot will end, one had missed before.

When we first meet Daniel Ordway he is tramping his way to freedom after five years of convict life. And we like him on the instant, no matter what he has done. It is not merely his outer appearance—"he might have been either a gentleman who had turned tramp, or a tramp who had been born to look a gentleman," says his chronicler. "Though he was barely above medium height, his figure produced even in repose an impression of great muscular strength, and the impression was repeated in his large, regular, and singularly expressive features." That description is both telling and taking; it expresses at once a personality. But there is more than this to attract us to Daniel Ordway. In the very first paragraph of the book our author contrives to give us a sense of this man's outlook, and—whatever his past—that outlook is a wide and a good one.

The fact is not blinked that Ordway richly deserved his term of imprisonment—it is no case of the innocent suffering unjustly. We begin with

* By Ellen Glasgow. (Constable.)

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)