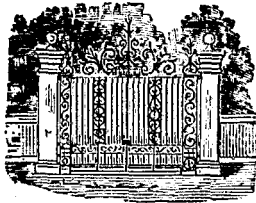


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN



The Conference of the National Union of Women Workers, which has been in session in Aberdeen during the present week, has been an unqualified success. In addition to the Conference meetings, the "Silver City" and its surroundings have proved of great interest to the visitors, and the decision to hold the Conference in this northern city has proved a wise and popular one.

An interesting National Conference on the industrial training of women and girls, organised by the Women's Industrial Council, and attended by nearly 300 delegates, was held at the Guildhall last week. The Lord Mayor attended in State, and presided at the opening of the proceedings in the morning, after which he vacated the chair in favour of Miss N. Adler, who gave an address on "Trade Training of Girls," in which she contended that the subject of women's industry received far too little attention. Miss Clementina Black complained of the diversion of a number of charitable endowments, intended for trade teaching, and Mrs. Pember Reeves contended that better industrial training was of no value to the worker unless backed up by legislation to maintain the wage level.

At the afternoon session Mrs. Ramsay Macdonald presided, and the Conference discussed "Industrial Training for unemployed women dependent on their own earnings," and later under the presidency of the Hon. Mrs. Franklin the "Training of Working Class Girls as Children's Nurses" was discussed.

The annual Conference of the National Federation of Women Workers was held at the Holborn Town Hall last Saturday, Miss Mary Macarthur, president, occupying the chair. A resolution was adopted calling on the Government immediately to introduce a Bill for the Establishment of Wages Boards and to fix a legal minimum wage in selected industries, and expressing the opinion that no such Bill would be satisfactory or workable unless it applied to factory workers as well as to home workers.

Miss Balkwill, one of the two lady members of the Hampstead Borough Council, was unanimously adopted on Saturday as the Progressive candidate for the Hampstead seat on the London County Council vacant by the death of Mr. John T. Taylor.

The Registrar-General's report for Scotland for the year 1906 just issued shows that marriages are

contracted at all ages. The return shows that four spinsters married at 15 and 40 at 16, one widow contracted a second marriage at 17, and three spinsters between 60 and 70 married bachelors, while ten between 60 and 65 married widowers.

The Council of Ministers in Russia has empowered the Minister of Public Instruction to forbid women to attend university lectures in future, and to permit those to complete their studies at universities who have already received permission and whose transfer to higher educational institutions for women is impossible. The number of women at present in Russia who are permitted to attend university lectures is about 2,130.

Book of the Week.

DIANA MALLORY.*

Mrs. Humphrey Ward's name is sufficient guarantee that we have before us an eminently readable book. Her subject is always well thought out and artistically dealt with, but never before has she given us such a lovable heroine: such a large-hearted woman, with a keen, kindly interest in all around her, but also with a fine intellectual power.

The book is largely political, but politics presented to us in such a form as to make the novel pleasant and easy reading.

As is not unusual with her the author leaves us in some doubt as to what her own views are, she is so absolutely fair, showing the merits and the faults on both sides. On one point one is, however, quite clear: she has drawn Diana's character with so loving a hand that one knows she prefers the woman whose womanliness dominates her politics to the woman who allows every feeling to be submerged by her devotion to her "Party."

Diana is introduced to us at the age of twenty-two. Living abroad with her father till his death, she comes to England where she takes an old house in the country. Imbued by him with an Ideal Imperialism which spells Patriotism, she finds herself shortly staying with Lady Lucy Marsham, the mother of the Liberal Member. Here she is surrounded by a set of men and opinions that have never entered her life before, and we find her launched on a spirited argument with a Labour Member. How she routs him, and is herself worsted by Oliver Marsham is amusingly told. We are not left long in doubt as to his feelings—their very disparity of opinions is in a way a mutual attraction, and she returns his love in no stinted measure. But at the very moment of greatest happiness tragedy steps in—he learns for the first time that her father changed his name from Sparling many years before in inheriting Mallory property, and with horror Oliver realises that she is the daughter of Juliet Sparling, a woman whose name all England once rang in a terrible

* By Mrs. Humphrey Ward. (Smith, Elder, and Co.)

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