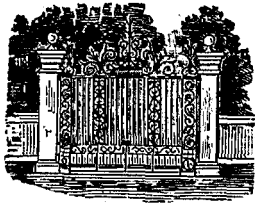


## Outside the Gates.



## WOMEN.

For the first time in the history of the Oxford Union Society the members last week were addressed by a lady, Mrs. Millicent Garrett Fawcett, LL.D., taking part in the debate on Woman Suffrage. The President, Mr. M. H. Richmond, New College, occupied the chair, and the large debating hall was crowded. The motion was brought forward by Mr. R. A. Knox, of Balliol, son of the Bishop of Manchester, who asked the house to affirm that the time had come when the Government should be urged to remove the electoral disabilities of women. Mrs. Fawcett made a finely-reasoned speech, which was received with cheers, and on a division 329 voted for the motion and 360 against; it was therefore lost by 31. The result was a real victory for the University that nearly half of "Young Oxford" should hold such enlightened views.

At the Annual Conference of the National Union of Conservative and Constitutional Associations, at Cardiff last week, Mr. L. C. Tipper (Moseley) moved a resolution in support of the claim of women possessing the right to vote at county, municipal, and parish council elections to have their names entered on the register of Parliamentary voters. The resolution was carried after considerable support had been accorded it, as well as the inevitable opposition.

The twenty-fourth meeting of Fellows and members of the Royal College of Surgeons was held on November 19th. Mr. Henry Morris in the chair. Mr. J. Smith moved a resolution thanking the council for having taken a poll of the members on the question of the admission of women to the college diplomas, but expressing regret that the council found itself unable to abide by the result, and trusting that the council will shortly take a further poll of the Fellows and members on the question of direct representation of members on the College Council. The resolution was carried almost unanimously. Dr. W. G. Dickinson thereupon moved: "That this meeting is of opinion that women, when admitted to the diplomas of the college, should have equal rights with men." This was also carried.

The Night Shelter for Women and Girls, which has been established by Mrs. Archibald MacKirdy, and which will be under the direction of Mrs. Bramwell Booth, of the Salvation Army, is to cost £10,000, and the Duchess of Albany has headed the subscription list with a donation of 25 guineas. Mr. John De Kay, President of the Mexican Packing Company, has given a first instalment of £250, and promises further help. A small shelter of 40 beds is to be provided immediately, and we do not doubt will prove an immense boon to those who seek its aid.

## Book of the Week.

## THE GREAT MISS DRIVER\*

As the title implies, the central figure is Jenny Driver, a curious psychological study of the dual heredity which every human being in greater or less degree is bound to possess. In this case the two personalities are both strongly marked and ever at warfare.

The keen business mind and dogged determination inherited from her father, and the somewhat lawless impulsive nature which came from her mother, make it impossible for those around the great Miss Driver to guess how she is likely to act.

The plot is original, and the varied characterisation well sustained throughout the story. Mr. Anthony Hope is always a past master in innuendo, often telling as much by what he leaves out as by what he puts in.

The story is told by Miss Driver's private secretary, Austin Austin, so skilfully that the thread of the interest is never broken. Austin, luckily, is a modest man, and does not weary the reader by laying undue stress upon his own performances.

Jenny Driver, the only child of Nicholas Driver, who began life as a tanner and ended a millionaire, is a remarkable character, possessing a strong fascination for all who come into contact with her.

Very slight mention is made of her mother, save that she left her husband when Jenny was three years old. Her father never saw her after that, having her brought up away from his own home; not till his death, when she was past twenty, did she know what a large fortune she might expect. Her dominant nature at once asserted itself; she assumed complete control over her fortune and everyone connected with her—everyone except herself. Here her impulsive nature and determination to have everything her own way too often drove her into doing things to her own hurt. It is throughout a clever and subtle study of a strong woman's temperament, with its great capabilities and its many inconsistencies.

Like her father before her, she wished to dominate the county, and might have succeeded in doing so had not love proved stronger than ambition.

Leonard Octon, with a nature even more forceful than her own, appealed to her far more than Lord Fillingford, the county magnate who offered his name and high position in exchange for her fortune, with which he hoped to restore the former glories of his house. The reticence with which the scene is given when Lord Fillingford discovered that though engaged to him it was Octon Jenny cared for, is masterly.

There are many other well drawn, interesting characters. Fillingford's son, Lord Lacy, is a fine young fellow, true to himself, at the same time loyal to his father. Lady Sarah, his aunt, a typical county great lady, understanding no language but that of her own caste. Mr. Alison, the rector, is very cleverly drawn, his office and his kindly heart so often at variance. In her dealings

\* By Anthony Hope. (Methuen.)

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