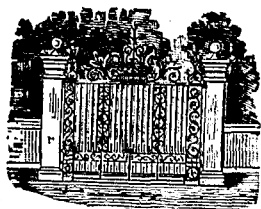


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



Amongst the New Year Indian Honours, the King included three women, awarding them the "Kaisar-i-Hind Medal for Public Service in India of the First Class." The ladies thus honoured are Mrs. Amina Hydari, wife of M. A. Hydari, Esq., Financial Secretary, Hyderabad; Mrs. Surojini Naidu, wife of Captain M. G. Naidu, Principal Medical Officer, Golconda Brigade, his Highness the Nizam's Forces; and Mrs. Fanny Walker, wife of George Casson Walker, Esq., C.S.I., Indian Civil Service, Assistant Minister, Finance, Hyderabad State.

Most of the Acts that came into force on January 1st are of a minor character. The following specially affect women:—The Married Women's Property Act renders a married woman who has separate property subject to the same liability for the maintenance of her parents as a *femme sole* has hitherto been. This Act applies only to England and Wales. Under the Naval Marriages Act it will now be possible to publish banns and to issue certificates on board his Majesty's ships for the marriage in the United Kingdom of officers, seamen, or Marines borne on the books of such ships.

One of the advantages of including women on committees has been, in the case of the Report of the Truck Committee, that the public has had a minority report from Mrs. H. J. Tennant and Mr. Stephen Walsh, M.P., and, as a contemporary remarks, it is "more remarkable for the recommendations of the minority than for the quieter proposals of the majority." The minority would, amongst other things, prohibit by law disciplinary fees, the living-in system, the bonus system, deductions in respect of the supply of tools, etc., of medical attendance, and of the use of mess-rooms provided by the employer, the use of which should be optional, and paid for at the time. They also recommend that the powers of factory inspectors with regard to the enforcement of the Truck Acts should extend not only to docks and warehouses, but to other work places subject to inspection by those inspectors, and lastly, that local authorities should be placed under a statutory obligation to appoint inspectors for the enforcement of the Truck Acts.

As Chairman of the Women's Work Committee, under the Central (Unemployed) Body for London, Mrs. Tennant ably defends the workrooms from the charge made by Sir William Chance, that they are uneconomic. There are, she says, three courses open in the case of starving, unemployed women—they must starve, or go to the workhouse, or be helped under the Unemployed Workmen's Act. The latter alternative is preferred by Mrs.

Tennant, who says, "There is much sweated uneconomic labour performed by women for the State which our unemployed women might economically discharge, and in discharging achieve the double good of diminishing sweating and relieving unemployment."

After a protracted discussion, the Bermondsey Borough Council have decided to appoint Miss E. M. Clibbers, at present sanitary inspector under the Sheffield Corporation, as their first woman health visitor. Several councillors opposed the creation of the new office on the ground that it would interfere with the voluntary agencies at work amongst the poor of Bermondsey and Rotherhithe. Alderman Tyler, who objected to women being employed to do the work of men, said that a friend of his engaged a number of women clerks for his office, but he quickly dispensed with their services as they occupied nearly the whole of their time in scrutinising their features in the mirrors.

Book of the Week.

"THE WATERS OF JORDAN."*

That Mr. Vachell intends to convey a deep moral lesson in his last most interesting work no one reading the book can doubt. The subject chosen is not a wholly pleasant one, but the author deals with it in so restrained and delicate a manner that the finest sensibilities need not be shocked.

Mr. Vachell expresses his sentiments early in the book quite clearly and succinctly: "The horrors of an illicit relation ought to be preached from every pulpit, made plain to every school boy and school girl. From every point of view—the Christian, the pagan, the materialist's, the hedonist's—what was to be gained from such a connection except misery, humiliation, and disgrace."

We are too apt to accept the oft repeated statement: "It is the woman who pays": so doubtless she does, and generally most heavily, but Mr. Vachell credits his own sex with sufficient decency of feeling and sense of moral responsibility to represent the man as suffering as acutely: in the case of Hugo Charteris far more so than the woman. The study of his character is excellent. From the moment when we first meet him, just leaving the Court where he has filled the degrading position of co-respondent, we see a man of rare generosity which in the present instance leads him to shoulder the whole blame. A reckless pity for an utterly worthless woman had, in the first place, been his undoing.

His absolute honesty with himself and his realisation of the worthlessness of his conduct appeal strongly to one's sympathy.

Leaving London, with all its possibilities of amusement for a man of means, for six months he buries himself in the Forest of Ys, leading the simple life of the rural neighbourhood. In Jordan Cottage, so named from the stream that runs be-

* By H. A. Vachell. (John Murray.)

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