

OUTSIDE THE GATES WOMEN.

Her Majesty the Queen has issued the following appeal to the Presidents of "Queen Mary's Needlework Guild":—

"I appeal to all Presidents of the Needlework Guilds throughout the British Isles, to organize a large collection of garments for those who will suffer on account of the war, and I appeal to all women who are in a position to do so, to aid the Guilds with their work"

"It should be remembered that all flannel garments should be made in large size, and suitable paper patterns can be obtained from Butterick, 175, Regent Street."

These patterns are supplied free on request.

As our readers are aware in order to deal with the distress arising in consequence of the War, steps are being taken by the Local Government Board to form central committees in the boroughs, the larger urban districts, and the counties, under the chairmanship of the mayors and chairmen of councils, which will consider the needs of the localities and control the distribution of such relief as may be required. These committees will include representatives of the municipal, education, and poor-law authorities, distress committees, trade unions and philanthropic agencies.

The circular which is being sent out by the Board in this connection provides space for reporting the names of "special women's organizations" and it is at the same time specified that a return must be made of the number of women on the Committee. The Women's Local Government Society, 19, Tothill Street, Westminster, which is always on the alert where the interests of women are concerned, urges its members to use all the influence in their power to secure the services of the most suitable women on their local committees.

The objects of the Local Associations affiliated to the Women's Local Government Society are (1) To promote among women the study of their duty as citizens, and to encourage women electors to use their votes for the promotion of good local government; (2) to help qualified women to get their names placed on the register; (3) to promote the return of suitable women as members of local governing bodies; (4) to watch the action and study the bye-laws of local Councils and Boards of Guardians; (5) to promote the appointment of women as Sanitary Inspectors, Relieving Officers, and for other administrative purposes; (6) to support the efforts of the Women's Local Government Society for the United Kingdom. The Associations manage their own affairs and may apply for affiliation to the Central Society as soon as they have a membership of 25 and are formally constituted.

The County and Borough Councils (Qualification) Bill which is for England and Wales, and

the County, Town, and Parish Councils (Qualification) (Scotland) Bill have now passed through all stages in Parliament and await the Royal Assent. It is hoped that some suitable women who have the residential qualification will find it possible even this year to avail themselves of the valuable opportunity for social service created by the new legislation.

A contemporary states that the commission for municipal hospitals and public hygiene in Berlin has accepted a proposition of the Berlin social women workers to establish a systematic social service by experienced women in all hospitals. These women will visit the hospitals on certain days to learn from poor patients (and, if needed, from the nurses and physicians) if their families are, on account of the present sickness, in need of assistance, or if they themselves need aid or advice concerning work on leaving the hospital. If patients are indigent women with children, the latter will be placed in homes until the mother is again able to take care of them.

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

"CAPTIVATING MARY CARSTAIRS."*

We expect great things from the author of "Queed" and "V. V. Eyes," and we have to own that his latest work does not come up to the fascination of its predecessors. This is perhaps accounted for by the fact that it is really a reprint of an edition published pseudonymously some years ago; and is, as Mr. Harrison explains in a note, his first effort at a long story. It is widely different from the other books that so charmed us, and is more of the adventurous type.

Mary's father and mother are divorced. Her father greatly desires to share her company from time to time. Her mother is quite willing to grant this favour, but the young lady herself declines the privilege. Varney, her father's friend, pitying the old man's loneliness, has pledged himself to give him his desire. How is it to be done? He consults Peter Maginnis, whose love of adventure is well known.

"There is the situation. Mary won't come to see him by herself. Mrs. Carstairs won't bring Mary to see him, and she won't let him come and see Mary—well, what remains?"

"No force is to be used," said Peter. "May I ask just how you expect to get Mary on the choo-choo?"

"Now we are getting to the meat of the matter. We shall not have to get Mary on the choo-choo at all. We are going to use a yacht, which will be far more easy and pleasant, and also far easier to get people on."

Varney reckoned Mary to be about twelve years old, and there he made his great mistake; for

* By Henry Sydnor Harrison. Constable & Co., London.

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