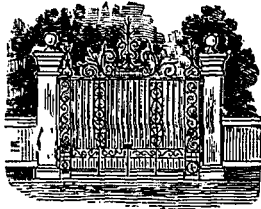


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



INFORMAL Lectures, or "Talks," with lime-light effects, are being made a special feature of their educational programme by the London Young Women's Christian Association. The evening classes will be continued, but the design of these lectures is to bring a fresh interest to bear upon literature, history, art, our museums, and our picture galleries. The titles of twenty-four lectures are given including "Landmarks of Modern History," "The Tower and its Tragedies," "The Pictures of the National Gallery," "Women as Citizens," &c. Miss Graham, Secretary of the Educational Department, and other ladies will deliver the lectures at several institutes in various parts of London. The prospectus contains much information, especially useful to young women, and may be had free from the Secretary, 16A, Old Cavendish Street, W.

A Glasgow paper expresses itself as follows on the subject of cigarettes and the "new woman." "Feminine indulgence in the weed which soothes—a habit which may be said to have originated in the boudoirs of the wealthy—is becoming amazingly popular among all classes, and our friends of the anti-tobacco crusade may soon be expected to give up the struggle and disband in despair. A tobacconist friend assures me that the consumption of cigarettes among the working girls of Glasgow has increased in a wonderful degree within the last six months, and that a few favoured shops now depend on this for no inconsiderable part of their business. When the dainty cigarette cannot be obtained, it would seem as though the female palate could adapt itself to the plebeian clay, for I passed a group of women, old and young, in Glasgow Green the other morning, and all of them were smoking villainous tobacco from clay pipes."

So many papers have fallen into the error of supposing that smoking, among women, is a "new habit" which has some connection with "advancement," cycling and feminine "emancipation." Now, on the contrary, it is the oldest of old customs, and instead of being, as this Scotch newspaper avers, a something which "originated in the boudoirs of the wealthy," it has filtered up to them from the working classes. Some twenty years ago in Ireland, in Scotland and in some parts of England, it was almost as much a habit among old working women to smoke as among the men, and then it partly died out and has now reappeared on a different plane. There are a good many women at present, anxious to get the reputation of being clever without much effort. It is so much easier to gain this reputation by smoking a cigarette or adopting some *ir-rational* dress than to earn it by intellectual or other effort. And from this curious confusion of ideas, that *because* a woman smokes, dresses in a remarkable manner, or rides a "bike," that she is necessarily clever, has arisen a great deal of the material by which the comic paper lives

Lady Henry Somerset, owing to increasing public work, has relinquished the co-editorship of the *Woman's Signal*. On account of the recent engagement of her son to a daughter of the Duke of St. Albans, Lady Henry has postponed her intended visit to India.

One of the "burning questions" at present among women who value social purity—and most women are beginning to awaken to a sense of their responsibility on this subject—is the re-awakening of the Empire Theatre question arising through the matter of licenses. The County Council has been hampered in their public duty by the greed of shareholders of the Empire, who are willing and eager to take their 70 per cent. profit, arising through the traffic in women, which is carried on at these places. A dividend of 70 per cent. cannot be declared on any moral transaction, and it is only by encouraging drink and its accompanying horrors, as seen at these Metropolitan Music Halls, that such profits *can* be realised.

The "Revolt of the Daughters" has taken a new form in a little village, significantly named "Freeport," which is a short distance from New York City, where considerable excitement prevails over an order issued by School Principal W. C. Olney that all the pupils must be vaccinated before the school opens. The larger girls who attend school object. Some of them go to balls and parties during the winter months, and wear low neck dresses and short sleeves. Principal Olney says he is carrying out the instructions of the School Board, and it is understood the Board will see that the order is rigidly obeyed. Several Freeport families will refuse to obey, and have consulted Counsellor Lyon, of Rockville, who has advised them that forcible vaccination constitutes an assault. Unless the order is rescinded there promises to be a merry little war in the village.

A good story is going the round of the South African papers concerning Mrs. Grosvenor Darke, of Swaziland. During the late scare at the period of the annexation of the country by the Transvaal, Mrs. Darke refused to leave Darkton, the residence of her husband. Upon one occasion some of the men of the place were shooting at a bottle placed on a rock a hundred yards away, and during the shooting Mrs. Darke appeared on the scene. A young tenderfoot remarked that women were a nuisance at times like those, when every person should be able to handle a rifle, and that in the event of real fighting the presence of Mrs. Darke would hamper the men. The lady in question apparently overheard the remark, for a moment afterwards she borrowed a heavy sporting rifle from one of the shooters and broke the bottle with her first shot, and, moreover, went on to do it three times out of five. Then, handing the rifle to the tenderfoot, she said, with a charming smile, "Now, sir, let us see who would be the most use in *real trouble*." The young man accepted the challenge, but did not succeed in touching the bottle in eight shots!

* DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.
DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.
DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.
DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEAS.
In sealed packets and tins only.
2s. 6d. to 4s. per lb. Of Leading Grocers Everywhere.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)