

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



At the recent Conference of the National Union of Women Workers held at Nottingham, some important sociological problems interesting to women were discussed.

Miss Pycroft, of the London County Council, introduced a discussion on women's branches of Technical Instruction, such as cooking, domestic economy, laundry work, nursing, &c. She drew attention to the difficulty of obtaining clever, capable teachers in these subjects, but as she stated later on that the Council paid only £90 a year, with an extra £5 annually, it is no marvel that "clever, capable women" take their brains to another market. Dr. K. M. Hunter deprecated the employment of young and inexperienced girls as teachers of nursing and hygiene, and desired to see a higher standard.

Mrs. Anstey Wood spoke of the teaching of dress-making, and complained that in this department also unqualified teachers had been employed, with more or less failure as a natural result. So that it would appear in all departments of Technical Instruction the County Councils must look to it that the teaching they provide is good in quality and up to the requirements of modern progress.

In the discussion on the Legal Regulation of Women's Work, Mrs. Amie Hicks pleaded eloquently in favour of legislation to protect the poor and helpless even against themselves. Overwork was wrong in principle. Who would, she asked, work twenty hours a day if they could help it? She urged every woman to be sure that her business and pleasures were not purchased at the cost of the lives and health and honour of those who provided them.

The paper by Mrs. Henry Fawcett on Women's Suffrage brought out some strong views. She said that the change she advocated was strictly in consonance with the womanly character and with the performance of womanly duties. The existing male voters were now rather more than six millions. The measure she advocated would place one woman voter on the register to every six men, and the country, in its electoral capacity, would thus get its "ounce of mother."

Women's work in country villages developed some very interesting and important matter. The subject was opened by Lady Battersea, who dealt with temperance work in grouped villages. She said that, "until now, the drunkards' hospital had been the jail, the magistrate his physician, the warder his nurse. Convalescence was not a marked characteristic of this treatment, rather a recrudescence of the attack."

Mrs. Wodehouse, of Gotham, read a paper on "What a Woman can do in a Country Village," and pointed out what might be done to relieve the mono-

tony of the lives of village workers in the way of clothing clubs, mothers' meetings, working parties, lending libraries, seaside trips, &c.

Altogether from such conferences as these held at Nottingham, women's position and scope becomes well defined, new views are expressed and progress thus advanced.

A deputation of ladies representing the "National British Women's Temperance Association" on Wednesday waited on Madame Antoinette Sterling in London, to present her, on behalf of the Branches of the Association, with a heart-shaped brooch composed of diamonds, to which was attached a bow of white ribbon, the official badge of the Society. The gift, which was accompanied by a book, containing a list of the Branches contributing, was a small token of the love and esteem in which Madame Antoinette Sterling is held by British women in whose interests she has so often given her valuable services. The presentation was made by Mrs. Pearsall Smith, Hon. Recording Secretary of the B.W.T.A., accompanied by Mrs. Bailhache, Mrs. Paddon and Mrs. Hooper, who expressed the grateful thanks of the Association to Madame Antoinette Sterling for her kindness on many occasions, when by her singing she has rendered inestimable service to the White Ribbon cause, and especially for her help at the great International meetings last June. Madame Antoinette Sterling sails for America shortly, and will doubtless receive a warm welcome from American White Ribboners.

A series of meetings are taking place this week in Plymouth under the auspices of the "National British Women's Temperance Association." Miss Agnes Weston, President of the Plymouth Branch, and Mrs. Long, Secretary, superintend the local arrangements. The meetings were as follows: Monday, October 28th, Bible reading conducted by Mrs. Pearsall Smith (H.W.S.), School of Methods and a grand Temperance Demonstration, at which Lady Henry Somerset spoke; Tuesday, October 29th, a Public Conference; and Wednesday, October 30th, Meeting of the National Executive Committee. Religious Services have been organised by Miss Gorham (Supt. Evangelistic Dept., B.W.T.A.) in twenty Chapels and Public Halls on Sunday.

A determined meeting of women barbers was held lately at Ulich's Hall by the women barbers of Chicago. An attempt had been made to begin a crusade against them by their male rivals, who are trying to oust them from their pursuit. Miss Ollie Lee, the leader, announced herself opposed to the action of the Council, which had proposed an ordinance debarring them from the business. She said the women would endorse Sunday closing, but they would not be deprived of the means they had chosen for making a living.

"Barbering" is not the most pleasant occupation that could be chosen, and it is difficult to sympathise with any woman wishing to follow so crude a business. But at the same time, while it is not pleasant that women should do such work, no council of men has a right to try and debar them from getting their living in such a way.

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