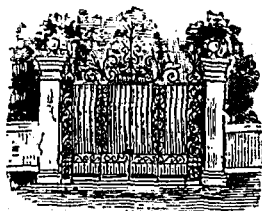


## Outside the Gates.

### WOMEN.



THE Executive Committee of the National Union of Women Workers have in contemplation the formation of several new sub-committees, to deal exclusively with women's interests. At the quarterly meeting held last week, it was decided to form a new sub-committee, with the object of obtaining reliable information in regard to the civil, religious, and educational condition of the women of India, and the distant colonies of the British Empire.

French women are still legally enslaved under the infamous "Code Napoleon," and we British women are therefore somewhat inclined to imagine that as a nation they are less mentally alert than ourselves. This is an error; our French sisters are making rapid progressive studies, and the greatest evidence of this is the fact that they have recognized the power of the press much more effectually than we have in England.

A few weeks ago the *Fronde* appeared—a paper written and produced by women—and it has already succeeded marvellously, as it deals with matters of real importance, political and social, and is not, as are the majority of our women's papers—full of fashions and trash; and now two new papers, actively produced by women, are to see the light in Paris. The first has for title, *Régénération*, and will be the organ of the Protestant population. The second is to be called the *Française*, and will speak for the noble dames of the Faubourg Saint-Germain. The Duchesse d'Uzès is one of the principal promoters of the venture.

When shall we British women have the energy to bring out a daily paper devoted to the real interests of our sex? Until we do, we must cease preening ourselves upon our intellectual superiority to the women of other nations. The truth is that our wealth and the vulgarity which results from ostentatious living is largely responsible for the wave of inertia by which we are at present submerged.

A petition has been prepared on behalf of the Marriage Law Reform Association by Mr. Allen T. Paynter, secretary of that body, for presentation to the Queen at the opening of Parliament, praying her Majesty to exercise her "gracious and powerful sympathy" in forwarding by whatever means may be considered constitutional and possible a settlement of this question in the interests of tens of thousands of families. The memorial, in a very comprehensive and forcible manner, puts the case in favour of the deceased wife's sister, whose cause has been before the country and Parliament for so many years. The petition is being circulated broadcast throughout the United Kingdom.

We should like to draw attention to the fact, that at the Salvation Army Needlework Home at Walthamstow, needlework of all kind, including plain dress-

making, is undertaken. We are informed that the work is beautifully done, so that nurses may have the benefit of getting their uniform and underlinen made at moderate prices, and at the same time of helping on a charitable work. A price list will be sent on application to The Warden, Clock House, Whips Cross, Walthamstow. Miss Bennett, who superintends the home, has undertaken the entire financial responsibility.

The *Woman's Signal* says:—"Het Loo, in Gelderland, is Queen Wilhelmina's favourite home. It is a lovely country estate not far from Apeldoorn. The house is a big old Dutch mansion on the edge of a wood. She has here a miniature farm, which she has learned to superintend for all the world as if she were destined to be a model Dutch housewife. She gives the produce of this little farm to the poor, and to neighbouring hospitals. She has a flower garden which she tends during her residence at Het Loo."

Signora Duse, the great Italian actress, has received remarkable ovations and elegant gifts from the ladies of Rome.

The process of canonization of Joan of Arc is approved by the French Government and by the Vatican. She is our favourite heroine in history.

The leading unions of women teachers in Berlin have petitioned the Municipality to appoint a lady doctor for the female officials, as they object to being under the care of a male practitioner.

## A Book of the Week.

### "THE WAR OF THE WORLDS."\*

THIS truly astonishing achievement in the way of fictional literature, which has been running serially in *Pearson's*, is at last issued in complete form. Everyone who read "The Time Machine" or "The Invisible Man," will be prepared for something good in the way of a scientific fairy tale, but this one far excels any preceding work of Mr. Wells. It is a wonderful book in every way.

One has, to start with, to grant an impossibility, or what most people call an impossibility, namely, that an invasion of the earth from the planet Mars actually happens. Is anything impossible? What would have been said to me five years ago if I had written a novel concerning a man who introduced a new form of light which enabled him to see through a brick wall? If once you admit that it is even barely possible that dwellers in Mars could travel here, in some interplanetary conveyance, there is absolutely nothing in the whole account which strains probability. Mr. Wells enjoys the exceptional advantage of having been scientifically trained—of knowing just what is essential to the success of such a book as he has written. The general effect is powerful in the extreme.

The Martians arrive in cylinders, which fall at various points in this little island of ours. To those who are familiar with the Thames at Shepperton and Weybridge, with the Woking district, and the route thence to London, the vividness and reality of it all is nothing

\* "The War of the Worlds." By H. G. Wells. (W. Heinemann.)

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