

Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



The Tzarina of Russia has been suffering with an attack of measles, upon which, unfortunately, supervened a slight inflammation of the lungs, but it is satisfactory to learn that Her Majesty is already recovering. Russia has much to hope from this singularly beautiful woman. Every evidence is forthcoming that her mind and character are of the highest order, and that she resembles in a marked degree her saintly mother, the late Princess Alice.

The Empress of Austria having offered to sell her palace and estate at Akilleion, Corfu, on very favourable terms, to the Byron Society, steps are now being taken to raise funds for the purpose of purchasing the property, and founding an orphanage for Greek children, as a national memorial to Lord Byron. What an ideal place this would be for such a purpose only those who have driven from the town of Corfu along the winding sea-girt road, hedged with roses in full bloom, can realize.

A discussion has lately taken place in the House of Commons, on that relic of barbarism, the Ladies' Gallery, and the subject was, as are all allusions to women in the House, treated with unbecoming levity. One often wonders if, as a class, the mothers, wives, and sisters of M.P.'s are more degraded than other members of their sex. The contempt with which women are treated in the House by fathers, husbands and sons—who write these two magic letters after their names—would almost cause one to think that they are.

The Irish members with native gallantry urged strongly that the grill should be removed from the Ladies Gallery. Women were "treated like monkeys at the Zoo," Mr. W. Redmond said, and Mr. MacNeill compared the accommodation provided for us to "a fourth class railway carriage."

Mr. Gibson Bowles did not agree with hon. Members opposite as to the Ladies' Gallery. Of course Members who wished to make speeches under the direct gaze of their ladies' eyes would feel inspired if there were boxes round the House in which they might behold the "bashful maiden's sidelong look of love"—(laughter)—but such a state of things would not conduce to business. (Renewed laughter.)

We are inclined to think that "looks of love" would not predominate from the Ladies' Gallery so long as Mr. Gibson Bowles held the floor.

Seventy-three qualified medical women have addressed a memorial to Lord George Hamilton, the Secretary of State for India, in which they protest against the measures recently enacted for dealing with venereal disease in the Indian Army—East India Contagious Diseases, No. 6, 1897, C 8538. The Protest ends with the following excellent suggestions:—

"We are in favour of such legislation as would materially diminish the amount and severity of venereal disease, founded on the principle of making

vice difficult and, in a practical way, dishonourable to the troops.

"(a) We suggest that there should be an organized and determined effort on the part of the Authorities to suppress the trade of prostitution in Cantonments. With this view, we suggest that Rule 12 of the Cantonment Act of 1889 should be altered to:—

"The Cantonment Authority shall prohibit (a) the keeping of a brothel, (b) the residence of a public prostitute,"

instead of 'may prohibit,' as it now stands, and that paragraph 13 be erased. In this connection, and in view of the fact that clandestine or non-professional prostitution continues to be a prominent cause of the spread of disease, we are entirely in agreement with the suggestions of the Army Sanitary Commission, referred to in the latter part of paragraph 10 of the Despatch of March 26th, 1897, to the Government of India, viz.:—"We would also strongly advocate that the power of Commanding Officers should be as much enlarged as practicable in the direction of diminishing the temptation to young soldiers, by preventing women, for example, from coming about the lines after dusk, and also putting places out of bounds where soldiers are believed to have contracted disease."

"(b) We suggest that moral character should be made an important element in the promotion of the individual, and in the bestowal of appointments; and that as regards a regiment or other military unit, a bad record in respect of venereal disease should diminish the chance of selection for honourable and honour-bringing service.

"(c) As regards the physical care of the soldier, we suggest that every man on joining the Army should have it made clear to him that immorality will neither be countenanced nor excused, and that he is expected to live chastely. In this connection we desire to express our grateful recognition of the principles laid down in the recent General Order to the Army of the late Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir George White."

"In presenting this Memorial we are animated by a desire to diminish sexual immorality, as well as to prevent and cure the resulting disease. We wish to emphasize that we can give no approval to any measures containing features of the old Contagious Diseases Act, which were equally repugnant to our moral sense and to our scientific convictions."

A Company, to be known as the "Woolpack" Syndicate, Limited, is about to take over the restaurant under the late Colonel North's offices. The directors will include a lady, who is at present manageress of the tavern, while the names of two other ladies will figure in the prospectus in the management department. This is a new departure, which we anticipate will conduce to an economical conduct of business.

Miss M. H. Carlisle lately held a delightful reception at her cosy studio in Maddox Street, when her works in oil, pastels, and miniatures, were on view. With the pastels we were specially charmed. Miss Carlisle has painted a miniature of the Queen, which is considered an excellent likeness by the Royal Family; and she is now engaged on a miniature of the Duchess of York. Portraits of Mr. C. J. Rhodes, looking quite pleasant, and the future generation of Harmsworths—two golden haired cherubs!—in dainty underdress of baby drawers, socks, and little brown shoes, were inspected with interest.

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