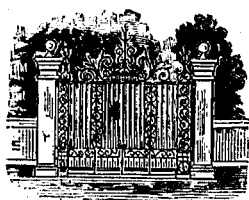


Outside the Gates.**WOMEN.**

A MEMORIAL has been sent to the Princess of Wales at Copenhagen, setting forth that the effect of the Alexandra Trust, instituted to supply cheap meals to the working people of the Metropolis, will be to ruin thousands of hardworking coffee-stall and eating-house-keepers. The Princess has replied that she regrets being unable to give the memorialists any redress.

The *Daily Chronicle* pertinently inquires if there is any reason why women should not receive the Victoria Cross when they show conspicuous courage and self-sacrifice, and points out how very few orders or decorations are bestowed upon, or are even available for women. It cites a case in point, where the bestowal of the Victoria Cross on a woman would be an honour well deserved, as that of Miss McGrath, nurse to Mrs. Des Voeux, wife of Major Des Voeux, 36th Sikhs. During the siege of Fort Cavagnari, a time when the stoutest man's nerves were shaken, Miss McGrath, by her courage and presence of mind, saved many of the garrison from bleeding to death. As well as enduring all the hardships of the siege, Miss McGrath nursed the dying and wounded night and day with unceasing care and courage, but has received no recognition whatever of her devotion and heroism.

The Orders which are at present conferred upon women are the (1) Royal Red Cross, which was instituted on St. George's Day, 1883, for zeal and devotion in providing for and nursing sick and wounded sailors, soldiers, and others with the army in the field, on board ship, or in hospital. Her Majesty the Queen is its head; there are eight royalties at the top of its roll; and there are some seventy women who have received this distinction, ten of whom are *religieuses*. (2) The Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England. The Queen is the Sovereign of the Order, and the Prince of Wales is its Grand Prior. On its roll there are forty "Ladies of Justice" and fifty-three "Ladies of Grace," besides a considerable number of Honorary Associates. This Order confers medals for saving life on land, where great gallantry has been shown in the act, and several of those who have been presented with these decorations have been women. Then there is (3) the Order of the Crown of India, and (4) the Royal Order of Victoria and Albert, but none of these are the equivalent of the Victoria Cross. Is there any reason why the Victoria Cross should be reserved for one sex?

It is sometimes asked "Why do women want any decorations?" The reply, no doubt, is for the same reason that men want them. Virtue is doubtless its own reward, and the truly noble will always, should occasion demand, rise to heights of heroism without seeking any other. But at the same time recognition of worth is sweet, and if men find it so—and that they

do there can be no question—there is no reason why the same recognition should not have its charm for women also.

Miss Alice James, of the North Hackney High School and Training College for Kindergarten Teachers, will open, this month, a school of housewifery and domestic science. There will be a year's course, which will include practical and theoretical training in housewifery, cookery, laundry work, hygiene and elementary nursing, needlework, and the management of children. At the close of the year the students will be expected to pass an examination conducted by an expert in the household arts. Particulars as to the course may be obtained from the Secretary, Northfields, Stamford Hill, N.

The following interesting letter on the subject of Working Women's Hotels has been addressed to a contemporary:—

"SIR,—I have just read with deep interest your account of an interview with Sir Richard Farrant, on the subject of 'Working Women's Hotels.' I believe the solution of the difficulty lies in the direction of giving the women a share in the management. I think it would be found that they would obey rules that they had helped to frame, administered by a committee they had helped to choose. Of course, it could be only those who were lodgers for some considerable period who could be given this position, but they would understand the needs and the ways of their own class. If everyone who entered had the rules read, and promised to abide by them, it ought not to be difficult to get rid of any who afterwards refused to obey, and by degrees an *esprit de corps*, and a public opinion, would be evolved which would speedily influence new comers. But at the head must be such a woman as Sir Richard Farrant has described, if there is to be the smallest chance of success—a woman who can organize, govern, and love. There are many such, who would take the position for a fair salary, and devote to it the best powers of their lives—Yours faithfully,

AGNES L. MONEY,

Stodham Park, East Liss, Hants, August 20th."

A hall of residence for women art students at Aberdeen University has just been completed. It will be known as Castleton House, Chanonry, and will contain a studio and several bedrooms. The arrangements have been made with a view to comfort and taste, and there is also a large enclosed garden. The hall will open for residence in October.

A correspondent in the *Daily Mail* calls attention to the torturing of Kling women, for religious purposes, in the streets of Singapore. He writes, a number of Kling women were marched from the temple in Serangoon Road to the temple in Tank Road, with lances thrust through their tongues, lips, and cheeks, the tongues being thrust out. Men accompanied them to throw water in their faces. One woman was so exhausted that a bucket of water had to be thrown over her before she could proceed. The slavery and torture of women in a physical or moral sense, still give the lie to any worthy standard of civilization, all the world over.

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