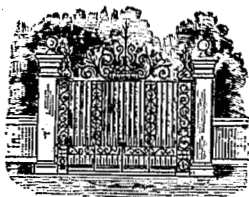


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



THE official *Wiener Zeitung* publishes a rescript dated from Schoenbrunn, September 16th, from the Emperor Francis Joseph to Count Thun, expressing the Emperor's thanks to the people for their sympathy, which also contains an Imperial rescript founding a

new Order and medals of St. Elizabeth, in memory of the late Empress, and in honour of her patron saint, St. Elizabeth of Thuringia, to be conferred upon women and girls who merit the distinction in the various avocations of life, or in special religious, humanitarian and philanthropic works.

In the introduction to the statutes of the new Order, the Emperor expresses the hope that all who are admitted to the Order, or receive the distinction of the medal, will always be faithful to the memory of the departed Empress, by behaving in public and private life in such a manner as to preserve the dignity and honour of the Order, and by avoiding everything that might bring it into dishonour. The right of conferring the new Order is invested solely in the Emperor.

The Order comprises three grades, with a grand cross for the first and second classes.

The cross of the first-class is gold, enamelled in red, with, on the obverse, a white enamelled centre bearing a picture of St Elizabeth of Thuringia, and on the reverse the initial E.

The second-class cross is of silver, and, like the gold cross, has on the obverse, a picture of the saint, and on the reverse the initial.

The first recipient of the new Order is Countess Sztaray, to whom an autograph letter from the Emperor is published, conferring upon her the Grand Cross in recognition of her devoted services to the late Empress in her last hours.

We had hoped that some such order would have been established in this country in commemoration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, but the most sad feature about the celebrations of last year was the way in which the worth and work of the sex to which her Majesty belongs, was ignored. For this the Queen must not be blamed, as, no doubt, in distributing the Jubilee honours she acted upon the counsel of her exclusive male ministers.

Durham University is showing the way to the older Universities, by giving a donation of £5,000 to found a College for Women which will be affiliated to the University. As soon as £10,000 is in hand the college will be founded, and of the second £5,000 required, £1,500 has already been received. It is good news that the students will be admitted to all the degrees of the Durham University, and we heartily congratulate the University on this act of justice, which we have no doubt women will greatly appreciate. The proposed building will be capable of holding twenty-five students, and will be governed by a lady principal, final control being vested in the Directorate of the University itself. This is good news indeed, and it behoves all women to endeavour to raise the balance still needed before the College can be commenced.

The Mortimer Street School of Cookery will re-open on the 26th of this month. Various new dishes, which Mrs. Marshall has been busy compounding during the recess will be down in the menu which is being prepared for October 14th. It is wise to make arrangements for joining these classes at an early date, as the demonstrations are so popular that it is not always easy to obtain admission to them later on.

"Macbeth" at the Lyceum.

MR. FORBES ROBERTSON has made a bold venture in undertaking to place "Macbeth" afresh upon the boards of the Lyceum Theatre. I say "afresh," inasmuch as the greatest revival of the tragedy which has been seen in recent years, was that put upon the same boards by Sir H. Irving at the beginning of 1889, during the run of which Mr. Herman Vezin for a short time played Macbeth. In such circumstances, comparison is inevitable, and, indeed, may almost be said to be challenged. It is within the memory even of young playgoers, that Sir Henry Irving's production was heralded by every kind of announcement which would provoke expectancy. The *Mise-en-Scene* was to surpass all previous efforts, and the Cast was to eclipse anything that had been witnessed in living recollection! True, there were many critical, as well as ordinary, persons, who had witnessed a "Macbeth" mounted with much magnificence and performed with much admirable skill at Drury Lane in 1864, when the late Samuel Phelps and Miss Helen Faucit took the two principal characters; but then that was twenty-five years earlier, and theatrical reminiscences might have passed away or have begun to fade. Sir Henry Irving, therefore, felt himself at liberty to break loose with tradition, and to give to the public what might have been called a new rendering of the title rôle, had not the theory upon which it was based been advanced by a certain, clever, but somewhat fantastic writer, viz., Mr. George Fletcher, between thirty and forty years previously. The two main points of this theory were, that Macbeth himself was a hypocrite and villain from the outset, and that his wife was rather an adjunct to, than an instigator of, his designs. It would be far beyond the limits of this article to discuss the tenability of the theory referred to, and all, therefore, that I would here say about it is, that Mr. Forbes Robertson and Mrs. Patrick Campbell, in their respective renderings of the leading characters, have plainly discarded it. Mr. Forbes Robertson has, in fact, perhaps slightly erred in the other direction, and has made his Macbeth too sensitive as well as too pathetic, but this it was in the very nature of the actor to do. He could not go beyond the limitations of his own personality, and the artist who could represent a sprightly Orlando, a graceful Romeo, a stately and impressive Buckingham, and a melancholy and sympathetic Hamlet could hardly be expected to fully express the crowd of conflicting feelings, and the intense intellectual force which are condensed by Shakespeare into his portrayal of the hero of this immortal tragedy. A man, to adequately render the part of Macbeth, must be an actor within an actor, and this is a gift possessed only by the greatest histrionic geniuses. Mr. Forbes-Robertson, to do him justice, was far stronger in both his action and delivery on the second night of his production than on the first, and he may go on improving in these vital requirements, but, as

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)