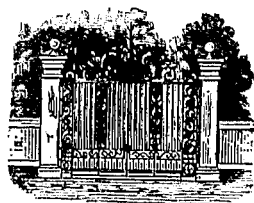


## Outside the Gates.

## A Book of the Week.

## WOMEN.



Miss WESTON, so well known and highly esteemed for her work amongst sailors, has been giving to the press some interesting details of her recent interview with the Queen at Windsor. Her Majesty congratulated her on the work being done, and asked for details, which she gave, with plenty of anecdotes, as she had been told the Queen liked anecdotes. Her Majesty laughed again and again.

Once she was moved to tears on being told of an accident having reference to a cabin she had given to a Sailors' Rest at Devonport. The cabin bore the inscription, "Given by Queen Victoria." A stalwart sailor, looking at the words, asked if the Queen really gave that out of her private pocket. He was informed that that was a fact. Touched by this, and dashing away tears, he said: "I would never have believed it unless I had seen it. She has been my Queen always, but now she is my friend." Tears came to the Queen's eyes when she heard the story.

We are glad to find that in nearly every direction the greatest energy and enthusiasm is being evinced in the forthcoming International Congress of Women, and the Sub-Committees are composed for the most part of picked women in every line of work and thought. In the Professional Section the fact that Mrs. Scharlieb M.D., is interesting herself in women in Medicine, Miss Isla Stewart in Nursing, Mrs. Kendal in the Drama, Madame Canziani in Art, Miss Hurlbatt, of Bedford College, in the Teaching Profession, Miss O'Connor Eccles in Journalism, and Miss Wilkinson, of Swanley College, in women's part in Horticulture and Agriculture, promises well; the fact is so many professions are now opening up for women, all anxious to secure a session in which to discuss their particular branch of work, that the twelve sessions to which each sub-section is limited, will hardly find time to deal with all. Miss Margaret Huxley, who is a representative of nursing progress in Dublin, has accepted a seat on the Sub-Committee, so England, Scotland and Ireland have now nursing representatives who will no doubt do much to make the Congress popular in their respective spheres.

Mrs. Alfred Booth, President of the National Union of Women Workers, lately took part in a meeting, held in the Liverpool Council Chamber, under the Presidency of the Lord Mayor, in aid of funds for the Liverpool School of Cookery and Domestic Science. A sum of £6,000 is required to purchase new premises, and it is good news that nearly £5,000 has already been subscribed for this purpose. Mrs. Alfred Booth stated that by far the greater number of teachers of domestic science in the country had been trained at Liverpool.

## "PHASES OF AN INFERIOR PLANET."\*

THIS book rather strikes the reader as one that should have appeared a year or two ago. Of undeniable power and much knowledge of a certain kind of human nature, full of clever dialogue, and with some really admirable descriptive passages, it yet succeeds in leaving a bad taste in the mouth.

For it is one of the long series of pessimistic books which may perhaps be held to have culminated in "Jude the Obscure," as it took its rise in "The Story of an African Farm," the theory of life which Olive Schreiner had the ability almost to persuade people was a possible one, "A striving and a striving and an ending in nothing."

That the life of the godless is the life of the despairing is the moral of Miss Ellen Glasgow's book but I doubt if this is what she intended to show by it. The scene is laid in a large New York boarding house, "The Gotham," and the inmates and their ways are most vividly presented. The struggle after a high intellectual level, whilst the moral level is left to take care of itself, is most entirely true to our age and day. The utter selfishness of the girls and young men to whom happiness is the object of being, and who see no reason why they should be disciplined, or be patient, or be obscure, or be uncomfortable, each feeling he or she deserves so much of the world's good things, it is a sordid but a true picture, and full of pathos.

Anthony Algarcife, the hero, is a scientist and a materialist. He falls in love with Mariana Musin, a fascinating and impecunious young woman, the dominating note of whose character is a love of luxury, Miss Glasgow is as careful as Mrs. Atherton, to let us know that, whatever use the intellect may be, it is quite powerless to control sexual passion. Algarcife, being in love with Mariana, marries her there and then, upon an income of nothing a year, and they start house-keeping in this manner, and have a baby at the end of the first year.

The account of their married life, of the baby's birth, of the sentiments of the young parents, of the privations, the cooling of passion, the baby's death, are simply admirable, and the best things in the book.

After the baby's death, Mariana finds that she has had enough of "love in a hut on water and a crust," her husband will not hear of her going on the stage, so she leaves him, to do so without the formality of his permission.

When next the curtain rises, changes have come about. Through all the earlier part of the book, the author contrives to enlist our very warm sympathy for Algarcife; but in the second part she proceeds to alienate them, by making him guilty of the most detestable conduct that the mind of the novelist could well devise. Algarcife, before he lost his hold on the unseen, had been under the influence of an "Episcopal" priest, Father Speares. In the young man's moment of miserable surrender after the loss of his wife, Father Speares comes to the rescue. Algarcife rewards him by taking orders, without, as Miss Glasgow is careful to inform us the very least particle of belief in the mysteries of the Faith he is nominally adopting.

\* "Phases of an Inferior Planet." By Ellen Glasgow. Heinemann.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)