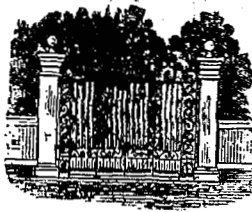


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



OUR good Queen has always appreciated the charms of rurality as a proper British person should; surrounded by water as we Islanders are, we naturally value every inch of earth, for that affection comes into the contrariness of human nature and is consequently strong with the doubled strength.

But our Island is so beautiful just now that we need not envy any other country, nor even our Sovereign, in the sunny groves of Cimiez, for there can be a shrewd and bitter wind there, at times, that sends you shuddering back to your ill-warmed rooms and makes you wish yourself in a warmer world.

The Queen Regent of Spain has, we are pleased to see, signed the ratification of the Peace Treaty between Spain and the United States.

The Executive Committee of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies have great satisfaction in announcing that the ballot for a day for a Resolution has been successful. Mr. Firbank and Mr. Faithfull Begg drew first and second places respectively for March 28th.

Under these circumstances, Sir Charles Dilke at once consented to withdraw his Franchise Bill, and Mr. Faithfull Begg gave notice of the following Resolution for Tuesday, March 28th:—

RESOLUTION.

"To call attention to recent legislation in several of our leading Colonies conferring the Parliamentary franchise upon women, and to move that the exclusion in this country of women from the Parliamentary franchise is contrary to public policy."

The interval is short, therefore no time should be lost by the Societies in giving fullest possible expression to the desire felt in the Constituencies.

A Meeting of representative supporters of the Women's Suffrage Movement will be held at the Women's Institute, 15, Grosvenor Crescent, on Monday the 27th inst., to support the efforts of the Parliamentary leaders.

For the first time in the history of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, a lady has been invited to read a paper at one of the meetings of this august and learned body. Mrs. Ayrton—the wife of Professor W. E. Ayrton, F.R.S., Professor of Applied Physics in the Central Technical College of the City and Guilds of London Institute—this week read a paper on the "Hissing of the Electric Arc," at the meeting of the

Institution of Electrical Engineers. Mrs. Ayrton has carried out a series of original investigations on the electric arc, and has contributed many papers on the subject to the *Electrician*. The uninitiated may like to know that the electric arc is the light which glows between two carbon separated rods through which an electric current is flowing, and it gives that powerful bluish light we so often meet with in the streets, railway stations, and shops, as distinct from the yellowish light of the glow lamp. Mrs. Ayrton embodied some of her researches in a series of twelve articles in the *Electrician*, which created so much interest in the scientific world that she was asked to write a book on the subject, which, we hear, will be ready shortly.

Mrs. Ayrton has a seat on the Professional Subcommittee for the International Congress, and has suggested that in the Section under the heading of "Science: The Work of Women," shall be discussed (a) In the Physical Sciences; (b) In the Biological Sciences. This section should arouse much interest, as women's work in this new field is limitless.

The Sirdar's courteous reply to the resolution of the Women's Liberal Federation, regretting that there was no apparent plan for the education of the Soudanese girls in the Kartoum College scheme, contains the significant hint that the women of England should take the initiative in it themselves, the Sirdar, like Providence, believes in helping those who help themselves. It appears that perhaps the chiefest reason why many people are afraid of mooted this, is the mistaken notion that Islamism objects to women being taught, declares they have no souls, and holds them generally in contempt, and that, as we have bound ourselves to protect all the (im) 'proprieties' of the Mahomedan cult, we should give offence by stirring up the matter, this however is a very vulgar error, and if people studied their 'Koran' a trifle more, they would learn a few elementary facts that would disabuse them of this superstition. Mahomet owed all his success to his wife, Kadijah, he knew and confessed the same with perfect freedom. Al Koran also gives great honour to Mary, the mother of Jesus, not as 'the mother of God,' but as 'a woman of veracity,' who never laid any claim to supernatural endowments.

During the course of an inquest this week at Whitechapel, on the body of a poor woman who had fallen down a flight of steps in Great Pearl Street, it was stated that no less than between fourteen and twenty homeless women slept on the steps and in the passages of this house.

There is a vigorous agitation among German medical students against the attempts which are being made to remove the difficulties in the way of women who wish to enter the medical profession. On Monday the notice boards of the Berlin University and the clinical hospitals were placarded with an appeal demanding the exclusion of women from clinical instruction. "Experience abundantly shows," it concludes, "that the presence of men and women together at clinical lectures is detrimental to serious medical study, and opposed to the principles of decorum and morality."

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