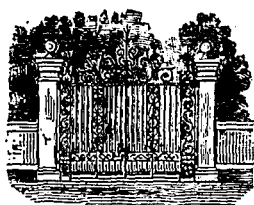


Outside the Gates.**WOMEN.**

WE note that a "Streets Decoration Committee is being formed, with a view to refreshing the diminished glories of Lord Mayor's Show." It is about time something was done in that direction, unless we wish to see the really ancient institution dropped out altogether, and the official part of it relegated to some dingy offices where a hasty mumbling of oaths by a few old gentlemen might take place and the situation change hands without the general public getting the least joy out of it, thus being finally defrauded of almost their last remaining civic pageant. The procession has been too straightly shorn of its picturesque features, and the revival of one of the prettiest parts of the show would be much appreciated, that is the joining of the Lady Mayoress' procession in state at a given point of the route, which used to be one of the chief attractions, but has been discontinued the last few years. We hope it will be restored.

At the annual meeting of the Lady Warwick Agricultural Association, held last week at Stafford House, the Countess of Warwick dwelt on the success which the scheme had so far achieved. The following resolution was proposed by Mrs. Garrett Anderson, and carried:—"That it is desirable and important that duly qualified women should have the advantages of full fellowship in scientific and other learned societies, e.g., the Royal, the Linnean, and the Royal Microscopical."

Mrs. Garrett Anderson spoke as having a cognate connection with the subject, as medical women had long been excluded from their learned societies. This stumbling block, she said, had in part been removed, as she herself was nominated vice-president in medicine for the forthcoming annual meeting of the British Medical Association. The resolution is based on the views recently expressed by Mrs. Farquharson, of Horton, at the International Congress of Women, and it was further supported by her in a paper on the subject.

The Report of the Executive Committee of the Central and East of England Society for Women's Suffrage, presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Society, held at the Westminster Town Hall, in July, may now be had in pamphlet form from the office of the Society, 20, Great College Street, Westminster, S.W., and will prove interesting reading to many. As we reported at the time of the meeting, the local Associate scheme has been organised and developed in eight constituencies with most successful results. We should advise all our readers who are in sympathy with the Woman's Suffrage movement, and who live in any of the constituencies having local Hon. Secretaries, to put themselves in touch with them, so that friends of the movement may be known to one another. A list of the Local Hon. Secretaries is to be found in the Report mentioned above.

Those who were present at the Great Meeting in support of the political enfranchisement of women in the Queen's Hall, in June last, at the time of the International Congress of Women, will be glad to know that they can obtain in print the speeches made on that memorable occasion, for the modest sum of 2d. The pamphlet is published by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and may be obtained at 20, Great College Street, Westminster. Those whose happy lot it was to be present at the meeting will like to have a memento of what must ever remain one of the most inspiring occasions in their lives, and they will also be glad to be able to hand on to others less fortunate, a record of the noble and eloquent words spoken on that occasion.

A Book of the Week.**SELLCUTS' MANAGER***

Mrs. Ormiston Chant's new departure may be described as a distinct success. She has produced a most readable novel, in spite of the fact that it is avowedly a novel with a purpose—a fact that is extremely apt to impair the impressiveness of a work of fiction, considered from the artistic standpoint.

The root objection to her story is, that the hero, the manager of a provincial music hall, is an impossible person. If you once grant that Paul Blake could exist, the whole of the rest of the book falls into place; but the reader who knows much of realities will shake his or her head over the portrait. We have no sympathy with the narrow view which would say that no music hall manager could be a good man: but there are certain kinds of goodness which one would not find in a man of Paul's origin and associations: he might have been a very good sort; he could have hardly been the blameless fine gentleman here depicted. The other characters are all so life-like, that one feels the author has, in this case, sacrificed reality to her desire to point a certain moral.

Sellcuts', the music hall, is burnt to the ground in the first chapter. In the fire, Paul's lovely half-witted wife is nearly burned to death. The fire is the work of her father, an actor of the worst character, as an act of revenge to Paul, who, by marrying the poor thing, has deprived him of her earnings. Paul is the possessor of a somewhat fabulous fortune, which he scatters around him in somewhat fabulous fashion. His lovely young wife is not only half-witted, she is also an incurable drunkard. By an accident she becomes acquainted with Mora Uraïne, a young girl whose father's grounds adjoin those of the Blakes.

Mrs. Uraïne is a narrow-minded invalid, or *malade imaginaire*, who makes her family as generally uncomfortable as she possibly can. But one can hardly feel, as Mrs. Ormiston Chant evidently does feel, that it was a striking proof of her narrow-mindedness to object to the friendship between her daughter and Paul Blake's wife. No doubt one ought never to be so blinded by prejudice as to class all music hall people together as radically bad. But the drunken, half-witted daughter of a blackguard like Dukelle, whose only associates were well-meaning but impossible people like Jane Elizabeth, was most emphatically *not* a fit companion for a girl like Mora Uraïne. Of course,

* Mrs. Ormiston Chant. Grant Richards.

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