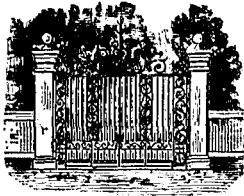


## Outside the Gates.

### WOMEN.



THOSE who were privileged to be present at the Queen's Hall on Thursday in last week, at the public meeting in support of Women's Suffrage, convened by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, can never forget its inspiration. Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., presided, and was calm, convincing, logical, and splendid. Then, in the unavoidable absence of the Right Hon. L. Courtney, M.P., Mr. Faithfull Begg, M.P., rose to propose the resolution of the evening:—

"That this meeting of Women's Suffragists of Great Britain and Ireland, offers a hearty welcome to delegates from all parts of the world, now attending the International Congress of Women, who have, in many instances successfully striven to promote the great movement for the recognition of the citizenship of women by opening to them the political franchise. We thank them for the grand lead they have given us; and we, in our turn, desire to give a good lead to those nations and colonies less advanced than ourselves. We feel that it lies with the United Kingdom and her Colonies, and the United States of America to carry forward and complete the principle of representative institutions, and to demonstrate to the world that the representation of the people means representation of the whole people, and is manifestly incomplete as long as a whole sex is excluded."

This was seconded in an eloquent speech by Mrs. Wynford Philipps, and most ably supported by the Hon. Mrs. A. T. Lytton.

But the moment of the evening was that when the veteran leader of the Women's Suffrage movement in the United States, Miss Susan B. Anthony who, at over eighty years of age, has crossed the Atlantic to be present at the International Congress of Women, stood up to address the meeting. The whole vast audience, as one person, rose to their feet, they applauded, they cheered, they waved their handkerchiefs; in short—to use a word stated by Mrs. Kendal in the afternoon to be of American origin—they *enthused* so vociferously, as to demonstrate beyond doubt that English men and women know how to appreciate the work and devotion of years. With her silver lead bare, and wearing a becoming red shawl, Miss Anthony delivered an earnest and amusing address so vigorously as to be well heard throughout the great building. The conclusion of her speech was the signal for another storm of applause, and then, in addition to the bouquet which she, as well as Mrs. Fawcett, had received at the beginning of the meeting, a basket containing beautiful palms and choice flowers was carried on to the platform and presented to her. Surely the palm, the emblem of victory, was a happy tribute to the work of this great and good woman.

Miss Anthony was followed by the Hon. W. P. Reeves, who spoke of the effect of according the Suffrage to Women in New Zealand, and predicted

that as in New Zealand, so in this country, it would come suddenly. Then Frau Stritt spoke on the position of women in Germany, and after her the cultivated, mellow, sympathetic, persuasive voice of Lady Henry Somerset held the great audience spell bound. In the whole evening there was not a dull moment. It was one long, splendid, magnificent success from first to last, and we have nothing but our grateful thanks to offer to the women who have proved so triumphantly the ability of their sex in the spheres of both organization and oratory.

It is needless to say that the resolution was carried with the utmost enthusiasm.

The French Chamber last week carried a Bill by 319 votes to 174, admitting properly-qualified women to practise as advocates. An opponent of the measure protested that the next thing would be that women would want a vote. "We will go as far as that," cried some members of the Extreme Left. The result of the voting was loudly cheered.

This announcement is specially opportune at the time of the Women's Congress, when Miss Octavia Williams Bates, B.A., LL.D., of the United States, presented such a brilliant paper upon the Law as a profession for women, and demonstrated in her own person the capacity of women to follow this profession.

## A Book of the Week.

### ORIENTATIONS.\*

THIS new volume, by the author of "Liza of Lambeth," is a collection of short stories—essays, the writer hints in the quotation which prefaces his book, in various styles. Like Paracelsus, he is proving his soul, striving to find the just mode, the direction in which his talent can best be expended.

The stories accordingly vary in quality and quantity. The first has a Spanish setting, and surely owes something to Browning's "Confession." It is very well told, but there is nobody in it with whom you can sympathise, so it leaves you cold.

Next comes a tale much in the style of Mr. George Gissing, and very good of its kind. It deals with the manner in which a weak mind is utterly thrown off its balance by sudden contact with the realities of life. This is a point upon which every thinking person must needs reflect. In these days of perfect security and complicated civilization, the primal elements of life are so kept out of sight, that a man may live, grow up, marry, have children, without ever once considering the relentless mysteries of life and death, the meaning of anguish and of despair. So many of us, from the cradle to the grave, never read a line of "The Book of Pity and Death." One envies the nurse and the doctor, who are almost forbidden, by the exigencies of their profession, to live in any such ignorance. To James Clinton, clerk, it is the simple accident of serving upon a coroner's jury that breaks down the barriers and reveals the world's cruelty in a new light, too strong for the weak soul to bear alone. Like the wife of Christian in "The Pilgrim's Progress," Mrs. Clinton has no sympathy with her husband's soul. She is inclined to think it

\*By W. Somerset Maugham. Fisher Unwin.

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