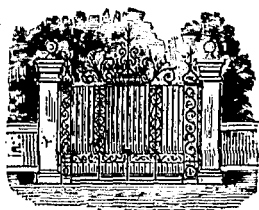


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



THE Princess of Wales has approved of the express passenger engine, now being built by Mr. S. W. Johnson, locomotive superintendent of the Midland Railway, for the Paris Exhibition, being named Princess of Wales.

Lady Gwendolen Cecil has been unanimously elected President of the Ladies' Committee of the Primrose League.

Is the office of Sanitary Inspector becoming a woman's vocation? It would almost seem so, judging from the result of the recent examination of candidates for the Sanitary Inspectors' Diploma. Four men were successful candidates, while no less than twelve women succeeded in passing the examination. They were Miss Julia Hancock, B.A., Miss B. B. W. Holmes, Miss E. C. Honey, Miss D. B. Musson, Miss F. M. Nicholas, Miss M. W. Richardson, Miss C. F. Stephens, Miss A. E. Turner, Miss A. M. S. Tweeddale (of the National Health Society), Miss M. Le F. Boileau, Miss G. E. M. Church, Miss M. K. Le-Lean (of the Sanitary Institute).

The Conference held by the sub-committee of the Women's Industrial Council, on the housing of professional women in London, resulted in some valuable suggestions, which will probably find their way into the official report that will shortly be published. The chief idea that found favour was the erection of flats, consisting of bed sitting-rooms and bath-rooms, with club-rooms, and a distributive kitchen and restaurant.

We learn, however, that the questions issued to the women workers have been much objected to by many to whom they were sent. This seems a pity. Surely the necessary information might have been obtained without offending the susceptibilities of those whom it is desired to help.

The second annual report of the Women's Institute has just been issued. The membership roll now contains over 700 names, while the work has developed, and several new departments have been added. Amongst the most successful features of the year's work were the literary conferences.

Mrs. Oscar Beringer read a paper last week before the Society of Women Journalists on "The Renaissance of Women Dramatists." She pointed out that at the end of the eighteenth century the plays produced by women were considered worthy of performance by such great actors as Garrick, Kemble, Mrs. Siddons, and Kean. Hannah More, Mrs. Cowley, and Mrs. Inchbald competed with men in that most brilliant age. She attributed the silence which fell upon the drama from 1830 to 1875 to the cramped and paralysing influences of the early Victorian age when women were relegated to Books of Beauty, and were told that to be distinguished from the general herd indicated lack of modesty or worse. Happily we have now arrived at a

juster estimate, and believe that the gifts of women are meant for use. We have now, according to Mrs. Oscar Beringer, a sturdy band of women dramatists.

The Manchester Ladies Health has been doing excellent work in the slums of Manchester and Salford for the last 40 years. It is therefore greatly to be regretted that its funds are at a low ebb, and that consequently necessary work cannot be undertaken. The object of the Society is "To popularize sanitary knowledge among all classes," and this is done by paid health workers—drawn if possible from the class of those visited—working under an honorary Lady Superintendent.

Our American cousins are endeavouring to deal with the servant problem by means of the "Household Economic Association," which provides servants, more especially housemaids, by the hour. These maids assemble at the head-quarters of the Association each morning and may be summoned by telephone. There is a uniform charge of 20 cents an hour, and the maid will do anything required of her, from cooking the dinner to taking the children for a walk. She takes no meals in the house, and to this feature of the scheme its promoters attribute much of its success.

Miss Sadie American, an eloquent Jewess, who will be known to some of our readers through her presence at the International Congress last year, has recently occupied the pulpit at the Temple Sinai, Chicago, in the absence of the regular minister. This is not the first occasion upon which a Jewess has occupied the pulpit in a Jewish place of worship. Miss Ray Frank (who has also visited London), preached at a service held on the Day of Atonement, in 1890, at Spokane Falls. It is most significant of the progress made towards the emancipation of women, when the women of this conservative and oriental nation are permitted to occupy public pulpits.

The list of lady candidates accepted as missionaries at the recent meeting of the Committee of the Church Missionary Society illustrated in a curious way the diversity of the sources from which its workers are sometimes drawn. One had lived in Vancouver, where she had already done some work among the Chinese immigrants. Another had taken a distinguished medical degree in Canada. A third had laboured in Syria for some years and knew Arabic; since then she had been working as a fully-trained nurse in a mission in Natal, now broken up by the war. A fourth had lived most of her life in India, and had a colloquial knowledge of Bengali and Hindustani. All these were in England when they offered to the Society.

News has reached the Church Missionary Society in London that no fewer than three of their lady missionaries have succumbed to the deadly climate of the Niger territories. One of these, Miss Hickmott, of the Highbury Training Home, went out to Port Lokkoh as far back as 1894, to take the place of another lady who had also died in the mission field. Miss Hickmott passed away at Onitsha, and Miss Philcox died at the same place; whilst the illness of the third lady, Miss Squires, terminated fatally at Brass, in the Niger Delta, quite recently.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)