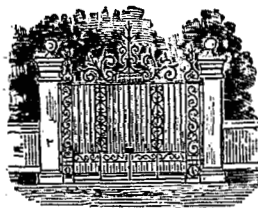


Outside the Gates.

THE WOMAN PAYS.



With the deepest regret we learn that at a special meeting of the Governors of the Macclesfield Infirmary, held on Monday, Miss Murdock Clarke tendered her resignation of the position of junior house surgeon. "In view," she wrote to the committee, "of the difficult position in which you are placed by my presence in the infirmary, I now put myself unconditionally in your hands. I am willing to do whatever you consider best in the interests of the institution, and to enable you to act with perfect freedom, I herewith resign my appointment as junior house surgeon."

The resignation was eagerly accepted—the *amour propre* of the Committee saved—and might triumph over right in this most ignoble contest. Having determined to fight for a principle, we deplore the fact that Miss Clarke has been influenced to surrender. Nothing can be more disastrous for medical women, as the great publicity given to this case will influence male governors in every hospital in the land to boycott women residents for the future; but if women will not stand firm they must be beaten in these unholy days of cut throat competition. Every time fate gives one a chance of proving her metal and it fails to ring true, so much the worse for every sister woman. Ah well! We are genuinely grieved.

The majority of the Governors of the Infirmary have proved themselves generous and right-minded men, and they have resisted the intolerable attitude of the honorary medical officers with spirit, defeating the following resolution at last week's meeting by six votes to three.

"That in view of the resignations six weeks ago of the six members of the honorary medical staff (Drs. Clarke, Averill, Storris, Proudfoot, Marsh, and Hughes, jun.), and their repeatedly expressed determination not to resume their duties at the infirmary whilst Miss Murdock Clarke holds the position of junior house surgeon, combined with the fact that the interests of the poor and of the institution generally are seriously suffering by the continuance of the present painful and unsatisfactory condition of its affairs, the Governors feel regretfully compelled hereby to give notice to Miss Clarke to terminate her engagement as junior house surgeon at the infirmary within four weeks from this date; they further resolve that she be offered a year's salary as solatium for this compulsory termination of her connection with the institution, and be assured that she has the sympathy of the Governors in this unusual but unavoidable course, and their best wishes for her future success."

In proposing the Resolution Mr. R. Brown remarked "We are not fighting the great question of women versus men doctors, we decline to allow this splendid institution of ours to be made the cock-pit for any such purpose."

Mr. Lomas Oliver, in opposing the resolution, said he thought that if they were going to purchase peace

at any price it would not be for the ultimate benefit of the institution or the patients, and he was afraid they would only be laying up for themselves a great store of trouble if they patched up a dishonourable peace in this way. The question was—Were they going to be governors or mere puppets? There was an alternative policy, he thought, they ought to admit, and that was to ask Miss Ross, the former junior house-surgeon, to come back to the institution, and accept the post of consulting physician. Miss Ross's qualifications were equal to those of any medical man in the town, and the infirmary books showed that her industry had never been equalled, whilst she had gained the love, affection, respect, and confidence of the whole of the poor people in the town. If they could not get gentleman doctors the only alternative he could see was to have ladies. They had no fault to find with Miss Clarke or Miss Ross. They never had more zealous servants. Their only fault was that they had been too good. If they had been inefficient dufers there would never had been all this rumpus."

A Book of the Week.

THE SINNER AND THE PROBLEM.*

For lovers of the desultory, the quaint, the picturesque, Mr. Parker has prepared his little *extremet*. He has seasoned it with cunning, mingled with simplicity; he has also endowed it with as deceiving a name as the butler's French announcement for poor Lady Crawley's boiled mutton in *Vanity Fair*. Let no deluded woman take up "The Sinner and the Problem," hoping to find therein a key to the riddle of original sin; she will find herself on the margin of a lake bordered by apple-blossom, sown with water-lilies, by whose clear marge move, always through a mist, the figures of a man, a woman, and two boys.

None of the characters in this reverie have even names to bless themselves with. This is small loss to the reader, but one sympathetically feels it may have been a nuisance to the writer, when he wished to allude to his heroine, to be debarred from the use of Anne or other convenient monosyllable, and to have to write every time, the Lady of the Lake. However, as there is but one name for heroines nowadays—Dryden must have had the prophetic instinct when he wrote "*one name is Elizabeth*"—the Lady of the Lake is more distinctive, and not, after all, so very much longer.

The author of the somewhat disjointed ramblings is an artist, and seems to have been a nice, easy-going sort of chap, though one is bound to own that one is given very insufficient reason why the Lady of the Lake succumbed to his charms. But perhaps a penniless loafer, in indifferent health, painting sketches wherewith to pay his doctor's bill, would make a meek and tractable Prince Consort for a rich and headstrong young woman, and her selection shows her penetration.

However, it is ungracious to quarrel with a work which contains some delightful moments. It is the study of the boys to which all the rest is only a well-handled and impressionist setting. Both are charming, but we own to a weakness for the "Problem."

* By Eric Parker. Macmillan.

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