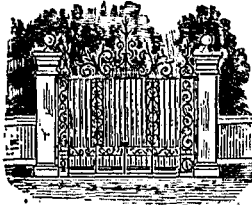


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



The Queen, accompanied by Princess Victoria, paid a surprise visit to Netley Hospital last week, and went round the wards, spending some two hours in the building.

The Women's Franchise Bill has passed both Houses of the New South Wales Legislature. This important piece of news has for the most part been conveyed to the public in this country in an inconspicuous corner of such of our daily papers as have mentioned it, in an announcement of something under two lines in length. It is significant of the estimation in which matters which concern women only are held by the Press in this country. However, now that women in New South Wales can take their rightful place in public affairs we hope that they will be able to make their influence felt, and that the Press will realise that their enfranchisement effects not women themselves only but the community at large.

The growing feeling of the value of the knowledge of medical women is indicated by the fact that the Royal College of Surgeons have placed their museum at the exclusive service of women students during one day in the week, a courtesy of which many women students avail themselves. It is only slowly, though surely, that medical women are gaining the right to equal educational advantages with the other sex, and this act of justice is therefore worthy of record.

At present the Royal Free Hospital is the only Medical School in London which admits women students to its wards, and which further has appointed women to house posts. The benefit of the experience gained to those who hold such posts is great, and when we consider the value and the need of the services of medical women, more especially in our Eastern Empire, in the Zenanas, to which medical men are never admitted, and where, if not treated by their own sex, women suffer and die, the importance of affording such experience to qualified medical women is emphasised. The Committee of the Royal Free Hospital are to be congratulated on their line of action.

A statue of the Empress Frederic was unveiled at Homburg on Tuesday by the German Emperor, who described the late Empress as "highly gifted, of strong intellectual will-power, full of high cultural aspirations, with a rare knowledge at their command, proud of her royal and national lineage, the youthful impressions and experiences of which she ever strove to make manifest in her second German home, the far-seeing promoter of the beautiful in art and industrial art, cordially supporting scientific research and its results, successfully working for the extension of woman's education and of their capacity for earning their living and for the development of nursing by women."

A DAY OFF DUTY.

A delightful day can be spent with very little expense in the beautiful gardens at Kew, and for those nurses who wish for fresh air without much exertion a day in that charming spot will pretty well answer all requirements.

Taking the Twopenny Tube at whichever station is most suitable, one will very soon reach Shepherd's Bush, where the electric trams are waiting to convey the passengers to Kew. The drive on the tram occupies about twenty minutes, and the fare asked is twopence; this, with the twopence on the Tube and the return fare on both, makes the total cost of travelling eightpence, a sum within the reach of almost every nurse.

Leaving the tram close to Kew Bridge, one crosses the bridge, and in a few minutes turns into the old-fashioned Green which leads to the entrance of the Gardens.

The quaint houses close to the road hold out promises of many meals at prices likely to suit all purses, so that one need not feel anxiety as to whether it is possible to procure something to eat.

The beauty of the Gardens is very striking even to those who have seen them many times, and if the visitor has any taste for the study of flowers, shrubs and trees she will find plenty of scope for acquiring further knowledge in these extensive grounds.

The Gardens are the property of the Crown, and were in former times the pleasure grounds attached to Kew Palace, which was then a favourite Royal residence. The children of George III. lived much in the Palace, and it was there Queen Charlotte died.

At some distance from the Palace stands the "Queen's Cottage," a picturesque little dwelling, with quaintly thatched roof. It has a special claim on our interest as having been at one time used by Queen Victoria as an afternoon-tea house, but latterly its increasing dampness caused it to be abandoned for that purpose.

The visitor must not omit to look for a tree called Napoleon's Willow, which was brought to England more than seventy years ago as a slender twig and planted in Kew Gardens. The interest attached to it is, that it was cut from one of the trees overhanging the grave of Napoleon at St. Helena. It will be found near the grand walk, and can easily be identified by the stem, which has divided a few feet from the ground and has branched out into three separate stems.

The river runs through the old Deer Park, and a very complete view can be obtained, from the banks, of Sion House, the seat of the Duke of Northumberland. On the top of the house can be seen the famous Lion which in former times occupied the summit of the Duke's town house at Charing Cross.

The old parish church on the Green, just outside the precincts of the Gardens, is also worth a visit; in the churchyard are buried the remains of the great English painter Thomas Gainsborough.

A day spent in wandering over the Gardens at Kew is refreshing and restful; walking is rendered easy and pleasant by the permission accorded to the public to walk on the soft grass, and the journey back to town can be made to suit the entire convenience of the visitor.

LUCY M. RAE.

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