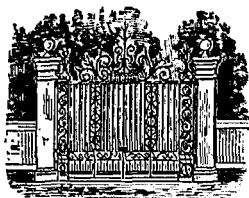


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



Dublin University, there is reason to believe, will shortly thrown open its degrees to women.

"Should divorce cases be reported?" is a question which Lady Jeune, the wife of the President of the Divorce Court, asks and answers in the current number of the *New Liberal Review*.

"The excitement which was aroused by a recent *cause célèbre*," says Lady Jeune, "certainly justifies the doubt that must arise in everyone's mind as to whether it is expedient or advisable that such a phase of society as that trial divulged is one for the public to contemplate.

"In theory it is advisable that the widest publicity should be given to all proceedings in our courts of justice. It is urged that the disgrace and shame of a long and detailed description in the press acts as a deterrent to evil-doers, and that the influence and effect of the minute report of a bad and shameful case deters many people from taking the final and irrevocable step which would place them in the same position as those whose life and conduct have become public property.

"If the press would realise the deep importance of its influence in this respect," Lady Jeune thinks it might by a simple remedy greatly diminish the evil. This remedy is to only make public the finding of the judge and jury in divorce cases.

We are not surprised that the exposure of the low moral tone amongst the titled and idle rich should alarm Society. But the infamous conduct of these classes, even if protected from publicity, would still eat into the very heart of the national life, and it would be a sad day for England should the press conspire to suppress the truth concerning their total lack of all moral restraint. Promiscuous adultery, cheating at cards, unbridled extravagance, theft—of course, on a colossal scale—drink, drugs, and *diablerie* are winked at so long as the delinquent is "one of us." If Lady Jeune and those who deprecate this "phase of society," and who fear the moral contamination of publicity, would see to it that the leaders of London Society were persons of clean and honourable conduct—instead of the notoriously immoral—there would soon be a cessation of *causes célèbres*.

President Roosevelt has caused a widespread sensation by a vigorous protest against the increasing tendency of Americans to shirk the duties of marriage, and especially of parentage.

His views are contained in a letter just written to Mrs. Van Voorst and her sister, the joint authors of a new book entitled "The Woman Who Toils." Advance proofs were sent to the President, and one paragraph especially attracted his attention

in which the authors deplored the voluntary avoidance of maternity by American women.

Mr. Roosevelt himself, who is the father of six children and a firm believer in the Biblical doctrine "increase and multiply," fully endorses the authors' views, and declares that Americans are committing racial suicide. The letter adds:—

"I feel deep and respectful sympathy for those denied the privilege of rearing strong, healthy children, but those who shun their responsibility through a desire for independence, ease, and luxury commit a crime against the race, and should be objects of contempt and abhorrence to all healthy people.

"If men shirk being fathers of families and women do not recognise that the greatest thing for women is motherhood, the nation has cause to be alarmed about the future."

The truth is that the stress of living, not only in America, but amongst all responsible people, is the reason for a decrease in families. It is increasingly difficult for the average parents to properly educate many children. The average parent is anxious that his children shall have a good start in life. As education and intelligence increase, wants increase, and thousands of educated people consequently delay marriage until they can properly support a wife and family.

From the present outlook it appears as if the old ideal of large families had been discarded in the United States despite President Roosevelt's protest. The spirit with which his views are received by the general public was strikingly shown at an important women's meeting recently held in New York. A similar letter from the President was read, whereupon several women arose and indignantly denounced him as a barbarian.

A Book of the Week.

THE DISENTANGLERS.*

The versatility of Mr. Andrew Lang has never been so strikingly displayed as in the present volume of excellent fooling. Last week we supped on horrors with Mr. Conrad; it will redress the balance if we go prancing into the realms of extravagance to-day with so truly able a guide as this literary authority, this connoisseur, this epicurean of literature, who yet can play the fool as joyously and as convincingly as the youngest of us.

There is no doubt that, had Mr. Lang chosen to create a Sherlock Holmes, he could not only have easily beaten Sir Arthur Conan Doyle on his own ground, but would also have endowed us with something which the great Sherlock never allowed us—a hearty laugh. These stories are shot through and through with that rainbow humour which sparkles in Mr. Lang's Essays, and will intrude even into the sacred domains of his psychical research. They are the best possible reading for the woman who has, as have most of us, a little too much of the light of common day, or of the weary night-light.

Two young Oxford men, in good society, and un-

* By Andrew Lang. Longmans and Co.

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