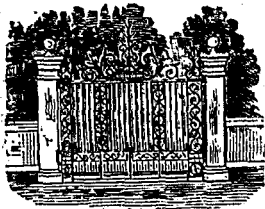


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



The appointment of Miss Jamieson, of Darlington, to be professor of the English language at Grenoble University has now been ratified by the French Minister of Public Instruction. This is the first time that a lady has been appointed to a professional chair in a French university. Miss Jamieson is of Scottish descent. She was educated at the Edinburgh Ladies' College of the Merchants' Company, took first-class honours last year at Edinburgh University, and also holds the Heriot travelling scholarship given by the same institution.

She secured the appointment at Grenoble on the recommendation of Dr. Sarodea, of Edinburgh, and has for the past year been engaged on the teaching staff of the Polam Hall School, Darlington, one of the best-known girls' day and boarding schools in the north of England.

The Women's Local Government Society, 17, Tot-hill Street, Westminster, is doing good service in issuing concisely the opinions of those best competent to judge on the value of the work of women members of the London School Board. We advise everyone to obtain the leaflets which are now being issued by this Society in relation to the subject. The Right Hon. Lord Reay, G.C.S.I., recently referred in detail to the work of one member, who is vice-chairman of one principal committee, a member of two, chairman of three sub-committees, and a member of ten. As Chairman of the Domestic Subjects Sub-Committee, she has to deal with the needlework taught in 441 girls' and in eighty-two mixed departments, with the classes of cookery, laundry, and housewifery in 333 centres.

The amount of her correspondence is, he says, enormous, and it is only by giving up her whole life to all these various duties that the mandate can be discharged. It is quite clear that no paid official could be asked to undertake these duties, that no Trade Union would allow any of its members to work so much overtime, and that it is only the sense of direct responsibility that is created by the election of the members of this Board, and in which they reap their chief if not their only reward, which can account for so much devotion to duty. Evidence equally strong is given by others.

At a meeting on May 15th, 1903, of the Special Committee appointed by the London School Board to report on the London Education Board, the following resolution was carried, ten voting for and one against:—

"That the experience of the London School Board shows that educational work cannot be properly carried on unless women be eligible for the Local Education Authority."

And if evidence is sought that the women who are elected perform the work they have undertaken it is

to be found in the recorded attendances. From Lady Day, 1901, to Lady Day, 1902, 34 Board meetings were held. Of the nine women members of the Board two attended all 34 meetings, two attended 33, three attended 32, one attended 29, and one attended 24. Further, of the quality of their work Lord George Hamilton, a former Chairman, says of the women members: "No part of the work was better performed than theirs, and the amount of work done, in proportion to the time expended, was greatest on those committees on which women sat." Yet, in spite of the overwhelming evidence brought forward of the importance, nay the paramount necessity, of the value of the work of women on the School Board, the London Education Bill, as it left the House of Commons on May 26th, 1903, remains a disabling measure for women, as it appoints the London County Council, for which women are ineligible, the education authority for London. On the ground alone of the contemptuous attitude deliberately adopted by the Government towards women in the London Education Bill it should be uncompromisingly opposed.

A Book of the Week.

IN THE GUARDIANSHIP OF GOD.*

A new volume of Indian stories by Mrs. Steel! It need only be said that in no respect are these inferior, and that some of them are even superior, to her former work.

She makes us realise the life of the great Empire in a way that no other hand or pen has ever done. She gives the Oriental standpoint, domestic and religious, with a wonderful insight. The pathos of her stories is tremendous, the interest poignant.

If a list has to be made, of order of merit, I think I should put first a story which I have not seen selected for particular praise by any reviewer yet, "On the Old Salt Road."

The story is told by the Major, at mess. A ghost story has just been told, and scouted by the hearers. The Major gives his own experience. He was left a widower at two-and-twenty; his wife and the child left him desolate.

"If you search the world through you won't find a more desolate creature than a boy of two and twenty coming back alone in a strange country, from the grave of his wife and child. He feels a mistake somewhere in the universe when he tries to behave like a man in the little drawing-room she made so pretty. The twopenny-halfpenny fans put up to hide the bare walls—the little dodges to make the sticks of furniture look nice which seemed to you so clever, and over which you have both laughed so often—the unused basket thing, done up with lace and frills, over which she was so happy that last evening, while you sat by wondering if it could be true, and that your child would lie among the lace and furbelows. Well! I suppose it has to be, sometimes, but it drove me mad. I could think of nothing but death to end it all; just to creep away and die by myself somewhere. I did not want so much to be dead, but to be quite alone—by myself. You see, I had lost everything, for ever, and the rest of the stupid world drove me wild with impatience."

So he went out, this boy with the lacerated heart,

* By Mrs. F. A. Steel, Heimann.

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