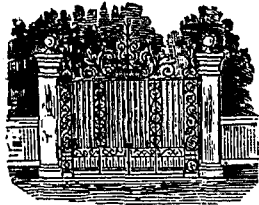


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



The Countess of Jersey presided recently at a Council meeting of the Children's Happy Evenings Association, held at Bath House, Piccadilly. Among those present were Lady Margaret Rice, Louisa Lady Walker, the Hon. Mrs. Lyulph Stanley, Mrs. J. Wernher (chairman), Mr. W. W. Grantham (hon. treasurer), and Mrs. Bland-Sutton (hon. secretary). The Countess of Jersey moved, and Miss Ada Heather-Bigg seconded, a vote of thanks to the London School Board for the generous manner in which during fifteen years the buildings of the Board have been placed at the disposal of the Association, thereby ensuring safe and rational amusement to some 16,000 poor children weekly during the long winter evenings. The vote was carried.

Women have come out brilliantly in the provisional lists issued by the University of London on the reports of the examiners, but still awaiting confirmation by the Senate. Indeed, men will have to look well to their laurels if they do not wish to have these wrested from them.

The Admiralty have called for a report from the Captain-Superintendent of Pembroke Dockyard as to the expediency of employing females as tracers in the drawing offices, and as french polishers and upholsterers in the ship-joinery and furniture departments. These branches of work are at present performed by mechanics and apprentices.

At the invitation of the Society of American Women in London, Mr. Georg Henschel has consented to deliver in this country the lecture entitled "Personal Recollection of Johannes Brahms," which he gave some time ago in Boston. By permission of the American Ambassador the lecture is to be given at 1, Carlton House Terrace, on the afternoon of December 17th. Tickets (10s. 6d.) may be obtained from the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Bailey, 52, Stanhope Gardens, S.W.

Miss Bertha Cave, who unsuccessfully appealed to the House of Lords against the decision of the benchers of Gray's Inn, who declined to allow her to join the Society for the purpose of being called to the Bar, states that she will now try to get on to the rolls as a solicitor, and that she will study for the L.L.B. degree in the University of London. If there is any loophole by which women can be admitted to the Inns of Court she will take advantage of it. Miss Cave deserves to succeed, for she has shown the right spirit not only in carrying her case to the House of Lords, but by herself pleading her cause before the Lord Chancellor and seven judges, including the Lord Chief Justice.

It is interesting to note that it is the duty of lady inspectors under the Factory Acts to conduct police-court prosecutions.

It is with deep regret that we record the tragic death of Miss Hyacinth Mary Deane, one of the Government lady inspectors of technical education for girls. The accident resulting in this calamity occurred on the London and North-Western Railway, near Boxmoor Station, Hertfordshire. Miss Deane had been to Dublin on official duties, and returned alone *via* Holyhead, where she entered a first-class compartment. At Rugby she was supplied with a tea-basket, the door of the carriage then being securely fastened. The next stopping-place was at Willesden, where the carriage door was found open. A search party was organised, with the result that her terribly mutilated body was found on the line. Miss Deane has done excellent work in her capacity as Government inspector, and her sad death will cause widespread regret.

A Book of the Week.

THE RELENTLESS CITY.*

So much inferior work has been lately turned out by writers capable of better things that we welcome this clever book the more warmly. Clever it is, however little the reader may sympathise with the writer's scathing indictment of a great democracy.

For it is a veritable *J'accuse!* and the recipient of the charge is America, and New York in particular.

Hitherto Mr. Benson has not spared the Society folk of his own country. In "Mammon and Co." he gave us the presentment of the least lovely aspects of English social life, its baseness, its intrinsic corruption. Perhaps there is in his appalling picture of the New York plutocracy an echo of the famous dictum of the lady in *Punch*: "It's worse than wicked, it's vulgar."

Yet we, who read in the papers the account of one or two recent weddings in America, can hardly think the following description overdrawn:—

"For days beforehand the ordinary services had been altogether suspended, because the church had to be made fit to be the theatre of the ceremony, and a perfect army of furniture men, upholsterers, carpenters and plumbers occupied it. The ordinary square-backed wooden pews were removed from the body of the church, which was carpeted from wall to wall with purple felt, and rows of fauteuils in scarlet morocco, like the stalls of an opera house, occupied their places. To complete the resemblance, each chair was marked with its particular number in its own row, and the occupants, who gave up their tickets at the church door, were shown to their places—where they found in each chair a copy of the service printed on vellum—by scarlet-coated footmen.

"In front of the altar, where the actual ceremony would take place, there had been constructed, hanging from the roof, an immense bell-shaped frame made of wood and canvas, which was completely covered, outside and in, with white flowers, and reached from side to side of what the reporters called the sacred edifice. . . . Round the edges of this large bell, suspended by invisible wires, but appearing to float in the air, were life-size baby figures of *amorini*, made of wood and beautifully-tinted, winged and almost completely nude, who discharged gilded arrows from their gilded bows towards the pair who were to stand in the centre of the bell. Numbers of others peeped from the banks

* By E. F. Benson. (Heinemann.)

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