

Outside the Gates.

It is a matter for national thankfulness that the Queen escaped unharmed from the peril of fire in which she was recently placed. From the first day that she came amongst us as the bride of the Heir Apparent Queen Alexandra has been enshrined in the hearts of British men and women, and for many years to come we hope she will exercise the sway which is accorded to her, not alone as Queen, but because her gracious, winning, lovable personality commands our respect and allegiance. We must not forget that, but for the presence of mind of Her Majesty's devoted friend, Miss Charlotte Knollys, the accident might well have ended in disaster.

Once in five years all the National Councils of Women hold a Quinquennial Meeting and foregather from all quarters of the globe in international conference. Washington, Chicago, London, have all tasted the inspiration of these delightful meetings, and the women of Germany are making great preparations to welcome us in their beautiful capital, Berlin, in June next. The Presidents of the various National Councils play a prominent part in these international gatherings, and each nation has a certain

amount of responsibility in selecting its President in the International Congress year.

At the recent meeting of our National Council, at Cheltenham, Miss Mary Clifford was unanimously elected President for Great Britain and Ireland, and we would

ask you to glance at her portrait here presented if you want to realise how wise was the selection. Isn't she just a lovely woman to have gone to Berlin as the head of our National Council?—and the portrait is not a patch upon the original. To say why Miss Clifford was chosen for this honourable position would be superfluous; anyone who knows anything of woman's work for the good of the whole community for the past quarter of a century knows how whole-hearted has been her devotion to the interests of the poor in her own city of Bristol, where, as a Poor Law Guardian, she has laboured untiringly all through this period of innumerable Poor Law reforms. Again, her elevating influence in all that concerns women and her touching interest in little children, her wonderful mastery of language, her great personal charm and beauty—all combine to make her an ideal President, and one of whom every woman in the United Kingdom may feel justly proud.



Photo by the Church Army, 130, Edgeware Rd

MISS CLIFFORD.

President, National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland.

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