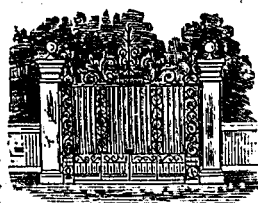


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



For the first time in Eisteddfodic history a lady won her full bardic degree by examination, after a most severe test at the Eisteddfod held recently in the quiet little seaside resort of Rhyl, in North Wales. The successful candidate was Miss Martha Griffith, of Liverpool, who won all hearts as, robed in full bardic vestments, she stood by the chaired bard, the Rev. Machreth Rees, pastor of the Welsh Congregational Church, Chelsea, on the Eisteddfod platform, in the great wooden building, holding 10,000 people, which had been specially erected for this historic gathering on some vacant ground near the West Parade.

Miss Mabel Vines, inspector of factories, last week ably conducted at Willesden the prosecution against a laundry proprietor in regard to two summonses under the Factory Acts. Miss Vines proved her case in both instances, and a penalty of a sovereign and costs was imposed in respect of each summons.

The Conference of the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland, which will be held at York from November 8th to 11th prox., is open to all purchasers of the ticket of admission which is issued by the Local Committee and can be obtained from the Hon. Sec., Miss A. Boyd Mackay, the Red House, Bootham, York. Information with regard to hotels, lodgings, boarding houses, train services, &c., can also be procured from the Local Committee. Among the many questions discussed during the past year by the Legislation Committee the most important were, says the Organising Secretary, Miss Emily Janes, the ordinance for the introduction of Chinese labour into the Transvaal, and the Licensing Bill. The question of separate courts of justice for juvenile offenders was discussed at the last Committee meeting. The present system of hearing all children's cases in the ordinary police courts during the ordinary hours, and in turn with all others, compares very unfavourably with the plan adopted in the United States of America. There the children are separated from all adult criminals; the magistrates sit at special hours to try their cases, and, as far as possible, all the formality and terror associated with police courts are entirely absent from the proceedings. By this system the children are spared the degradation of appearing in the ordinary courts, or mixing with habitual criminals; such a plan, in the opinion of the Legislation Committee, is much needed in England, to prevent juvenile offenders becoming hardened by contact with all that is worst in life, and the forwarding of all legislation on this point will have a prominent place in the winter work of the Committee. Other questions of interest to be discussed are the registration of registries for governesses and domestic servants; State Registration for Nurses; and vagrancy, with special regard to vagrant children.

It is sad that the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. George Cadbury, reports a probable deficit of £138 for the year ending on September 30th. The Committee is

considering possible ways of decreasing expenditure, but, as Miss Janes points out, it is not easy to see how this can be effected to any appreciable extent without such a curtailment of existing work as might lead to inefficiency. The President, Miss Clifford, has drawn up an appeal, which can be obtained from the office at 9, Southampton Street, High Holborn, W.C., at the price of 4d per dozen, post free. Friends of the Union will do good service by circulating this appeal. It needs to increase its membership rather than to lessen its efforts. It is a depressing fact that women's societies frequently receive such meagre financial support.

But in spite of difficulties and disappointments Miss Janes is able to write—"Though we seem to make way but slowly, there is a marked advance since the foundation of the first local Union of Workers at Sheffield in 1884. To those who can look back to it—as I do—it seems as if one were in a new world, and I cannot but feel that a resolute effort may so place the N.U.W.W. on a firm foundation for extended work that it may be a strength to the many thousands of women who are striving for higher things, here and in other lands. Those of us who were at Berlin came back firmly convinced that we have a duty not national merely, but international, which we cannot neglect."

A Book of the Week.

SABRINA WARHAM.*

Yet another novelist has fallen a victim to the prevalent craze for local colour! The author of "An Englishwoman's Love-Letters" comes before us with a long, painstaking novel full of local carriers, farmers, innkeepers, squires, and scenery, set forth to the length of 439 very closely-printed pages.

The prevalent taste for backgrounds is a curious thing, and one might with some profit speculate as to its precise meaning. Is it that we have so torn passion to tatters that now all we need is to rest in sylvan shades? Why does Mr. Beerbohm Tree rely upon his pageantry of scenery to fill his theatre, instead of the human side of drama?

Well! Here is Mr. Housman, too, declaring himself in favour of the description of an obscure village and a long list of its inhabitants. We bow to the seeming necessity, under the capricious decision of fashion.

"Few who depend on the railroad for knowledge of our English coast will be familiar with the locality here told of," begins Mr. Housman, and settles down to describe its very mediocre features with all the deliberation of a Walter Scott. Such a style is a sharp reaction for such an author; and it is safe to predict that the success of "Sabrina Warham" will be a *succès d'estime*, and by no means the kind of sensation which the Englishwoman's love-letters evoked.

There is, notwithstanding, most excellent work in this book. One may often reflect, "Life in this village would be dull!" and, after settling down to reside there, find life full of interests. This is the case with us now. When we have learnt our way about Mr. Housman's village, and made friends with the inhabitants, it is not dull, though things, village-like, move slowly.

The heroine is a modern, well-educated young woman, whose father was of the gentleman, her mother of the yeoman, class.

* By Laurence Housman. (John Murray.)

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