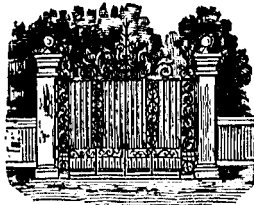


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



The Queen has sent the British and Foreign Sailors' Society £10 for the Nelson Centenary Room in the Sailors' Palace (Home and Institute) now being erected in Copenhagen. The foundation stone of the building was laid last month, and it is hoped that it will be completed by the end of October. It has been suggested by those co-operating with the society in Copenhagen that friends in this country may like to equip and endow a Nelson Room, to be used by British seamen in the port where Nelson gained one of his most famous victories. Gifts may be sent to the Nelson Centenary Memorial Fund, Bank of England, marked Copenhagen, if so desired; or to the treasurer, the Right Hon. Sir Joseph C. Dimsdale, Bart, P.C., M.P.; or to the secretary, Mr. E. W. Matthews, Passmore Edwards' Sailors' Palace, Limehouse, E.

Miss Lambrick, in an interesting article on "Glimpses of Japan," delivered to the nurses of the Royal Victorian Association, says of its women:—"The Japanese women have been described as small, good-tempered, industrious, affectionate, and fascinating. Like their European sisters, they are fond of dress, and get themselves up with wonderful quaintness. They represent many types, but are usually fascinating and pleasing to the European eye. They are never without charm except when dirty, and this is very seldom. They make their own clothes, and are excellent housekeepers. Kissing is to them the queerest custom, and they never embrace even their children. From the Western standpoint their lives are narrow and limited, and present a condition of things which would be intolerable to the American or Australian. A woman's life in Japan is summed up in what are called 'the three obediences'—obedience before marriage to her father, after marriage to her husband and his parents, when widowed to a son; or, failing such, to the nearest male relative.

"The married woman waits submissively on her husband, bows humbly when her lord sallies forth, tends patiently to every masculine whim, and submits meekly to be divorced at his good pleasure. She may be divorced for talkativeness, disobedience, jealousy, barrenness, leprosy, or stealing. Her opportunities for education are widening, but she has a long way to go before she will enjoy the freedom of the Western woman. Nor is it likely that she will ever attain the same stage of advancement. It is questionable, indeed, whether she could ever fully appreciate it. Japan has been called 'the Land of Happy Children,' and rightly so."

Child life is joyous, bright and free. Great festivities are held annually for their benefit, and in many ways they have privileges equal to the children in Western countries. Through their toys and pleasures they are trained in kindergarten fashion to play at work, to recognise the respect due to dignitaries and ancestors, and to learn abstract lessons of courage and self-reliance.

The Victorian Legislative Council has rejected the Women's Suffrage Bill by sixteen votes against eleven. It will be remembered that the Bill passed the Legislative Assembly.

A novel attempt to solve a difficulty has been made in relation to the control of the Hamilton Fish Park, New York. The authorities have for some time found it impossible to keep it clean and in order, because it was continually used by great numbers of poor children, amongst whom it was impossible to keep discipline without the employment of a large number of caretakers.

The authorities, according to *Laffan*, not wishing to be driven to the extremity of closing the park, have decided to try a new plan. They have re-named the park "the Playground City," and have granted the children a regular charter, which provides departments of police, fire, finance, sanitation, street-cleaning, and athletics.

The election of a mayor and council of children was carried out on Tuesday with great enthusiasm. On Wednesday the successful candidates assumed office with full powers. The child mayor will appoint his own subordinates, and will have absolute control of the park, except that the Mayor of New York retains the power of veto.

A happier solution could scarcely have been arrived at, the children will keep their playground, and at the same time discipline and order will be maintained under that best of rules, self-government. One point which occurs to us, however, is how the youthful mayor will bear the burden of the responsibility of office. Time alone will prove, but the post will not be a sinecure.

A Book of the Week.

THE FOOL ERRANT.*

This book seems to us the best that Mr. Hewlett has produced since "The Forest Lovers."

He gives us a life history—which is his strong point; he is not hampered by the facts of history, as he was in "Richard Yea-and-Nay," and he chooses for his mouthpiece a young man of an essentially clean mind and ideal temperament, so that such coarseness as he cannot dispense with is by the way, and does not form the whole point of the story, as was the case in "The Queen's Quhair."

In Mr. Hewlett's scheme of life there are two kinds of woman—(1) she who will sacrifice comfort, life, honour, riches, friends, country, religion—for love; and (2) she who will sacrifice love, honour, friends, country, religion—for creature comfort.

The typical woman of the first type was Iseult in the "Forest Lovers." A variant on the same theme is Virginia in "The Fool Errant." Both girls are taken under a man's protection, their honour being preserved. Both have to live thus in the company of a man whom they love to distraction, ever unsatisfied, ever craving. But here is a curious distinction. Virginia is the prouder woman; yet she gives herself, whereas Iseult would not, until satisfied that the man loved her as she loved him. Virginia is the finer, the more

* By Maurice Hewlett.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)