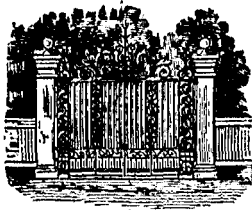


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



A special meeting of the Brontë Society is to be held at Haworth to-day (Saturday), October 7th, to commemorate the fiftieth year after the death of Charlotte Brontë. The Vicar of Leeds will preach a sermon at an afternoon service, when the hymns sung will be selected from those written by Charlotte and Anne Brontë, in Haworth Parish Church. In the evening an address will be delivered by Mr. Ernest de Selincourt (Lecturer in Modern English Literature to the University of Oxford), under the presidency of Sir Swire Smith.

In view of the rapid increase in the number of openings for the work of properly-qualified women teachers in theology the Archbishop of Canterbury is inaugurating a scheme for the training and testing of such teachers. The Archbishop has decided to institute a diploma or licence in theology (L.Th.), to be conferred upon such candidates as satisfy the threefold test of—(a) systematic study; (b) proficiency as shown by examination or otherwise; (c) teaching capacity. He has commissioned the Bishop of Gibraltar to supervise the testing of candidates, and has nominated a committee of highly-qualified ladies to take charge of details under his direction. The scheme will come into operation as soon as possible, and all information respecting it may be obtained from Miss Bevan, 61, Egerton Gardens, who has undertaken to act as hon. secretary to the committee.

The Court of Appeal at Ancona has just decided that women may not practise as barristers. Last year the late Signor Socci succeeded in persuading the Chamber of Deputies to adopt a measure permitting ladies to become barristers, but the session closed before it had time to reach the Senate. At present, therefore, the Ancona decision stands, and women, though they may take degrees in law, may not practise.

At the Conference at Neuchatel last week of the International Abolitionist Federation, which aims at the abolition of State regulation of the social evil, the President of the Conference stated that in respect of all proposals for dealing with the evils in question the Federation regards it as essential that the law affecting men and women should be the same.

Miss Lillian Gonzales Robinson, the youngest woman linguist in the United States, who has just been appointed head of the department of romance of the University of Oklahoma, although only twenty-three years old, has already mastered twelve languages, speaking most of them fluently. Miss Robinson graduated at the University of Chicago in 1903 with a degree of A.B.

Two nymphs named Luck and Ill-luck, living in a wood, wished to know which of them was more beautiful than the other. They went to a fox and asked him his opinion. He said: "I can give no opinion, unless you walk to and fro for a while." So they did. Quoth the fox to Luck, "Madam, you are indeed charming when you come in." Quoth he to Ill-luck, "Madam, your gracefulness is simply inimitable when you go out!"

A National Loss.

Nurses will specially deplore the death of Miss Flora C. Stevenson, LL.D., the sister of Miss Louisa Stevenson, the President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, in whom there has passed away one of rare nobility of character, an effective worker in the cause of education, and a supporter of all that promoted the welfare of women. Miss Stevenson was one of those who, possessed of this world's goods, used them freely for the betterment of her race with wisdom and discretion. Her character, indeed, presented a combination of integrity, sweetness, great intellectual force, and sound practical sense, which are rarely combined in one individual. Full of days, riches, and honour, she has now passed to her rest, leaving the world the better for her sojourn in it, and the poorer that it no longer benefits by her ripe wisdom, power of discernment, and helpfulness.

Miss Stevenson was educated privately, and at classes of the Edinburgh Association for the University Education of Women. In due time she was made an Hon. Fellow of the Edinburgh Institute. Since 1873, when the first Board was elected, she has been a member of the Edinburgh School Board, and in 1903 was chosen by her colleagues as their chairman, a position she held at the time of her death. In the same year the degree of LL.D. was conferred upon her by the University of Edinburgh. She was a cordial supporter of the movement for Women's Suffrage, and watched with great interest the struggle of women for admission to the medical profession. Although she took an active part in public affairs as a whole, her chief interest was given to education. She was a Governor of George's Heriot's Trust, a member of the Edinburgh Educational Trust, a director of the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution, and of the Royal Blind Asylum and School. In 1894 she was appointed by Sir George Trevelyan a member of the Departmental Committee on Habitual Offenders and Juvenile Delinquents, and she also served on the Departmental Committee to consider the rules for inebriates' reformatories.

Miss Stevenson, who was deeply interested in all questions affecting the working classes, was a Vice-President of the Women's Free Trade Union; she also held the same position in connection with the Society for the State Registration of Nurses, and showed her interest by appearing on the platform at its annual meetings. She was also a Vice-President of the National Union of Women Workers. Her kindly and gracious presence will be greatly missed at these and other public gatherings. We offer our sincere sympathy to her sister, Miss Louisa Stevenson, in her bereavement, in common with many of those who mourn the loss of one who has made the world a better and brighter place for her presence in it.

The funeral took place at the Dean Cemetery, Edinburgh, on Saturday last. It was a fitting tribute that the children of the public schools, for whom during her lifetime Miss Flora Stevenson had done so much, should have lined the route to the cemetery.

The coffin bore no flowers, none having been sent by the special request of the relatives, but a fitting tribute was a large wreath of laurel from Lord Rosebery, which was placed on the grave at the cemetery, where, surrounded by those who loved her, she was

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)