

anticipated the movement on behalf of the teaching of temperance in elementary schools and realised that this cannot be efficiently done unless the teachers are abstainers.

In the *Girl's Realm* for March Mr. George A. Wade has an article on the Orders to which a girl may aspire. Only five English Orders are available for women—three wholly reserved for them and two open to both women and men. The oldest Order for women, the Royal Order of Victoria and Albert, known as the "V.A.," was founded by Queen Victoria in 1862, and was intended to commemorate the Prince Consort. The first and second classes are reserved for Royal ladies, the third is open to peeresses, and the fourth to peeresses and ladies of lower standing. The decoration is usually awarded for personal service at Court. The Imperial Order of the Crown of India ("C.I.") was instituted by Queen Victoria in 1878. In 1883 Queen Victoria honoured St. George's Day by founding the "R.R.C.," the Royal Red Cross, for women who had shown zeal and devotion in nursing sick and wounded sailors and soldiers. In 1902 the King founded the Imperial Service Order, available for both sexes. So far only two women have won it. The only other Order open to women is the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, "for service in the cause of humanity."

A ladies' rifle club is being formed at Byfleet, Surrey, the members of which are to use a special miniature rifle. They are also to have the use of the Byfleet Rifle Club range for one day a week.

President Roosevelt has appointed Mrs. Albert Metcalfe commandant of the Government Navy Yard at Sacketts Harbour, Lake Ontario.

Hon. Samuel J. Barrows, who is a National Prison Commissioner in the United States, is a strong advocate of women as prison inspectors. He says:—

"Women have long developed their genius for housekeeping, and the cleanest prisons in the world are those which they keep. We have not yet begun to live up to the idea of Elizabeth Fry that every gaol or prison where women are kept should be under charge of a woman.

"We need in penology the help of women in doing what we know ought to be done, but also in finding out what ought to be done, and in solving knotty and unsettled questions."

Commissioner Barrows adds:—

"In the field of penology, woman needs the ballot as she needs it in other fields, not as an end but as a means—an instrument through which she can express her conviction, her conscience, her intelligence, and sympathy."

"Questions in philanthropy are more and more forcing themselves to the front in legislation. Women are obliged to journey to the Legislature at every session to instruct members and committees at legislative hearings. Some of these days we shall think it absurd that women, capable of instructing men how to vote, should not be allowed to vote themselves."

Book of the Week.

THE WHEEL OF LIFE.*

Miss Ellen Glasgow's work is always interesting; but her present book shows a depth which her writings have not hitherto made apparent.

The story is one which concerns the Smart Set, or leisured class, in America. These people seem greatly to resemble their kindred in London, concerning whom so many novels have been penned of late.

They are perfectly selfish, entirely heartless, altogether without sense of duty or moral responsibility. Their object in life is to adorn their bodies, and pander to their various appetites. We have a married couple—childless, of course—Perry and Gertie Bridewell. Gertie is really fond of the soulless, animal Perry, and her life consists in displaying all her glittering charms to him in their most alluring aspect, in order to keep him from infidelity. One man of their set is Arnold Kemper, a replica of Perry Bridewell, but unmarried. Interwoven with the lives of these aimless people is that of Roger Adams, a journalist, who married a pretty, under-bred country girl, under the masculine impression that because she wore simple hats she had a simple mind. It is in the character of Roger Adams that Miss Glasgow achieves that unexpected depth above mentioned.

Known to all these people is Laura Wilde, the young poetess, living with a family of senile, half-crazed aunts and uncles. Roger Adams fully appreciates the young girl's literary greatness, and has, in fact, long been devoted to her in secret. But Roger has his cross to carry—his worthless wife, who drugs herself with cocaine and seeks excitement and refuge from knowledge that she has a mortal disease, in a flirtation with another man, which ends in hopeless disgrace.

Roger, with all this to bear, has also to endure the knowledge that his peerless Laura has engaged herself to Arnold Kemper.

Knowing nothing of the world, nor of men, her whole imaginative mind inflamed with the craving to live and to be loved, Laura falls an easy victim to the practised love-making of the man of the world; and Adams, with all this sorrow to endure, comes suddenly into the light of spiritual truth; realises that, having nothing, he yet possesses all things; and that, having first sought righteousness, all these things have been added to him.

The tale is well worked to an adequate conclusion. Both these women—his wife and the woman he loves—come to Roger in their ultimate need. He saves both. The weak, shifty Connie meets death bravely; the disillusionised Laura faces life.

It will be a pity should this book not receive adequate recognition. It does not minister to the sensation-mongers, but it reaches a very high level, and is full of thought.

G. M. R.

*Ellen Glasgow. (Constable.)

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