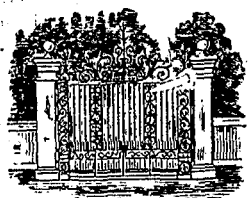


## Outside the Gates.

### WOMEN.



The Girton College Association of Certificated Students, at their meeting on June 15th, passed the following resolution: "That this meeting is in favour of an extension of the parliamentary franchise to women on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to men."

The years fly away so swiftly that it seems almost incredible that the Quinquennial Meeting of the International Council of Women held in Berlin is two years past, and that the Executive at its recent visit to Paris has been busy making arrangements for the 1909 Congress in Canada.

"Colonisation of educated women" was the subject exhaustively discussed on Monday afternoon at a Conference convened by the Central Bureau for the Employment of Women, held in the Council Chamber of the Caxton Hall, Westminster. The Hon. Sir G. Cockburn presided. He said that the question was one of world-wide importance, those who had not a trade or calling might be said to live vicariously, and not as self-respecting individuals ought to live. He read the other day that the American Institution of Civil Engineers had admitted a woman to membership. The Institute of Accountants and Bookkeepers found employment for a great many women; and nowadays even peerages were entailed to daughters in default of male issue.

In Australia, continued the chairman, there was plenty of room for educated women, but they were not wanted unless they could do something. In Canada and Australia there was a surplus of 250,000 men over women, 250,000 pairs of arms were waiting, for Jack was lonely without Jill; and the societies which were trying to readjust the disproportion were deserving well of the Empire.

A Canadian lady, Mrs. FitzGibbons, reminded the Conference that men had had every inducement to emigrate; matters ought now to be equalised, and women ought to have an opportunity to play their part as Empire-makers.

The Hon. Bernard Wise, late Attorney-General for New South Wales, moved a resolution expressing the opinion that, in the interests of educated women, it was desirable to consider further steps for promoting colonisation by them, and urging that the Central Bureau should be asked, in co-operation with other societies, to act as a channel of supply. He declared that it would be an enormous advantage if a steady stream of educated women of the British race could be directed to the Colonies.

Miss Vivian, of the South African Colonisation Society, complained of the lack of adaptability of women who went out to the Colonies. The trained

nurse required almost as much waiting on as the patient; the teacher would teach only her own special subjects, and the dairy-worker who could make butter thought it menial work to wash out the milk-bottles—milk in South Africa, explained Miss Vivian being generally supplied in old whiskey bottles. The most useful training for Colonial life was learning to do without. Women who went to the Colonies ought to be willing to work.

No mention was made of the fact that in Canada and South Africa women workers have no political status, and might be placed in a terribly dangerous and dependent position, especially where the coloured man has the vote; nor did the speakers for Australasia drive home the fact that its women were free and equal citizens with the men. Women who have to earn a living should avoid emigrating to those quarters of the globe where they are still classed with the beasts of burden.

## Book of the Week.

### THE BANDS OF ORION.\*

We extend a hearty welcome to a newcomer of distinct promise in the novel-writing world, and hope to hear more of the Hon. Mrs. N. Grosvenor.

"The Bands of Orion" is a quite modern London Society novel, but its author has no wish at all to sneer, nor to say clever things. She has a story to tell and she tells it with balance and reticence and in parts with real force. Her heroine is of the type now so popular both with English and American novelists, a young pretty woman who has been married before, who is her own mistress, and who feels that her first marriage was lacking in some of the qualities that are most coveted by the men and women of to-day. She had no supreme moment of passion, and though she mourns her husband she is by no means broken-hearted.

The real hero of the book, Dick Dering, does not make his appearance until we are within a few chapters of the end. We think this must be reckoned a fault in construction, though it is evidently deliberate on the author's part.

Dick and Arthur Dering are two brothers, one clever, one brilliant. Dick has every quality except that fertile imagination which is Arthur's solitary gift. Arthur has no principles, no persistence, no backbone, but he has insight and genius. The two brothers together make one splendid man. Mrs. Grosvenor makes poor Clare meet and love the wrong brother first. Arthur Dering is of the type of which Elizabeth Godfrey made such able use in her wholly charming romance, "The Winding Road." He is a man with wandering in his blood, born under Orion, the hunter's star. To conceive of such a man married to pretty, dainty Clare, who is nurtured in luxury and would not get her feet wet if she could avoid it by taking a hansom across the puddle, is impossible. But Clare thinks the circle might be squared if she made up her mind to be content with Arthur during the brief interludes

\*By Caroline Grosvenor (Heinemann).

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