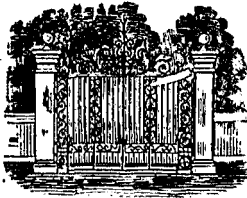


Outside the Gates.**WOMEN.**

The Society of Women Journalists held their Annual Meeting at quaint old Clifford's Inn on Monday, at which Mrs. Arthur Stannard presided in place of Mrs. T. P. O'Connor, the retiring President. A pleasant duty was the intro-

duction of the newly-elected President, Mrs. Burnett Smith, who had a very enthusiastic reception.

Mrs. Bulstrode, the Hon. Secretary, had an excellent report of the year's work and success of the Society to present. The question of affiliation with societies of working women journalists in other countries was discussed and referred to the Council for consideration.

At the close of the business meeting Mrs. T. P. O'Connor presented some beautiful gifts from the members to Miss E. M. Tait, the retiring Treasurer, which she accepted with graceful thanks.

After this pleasing ceremony an adjournment was made to Essex Hall, W.C., where an At Home was held to members and their guests. The musical programme was of a very high order, which goes without saying, as Signor Armando Lecomte, Senor de Garcia Aballo, Senor Rubio, Mr. Frederick Fairbanks, and Mr. Raphael Roche each appeared and charmed the audience.

Amongst the seven recipients of medals from the Royal Society, we are very pleased to find the name of one woman. The Hughes Medal has been bestowed on Mrs. W. E. Ayrton, for her experimental investigations on the electric arc, and also upon sand ripples.

On Wednesday a Bill to remove the Parliamentary disqualifications of women was introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Keir Hardie and was read a first time. He said that 420 members were pledged to give women the electoral franchise.

The Annual Meeting of the Central Society for Women's Suffrage held on the 31st ult., at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, was a huge success—the room was crowded and the audience full of go. Lady Frances Balfour spoke very straight to the press from the Chair, and greatly amused the meeting by her reference to the "shrieking brotherhood" when alluding to the highly coloured, and intolerant reports for which certain newspapers were notorious.

Mrs. Fawcett was in great form, and Mr. Walter Maclaren, Mr. Philip Snowden, M.P., and Mr. Cameron Corbett, M.P. all encouraged the women to persevere persistently in their demand for political rights. And to judge from the spirit which evidently animated the gathering, there is little doubt the society means to use every constitutional method to have women legally rank as responsible human-beings.

It is stated that explicit instructions have been issued by the Serjeant-at-Arms prohibiting known women suffragists from entering the precincts of the Houses of Parliament. Are we to understand that this order applies to Lady Frances Balfour and Mrs. Fawcett?

Amongst the most charming women who attended the Suffrage Convention, at Copenhagen, this summer the Finns came second to none, and, indeed, they appeared to possess a dignity all their own. "The result of the vote no doubt," it was opined. Very likely. Anyway, all Finland celebrated on Sunday last the anniversary of November 4th, 1905, when, after a week's general strike, the Bobrikoff regime ended, and full freedom and practical autonomy was granted by the Tsar. The year has not been wasted. Thorough reforms have been initiated in every department of the State. The last session of the old four-Chambered Diet terminated in September, and electioneering is already in full swing for the new one-Chamber Diet, which will be elected on the basis of universal suffrage, both sexes having votes. The new Diet will meet in March, 1907. The women are taking a great part in the electoral campaign.

In an article in the *Lady's Realm* for last month Mr. Angus Hamilton tells how the present Amir has deprived the Afghan women of their picturesque dress. He writes:—"Proud of their prepossessing qualities, the women of Afghanistan have exploited their charms so much that it was left to Habib Ullah to impose a check upon the increasing attractiveness of the street costume of the feminine portion of his subjects. One day, in the spring of 1903, to the unspeakable dismay of many pretty women and of all young girls, he issued orders, changing the white *burka*, which, although covering the head and figure, and leaving a latticed insertion before the face, was in a measure attractive. Thereafter these white street robes were to be dyed kharki for Mohammedan women, red or mustard-yellow for Hindu women, and slate colour for other women. Disobedience of this law was threatened with a fine of fifty rupees, while its requirements had to be fulfilled within fourteen days. Unhappily, by this change an attractive feature in the life of the city has disappeared, the lamentable hues enforced upon the poor ladies by the Amir's edict emphasising the dirt and discomfort of the Kabul streets." The refinement of cruelty, indeed.

Book of the Week.**THE CONTEST.***

It is always a pleasure to watch the gradual development of a talent. Miss Haverfield made a creditable bid for fame in her first book, "Badmanstow," but since then the nature of her work has not been altogether such as to lead her readers to suppose that she would go higher. Her writing has been at times disfigured by marks of haste, and by the fault which has been described as "undue loquacity."

*By E. L. Haverfield. (George Allen.)

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