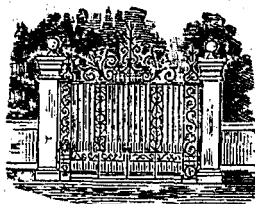


## Outside the Gates.

### WOMEN.



As is well known, membership of the Alpine Club is not open to women, and it is now proposed to form a Ladies' Alpine Club, if fifteen members can be secured, with Mrs. Aubrey le Blond as President. In this event the qualification for membership will be the same as that required by the men's club. It is hoped that the Lyceum Club will form a meeting place at which women can discuss mountaineering.

The French Minister of Public Instruction has accorded to Miss Alice H. Brunton, the daughter of Sir Lauder Brunton, the diploma of *Officier de l'Instruction Publique*, in recognition of her services to the recent Second International Congress on School Hygiene.

The silver medal annually presented by the Helmsfors (Finland) Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has this year been awarded to Miss Norah Pirkis, the hon. secretary of the stray dog work carried on by the National Canine Defence League.

Modern feminine aspirations have now, says the Vienna correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, achieved in Austria a considerable success, which is all the more valuable as it has been the object of their ambition for several years past. The Minister of Public Instruction has at last declared that from the present time girls and women may enter the universities under precisely the same conditions as men, they can give private lectures in clinical hospitals, and be appointed assistants by the professors. The Minister at once granted the first petition of a lady to act as private lecturer and instructor at Vienna University. This lady, *Fraülein Dr. Elise Richter*, forty years of age, has for the last four years petitioned the professors of the university for permission to lecture upon Roumanian philology. The professors were willing, but the then Minister refused his ratification. The female medical doctors also demanded to be allowed appointments as assistants, and the Ministry caused an inquiry to be made in all the Austrian universities and clinical hospitals. The result of the investigation was that only a few professors opposed the admission of academically graduated women as private lecturers and assistants, hence the inquiry culminated in the above decree by the Minister.

The new private lecturer, *Dr. Elise Richter*, is the eldest sister of *Fraülein Dr. Hélène Richter*, who has interested herself in the English language and literature, and has made a very admirable translation of Shelley's "*Prometheus Unbound*," and also published a monograph upon *William Blake*, which had a very favourable reception from the English critics.

## Book of the Week.

### THE CHILD OF PROMISE.\*

It is always a question whether anyone can write successfully in two distinct styles. That, as a writer for children, Miss Netta Syrett is eminently satisfactory is an established fact, the perfect simplicity of her style, the absolute sympathy with, and knowledge of, children never fails. Episodes and incidents of profound interest to her readers fill page after page so that they must fairly race to the end of the story in their eagerness to know what happens next.

And what of her work for the "grown-ups"? "*The Child of Promise*" is no child's story, it is especially not a book for young people; throughout there is a note too tragic, too profound, and the subject is thoroughly unpleasant. It might be described finally as an *unmoral*, not an *immoral* book, and one, therefore, to be avoided for *la jeune personne*.

So much for contrast! In comparison, the simplicity of the author's style remains, her English is beautiful. Her sympathy with her characters, her knowledge of them is as unerringly strong. Moreover there is not a dull line in the book, and, always providing the main theme is not repellent to the reader, the story is one that once begun demands quick reading. How will it end? How can it end? one questions.

The story deals with a certain sect founded by one Hubert Lansing, and supported by Anna Delyanof on the lines of the old Doukhobor beliefs; in other words, they were disciples of the Simple Life in its extremist sense. The depiction of these people is most admirably done, their entire earnestness and genuine selflessness, their veritable fanaticism is made so palpable that it is with pity, not contempt, one is forced to judge them. That they are doomed to the failure they deserve is to be foreseen from the outset; hardship, disappointment, dissensions are their portion wherever they go. The Lansing Colony, first founded in Canada, ends in disaster, but from the wreck of it there come two figures—Anna Delyanof and Maurice Heathcote—they never waver or turn aside though this downfall of their fanatical enthusiasm is but the forerunner of many. Throughout all they cherish a dream. It is woven round the personality of Natasha, the daughter of Maurice Heathcote and Mary Godwin, who, according to the laws of the colony have, on principle, defied the marriage ceremony, and are bound by nothing but their vows to each other. Mary dies, leaving as a legacy Natasha to be brought up in "the faith," a veritable priestess of it. But here is destined to be their greatest failure. No training, no teaching, neither example nor precept can change the nature of the girl, child, on her mother's side of the house, of an old aristocratic, cultured race. Natasha's whole being is permeated, not by the atmosphere of the Simple Life—that stifles her, repels her—but by

\* By Netta Syrett. (Chapman and Hall.)

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