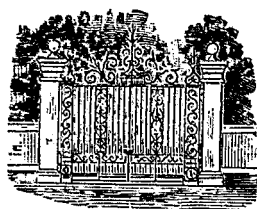


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



A very full and interesting programme has been arranged in connection with the Conference of the National Union of Women Workers to be held in Manchester from October 21st to October 25th.

Considerable time will be devoted to the position of women in the various trades, industries, and professions, the relation between men's and women's labour, the effect upon the conditions of working women of Trade Unions, and the Co-operative movement, etc. A paper of interest to nurses will be that by Mrs. Herbert Ashburner on "Health Visitors in the Homes."

It is interesting to note that men are beginning to realise that if women's work is underpaid it is not the women only who suffer, but male labour is also cheapened. At Bath last week, at a meeting held under the auspices of the Women's Trade Union League, Mr. Gill, M.P., said that women should organise, for there was a tendency to replace male labour by female labour because it was cheaper. If women did men's work, they should get men's pay, and organisation would secure that.

Mr. Burroughs said the cause of women's trade unionism was equal with the cause of men's trade unionism. Every unorganised woman worker was a danger to the men's organisation, and each organised woman worker was helpful to the general trade union movement.

It seems, therefore, that if men are not inspired to help women to obtain a "fair day's wages for a fair day's work" as a matter of abstract justice, they are likely to do so from that most powerful of inducements—self-interest.

At Worcester City Council last week, a memorial, signed by Canons Knox-Little, Claughton, and Wilson, and over three hundred women ratepayers and others, was read, protesting against any portion of the rate of 3½d. in the £ for the cost of the Worcester Election Commission being levied on women ratepayers excluded from voting for the election of Parliamentary representatives. A letter from the Birmingham Women's Social and Political Union protested against "the gross scandal of penalising women ratepayers for male voters' misdeeds." The Mayor said the Council might sympathise, but they were powerless. We think the women ratepayers of Worcester have every right to protest, and if the City Council is powerless we hope they will carry their grievance to higher tribunals.

The season will be exceptionally rich in works of biography, and amongst those which will be

eagerly read are "The Letters of Queen Victoria," "The Queen of Letter-Writers," by Janet Aldis, a life of Madame de Sévigné, "A Princess of the Old World," by Eleanor C. Price, the life and surroundings of Anne Marie Louise d'Orléans, Duchesse de Montpensier, born in 1627, and "A Sister of Marie Antoinette (the Life Story of Maria Caroline, Queen of Naples)," by Mrs. Bearne.

The most important historical works promised dealing with women for the coming season are "Women of Florence: being a study of their Influence on Florentine History during and prior to the Cinquecento," translated from the Italian of Professor Isidoro del Lungo, with coloured and other plates, "Marie de Médicis and the Court of France in the Seventeenth Century," translated from the French of M. Louis Batiffol by Mary King, and "The Lover of Queen Elizabeth: being the Story of the Life of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester," by Mrs. Aubrey Richardson.

Book of the Week.

THE LONG ROAD.*

"The extraordinary decree on which this story is founded is not an effort of the imagination, but simple historical fact."

So we are assured by the opening note, and in the light that latter day circulation of intelligence has thrown upon modern Russia, a great deal more that is depicted in this remarkable story might be equally true.

It is a remarkable book in more ways than one. In the first place its treatment is positively atmospheric. It is impossible to read the story without being transported right out of one's own comfortably civilised surroundings into the very lives of a people living always on the brink of disaster. Here in the very heart of our security we learn what it is to start at some unaccustomed sound, to shrink even from the appearance of good fortune, as if it necessarily foreboded evil.

Next there is the extreme simplicity of the writing so well chosen in dealing with the simple folk around whom the interest is woven. It has almost the musical rhythm of Biblical language, and runs the narrative along with the same smoothness. Smart or epigrammatic diction would have been wholly unconvincing here, facts are facts indeed, and sometimes the statement of them is almost crude. But then it was a crude state of affairs to be deported from one's home in Kazan, Russia, to Irkutsk in Siberia.

But such is the hopefulness of human nature, and its adaptableness. Ivan Iline could eventually take up his life and his trade again and make a new home for his wife and their little son Stepan, with a modicum of contentment. That was under the governorship of easy-going Dolgourof, but he died, and Paschkin ruled in his stead. Then Iline's troubles began, and strong man as he was

* By John Oxenham. (Methuen.)

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