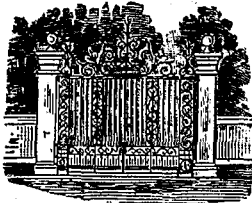


Outside the Gates.

ECHOES OF THE N.U.W.W. CONFERENCE.



It is not surprising that the meetings of the Conference of the National Union of Women Workers, held in Manchester at the end of last month, attracted numerous audiences. At a time

when the position of women in the industrial and political world is agitating so many minds it was a foregone conclusion that papers and discussions dealing with such questions as women's work in sweated industries, the relation between men and women's labour, trade-unions for women, school inspection, etc., would evoke great interest.

On the first day Mrs. George Cadbury, the President of the Union, gave a most excellent address, entitled "The Riddle of Circumstance."

Miss Clementina Black, who spoke on the position of women in unskilled work, defined this as work that requires no ingenuity, *but* great practice. One of the reasons for the underpayment of unskilled women workers was their inability to organise. If they would but combine they would not only raise the standard of wages, but would make room for extra hands.

Miss Irwin, Secretary of the Scottish Council of Women's Trades, advocated the establishment of Trades Unions, and of a State Wages Board as a remedy for under pay.

Mrs. Beer pointed out that even in the best paid trades a woman's maximum of pay is usually a man's minimum.

On the second day an interesting paper was that by Mrs. Mabel Hope on the position of women in official work. The speaker pointed out that in the Post Office service, even in the telephonic department, where it is admitted they have no rivals, they receive lower wages than men. The same story was told in relation to the pay of teachers in all kinds of schools.

Miss Margaret Ashton, in an admirable paper on the relation between men's and women's labour, instanced the cotton trade as the only one in which men and women work on the same terms. It is the best organised and the best paid.

The Rev. Lewis Donaldson, amid great applause, said that with civic emancipation would come economic independence.

The Public Health Society of Manchester is a most successful and useful Society, but it was rather remarkable that in the paper read on health visiting in Manchester no mention was made of the work of the district nurses in Manchester, and yet the Lady Health Visitors in that city must surely be working in co-operation with the Queen's Nurses, of whom there are about 50 in the city.

The Conference concluded with an amusing and delightful address "On Growing Old," by Mrs. Creighton. H. B.

The Society of Women Journalists held their thirteenth annual meeting and reception at Rumpelmayer's, King Street, S.W., on Monday afternoon, a rose and white suite of magnificent rooms having been most generously placed at their disposal. The business was admirably conducted by the retiring President, Mrs. Burnett Smith, and Mrs. Timbrell Bulstrode. Mrs. Humphry Ward was elected President, and a thoroughly representative council appointed. A brilliant gathering of members and friends assembled, everyone in the happiest mood, and some lovely gowns were worn. Altogether the Women Journalists presented a very imposing and charming crowd.

Several very distinguished collectors accepted the invitation of the Lyceum Club to attend the Collectors' Dinner on Monday evening. Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who was in the chair, gave the toast, "Collecting—a Sport." Mr. Frank Freeth delighted the guests with his erudite and charming speech on "English Potters and Pottery." Miss Adeline Edwards spoke on "The Sixth Sense in Collecting." "The Joys and Rewards of Rummaging" was presented very humorously by Mrs. Herbert Cohen; and Mr. P. G. Konody, in "The Collectors' Attitude Towards Modern Art," pleaded eloquently for greater appreciation of the modern artist, who really exists even in this machine-made age. In the drawing-room there was a small exhibition of bric-à-brac, lace, and English porcelain, beautiful marked specimens of the latter having been kindly lent by Miss Samuda, of "Swansea" fame.

The result of the Municipal Elections has been disappointing. Only five women have won seats, and many excellent candidates have been beaten. We must not, however, despise the thin edge of the wedge.

Book of the Week.

AN ENGLISH GIRL.*

There is, at the present time, a boom in American literature. It is possible that the diminishing of the distance between the two countries has set about studying the New World with fresh ardour; it is probable that we are awakening to our great ignorance of it, just sufficiently to copy the American spirit summed up once by a native who said: "We are not inquisitive; we only want to know."

It is not to the average novel, however, that we can go for enlightenment. The delightful hero, the charming heroine, faultless in courtesy, in love, the models of perfection are as common, or is it as rare, in America as in England? The "Yankee" pure and simple has his prototype in the "cad" of English society. There are British representatives of "Mrs. Wiggs," if we are to trust fiction, in every quarter of this island, while the aggressive, talkative, dogmatic being who provides so much of the humour in modern romance is as indigenous to our soil as across the water.

* By Ford Madox Hueffer. (Methuen.)

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