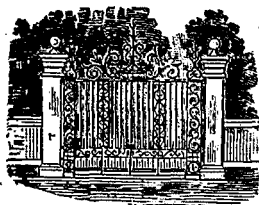


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



A notice of motion has been received by the Royal College of Surgeons from Mr. Clinton T. Dent, a member of the Council of the College, recommending that steps be forthwith taken to admit women to the examinations of the Conjoint Examining Board of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, and also to the Fellowship of the latter college. The motion will be moved by Mr. Dent at the next meeting of the Council. The recent poll of the Fellows and members of the college on the question showed a majority of 400 out of about 9,000 voters to be against the admission of women students. The Council is, however, not bound to act in accordance with this decision.

It is to be sincerely hoped that the College of Surgeons will support Mr. Clinton Dent's common-sense motion. The whole position at present is irrational, and brings discredit on the medical profession.

A demonstration of women, under the auspices of the Women's Freedom League, was held in Trafalgar Square on Saturday afternoon. Incidentally the subject of political equality between men and women was dealt with, but the primary object of the promoters of the meeting was to demand the immediate release of Daisy Lord, the young girl now under commuted sentence of penal servitude for life for the murder of her illegitimate child. A resolution calling for the immediate release of the prisoner was carried unanimously at the close of the meeting.

A serious dearth in the number of male candidates for the mission field is reported by the London Missionary Society in its annual report just issued. Women candidates, however, are waiting for posts.

The Rev. R. Wardlaw Thompson, Foreign Secretary of the Society, attributes the position to "the present intellectual unrest, which affects the men in the colleges more than the women who are at home."

The Church Missionary Society finds a falling off in both men and women, and is at present in need of 165 candidates.

President Roosevelt recently complimented the General Federation of Women's Clubs by inviting its President, Mrs. Sarah Platt Decker, to meet with the Governors of States when they assembled in conference in Washington in the interests of conserving the natural resources of the country. The President thought Mrs. Decker should be consulted on the subject of the preservation of the forests. Mrs. Decker met the Governors on terms of political equality, since she is a citizen of Colorado, where women vote.

Book of the Week.

DRUSILLA'S POINT OF VIEW.*

A more charming book it would be difficult to find than "Drusilla's Point of View." Madame Albanesi has a gift for writing pretty stories that one thoroughly enjoys reading, and this is decidedly one of her best. It may be light literature, but that, in these days when literature is weighted by so much that is undesirable, may be taken as a wholesale compliment.

The book opens with a dainty little bit of portraiture—two sisters, living together in a charming country home, with plenty of money, in an excellent position in society, leading an altogether desirable life. Although there is really but little difference in their age, Bertha gives one the feeling that she is many years older than Drusilla; it is quite a shock to discover later in the story that she is only eight and twenty. It is not long before one realises that circumstances have aged and mellowed her; it is not merely that she is the elder of two orphans and has always had to mother Drusilla. Miss Heronworth is burdened with a secret, the mystery of which is very well sustained and pervades the best part of the book. The plot is an ingenious one, but it owes its complete success to the excellent characterisation which tends to the development. Drusilla is a great contrast to the mature Bertha, a delightfully irresponsible being, full of the joy of existence, utterly unaware of the fact that her sunshine is a fiction, and above her hangs the cloud that has sapped Bertha's youth.

It is not, however, until Drusilla's happiness seems to have attained its height of perfection that the elder girl's anxiety reaches agony point.

As is to be expected, the fascinating Drusilla gathers many admirers; we have to do with but two of them—Brian Keston, who is too poor and in too anomalous a position to aspire to an heiress; and Lord Carlingford, who appears on the scenes and will take no denial. One of the most natural touches in the whole story is Drusilla's objection to being swept off her feet so entirely; she has led such a sheltered life, she is so young, there is something perplexing, almost frightening in this new state of affairs. She does not by any means fall blindly, unquestioningly, into love; it is doubtful whether anyone ever does without a qualm of any sort. Of course, Jim Carlingford carries the day; he is so practical, so thorough in all he does, such an eminently manly man, not born to be beaten. Then the troubles begin. For the proper development of the said troubles there has, of course, to be a villain in the plot, and she happens to be just a disagreeable, self-satisfied woman, with an abnormal consciousness of her own importance in the world. She is quite unaware that what she considers her sense of duty is in reality sheer spitefulness, or that she only gets her own way because she is so intensely tiresome. There is not a more cleverly delineated character in the book than Mrs. Ling-

(* By Madame Albanesi. Hurst and Blackett.)

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)