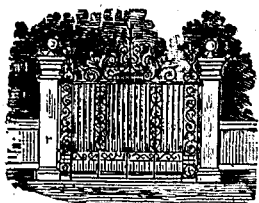


Outside the Gates.



WOMEN

The Woman's Exhibition, to be held at Prince's Skating Rink from May 13th to May 26th, is being organised by the Women's Social and Political Union with the thoroughness which is characteristic of all its actions. The decoration and general arrangement of the colour scheme has been entrusted to Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, the Actresses' Franchise League will be responsible for the entertainment programme, Mrs. Garrett Anderson, M.D., Mayor of Aldeburgh, has promised to be responsible for a stall, and there is to be a sweet stall, a farm-produce stall, at which the womanliness of the new woman can be demonstrated beyond dispute, a bookstall in the hands of the Writers' League, and many other attractions.

Canon McCormick, Rector of St. James's, Piccadilly, presided at a meeting of the Women's Union (C.E.T.S.) for temperance work among women, held at Bridgewater House, by permission of Lord and Lady Ellesmere, the latter being present. Mrs. Stanley Boyd, M.D., delivered an address on the evils of intemperance in alcohol and the use of drugs. The Bishop of London said that among the well-to-do classes the lack of occupation often led to intemperance, while among the poor it was overwork and worry which conduced to it. As one poor woman once remarked to him, she could get out of Bethnal Green for fourpence spent in gin.

Women's work is at best ill paid, but for many women the alternatives are to work or starve. At a meeting last week of the Central (Unemployed) Body for London, held at the Guildhall, the President, the Rev. E. Russell Wakefield, presiding, a report from the Women's Work Committee was discussed. This Committee advised that a training centre should be established in which women might be taught trades, such as upholstering, in which there was a dearth of women's labour, and that the Local Government Board should be approached on the subject. Mr. Sidney Webb moved an amendment, which was carried by a large majority, that the Women's Work Committee should approach that Department with a view to the establishment of a training centre, where temporary work could be provided in a manner best calculated to put women in a position to obtain regular work. He pointed out that to give women simply sewing to do was productive of little if any good whatever, as the occupation was over-stocked and, indeed, sweated.

Notwithstanding the fact that about half a million of money has been expended on the new Royal Infirmary at Manchester, it is now said to be impossible to appoint any resident women

medical practitioners because no quarters have been provided for them. But a bedroom which will accommodate a male medical officer can equally accommodate one of the other sex, and there appears no valid reason against residents of both sexes sharing a common dining-room. Is it possible, as is whispered, that the real difficulty is that the management are not keen to appoint women to house appointments in the Infirmary?

The development of the national conscience on matters concerning the public health is evidenced by the increasing notice accorded to them in the public Press. A new Journal devoted to the diffusion of Health, Hygiene, etc., has just appeared, the title of which is *Slainte*, which will be the official organ of the Women's National Health Association. It is edited by the Countess of Aberdeen, and the first number contains a Foreword and notes by the Editor. It will be issued monthly, price 1d. The publishers are Messrs. Maunsel and Co., 96, Middle Abbey Street, Dublin.

Book of the Week.

THE STORY OF VIRGINIA PERFECT.*

This story makes delightful reading, all the more so that it is surprising to find so much real charm in very commonplace surroundings. There is an unaffected freshness from the very first page, when we meet Wilfred Keble, the artist, in the unromantic and unpicturesque neighbourhood of Southend, sketching for a popular weekly paper. An impressionist of the most pronounced type, he finds material for his clever pencil in the most unpromising objects, treating even tragedy from the comic point of view, but the reader soon realises that his is a character of exceptional beauty. After many years of intimate acquaintance Virginia's summing up of the man is a very true one. "It is such men as this who teach us to understand our fellow beings, who teach us to love and have compassion on one another."

The book deals entirely with what is generally called the lower middle class, and it is pleasant to meet a writer who takes the class seriously, not merely as one to afford amusement by its small vulgarities and solecisms.

Keble meets Virginia at Southend. She is sitting by a wall when he comes upon her suddenly from the other side. His artist eye is caught by her peculiar type of beauty, and realising that she belongs to the class where formal introductions are not always demanded, he asks to be allowed to sketch her. She is very young and very frank, and he soon learns all her simple story. The only daughter of a small jeweller in Bayswater, she is just married to a working jeweller who lives in Clerkenwell.

It all sounds very common, even sordid, but the writer throws her spell over you, and you follow

* By Peggy Webling. (Methuen.)

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)