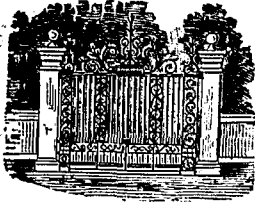


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN



We are pleased to note that, in all, four women have been placed on the panels of chairmen and arbitrators in the scheme for a Court of Arbitration framed by the Board of Trade. Mrs. Fawcett, LL.D., Miss E. S. Haldane, LL.D., and Miss Margaret Sewell, form part of the distinguished list to serve on the panel of chairmen, and Miss Reddish on the Labour panel.

Lady Strachey, President, and Miss Annie Leigh Browne, Hon. Secretary of the Women's Local Government Society, are inviting support to a Bill to be reintroduced by Dr. Shipman into Parliament this Session to make every person, married or single, who has resided for the whole of twelve months preceding the date of nomination within the specified area, eligible to serve on Town and County Councils. At present no married woman, except in London, can be on the register, and so no married woman can be elected. This greatly restricts the choice of electors.

We hear that *The Englishwoman* has caught on like hot cakes. Four thousand copies were sold out at once, and a second edition had to be printed. We hope the nurses' libraries will put it on their magazine list. The twaddle considered good enough for women by the male editors of many of the "ladies' weeklies" is an insult to the intelligence of a chimpanzee.

At a meeting in support of Woman Suffrage at Godalming, at which Sir William Chance presided, the following letter was read from Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace, O.M.:—"As long as I have thought or written at all on politics I have been in favour of woman suffrage. None of the arguments for or against have any weight with me, except the broad one, which may be thus stated:—'All the human inhabitants of any one country should have equal rights and liberties before the law; women are human beings, therefore they should have votes as well as men. It matters not to me whether ten millions or only ten claim it—the right and the liberty should exist, even if they do not use it. The term 'Liberal' does not apply to those who refuse this natural and indefeasible right. *Fiat justitia, ruat cælum.*" That is how every truthful human feels on the subject.

The Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association is holding a meeting on the 18th inst. at the Westminster Palace Hotel at 5 o'clock. Lady Knightley, of Fawsley, the President of the Association, will preside.

The Cambridge Union Society carried by a majority of 92 a resolution—"That this House

would strongly approve of the immediate granting of the B.A. degree to women in this University." Good for young Cambridge!

A Local Government Board Return shows that in England there are 563,961 women, and in Wales 41,945 qualified to vote in County Council elections, 259,827 in England, and 6,035 in Wales qualified to vote for Borough Councils in county boroughs, and 131,421 in England and 5,903 in Wales qualified to vote for Borough Councils in non-county boroughs.

The State Children's Association have issued a paper explanatory of the Children's Act, 1908. This Act brings together 22 Acts regarding children, which have been passed at different times, and adds to them many new provisions for children's safety; it is these new provisions which are spoken of in the paper. The paper is simply expressed, so as to be of service to those who work, through philanthropic agencies or officially, in connection with such parents as will mostly be touched by the Act.

Book of the Week.

FATALITY.*

Somewhat an ominous title round which to weave a pleasing and interesting story—and pleasing in many ways it proves, though the leading idea all through is the one suggested by the title.

"Esterelle Townsend walked through the summer world, singing as she went." So opens the book. "And far, far away from her and her happy world sat the Fates, the three old sisters Parce, watching, and arranging her fate."

The only child of a devoted father, so far all had gone well with her, but it soon becomes evident that the black thread is henceforth to be liberally run through the yarn of her life by the relentless sisters. Well for her that she possesses a certain resilience of character, which enables her to accept the inevitable, and in time to rise above it. Fate certainly plays her many unkind tricks, and trouble after trouble falls upon her on the very day, her twenty-first birthday, which she begins with her happy song. Loss of fortune, her dearly loved father, and the lover of her girlhood, come like a veritable cataclysm. Yet all this is so quietly and convincingly told that her subsequent action seems the only thing possible for her to do. There is no doubt she possesses in quite an unusual degree "sweet reasonableness"—a quality much to be desired, but seldom the heritage of women.

Two years pass before the thread of the story is again taken up. Esterelle, now married to Sir Frederick Delacour, is all that a loyal wife should be, and fills her new position admirably. Sir Frederick is certainly not a pleasant character to live with. He is well and cleverly delineated. "Well preserved, handsome, refined, wealthy. Oh, but so hard and cold!" is Esterelle's first

* By G. G. Chatterton. (John Long.)

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