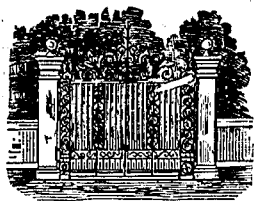


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



The Congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance will be held this year in London, from April 26th to May 2nd, the hosts being the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. A pageant of women's trades and professions will form part of the programme, and in the arrangement of this the Society will have the assistance of the Artists' Suffrage League. It is to be confidently hoped that the impression to be made on public opinion will be sympathetic. We must do all in our power to disprove the statement that women do not want to be enfranchised, and to show to the men of this country, as well as the International Delegates, and through them to foreign nations, that our demand is insistent, and will not cease until justice is granted. Mrs. Galich, National Union of Women Suffrage Societies, 25, Victoria Street, S.W., will gladly give information on the arrangements for the Congress.

Mr. Runciman, President of the Board of Education, received an influential deputation of representative women last week on the position of women inspectors under the Board.

Mrs. Woodhouse, who introduced the deputation, urged the appointment of more women inspectors acquainted with the problems of elementary and secondary schools. The ideal woman inspector should possess an honours degree, and her appointment should always be preceded by a period of markedly successful teaching in a secondary school.

Mrs. Byles expressed deep discontent with the small number of women inspectors, the character of the work given them, and their official status and salaries.

Mr. Runciman, in reply, said that for the last six or seven years the Board had been increasing the number of women inspectors and decreasing the men. In regard to salaries, in all other Government Departments, and, indeed, in every department of life except, perhaps, in the medical profession, the salaries of women were smaller than those of men. They were governed in this matter by a rather merciless law—that of supply and demand, and the Treasury could not see its way at the present moment to make the salaries of men and women alike. That did not interfere with status. Mr. Runciman said he hoped in his time to increase the sphere of usefulness of women inspectors as well as their number, not because they happened to be women, but because they were the best people for certain work. The Board of Education and the inspecting staff and the teaching staff existed not for the professions but the children, and anything which would improve the schools he

was prepared to undertake without any prejudice for or against either men or women.

At a Sanitary Committee of the City Corporation, Sir Robert Rogers declared that women sanitary inspectors had been an abomination and the greatest nuisances the City had ever been hampered with. There was, he asserted, no duty done by women which could not be better done by men. This question has been admirably discussed by Mr. G. Bernard Shaw in this month's *Englishwoman*.

The *Englishwoman* well maintains its promise of last month. It is full of good things. Mr. Laurence Housman, Mr. Alma Tadema, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb, Mr. Cecil Chapman, Mr. Philip Snowden, M.P., Miss Eva Gore-Booth, Dr. Marion Phillips, and Mr. Maurice Hewlett are all names to conjure with, but the article by Mr. Bernard Shaw alone is well worth the shilling which is the price of the magazine.

Book of the Week.

A QUESTION OF MEANS.*

A very telling title, and the opening words of the book: "Everything is a question of means," is to a certain extent true. Miss Cross is to be congratulated on having written a book so full of deep human interest, and simply teeming with vitality; also in having proved so clearly that there are things of far higher importance than mere means. Once begun, the reader has no inclination to lay the book down; the characters are all real living people, in whom and in whose careers one can take only the keenest interest. They are all so natural, with the many contending virtues and failings of ordinary human beings faithfully depicted.

The style is easy and fluent, making pleasant reading. The materials out of which the story is woven are homely enough, but when you are finished you realise the strength and wholesomeness of the theme running through the whole volume.

In the very first chapter your interest is aroused in three characters. Rose, the pretty daughter of well-to-do parents, joins a house party given by some friends, who are the rich people of the neighbourhood.

Samson Hunter is a fine specimen of a large-hearted owner of great wealth; a self-made man, he is, nevertheless, a gentleman of the truest type. His one great disappointment is his son, a clever young fellow, straight and honourable, but hard, and out of sympathy with his father. Mrs. Hunter's great wish is to see her son married, and sets her heart on his winning Rose. Of this there seems to be every chance, as the girl is attracted up to a certain point by his strong personality, and also thinks it would be very comfortable to be rich. But at the house-party she meets Charles Ollivant, a man, so far as character goes, infinitely superior to Malcolm Hunter, but—his means are small. It does not take Rose long to decide to give her hand

*By Margaret B. Cross. (Chatto and Windus.)

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