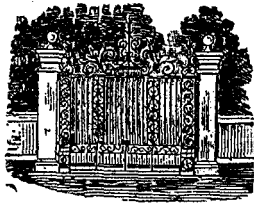


Outside the Gates.



WOMEN.

The result of the ballot for the election of officers for the National Union of Women Workers, announced at Portsmouth, was as follows:—The Lady Laura Ridding was elected President, and to the list of Vice-Presidents were added the names of Mrs. Allan H. Bright, Mrs. Charles Douglas, Lady Verney, Mrs. Edwin Gray, and Miss Carta Sturge. Miss Clifford was elected as Honorary Vice-President.

An admirable letter from Mrs. Garrett Fawcett in the *Times*, in which she truly states that "thousands of women are dissatisfied with a political status which places them lower than the Kaffir of the Cape or the Maori of New Zealand. I and those who act with me demand . . . that British statesmen should examine into the causes of the unrest among women, and deal with them in the same spirit in which they have approached the unrest in India—i.e., that they should produce constructive legislation designed to satisfy what is legitimate in the demands of women to a share in self-government. Lord Morley said, when speaking of Indian agitators (I quote from memory): 'They are asking for that which we ourselves have taught them to value'—some share in the management of the affairs of their own country. Leading statesmen of all parties in England have combined to emphasise the value of the vote as the corner-stone of political liberty. The Parliamentary franchise, we are told again and again, 'includes all other rights, and is the one essential thing.' Let leaders of both parties unite not merely in futile condemnation, but in looking dispassionately into the claim of women to share in the advantages of representative government."

Mrs. Pankhurst has had a very appreciative reception in the United States, where she is on tour, speaking to mass meetings on Women's Suffrage. She hopes to visit Canada before returning to England on December 9th.

The release from durance vile of Lady Constance Lytton and Mrs. Brailsford, women of social position, and the retention in prison and forcible feeding of wage-earning women, is as bitterly resented by these two ladies as by men and women of the people.

The London County Council, through the Education Department, is prepared to award not more than eighteen scholarships in cookery to domestic servants on the result of a competitive examination in plain cookery to be held on Wednesday, November 24th. The scholarship will be tenable at the National Training School of Cookery, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.

Those of our readers who desire to secure the issue of this Journal of October 23rd, containing Miss Dock's paper read at the International Congress of Nurses in July, on "The Need of Education on Matters of Social Morality," should order it without delay, as this number is being rapidly sold out.

Miss Hulme's invitation to the Nurses' Lodge, Colosseum Terrace, N.W., to hear an address from the Hon. Albinia Brodrick on "Morality in Relation to Health" is sure to be greatly appreciated. The address is being given as we go to press.

NOTIFICATION OF VENEREAL DISEASE AND DETENTION.

"Notification of Venereal Disease and Detention" were the subjects of the usual after-meeting of the National Union of Women Workers. It is to be regretted that subjects at once so thorny and so important should have been treated with a scantness of ceremony indicative of but a faint understanding of their history and their magnitude. That a meeting of serious-minded women should start out at so late a moment as half an hour before mid-day to devote an hour and a half to venereal diseases argues a want of proportion in the minds of those convening the meeting.

Rescue workers, as such, know, unfortunately, far too little of the groundwork of their subject. Good, self-denying, and devoted women that they are, the great majority of them know little or nothing of the physical side of the complicated problem with which they have to deal, and of the nature of the diseases which it is a part of their special mission to fight. It would have been wiser had the meeting been based on educational rather than on controversial lines. The audience, carried away by sentiment, and the unreasonable fear that notification may be, and in fact is, the twin sister, if not the twin self, of regulation, were hardly in a position to judge between the pros. and cons. of the subject before them. It is this ignorance which we, as members of a great trained body of professional women, are bound to remedy. And to remedy it we must keep our own knowledge up to standard and know our subject through and through. The time is coming when we shall be looked up to as the natural teachers of women in matters relating to sex. Let us be ready.

The chief point noticeable in the speeches was the recognition by the majority of the speakers that whether for or against notification, we all stand upon one common foundation. All alike desire the health of the race, the *mens sana in corpore sano*. But the space allotted to even the principal speakers was too short to allow of any development of policy, educational, reformatory, or otherwise.

It is more than doubtful whether it is advisable to lay these serious matters at all before a meeting practically unlearned in the first principles of the knowledge necessary to dealing with them, carried away by pathos—followers of the heart rather than of the head.

A. B.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)