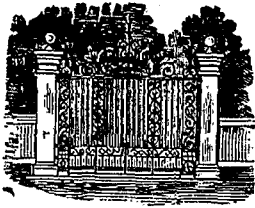


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



The London Society for Women's Suffrage held an "At Home" at the Great Central Hotel, Marylebone, on Friday, March 18th, to welcome the 130 delegates attending the Annual Council Meeting of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, and to meet Members of Parliament friendly to the cause. Lady Frances Balfour spoke of the work done by the Society in every constituency in the last General Election. Mrs. Henry Fawcett said they had done splendidly, and would be ready to renew work when Mr. Redmond gave the sign for the next General Election.

An interesting private exhibition was held at 58, Victoria Street, S.W., from Saturday, 19th, to Wednesday, March 23rd, under the auspices of the London Society for Women's Suffrage, when two pictures by Miss Bertha Newcombe were on view—(1) a portrait of Miss Emily Davies, LL.D., and (2) an incident in connection with the presentation of the first Parliamentary Petition for Women's Suffrage to Mr. John Stuart Mill by Miss Emily Davies and Mrs. Garrett Anderson.

Mr. J. Castborg, ex-Minister of Justice in the Norwegian Liberal Cabinet, and Member of the Parliament which carried the Woman Suffrage Bill in Norway, had a most cordial reception when he addressed the meeting organised by the Women's Social and Political Union in the Albert Hall last week, at which Mrs. Pankhurst presided. He described how the women of Norway first gained the municipal franchise, and how when a plebiscite of voters was taken on the question of the separation from Sweden, to meet the assertion advanced in Sweden that this was not the will of the Norwegians, the women refused to be left out, and so had a plebiscite of their own. By their public spirit they amply proved that they deserved the Parliamentary franchise, which they obtained in 1907.

The W.S.P.U. is arranging a great demonstration of women for Saturday, May 28th. A procession will form up on the Westminster Embankment at 2 p.m., and march to the Albert Hall, where a public meeting will be held at 4 p.m.

The Women's Industrial Council is undertaking a useful bit of work in organising a day nursery in the East End for the children of mothers who are obliged to go out to work, one principal object being to afford a demonstration of the practicality of training working class girls as children's nurses. The question has been carefully gone into by the Women's Industrial Council, and efforts have been made to get a scheme for such training

adopted by the County Council, but finding that a successful demonstration under voluntary auspices is a necessary preliminary to its adoption by any public body, it has determined to initiate the scheme, and is appealing, in a letter signed by its officers, for funds to carry it out. Correspondence and inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, W.I.C., 7, John Street, Adelphi, W.C.; donations and gifts in kind should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Frederic Franklin, 44, Lancaster Gate, W.

Book of the Week.

NEST OF THE SPARROW-HAWK.*

In the "Nest of the Sparrow-Hawk" we have a romantic story of the time of Cromwell.

The intrigues of Sir Marmaduke de Chevasse, "as stiff a Roundhead as ever upheld my Lord Protector and his Puritanic Government" to gain possession of the vast fortunes of his lovely ward, keeps the reader interested throughout the volume.

Very descriptive is the opening chapter, in which the Puritan butler, with the disconcerting name of Hymn-of-Praise Busy, pays court, mingled with godly admonition, to Mistress Charity, the pretty serving-maid of the Court.

She inquires of him: "Have you had your dinner, Master Busy?"

"'Tis sinful to address a single Christian person as if he or she were several," retorted the man, sharply.

"Mistress Charity knew that in defiance of my Lord Protector and all his Puritans she was looking her best that afternoon. On the whole she was pleased with her appearance."

"I give the assurance," said the young girl, "that the county of Kent no longer suits my constitution. 'Tis London for me, and thither will I go next year."

"And leave thy fond, adoring Hymn-of-Praise—to go, mistress—and to break my heart."

"Law, Master Busy," she said, demurely; "how was a poor maid to know you meant it earnestly?"

"Meant it earnestly?"

"Yes; a new kirtle—a gold ring—flowers, sack, posset, and pasties to all the guests," she explained.

"Is that what you mean—hem—what thou meanest, Master Busy?"

We are introduced to lovely Lady Sue in the skittle alley, who, with the quality assembled at her guardian's invitation, is watching the play. "In the midst of all these sober folk, of young men in severe garments, of portly dames and frowning squires, a girlish figure, young, alert, vigorous, wearing with the charm of her own youth and freshness the unbecoming attire, which disfigured her elders, yet seemed to set off her own graceful form, her dainty bosom and pretty arms."

"'Twas years later that Sir Peter Lely painted Lady Sue, when she was a great lady and the friend of the Queen. She was beautiful then in the splendour of her maturer charms, but never so beautiful as she was on that hot July afternoon in the year of the Lord 1657, when, heated with the ardour of

* By Baroness Orczy. (Greening and Co., Ltd., London.)

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)