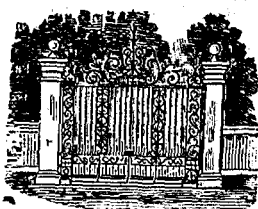


## Outside the Gates.



## WOMEN.

The Royal College of Physicians have added the Bedford College for Women, London, to the list of institutions recognised by the Con-joint Examining Board for instruction in Chemistry, Physics, and

Biology.

At the annual meeting of the Women's Total Abstinence Union, held at Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, Mr. F. G. Mackereth gave detailed results of investigations which he had made on the subject of alcohol drinking by school children. In one school alone, he said, it was found that 40 per cent. of the children drank alcohol regularly. If the same proportion obtained all round there must be some 300,000 child drinkers in London, and probably in all the large towns and districts there must be some 2,000,000 who drank alcohol. This was an enormous danger to the national life. Of all the countries in Europe only Norway and Sweden seemed to be free from the practice. The proportion in New York was stated to be 58 per cent.

Miss Fanny Brough opened the Women's Press, a shop and publication department for the Women's Social and Political Union, in the Charing Cross Road, on Thursday in last week. Miss Evelyn Sharp said the shop evidenced the great progress the Women's Press had made. In 1906 they sold £60 worth of literature at Clement's Inn. The sales leapt to £2,000 in 1908, and last year rose to £7,000. They were now selling at the rate of £1,000 worth a month.

The Women's Local Government Society has been invited to occupy the first two days of the Women's Congress at the Japan-British Exhibition, on June 6th and 7th. Lady Strachey, President, will take the chair on the opening day, and her address will be followed by short speeches by women administrators on County, Borough, Parish, and Town Councils. The services required from a Poor-Law Guardian will be set forth.

On June 7th, under the presidency of Lady O'Hagan, information will be given as to the work of women officials in special branches of local government, and the following subjects will be discussed:—

"Sanitary Inspection," by Mrs. Greenwood. "Inspection of Midwives," by Miss Burnside. "Infants' Life Protection," by Miss Zannetti. "Women Inspectors in Workhouses," by Mrs. Shaw. "Women as Relieving Officers," by Miss Baker. "Women as Factory Inspectors," by Mrs. H. J. Tennant.

There will be no charge, after admission to the Exhibition, for attending these most interesting conferences.

## Book of the Week.

## A WINNOWING.\*

Jack Weston, according to his own testimony, died and came back to life again. According to medical expert opinion it was a case of suspended animation. But whichever solution may be the right one, it is about the effect that this experience had on him, that the whole story is concerned. Jack is of a type that is familiar to us in Mr. Benson's works. A University man, young, easy-mannered, good looking, a sportsman, and amply supplied with all those things that are desirable from a worldly point of view. "The most remarkable thing he had accomplished in his twenty-five years of life was his recovery from an attack of syncope, which Sir James Martin had actually mistaken for death."

The opening chapter describes his disembodied state, in which he is able to view calmly and detachedly the circumstances connected with his death, and to see rehearsed various stages of his past life.

"For example, it seemed he was a boy again—how old he did not consider. There was a sense of ecstatic well being within him, of tremendous and vital youth. From within the house a piano . . . poured forth a torrent of melody, and he knew that his mother, dead years ago, was playing. His father came out and stood beside him, silent and smiling, but his face was altered, and it was plain he was a *revenant*, yet not terrible, only a little strange and mysterious. . . . It seemed as though he had returned from a long journey and all was well again."

Jack Weston comes back to life with an overwhelming sense of awe, and of his unfitness to die. He determines to alter his old careless ways, and to use life for its highest purpose.

"Of course you see all the difference this makes," he said quietly to his wife.

"Difference—why?" asked Mary.

"Why, yes, the whole difference. You must see that I *can't* possibly go on with this—this footling sort of life. I've got another chance, thank God—and, by George! —"

Naturally Mary cannot follow him all at once in his exaltation; indeed, she secretly considers that his brain is temporarily unbalanced. She asks Dr. Baising.

"Did he tell you he actually died, and saw himself in bed?"

"He said something of the sort; of course that was simply a delusion—a kind of self-suggestion. That kind of thing is quite common, comparatively speaking."

But—but you are quite sure it was not death?"

"Quite sure, Mrs. Weston."

"Well—thanks very much," said the girl.

She confides her perplexity in Lady Sarah, a girl of her own age.

"He has discovered that the highest life in the world is to be a monk, and he wants to be one, and—"

"And what about—?"

\* By Robert Hugh Benson. (Hutchinson and Co.)

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