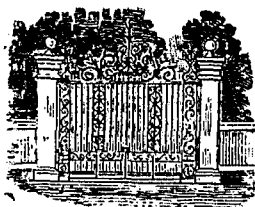


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



Sláinte, the Journal of the Women's National Health Association of Ireland, has always information of value to impart, and a paper in this month's issue on "The Medical Inspection of School Children," by Professor T. Jones, of Queen's University, Belfast, is arresting. He writes: "Industrialised, urbanised society has conspired to rob the child of its right to health.

"When Queen Victoria ascended the throne in 1837 there was not a single Act in the Statute Book of England framed for the welfare of children. When she died there were over 100. Until a few years ago the right of a child to food, clothing, and such decent treatment as would make life just possible were things unknown in English law. But in the late Queen's reign we began to deal with the more glaring abuses. We saved the child criminal from transportation and from hanging; we saved the child slaves from crawling in coal mines, and workhouse children from being auctioned to the factory owners; we saved the young Africans, as Charles Lamb called them, from climbing chimneys; we took the children out of the agricultural gangs of the brickfields. We have humanised the treatment of the juvenile offender, checked the cruelty of brutal parents and baby farmers; sheltered the orphan and destitute. The State has played the detective's part, and has pilloried the more repugnant abuses. It has dealt with one abnormal class after another, and made provision for it. And all this is well.

"But the preventive reformer is more and more bidding us pay more heed to the normal types. He sees social laws at work. If you sow ignorance you reap inefficiency; if you sow rotten houses and over-crowd them you reap high birth rates and high death rates; if you sow juvenile street trading you will reap beggars, thieves, and criminals; if you sow casual labour you will reap casual characters; if you sow poverty you reap disease and destitution and a whole brood of social ills. All these seeds, which we ought not to have sown, we have sown, and the result at its worst is Dublin, or Dundee, or West Ham."

Professor Jones is pessimistic about the reform of the adult, but hopeful of the children, granting that children are born with varying powers, the environment which calls these powers into activity is within our control, education is possible.

"But it is an education which embraces the whole surroundings, and which acknowledges that nature has furnished the plant, and that man prepares the soil and climate. For that is the correct analogy to use. 'I think that much of our failure in education,' Mrs. Bosanquet has truly said, 'is due to

our approaching it in the spirit of the builder rather than that of the gardener.' Let us think of education as gardening, and by and bye we may give the children of our streets the same chance as we give the flowers in our parks, with results as beautiful."

On Tuesday afternoon, Mr. Shackleton asked leave to introduce the Parliamentary Franchise (Women) Bill in the House of Commons. He spoke on behalf of a Committee which unofficially represented every section in the House. The Bill was looked upon as one intended to conciliate all those who held different views with regard to the enfranchisement of women. He said the Bill satisfied the supporters of female suffrage for the moment, because it gave them a first start as electors in Parliamentary divisions.—Mr. F. E. Smith opposed.—A division was at first challenged, but it was not persisted in, and the Bill was brought in and read a first time.

Book of the Week.

CANADIAN BORN *

"Put me somewhere west of Selkirk
When the prairie roses bloom,
Where you run clean out of fences
And a man has elbow room.
Let me ride upon the pilot
When the first through train goes out;
Let me hear the settlers welcome it
With joyous ringing shout."

Elizabeth, Lady Merton, with her young invalid brother, is travelling on the great Canadian Pacific Railway, of which their father had been one of the earliest and largest shareholders. "When it was known that his son and widowed daughter desired to cross from Quebec to Vancouver the authorities insisted on placing one of the officials cars at their disposal.

"It was in the wilderness that the spell had come upon her; in this vast space, some day to be the home of a new race; on these lakes, the playground of the Canada of the future; in these fur stations and scattered log cabins; above all, in the great railways linking east and west, that she and her brother had come out to see. . . . At North Bay, with the sunrise, they had ploughed into the wilderness—into the thousand miles of forest and lake that lie between old Ontario and Winnipeg."

"Dinner is ready, my lady!"

"The dinner was good, as usual—in Elizabeth's eyes monstrously good. There was to her something repellent in such luxurious fare, enjoyed by strangers, on this tourist-flight through a country so eloquent of man's hard wrestle with rock and soil, with winter and the wilderness."

From which it will be seen that Canada beckons. During the holding up of the train for twenty-four hours on account of a sink-hole, a sort of quicksand that has caused the line to sink, Elizabeth's adventurous spirit makes her acquainted with a young Canadian engineer in charge of some con-

* Smith Elder and Co., Waterloo Place, S.W.

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