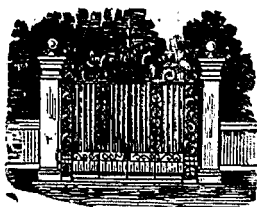


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



Miss Mary Higgins, of Bromley, Kent, who died on November 9th, has left the residue of her estate, amounting to over £12,000, to Girton College, Cambridge, for the foundation of scholarships of the annual value of £40 each, to be known as the "Higgins" Scholarships. We are always pleased to see women leaving money for education instead of philanthropy. More of the former means less need of charity.

A Woman's Guild has recently been established in connection with the British Medical Benevolent Fund, to supplement the money grants by gifts of clothing, coals, and other additional comforts, and by personal service to add a warmer touch of human sympathy.

Miss Ethel Mary Nucella Williams, M.D., has been appointed by His Majesty in Council, one of the six members of the Senate of Durham University.

The Parliamentary election is at hand, and thousands of women with ardent and rightful self-confidence will fling themselves into action. Never in any previous election have women come out so well equipped for battle or for so great a cause. This time they are to fight for the emancipation of the serfs, and no longer as a sex for self-interest, as personified in the men to whom they are attached. Good luck to them.

The still small voice is beginning to whisper to that monster Federation of Women's Clubs in the United States. Two subjects have long been tabooed—social purity and suffrage. They hang together. They have now taken their place on programmes and discussions as vital topics of concern. What is even more hopeful, governors, or mayors, State and city officials, and men connected with educational and social movements of national renown, are advocating woman's suffrage as an element necessary to civic improvement. Just want a bit of "mother" in everything.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* says: "The influence of the women's vote has made itself felt in Australia, and in every instance the tendency of it has been to elevate the tone of politics. In such matters as the temperance and gambling questions the effect of the women's vote was almost immediately discernible in the State."

About six months ago the Governors of the District Infirmary, Ashton-under-Lyne, decided to appoint a lady doctor as assistant house surgeon. The experiment has proved an unqualified success, and her services are as much appreciated by the men as by the women. A good example to Manchester.

Book of the Week.

THE CARAVANERS.*

There is a vein of humour, subtle and keen, running through the whole volume. The story is told by the Baron Otto von Ottringel, an egoist of the purest type. He writes the narrative of his experiences with the intention of eventually reading them aloud to a select circle of friends, but, as time goes on, allows himself such frankness of expression, that he feels much he says must be omitted.

In drawing his self-revelation, the author gives a most unpleasing presentiment of one phase of German character; at any rate, it would strike the ordinary English reader as unpleasant. At the same time, the Baron passes many scathing remarks on the manners and customs of the English, amongst whom for a short time he finds himself—remarks which in some cases have a great deal of truth in them.

Baron Otto is a major of artillery, stationed at Storchwerder, a dull country town, as full of gossip and prejudice as any country town in this land might be. He is married for the second time, and is arranging for a holiday to celebrate his silver wedding. His first wife endured his somewhat arrogant personality for nineteen years, when an accident caused her death. A year of enforced widowerhood followed; then for five years he seems to have been employed in moulding Edelgard, his second wife, into what a proper German wife should be. It matters not that she has been married to him only five years; she has to realise that he, having done his best to keep married twenty-five years, it is only right his silver wedding should be kept. Many plans and places are discussed and rejected as too expensive; then a neighbour, Frau Von Eckthum, a charming young widow, suggests that he and his wife should go with her to England, where she has a married sister, joining their caravan party for a month. She says it is cheap, and paints the life in glowing colours. The lady is pretty and attractive; so Baron Otto decides to visit the country, which—after having been in it a short time—he speaks of as "that accursed Island across the Channel."

The departure from home is given most amusingly. On the first of August, the anniversary of his first wedding day, they leave Germany. After many difficulties they reach the spot where the caravans await them; they are three in number—Frau Von Eckthum and two girl friends in one, Mr. and Mrs. Menzies Legh, the Baron, and "dear wife" occupy the others. Two young men who live in a tent make up the party. The weather was certainly not auspicious for a caravan trip; the constant rain and wind presented England under anything but an attractive aspect to him. Then, being "geboren," he finds it somewhat difficult to assimilate himself with English people, who, having no titles, are not in his estimation as well born as he is. His self-assertive ignorance leads him into making strange mistakes.

* By the Author of "Elizabeth and Her German Garden." (Smith Elder.)

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