

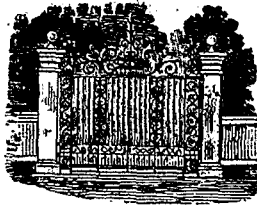
## Outside the Gates.

### WOMEN.

#### THE WOMEN'S IMPERIAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Motto: "The power of the King is in the health of his People."

#### CEREMONY OF INAUGURATION OF THE FIRST CARAVAN.



In spite of the fact that the memorial service of Miss Florence Nightingale at St. Paul's Cathedral drew many people away, who had intended to be present, a representative gathering of a very fair number of

people were present at this very interesting ceremony, at the Botanic Gardens, Regent's Park, on Saturday, August 20th. Prior to the actual baptism of the Caravan by Miss Lena Ashwell, the audience assembled in one of the club rooms to listen to a speech made by the Chairman of the Association, Dr. R. Murray Leslie. [N.B.—He tells us not to omit the "R." as there is another Dr. Murray Leslie.] He explained in a few words the aims and objects of the Caravan tour.

The main object, he said, of this original tour, which owes its initiative largely to the energy of the organising Secretary, Mr. Ernest Schofield, is to interest the people of the towns and villages of rural England, more particularly the women and girls, in the immense importance of personal and domestic hygiene. The importance of such questions as the reduction of infant mortality; the prevention of consumption, and the necessity of girls acquiring before marriage such knowledge as will best fit them to fulfil the duties which will necessarily fall to them as the future mothers of the race, are points which will be specially emphasised.

The speaker referred to the sister Association in Ireland, which has done such splendid work since it was founded. Statistics showed that last year there were 386 fewer victims of tuberculosis than in the year previously; also that there had been a satisfactory decrease in infant mortality.

"We propose," said the speaker, "to carry on our work by two principal methods:—

1. By means of popular lectures.
2. By distribution of suitable literature.

"As regards our lectures, our watchwords are to be—*Simplicity, accuracy, practical usefulness, and interest.*"

The Association is to be congratulated in having obtained the services of the two gentlemen who will man the Caravan—Mr. Roger Pocock, founder of the Legion of Frontiersmen, who is not only conversant with the hygienic needs of the community, but an author of distinction, and Mr. Fife Scott, hygienic expert.

Dr. Murray Leslie, who spoke in a very breezy, optimistic tone, said that the health commandments of the Association had been characterised by a leading daily paper as "counsels of perfection" which it would be very difficult to carry out. He himself thought that obedience to those precepts would involve no difficulty.

Incidentally it is hoped to found local branches of the Association, to institute boys' and girls' health guilds, and to strengthen the hands of all existing local Health Associations. A tribute of respect was paid by the speaker to the magnificent work of Miss Florence Nightingale, and he aptly suggested that the next Caravan, which he hoped would be manned by women, should be called after her.

A short demonstration of the work of the Caravan, by magic lantern and biograph pictures, followed. This apparatus is part of the equipment of the Caravan, and will be used, probably for the first time, as an educational medium. A district nurse washing and dressing a baby, shown by biograph pictures, caused great amusement and interest.

All this time of preliminary proceedings the Caravan was patiently standing in the beautiful gardens waiting to be christened! And how gay it looked in its new paint—scarlet and blue—and freshness, and garlanded with flowers. And above all how hygienic, embodying a lecture in itself—no less than four windows besides sky-light ventilation. The two fine horses looked as if they well understood the honour of their position. Then Miss Lena Ashwell, in a few suitable words of hope and encouragement, dashed the bottle of water against the Caravan and gave it the appropriate name of "Aurora." The Union Jack was run up to the mast-head, and the memorable event terminated. By the hospitality of the Association light refreshments were served immediately afterwards. The Caravan was to leave at 4 p.m., and the first lecture of the tour will be given at the Town Hall, Maidenhead, on Wednesday next at 8 p.m.

The only contretemps to the highly interesting meeting was the regrettable absence of the President of the Association—Muriel Viscountess Helmsley.

B. K.

## Verses.

### TWILIGHT.

I looked away o'er misty vale and hill,  
O'er silent field and forest, rock and dell;  
Night's misty spirit held my soul in thrall,  
A shadowy presence filled the azure void,  
A solemn quietude pervaded all,  
And there was—rest—

Rest in the eventide.

And not one pinion clove the dreaming air,  
And not one footfall from the street uprose!  
The amorous radiance trembled everywhere,  
And never a sound disturbed the mute repose.  
The sad earth turned her wan face to the night  
To woo the rest which garish day denied.  
The rapt effulgence, sleeping white and calm,  
The slumbrous presence clasping earth and skies  
Fell on my troubles like a healing balm,  
Or the soul-shadowings of tearful eyes.  
The billowy surge of sorrow ceased to roll;  
Upon my cheeks the scalding grief-drops dried;  
A holy thrill of peace enwrap my soul,  
And there was rest—

Rest at the eventide.

By GEORGE HEATH.

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