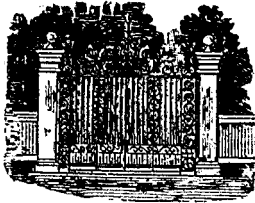


Outside the Gates.

WOMEN.



The Parliamentary Conciliation Committee for Woman Suffrage has decided to ask the Home Secretary for a public inquiry into the conduct of the Metropolitan Police towards the Militant Suffragists on the occasion of their demonstration in November last, and the facts alleged in a memorandum forwarded to the Home Office accompanying the request afford ample scope for such an inquiry. The police were, the Committee understand, instructed to refrain as far as possible from making arrests. The Committee are satisfied that the usual, more humane, and regular course would have been to arrest the women who persisted in forcing their way to the House of Commons on a charge of obstruction. But the consequence of the order was that the women were engaged for many hours in an incessant struggle with the police. It is alleged that "they were flung hither and thither amid moving traffic, and into the hands of a crowd permeated by plain clothes detectives, which was sometimes rough and indecent. . . . But there emerges from the evidence a much graver charge." The Committee proceed to say that they "cannot resist the conclusion that the police, as a whole, were under the impression that their duty was not merely to frustrate the attempts of the women to reach the House, but also to terrorise them in the process. They used in numerous instances excessive violence, which was at once deliberate and aggressive, and was intended to inflict injury and pain. Many of them resorted to certain forms of torture. They frequently handled the women with gross indecency. In some instances they continued to injure and insult them after their arrest." Specific instances in support of these charges are then given. The whole Memorandum forms an indictment of the very gravest nature, and, in justice both to the women and the police, a public inquiry is essential.

The Women's Social and Political Union are arranging a demonstration to be held in the Royal Albert Hall on March 23rd, at 8 p.m. Mrs. Pankhurst will preside, and the speakers will be Miss Vida Goldstein, President of the Women's Political Association of Victoria, Woman Voter and Leader of the Women's Movement in Australia, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, and Miss Christabel Pankhurst. In view of the fact that the meeting occurs before the second reading in Parliament of the Bill to confer the franchise on women, which is down for the 5th of May, the organisers hope that the Hall will be crowded, and of this there is little doubt. Tickets may be obtained from the Ticket Secretary, W.S.P.U., 4, Clement's Inn, W.C.

The Swedish Cabinet has resolved to place before the Storting a proposal to extend to women the right of admission to all public offices except membership of the Cabinet, military, diplomatic, and Consular posts, and benefices in the State Church. The ministry and the consular service would be greatly benefited by the inclusion of women, and no doubt, as men grow less selfish and unjust where women are concerned, every post they are suited to fill will be thrown open to them. May we live to see it. The world will be a cleaner and happier sphere.

Book of the Week.

LEAVES FROM A GARDEN.*

These are not essays, nor are they stories, nor do they talk only of gardens, but of Love also and Death, and Life of sorrow and joy, and the whole is blended in an easy chatty style that makes pleasant reading. The book, too, is artistically got up, and there are a dozen and a half of illustrations all speaking of beautiful nature. There is so much that is ugly and sordid in life, and so many writers who seem to love to present this aspect to their readers, that it is refreshing at times to take up such a book as "Leaves from a Garden." It is written in the first person, and the writer asks at the outset, "What does one do when the world collapses about one's ears, and yet one still has to go on living?"

How kind old friends are, but even they after a time will not see why we cannot take up the old life, and be amused and amusing in the good old way. People tire of sadness; life is very short to some folks; it grows shorter every year now-a-days, for everyone, for there is so much to see and do, and so many ways of doing it. . . . Why not turn to the country, the real peaceful country, and see what it can do for a broken heart. . . . It was early June when we moved in, and oh! the joy of having clean wide space, and no rubbish in the house at any rate. No motor-cabs howling and hustling about; no whistling; nothing save real true silence, save when we caught the solemn wash of the sea on Broad Beach or an occasional move in the ivy where some uneasy sparrow had a bad dream. But neither shall I forget the fearsome noise of the early morning when every bird awoke; when the sparrows chattered and swore, in their beds, when the thrushes and blackbirds tried to sing each other down, and when the chorus was so loud, the sun so brilliant, that I began to think London was quieter, and wonder whether we had done well and wisely after all. By the time autumn comes round "I live on from day to day, doing whatever turns up to do, and hoping for the best even if I do not think it will ever come. To even enjoy the beautiful weather, and to be amused at Marjorie, at the blackberry forays, and at the pickling and preserving that go on in the kitchen."

Still further on in the year "Curphey" (the gardener) is delighted with the frosts; they kill "they slugs and worrums," and frost will sweeten the

* By the Author of "Leaves from a Life." (Eveleigh Nash, London.)

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)