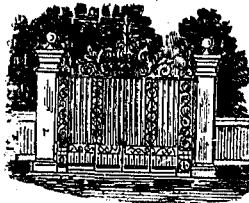


## Outside the Gates.

### WOMEN.



At the Annual Meeting of the Women's Local Government Society, held last week at Caxton Hall, at which Lady Strachey presided, Miss Dendy, M.A., moved, and Miss Adler, L.L.C., seconded, the

following resolution, which was carried, strong reasons being advanced in its support:—

"This meeting is of opinion that there is a pressing need for the participation of women with men in the administration of the law with regard to persons certified as insane, and with regard to all other persons who are 'mentally defective,' and recommends that the Lord Chancellor be memorialised to appoint a woman as Lunacy Commissioner."

Mrs. Greenwood then explained the present position of women in the Public Health Service, and the following resolution, moved by Mrs. Maitland, was also carried:—

"This meeting is of opinion that, with a view to securing the continued efficiency of women employed officially by Public Health Authorities, all women appointed for the work of health visiting should have the qualification and status of Sanitary Inspectors, as well as suitable nursing qualifications."

A Bill "to enable Local Authorities under the Notification of Births Act, 1907, to appoint Health Visitors," has been introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. John Burns. The fear seemed to be entertained that the Health Visitors to be appointed would have only an advisory position, whereas Women Sanitary Inspectors have the power and responsibility of enforcing laws.

Miss Anna Rogstad, the first woman to take her seat in the Norwegian Storting, was appointed a "deputy" according to the Norwegian custom in 1909. The first representative being absent on leave last week Miss Rogstad took his place. The *Daily Mail's* correspondent reports that after the opening of the session the President (Speaker), Mr. Halvorsen, made a speech, while all the members stood. It was, he said, one of the most important days in the history of Norway.

For the first time, he observed, a woman was sitting in the Storting, and though the members were not unanimous that this was the right moment for such an innovation, he was convinced that posterity would regard it as a reform which brought honour to the country, and, further, that the progress of the country would benefit by it. The Premier and a number of other members then greeted Miss Rogstad. Her house is filled with flowers sent by political admirers, and she has received numerous telegrams from many parts of the world.

### MEDICAL AID FOR NECESSITOUS GENTLEWOMEN.

A meeting in support of the Medical Aid Society for Necessitous Gentlewomen was held by the kindness of Lady Hillingdon at 6, Park Place, St. James's, on Tuesday, March 21st. Sir Anderson Critchett presided, and the speakers included the Bishop of London, Mrs. Waggett, and Mrs. Maurice Glynn.

The Chairman said that he had had the privilege of belonging to the medical staff of the Society for several years, and could bear testimony to the gratitude of many of these poor ladies, who through ill health and poverty had sunk into a slough of despond, but had been rescued through its intervention.

Some had had serious surgical operations, and were provided for comfortably in nursing homes during their illness, and lately it had been decided that where the patients lived far from London, to provide them with medical assistance in their own neighbourhood.

The Society tried its best by kindness, courtesy, and consideration to assist every case that came under its care. He said, if only it could be more widely known, he was sure they would not lack funds. The organisation was splendid, owing to the efforts of their Hon. Secretary, Miss Green.

Mrs. Maurice Glynn then presented the reports of the Committee and Physician. One of the Society's most useful efforts seems to lie in the dental treatment, many patients having been provided with artificial teeth, and thus virtually cured of indigestion and its kindred troubles.

Several ladies during the year have been enabled to obtain much needed rest and change in convalescent homes.

The Bishop of London, in moving and eloquent words, urged the claims of the Society upon his hearers. He said that suffering humanity was all around crying for help, and those who did not know it were living in a fool's paradise. He gave illustrations of two distressing cases of sick and almost destitute gentlewomen, which had lately come under his own notice, and said that, thanks to the help of some benevolent people, one of them was now enjoying the benefit of two trained nurses, and that unless help had been forthcoming she must certainly have died. He said, "We come on to a principle that goes down very deep. Why are there rich and poor?"

The only satisfactory explanation to his mind was, that the minority held their possessions in trust to pass them on to others. Otherwise they could not defend their position as Christians. He imagined that one of the first questions at the final judgment would be, "Where is your poorer sister?" "Let us not be driven or forced," he said, "for it is a lovely work." Let us remember nothing belongs to us by right, and give not in pity or as charity, but as a right demanded from us. Riches were perhaps given to some that they might learn unselfishness, and withheld from others that they might know the power of love.

Mrs. Waggett said that while the magic words "East End" were sure of a sympathetic response,

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