

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

WOMEN.

A very useful society, of which Mrs. H. J. Tennant is chairman, is the Industrial Law Committee, which supplies information as to the legal protection of the industrial classes with regard to the conditions of their trade, constitutes a central body to which may be reported breaches of the law and other matters relating to industrial employment, and promotes further legislation and the more effective administration of the existing law. A fuller knowledge of the legal protection extended to the life and labour of the industrial classes, especially in relation to women and children, is desired by many persons engaged in social work, and it was the expression of this desire which led to the formation of the committee in 1898.

Amongst the classes who can help in regard to the enforcement of existing laws, nurses are mentioned; and nurses, especially district nurses, should acquaint themselves with the work of the Committee and co-operate with it.

The Committee reports a great extension of its work during the past years. It is grouped under the three heads of lectures, complaints, and indemnity cases. The indemnity fund is intended for the protection of women and persons under 18 of both sexes, who are dismissed from employment for giving evidence to H.M. Inspectors—a by no means uncommon occurrence. Nurses should obtain the report from the office of the Committee, 34, Mecklenburgh Square, W.C., and study it for themselves.

The Duchess of Somerset has become the President of the Servants' Tax Resisters' Defence Association, which is holding a monster protest meeting in the Albert Hall, on Thursday, 27th inst. To oppose this movement, Lady St. Helier is holding a meeting at her house, in Portland Place, on the afternoon of the same day, to form the Domestic Servants' Insurance Company.

Domestic servants—one of the most indispensable class of workers in the community—and therefore a powerful class, if they choose to unite and assert themselves—are to be eagerly catered for by Insurance Societies, as they will be a very profitable class, owing to the fact that they will be compelled to pay for what very few of them will require.

Now that Mr. Tom Mann has been released from gaol—his offence being that he published an article with intent to seduce to mutinous conduct persons serving in His Majesty's forces on land and sea—surely, the women Suffragist prisoners—who have already been imprisoned for months, for breaking glass windows as a protest against taxation without representation—will be at once released. If not, who can blame us for comparing the treatment by the Home Secretary of men who incite to violence—backed up by votes—

and women imprisoned for the same offence, who have none! The fact is, that a narrow-minded, intolerant, anti-Suffragist Minister, at the Home Office is the wrong man in office during this struggle of women for their just political rights; and his treatment of the rank and file of the women is an intolerable scandal throughout the Empire—in many quarters of which women have ceased to be treated as irresponsible beings.

Mme. Vyk-Kuneticka, a leader of the woman's movement in Bohemia, has been returned by a majority of 475 votes to the Bohemian Diet as a Deputy. She is an authoress, and it is hoped may not be prevented by the Lord Lieutenant of Bohemia from taking her seat. He has the power to deny Mme. Vyk Kuneticka a deputy's certificate.

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

"DAME VERONA OF THE ANGELS."*

"It is not natural that a child should be so serious. She has a twist of fun somewhere, and her lips crumple into an adorable smile; but till she came here I seldom heard her laugh. Poor little girl! her father kept her so busy pricking her conscience to see if it were alive, she had no time to be amused.

"I once asked her what she wanted to do most, and she answered, in Peter's prim Sunday voice,

'My sole concern, my constant care—

To watch and tremble and prepare
Against the Judgment Day.'

"I wonder if you can see my Verona? Big grey eyes, that are still and grave; a beautiful mouth, that is still and grave; a great mop of crinkly hair; and a laugh that is like a chime of bells."

Verona's history is too complicated to attempt to describe shortly, but the above is a letter written by the lady who married her father. Verona is his illegitimate child, whose infancy had been watched over by this same lady, and who married this most uncongenial man (in name only), in order to mother the little Verona.

Her own mother, young Ursula, sister to Miss Camilla, who figures so largely in the story, had died at her birth. They were of an old Roman Catholic family.

Mrs. Thriepland is a delightful character, who was always finding herself in difficulties between loyalty to her husband and sympathy for the child.

"Verona, what would your father say, if he knew you had been in the Dame Chapel?"

Verona's lips puckered.

"I know, but even if he said it I shouldn't mind. Don't you see, dearest, I'm not father and I'm not you. Godwin says I take after my

* By Annie E. Holdsworth. Methuen & Co., London.

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