

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

WOMEN.

Many of those who were present at the Queen's Hall on June 19th, when the Bishop of Birmingham presided, and spoke on "The Religious Aspect of the Woman's Movement," will be glad to know that the addresses given both on the afternoon and evening of that day, are now published in pamphlet form, and can be obtained, post free, price 7d., from Miss Lucy Gardner, 232, Evering Road, Clapton, N.E. Dr. Gore's speech will long be remembered, not only for its eloquence, but for the rarer qualities of honesty and fearlessness. "I am quite certain that, with regard to any large and mixed movement, like this woman's movement, it is our duty to confront it with a candid mind, and to ask what is right, what is just, and to take for our motto nothing but 'Be just and fear not.'" After a sly reference to the many things to the disadvantage of the entrance of women into new fields of activity which he had heard said at different times by his "grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice," the Bishop, it will be remembered, said, "As it presents itself to me, the entrance of the Woman's movement into the strictly political area, and the demand for the suffrage, has been part of the movement in its essence. It has been necessary for the securing of that ground which individual initiative has always taken the first part in securing, but which demands something which at the last can only be secured by legal and formal action. That is the way in almost all departments of human activity. Where individual initiative is the pioneer, legal and formal action has to follow."

The whole of the speech deserves close attention, and we advise our readers to secure the pamphlet.

Women are making their mark in the legal world. According to the *Standard*, Miss Gladys Adeline Taylor, who was recently admitted to practise as a barrister and solicitor of the Victoria Supreme Court, made her first appearance in court as instructing solicitor in a case connected with the application of trusts for educational benefits. The will concerned had been found unworkable, and the scheme submitted by Miss Taylor, which involved considerable legal research, was adopted by the Chief Justice.

The new Emperor of Japan has already taken steps which are likely to improve the position of women in that country. One of his first acts was to give notice to the Master of the Household that in future the Empress will ride with him in the Imperial carriage. It was noteworthy that at the first reception of the new Sovereign the Empress was present, and that the wives of dignitaries and officials were also invited. The Emperor, when Crown Prince, according to the *Tokio correspondent* of the Press Association, had a dislike for officious policemen, and he has already

forbidden traffic on the Imperial route being stopped for twenty or thirty minutes previous to and subsequent to the passage of the Imperial procession.

"THE ROADMENDER."

"The Roadmender" is a favourite book with many nurses, but few know the conditions under which it was written, and they cannot fail to give it an additional interest, especially to nurses who can so well realise the brave endurance of the writer. We reprint therefore from *Misericordia*, the organ of the Guild of St. Barnabas for Nurses, the following pathetic story:

"The Roadmender" took two years to write. When Michael Fairless began the book she was in fairly good health; about three months afterwards her illness came upon her. She was then unable to stand, and her right hand and arm were totally disabled. She lay on a couch, sometimes on her back, and at rare intervals on her side. Her MS. was written in pencil with her left hand. The pad on which she wrote rested on her breast. For twenty months she wrote whenever she had the strength; during much of the time she was in severe pain. Occasionally she would go into a trance, which lasted some hours. In this condition the look and bloom of health came back to her wasted face, and her breathing, which was often very difficult, became easy and normal. When she regained consciousness she seemed to have dipped her bucket into a well of health, and for some hours all appearance of pain and suffering left her. She had been, she said, to a place of unbroken peace. She knew what it was to go beyond the range of suffering. She had been led into blue depths of unearthly beauty, where there was no pain, and the certainty of this freedom had been given to her. After such times she wrote with greater facility; at all times there was scarcely an erasure in her MS. or the change of a word.

"Her book was nearly finished—that is to say, the first and second parts were complete, and the third begun—when her illness rapidly increased. She could no longer take any food. For nine days she had tasted nothing but water, and her weakness made her almost unconscious.

"She was troubled lest she should fail to finish her task, and one day called her friend to her and bade her fetch pen and paper, and then dictated in a whisper, without hesitating for a word, except when she paused for breath, the whole of the last chapters of 'The Roadmender,' and only as she whispered the last words did she again fall into unconsciousness.

"She lived for twelve days more, entirely without food, until at last she passed out through the White Gate."

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

"How much pain the evils have cost us which have never happened."

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