

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

WOMEN.

The *Monthly Record* of the Penal Reform League, the object of which is to interest the public in the right treatment of criminals, and to promote effective measures for their cure and rehabilitation, and for the prevention of crime, is always full of articles of interest. In the current issue Mr. W. H. Dickinson discusses "Legislation for the Feeble-minded" and "Child Helping in New South Wales," and other articles are of interest. Referring to a book on this subject by the Hon. Sir Charles Mackellar, President of the State Children Relief Board of New South Wales, who is now in Europe on a Commission to enquire into the treatment of delinquent and neglected children, the following extract is quoted: "Every criminal has a life history, and that history is very often the explanation of his sinister career."

The League invites help in connection with the circulation of a pamphlet, which is an expansion of a memorandum sent to the members of the House of Commons in June, when the Criminal Law Amendment Bill was before it. This is now published under the title, "Prostitution, its Nature and Cure," and costs 2½d., post free, from the office of the League, 1, Harrington Square, N.W.

This year's Presidential election in the United States will, says the *Standard*, be a very important one for the women of the country. Both the Democratic party and the new Progressive (Roosevelt) party are coquetting for their votes. The Democratic party has no official woman suffrage plank in its platform, but it is sending Mrs. Borden Harriman, a prominent political campaigner, to the six equal suffrage States to win over the women with promises of fiscal reform, reduced prices on food, and a workman's compensation Act. The Progressive party is making woman suffrage one of its main issues, and the fact that Miss Jane Addams, America's foremost woman, both in politics and social reform, has given her support to the party will tremendously influence the women voters of the country, even though they yet have little faith in Mr. Roosevelt's pledges.

Mrs. Chapman Catt contributes some very interesting articles on a tour in the East to *Jus Suffragii*, the organ of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance in connection with Burmah. She writes that when in Rangoon she asked to be directed to a leader among women, she was soon provided with a letter to Mrs. Ma May Hla Oung. They were soon fast friends, for she understood as no other Eastern woman had done, the mission for women of Mrs. Catt and her friends. There was no need to explain to her the ballot for women, for she had voted for years. She is the daughter of a famous Burmese general, and the widow of the Controller of the Treasury. She

has two schools for Buddhist children, in which nearly 400 boys and girls are taught together in all the classes in true co-educational fashion.

We learn that "among the Burmese there is little intemperance, a small amount of crime, and almost no murder. No Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to animals is necessary, for they are as gentle as can be with all things that live. They are astonishingly tolerant, and when education becomes universal and has conquered the superstitions of the ignorant and broadened the views of all, they will teach the rest of us many lessons. Meanwhile, the 'langour of the East' is upon them. How can any people possess the qualities which trace new paths, discover new thoughts, and do new things, under a blistering, relentless sun? To tread the old paths, to think the old thoughts, and do the old things is the instinct of the 'children of the sun.' It must ever take a thousand years for a people here to move the distance a northern people would compass in a hundred. Meanwhile, these happy, contented, good-natured, dear Burmese live under an equality of rights between the sexes in Church and State, for which we Western people must still struggle."

VERSES.

Our common Master did not pen
His followers up from other men;
His sermons were the healthful talk
That shorter made the mountain walk,
His wayside texts were flowers and birds,
Where, mingled with His gracious words,
The rustle of the tamarisk tree
And ripple-wash of Galilee.

Whittier.

Prize what is yours, but be not quite contented,
There is a healthful restlessness of soul
By which a mighty purpose is augmented
In urging men to reach a higher goal.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

COMING EVENTS.

October 2nd.—Meeting at the Mansion House in support of the Nurses' Missionary League.

October 3rd.—Conference and Farewell Meetings to bid Godspeed to members of the Nursing Missionary League leaving for the foreign field, University Hall, Gordon Square, W.C.

October 22nd.—Central Midwives' Board Examination, London, Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester, and Newcastle-on-Tyne.

October 29th–November 2nd.—Cookery and Food Exhibition, Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster, S.W.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

Character must stand behind and back up everything—the sermon, the poem, the picture, the play. None of them is worth a straw without it.—J. S. Holland.

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