

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

WOMEN.

The Duchess of Portland has been pleading in the Press for a less cruel method of trapping rabbits. We do not wonder—the law as it exists is very cruel. Have you ever slept near a wood where traps are set o' nights? If not, don't. The piteous cries of these poor little creatures often left to struggle in pain all night, makes sleep impossible. We once knew a little girl who, at the sound of such suffering, slipped out of the night nursery into *such* a lonesome, fearsome, gruesome wood. Not only did she let loose all the little captives, but she gathered up the traps and pitched them down a well! When her crime was discovered she was thoroughly well skelped (she was a Scottish lassie), but she felt all the better for it; as she realised a price has to be paid for all indicted wrongs.

The moon was up.

Two lovers sat together under an acacia tree, their feet half hidden in the white carpet of fallen blossoms. The moment of avowal and petition had passed, he awaited her answer. From a copse near by came a sound of agony. The girl sprang to her feet.

"Oh!" she cried, "what was it? Something is in pain?"

"Only a bunny in a trap," he answered, smiling.

Something in the girl's white face froze that smile.

"Never, never!" she flashed back at him, as she ran to the rescue.

The release of Mrs. Mary Leigh from Mountjoy Prison, Dublin, after having been forcibly fed for forty-two days, came as an immense relief to all those who realise that, whatever her methods, never did human body contain a more unconquerable spirit—or one more conscientiously inspired with a sense of human justice. Before her release from torture Mrs. Leigh was reduced to the last degree of physical weakness and emaciation. She is now being restored, let us hope, to health in a Dublin nursing home.

At the recent Nursing Congress at Cologne an enfranchised Scandinavian woman, speaking incidentally of civilisation, remarked: "We consider Russia the most barbarous country in Europe, but England now runs it very close." And this opinion was expressed before the Welsh horrors at Wrexham and Llanystymdwy, where single women were most bestially and obscenely mauled and insulted by male mobs, where they were struck on the head, their hair torn out by the roots in handfuls (later to be exhibited as a trophy of prowess by gallant Taffies), where they were thrown to the ground, trampled on, and then pitched over the hedge!

Welsh mobs may be relied upon to crash, smash, and mash where cash is concerned (and the

enfranchisement of women is a financial question—it means that their cash cannot be taken and used by men without their consent), but the most significant lesson in barbarism is to be deduced from the silence of our "ennobled" Press; more, in its covert approval of, and incitement to, these murderous attacks on women, when using perfectly constitutional methods of revolt against their degradation in the body politic. The women of the world will not forget the infamies of this hideous exhibition of Welsh barbarism for many a day.

"After Wrexham," one turns to the report of the meeting held recently at Johannesburg to consider the case prepared for presentation to the commission now sitting to inquire into the causes, and means of preventing, the growing evil of criminal assaults by natives upon white women and children. The reports considered by representatives of the coloured people were unanimous in condemning the illicit liquor traffic, the system of employing full-grown natives as house-boys, and in favour of rendering assaults by white men upon native women not less criminal than similar assaults by native men upon white women. The recommendations of the native and coloured delegates were in the main accepted, but it is noteworthy that the meeting decided that the abolition of the house-boy was impracticable under present conditions.

The truth is, the coloured men are well aware that white women have no political status under the South African Constitution, *and that they have been left in the position of slaves by white men.* White women will be treated as such by coloured men until this criminal Constitution is amended, and they are recognised as amongst those who govern, not merely amongst those who serve. "Wrexham and Llanystymdwy" must be pretty reading for the native house-boy!

If you want to read a really interesting and bracing book, order "Thirteen Years of a Busy Woman's Life," by Mrs. Alec Tweedie. In it you can peep at Ibsen, Nansen, Bismarck, Roosevelt, Lord Li Ching Fong, General Diez, Whistler, and Cecil Rhodes, and many women famous for one thing or another. Mrs. Alec Tweedie is the daughter of the late celebrated Dr. Harley, of Harley Street, and her versatile pen is wielded by the loveliest little hand in the world.

SANTA THERESA'S BOOKMARK.

Let nothing disturb thee,
Nothing affright thee;
All things are passing;
God never changeth;
Patient endurance
Attaineth to all things;
Who God possesseth
In nothing is wanting;
Alone God sufficeth.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)