

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

WOMEN.

The Women Writers' Suffrage League, of which Mrs. Flora Annie Steel is president, intend to hold a dinner in support of the funds about the end of April. The tables are to be representative of women's careers, and Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has been invited to organise the Trained Nurses' table, and will be pleased to hear from any nurses and their friends who would like to take tickets, 10s. 6d. each. There are to be no speeches, but a Debate on light lines will take place after dinner. This League includes in its membership nearly all the most brilliant women novelists, dramatists and journalists of the day, and we note amongst them Mme. Sarah Grand, Miss Elizabeth Robins, Miss Beatrice Harraden, Mrs. Baillie Reynolds, Dr. Margaret Todd, Mrs. Meynell, Miss May Sinclair, Miss Cicely Hamilton, Mrs. Waldamar Leverton, Mrs. Rentoul Esler, and Miss Annesley Kenealy.

The Duchess of Bedford has given the following reasons for refusing to pay property tax for Princes Skating Rink:—"I am very strongly opposed to the militant tactics adopted by a portion of those who are in favour of women's franchise, and I have therefore taken this, the only course open to me, which appears justifiable, of protesting against the way in which the question of woman suffrage has been treated by the Government."

All the emigration societies are booming Canada, and indeed it is a fine spacious place for the hard worker. The cry is for women—more capable, industrious, young and healthy women. Miss Ella C. Sykes, of the Colonial Intelligence League for Educated Women, who has spent some months there, has taken infinite trouble to get accurate facts. She says: "There are no soft jobs for women in Canada." And this is true. Moreover, what is more important, there are no votes for women in Canada, and where it is a question of the value of labour, and wage-earning this is a very important matter indeed. During the past month both the Legislatures of British Columbia and New Brunswick have thrown out Women Suffrage Bills. Women are urgently needed to help build up Canada a Nation. If that Nation is to be worth its salt, it must not spring from serf-mothers.

An Association of Advertising Women has been formed, with Miss Ethel Sayer as president, Mrs. Oliver Watts honorary secretary. Meetings are to be held fortnightly at the Institute of Journalists and both the business and social side of life will be considered. We believe the advertising business and the work of procuring advertisements very suitable for the special talents of women, and hope the new association may go along and

prosper. The name of the association does not appear to us a very happy one. Why not the Association of Women Advertisers? It is less open to misconception.

MOTHERS' SKILL COMPETITION.

In connection with the Health Week celebrations in London, which are taking place in a number of Boroughs from April 6th to 12th, the Association of Infant Consultations and Schools for Mothers is organising a series of novel Mothercraft Competitions for the mothers attending the various Schools for Mothers in the metropolis. There are now about fifty such centres in London and greater London alone, and as the keenest interest is being evinced in the forthcoming competitions it is expected that quite 150 mothers of the poorest class will take part. Each local Society is already preparing its pupils for this contest of skill. They are practising the dressing and undressing of their babies, to demonstrate their own handiness and the cleanliness and suitability of the baby's clothing. They are busy making knitted and flannel garments at the classes, they are learning recipes and how to cook simple meals for young children, and they are learning the right way to wash a baby's garment or a baby's bottle. The keenest interest is being aroused over Class III. of the Competitions, in which valuable prizes will be awarded for the babies showing evidence of the best condition and the greatest care. This does not mean that the babies are being fattened up, for it is being firmly impressed on the mothers that firmness of flesh, freedom from blemishes, good muscular development and general healthiness are of more account than weight or size. Great importance is also attached to Class I., in which the mothers will have to answer verbally six simple questions in mothercraft or infant hygiene. The local Societies are allowing all their mothers to compete in the local competitions, and from among the winners in these the competitors for the central contest will be chosen. This will take place, probably in some centrally situated L.C.C. school, during the afternoon of April 12th. Offers of prizes, either in money or in kind, would be gratefully received by the Secretary at 4, Tavistock Square, W.C.

"LEST WE GROW HARD."

From the lips of no spiritual teacher does instruction come with greater force to nurses than from those of the Rev. E. F. Russell, Chaplain to the Guild of St. Barnabas for Nurses; for in the multiplicity of work which fills the laborious days of a priest in a London parish he has for the past five-and-thirty years understood, and endeavoured to meet, the needs of a busy class of workers, for whose spiritual necessities provision in the past, even more than the present, has been of the scantiest. There are many nurses, both within and

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)