

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

WOMEN.

After her visit to Bedford College for Women, Regent's Park, the Queen sent the following message through her private secretary:

"The Queen commands me to write and tell you how pleased she was with all the arrangements which were made in connection with Her Majesty's visit to the Bedford College for Women. Nothing could have been better done, and the Queen was intensely interested in all that she saw."

The non-militant Suffrage Pilgrims will be with us in London on Saturday, 26th, when a monster meeting will be held to welcome them in Hyde Park. Let us all be there. It is the least we can do to encourage Mrs. Fawcett and her gallant band, who are keeping the Suffrage cause before the country in their own charming and logical way.

The Insurance Amendment Bill has been referred to the Grand Committee presided over by Mr. J. W. Wilson at the House of Commons. Deliberations began on Wednesday and will last about a fortnight. Several amendments dealing with women's grievances—touching the maternity benefit and other points have been tabled by Members of Parliament. Trained nurses as far as we can learn have not been able to interest legislators in their special disabilities. This is not surprising as they have no legal status as medical men and midwives have.

All women who in the next few weeks are going to "down tools" however they may be used in the production of work or pleasure, and flit away from the turmoil of city life into the blessed country, where fresh air may be breathed, must sympathise with the many thousands of women toilers who cannot afford to cease for a day unless others find the money. To meet this need the Women's Holiday Fund has been in existence for nineteen years, and sends poor women to the sea or country for one or two weeks in the summer. The Bishop of London, Father Vaughan, and others interest themselves in this good work, and write that the benefit to health is very great, and the holiday is always intensely enjoyed. One house, in charge of a trained nurse, is devoted to mothers and babies, each woman taking one child under three years of age. In 1912 1,163 women were sent away, and the number of applications increases each year. The Fund works in every part of London, and benefits all who need its help. Subscriptions and donations are urgently needed to supplement the women's payments, and will be gratefully acknowledged by the Secretary, Miss Crawford, 76, Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W.

Women all over the country—says the *Woman's Journal* (Boston)—are rejoicing in the passage of the Red-light Bill in California. This measure, which is designed to put an end to the segregated districts, was drafted by the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and introduced in 1911, but failed to pass. Since then much work has been done, especially by the California Civic League (chiefly composed of women), whose motto is "Study and service." As fast as the districts are closed, the women's organisations intend to offer a home, medical care and employment to all refugees who will accept them. Careful preparation is being made for this.

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

MARGARET AND THE DOCTOR.*

Margaret is the child of a secret marriage, of which the prologue gives the key. Her young parents, ordered out to India, entrust the child to a messenger to take to the family of its father, in the hope that the infant may win love for itself and pardon for the parents' deceit. But the child and explanation never reach the grandparents. Margaret next reappears in these pages as maid housekeeper to a middle-aged Scotch doctor, and the position she filled in no way detracted from the respect and affection with which she was regarded by most people of the village, though, indeed, some resented it.

"I shall not think of calling her Mistress Margaret," said Sam Turner's wife. "It's perfectly absurd the way the villagers go on about her. She's only a maid, as I was myself, whatever, you may say."

Margaret is indeed a very desirable young woman, and the fortunate wooer, Andrew Morton, was much to be congratulated. She tells him how nearly she had accepted a man wholly her inferior because of the loneliness of her life.

"I do not remember the time when I did not envy every child her mother and sister as they played together. I was passed from home to home. I was not roughly or cruelly used; it was rather the absence of all that is sweet, gentle, and lovely in life from which I suffered."

Andrew in telling her, "Please God you shall never know such loneliness again," fulfils his promise to the best of his power.

Margaret is made to feel her position when once her engagement is announced; and at a working-party at the vicarage after her marriage, the good ladies of the village do their best to make her as uncomfortable as they well can. But breeding will out, and Margaret survives the ordeal with dignity. When Andrew waiting impatiently on the old stile saw Margaret's dress through the swaying branches, he hurried to meet her, and looked into a calm happy face and eyes shining with love. He drew her arm within his own.

* By Mrs. Raynard West. Mills & Boon, Ltd., London, W.

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