

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

WOMEN.

The American Senate has decided, by 47 votes to 14, to consider immediately a resolution in favour of a women's suffrage amendment to the Constitution.

Mrs. Pankhurst was arrested in Glasgow on Monday amidst a scene of unprecedented turmoil, much to the indignation of the populace.

The refusal of the Prime Minister to receive a municipal deputation from Edinburgh, Glasgow and other Scottish centres to lay its views in favour of woman suffrage before him, has naturally aroused the dour temper of these responsible men from the North. They mean to force the hand of the Government on this all-important question, and no men are better able to do it.

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

LONDON, 1913.*

The title of this book is an arresting one, but it is somewhat misleading. One naturally looks for a specially up-to-date plot, and the last word in atmosphere, whereas human nature being much the same, no matter in what year of grace it happens to find itself, the incidents recorded might well have happened at any other time.

True we have the woman's question, and Socialism, the Church in Wales, the domestic problem, and many other twentieth century topics thrust upon us, but they are really only pegs to hang a hat on. After all one must have a title for a book, and it is quite as appropriate as most others.

The Musgraves, just arrived from South Africa, rented a flat, quite an up-to-date flat as might be expected. Musgrave had large landed interests south of Harrisberg. Phyl was his only child, eighteen, and very pretty. Twenty years ago Musgrave had, at a good deal of personal risk, saved a man's life from an ostrich. The man—Archdale by name—was in process of being trampled to death by the bird, when Providence and Musgrave interfered. Archdale was now a great figure in London. He repays his friend by swindling him over a deal in his South African property. He had private information that diamonds had been found, and promptly and indirectly offers Musgrave a few thousands for the farm that is worth a million and a half. We submit there is nothing peculiar to 1913 in that.

Before it is legally made over Musgrave discovers the fraud. He has given his word about the transfer, and refuses to draw back. This appears merely foolish. He has no sooner irrevocably signed away the property than he sets himself to get his own back. This appears very illogical.

* By Margaret de Vere Stacpoole. Hutchinson & Co., London.

In order to circumvent the rogue Archdale he books his passage back to South Africa, leaving Phyl young and pretty, alone in the flat with a note for £100 for immediate expenses. This money she promptly loses, and finds herself alone and penniless with an expensive flat on her hands. In desperation she answers an advertisement of two American ladies as paying guests.

"Well," said Miss Trentham, "if the place suits us I will pay you a hundred and twenty dollars a week. That will give you something over to pay the flat man. When will your father be back?"

"In two months," said the delighted Phyl. "Oh, it would be a relief if you will come."

Come they did, and proved themselves clever swindlers. One day they did not return to the flat, so poor Phyl's enterprise landed her in worse difficulties than ever.

The term "paying guests" had rather a humorous significance as applied to Miss Fox and her companion, but Phyl was in no mood to appreciate the humour.

Fortunately her father had left the boat at Las Palmas and returned to England long before he had arranged. He had travelled with the agent of Archdale, and from him had gathered the information he was on his way to South Africa to seek. He relentlessly pursues his enemy, and by dint of holding over his head certain information of which he is in possession about his private life, induces Archdale to hand over to him the title deeds of the property he so dishonestly came by. So the story ends with the suicide of Archdale, and great prosperity for Musgrave and Phyl. And all this happened in London in the year 1913. And there is really no reason why it should not.

H. H.

COMING EVENTS.

March 18th and 25th.—Guy's Hospital Past and Present Nurses' League: Lectures on "The Nursing of Nose and Throat Cases," by Mr. Layton, M.S., Medical School Buildings. 8 p.m.

March 19th.—Central Midwives' Board: Meeting, Caxton House, S.W. 3.30 p.m.

March 28th.—National Union of Trained Nurses (London Branch). Lecture on "Venereal Disease," by Miss Hilda Clark, M.B., B.S. Lond., Royal Society of Medicine (West Lecture Hall), 1, Wimpole Street, W. 3.15 p.m.

March 31st.—Nurses' Missionary League: A Quiet Day for Prayer and Meditation at Holy Trinity Church, Marylebone. 6 to 8 a.m.; 10 to 12.30; 2.30 to 4.15 p.m.; evening prayer, 7.30 to 8.30 p.m.

April 7th.—Irish Nurses' Association. Lecture: "Operations and Post-operative Nursing," by Dr. William Taylor, 34, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin. 7.30 p.m.

WORD FOR THE WEEK.

The secret of success is constancy of purpose.
—*Disraeli.*

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