

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

WOMEN.

On Wednesday, January 14th, the Women's Total Abstinence Union held a New Year's Family Party at Caxton Hall, S.W., on the invitation of the President (Mrs. W. S. Caine), when members of the Nurses' and Midwives' Leagues were present in uniform.

Sister Rose Horncastle, London Temperance Hospital read the following statement, in reference to the Nurses' National Abstinence League: "Very early in its career the leaders of our Women's Total Abstinence Union realised the importance, and adopted the principle, of aiming to bring the question of total abstinence before women of influence in every department of social service. Their first efforts in this direction were in two large meetings in the Mansion House, in London—the first for Mayoresses, the second for women representing the various professions, *e.g.*, doctors, nurses, journalists, teachers, and others. Out of this sprang the grand idea of forming into Leagues those women whose work gave them special power to help and influence others. Of these Leagues, the first to be started was our Nurses' League, in 1897. Its inaugural meeting was held at Grosvenor House, when the Hon. Mrs. Eliot Yorke presided; and a masterly address by the veteran Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson was read. The watchword of the League is: 'Alcohol is the enemy of health'; and in hospital, home and infirmary, our members—equipped with scientific knowledge and trained skill—are quietly doing a work which none have the power or opportunity to do so well as they. This League has all along received cordial support from leading members of the medical profession, from matrons of hospitals and others specially interested in nursing, and is steadily making its way in the profession. The Hon. Mrs. Eliot Yorke has throughout been the President, and its present Hon. Secretary is Mrs. Herbert Rhodes." Mrs. Owens (of the Midwives' League), said: "Closely allied to the Nurses is the League for Certified Midwives, originally started by Dr. Mary Rocke, which federated with our Union in 1909, with Dr. Annie McCall, as its President, its present Hon. Secretary being Mrs. Vickerman Rutherford. With our watchword, 'It is not the will of My Father in Heaven that one of these little ones should perish,' and our motto, 'Be strong to save,' we are teaching temperance truths in many a home, and at a time when there is special need for their enforcement. We claim your warmest sympathy in our oft times difficult work."

Mrs. Caine concluded the history of the Women's Total Abstinence Union with a few words of praise for blessings received and trust for the future, when the singing of the Doxology brought to a close a most successful and unique gathering, in the attractions of which were included Kinematograph pictures, a temperance exhibition, and scientific experiments which aroused great interest.

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

"WATERSPRINGS."*

This is the romance of a Cambridge don and a young girl—the sister of his pupil, Jack Sandys. Mr. A. C. Benson's skill as an essayist is well-known; and "Watersprings" may be described as much an essay on emotions as a novel.

Indeed the tender emotion is subjected to so much analysis and subtlety that one is fain to confess that in Howard Kennedy, fellow and classical lecturer, we have rather a bore, and share somewhat his own wonder that bright little Maud, twenty years his junior, should have preferred him to a more youthful suitor. But so it was, and she was in deadly earnest over it all; and talked of herself as a "bird in a cage who would always be ready to sing to him when he had time to listen." In common with the other Benson writers, the author of "Watersprings" well understands the art and charm of introducing his readers into cultured society, and surrounds them with an atmosphere of easy well-being that is in itself restful.

Nor must it be supposed that Howard Kennedy is an unpleasant person—far from it; and Jack Sandys is a graceless graceful young man, who adds a piquancy to the general academic surroundings.

"I do hate love-making," he said; "it spoils everything; it gets in the way and makes fools of people; the longer I live the more I see that most of the things people do are excuses for doing something else." We think Master Jack laid hold of a great truth in that last remark. His frank surprise that Howard should care for his sister is very amusing—as he himself treats it in a very cavalier manner. "He has got some grudge against me," said Maud to Howard. "He always has when he calls me Miss."

"What else should I call you?" said Jack. "You are a miss to-day, and no mistake. You are at some game or other."

"Now, Jack, be quiet," said Mrs. Graves, "that is how the British paterfamilias gets made; you must not begin to make your womenkind uncomfortable in public; you must not think aloud; you must keep up the mysteries of chivalry."

"I don't care for mysteries," said Jack; "but I'll behave; I will leave Miss to her conscience."

After the usual doubts and fears, Howard and Maud understand one another. Jack calmly tells him "I am all for things being fixed up as people like. But I can't put the two ends together. I never supposed you would fall in love any more than my father would marry again; and when it comes to your falling in love with Maud—well, if you knew that girl as I do, you would think twice! I can't conceive what you will have to talk about, unless you make her do essays."

By Arthur Christopher Benson. London: Smith, Elder & Co.

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