

of Malt, are given as typical instances\* The value of the book is materially increased by the appendix for "Sick-Room Cookery," in which a number of useful recipes are given.

### OUTSIDE THE GATES.

Already the extension of the franchise to women is fruitful in results. By the overwhelming majority of 274 votes to 25, the House of Commons, on October 23rd, recorded, "That in the opinion of this House it is desirable that a Bill be passed forthwith making women eligible as Members of Parliament."

It is probable that shortly the House of Lords will follow suit, and that the peeresses in their own right will take their seats in the Upper House.

Then, on the motion of Colonel Sir James Craig, the House declared, "That this House is in favour of all available galleries being opened to men and women equally and impartially, and requests Mr. Speaker to make arrangements accordingly." This was done, and on Monday last, for the first time, a number of ladies took their places in the Strangers' Gallery, and a momentous change was effected without any fuss whatever!

### GREAT UNITED PROTEST.

The great united Protest against Regulation 40D of the Defence of the Realm Act which is to be held in the large Queen's Hall on Wednesday, November 6th, at 7.30 p.m., promises to be an impressive demonstration of the ever-increasing volume of public opinion rising against this Regulation.

The fifty societies co-operating with the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene represent not only social and religious bodies, but the industrial and professional organisations of both men and women.

Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., presides.

Free tickets can be obtained from the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, 19, Tothill Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

### BOOK OF THE WEEK.

#### "THE BURNING GLASS."\*

It is not always that the title of a book shows much relation to the story within its covers, but Miss Marjorie Bowen, in the following quotation, shows that this is no unmeaning choice.

"What is the Beloved to the Lover?

"A Burning Glass, through which the rays of the Sun of Love do concentrate. Sometimes the

\* By Marjorie Bowen. Collins & Co., London.

heat breaketh into flames and consumeth that on which it falleth."

Here is summed up the result of the unhappy love, or rather loves, of the fascinating Julie de Lespinasse, who was literally consumed by the fires of her passionate heart.

Miss Bowen has devoted the whole of the volume to this theme alone, and has clothed it with vivid realism and intense vitality.

Julie is portrayed with a wealth of detail that makes it impossible to quote adequately in a short review; for, as is usual with Miss Bowen's personalities, they are not only sumptuous in themselves but are set in environment equally glowing and desirable.

Briefly, Julie was forty years old. She was possessed of a figure and carriage of unusual beauty and distinction, and, though her face had always been plain and was now disfigured by the smallpox, it appeared in no way to hinder her fascination for fastidious men many years younger than herself. She lived in Paris in lodgings that the generosity of her many friends enabled her to sustain. She managed her affairs badly, having very little interest in them, and spent extravagantly on clothes. Her minute establishment was that of a great lady. She kept two women servants, a lackey and her tire-woman. Her apartment was a nobleman's hotel in miniature. Her tastes were fine, luxurious, exquisite. She was famous, very sought after, and generally the centre of brilliant company."

She was a disciple of Voltaire, and was addicted to opium.

The period to which this story belongs is that preceding the French Revolution, and, needless to say, Miss Bowen uses to the full the romance and colour of the time.

Julie, when the story opens, is an entirely virtuous woman, although her friendship with the famous philosopher, M. D'Alembert, was misunderstood by some. The passion that consumed her was not for this humble, great man who blindly adored her, but for a young Spaniard, while her affection was given to M. de Mora, who was far advanced in consumption, and who reciprocated her love to the full. But the circumstances of her birth stank in the nostrils of his proud family, and every obstacle was placed in the way of their union.

When M. de Guibert came across her path, he at once exercised a strong attraction for her which in time obsessed her, and to which in spite of her better nature she succumbed.

From thenceforward she is torn between her passion for one man and her love for the other.

Though de Guibert was no libertine he possessed the easy morals of his day, and in truth the infatuated Julie, with her undeniable fascination, must have been hard to resist.

"To-night he could think of nothing but Julie de Lespinasse. She was an incomparable creature, she loved like some heroine of antiquity—not like the boudoir women of the day. But—she would want everything, and could he give—anything?"

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