

THE PROGRESS OF WOMEN.

The First Chamber of the States General at the Hague adopted, on July 10th, by 34 votes to 5, M. Marchant's motion to introduce Woman Suffrage. Thus Dutch women get the vote, for which so many have worked devotedly for so many years, amongst them the late Miss van Lanschot-Hubrecht, and many leading nurses. B.J.N. congratulates the Dutch citizen nurses and feels sure they will use their vote wisely and well. It is just ten years since the International Council of Nurses in session in London passed a resolution in support of suffrage, which, irony of fate, the American delegates had been instructed to oppose, and now that burning question has been settled to our satisfaction in nearly every country in the world. No class of worker needs it more than the trained nurse.

Signor Martini and other Deputies introduced in the Italian Chamber on July 12th, a Bill for granting the vote to women.

The Minister of Health is said to be inclined to place a very liberal interpretation on the clause of the Act which empowers him to appoint women officials.

Women are to be appointed on all the consultative councils, which are presently to be set up, and it is expected that, on those dealing with general health questions from the public point of view, they will give great assistance to the Minister. Women will be represented also on the councils dealing with medical and allied services, national health administration, as well as general questions.

It is hoped that women will take the trouble to get elected to the local councils. The women's citizen associations, which have been formed in different parts of the country, are stirring up local opinion on many health subjects—in Manchester, for instance, they are making the smoke nuisance their special objective—and the women's village institutes are keenly interested in the housing question.

In the Upper House of Convocation of Canterbury the Report of the Committee on the Ministry of Women was recently presented. It recommends that on certain conditions women should be permitted to preach in church and that an Order of Deaconesses be instituted.

Women are to be admitted to the proposed Degree of Commerce at London University on the same terms as men.

Another victory has been won for women in the legal world. The Law Society, having passed a resolution that women should be entitled to join the legal profession, have taken the logical course of resolving that they shall be admitted to the society's lectures and classes.

The Bill for the admission of women to the legal profession, though it has passed the House of

Lords, has not yet been considered by the House of Commons. It is hoped the Government will soon give the promised opportunity of discussion in the Commons.

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

"THE SNAKE BITE."*

A new book by Mr. Hichens is always an event to his large circle of admirers. Perhaps a collection of short stories is not precisely the form that they would prefer, but they may take comfort as the short stories are, in fact, quite long and quite up to the high standard that they have a right to expect from this author.

The story which provides the title has its setting in the East, and the glamour of the desert steals over the reader. Fay Mortimer and Alan are young married people who have come to Beni Mora on account of the husband's health. Threatened with tuberculosis, the young, clever doctor had by chance come in the society of a man who ran the Imperial Hotel at Beni Mora during the winter season. Hearing of the young doctor's misfortune, Monsieur Darbley had offered to lodge him and his wife at the hotel during the winter on condition that he was allowed to advertise a resident English doctor as attached to the hotel for the season.

Here they made acquaintance with the American millionaire, Horace Pierpont. This man was of a compelling physique and personality, he was intellectual, a keen student of his kind, and a good, though not untiring, sportsman. Fired by an achievement of a former party of Americans, he resolved to emulate their example, and to traverse the Sahara from Beni Mora to Tombouctou by caravan.

Saad ben Joussef was to conduct the expedition.

"Again he would pour gold through his fingers, or stay deliciously in his big brown palms. He knew how to keep his counsel, and was a master of long, unsmiling silences."

The secret, mysterious atmosphere of the East seems to have enveloped and invaded these Westerners. Pierpont approaches Fay in a manner that is furtive, when he unfolds to her his plan for Alan and herself to accompany him on his adventure.

With a long sweep of his arm Pierpont indicated the desert.

"Look at that motionless sea. I am going to set sail upon it, to take ship, and to go out for a long voyage."

"The sensitive blood rushed to Fay's temples. A strange song seemed to drum in her ears barbaric, provocative, and tremendous. Suddenly she felt violently excited and desolate—she knew."

Fay struggled against her passionate desire to accompany this man, and her husband on their expedition. She would have dissuaded

By Robert Hichens. (London: Cassell & Co.)

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