

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, D.Sc., Ph.D., F.L.S., J.P., President of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, has been appointed the Government representative at the meeting of the International Council of Women in Christiania. Twenty-eight national councils are federated in the International Council, which is meeting for the first time since the war, in the Storting, Christiania, from September 8th to 18th.

On the ground that there was not a quorum present when the amendment was carried, the House of Representatives of Tennessee has expunged from its records the ratification of the amendment to the Constitution granting votes to women. So women will not be entitled to vote in the Presidential election after all. A very unscrupulous job!

We have read with horror and indignation of the ghastly massacre of the Russian Imperial Family at Ekaterinburg, in the series of articles in the *Times*. That they died together was the only merciful aspect of this most barbarous crime. No one in this country will be surprised to learn from the report that "morally, as well as practically, the German hand which had brought the Jew murderers into Russia, controlled and directed the assassins' work. Only when Berlin realised that the Romanovs were irrevocably on the side of the Entente did they release the hands of the murderers."

We learn from G. P. Putnam's Sons, Ltd., that, owing to the phenomenal demand for "The Diary of Opal Whiteley," the first edition is exhausted before publication, and the publishers are rushing through a further large edition.

NAMES AND ADDRESSES TO NOTE AND REMEMBER.

THE ANGLO-AMERICAN OIL CO., LTD., 36, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.—The Company are sole distributors for the United Kingdom of "Nujol," the special value of which is that it helps Nature to restore natural bowel action.

COMING EVENTS.

September 10th.—Professional Union of Trained Nurses: Meeting Public Health Section to discuss the salaries of trained nurses in Public Health Work.

September 11th.—National Union of Trained Nurses. Monthly meeting. London Branch, 46, Marsham Street, S.W.1. 3 p.m.

September 18th.—Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland. Meeting, by invitation, at Queen Mary's Hospital for Children, Carshalton. 3 p.m.

BOOK OF THE WEEK.**"BECK OF BECKFORD."***

Those of our readers who remember the charm and pathos of "The Story of Mary Dunne" will welcome another book from the pen of the same authoress.

"Beck of Beckford" is a Lancashire tale and relates how Sir John Beck, farmer and baronet, toiled with his hands to retrieve the life of a working farmer, but he and his wife, Lady Beck, speak in the vernacular of their environment.

It is a homely scene with which the first chapter opens, for not only does Sir John lead the life of a working farmer, but he and his wife, Lady Beck, speak in the vernacular of their environment.

Referring to the advent of a stranger to the farm:

"A tall old woman confronted him, with a strong face and dark, bright eyes. She wore a print jacket and a white apron over a stuff skirt and her still abundant iron-grey hair was partly covered by an antiquated black lace cap. She had evidently pulled down her sleeves recently, for the cuff of one hung open, and as she spoke she was occupied in buttoning the other, without any appearance of haste or confusion however; indeed, her whole aspect was dignified."

The little lad Roger is depicted as an engaging youngster of six years, finely built and square of shoulder, with fair hair and blue eyes.

He informs the stranger—

"Grandpa's John, my feyther was Roger, I'm John Roger, but they calls me Roger 'cause the Becks o' Beckford allus take the name in turn. My feyther's dead, so I mun be Roger."

"Dear me, is your father dead?" said Mr. Jeffries, 'and your mother too?'

"Ah!" said Roger; "d-e-d."

Sir Roger, the white-bearded ploughman, was dressed like an ordinary working man; his hat was battered and there was earth upon his hands. Nevertheless he was as quiet and dignified in manner as Lady Beck herself.

"There's a visitor in yon, grandpa, an' he's goin' to have dinner wi' us; an' its toad-in-the-hole to-day, an' gran axed him if he minded having it i' the kitchen, an' he said he didn't."

From these extracts it will be seen that the upbringing of the baronet's grandson was at least an unusual one for his walk in life.

The old man and his wife in spite of their homely talk and surrounding were inordinately proud of family and pedigree, but there was a blot on the family escutcheon which was a source of grief to them, and it had caused the name of a certain William Beck to be obliterated from the cherished pedigree.

It was concerning one of the descendants of this outcast member of the family, that the stranger

*By M. E. FRANCIS. (Allen & Unwin, Ltd.).

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