

## OUTSIDE THE GATES.

### NO WOMEN'S RESERVE FOR THE ARMY.

The Army Council, having considered the various suggestions that have been made for the formation of a Women's Reserve, has decided that the formation of such a reserve is not desirable at the present time. A scheme under which the services of women might be made available for the Army in the event of a national emergency will, however, be prepared, and in this connection care will be taken to embody the special experience gained in the war.

A very interesting address was given by the Princess Kamala Devi Gaekwar of Baroda at an "At Home" on June 23rd at 15, Cleveland Gardens to the Indian Women's Education Association. Her Highness said that the future progress of India is intimately associated with the advance of education. There is now a Women's University at Poona, though there are only twelve students, and Mysore and Baroda have instituted free and compulsory education for girls as well as boys.

The Princess also pointed out that the physical education of Indian girls and women is almost entirely neglected and education in physical culture would be most beneficial. She concluded with the following words:—

"Let us appeal to our sisters in India to help us in spreading the health-giving light of education throughout our country, let us make them realise clearly the advantages of education so that they may influence their husbands and brothers to demand education for their children in no uncertain voice. For by education, and by education alone, can content, peace, health and happiness be reached."

The Canadian National Council of Women, meeting in Calgary, has asked the Dominion Government forthwith to appoint women to the Senate.

## COMING EVENTS.

July 5th-7th.—Second English-speaking Conference on Infant Welfare. Convened by the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality and National Baby Week Council. Central Hall, Westminster, S.W.1 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. daily.

July 6th.—North Middlesex Hospital, Edmonton. A solemn Memorial Service for Nurses who died on Duty during the Military Occupation. 3.30 p.m.

July 6th.—London Hospital Nurses' Bazaar. Opening by Queen Alexandra.

July 7th.—St. Thomas Hospital Garden Party at St. James' Palace, lent by the King. 3 to 10 p.m.

July 13th and 14th.—King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, Garden Fête and Sale of Work, organised by Sister Matron and the Nursing Staff. Opening by Dame Margaret Lloyd-George, 2.30 p.m.

## BOOK OF THE WEEK.

### REVELATION.\*

The Foreword explains the date and the *mise en scène* of this remarkable romance.

"Time, the nineteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Cæsar. Place, Jerusalem administered by Pontius Pilate. In the houses the women scold, talk, and give place to the ensteed soldiers of Rome. Beggars pester for alms, blind men whine, lepers rot by the roadside, men who pray look superciliously upon those who do not, harlots wait in their houses, girls envy one another and watch young men, men ply their various trades, and the son of a Galilean carpenter who is reputed to cure sickness, and teach heresy, goes from village to village, fed by charity, and followed by a few fishers."

The scene opens with a description of Astarte, the beautiful slave dancer, who was shortly after bought by one of Herod the Tetrach's eunuchs, destined to be a dancing girl in the royal household.

The little slave girl was frankly delighted at her prospects. She had never before in her fifteen years of life gone on foot through the streets of a city. She was virgin soil, ignorant as the child-woman Eve standing beneath the tree of knowledge of good and evil. There was noise—a wonderful variety of noise—and splashes of sunshine like raw gold, and faces—one following another, so that it was impossible to remember any of them clearly. It was all new—new as the five senses to a just-born infant.

But supreme above all these new experiences was the encountering the eyes of David, the young Jew, who was destined to loom large in her life at no distant period.

An extraordinary new thrill struck through Astarte. The eyes that encountered hers were of an indescribable maleness, strange as those of a dweller upon another planet.

The gross sensuality of Herod's court and its lewd feasts is described with a fearless pen. The young slave dancer, thirsting for life, too ignorant to be really contaminated by what she saw, is rescued from its vice by the young Jew, David, whose eyes Astarte had encountered on her way through the city. Brought up in the strictest sect of his religion, David loved this young heathen girl from the first moment he saw her, and in the moment of his martyrdom her name was in his heart.

But in the meantime he took the girl he had rescued to his poor home.

Consternation reigned in David's family.

"It's dreadful," said Dinah. "David's brought home a Gentile dancing girl and he's told his mother he's going to marry her."

Rama had been destined for David's wife—the gentle young Jewess and neighbour.

"A single lamp burning a pure and perfumed oil had lit the narrow room of her life, shut right

\* By Dulcie Dearmer. Fisher Unwin.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)