

But we have not space to describe them, but must confine ourselves to the all-pervading Adrienne.

Oldmeadow, studying her over his tea-cup, owned that her features ugly, even trivial in detail, had in their assemblage something of unexpected force. Her tranquil smile had potency, and he suddenly became aware of her flat, gentle voice, infrequent yet oddly dominating. Sensitive as he was to voices, he saw it as a bland blue ribbon. She said things to the end; when the ribbon began it was unrolled.

Though Adrienne had only been introduced to the family circle about twenty-four hours, she was already taking the lead with each member separately, Oldmeadow standing aside with an intuitive dislike and jealous for his especial favourite Nancy, who, by the way, shared his distrust.

Adrienne married Barney, and was very much in love with him, her love being of the absorbing, selfish type, that demands the whole life, which is cleverly portrayed in the letter that accompanies Barney's to Nancy on their honeymoon. Oldmeadow at once recognised that she intended to be more intimate than Barney. That was really what she intended Nancy to see, and that Barney had no place at all where she, Adrienne, did not also belong.

She wrought considerable havoc in the pleasant Chadwick family. She connived at the elopement of Meg with a married man, and breaks with Barney when he rightly starts in pursuit of his young sister.

She tells him: "Meg and I mean one thing by straightness and that is truth. I showed them the truth and kept it before their eyes when they were in danger of forgetting it. I did not hide from them that there would be sacrifices, if that's what you mean."

"It's not what I mean, darling," said poor Barney. "Didn't you tell them it would be desperate and ruinous and wrong? Didn't you tell Meg it would break mother's heart? Imagine mother with a divorce case on. It would simply kill her. That's all."

The war as usual is brought in to straighten tangles.

Adrienne used her influence over Barney's young brother, Palgrave, to become a conscientious objector and he finally dies in prison. She herself goes to the front, where her hypnotic powers are greatly in demand. Oldmeadow badly wounded, comes under her influence in this way and remains a convert to her fascinations.

We confess that when all is said we are grateful that her type is unusual, or the world would be a madder place than it is.

Dear, silly Mrs. Chadwick, whose objection to nurses consisted in the fact that when she was ill she saw her nurse round the screen putting her fingers into the raspberry jam, is quite restful after this intensely intense person.

But it is a very clever and interesting book and should be read.

H. H.

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

Parliament will be opened by His Majesty the King on Tuesday, February 7th.

Mr. T. E. Naylor, M.P., presided at a meeting of the London Labour Party, at which the complete programme at the coming London County Council elections was endorsed by resolutions:—

- Breaking up of the Poor Law.
- Abolition of Boards of Guardians, Port of London Authority, Metropolitan Water Board, and Conservancy Board.
- Rating of land values.
- Further application of the principle of equalisation of London rates.
- Powers to local authorities to enter remunerative enterprises.
- Building schemes and slum clearances.
- Public ownership of motor omnibuses and underground railways.
- Control of coal, bread, fish, milk, and meat supplies, public markets, slaughter houses, and depôts.
- Full trade union rates to all employees.
- Public medical, dental, nursing, and midwifery services.

Feminists throughout the country have been of the opinion that there should be more women in Parliament, but they have been faced by the difficulty that women who would make good candidates have usually little or no private means to defray the expense of candidature.

It is now proposed, owing to the possibility of a General Election, to form a committee to collect a million-shilling fund. We hope the candidates will take the trouble to study Women's professional conditions, and not class them in legislative matters "with children." When lobbying for the Nurses' Registration Bill—with the exception of Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon—we could never get any so-called "public women" to take hold of the question, whilst men grasped the significance of organised professional education and legal status for trained nurses without difficulty. The vanity of the average woman (as was proved in the war) deludes her into imagining that women are "born" nurses, when not one out of a hundred possesses either the character or psychology to succeed in this highly skilled and self-denying work.

The Carnegie Heroes Fund Trustees at Dunfermline have awarded a medallion and an annuity of £100 to Dr. J. Hall Edwards, of Birmingham, one of the pioneers in radiography.

It will be recalled that, as a result of X-ray experiments, Dr. Edwards contracted dermatitis, which necessitated the amputation of his left hand and forearm, and four fingers of the right hand. Dr. Edwards's disability began within a few months of the discovery of the X-rays, during which time he was experimenting night and day. In spite of his injuries he is still practising as a surgeon radiographer.

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