

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

The Outlawry of War.

Since our last issue momentous events have taken place in this wonderful world. We must give place of honour to the signing by 14 nations of the draft of a proposed treaty for the renunciation of war, submitted by Mr. Kellogg, of the United States of America.

The replies of the Governments of Great Britain, Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, and South Africa to the United States are published. The British Government rejoices to be associated with the United States Government and the other parties to the proposed treaty "in a further and signal advance in the outlawry of war."

The proposed treaty does not restrict or impair in any way the right of self-defence, and emphasises that each State alone is competent to decide when circumstances necessitate recourse to war for that purpose. Having united with civilised States in the protection of human life, we have faith that the groups of British Peoples who have signed the Pact—will seek Peace and ensue it.

The Equal Franchise Victory.

On Monday, July 2nd, the Royal Assent was given to the Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Act. Thus closes a struggle for full citizenship on the part of women which has from start to finish lasted 80 years! Dame Millicent Fawcett, Mrs. Despard, and many other veterans were in the House of Lords when the picturesque ceremony of the Royal Assent was given and, with a sigh of relief and triumph, listened to the significant words "Le Roi le Veult." We nurses lived through that purple moment in 1919, and realise after our own strenuous professional fight, how our suffrage leaders must have thanked God that they had lived to gather the fruit of their labours. Let us hope the younger generation will realise the responsibility which they now enjoy, and live lives of patriotic duty.

The Passing of Purdah.

The King and Queen of Afghanistan are now home again after their long and exhaustive tour in Europe and elsewhere, and showers of flowers and petals rained upon their Majesties' entry to Kabul. It is reported that Queen Souriya wore a blue gauze veil, through which she was smiling to the delight of the populace.

It is reported that tribesmen from the wilds are awestruck by many western innovations—luxurious motor-cars, aeroplanes—and are deeply impressed by the King's references to women's emancipation, and it is expected that

the Queen will soon lead the way to the permanent discarding of the veil.

But this will not be done without protest upon the part of fanatical mullahs who have already called as a deputation on the King to lodge a protest against the appearance of the Queen and Court ladies in public without veils. They told the King that the removal of the purdah was an insult to Islam, to which protest the King replied:—"Why is there no *purdah* in the villages?" The mullahs said that poor village women discarded the *purdah*, as they must work. The King replied: "Charity begins at home. When the villagers appreciate the alleged blessings of the *purdah*, come back and I shall enforce the *purdah* in the Palace." The Mullahs retired crestfallen.

Purdah is doomed—the revolt of the womanhood of Islam against seclusion began fifteen years ago, and to-day the women of New Turkey not only have no purdah, but dress in up-to-date Western style.

Recently in India women have set up a definite claim to appear unveiled in public. The ex-Begum of Bhopal, in her presidential address to the Women's Conference, spoke on nothing but the evils of purdah, and proved beyond doubt that the time had come to remove that impediment to the regeneration of Indian womanhood. An additional impulse has been given to this by the appearance of Queen Souriya without a veil during her European tour.

What a loss had we not been able to gaze upon her charming face!

It is reported that Queen Souriya was much impressed with the care of our babies as seen at Queen Charlotte's hospital, and King Amanullah is as insistent upon public health and has established at Kandahar, Herat, and Ghazni, new and well-equipped hospitals staffed with Turkish doctors trained in France and Germany. The BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING ventures to suggest that to complete a system of health reform in Afghanistan, well-

trained English Nurses shall be added to the staffs of these new hospitals, and so help to draw closer the bonds of friendship between the Indian Empire and Afghanistan.

The King has forbidden polygamy, and advised his subjects not to copy the bad customs of other countries, such as drinking, but to take up sport which was necessary for good health.

It is worth while being old to have seen Ellen Terry in her prime—her joyousness—her real tears. Hours of delight never to be effaced from memory.

Lord Craigavon, the Premier of Northern Ireland, addressing an Orange demonstration at Dromore, Co.



HER MAJESTY QUEEN SOURIYA
OF AFGHANISTAN.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)