

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

"LOVE OF COUNTRY."

The little maiden Maud Mason, a pupil of St. Paul's Girls' School, Chorlton-on-Medlock, after writing an essay on "My Native Land," awoke to find herself famous. The little lady had written from her loyal heart, "England is the finest country in the world." And so say all the peoples of their own beloved countries throughout the world. But came along the type of inspector we fear by no means unique in these days, who, it was stated, criticised the teacher in the presence of the children for teaching "old-fashioned Imperialism." Then the doughty rector and other managers of St. Paul's complained of the behaviour of the inspector, and Sir Gerald Hurst, M.P., carried the matter to the House of Commons on July 30th, and for the first time for many moons the House rose to the attack, and protested with cries of "Shame, shame," when the President of the Board of Education refused to take disciplinary steps against the inspector for attempting to discourage love of one's own country among the children. Never have we had such a healthy outburst for many a day. When questions ended, Sir Gerald Hurst tried to move the adjournment of the House to discuss a matter of "urgent public importance." In that purpose he was frustrated by the Speaker, but Sir Gerald promised to open a debate on the subject later in the week.

Came Friday, August 2nd, Sir Gerald Hurst again raised the question in the House and said that one of the glories of our Constitution was that grievances could be voiced in Parliament. He discussed the question with admirable moderation and pointed out that it took the Board of Education just over a month to reply to the chairman of the Board of Management of the St. Paul's School for Girls, when they informed him that they had made enquiries, and found that the incident did not bear the complexion placed upon it—no reasons for the decision of the Board were forthcoming.

He (Sir G. Hurst) appealed to the Minister to say that the Board of Education cast no reflection on the managers or teachers, and particularly the teachers. He asked his right hon. friend to make a statement so clear and so explicit, as to make it known to all his Majesty's subjects, including every one concerned in education from his Majesty's inspectors of schools down to the humblest teacher, that no reflections on a child's pure love of country, one of the wholly beautiful things in life, would be tolerated in any school.

Then followed a lengthy apologia from the President of the Board of Education, who said he had been told that his answers, when the question was raised earlier, had been weak, and that every one would have been satisfied if he had reprimanded the inspector. An answer of that kind might have been considered strong, but would it have been considered fair to a worthy individual who had acted without any ill intention even if to some degree he had been ill-advised?

He hoped the House would accept the view that while the Board held the most stringent views on this subject, on the facts of the case it was not one which came within those limits or one in which disciplinary action was necessary.

"Ill advised" or not, the "worthy individual" got off without the official reprimand which in our opinion would have been fair to the managers, and especially the teachers, of St. Paul's School.

From the futility of the subsequent debate it was evident that the political watering pot had considerably damped the ardour of patriots in the back benches!

Our advice to little Maud Mason is to cherish with ardour her love of country—"Fear God—Honour the King."

THE NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

On Tuesday, July 23rd, in the House of Commons, Mrs. Tate (Willesden, W., U.) presented a petition signed by 136 women, representing 100 women's associations in New Zealand, Australia, Canada, South Africa, Bermuda, and Ceylon, based on the fact that in Geneva in 1931 the British Government, through its delegate, declared that it considered it right that all disabilities of married women in matters of nationality should be removed; and asking that the House of Commons should give legal effect to that policy in order to remove difficulties in the way of its general adoption throughout the Dominions.

It is understood that the League of Nations is not in favour of this reform, but now that we have a Minister for League of Nations Affairs, we must urge him to instruct the League to adopt a more liberal policy.

The Reich Supreme Court has ruled that the application of insulting expressions to the Führer by a married woman can be a ground of divorce.

What a chance!

WHAT TO READ.

BIOGRAPHY AND MEMOIRS.

"The Political Influence of Queen Victoria," Frank Hardie.

"Sir George Alexander and the St. James' Theatre," A. E. W. Mason.

"Joseph Conrad and His Circle," Jessie Conrad.

"Burned Bridges," Prince George Imeretinsky.

"England Made Me," Graham Green.

FICTION.

"Lucy Gayheart," Willa Cather.

"No Quarter Given," Paul Morgan.

"Follow the Furies," Eleanor Carroll Chilton.

"Spilt Milk," Miss Petersen.

HISTORY.

"George The Fourth," Roger Fulford.

"All Quiet in Germany," Karl Billinger.

TRAVEL.

"Desolate Marches," travels in the Orinoco Llanos of Venezuela, L. M. Nesbitt.

"Desert and Forest," the first exploration of Abyssinia Danakil, L. M. Nesbitt.

Miss V. Sackville-West is now engaged on writing a full-length biography of Joan of Arc, which Cobden-Sanderson will publish.

COMING EVENTS.

September 21st.—British College of Nurses Council Meeting, 39 Portland Place, London, W.1. 2.30 p.m.

September 27th.—General Nursing Council for England and Wales. 20, Portland Place, London, W.1. 2.30 p.m.

WORD FOR THE MONTH.

"MY MIND TO ME A KINGDOM IS."

I laugh not at another's loss

I grudge not at another's gain:

No worldly waves my mynde can toss,

My state at one dothe still remayne:

I feare no foe, I fawne no freende,

I lothe not lyfe, nor dread no ende.

Sir Edward Dyer.

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