

# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

## AND THE COMMON CAUSE

Vol. XVIII. No. 6. One Penny.

REGISTERED AS  
A NEWSPAPER.

Friday, March 5, 1926

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Annual Subscription for Postal Subscribers : British Isles and Abroad, 6/6.

Common Cause Publishing Co., 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

### NOTES AND NEWS.

#### The Report of the Royal Commission on National Health Insurance.

This Commission has at last issued its long awaited Report on 1st March. We shall be publishing a series of articles later on various aspects of the Report ; suffice here to refer to those among its recommendations of chief interest to our readers. The Commission received very little evidence against the present scheme, as a whole. The Majority Report recommended that National Health Insurance should be continued on its present compulsory and contributory basis. Various improvements are, however, suggested. It is proposed that the cost of these should be defrayed not by the imposition of fresh contributions, but by pooling up to one-half of any surplus which may accrue to approved Societies, after the adoption of the new scheme, and also by the modification of its present actuarial basis. The extension of statutory benefits to be made as and when funds are available to meet the cost, should be placed in the following order of priority :—Extension of the scope of medical benefit, so that this should include more than a general practitioner service ; the provision of allowances in respect to wives and children up to 14 of insured persons in case of sickness or disablement benefits (the rates proposed are 2s. for each dependent in the case of sickness of the insured person, and 1s. each in the case of disablement ; in the case of unmarried insured women the same rates should be paid in respect to a widowed mother), improved provision at the time of pregnancy and childbirth for insured women and the wives of insured men, the provision of dental treatment as a normal benefit. Insurance committees should be abolished and their powers and duties transferred to the appropriate Local Authorities.

#### The Minority Report.

The Minority Report points out the need for a complete public health policy, as the signatories are convinced that it is undesirable to retain Approved Societies as the agencies through which cash benefits are distributed. These should be carried out by Local Authorities responsible for other health services. They recommend the raising of the normal rate of sickness benefit to 18s. a week and 15s. a week for women, with dependents' allowances at the same rate as under the Unemployment Insurance Acts. We ourselves are glad to note that both Reports took cognizance of some of the reforms for which this paper has stood, that is, the giving of dependents'

allowances, the provision of medical benefits for dependents, and the improvement of provision for maternity. We regret, however, that the Majority Report did not take the bold course of recommending that the statutory benefits they recommend should be granted in any case ; that no recommendation is made for extending medical benefits to the wives and children of insured persons, and that no improvement is proposed in the position of the married woman who has been insured up to the time of her marriage. We regret also that the rates of dependents' allowances proposed should be so low.

#### Equal Franchise.

We are glad to note the letter published in *The Times* of 2nd March, written on behalf of the N.U.S.E.C., drawing attention to the statement on Equal Franchise, which the Prime Minister conveyed to the National Union through Lord Cecil. Lord Cecil's letter runs as follows :—

As far as I am concerned, I have long believed that political equality between the sexes is desirable, and I see no reason to think that women of the same age as men are less capable of exercising the franchise. I am, therefore, myself, in favour of granting the Vote to women on the same terms as to men. That, of course, leaves unsettled the time when such a reform should be passed. It is obvious that we cannot always be tinkering with our constitutional machinery ; on the other hand, it is equally obvious that once it is conceded that a section of our fellow citizens ought to receive the franchise, the change necessary in the law for that purpose cannot be indefinitely withheld. It will be between these two competing principles that the Government, assisted by the all-Party Conference, which is to be summoned, will have to make up its mind.

Although we are glad to hear that the preparations are being made, we are grievously disappointed that no indication was given as to whether the Conference will or will not be set up this Session. We have continually stated the case against delay, and feel that no stone should be left unturned to obtain the establishment of the Conference this year. We realize, though we do not share it, the view of the Government that legislation of this kind should be deferred to the end of a Session, but in view of the lengthy procedure which the Prime Minister has outlined, any such delay is inevitably dangerous.

#### The Adoption of Children Bill.

On Friday, 26th February, Mr. Galbraith moved the second reading of the Adoption of Children Bill—a Bill based on the report issued by the Tomlin Committee last year. The Bill provides for the power to make Adoption Orders in cases where those desirous of adopting are over 25 and are 21 years older than the child to be adopted. Men are not to be allowed to adopt girls unless there are special circumstances which justify the measure. The consent of any person who is the parent or guardian of the child, or who has its actual custody must be obtained. The Court, before making an adoption order, must be satisfied that the parent understands that the order is to be permanent, and that it must be for the welfare of the child, due consideration being given to its wishes if it is of sufficient age. The Court may order the adopter to make adequate provision for the child : the effect of an adoption order is to transfer all the duties and obligations of a parent to the adopter. An interim order for two years may be made as a probationary period. An adopted child's register shall be kept, but as the Home Secretary explained, this can only be inspected by an order of the Court. We shall be publishing an article on the Bill, by Miss Musson, next week, and do not

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propose now to make any comments, though we are convinced that the Bill will require amending in various important particulars. The Bill received the blessing of the Government, and passed its second reading without a division.

#### The House of Lords and Birth Control.

We are glad to be able to announce that Lord Buckmaster, at the request of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, has put down the following resolution in the House of Lords: "To ask His Majesty's Government if they will withdraw all instructions given to, or conditions imposed on Welfare Committees for the purpose of causing such Committees to withhold from married women in their district information when sought by such women as to the best means of limiting their families." The date on which this will be taken has not yet been fixed. We hope that all who are in favour of this resolution will do all they can to rouse support for it both in the House of Lords and elsewhere.

#### The Central Poor Law Conference.

The proposals for the abolition of the existing Poor Law formed the main subject of discussion at the 51st Central Conference of Poor Law Guardians held at the Guildhall last week. A resolution was passed urging the Government to institute an inquiry into the whole field of Poor Law Administration. The idea that the "Poor" are a class apart who require a special code of laws and special administration appears to be firmly fixed in the minds of many, especially the older school of Poor Law Guardians. Inquiry after inquiry has already been held and is now being held into the working of measures dealing with the prevention and cure of poverty. The public assistance of the "poor" cannot be dissociated as the celebrated reports of the Poor Law Inquiry of 1909 showed from the treatment of unemployment, sickness, housing, old age, and infirmity, and it is difficult in our opinion in the twentieth century to justify the existence of a separate "poor law".

#### Women and Trade Unions.

The General Council of the Trade Union Congress is steadily following up its recent activities on behalf of the better organization of women workers. As we reported in an earlier issue, a national campaign on behalf of this object was recently launched by a conference representing women's organizations in Manchester. Proposals are now under discussion, according to which all unions containing women members shall be asked to include at least one woman among their delegates to the annual T.U. Congress, such women being subsequently required to represent their respective unions at a conference of women trade unionists. A subsidiary proposal involves the presentation of a medal by the General Council of the T.U.C. to the woman rank-and-file trade unionist who has most vigorously served the cause during the year. The first proposal appears to us an excellent one. The Trade Union Congress will acquire additional depth and breadth and equity from the more adequate representation of the woman worker's point of view. The woman worker herself will acquire an added sense of vocational responsibility from the larger part which she will be enabled to play in the councils of trade unionism. And with the gradual strengthening of her capacity for self-protection in the labour market we shall observe the progressive weakening of arguments for differential legislative protection.

#### The Pensions Scheme and "Excepted Employment."

The Ministry of Health has circulated information relating to persons who have retired within the last two years from occupations which are excepted from the operations of the Health Insurance Act. Such persons may in certain circumstances remain in benefit for widows' insurance without payment of contributions or in other cases may become voluntary contributors. Social workers or others knowing of such cases should see that the Insurance Department of the Ministry of Health is communicated with as soon as possible.

#### The Turk's Progress.

On Wednesday, 10th February, the Turkish National Assembly adopted its new civil code which embodies among its 900 articles the legal equality of men and women as regards family life, divorce, and inheritance, and the end of polygamy. But according to a Turkish lady, interviewed by the *Manchester Guardian*, polygamy has in fact been virtually extinct in Turkey for the past twenty years. There are doubtless

social customs and traditions in Turkey, which, in spite of the new code will, for many years to come, render it a relatively undesirable country in which to be born a woman. Nevertheless when we turn our eyes to the legally westernized Near East a new quail of fear assails us. The mote in our own English eye becomes a beam. The beam in the Turk's eye dwindles to a mote!

#### The Homes of England.

In a recent reply to a question in the House of Commons the Parliamentary Secretary stated that in England and Wales there were 317,417 families living in one room, and 617,958 families, consisting of nearly three million persons, occupying two rooms per family. We referred last week to two London efforts to accelerate progress in the provision of houses. What are women's organizations all over the country doing to remove this blot on our civilization.

#### A Practical Proposal.

One aspect of the housing problem is dealt with in a practical way by the Women's Pioneer Housing, Ltd., which converts large houses into small flats at reasonable rents for self-dependent women. Such a scheme not only provides suitable accommodation for professional women, many of whom might otherwise have been forced to occupy dwellings intended for families of wage-earners. It also solves the problem of the wastage of large unoccupied houses. Moreover, it is a business undertaking run by women for women. We warmly recommend it to our readers with a little money free for investment who want in some practical concrete way to do something to help the housing problem.

#### Homes in the Bush.

We wish to express our sympathy with the families in the regions of Australia which have suffered so severely from raging bush fires. The stories of heroic rescue work in which women took a prominent share have aroused our admiration. Those of us who live in comfort and comparative ease are too apt to forget the struggles and difficulties of our own kinsfolk who are pioneers in the outposts of our Empire.

#### Scots Law.

We recently reviewed in these columns Mrs. Croft's useful book on *Woman and the Law*, which contains a valuable section on Scots law. This week we have had sent us a pamphlet dealing with Scots law affecting women and children, issued by the Scottish Council of Women Citizens Associations (27 Rutland Street, Edinburgh) at 6d. This pamphlet consists of abstracts from lectures delivered to a study circle of the Edinburgh Woman Citizens Association last year, by well-known authorities on Scottish law including the Right. Hon. Lord Murray, the Hon. Lord Constable, Mr. Candlish Henderson, Miss Alice Younger, and others. The preface sums up points which require the careful consideration of citizens and the book may well become a handbook of study throughout Scotland.

#### A Woman Chairman.

A correspondent writes: "Just as to the Labour Party belongs the honour of having appointed the first woman minister in the person of Miss Bondfield, so has the Conservative Party created a new precedent by electing Dame Caroline Bridgeman Chairman of the Party for the ensuing year. Dame Caroline was for many years the very capable Chairman of the Women's Unionist Association, a post which she resigned on her husband being appointed First Lord of the Admiralty. We congratulate both Dame Caroline Bridgeman and the Conservative Party. It is now time for the Liberal Party to go one better than either of the others. A way out of their difficulties might be found by electing Mrs. Wintringham Leader of the Party.

#### A Woman Pioneer.

A forthcoming publication of interest will be *Hertha Ayrton: A Memoir*, by Evelyn Sharp, to be issued immediately, with illustrations by Messrs. Edward Arnold & Co., at 15s. net. Mrs. Ayrton not only had a distinguished scientific career, culminating in her invention of an anti-gas fan during the war, but she was in addition connected, through George Eliot, Madame Bodichon, and other pioneers, with the beginnings of the modern woman's movement; she was an early Girton student, and to the end of her life an ardent suffragist and supporter of all movements for women's freedom. Her biography should prove of special interest to the readers of this journal.

## NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

A good deal has happened during the week. First of all, the £200,000 Civil Service Sports Grant has been dropped. It is somewhat interesting to observe that the fact of its having been abandoned immensely strengthens the hand of the Government in their campaign for economy, for should anyone plead hard for his favourite extravagance, the Government can counter him by pointing to the fact that they have dropped the project on which their heart was set.

On Tuesday, 23rd February, supplementary estimates for the Ministry of Health were considered, but nothing of particular moment emerged. In the evening, however, Mr. Stephen Walsh moved a motion calling for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into war pensions. This proposal, often repeated, and which will reappear as long as pensions last, was met by an amendment expressing the undesirability of disturbing the present basis of pensions, and this after a spirited debate was carried. On Wednesday, 24th February, also, there came on the supplementary estimates of the Ministry of Pensions itself, which led to a heated attack on the Minister by Mr. Kirkwood, which went to the limit of what is permissible in Parliament.

On Thursday, 25th February, came the air estimates, but before dealing with those, it is worth while pointing out that two Private Bills have been rejected during the week, the London Power Company Bill and the Metropolitan Electric Supply Bill. Such a procedure is somewhat unusual. Private Bills go through a course of their own; they are passed by the House on second reading in nine cases out of ten without any discussion, and merely by the title of the Bill being read out, and then disappear to a Private Bill Committee and do not come back until reported. It is always open, however, to any Member to force a discussion on second reading, and this is done when the Private Bill raises some contentious point, as is often the case with railway Bills. Now both these two Bills dealt with electricity, and the House, not unreasonably, felt that they ought not to be considered until the Government's own Electricity Bill was produced.

Now for the air estimates. Sir Samuel Hoare gave a close and interesting survey of the present position. We are slowing down the rate of progress originally agreed upon, but, he maintained, we are losing little by so doing, and above all, the

money we do spend is being used to the best advantage. He was attacked on two lines. First of all, Major Atlee and others objected to any air programme at all in view of Locarno. He also, and in this he had the whole House with him, pleaded strongly for a Ministry of Defence. Indeed, this is the only way to secure economy in the fighting services, to say nothing of efficiency. The present system is ridiculous. Take the position between the Navy and the Air Force. Since the coming of the air, some of the weight of defending these islands can be borne by aeroplanes. We may argue how much, and one critic would draw the line here and another there, but everyone would admit that an Air Force plays some part in national defence. And yet, apparently, this is not admitted by the Admiralty, who base their figures upon the assumption which was accepted before the war, that they carry all the responsibility for our safety. Questions such as these, and many others, can only be solved when there is one department which thinks of defence as a whole. This year we shall probably spend £115,000,000 upon defence, and some of that expense is undoubtedly duplicated. Therefore the proposal for a Ministry of Defence received general support, and indeed, was not rejected by Sir Samuel Hoare himself. But the other line of attack met with a more unkind fate, and this was the charge, voiced by Sir Frederick Sykes, Mr. Harvey, and others, that we had too few men in the air and too many on the ground. Sir Philip Sassoon had little difficulty in dealing with this complaint. Indeed, it is obvious to anyone who knows anything about air navigation, that the ground service must increase in the future, instead of diminishing. Directional wireless, meteorology, wireless telephony, proper lighting of aerodromes, all demand increased attention, and the safety of our pilots depends to an increasing extent on what is done on the earth beneath them.

Finally, on Friday, 26th February, so calm was the atmosphere of the House, that two Private Members' Bills passed second reading, an event which rarely happens. Mr. Galbraith got through his Bill for the Adoption of Children, and Mr. Tinne one for the Registration of Births and Deaths. On Monday, 1st March, the House plunged again into the morass of supplementary estimates.

## EDUCATION: PERCENTAGE v. BLOCK GRANTS.

By R. F. CHOLMELEY.

A good deal of the criticism levelled at the President of the Board of Education in connection with Circular 1371 and Administrative Memorandum 44 has been due to the fact that he was trying to do at least two things at once, one of which was in his power to do while the other was not. He was indicating the lines upon which he proposed to get a reduction in the cost of education—so far as that cost is met out of taxes—for example by discouraging the sending to school of children under five and the reduction of classes in elementary schools below 50; these things are within his power: they require no Parliamentary sanction; so far he was merely indicating what kind and measure of expenditure the Board was proposing to approve in the sense that 50 per cent. of it would be paid out of taxes. This was all in accordance with the financial provisions of the Act of 1918—though not at all in accordance with the spirit of that Act. But Lord Eustace Percy inserted into his lucubrations on this subject a statement that the Cabinet had decided to abolish the financial basis of the Act of 1918, by substituting Block Grants for Percentage Grants. This was a wholly new proposal; it had no necessary connection with the rest, though the object of it was clearly to make a reduction in the burden on the taxpayer, and it had been recommended by the Geddes Committee with that object: it would involve the repeal of part of the Act of 1918, which could obviously not be done except by a legislative act.

There are three questions involved: first, whether we ought to spend less upon education; second, whether the proportion of the cost of education to be met out of rates and out of taxes ought to be altered; and third, whether the percentage grant system set up by the Act of 1918 ought to be given up and some system for which the confusing term Block Grant is commonly used should be adopted instead. The first of these questions need not be considered here: whichever way we answer it, the other two will still be worth discussing: but in order that

they may be discussed usefully it is necessary to see exactly what the proposed alteration means. The First Interim Report of the Geddes Committee in 1922 puts the position clearly enough, in reviewing (p. 105) the development since 1913-14 of the percentage grant system in the Education and Public Health services; but the position with regard to education in particular depends upon Clause 44, § 2, of the Education Act, 1918, in which it is laid down that "the total sums paid to a local education authority out of moneys provided by Parliament and the local taxation account in aid of elementary education or education other than elementary, as the case may be, shall not be less than one-half of the net expenditure of the authority recognized by the Board of Education as expenditure in aid of which Parliamentary grants should be made to the authority." This provision involves two principles—what is known as the fifty-fifty principle, which concerns the proportion contributed out of taxes, and the principle of recognition by the Board as a condition upon which alone that contribution can be made. Roughly speaking, the effect of this system is that the local education authorities settle their estimates with a view to the Board's approval, and take their chance of getting it. For most of their expenditure they can make sure of the Board's approval in advance; but there is always a marginal expenditure in respect of which they cannot, and it is this margin, which they are often obliged to deal with on their own responsibility—and for part of which they sometimes shoulder full responsibility in the long run, having failed to get the Board's approval—that causes the uncertainty in educational finance which provides part of the argument against the system. The salaries of teachers furnish a good example. Over and over again local education authorities have made payments to teachers in accordance, as they thought, with the provisions of the Burnham agreements, to find—sometimes many months afterwards—that the Board would not approve the expenditure for grant purposes; and

the authorities have had either to find the whole of the money out of rates or get it back from the teachers. It is fair to say that as the working of the system developed, and the Board and the local education authorities came into closer co-operation, this difficulty tended to diminish; but it can never quite disappear. The President's complaint that he never knows in the least how to frame his estimates may be a rhetorical exaggeration; but it had a basis in fact.

Now, if that system is abolished, what is the substitute that is proposed? What, in short, is a Block Grant? The difficulty is that this expression is used to describe different things; but the only question that matters is what the Government means by it in the present case; and that Lord Eustace Percy has stated quite clearly. It means (a) That local education authorities are to present him with estimates of the least possible expenditure that they can do with over three years, and (b) that the Board will, so far as it approves those estimates, guarantee for those three years a minimum grant in aid from taxes, without prejudice to such increases during the three years as may be found possible. This is to apply to the years 1927-1930; the coming year, from 1st April, 1926, to 31st March, 1927, is to be dealt with on the existing plan; but authorities are to revise their estimates quickly for that year in accordance with the requirements of Administrative Memorandum 44, which involve a considerable reduction of expenditure. It may be noted that London, in order to escape the detailed requirements of A.M. 44 and to preserve its three year programme, is offering the Board a reduction of 2½ per cent. on its expenditure for 1926-27, on condition of getting 50 per cent. of the rest and being let alone.

On this the first thing to be observed is that no Minister can expect to do without supplementary estimates: indeed, the other day a supplementary estimate was defended in the House of Commons by the Minister concerned on the grounds that it showed how close to the bone his original estimates had been cut. The Block Grant will not get rid of supplementary estimates: what the Block Grant system as described by Lord Eustace Percy will do, if it is adopted, is to shift the *onus probandi* for expenditure beyond the minimum from the Board to the local education authorities. So far, Lord Eustace Percy does not seem even to be sure that the Treasury will pay 50 per cent. of the minimum that he is asking to be estimated: even if it does, no quantity of personal assurances from him or anybody else can prevent that minimum from becoming in the minds of local education authorities and Parliament and everybody concerned, a standard of expenditure above which it will be difficult to get. It is significant that the Board of Education itself presented to Lord Meston's Committee, whose report on this very question the Government is so extraordinarily unwilling to produce, a memorandum entirely in favour of the continuance of the present system.

One argument in favour of the Block Grant proposals remains to be noticed; it is contended that Local Education authorities will have more freedom than under the present system; but this is illusory. The new proposals are essentially rationing proposals, and although the authorities may be free to dispose of their ration as they please, such freedom is not much of a compensation for the loss of a square meal. The fundamental objection to the Block Grant, in its present sense, is that it is, and is meant to be, an instrument for transferring from taxes to rates as much as possible of the cost of educational expansion; and it is just this part of the burden that the ratepayer finds it most difficult to bear.

#### THIS WEEK AND NEXT.

Mr. R. F. Cholmeley, the writer of the above valuable article, is known to many as a good friend of the causes with which this paper is identified. His explanation of a difficult and much discussed technical matter should be carefully studied. Next week we propose to print the first of several articles on the report of the Royal Commission on National Health Insurance, and a review by Mrs. Swanwick of *The Victory of Reason*, by Mr. W. Arnold Forster.

#### CANNING TOWN WOMEN'S SETTLEMENT (Incorporated).

### A MEETING

will be held at

King's Weigh House Hall, Thomas Street, Oxford Street, W.

on  
Wednesday, 10th March, 1926, at 3 p.m.

Rev. F. W. NEWLAND, M.A., will preside.

SPEAKERS:—Mrs. Winttingham, Miss Towers, Miss Hurst and J. C. Miller, Esq.

TEA at 4.30. A Collection will be taken in aid of the Funds.

### EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

The annual council meeting of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship was of peculiar significance this year when the women of the country are awaiting the fulfilment of the Prime Minister's promise to establish a committee to consider the final instalment of the enfranchisement of women. Perhaps that was the reason why it was the largest and most enthusiastic Council that has been held since the changes that took place in its constitution after the passing of the Representation of the People Act. Throughout the four days of its proceedings the body of the hall was well filled and the gallery attracted a fair sprinkling of visitors who seemed to know by some kind of instinct when anything exciting was going to take place. The agenda presented a formidable enough task—seventy resolutions without a bunch of urgency motions, introduced early in the first session, which dealt with the constitution of the League of Nations, the forthcoming International Conference on the regulations on hours of work, the appointment of women magistrates, and the age of marriage. But a little manipulation on the part of those who shared the onerous task of chairing the Council succeeded in reducing the number very considerably. A large unopposed group amending the rules was handed over to the new Executive, and a further group dealing with different aspects of legislation imposing restrictions on women's work were speedily disposed of after the spirited debates to which I shall refer later. Others which simply expressed satisfaction with the achievement of the past year or re-emphasized principles already incorporated in the programme of the Union were taken for granted and it was something of a triumph of chairmanship that the agenda was practically finished when the Council closed.

The President's address, printed in this paper last week, gave the keynote to the Council. "If the Societies of the N.U.S.E.C. do not perhaps shine as publicity agents, they are pretty good pioneers, and I hope that will always be their rôle." The National Union cannot rest on its laurels. There is work to be done and it must forge ahead ever breaking up new ground and exploring new truths. Dame Millicent's visit and the presentation of a beautifully bound book of signatures of old and new friends present at the garden party at Aubrey House last year was the occasion of a demonstration which showed that with the passing years Dame Millicent still remains an honoured and beloved leader.

The first resolution of course dealt with equal franchise, and called upon the Prime Minister to set up his promised conference. An important set of resolutions dealt with moral questions; one urged the Government to appoint a select committee of both Houses to inquire into the Solicitation Laws, and others dealt with the recently published report of the Departmental Committee on sexual offences against young persons. Lady Astor's visit on the second day gave the customary ripple of pleasurable excitement; since her first appearance soon after her election to Parliament, her flying visits have always been regarded as features of the Council. To her fell the duty of moving the greeting of the Council to the French Suffragists on the occasion of the forthcoming International Woman Suffrage Alliance Congress. Major Hills, who has after some years of exile found his way back to Westminster, received a cordial welcome when he moved a resolution thanking Lady Astor and Miss Wilkinson for their great services on behalf of the work of the Union and urging societies to bring pressure on their Party organizations to consider the claims of women candidates. Major Hills spoke with obvious conviction of the need for more women in the House of Commons, and in supporting a further resolution of congratulation to the Duchess of Atholl paid a warm tribute to the remarkable success of her Parliamentary work.

Once more the Council reaffirmed its faith in Equal Pay for Equal Work, unembarrassed by other issues, in the right of married women to engage in paid work if they desired to do so and in equality of opportunity in the Civil Services. The most hotly contested verbal battles raged around the questions of restrictive legislation for women and the immediate programme for the coming year. A special conference at the close of the first day was held on the subject of restrictive legislation, when Miss Helen Ward and Dr. Rhoda Adamson spoke against sex restrictions. Miss Gertrude Tuckwell and Miss Madeleine Symons though not delegates were invited to speak in opposition. The next day, however, the Council with no uncertain voice, reaffirmed its opinion that legislation for the protection of workers

should be based not upon sex but upon the nature of the work. The alteration of the Immediate Programme of the Union—given in full on page 50—consequent on the removal of three points as the result of the successes of the year, led to some acute differences of opinion and some remarkably good speaking. Such debates, sometimes heated, always sincere, mark the greatest change in the Councils of to-day as compared to the Councils of pre-war days when all were united in the single principle though often opposed in method. Other resolutions dealt with Children's Courts, protection of illegitimate children, lunacy reform, housing, temperance reform, and the Health Insurance Acts. At the time of writing the report of the Royal Commission on National Health Insurance has just been published and it is gratifying to see that the Resolution of the Council anticipated some of its recommendations. This scanty account barely touches on the work of those heavy days, and students of the women's movement should certainly procure a copy of the resolutions in full.<sup>1</sup> They are not pious expressions of orthodox opinion only; they provide the mandate for the coming year's work. It must not be forgotten that the Council is not an adult school. It is a body of women in close touch with every aspect of our work summoned to decide on policy for the coming year, who should know beforehand what they have come to decide. The speaking for the most part was of a high order by women who knew what they were talking about and the body of the hall took its fair share. Order was not always easy to maintain and the skill and firmness of the chairmen, the President, Mrs. Stocks, and Miss Courtney, was much admired. But the proceedings were all the more interesting because of the occasional outbursts of controversy and did at least prove that women can disagree violently and yet remain united on the broad principles for which they stand. L. H. S.

#### THE LIGHTER SIDE OF THE COUNCIL.

The annual luncheon at which delegates of the Council meet Members of Parliament and other friends grows larger and larger. This year nearly four hundred people assembled at the Holborn Restaurant, and much needed mental relaxation was the order of the day. The two Parliamentary guests of honour, Captain Walter Elliot and Sir Martin Conway, were delightfully frivolous, and the short speeches of the distinguished women guests, Dr. Jane Walker, Lady Keeble, and Miss Gray—representing Medicine, the Drama, and Education respectively—were characterized by humour and wisdom. The reception given by Lady Astor to meet delegates gave a great deal of pleasure to everyone, particularly to many members of the Union who are not often in London and in their busy lives do not have many opportunities of meeting those whose names they know so well. It was a delightfully friendly gathering and everyone enjoyed it and was grateful to Lady Astor for her delightful hospitality.

#### THE EQUAL FRANCHISE DEMONSTRATION.

The crowded gathering in the Central Hall on Friday, 26th February, was significant in many ways. Here and there one recognized the familiar faces of distinguished suffragists and the beautiful banners of the historic pre-war campaigns hung as of old from the galleries. But large numbers of the audience belonged to a new generation. There were young married women, young women workers, and college girls, and the enthusiasm of the young who had not lived through the struggles of the past mingled with the enthusiasm of those to whom this meeting recalled many similar occasions of the past. The platform was a remarkable one; seldom does one hear so many brilliant speeches on one occasion. Dame Millicent, Lady Astor, Miss Wilkinson, Miss Maude Royden, Madame Malaterre-Sellier, and the Chairman, Miss Eleanor Rathbone, one after another spoke, and the enthusiasm of the gathering was a revelation even to the most experienced. We only wish that Members of Parliament in large numbers could have witnessed it. Two young and voteless speakers, Mrs. Anthony and Miss Durrant, moved votes of thanks, and not the least interesting feature of the meeting was the recital of messages from distinguished friends, most of which appeared in this paper last week.<sup>2</sup> It was a wonderful meeting and we came away feeling that the young were with us in our new campaign.

<sup>1</sup> A report containing all the resolutions, etc., moved at the Council, is now available at the office of the N. U. S. E. C., price 4d., post free.

<sup>2</sup> A few copies of the paper may still be had, price 1d.

#### OUR ADVERTISEMENTS.

We want to call the very special attention of our readers to our advertisement columns. We know that our pages offer no great inducement to the ordinary advertiser. We make no pretence of a circulation of great size. Nevertheless the fact remains that we are constantly told that for certain types of advertisement we provide an exceptionally good medium. We do not claim to reach the masses but we know that we are read weekly by some thousands of thinking women who know a good thing when they hear of it, whether it be a house to let, a labour or money saving commodity, or indeed, even an appeal for money. For strange to say, we have a good reputation among those who are asking for money for a good cause. We cannot of course assume any responsibility for advertisements appearing in our columns, but we think it pretty safe to say that the very fact that our little paper is selected gives them a certain recommendation. The advertiser is often one of ourselves, or at any rate is interested in the causes which we represent. He knows our public and sends us information which he thinks our public wants. So we ask our readers to support our advertisements and help us to get more. Over and over again we have been told that better results have been obtained from a cheap advertisement in our slim pages than from our handsomer and stouter contemporaries. A few weeks ago a substantial amount of donations to a worthy cause were directly attributed to an appeal in our columns; we are constantly told that "the right kind of people reply when we send you an advertisement." Support our advertisements.

#### THE EXTENSION APPEAL FUND

OF

#### The Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital

#### IS ASKING FOR YOUR HELP.

This Hospital is the first in our Empire to be staffed entirely by women. It has a waiting list of 300 patients, many of whom are professional women of limited means.

DONATIONS—however small—to the Extension Appeal Fund, will be gratefully received by—

Lady Plender, Hon. Treasurer and Chairman, 144 Euston Road, N.W. 1.

#### EQUAL FRANCHISE.

#### The "Woman's Leader" Special Number.

26th FEBRUARY, 1926.

#### AN HISTORIC NUMBER.

#### Messages from Distinguished Suffragists.

Only a few copies left. Apply at once.

*Will Sharpen everything*

Except a Razor and a Saw.

**3**  
POST FREE

Including 2 extra sharpening strips.

For Scissors, Knives, Pruners, Shears, Mowing Machines, Choppers, Axes, etc.

GADEL'S UNIVERSAL SHARPENER

Brit. Pat. No. 190,601/22.

quickly puts a fine edge on all kinds of garden and household implements, including stainless cutlery and scissors, no matter how blunt they may have become.

Easy to use, this Sharpener will keep all cutlery, scissors, etc., in perfect order and quickly pays for itself by making it unnecessary to send any tools out to be ground.

One of these patented sharpeners should be in every home. Send now for one, and start enjoying the luxury of really sharp cutlery, scissors and garden tools. Satisfaction or money refunded.

**MANUEL LLOYD & CO.** (Dept. W.L.)  
56 MOUNTGROVE ROAD, LONDON, N.5.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS.

By BERTHA MASON.

## REMEMBER THE PARISH MEETINGS OF MARCH.

Every rural parish, no matter how small, has its Parish Meeting. In parishes with a population of over 300 a Parish Council must be elected every third year by the Parish Meeting, and such elections were held last year. But in parishes where there are less than 300 inhabitants the Parish Meeting is usually the governing authority, though a Parish Council may be elected. Therefore in this article we are concerned not with the elections and duties of Parish Councils, but with the duties and powers of the Assemblies of local government electors, known as "Parish Meetings." We remind our readers (1) that in every parish in England and Wales (there are over 12,000 of such) the Annual Parish Meeting must be held between the 1st March and the 1st April. In those parishes which have no Councils, at least one other meeting must be held during the year. Further meetings may be called by the chairman or by any six electors. All men or women whose names are on the local government register have the right to attend these meetings. At the annual meeting a chairman must be appointed. Parish Meetings in parishes where there are no Councils are responsible for matters which affect the well-being of the parish. They can, if they are so inclined, do much to improve the life of a village community. Their powers include the provision of allotments, the maintenance and repair of footpaths, veto on the stopping or diversion of public rights of way, the right to petition the Minister of Health against confirmation of order of County Council altering boundary of parish, appeal to the County Councils if the Rural District Councils are not doing their duty in regard to housing, adequate water supply, sewerage, or any other provisions of the Public Health Acts, which it is the duty of those Councils to enforce. Where there are Parish Councils (i.e. in all rural parishes with a population of over 300 inhabitants, and in those with a population between 100 and 300, if the Parish Meeting so resolves, and the County Council consents) they may adopt the Adoptive Acts for lighting and for establishing public baths, burial grounds, recreation grounds, and public libraries. Such are some of the powers conferred on Parish Meetings by the Local Government Act, 1894.

(2) When that Bill passed into law great hopes were entertained regarding the beneficial effect of its provisions upon village life in all its phases. We have, however, sorrowfully to admit that those hopes have not been so far fulfilled.

In spite of the provisions of the Act which it was hoped would stimulate interest in parish matters, it would appear that in the majority of parishes little interest is taken either in the Parish Meeting which elects the Parish Council if there is one, or in the work of the Council when it is elected.

A chairman of a Parish Council in a letter to *The Times* of a year ago, stated that during the sixteen years he was chairman of the Parish Council "not more than 2 or 3 working men ever attended a Parish Meeting, and not one was ever elected a Parish Councillor." To the women of the parish the writer did not refer. Further evidence of the apathy which prevails in parishes is supplied by a glance at the returns of Parish Council elections.

There is no doubt whatever that in most parishes interest in Parish Meetings flags. Energy and initiative seem lacking. The heart, it may be, is taken out of the people by the fact that the community is small, and the voting is by show of hands. It has even been suggested that the powers of such bodies are so limited, it is "hardly worth while" to take an interest in Parish Meetings or to serve on Parish Councils. But is it true that it is "hardly worth while" to improve and brighten village life, and by so doing, to promote the health and happiness of those who live in these districts? After all this is the business of Parish Meetings and Parish Councils, and it is a business we submit, which is very much "worth while." "Anyone," once said a wise and intelligent woman, herself a Parish Councillor, "anyone who wishes to gain insight into what are the real troubles of our agricultural districts and knowledge of how they must be remedied, can best do so, in my opinion, by taking an interest in parish matters and working on small Parish Councils." To create an intelligent interest in the affairs of the parish and district, to arouse local government electors to a sense of their electoral duties is "worth while," and we commend this work to the attention of the thousands of Women's Institutes now scattered all over the country.

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: Miss ELEANOR RATHBONE, C.C., J.P. Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. SODDY.  
Hon. Secretary: The LADY BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH. Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HURBBACK.  
Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.  
Telephone: Victoria 6188.

The Annual Council Meeting, with all its functions, has been an outstanding success, with an attendance larger than at any Council since 1918. A fuller report is published in another column.

**HONORARY OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**  
Miss Rathbone was re-elected President and Mrs. Soddy Honorary Treasurer; Lady Balfour of Burleigh was elected Honorary Secretary.

We append a list of the result of the ballot for the Executive Committee. A recount having been asked for, it will be noticed that the order is slightly different from the list read at the Council, but that there is no other change: Miss Macmillan, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Major Hills, M.P., Miss Macadam, Miss Helen Ward, Mrs. Wintringham, Mrs. Stocks, Mrs. Bethune-Baker, Miss Courtney, Mrs. Abbott, Miss Picton-Turbervill, Miss Merrifield, Miss Beaumont, Miss Fraser, Miss Deakin, Mrs. Robie Uniacke, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Arthur Browne, Mrs. Van Gruisen, Mrs. Layton, Miss Whately.

All the sitting members were re-elected. We were glad to welcome back again Mrs. Phillips, a former member of the Executive Committee, who will be a most valuable link with the West of England. Miss Whately, the other new member, is well known as a speaker to many of our Societies, and Honorary Secretary of the St. Pancras S.E.C. We regret that neither Mrs. Ayrton Gould nor Miss Jewson were able to offer themselves for re-election owing to pressure of other work, and are very grateful for the help and counsel both have given during the year.

**INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.**

The following delegates and substitute delegates were elected to represent the N.U.S.E.C. at the forthcoming I.W.S.A. Congress:—

*Delegates:* Miss Rathbone, Lady Balfour of Burleigh, Miss Maude Royden, Miss Macmillan, Mrs. Stocks, Miss Courtney, Miss Neilans, Miss Helen Ward, Miss Picton-Turbervill.

*Substitute-Delegates:* Commandant Allen, Mrs. Abbott, Viscountess Rhondda, Miss Fraser, Miss Merrifield, Miss Bury, Dr. Olive Watson, Mrs. Van Gruisen, Miss Buchanan.

**IMMEDIATE PROGRAMME.**

Important resolutions were passed at the Council Meeting modifying the Immediate Programme of the Union. The new programme reads as follows:—

1. Equal Franchise for Men and Women.
2. An Equal Moral Standard between Men and Women.
3. More Women in Parliament and on Local Authorities and other governing bodies.
4. Equal Pay and Opportunity in Industry and the Professions as between men and women, including:—
  - (a) The abolition of the present customary artificial division of labour into men's and women's work.
  - (b) The application of the principle that protective legislation shall be based upon the nature of the work and not upon the sex of the worker.
  - (c) The right of married women to engage in paid work.
5. Status of Wives and Mothers:—
  - (a) Family Allowances, including provision for men and children under the National Health Insurance Acts.
  - (b) Freedom of married women who desire it to obtain information on Birth Control at Welfare Centres in receipt of Government grants.
  - (c) Married women to have the same rights as men to retain or to change their nationality.
6. The League of Nations and the Practical Application of the Principle of Equal Opportunity for Men and Women Within It.

**RESOLUTIONS OF THE COUNCIL.**

A report containing all the resolutions moved at the Council, whether carried or not, is now available, price 4d.

**PERSONAL.**

We congratulate Professor Barbara Foxley (member of our Cardiff S.E.C.) on having been appointed as Professor Emerita at University College, Cardiff. We understand that this is the first time a woman has achieved this distinction at any University.

**OFFICERS' CONFERENCE.**

Officers and members remained for the final conference on Parliamentary work and organization in excellent numbers. Lady Balfour of Burleigh, the newly elected Hon. Secretary, occupied the chair. Such questions as the formation of new societies, communications with Members of Parliament, the circulation of the *WOMAN'S LEADER*, and the Peace Pilgrimage were discussed. We only wish that such conferences could be longer and more frequent. They are of great value to the officers at Headquarters no less than to the societies represented.

CLACKMANNANSHIRE S.E.C.

This society held a meeting at Dollar on 5th February, addressed by Mrs. Corbett Ashby on International Woman Suffrage. The chair was taken by the Hon. Mrs. Houston Paton, and the meeting was well attended and the speeches greatly appreciated.

**CORRESPONDENCE.****A PROTEST.**

MADAM,—I am astonished at the tone of your Parliamentary correspondent in the issue of 5th February. He accuses Mr. MacDonald of being only "mildly reformist," and goes on to say the settlement of the Italian debt—by which they pay £4,000,000 a year and we English £26,000,000—is popular! With whom I wonder! He concludes that the Conservatives have the best of the position, because their problems are too hard, or not amenable to their principles! and a Conservative Government must economise or perish! He goes on to asperse the "silent elector" by implying that he approves of the hindrances being put in the way of the education of the poorer classes. As to Lloyd George tending to an alliance with Labour, that may be, and the Labour Party is open to him as to others—but Labour has shown no inclination to admit the leadership of this watercock.

Lancaster Gate.

M. A. E. MILTON.

**MARRIED WOMEN'S INCOME TAX.**

MADAM,—My surprise was quite equal to that of Marie C. Stopes in finding myself described, in your issue of 19th February, by her, as "resenting the effort of married women to be treated morally by the Income Tax officials of the country"! To me that is sheer nonsense, for the following reasons:—

(1) Married women are not persons at all to Income Tax officials, who are not concerned with people's morals, but with their income; and the income of a married woman is regarded by the law of the country as that of the husband, for taxing purposes. I hold no brief for Tax officials—like most other people I cordially detest them and all their ways; but as a matter of common sense we ought to realize that they are merely administering their and our country's law, and to talk as if they were interested in whether we are wives or mistresses is merely silly.

(2) Single women are as much persons to Income Tax officials as are men. Presumably "mistresses" have to disclose the source of their income like every other single woman and every man; and if a man is the source of their income that income is taxed twice over: but that, surely, is no more of a grievance to women than to men, and in any case is not the point at issue.

There is no need at all for Marie C. Stopes' heroic resolve to go to prison. Even if assessed separately she is not a person, and therefore not liable, and she cannot be punished for a sin she is not allowed to commit. It is husbands who are liable and would have to go to prison. It is the poor husbands who would be made to do the "resisting" business, and the wives, not being persons, would get off scot free.

What I "resent" is precisely that. I earn my living, and am prepared to accept all the responsibilities of my economic freedom. Through my accountant I compel the Income Tax officials to assess me separately; but I resent from the bottom of my soul the fact that my husband is assessed officially that I have applied for separate assessment, and is warned that his goods will be distrained upon if I do not pay.

This bitter feeling about paying more than one ought is a mystery to me. Why am I not affected, then? I never knowingly pay more than I am obliged for anything; and my accountant is very rigid with the officials about my not being assessed for more than I am liable for, and that they adjust the allowances equally between my husband and myself, and so far as I understand the allowance is the same whether one is assessed separately or not: if one is married the married allowance applies and if one is single the single person's allowance applies. But if married women have a grievance have they not also a vote? Why talk of "prisons" etc. (especially as we are not in the least danger of them) when a more constitutional method is open to us? Meanwhile, we might do more in the way of reminding authority that we are separate persons by demanding separate assessment and paying our own tax.

Manchester.

ADA NIELD CHEW.

**ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.**

St. Joan's S.P.A. held a most successful meeting at Caxton Hall on 25th February to arouse interest in the International Woman Suffrage Alliance Paris Congress, Councillor Mrs. V. M. Crawford presiding. Madame Malaterre-Sellier, President of the Paris Suffrage Society, made an eloquent plea for Englishwomen "to come over and help us" to obtain the just rights of citizenship for Frenchwomen. Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President of the I.W.S.A., gave a wonderful account of the present position of women throughout the world, and begged her audience to do their utmost to attend the Congress which was to be held in La Sorbonne. The sum of ten guineas was collected in the room as a first contribution from St. Joan's S.P.A. towards the expenses of the Congress.

A LECTURE  
will be given by  
**MR. JOHN BUCHAN**  
(Subject: "The Pen of a ready writer")  
at  
**18 CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE, S.W. 1**  
(by kind permission of Lady Violet Astor).  
On Thursday, 11th March, at 5 p.m.  
In aid of the Holiday Home, North St. Pancras School for Mothers.  
TICKETS, £1 1s., 10/6 and 5/., to be obtained from Countess Grey, 9 Chester Terrace, Regent's Park, N.W. 1, and Mrs. H. B. Gair, 110 Goldhurst Terrace, N.W. 6.

THE  
**International Woman Suffrage News**  
(Jus Suffragii)

Is an international record of the women's movement, which is unique in its scope. Every woman with a wide interest in world events ought to be a subscriber. Send 6/- for a twelve months' subscription (post free) to—

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**DELICIOUS FRENCH COFFEE**

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In making, use **LESS QUANTITY** it being  
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**WHEN YOU INVEST**  
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**WOMEN'S PIONEER HOUSING LTD.**, a Public Utility Society, converts large houses into flats at rentals from £30 to £130 for women of moderate means. Already 150 of these flats have been provided but the demand far exceeds the supply.

Women's Pioneer Housing Ltd. offers an attractive investment to those who wish to use their capital at home in the development of social enterprises. Women's Pioneer Housing Ltd. offers a reasonable dividend. The share dividend is limited to 6 per cent., and 5 per cent. is paid on loan stock. Full dividends have been paid for the last four years.

Write for Prospectus, Balance Sheet, and Application Form to The Secretary,

**WOMEN'S PIONEER HOUSING LTD.**,  
92 VICTORIA STREET, S.W. 1.

## COMING EVENTS.

## ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN.

MAR. 9. 10 a.m. Visit to Ideal Home Exhibition, Olympia.

## LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

MAR. 9. 5.30 p.m. 35 Marsham Street, Westminster. Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, D.Sc., Ph.D., on "The International Labour Conference, Geneva, May, 1926."

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Brighton and Hove S.E.C. MAR. 8. Miss Helen Ward on "Equal Franchise."

Edinburgh W.C.A. MAR. 11. 8 p.m. Public Meeting at Gartshore Hall, 116 George Street. Mrs. William Fyfe on "The Community and the Child."

Tunbridge Wells S.E.C. MAR. 11. 3.30. Mrs. F. W. Hubback on "Recent Legislation."

## PERFORMING AND CAPTIVE ANIMALS DEFENCE LEAGUE.

MAR. 5. 8 p.m. Central Hall, Westminster. Public meeting to protest against cruelty of keeping animals and birds in close confinement. Speakers: Miss Maude Royden, Sir Robert Gower, O.B.E., M.P., Lieut.-Commander the Hon. J. Kenworthy, M.P., and Mr. Roy Horniman. Chair: Mrs. Reginald McKenna.

## ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

MAR. 13. 3 p.m. Annual Meeting (members only) at St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho Square. Speakers: Miss Demery, Miss K. Donovan, Miss Eleanor FitzGerald, Mrs. Living and Miss Watts. Chairman: Mrs. V. M. Crawford.

## SIX POINT GROUP.

MAR. 15. 5 p.m. 92 Victoria Street, S.W. 1. Mrs. C. D. Rackham on "The Report of the Home Office Committee on Assaults on Children and Young Persons."

## WEST CENTRAL JEWISH GIRLS' CLUB.

MAR. 7. 5.30 p.m. Mrs. Tamplin on "Responsibility of Citizenship."

## WOMEN'S ENGINEERING SOCIETY.

MAR. 12. 6.30 p.m. 26 George Street, Hanover Square, W. Lecture by Mrs. Shaw Scott, B.Sc., on "Women's Contribution to Metallurgy."

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WEST MALVERN, Worcs.—BOARD-RESIDENCE from 2½ guineas a week. Good plain cooking. Near church, post office, and bus.—Apply, Miss Morrison, The Bungalow.

OLD CHELSEA.—In charming 17th century house, newly decorated, self-contained FLAT, 3 rooms. One or two ladies.—Justice Walk.

ESSEX.—To let, furnished, charming country COTTAGE, 3-4 months; 6 rooms, in-san., garden; suit artist or writer.—M. E. B., Thorley Bourne, Bishop's Stortford.

BOARD-RESIDENCE (Men and Women) at the New Town Hostel, Welwyn Garden City, Herts. Inclusive terms 35s. weekly. Specially suitable for young professional or business people. A healthy country life, with facilities for sport and pleasant social activities.—Apply to the Warden.

TO LET FURNISHED, from middle March for four to six months, attractive SMALL WESTMINSTER HOUSE, near river. Two sittingrooms, three bedrooms, telephone and all conveniences; very moderate rent to good tenant.—Apply, Box 1,234, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

LARGE FURNISHED BEDROOM AND SITTING-ROOM; bathroom, constant hot water; S. Kensington. Also Bed-sittingroom, attendance if desired; 25s. room.—Apply, Box 1,232, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

FURNISHED ROOMS (two), south aspect, every convenience, without board or attendance; moderate terms; lady's quiet homely house, large garden; good road, near Brixton Station.—Box 1,219, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

FURNISHED HOUSE, near Hampstead Heath, to let for 6 months or one year; 3 sit., 5 bed.; telephone; quiet situation; 7 gns. weekly. Cook-housekeeper if required.—Box 1,236, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

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INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED. Consult Miss H. M. Baker, 275 High Holborn, W.C. 1. Income Tax Returns, Super Tax Returns, Repayment Claims of all descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 377.

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## FOR SALE AND WANTED.

BARGAIN OFFER OF FINE QUALITY IRISH LINEN GLASS CLOTHS, size 20 x 28, 11s. 6d. per dozen. Lettered "Glass" and "Pantry." Also 22 x 30 ins., 13s. 6d. per dozen, larger size, 23 x 31 inches, 15s. 6d. per dozen, lettered "Tea," "Pantry," "Housemaid" or "Basin." Write for Complete Bargain List To-day.—HUTTON'S, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ulster.

IRISH DRESS LINENS.—Owing to the great success of Hutton's "Never-Fade" Dress Linens, guaranteed absolutely fadeless to sun and washing, they are this year offered at the reduced price of 3s. per yard instead of 3s. 6d. Ten gorgeous new and up-to-date shades have been added, making 64 colours in all to select from. These are the finest Dress Linens to be had anywhere; 36 inches wide, every yard stamped "Hutton's Never-Fade Linen." Send for full range of patterns, FREE.—HUTTON'S, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ulster.

SECOND-HAND CLOTHING wanted to buy for cash; costumes, skirts, boots, underclothes, curtains, lounge suits, trousers, and children's clothing of every description; parcels sent will be valued and cash sent by return.—Mrs. Russell, 100 Raby Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. (Stamped addressed envelope for reply.)

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DAILY SEWING MAID.—Lady can strongly recommend an excellent sewing maid for daily work; plain dress-making, curtains, chaircovers.—Apply, Box 1,213, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 35 Marsham Street, Westminster. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Information Bureau. Interviews, 10 to 1, except Saturdays. Members' Centre open daily. Restaurant open to 7.30. (Not Saturdays.)

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 7th March: 3.30, Music, Viscount Astor on "Fundamentals of Drink Reform." 6.30, Maude Royden on "Forgiveness."

C.B.C. Society for Constructive Birth Control and Racial Progress, and the Free Clinic originally founded by Dr. Marie Stopes and Mr. H. V. Roe in Holloway. New central address: 108 Whitfield Street, Tottenham Court Road, London, W. 1. Social workers anxious for local instruction, but without funds for independent Clinics, can obtain the services of a C.B.C. certificated Nurse for one day weekly or monthly from above.

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Please send THE WOMAN'S LEADER to me for twelve months. I enclose 6/6.

Name .....

Address .....