

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

Birthday Celebrations at Locarno.

As we write, so far as we can judge from the Press, the prospects at Locarno appear very rosy. We read that the Polish and German Foreign Ministers conversed with one another in German—a hopeful sign—and that M. Briand, unable to follow their discussion, calmly smoked cigarettes while it was going on. We are told that the water party held in honour of Mrs. Austen Chamberlain's birthday has been one of the most fruitful meetings held and that there is every hope that the Western Pact will be signed on Mr. Chamberlain's birthday on Friday. Birthdays and the friendly spirit engendered by simple human relationships play their part even in high politics, and we will join in warm congratulations to our Foreign Minister if his birthday be celebrated in so interesting a manner. We read in *The Times* that the objections of the German Government to unconditional entrance into the League of Nations have been overcome by a proposal for a concession which would render Article 16 of the Covenant much more palatable. This suggested concession must, of course, go to Geneva for confirmation. Doleful forecasts of a far from "bilateral" agreement regarding the Franco-German frontier have emerged through the medium of the Italian Press, but we suspect that their source is that same popular organ of Italian opinion which shortly before the war published confident reports of a duel between the French Member of Finance and our own Ambassador in Paris! We know very well that whatever compromise may be reached at Locarno, British public opinion will never tolerate "sanctions" applied without reference to the machinery of the League of Nations.

Unequal Pay for Equal Work.

The Civil Service Commission is advertising for an Assistant Director of Examinations. The post is to be filled by competitive interview from among candidates having first class university degrees and, if possible, some knowledge of modern languages, English, and psychology. Teaching experience will also be taken into account. *The post is open to both sexes.* So far so good. The salary for men begins at £300 per annum rising by annual increments of £25 to £700. The salary for women begins at £250 rising by annual increments of £20 to £550. So far, so bad. We have seldom met with so shameless and flagrant a case of unequal pay for identical work. We would ask the Civil Service commission to consider very carefully the bearing upon this advertisement of Government pledges in the matter of sex discrimination; and we would ask members of the public to meditate upon the fact that this abominable piece of inequitable dealing is being perpetrated in their name by their salaried servants.

The Training of Citizens.

Professor Graham Kerr, in his address to the Royal Philosophical Society in Glasgow last week, made a strong plea for the early education of the citizen in economics. Not, he said, "in the theoretical views of this or the other economist," but in "a few simple facts illustrating great principles"; and in "some of the main principles of biological science which had an intimate bearing upon communal life." As an example of such a fact, he indicated a realization that the main wealth of the country consists "not of those tokens called money, but of its biological capital, its living men and women, with their productive capacities," and that "its future prosperity lies not along the lines of selfish limitation of the population, but of an active increase of population, accompanied by such a training as to make for the highest degree of communal efficiency." We are all in favour of educating the young citizen for his responsibilities in a modern democracy, but we must admit that Professor Kerr's specimen "simple fact" gives us pause. Would it not really be better to consult "this or the other economist" before pressing upon our young citizens the desirability of an active increase in the population—Mr. Keynes, for instance, or as a compromise, that eminently biological economist, Professor Carr Saunders? Incidentally, we should be interested to know whether Professor Kerr has in mind, in illustration of his "simple fact," any community which has advanced to a high degree of "communal efficiency" without the accompanying operation of some form of limitation (we omit the adjective "selfish" as question-begging) either positive or preventive. Indeed, we very sincerely hope that local education authorities will not, without serious consideration, expedite Professor Kerr's suggestions, especially in such areas as Clydebank, Salford, and Limehouse Fields.

Classes for the Unemployed.

The experiment of classes for unemployed men and women over eighteen years of age has met with so much success in Manchester that additional classes are to be opened. Students may select either commercial or domestic subjects; no fee is charged, and they attend three afternoons a week from 2 to 4. We believe this experiment is capable of great expansion. Temporary periods of unemployment may indeed prove blessings in disguise if the worker returns to the labour market reinvigorated and better equipped for his or her job. But the choice of subjects should surely be wider—home gardening, care of allotments, home mechanics and carpentry might find a place beside trade or professional subjects, and literature, modern history, and economics should be available if desired. We believe the Workers' Educational Association has already realized the opportunities afforded by temporary idleness in the sphere of adult education. Valuable work in this direction can be done in conjunction with education authorities and Employment Exchanges. The days when the country tolerated the wholesale physical deterioration of the unemployed are happily passing; but man does not live by bread alone, and opportunities for continued education, mental and manual, as well as recreation must be provided.

Provision for Childhood in Queensland.

The Government of Queensland are about to bring in a Bill for Childhood Endowment. The form foreshadowed is that of a payment to the mother of 5s. a week for each child under 14 after the first, provided that the father's wage does not exceed £400 per annum, the cost to be met by a levy on employers of 5 per cent. on their total wage bills. Mr. A. B. Piddington, K.C., the former chairman of the Australian Basic Wage Committee,

has had a large share in shaping this measure. He argues that the industry of Queensland is exceedingly prosperous and could well stand the strain of an even heavier levy. On the other hand many of the industrialists are protesting that, while not opposed to the principle of childhood endowment, it ought to be accompanied by a lowering of the basic wage. Thus Alderman A. Watson, Chairman of the Brisbane Chamber of Manufacturers, writes:—

"If child endowment is going to ease the burdens and anxieties of the poor mothers, then it is legislation long overdue. I have thought for many years that something should be done for the mothers of the race. The baby bonus is a farce; since its introduction the fees of doctors, nurses, and maternity homes have increased about 100 per cent. How many wives of the poor are ruined for life because of having to get up and look after their homes long before they are physically fit? It is about time we stopped pampering the male workers and gave some consideration to the mother whose work is not limited to 44 hours, with meal times and 'smokes,' etc. Her work goes on very often 16 hours a day, and, in cases of sickness, night and day. Australia has spent millions on immigration, and the best immigrant we have is the baby; then why not spend a little on seeing its mother so nourished that the little one shall get a fair start in life? Yes, every time, I am in favour of both motherhood and child endowment. Where is the money to come from? Why, industry has been paying for tens of thousands of non-existent wives and babies ever since the uneconomic and unsound basic wage was fixed. Fix the basis right, a man and his wife. I include wife, because that should be the aim of every young man; therefore give him a wage which will keep a wife, or, if he has not one, that will enable him to save up and get a cage to keep one. Let the amount necessary to maintain all the children be ascertained, and levied upon the wages of every man over 21, and paid into the Government just as unemployment insurance is, and distributed out to mothers according to the number of children."

We understand, however, that the Government's intention is to superimpose their levy on the present basic wage. If the Queensland Bill passes into law, it will be the first application of the family allowance principle to industry within the British Empire. It has already found a footing in the Civil Service of the Australian Federal Government and of the Irish Free State.

The Church Congress at Eastbourne.

Our representative writes: We are always glad to see when women speakers are invited to address the annual Church Congress meetings. This year at Eastbourne five out of the seven sessions were addressed by women speakers, chosen for their special fitness to tackle the various questions under discussion, but, alas! their delivery was not always as good as their matter was sound, and a large number of the tired audience, after having listened to two and sometimes three papers, were drawn seawards away from the Congress Hall when a quiet, slightly strained and not well produced voice started to read a paper. One cannot blame the departing audience very severely, for Eastbourne in the sun is most attractive, but it gave "the enemy" the opportunity to blaspheme. "Of course a woman is never so good as a man! Of course, a woman's voice cannot fill a large hall! Of course..." But haven't we all heard such criticisms in the past—wild generalization from a particular instance. The women speakers chosen had a definite contribution to make, and they said many things well worth saying. It was good to see Commandant Allen addressing such an audience. The League of the Church Militant had a very successful campaign at Eastbourne, their two public meetings being crowded. At the Pier Pavilion Miss Royden spoke on "Christianity, Psychology, and some Problems of To-day," and about a thousand people assembled to hear her. The League had a petition for the revision of the Marriage Service for signatures at its meetings and on its stall at the Church Congress exhibition. There is still time and opportunity for readers of the WOMAN'S LEADER who are members of the Church of England to sign. The petition was printed in our issue of October 2nd.

"Obey."

It is reported from New Orleans that the Protestant Episcopal House of Deputies has agreed by 97 votes to 28 that the word "obey" be eliminated from the marriage service.

A Neglected Class in the Community.

We are glad to welcome an effort to provide exercise and physical culture for women engaged in sedentary occupations in London, especially during the winter months. We understand that a club, to be called "the Professional Women's Physical Culture Club," is in process of formation, and inquiries may be addressed to Bessborough House, St. George's Square, S.W. 1. We hope that the word *professional* in the title will be interpreted very liberally to interpret all women whose work, whether outside or in the home, prevents any possibility of golf or tennis or

other forms of exercise which swallow more time and often money than they can afford. We confess to a perhaps unworthy hope that, in the event of a large number of applications, some preference will be given to enfranchised women over the age of 30! Younger women ought, we think, to be able to get the necessary exercise more easily and it is right and fitting that they should devote more time than their seniors to physical recreation. We hope this movement will spread throughout the country.

A Civic Reception to Dame Millicent Fawcett.

A civic reception given by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Cardiff in honour of Dame Millicent Fawcett, described more fully elsewhere, was the occasion of some reminiscences of a former visit in 1908, when the meeting she addressed was broken up and she had to be escorted by friends through back lanes for safety. The Cardiff Women Citizens' Association is to be congratulated on this mark of appreciation and recognition conferred upon them by the chief magistrate of the city.

Reserved Carriages for Women in Trains.

We congratulate the Women's Freedom League on an interesting report of activities associated with the reforms for which this paper stands. In one matter, which hardly comes under the narrow heading of equality, the League has taken a useful initiative—the need of reserved carriages for women. A resolution on this subject was passed during the year at the Consultative Committee of Women's Organizations, and Mrs. Wintingham some time ago asked a question in the House of Commons. The Freedom League asked the Minister of Transport in the late Government to receive a deputation, but this was refused, and communications to the different sections of the railway companies have so far secured no result. The idea of compartments for men and compartments for women does not appeal to us, but for the protection of young women and children travelling alone, we agree with the Freedom League that some special provision should be made.

Our Who's Who.

We intend to imitate the excellent habit of the *Weekly Westminster* in giving our readers some personal introduction to future contributors. Mr. G. B. Wilson, who contributes an article on the Temperance Problem, is the Political and Literary Secretary of the United Kingdom Alliance, and is a well-known authority on temperance reform. Mr. Wilson was Daniel Reardon and Clifford's Inn prizeman of the Incorporated Law Society and Howard Medallist of the Royal Statistical Society. He contributes the summary of statistics relating to liquor consumption, which appears annually in *The Times*. Mr. Edward G. Smith, who contributes the article on Asylum Administration, has been Secretary of the National Society for Lunacy Reform since its foundation in 1920. He has also been well known as an organizer of movements towards peace and freedom since 1910, and has for the last twenty years worked in the humanitarian and anti-vivisection movement, and for the abolition of inhumane sports.

Enquiries.

A correspondent from Birkenhead asks the name of the Bill introducing a working day of 48 hours for women and young persons, to which reference was made in our issue of 24th July, under the heading of "Women and Young Persons."

The note referred to a question in the House from Lord Cavendish-Rentinck asking if the attention of the Home Secretary had been called to the cases of excessive hours worked by women and young persons, and if he intended to introduce a statutory 48 hour week for women and young persons in order to prevent the continuance of such practices. Our correspondent will remember that in the Factories Bill as introduced by the Labour Government in 1924 the statutory limitation of hours for women and young persons was included. Rumours have, however, appeared in the Press to the effect that in the Factories Bill to be introduced by the present Government this provision will be omitted. We, ourselves, are opposed to any such restrictions being imposed on women which are not at the same time imposed on men.

S. D. M. asks if the Poole Education Authority has decided to lodge an appeal against the recent judgment in favour of a married woman teacher, and if so, when is such an appeal likely to be heard.

The answer to the first question is in the affirmative, but we do not know yet when the appeal will be heard. We will watch this appeal with great interest and keep our readers well informed.

"BAKERS OF THE BRITISH ISLES."

Since the great days of the famous *Communist Manifesto* in '48, we do not remember to have encountered so stirring a call to action as that issued last week by the National Association of Master Bakers. We venture to quote it in full; for it deserves consideration both for literary and sociological reasons:—

"Our trade is passing through a time of great difficulty and tribulation. We are jockeyed about by the millers' prices; deliberately engineered into a false position by the Food Council; denounced and ridiculed by a hostile and sensation-loving Press; and scorned and boycotted by misguided housewives. Never was there a greater need for local and national associations, of unity, of loyalty, of concerted action, and of mutual support in holding out for a fair honest price. Bakers of the British Isles! Do not follow in the steps of the cutter; he will cut and cut again until he fails, and in the meantime all will have been impoverished. Do not be intimidated, either, by anything the Food Council may say or do. Therefore stand firm, get together and oppose a united front to the undercutter, the Press, the Food Council, and the carping housewife alike. We can win if we stick together. Let us march forward to victory in the battle for a fair return on the risks we take, our capital, our labour, and our service to the community."

It is difficult not to be profoundly moved by so passionate an appeal—passionate to the point of incoherence. And, in a certain sense, moved we are. Not so, however, that cold-blooded public servant Lord Bradbury, Chairman and spokesman of the Food Council, which seems to have caused all the trouble. He is content merely to disclaim any attempt to deprive the bakers of their livelihood and to express regret that they did not see their way to furnish evidence invited by the Food Council. This latter fact does of course somewhat diminish the sting of the bakers' grievance. Had they been willing, like the Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society, to lay their cards on the table, the "sensation-loving Press" and the "carping housewife" would both have been in a better position to understand and possibly to sympathize with their tribulations. As it is, one has nothing to go upon but the disturbing paragraph quoted in our editorial notes of last week from the recent report of the Food Commission.

Nor is the sympathy of those two rapacious agents likely to be further enkindled by the curious series of coincidences which have occurred during the past week or so. A fortnight ago the Food Council expressed its considered opinion that the standard London price of 10d. per quarter loaf was, all things considered,

THE TEMPERANCE PROBLEM.

By GEORGE B. WILSON.

"How to deal with the Drink Traffic?" still remains, after nearly 400 years of experiment, one of the most pressing problems before the nation. First recognized by the State in 1492 as a dangerous and socially harmful trade, it was placed under a system of licence in 1552, and by 1604 it was fully settled, as a Privy Council Circular shows, that:—

By the law and statutes of this our realm the keeping of alehouses and victualling houses is not one of those trades which it is free and lawful for any subject to set up and exercise, but inhibited (prohibited) to all save such as are thereto licensed."

showing that the basis of the licensing system Prohibition of sale—with exceptions granted by the local Justices of the Peace.

As years passed, Parliament, while confirming the powers of the Justices, passed scores of Acts restricting and regulating the traffic; the Justices, in pursuance of such powers, exercised their control with greater or less vigour according to the social condition of the time in which they lived; but up to the year 1904 their right to select licensees, withdraw licences, and impose conditions was beyond dispute and recognized by the House of Lords in the famous case of *Sharp v. Wakefield*, decided in the year 1891. In 1904, however, by Mr. Balfour's Licensing Act, these powers were very seriously crippled so far as publicans' licences were concerned. The right of selection was left untouched, but the right to withdraw licences was taken away except in the case of misconduct or unsuitability of licensed premises; and with the withdrawal of the right Justices were deprived of much of their power of control over these premises.

While it is true that there are elaborate statutory regulations against the encouragement by licensees of excessive drinking in their licensed houses, these provisions seem to have become

unreasonably high. A few days later it was reduced by agreement among the London Master Bakers to 9½d. Not content with this move, dictated, so the master bakers inform us, not by the interference of the Food Council, but by a reduction in the price of flour, the Food Council expressed the further opinion that this ½d. reduction was, all things considered, insufficient. At the same time it announced its intention of publishing, under the benediction of the Board of Trade, a "white list" of bakers prepared to sell at what it regards as a reasonable price. So much for coincidence number one. A week later followed coincidence number two: a further reduction by the London Master Bakers to 9d. per quarter, dictated once more by a new reduction in the price of flour. In vain have they assured the public that their action is wholly unconnected with the mischievous incursions of the Food Council. Neither the "sensation-loving Press" nor the "carping housewife" can disabuse themselves of a belief that the publicity and distrust stimulated by the Food Council has had some influence in securing the immediate transference to the consumer of a very considerable economy in productive costs.

Meanwhile the end is not yet. In spite of this double coincidence, as we write the Food Council remains unsatisfied. The London Master Bakers have come down to 9d., as a result of this week's reduction in the price of flour, and now we are told that ninepence is not enough! The Council (cheered by the congratulations of Mr. Baldwin) proceeds apace with the accumulation of its "white list" containing all bakers willing to sell at 8½d. Breathlessly the "carping housewife" awaits the third and last inevitable "coincidence," while the Royal Arsenal contributes to the situation its confident determination to lead the way by selling remuneratively at the lower price. We are, indeed, forcibly reminded of that very sharp cut in the price per pound of household soap which in 1921 followed so closely upon the Central Profiteering Committee's public investigation of the operations of the Lever Soap Combine. Again a pure coincidence, of course, for the cut was plainly dictated by a very spectacular break in the price of raw materials. But, on this occasion, too, the Central Profiteering Committee remained unsatisfied.

Finally, and quite irrelevantly, we would suggest an alternative and more dramatic ending for the bakers' manifesto. What about: "*Bakers of all lands, unite! You have nothing to lose but the confidence of the public. You have a halfpenny on the quarter loaf to win!*"?

practically inoperative owing to the difficulty of fixing the responsibility upon any particular drink-seller. The provisions of the law, being penal in character, have been so strictly construed that the police have practically given up attempting to enforce them.

During the twenty years ending 31st December, 1924, while there have been 2,609,499 convictions for drunkenness in England and Wales, there have only been 7,206 convictions of licensees for permitting drunkenness, or 2.76 per 1,000 convictions. In 1924 in London and the Home Counties there were 31,083 convictions for drunkenness, but only 9 licensees were found guilty of permitting it! In 1923 there were 77,094 convictions for drunkenness in England and Wales, but at the Brewster Sessions in 1924 there were only 13 on-licences refused on grounds either of misconduct or that the licensee was not a proper person, and of these only five refusals survived an appeal; no single licence in London and the Home Counties suffered, and throughout England only 94 licensees were convicted of permitting drunkenness.

But the problem before us is not limited to the mere question of drunkenness; the part played by the Liquor Traffic in our national life goes far beyond that. After centuries of regulation we still find that the evils of drink remain a most deadly menace in many departments of our social life. It is not without significance that we are spending in Great Britain this year at the rate of £320,000,000 on drink, an amount equal to about one month's income of the whole nation, the share of the wage-earners being over one-sixth of their total income last year. It is obvious that under present conditions such an expenditure must limit very seriously in many homes the amount which ought to be spent on articles necessary for the proper maintenance of a family. Nor is it less significant that,

at a very low estimate, 20,000 deaths of men, women, and children were caused last year directly or indirectly through this traffic.

In the face of these facts and others which are known to most social workers, it is obvious that the whole system of regulation has broken down. Temperance reformers throughout the country are agreed that the time is long overdue for an Act of Parliament securing to the people the right in their own localities to prevent the grant or re-grant of retail liquor licences. Inasmuch as the power of voting on this issue would be given to electors on the widest possible franchise, the issue in any particular area would be entirely controlled by the working-class electors, who are the main supporters of the retail drink shops, and no licence could therefore be carried, as is sometimes suggested, by the "cellared" class, against the wishes of the people. Under such a measure the responsibility for the continuance of the traffic in any area, with all its consequences, would therefore in future rest upon the people themselves and not upon the magistrates, and this would be of great educational value, and tend to far fuller and more intelligent investigation and discussion of the social facts relating to drink than is at present possible.

In view of the considerations set out above, the real issue to be submitted to the people must be "Drink" or "No Drink," and there are many serious objections to complicating the issue with an Option or Options for setting up other methods of regulation, which the experience of all countries has shown to be merely palliative of the evils of the Traffic.

There was a day, as was stated by Lord Watson in the *Dover Case* in the House of Lords, when theoretically

"The Justices were a body interposed between the licensee and the public for the protection of the public."

That protection was never very effective, and has been still less so since 1904. The time has come for the people to protect themselves.

ASYLUM ADMINISTRATION.¹

By EDWARD G. SMITH.

The evils of the present Lunacy System are deep-rooted in an evil tradition and may roughly be divided under two heads, the legislative and the administrative. I will deal with the legislative first. Under this, the chief evil is the danger of the certification of sane persons. There are, at the present time in England and Wales, over 130,000 certified lunatics confined in public and private asylums. The law divides these into two classes, private and pauper patients, who are certified by different means. The private patient is put away on the written certificate of two doctors called in by a person known as the petitioner who is supposed to be a near relative. The private patient need not be seen before detention by a magistrate and is, therefore, subject to the uncontrolled word of two members of the medical profession who may know nothing at all of the symptoms of insanity and, consequently, may be guilty of the most tragic blunders. The law assumes that the petitioner is a person of good faith, anxious for the welfare of the patient; but, in fact, the petitioner may be someone who is interested in the removal of an inconvenient person, and this has been proved to be the case. A further danger lies in the fact that the petitioner not only sets in motion the machinery of certification, but has a very considerable power in controlling the machinery of discharge. A further evil threatening private patients is the existence of private asylums, which, under the name of licensed houses, receive patients for fees which are sometimes as high as forty guineas a week. There is an obvious temptation to the proprietors of private asylums to detain a rich patient who may not be insane for purpose of revenue.

Pauper patients, who form the very large majority, are certified by one doctor and according to the law must be examined by a judicial authority before the signing of the Reception Order. As a rule, the function of the judicial authority is exercised in an entirely formal manner. Justices of the Peace who have signed many Reception Orders declare, quite frankly, that they cannot exercise an independent opinion, but must, of necessity, be guided by the medical certificate. This places the unhappy patient at the mercy of one doctor, who may be ignorant or careless. By this means very many persons, suffering from temporary illness such as delirium or nervous strain, are certified and sent to asylums from which release is often very difficult. Indeed, it was stated before the Royal Commission, which is now taking evidence, that a considerable number of patients

¹ The substance of an address delivered at the N.U.S.E.C. Summer School, Oxford, 1925.

in the delirious stage of pneumonia, pleurisy, and similar illnesses, are certified for the sake of convenience and sent on to public asylums. This is a tragic injustice to an unfortunate man or woman who may thus stand branded for life as having been a certified lunatic, with all that that means as a handicap in the world.

No doubt those who frame the Lunacy Act intended ample safeguards for the individual, but it is very easy to misuse sections of Acts of Parliament, and, in practice, it has been often found that these safeguards are illusory and almost non-existent.

From legislative evils, one turns to administrative. So far as details of management are concerned, each asylum is practically autonomous. The Board of Control, which is nominally at the head of the lunacy department, has, in fact, no more than an advisory power and a duty to see that the Act of Parliament is observed in details of certification and certain methods of discharge. The asylum is administered, in fact, by the medical superintendent, although in public institutions he is appointed and employed by the Visiting Committee. County and Borough asylums are mostly enormous, barrack-like buildings, where thousands of patients are congregated under the control of a medical superintendent, who is the administrator of all lay details and has no time to attend to the patient or act as a doctor. Under him is a medical staff, always inadequate in number and very often in training and ability. The patients are actually in charge of the attendants and nurses, who, even by the admission of their own Trade Union, are frequently not of the most desirable kind. This is a very serious matter when it is remembered that a certified patient is isolated from the world behind high walls and locked doors, without any legal rights, and practically without any means of appealing for outside assistance.

A little more than a hundred years ago lunatics in Bedlam were publicly flogged. To-day things have changed outwardly, but there can be no doubt that a great deal of gross cruelty towards the patients still exists. In the general mind there is unfortunately a prejudice against lunatics which finds its expression in cruel or careless treatment. This is proved by official admission as to feeding, clothing, and many other administrative details. A recent Committee on mental hospital dietary elicited the fact that the average cost of a patient's food per week is 4s. 4½d., and it was stated by a medical superintendent before the Commission that while an attendant's food in his establishment cost 13s. 6d. per week the cost of a patient's food was exactly one-third of that amount. In public asylums economy is not only of the first consideration but is actually insisted upon by the Board of Control in its Reports, and undoubtedly the first victims of this economy are not the staff but the patients, who—it must always be remembered—are sick persons deserving the utmost care and consideration. Generally speaking, a large asylum is much more likely to produce than cure insanity; patients of all kinds are herded together, the gentle and sensitive with the violent and obscene, and all subjected to a harsh discipline and the control of men and women who often have little patience with their charges' ill-health and inevitable idiosyncracies.

The authorities when charged with permitting ill-treatment refer to the machinery of inspection by Commissioners, Inspectors, Lord Chancellor's Visitors, members of Visiting Committees, and so on, to say nothing of the observation of the medical staffs. But, so far as outside visitation is concerned, the safeguards are almost worthless, as visits are always either pre-arranged or in some way expected; and preparations are made for the visitors, who are quite unable to find out what goes on in the daily round of an asylum, which may appear to the casual caller as a delightful collection of red-brick villas, polished floors, and well-tended flower-beds.

Those women, rapidly increasing in number, who hold official positions as Guardians or Justices of the Peace, can act as real friends to the unhappy patients if they exercise their functions with zeal and care. A Guardian has a right of entry to a public asylum at any hour of the day in order to visit a patient who is being maintained out of the rates in the Guardians' area. Frequent visitation by the Guardians will afford a salutary check upon the staffs and should lead to the disclosure of many abuses. Justices of the Peace can and should exercise the utmost care in signing Reception Orders. They should examine the patient carefully, inquire closely into the facts stated in the doctor's certificate, and realize that they are quite capable of forming an opinion as to the conduct of the suspected lunatic. It must be borne in mind that signing a Reception Order may be committing a man or woman to a lifetime of close confinement in the most miserable and even tragic surroundings.

"A HANDBOOK TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS."¹

Sir Geoffrey Butler has a double equipment for the writing of *A Handbook to the League of Nations*. He is a student with the historical background necessary for any balanced view of the League, and is Fellow and Prælector in Diplomatic History at Corpus Christi College; and he is a politician with Parliamentary experience as representative of the University of Cambridge. Evidence of this equipment is to be found throughout the pages of his useful Handbook, which was first published in 1919 and is now brought as nearly up to date as possible in a 1925 edition. Part I deals suggestively with the historical setting of the League. It traces the development of the diplomatic ideas through the ages which have inevitably led up to some such form of co-operation as exists to-day, dealing with them first rather on philosophical and then on political and legal lines. Previous theoretic schemes for Leagues of Nations are practically untouched, as not being so much among the forces making for its creation as was the growth of international law, beginning with Grotius, and the transition from the Balance of Power theories to the Concert of Europe and the period of the Hague Conferences. Anyone who examines previous League schemes can see how much they influenced the actual form of the Covenant, and for this reason some summary of them would have been of interest—but the line of development traced is handled most ably and stimulates thought in a way no mere handbook could.

It is very useful to have on record the opinions of those who drew up the Covenant and the difficulties which caused its clauses to be framed at the time in one way rather than another. This part of the book should guide criticism profitably and assist in balanced judgments on points which may seem obscure in the completed document.

In Part II the present League is dealt with and the period of activity from 1919 to 1925, and here again there is no dry "handbook" cataloguing of achievements. Suggestive lines of thought are constantly opened up. Such is the discussion on the pros and cons of making less flexible the constitution of the League and of its various organs, with the interesting bearing of this question on the Geneva Protocol as a wise development, or not, of the Covenant. The analysis of the Draft Treaty of Mutual Assistance reveals clearly the points in which the Protocol is an undoubted advance on the Draft Treaty proposals, such as in the methods for determining the aggressor and in the definite preclusion of war. A specially interesting chapter deals with the problem of "National Sovereignty and the League of Nations." Diverse theories of national sovereignty are outlined, and the illuminating suggestion is made that in the past, factors, like religion,—the instance taken—have loomed so large in the consciousness of nations that every action of the State embodied—was bound to embody—the attitude of one or other of the religious parties of the day," and as that state of affairs has now so far vanished as to be almost incomprehensible, so the day will come when the present problem of national sovereignty will simply have ceased to be a factor in international relations. Here the probable value of the social and humanitarian work of the League as a "sublimation" of ultra-nationalistic fervour is indicated. In this way these activities indirectly promote international peace, as well, obviously, as directly by other means.

There is no special pleading on behalf of the League; very fair verdicts are given on League action and on its limitations. Useful appendices give a chronological summary of the work done by the League and the International Labour Office since their inception; and give in full the texts of the Covenant with a clear commentary of the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice, of the Proposed Treaty of Mutual Assistance, and of the Protocol. A bibliography is also a valuable inclusion. In future editions an index would add to the usefulness of the book and, while repeated new editions may not be practicable, a short yearly statement brought up-to-date after each Assembly, to place on one's shelves together with this handbook, would add greatly and progressively to its interest and value.

K. E. INNES.

¹ By Sir Geoffrey Butler, K.B.E., M.A. Second edition, revised and enlarged. (Longmans, Green and Co., 1925. 10s. 6d. net.)

CHILDREN'S LIBRARIES IN MÜNCHEN.

The Children's Library is a recent development in all countries, and the first was founded in München by Fräulein Rose von Aichberger for the Society for Women's Interests, and taken over by the town in 1921.

At the present time there are five children's libraries in different parts of the town, and the sixth will be opened next month. The libraries are held in elementary schools, and are opened twice a week. The walls of the room set apart for the library are painted in various designs, and are hung with pictures. Lack of money has prevented the purchase of small chairs and tables, such as are special features of the children's libraries in Croydon and Manchester, but it is hoped to obtain these before long. The books are arranged on shelves at one end of the room, and are most carefully selected, only the best books for children being included. They are classified in the following groups:—(a) Picture Books, (b) Fairy Stories and Sagen, (c) History, (d) Adventure, (e) Nature books,—Animals and Plants. The best editions have been bought, and the books are beautifully illustrated and attractively bound. As one of the librarians pointed out to the writer, the books are calculated to promote a desire for good literature and a love of beautiful things among the children.

Each library is in charge of a woman librarian whose aim is to inculcate a love of reading among the children. She directs their reading, and often, when there is time, speaks of, or reads from, some special book.

In many parts of Germany including Bayern, all children attend the elementary school, and the children's library serves several schools in a given district. The libraries are closed during the school holidays, and naturally the numbers are greater in the winter than in the summer. Children from six to fourteen years can attend these libraries, after which age they are able to borrow books from the Public Library. Books can be read in the Children's Library and a card is kept for each child giving the child's name, address, school, and religion, together with a list of the books that have been read. The attendance varies from twenty to one hundred and twenty each time, and generally the number of boys present is larger than that of the girls; this is accounted for by the home duties which the girls have to do. It is also found that the boys read with keener interest and choose books of more varied types. The girls as a general rule ask for a story or for a picture book. The Library is a real godsend for many children whose homes are overcrowded, and it is pleasant to note the cordial relations that exist between the Librarian and the children.

With every visit to a Children's Library one realizes more and more the immense value of the educational work that is done for the children. A section for children's books in a Public Library is not sufficient; the reading-room with a trained and competent woman librarian should be an integral part of the Public Library in every town and urban district. A taste for good literature is one of the most satisfying things in life, and a book read in childhood can often make or mar a life. The Children's Library should be the special concern of every woman councillor, and at the approaching elections for town and London Borough Councils, women candidates should include the question in their speeches and election addresses. The Children's Library is a real safeguard for the right use of leisure and should be recognized as a part of our educational system.

MARIAN BERRY.

DAME LOUISE SAMUEL.

We regret to have to announce the death of Dame Louise Samuel, whose work as a citizen should be held in grateful remembrance by readers of this paper. Dame Louise was for the ten years 1908-18 honorary secretary of the Conservative Women's Franchise Association, now the Conservative Women's Reform Association, and was thus fighting with us in those very strenuous days. During the war she took her full share of civic and national duty, and was in 1919 elected to the Chelsea Borough Council. She received the honour of D.B.E. in 1920.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

EVERY FRIDAY.

ONE PENNY.

SPECIAL TERMS FOR SOCIETIES

Send 6/6 to the Office of the Paper, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.
1/8 for Three Months. SUBSCRIBE TO-DAY.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS.

By BERTHA MASON.

**METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS,
2nd NOVEMBER.**

The Borough Councils of the Metropolis were established by the London Government Act, 1899, when they took over the work of the London Vestries and also the duties of various other smaller boards and authorities. The Councils are twenty-eight in number, and are composed of 1,362 councillors and 237 aldermen. Each Borough has its own Mayor. Unlike the City and Town Councils in the provinces, where a third of the members seek election every year, the members of the Metropolitan Borough Councils are elected every three years. Which system is the best is not here the question. It may be, we do not know, that the triennial system of election is responsible, to some extent, for the slackness and apathy which in the past have been so outstanding a feature of London elections for local government authorities. Be this as it may, the fact remains that municipal and local affairs do not receive the same attention in the Metropolis as they arouse in provincial centres. The present writer, coming to London from a home in a northern town alive with civic enthusiasm and municipal activity, will never forget her feeling of amazement and depression on receiving, in response to her request for information re candidates and polling stations at the approaching November elections, a blank look and the withering reply, "We never have contests in this ward, and they never had so long as she lived in that district. This is all wrong. The immediate duty of women's organizations and of all individuals who realize the importance of and the need for good local government is to make every effort to stimulate in the hearts of all electors known to them, a revival of civic spirit, and a sense of personal responsibility in regard to civic and local affairs. It is a revival that is wanted, and, if once secured, heavy polls would follow.

Serious problems are now facing local authorities; the prospect of increased unemployment, questions relating to housing, transport, the clearance of unsanitary areas, reduction of unnecessary expenditure, amongst other matters. The country to-day is calling for men and women of pure motives, tact, and wide sympathies combined with common sense, to tackle these problems and to serve in the administrative work of local government.

The business of electors is to find such, to work for them, and to support them with their votes on polling day.

The need is terribly urgent, the opportunity is at hand, the work is worth doing and doing well.

RATES.

One of the most important duties devolving on Borough Councils is that of levying rates. They, with the City Corporation, are the authorities in the Metropolis for levying rates and money to cover, not only their own expenditure, but also expenditure incurred by other bodies, such as the Metropolitan Asylums Board, the County Council, etc. The rate for Borough Council purposes alone, apart from the amount required by the other authorities named, varies from tenpence in Westminster to seven shillings in Poplar. In these days there is need for strict economy in the internal administration of the Councils, as, for example, in matters of printing, postage and stationery, etc. Candidates should be questioned on these points, and asked, if elected, are they prepared to advocate careful expenditure and as far as possible give careful scrutiny to all estimates. Adequate service, combined with economy in internal administration, is always advisable; at the present time it is imperative.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF WOMEN ELECTORS.

Since the passing of the Representation of the People Act, 1918, the number of women local government electors has increased from one million to about eight millions. Their responsibility as electors for the condition of the districts in which they live is as great as that of men. Women who are apathetic in regard to their civic duties and neglect to use their votes at the time of an election share the responsibility if the work of the local Council is carried on badly and extravagantly; if dust and refuse accumulate in the streets; if unclean and insanitary conditions prevail; if expecting mothers and little children are neglected. There are still thousands of women electors who fail to realize, often because they do not know or do not think, how closely the work of local government Councils affects their homes and their children, nor do they

understand their own responsibility and power in regard to the election of these bodies. Once they realize these facts their interest is aroused in the elections and in the possibility that they can personally help to return a candidate able to understand and appreciate their needs.

The great thing at the moment is to bring home to women electors these two points. If this can be done, there should be no difficulty in getting them to vote.

NOTES FROM IRELAND.

By DORA MELLONE.

DUBLIN HOUSING WEEK.

Housing in Dublin to-day is more than a question, and more than a problem—it is a tragedy! It is, indeed, no new story. An old Gaelic saying runs:—

There's many a house in Dublin,
But there's many a man and wife wanting a house.
It's a pity for the childher without a house—
A brave wee house—and a right good meal.

All the women's societies have combined with the Civic Institute and other groups to organize a week which it is hoped will lead to the formation of Public Utility Societies and a general quickening of public interest.

NEVER ALONE.

At a recent meeting of the Irish Women Citizens' Association, one aspect of the problem, familiar to women, but less thought of by those ignorant of actual conditions, was stressed. The woman in the tenement house room is never alone, day or night. A case was mentioned of a very respectable family, able and anxious to pay the rent of a decent house, unable to obtain one, and living in an unhealthy single-room tenement. Out of eight children, four had died in infancy. The surviving four, with father and mother, lived in the one room where there was not space for two beds, a stretcher being shut up in the morning. The mother is expecting another baby. No further details are necessary for the women who read this paper.

FAMILY ALLOWANCES.

The introduction of this principle into the Free State Civil Service has led to lively correspondence in *The Irish Statesman*. The editor criticized the method as likely to penalize the married men. This was controverted by Mr. Murray, writing from Oxford, in able and lengthy letters, by "Taxpayer," who advocated a State system as more possible in an agricultural country, and by the present writer. The question has also been brought forward indirectly by the complications connected with the work on the Shannon scheme. The German contractors offered unskilled men a wage of 8d. an hour. A boycott of the whole scheme on the part of the Trade Unions has followed. The wage, with the free lodging promised, might with some plausibility be regarded as a flat rate possible in conjunction with Family Allowances. As no system exists outside the Civil Service for paying on this basis, the work is delayed. The moral is obvious.

P.R. ON A BIG SCALE.

The counting for the Senate elections is practically complete. The method of election has been much condemned, but English readers should note that the condemnation only applies to the way in which the panel of names is prepared. No one in Southern Ireland, as far as I know, has questioned the use of P.R. as a method for recording votes. The transference of votes has been worked with intelligence. The Returning Officer stated that those employed in the counting had no previous experience of such an election, and there was not a single error. Mr. Cummins, representing the Labour Party, said, "the system of P.R., if availed of as it should be by an educated democracy, was the most just and suitable system of selecting candidates for any public body." Mr. Humphries stated that "he had watched with great interest how the transfers worked from day to day, proving that the citizens had endeavoured to express their minds as best they could. The English Press says that P.R. is not workable, but it has worked." But not even the most ardent advocate of P.R. claims for it the magic power of recording the votes of those electors who will not take the trouble to come out to the poll. Democracy cannot be worked on a twenty-five per cent. poll. Unless the electors can be roused to feel some personal responsibility for the government of the country, the long-desired boon of self-government will be of little worth. Even self-determination, that war-time ideal, will be of little value if the selves concerned will not take the trouble to determine something.

**NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES
FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.**

President: Miss ELEANOR RATHBONE, C.C., J.P. Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. SODDY.
Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HUBBACK.

Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.
Telephone: Victoria 6188.

BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

As the Borough Council elections are rapidly approaching, it is hoped that members of the N.U.S.E.C. residing in constituencies where there are no societies affiliated to the N.U.S.E.C. will put some of the questions on our questionnaire to the candidates in their boroughs. Copies of the questionnaire may be had on application at the Office, 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL INSURANCE.

A conference is being arranged at the Caxton Hall, Westminster on Thursday, 29th October, at 4 o'clock, on Women and Health Insurance. Miss Eleanor Rathbone will be in the chair, and Mr. J. L. Cohen, the well-known expert on Social Insurance, will open the discussion. Societies interested are invited to send up to three delegates. Visitors may apply for tickets, but will not be allowed to vote on the resolution. Applications to be made to the Secretary, 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

RECEPTION TO THE DUCHESS OF ATHOLL.

A reception will be held on Tuesday, 17th November, at 4.15 p.m., at which the Duchess of Atholl has kindly consented to be present and to speak on the work of the Assembly of the League of Nations. Miss K. D. Courtney, who was present at the Assembly, will also speak. The Reception will be held at the Lyceum Club.

SPEAKERS' MEETING.

The next Speakers' Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 27th October, at 3 o'clock, at 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1. Miss Rathbone will speak on "Family Allowances: Points and Objections to be Considered by Speakers." Will those who are already on our speakers' list, or who wish to have their names added to it, kindly inform us of their intention to be present?

SALE OF WORK.

A Sale of Work in aid of the funds of the N.U.S.E.C. will be held on Thursday, December 3rd, at Church House, Westminster, at 3 p.m. Further details will be announced later.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

A Dinner and Reception will be held in honour of Mrs. Mackinnon, Substitute Delegate for Australia to the League of Nations, on Tuesday, 20th October, 1925, at the Forum Club, 6 Grosvenor Place, S.W. 1 (by courtesy of the League of Nations Section of the Forum Club). Tickets, 6s., may be obtained from Miss Collisson, 17 Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C. 2.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.**CARDIFF W.C.A.—DAME MILLICENT HONOURED.**

The Civic Reception given by the Lord Mayor (Alderman W. H. Pethybridge) to the Cardiff W.C.A. at the City Hall on 5th October, was a brilliant success. The Lady Mayoress, Miss Pethybridge, is the President of the Association, and took a leading part in the evening's entertainment. The Guest of Honour was Dame Millicent Fawcett, who spoke with all her old vigour and charm. She devoted a good deal of attention to the work of the League of Nations, and appealed to the women citizens to give it their heartiest support.

It was a great delight to the Cardiff members that their honoured leader should be granted a civic reception in the city where in 1908 her meeting was broken up and she was "chivvied from street to street."

YORK W.C.A.

The first meeting of the Session of the York Women Citizens' Association was well attended at the Queen Anne Secondary School on the evening of 5th October. Miss Cudworth presided, and Mrs. Hubback delivered an interesting address on "Recent Legislation especially affecting Women and Children." Mrs. Hubback analysed the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, the Guardianship of Infants Act, the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Act, etc., pointing out that although they were by no means ideal in their finality, they at least represented a step forward in the right direction.

EDINBURGH W.C.A.

A very successful drawing-room meeting was held on 6th October, at the invitation of Lady Ramsay, at which Lady Balfour of Burleigh took the chair, and Mrs. Hubback described the vicissitudes and successes of the various Bills in which the Edinburgh Women Citizens' Association is interested.

GLASGOW S.E.C. AND W.C.A.

The first meeting of the season of the Glasgow S.E.C. and W.C.A. (Amalgamated) took place on 7th October at the McLellan Galleries. Mrs. M'Kerrow took the chair, and Mrs. Hubback gave a complete outline of the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Bill. An interesting discussion took place at the end of the meeting.

KENSINGTON AND PADDINGTON S.E.C.—POSTPONEMENT OF MEETING.

The Meeting announced to take place on October 16th at the Kensington Town Hall has been postponed.

MOSUL: A DANGEROUS IMPASSE.

Women's International League, 55 Gower Street, W.C. 1.

Three weeks ago war over the Mosul question did not appear to be outside the bounds of probability, and the utmost vigilance is still necessary. While the diplomats discuss the rights of Turkey and Iraq at the Assembly, and Great Britain agrees to extend her mandate, the dominant factor beneath the surface is the struggle for the oil wells: a matter in which the British Government are deeply interested both directly and indirectly. Influenced by this and other factors, they were apparently prepared to remain in Iraq for twenty-five years, despite the opposition in this country and the fact—of which no less a person than Lord Derby has just reminded Mr. Baldwin—that the electorate gave the Government no mandate for such a step; and last, but not least, the crying need for peace and economy. At present the question of the length of our stay in Iraq remains open pending the decision of the Hague Court, and it is rumoured that the Swedish chairman of the League's Committee on the Mosul question has found a solution which Turkey may be willing to accept. In the meantime it is well to ask ourselves how far actual coercion of Turkey is advisable. There is more than a little danger that Indian Moslems might become involved in any serious conflict with Turkey, and who can say where such a struggle would end? This is too high a price to pay for oil; peace is infinitely more valuable.

W. G. RINDER.

CORRESPONDENCE.**BIRTH CONTROL.**

MADAM,—I have followed with deep regret the campaign on the part of the WOMAN'S LEADER in favour of artificial birth control, and the attempt to bring this question into the woman's movement as a feminist reform. May I point out that as the first fruits of this campaign there appeared an editorial in the WOMAN'S LEADER of 16th July which I can only describe as an anti-feminist outburst. The writer, after rejecting the only method of birth control which is ethically sound, that is, self-control, goes on to say that it is a counsel of perfection which, if preached at all, should be preached by men to men, as it is a matter of very easy virtue to large numbers of married women. One is left wondering, after reading that editorial, whether the WOMAN'S LEADER still thinks it right for women to preach an equal standard of morality, or whether that too should be left to men. Surely it is the belief that it is practically impossible for men, married and unmarried, to practise self-control which has given rise to all the moral evils, including State Regulation of Vice, against which the woman's movement has set its face unflinchingly.

LEONORA DE ALBERTI,
Editor, *Catholic Citizen*.**"MIGHT-HAVE-BEENS."**

MADAM,—Possibly the enclosed letter from an unknown correspondent may amuse your readers. One wonders what this sour gentleman's might-have-been children themselves think of the matter. Perhaps, like the child in Barrie's play, they are protesting that they "don't want to be might-have-beens." Or perhaps they are reflecting that there is something in heredity and that some risks are too great to be taken.

"Madam,—I notice in to-day's *Birmingham Post* that you are asking for all self-denying people to be taxed to help to keep your children. Personally, I think it most unjust for you to have children unless either you or their father are prepared to pay the cost of rearing them.

"Knowing the trend of social legislation, and being determined that my children should not be brought up on charity, I decided that I thought too much of them to bring them into a world which people like you have made unbearable for any honest straightforward people."

ELEANOR F. RATHBONE.

BIRTH CONTROL MEETING

(Arranged by the Society for Constructive Birth Control and Racial Progress)

PHILHARMONIC HALL, LIVERPOOL,

Wednesday, 21st October, 1925, at 8 p.m.

Dr. MARIE STOPES, Sir JAMES BARR, M.D., and other Speakers.
Sir JAMES BARR, M.D., in the Chair.

TICKETS, 1s., 2s. 6d., and 5s.—To be obtained from MESSRS. RUSHWORTH & DRAPEER, LTD., 21 Bassett Street and 13 Islington; and MESSRS. CHAS. WILSON & Co., 11 Commutation Row.

COMING EVENTS.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

OCT. 20. 7.30 for 7.45 p.m. Dinner and Reception at the Forum Club in honour of Mrs. Mackinnon, Australian Substitute Delegate to the League of Nations.

GUILDHOUSE WOMEN CITIZENS' SOCIETY.

OCT. 19. 3 p.m. The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Miss K. D. Courtney on "Family Allowances and a Living Wage."

HARPENDEN N.C.W.

OCT. 27. 3 p.m. Miss Beaumont on "The Representation of the People Act and the Guardianship of Infants Act."

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Edinburgh S.E.C. OCT. 16. 3 p.m. Drawing-room Meeting at 17 Chester Street (by kind permission of Miss Wyrer). Speaker: Mrs. Eleanor Mackinnon, of Sydney, Australian Substitute Delegate to the League of Nations.

Gillingham W.C.A. OCT. 26. 3 to 7 p.m. Baptist School Room, Green Street. Exhibition, "100 Years Ago."

Reading S.E.C. OCT. 26. 7.30. Abbey Hall. Mr. H. G. Williams, M.P. for Reading, will address the Society. Chair: Mrs. Robie Unlucke.

Croydon West W.C.A. OCT. 28. Afternoon Discussion on Birth Control. Mrs. Tamplin in favour, Miss Beaumont against.

Kensington and Paddington S.E.C. and Kensington W.C. and L.G. Association. Course of Addresses on Municipal Elections by Mrs. Reincke, to be held on Mondays at 5 p.m. OCT. 19, at 44 Kensington Park Gardens. Chair: Miss Bertha Mason. OCT. 26, at Pembroke Lodge. Chair: Alderman A. J. Allen, J.P.

Purley W.C.A. OCT. 25. 3.15 p.m. Friends' Meeting House. Mrs. Malmberg on "How the Women of Finland won their Citizenship."

NORTH KENSINGTON WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE GUILD.

OCT. 20. 3 p.m. 8 Bonchurch Road. Mrs. F. W. Hubback on "Legislation Concerning Women and Children."

SIX POINT GROUP.

OCT. 21. 5 p.m. 62 Victoria Street, S.W. Miss England on "The Woman's Movement in New Zealand." Chair: Miss Reta Oldham.

SOCIETY FOR CONSTRUCTIVE BIRTH CONTROL.

OCT. 21. 8 p.m. Meeting at Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool. Speakers: Dr. Marie Stopes, Sir James Barr, M.D., and others.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE, KENSINGTON BRANCH.

OCT. 21. 5 p.m. 30 Porchester Terrace, W. 2. Miss Kate Courtney on "The Sixth Assembly of the League of Nations." Chairman: Lady Buckmaster.

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FLAT, near British Museum, big sitting-room (semi-basement), two bedrooms, bath, kitchen and scullery, and back garden; unfurnished; £2 a week. Long or short lease to suit tenants; vacant possession.—Apply, Mrs. Stephen, 50 Gordon Square, W.C. 1.

DEVON, near Barnstaple.—Furnished Detached Cottage to let; outside sanitation, 4 acre garden, stone outbuildings; station, main road, bus; suitable ladies; rabbit, dog breeding, to be taken over end of time.—Box 1,101, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

OVERLOOKING Weald of Kent, Sevenoaks. Lovely views. Furnished house, 2 sitting, 4 bedrooms (3 double beds), kitchen, gas, company's water, garage, garden; 2½ miles station.—Terms: Mrs. Thompson, Hayes Rectory, Kent.

NOVEMBER IN LONDON.—Small HOUSE in Westminster; two bedrooms, sitting-room, telephone, etc.; available for the whole of November during owner's absence. Excellent housekeeper. Very moderate inclusive rent to suitable tenants.—Apply, Box 1,101, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

LADY has well furnished, recently re-decorated BED-SITTINGROOM to let in her flat; very central, between Marble Arch and Paddington. Gas, electric light, and every convenience. Very suit business or professional lady; view by appointment.—M. C., 29 Southwick Street, W. 2.

TO LET, furnished, first-floor FLAT, St. George's Square, London, S.W. 1. Large drawing-room with balcony, bedroom, bathroom; restaurant in house, very moderate tariff; service, telephone; no extras. Rent 3 to 3½ guineas weekly.—Apply, Owner, 78 Belgrave Road, S.W. 1, or telephone Victoria 4,331.

PROFESSIONAL.

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.

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

AFTERNOON TEACLOTHS.—Dainty afternoon tea-cloths, made from the finest and best quality of Irish linen with three rows of hemstitched open-work and finished with scalloped edge. Size 32 x 32 ins., 7s. 6d. each; 36 x 36 ins., 9s. 6d. each; 40 x 40 ins., 11s. 6d. each. Wonderful value. During October, Free Gifts of 3 ladies dainty coloured sheer linen handkerchiefs will be given with orders of 20s. or over. Write for Complete Bargain List To-day.—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.)

POSTS VACANT.

COOK-GENERAL and Housemaid-Waitress; friends or relations suitable; personal character indispensable; family two.—Write, Miss J. Sharpe, 43 Meadway, Golder's Green, N.W. 11.

DRESS.

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THE HAT DOCTOR, removed to 52 James Street, Oxford Street, W. 1, cleans, reblocks and copies hats at lowest possible price. Also Gentlemen's hats. Renovates furs. Covers satin or canvas shoes or thin kid with brocade or velvet. Materials and post, 13s. 6d.; toe-caps, 8s. 6d.; your own materials, work and post, 8s. 6d., in three days.

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, 18th October: 3.30, Music; Lecture: Dr. Andrew Balfour on "Malaria as an Enemy of the British Empire." 6.30, Mr. Oliver Lodge: "The Message of Art to this Generation."

C.B.C. Society for Constructive Birth Control, and the Free Birth Control Clinic, founded by Dr. Marie Stopes and Councillor H. V. Roe. New address: 108 Whitfield Street, off Tottenham Court Road.

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