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NOTES AND NEWS

**The League.**

Our thoughts and hopes are centred on the League in its present fiery and nerve-racking ordeal. One Balkan crisis gives place to another. After Corfu, Fiume. And over each one, as it develops to a crescendo of violence and hate, the two competing methods of European diplomacy fight a swaying and uncertain battle for mastery. On the one side, the balanced rivalries and complex "interests" of the powers strive for a rickety adjustment at the hands of diplomatists meeting in sectional and secret conclave. On the other side, the rule of law, knowing neither ally nor ex-enemy, battles painfully for an even judgment. How little the latter principle is understood has been demonstrated by the outburst of anti-British feeling which swept through the Italian Press as a result of our Government's declaration for a League solution. How firmly the former holds its sway is demonstrated by the intricate speculations as to the value of this or that alliance, the possible give and take on this or that demand, which instinctively flood our mind as we consider the possible attitude of Italy to France, of France to the Little Entente. . . . And though our thoughts and hopes are centred on the League, though all the force we can muster, all the weight we can pull, is whole-heartedly behind anything that will help the League and give it power and prestige—yet, so shaky is our faith in its present power of resistance, so dark are our fears concerning its safety, that we hardly know whether to be glad or sorry when issue after issue is subject to a precarious compromise of the two principles, or left as in the case of reparations, to the unchallenged play of the "old diplomacy."

**The Traffic in Women and Children.**

We hope later on to hear more of the debate on the transactions of the Advisory Committee on the Traffic in Women and Children. Dame Edith Lyttleton addressed the Assembly of the League and took the opportunity of emphasizing the need for Women Police to help in combating the evil.

**The International Conference and Obscene Publications**

The International Conference for the suppression of the Circulation of and Traffic in Obscene Publications concluded its

sittings on 12th September. The new Convention bears the signatures of representatives of over twenty nations, who agree to take measures to put a stop to this underground and disgusting traffic.

**Women and Science.**

A correspondent writes: The ninety-first Annual Meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, which has been taking place at Liverpool this week, has been of very considerable interest. We have no space to do more than refer to Sir Ernest Rutherford's Presidential Address on "The Electrical Structure of Matter"; Sir William Beveridge's paper on "Population and Unemployment"; and Professor Macleod's on "Insulin," all of which attracted large audiences. We must confine ourselves to mentioning some of the activities of women who took a share in the work of the Association either as officers or as readers of papers. Dr. Gertrude Elles, M.B.E., held the coveted position of President of a Section—that of Geology, and gave a presidential address on "Evolutional Palaeontology in relation to the lower Palaeozoic Rocks." Dr. Marian Newbiggin, as past President of the Geographic Section and now one of its Vice-Presidents, took part in a joint discussion on "The place of Man and his environment in the study of the Social Sciences." Anthropology had as one of its secretaries Miss R. M. Fleming; Education had Dr. Lilian Clarke; and Botany had as its local secretary Miss M. Knight. A large number of papers have been read by women, the most important of which were as follows: Miss Edith A. Usherwood on "The Activation of Hydrogen in Organic Compounds," Miss Elizabeth Semmens on "The Biochemical Effect of Polarized Light," Miss M. Workman on "The Permian Rocks of Skillaw Clough," Miss B. F. Hosgood on "Post-war Emigration from the British Isles," Mrs. Scoresby Routledge on "Mangareven Folk-lore," Miss Evelyn Fox on "Mental Deficiency," Miss E. R. Saunders on "Evolution and Reversion in the Rhædales," Dr. M. C. Rayner on "The Biology of the Heaths," Dr. E. M. Miles Thomas on "Observations on Seedling Anatomy," Miss Margaret Ernest on "Rhythmic Dancing." The National Institute of Psychology sent Miss Burnett, Miss Ikin, and Miss Spielman, while Dr. Marguarite Bickersteth read a paper on "Psychograms."

### The Church Congress.

The Church Congress meets in Plymouth on 25th September. Among the speakers are the following women: Dame Edith Lyttleton, Mrs. Hudson Lyall, C.B.E., J.P., Miss Knight Bruce, Mrs. Moore, Miss Maud, and Mrs. Griffiths. The Congress Exhibition lasts for a week and promises to be of special interest. The League of the Church Militant has a stall with literature on the Ministry of Women and the Revision of the Marriage Service. The League is also responsible for several public meetings, on Tuesday, 24th, at the Assembly Rooms, when the subject will be the Revision of the Marriage Service, and on Wednesday, 26th, on the Ministry of Women.

### The Teashop Girl.<sup>1</sup>

During the past week the *Daily Herald* has been violently campaigning on behalf of the teashop girls in London and elsewhere. We are of opinion that our head-strong contemporary would have done well to be a little less sweeping in its denunciations, as conditions in the catering trades vary almost as widely as conditions in that other great women's occupation, domestic service. Nevertheless, we suspect that there are very real grievances in existence. It quotes specific cases of long hours and starvation wages, which call instantly either for remedy or disproof. The workers in this particular occupation are very largely unorganized. It is, in most of its branches, an occupation which requires a low degree of skill. It is highly casual. It offers to badly disposed, or bitterly provoked persons, a peculiarly easy channel of approach to an immoral life; and this last tendency is accentuated by the very unsatisfactory feature of reliance upon tips. It presents, in fact, the ideal conditions for the exploitation of the worker; and knowing what we do of economic conditions we are inclined to believe that where the ideal conditions for exploitation are present, exploitation will inevitably occur. For a long time the catering trades have sat under the shadow of a possible Trade Board, and it is high time that the shadow materialized.<sup>1</sup> Incidentally, the *Daily Herald* expresses great dissatisfaction with the wages paid by that giant among catering firms, J. Lyons & Co. We

do not know to what extent the allegations are true, but it is regrettable if they are. Lyons has served the public well. As regards efficiency, cheapness, originality, and high quality, it is a model firm. We should be glad if our admiration for a really notable achievement in business organization could be freed from anxiety regarding the conditions of its employees.

### Some Publications received.

In view of the meeting of the Church Congress and the public meeting on the Revision of the Marriage Service, to be held at the Central Hall in November, the September issue of the *Church Militant* (2d) has special interest. It contains an article on "The National Church Assembly," by Mrs. Acres, which gives an account of the debate on Miss Royden's motion to substitute "Wilt thou love him and comfort him" for "Wilt thou obey him and serve him" in the Marriage Service. There is also a supplement containing sermons by Miss Royden.

The Manchester and Salford *Woman Citizen* is a thoroughly useful little local paper. We are glad to read that Mrs. E. D. Simon is standing for the City Council and that two women, Mrs. Myles Davies and Mrs. Hopkinson, have been elected to the Board of Management of the Salford Royal Hospital. What are other associations of women citizens doing about women on hospital boards?

We congratulate The National Council for the Unmarried Mother on an admirable Report. This organization combines work of practical usefulness, as the report of the Care Committee shows, with strenuous Parliamentary work which has attained something, though far from all that is wanted.

### Women on the Bench.

The number of Women Magistrates is steadily increasing. This week we congratulate Miss Elizabeth Bayley and Mrs. Wilmot on their appointment for the Borough of Plymouth. Miss Bayley is an active member of the Plymouth Women's Citizens Association, and as a member of the City Council has done admirable work on behalf of housing and child welfare. Mrs. Wilmot was awarded the O.B.E. for her work in connection with the Red Cross.

## A NEW MACHIAVELLI.

On 12th September, Dr. Vaughan Cornish, one of our leading experts in the realm of strategic geography, delivered a presidential address before the Geographical Section of the British Association now assembled in Liverpool. He dealt in broad and magnificent lines with the structure and future development of the British Empire, taking its principal geographical features as his starting point. His remarks were given very considerable prominence in the Press and were the occasion of much comment and criticism, both hostile and appreciative. They were indeed of exceptional interest.

Strategically, Dr. Cornish considers, the British Empire is most blessedly ordered. It has an intermediate position among the commercial, national, religious, and racial communities of the world such as is occupied by no other state. And only one of many advantages deriving from this is the fact that in many cases its naval stations lie across the lines on which other white nations would, in time of war, depend for the reinforcement of their colonial possessions. France, to quote one of his examples, would be obliged to reach her important possession of Indo-China either by the Suez Canal, where we maintain a garrison, or by rounding the Cape, where we have a national recruiting base as well as a station of the Royal Navy. The blot on the picture is the fact that owing to the recent development of fighting aircraft, this island, "the citadel of an Empire," is more exposed to attack from the Continent than at any time in the last 800 years.

When he comes to consider the population of this splendidly devised strategic unit, however, Dr. Vaughan Cornish takes a less rosy view. Of the 1,650 million people in the world, the whites number about 500 million and the coloured 1,150. Of the latter, the greater part inhabit the monsoon region of Asia. The handful of Australian-British, though far removed from the main body of the white race, are significantly near the monsoon lands of Asia and the "strategic responsibility of their decision to maintain a colour barrier against the Asiatic races

<sup>1</sup> See *Waitress and Workers in the Catering Trade*, by Madeline Symon, p. 270.

is seen to be very great when we look into the future and consider the facts of population." A somewhat similar problem (though one which does not involve racial purity) confronts Canada, whose inhabitants are outnumbered in the proportion of ten to one by the inhabitants of the U.S.A. There is bound to be, Dr. Cornish considers, a large flow of people from the U.S.A. to the Dominion. Therefore, since it is essential to the Empire that Canada should remain British in sentiment, a large immigration from Great Britain is required in Canada. In fact, owing to the circumstance that the population of Great Britain is larger in the aggregate and is increasing faster than the white populations of other parts of the Empire, it is by a steady stream of emigration from this island that the supremacy of the white man in the Empire, and the Empire in the world, must be secured. Maintenance of strategic world power combined with a vigorous policy of breeding for export appear to be the two main requirements of a successful imperial policy in the future.

Many years ago, in pre-war days, Lord Milner, speaking on behalf of compulsory military service for this country, dwelt convincingly upon our peculiar need for armed vigilance. Great Britain, he said, is like a child in a crowded nursery who has accumulated all the best toys in its own hands. Can such a child, he asked, suddenly call "pax" and expect to enjoy its possessions undisturbed? And in his address last week Dr. Cornish conjured up the memory of Lord Milner's long-forgotten simile.

Yet it is a dreary outlook, this vast and continuous mobilization of power to hold at bay the needy peoples of alien races and rival powers. Nor is the programme of breeding for export an attractive one for the women of this country. Quite apart from everything else, there is no guarantee that children produced for this purpose will see fit in the exercise of their individual responsibility to fulfil the designs of their disinterested and patriotic parents. Somehow we do feel that Dr. Cornish has not got what Miss Rose Macaulay has called "a League mind." And we suspect that in constructing the vast outlines of his visioned empire he has failed to visualize man in one of his most important capacities—that of "an end in himself."

E. L.

## THE FOURTH ASSEMBLY OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

Great events tread fast upon each other's heels, and the atmosphere of Geneva is tense with excitement. On the one hand there is the Italo-Greek dispute, settled now as to its original features but all uncertain as to Corfu, which may at any moment precipitate another crisis. The bombastic denouncing of the League's authority by which Mussolini has flattered his colossal vanity is for the moment officially ignored: but when the danger of war in the islands passes, Italy will be called to account. No one who watches the faces, or hears the talk, of the smaller nations here can doubt it. And they are unquestionably right. So, as to this great trial, the League waits, satisfied on the first count, since conciliation has prevailed and arbitration been accepted; doubtful as to the second count, and watching Corfu; and determined upon the third count when the right time shall have come.

But this Italo-Greek matter is by no means the only excitement. The Italo-Jugo Slav crisis, though not yet openly mooted upon the floor of the Assembly, is in everyone's mind. A second act of arrogance, a second defiance of the opinion of the world, would not be a very safe policy for Mussolini, and the rumoured registration with the League of the Treaty of Rapallo by the Jugo-Slavs will afford the test of his sincerity in League defiance. If he allows it to take place, and if he, on his side, also registered the same Treaty, all his bold words may be taken for hot air. If he does not, he will have a storm about his ears, much mightier than the hornets' nest of Fiume.

It is impossible to help regretting that the League has not played a more splashy obvious part in the crisis; it is even difficult not to hope that a further opportunity for sensation may not arise over this fresh dispute. It would be such very good "propaganda," so clear and convincing. Even if it led to the temporary boycott of the Power rebellions of League control, even if it led to internal anarchy and disaster within that nation, one cannot help feeling it would be a satisfaction to see the League fully armed in defence of its powers. But, after all, this is not the League's spirit (naturally though it comes to all League supporters). Peace, to be sure, is better preserved than fought for; and in the long run it is no doubt better safeguarded by wise concession rather than by hot-headed enthusiasm. League advocates here await, impatiently, but hopefully, the final outcome of these matters. And meanwhile the work goes on.

Even if international thunder had not been in the air, this Assembly would have been far more interesting and important than any of its predecessors. The work of Austrian re-establishment, which the Assembly discussed with much

satisfaction, is an achievement which would have been impossible before the establishment of the League. As the British delegate truly said, it is an earnest of the power of the League to deal with "even greater problems of a similar character."

The admission of Ireland to the League was accomplished by a unanimous vote, sundry compliments to Great Britain being mixed with the general rejoicing. President Cosgrave, beginning in Erse and finishing in English, made a most eloquent speech; and his colleagues at once took their places in the work of committees and commissions.

Among these bodies—from which the volume of output is steadily increasing—that of the Commission on Disarmaments is far the most important. It would be idle to pretend that there is full agreement. Too great a principle is involved, too much is at stake for unanimity in all details to be conceivable. But there can be no reasonable doubt that there is a great desire on the part of all Nations, great and small, to make a beginning, and that the mutual guarantee Treaty points to a practicable road. The sessions of this Commission are crowded; and the close co-operation of Lord Robert Cecil and M. Lebrun, the French delegate, is one of the most marked features of each session.

The Opium Convention is moving less easily, and the American delegation which is here to forward it is filled with suspicion. At the time of writing its discussion is in progress, and I hope to report fully upon it next week.

The meeting of the Council on the 17th carried the settlement of the Italo-Greek dispute a step forward. The acceptance by both parties of the Ambassadors' terms, including the evacuation of Corfu, completely ends the original dispute, and leaves unfinished only the Italian defiance of the League. This, as Mr. Banting pointed out to the Council, must be fully cleared up; and he was, in fact, supported in this by Lord Robert Cecil, who, in his lucid account of the whole incident, said that the Assembly would be the place in which this last outstanding matter must be raised and settled. Without doubt the next few days will see the development for which League advocates here and all over the world have been so eagerly and so impatiently waiting.

So much goes on from day to day that any such account as this must be inadequate. I should like to emphasize, however, that the greater crisis of European affairs, which it overshadows, does not hinder the normal functioning of the League. No one here thinks of anything but building for the future. It is a long road, and the short cut of violent action has been rejected. But there is no turning back.

R. S.

## NEWSPAPER CIRCLES.

The article in the *WOMAN'S LEADER* on "Newspaper Reading" on 31st August touched an important aspect of adult education, an aspect of particular significance to women. As the writer said, the plea of economy of time or money is usually an excuse. Women on the whole do not care for reading newspapers. I will not discuss the reasons, partly to avoid repetition and partly to save space for more constructive ideas.

It is, however, necessary to consider both the matter and the manner of women's Press reading. Having collected a good deal of evidence on the subject I find that the usual order of newspaper reading is: births, deaths, and marriages; advertisements; personal tit-bits, such as tragedies, record-breakings, etc.; social events with special care given to the Royal Family and aristocracy; home politics; and foreign politics (in brief). Commerce and finance is rather naturally ignored. This classification is necessarily rough, but it is not unfair to say that the great majority of women who read newspapers at all read them for their human interest rather than for intellectual food. For this reason the daily papers are more read than the weekly, and picture papers are more popular than plain prose. The great failing in the manner of newspaper reading is the habit of reading an article without any effort to assimilate it, with the result that if asked to give an account of the matter within five minutes the reader is generally quite incapable of so doing.

In an endeavour to help in newspaper education the National Council of Women in Manchester has been running several Newspaper Circles. Groups of eight or more women meet fortnightly and discuss current events as portrayed in the Press. At the

beginning of the season the members choose different subjects, and each one is responsible for giving fortnightly the news of her own subject to the group. The sections taken may differ in each circle. For instance, in one circle the leader would represent the Government, another member would speak for the Opposition, one for the Liberals in Parliament, then others would take foreign policy, the Colonies, labour and social questions, commerce, and agriculture. Foreign politics and social questions can be divided *ad infinitum* to suit the number of members. In another circle the members may wish to concentrate on foreign politics and each may take a country, not forgetting the League of Nations. This is excellent, as women on the whole are apt to ignore foreign politics but for that very reason it is more unusual to find a company wishing to spend all their time on this aspect.

It is generally a wise plan to allow members to read what papers they will. There is usually in each circle enough divergence of views to guarantee good discussions and fair conclusions, whereas it has been found that there will be far less enthusiasm if members are forced to read papers with which they do not agree.

Newspaper circles are easy to run because no special knowledge is required in the leader, and members will join willingly when assured that they will not have to do extra reading as in study circles. Nearly everyone thinks that they read the paper and they only find out during the course of one of these circles the immense difference that has been made in their concentration and understanding.

O. B. S.

WHAT I REMEMBER.<sup>1</sup> II.

By MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT, J.P., LL.D.

## THE ALDBURGH OF LONG AGO.

James Cable, the second of the name, was only a boy when all this happened, but as he grew in years he developed into a very fine seaman, very much respected and well known all along the coast and in the Life-boat Society, for combined courage and caution; for many years, indeed until old age compelled him to withdraw, he was coxswain of the Aldburgh Life-boat. On one occasion this boat under James Cable's command had more than usually distinguished itself, so that newspaper men from London came down to learn and retail all the particulars of the brave work. They found Cable the very reverse of communicative, their only chance seemed to be to pump his narrative out of him in fragments, question by question. One of these, and Cable's reply to it, form a sort of epitome of his character.

Newspaper Reporter: "Now, Mr. Cable, you can tell me, I expect, how many lives you have saved at sea?"

James Cable: "I don't know, I'm sure, sir, I don't keep no count on 'em."

This was the sort of thing that made every one in Aldburgh just love Cable, but he was not a bit spoiled—he was always the same simple, modest, upright man that his father had been before him.

Another incident of my childhood in connection with the Life-boat was an intense joy to me. The Life-boat gun had been fired, but only for a practice. The crew received 3s. a head for practice on a smooth day and 5s. on a rough day; this was a 5s. day. We all ran off to the beach as usual. I, again, holding my father's hand. While the boat was still on the rollers one of her crew said to my father, "Come along with us, governor"; he replied, "I should like it, my lad, but you see I can't, I've got the child with me." Looking down on me, the sailor rejoined, "Little missie would like to come too, sir." There was no need for me to say anything. I was too enchanted at this unexpected adventure. The smallest cork jacket in the collection was found and slipped over my head, and we embarked. The seas broke over the boat as we crossed the shoal and drenched my hair and shoulders; one of the kind sailors produced a pink cotton handkerchief from his pocket and said, "Here, missie, wrap this round your neck." Of course, I did so, and, of course, the pink handkerchief was soon as wet as the rest of my clothing. I was intensely happy, and never dreamed of being sea-sick.

My father was a very good sailor himself, and he never quite succeeded in ridding himself of the notion that to be sea-sick was affectation. One day, however, a little party of us, headed by my father and completed by a little dog, embarked in a small boat for a sail. Before long the dog was sea-sick. My father was immensely astonished; he said several times, "God bless my soul, look at that poor thing; then it is *not* affectation, after all."

The Aldburgh of my earliest recollections was very different from Aldburgh of to-day. It is true that its two ancient buildings, the Church and the Moot Hall, still remain unchanged in essentials, but its ancient corporation has been re-formed. The two bailiffs have been converted into one Mayor; and the Council is elected by the vote of the ratepayers, the dignified robes of office are retained and so are the old silver maces dating from the reign of Queen Elizabeth, decorated by a large "E" with a crown.

Crabbe's house has entirely vanished, but in lieu of it a bust of our one poet has been put up in the Church. He is still our one poet, but a poet of to-day. Mr. John Freeman has found our river, which runs parallel with the sea for about 12 miles before it is finally merged into it, a fitting subject for a parable in verse. A former engraving of Aldburgh still exists and is full of interest to those who wish to see how the old town looked to one who had the poet's vision.

At the time of my first visit to London, January, 1858, the nearest railway station was at Ipswich, 26 miles away. I remember having felt in 1851, I being 4 years old, that the right things had not been done by me in not taking me to see the famous exhibition of that year, but that I had been somewhat consoled for this slight by lovely bonnets of "drawn" blue

<sup>1</sup> This article is the second of a series which will extend over several months.

velvet with pink baby ribbon and lace in the "caps" brought back from London for my sister Agnes and myself.

In 1858 the journey to London, the first I had ever taken, was one prolonged delight, first the drive of 26 miles in my father's carriage, himself, I think, driving, and then the railway train and all its wonders. I remember an old gentleman who travelled in our carriage and took a great deal of notice of us children, but whom we suspected of not being quite right in his mind, as he vehemently protested against the guard locking the carriage door, shouting out that he was a free-born Englishman and would not submit to being locked up.

The wonder of the London streets, especially at night, when the shop windows were not shuttered as they are now, but were brilliantly illuminated, made London seem to me a sort of fairyland. Our eldest sister Louie had just married in the previous autumn; we were her guests and were petted and made much of, to our hearts' content. One of our evenings was spent at Albert Smith's entertainment, he was describing the journey of a party up the Rhine; there were the sentimental sister and the practical sister who lisped. The sentimental sister was reciting solemnly "*Round about the prow she wrote 'The Lady of Shallot,'*" and the practical sister comments "*I wonder what she wrote it with. Did she scratch it with a hair pin?*" At this point, when every one was laughing, a sort of managerial person came on the platform with a very solemn face and announced the attempt of Orsini to blow up the Emperor and Empress of the French on their way to the Opera that very evening. This was my first experience of anything approaching contact with the tragedy of revolutionary politics. This is also one of the points in my story to which I can affix an exact date: it was 14th January, 1858.

But to return to Aldburgh, as we did very soon after the unprecedented journey just recorded. Aldburgh was a place very much without an aristocratic element in its population. It is true that there were nice families, the Thellussons, the Rawleys, and the Wentworths, who belonged to the aristocracy; but they lived quite aloof from the people of the town, and did not make the smallest impression in our lives. Mrs. Wentworth, the Lord of the Manor and Lady Harriet were hardly ever resident, except for a week or two in the partridge-shooting season. Mr. Rawley, with a large family, was, so to speak, hibernating in Aldburgh waiting to succeed to an estate and title then held by his unmarried elder brother in West Suffolk; and the Thellussons were likewise lying low under the shadow of the great Thellusson lawsuit. I remember hearing Mrs. Thellusson tell my mother in an awed voice: "If I lose this lawsuit, dear Mrs. Garrett, we shall be beggars, absolutely beggars, on £600 a year." To me at 10 years old £600 a year meant wealth beyond the dreams of avarice, and again I wondered at the strangeness of grown-up people. Old Peter Thellusson's extraordinary will and the portentous lawsuit to which it gave rise very likely suggested to Dickens the great suit "*Jarndyce v. Jarndyce,*" which forms the main theme of *Bleak House*. Though not an aristocrat, there was a gentlewoman then living at Aldburgh who had to the full the aristocratic instinct of service, of helping those less well off than herself to a fuller and better life. I think she belonged to what in the slang of the present day we should call the "New Poor." Mrs. James was the widow of a West Indian planter, one of those who had suffered financially from the emancipation of the slaves. She lived with great simplicity in a large house, and for all the years of my childhood she set apart a portion of this house to be used as a public elementary school. It seems now almost incredible that so late the fifties and well into the sixties of the last century no public provision was made for the housing of a school for the poorer classes in Aldburgh, and as I suppose in the greater number of small towns and villages throughout the country. Mrs. James had several sons; one a clergyman, the Rev. Herbert James, became the father of several distinguished sons, one Dr. Montague Jones, is now Provost of Eton, and well known in the world of scholarship; another son, Captain James, was in the Indian Navy; and we keep up very friendly relations with his surviving daughter, often talking over our recollections of old Aldburgh. She remembers quite well returning from India in the days when there was no Suez Canal, and passengers were taken across the isthmus on camels or in palanquins.

The main interest to us in our Aldburgh neighbours did not centre in the small group of those I have called the aristocrats, but in the Barhams, Mary Reeder, Mr. Metcalf, Mr. Dowler, the Vicar, and Bob Wilson, the old sailor at the Look-out Station at the top of the steps.

## NEWS FROM IRELAND.

BY OUR IRISH CORRESPONDENT.

## THE DANGEROUS YOUNG WOMAN.

Now the returns of the Irish Free State elections are complete, it is possible to estimate with some accuracy the effect of equal franchise. To quote the *Irish Times*: "The election was fought on a register including 400,000 new names, mostly young men and women. Yet the proportionate strength in the Dail of the official anti-Treaty forces has remained practically stationary, the increase being only six votes in every thousand." The marked increase which was shown in the votes recorded for the Farmers' group, and for the Independents, including representatives of Trinity College, the business men and the old Unionist and the old Nationalist parties, hardly points to the existence of a revolutionary spirit among the young women. Rehoboam might have done well to include young women among the counsellors to whose advice he hearkened. They, like the majority of young women of the Free State, might have adopted the motto "Safety first."

## ONE VOTE, ONE SHARE.

A careful analysis of the working of the transfers was given in the *Irish Times* of 5th September. After detailing the results of the seventeen counts in Co. Dublin (my own constituency), the writer continues: "In normal times, under P.R., nearly all citizens would be able to point to someone sitting in Parliament in whose election he took a direct part. . . . The Republicans polled on first choices one-eighth of the votes, and after all the counts had been completed, secured one of the eight seats. The Government polled one-half the total votes, only securing three seats, the business men and Independents, who count as Treaty, received considerable additions when the transfers of the big majority of the leading Government candidate were effected, and finally two Independent and one business man were returned, all pro-Treaty. Thus transfers from Treaty candidates went to Treaty candidates. In other words P.R. was used with intelligence and gave to one voter one share in electing the new Assembly."

## SELF-DETERMINATION.

Dail Eireann meets on 19th September. On 20th September will be held the first public meeting of a new Association formed to secure the return of women candidates in the next elections. Many women even outside the feminist ranks have felt that the choice of women candidates has been left too much to the ordinary party organizations, and thus the women returned have not always followed the maxim "Women and children first." Women are now determined to choose their representatives themselves. The new Association has been formed on a non-party basis to work for the return of women members, independent of party. The Committee includes Professor Mary Hayden, M.A., of the National University and Vice-President of the Women Citizens' Association, and Mrs. Noel Guinness, P.L.G., who was well known in former days as an ardent suffragist.

## LOFTY MATTERS.

The tendency of too many of our politicians is to generalize about law and order, about political status, about the right of Ireland to control its destinies from the centre of the earth up to the sun, or other lofty matters, whereas one would like to know whether, if they were put to it, they could devise a scheme of workhouse reform. These words, quoted from a recent issue of the *Homestead*, a paper edited by the well-known artist, poet, mystic and practical economist, George Russell (A. E.), will be read with intense satisfaction by those feminists, and I imagine some may be found outside Ireland, who are for ever seeking to draw attention to those details which are said to be especially the province of women. The programme sent by the Irish Women Citizens' Association to every Parliamentary candidate at any rate possessed the advantage of definite detail, with its insistence on real Compulsory Education, Pure Milk Bills, Mothers' Pensions, Equal Responsibility of both Parents for Illegitimate Children, and immediate Appointment of Trained and Uniformed Women Police with Power of Arrest. One is obliged to record the regrettable fact that a very small proportion of the candidates thought it worth while to discuss such material and mundane topics.

## A FEW NEW NOVELS.

**A Son at the Front.** Edith Wharton. Macmillan. 7s. 6d.  
**A Reversion to Type.** Miss Delafield. Hutchinson. 7s. 6d.  
**The End of the House of Allard.** Sheila Kaye Smith. Cassell. 7s. 6d.  
**Uncanny Tales.** May Sinclair. Hutchinson. 7s. 6d.

What will future generations read about the war? To whom will our grandchildren and great-grandchildren turn for pictures of the period, as we turn to Charlotte Bronte, Jane Austen, or Mrs. Gaskell? We think *Mr. Brillling sees it through* will be one of the war novels, best beloved of posterity, and that *The Pretty Lady* and *The War Workers* will also survive in certain circles, and we cannot help hoping that *William, an Englishman*, by Cicely Hamilton, not nearly so well known as it deserves, will not be forgotten. We would add to this list a new book, *A Son at the Front*, by Edith Wharton. We will be surprised if this book is popular to-day; it is both too long after and too soon after the war. Middle-aged people don't want to have their sealed places opened; young people don't want to be harrowed. The generation which will look for the story of the war in fiction is not yet born. Nevertheless, this book should be read; it shows the war from a new angle. The story revolves around a boy, American by parentage and tradition, but a French citizen obliged to serve in the French Army. He is everything in the world to two men and two women—perhaps we should say three women, but we can't take the love story in the book very seriously. The two women are his mother who has divorced his father and a middle-aged spinster friend who loves him better than his mother does, though neither knows it. The two men are the boy's father and the man his mother married after the divorce. The main interest lies in the changing relations of this ill-assorted group, united by their common love, and the silent understanding which springs up between father and son as the tragedy of the war eats deeper into their lives.

Miss Delafield's new novel, *A Reversion to Type*, will rouse a sense of disappointment in admirers of *The War Workers*, mentioned above, and her other earlier books. Her delicate probing power of character-analysis has become flattened into obvious exaggerations. The book appears to have been written to a prescription and its situations are not wholly convincing. But anything Miss Delafield writes is worth reading, and the subject is full of interest. She describes the struggle of a brave but ignorant mother to save her son from a hereditary taint derived from his father's side, which takes the form of lying. The boy goes through the conventional educational mill insisted on by his father's family, self-centred, self-sufficient, narrow, decadent, and though outwardly he appears to conform to his environment, the trouble is there, driven inward instead of drawn out, and ends in foolish unnecessary tragedy.

There is something peculiarly satisfactory in Miss Sheila Kaye Smith's books, but in many ways her latest, *The End of the House of Allard*, has not quite the inevitability of some of her earlier novels. Like *A Reversion to Type* it is written to a prescription, though not quite to the same extent—the fate of a decadent stock. Nevertheless, her characters ring true, and Stella and Gervaise rouse all one's interest and sympathy; but, as always, the portions of Miss Kaye Smith's books which give most pleasure are not those dealing with human beings but her descriptions of Sussex woods and farms, its early mornings, and its rains.

The last book in our group consists of a collection of *Uncanny Stories* by Miss May Sinclair, with still more uncanny illustrations by Jean de Borschère. Two of the stories are very haunting. *The Flaw in the Crystal* describes a woman who accidentally discovers that she possesses a gift of healing or rather access to a "fount of healing" which was inexhaustible and immeasurable. But she comes to realize that there are conditions attached to her gift, and the story tells how she removed the "flaw" which stood in its way. We find something of the same idea expressed at the British Association the other day by the scientist who spoke of the untapped powers possessed by those who have completely abnegated self. The other story, *If the Dead Knew*, shows the mental struggle of a son when the death of his dearly loved and adorable old mother sets him free to marry. He becomes obsessed with the fear that his sub-conscious desires had turned the scale when his mother's life hung in the balance and finds no peace until she brings him assurance and comfort.

CASUAL READER.

## WAITRESSES AND WORKERS IN THE CATERING TRADES.

Recent publicity concerning the wages and conditions of waitresses in cafés and restaurants calls to mind the previous history of this large and badly paid trade, in which thousands of women are employed. As early as 1919 the Government was requested to set up a Trade Board for the Catering Trade, and after numerous requests, supported by many women's organizations, the Minister of Labour—then Sir Robert Horne—stated definitely that a Trade Board would be set up. The Ministry of Labour at that time collected very full evidence as to the conditions prevailing in the trade, and there was no doubt that in many sections excessive hours were worked for exceedingly low wages.

Waitresses were sometimes expected to subsist mainly or even wholly on tips, and it is probable that the kitchen workers, who usually have no share in these tips and tend to be overlooked in any public agitation, fared even worse.

It is not surprising in view of the failure of successive Ministers of Labour to carry out the undertaking given to set up a Trade Board that conditions in the trade have not improved; indeed, it seems almost certain, considering the continued unemployment and the general position of industrial women, that conditions in many sections of the trade have become even more deplorable.

It is satisfactory to note from the report of the General Council of the Trade Union Congress presented at Plymouth, that the Trade Union movement as a whole proposes to take steps to organize these badly paid and often overworked women. We wish them every success, and as a foundation we trust that a renewed effort will be made to secure the early establishment of a Trade Board.

MADELEINE J. SYMONS.

## THE MAKING, BAKING, & SELLING OF BREAD.

These things were managed very differently in years gone by to what they are to-day. A visit to the Bakers' and Confectioners' Exhibition, held annually, gives an excellent idea of modern equipment and modern methods, but the difference between these and the methods of yesterday is as wide as that between chalk and cheese.

### The Assize of Bread.

Before 1815 a baker was not free to make and sell what he wished, at any price he might think fit. For centuries "he was required by law to make his various kinds of loaves of different weights, often times calculated to a fraction of a penny-weight, and these constantly varying from week to week, or at the furthest from month to month."

According to the Act of 1266, there were no less than seven kinds of bread, one of which was "sinnell" (not, be it understood, "simmel cake," but bread!). All of these had to be sold for one farthing each, the size of the best loaves being naturally much smaller than that of inferior bread. The weight varied and was regulated by the market price of the quarter of wheat, "consequently with each rise or fall of 6d. in the quarter a different weight was assigned by the table of assize to each particular one of the seven kinds of loaves."

### Pains and Penalties.

There were hideous punishments, too, for defaulters. In the fourth year of Edward II a baker named John of Stratford, for making bread less than the assize was with a fool's hood on his head, and some of his loaves hung about his neck, drawn on a hurdle through the streets of the city. Think of the conditions of the streets in those days, and the jolting of the hurdle.

White bakers were not allowed to make brown bread, and brown bakers were equally forbidden to make white. For some

time they had different guilds or fraternities. The loaves were sold by regatresses, who were given thirteen to the dozen, the extra one representing their profit, and they had to be sold in the King's Market.

The Bakers' Hall has stood on the same site since 1498. The first hall perished in the Great Fire, and the second was said to have been built by Sir Christopher Wren. The present building was erected between 1719 and 1722, but there is a very fine new approach with incised stone mural decorations illustrative of the guild and its craft. The lines are filled in with lead.

### A Wonderful Tank.

The Master is elected annually, but the Clerk and the Beadle are institutions.

The present Beadle, Mr. Knight, has been there over twenty years. He simply loves the old place, and has taken considerable trouble to gather and verify interesting facts. Once when he was poking about he began scraping the old leaden water tank measuring 8 feet by 4 feet by 2 feet, and discovered some fine relief ornamentation. Assistance was supplied by the Company, the Bakers' Arms were revealed, the date, 1720, set in a beautiful design of floral wreaths and figures amongst which a girl holding a sheaf of wheat is conspicuous. The lead used contains a large percentage of silver.

Workers took some trouble with their work in those days.

A fine spacious oak staircase; a set of old woodcuts representing thirteen stages of breadmaking; some Adams' chairs; a grandfather clock dated 1685, in a case of English lacquer; remains of the ancient oven and two kinds of spit formerly used with the old open fire for roasting barons of beef, are amongst the treasures in which he takes a pride.

On the fine chimney piece in the Court Room is carved the motto of the Company, "Praise God for all."

All these wonders as well as many others are tucked away amongst modern offices in a back street of little Old London.  
ANN POPE.

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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

### INTERESTING EVENTS.

We hope that many of our members may be able to come to London for the following events:—

1. Reception in Honour of Dame Edith Lytton (Substitute Delegate to the League of Nations Assembly). 12th October, at 4.30 p.m. Cards of admission 2s. 6d. (including tea).
2. Public Meeting on Reciprocal Vows in the Marriage Service. Central Hall, Westminster, 12th November, at 8 p.m. Speakers: Miss Maude Royden, Lady Barratt, and others.
3. Conference on Widows' Pensions. Monday, 12th November, 2.30 to 4.30.
4. Conference on Married Women's Income Tax. 13th November, at 10.30 to 12.30.
5. Conference of Officers of Societies. 13th November, at 2.30 to 4.30.

### PARLIAMENTARY NEWS.

The most important work of the early autumn is connected with the Joint Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament on the Guardianship of Infants Bill. The fate of the Bill hangs in the balance, and much will depend on an active campaign in the constituencies. The most useful form that such a campaign can take is to send articles and paragraphs of all kinds to the local Press. There is reason to believe that the Committee is not as yet wholly convinced of the need for the Bill. It is important, therefore, that evidence of public interest should be forthcoming. A new leaflet giving striking instances of injustice under the present law has been issued (price 2d., reduced price for large quantities) and other literature for Societies desiring recent information on this matter.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

MADAM,—May I bring to the notice of your readers the need for sustained interest in the welfare of women in a remote corner of the world. I allude to Kashmir. Condemnation of native rule in India is much to be deprecated. Native princes may have required a lead, but having been given a lead by administrators who, we may be proud to think, were of British race, they have shown much activity in leading on their people in a good way of life. That some seem to be more successful than others is no doubt as much due to the people they rule as to their own capacities.

But having said so much, might I be allowed to draw your attention to certain great and preventible sufferings endured by one portion of the people of a native ruler?

The following extract from a private letter describing them must surely perturb those who are content to let the East go its immemorial way, provided their own womenkind are well provided with helpers in its hour of need. The writer has lived for over twenty years in Srinagar, and no one has worked harder or with more success to instil ideas of courage, chivalry, and pity into the hearts of young Kashmiris. He writes warmly, for (in common with the devoted doctors and nurses in the city) he feels warmly. In fact, some of his expressions are so unparliamentary that I have had to modify them!

Much good might be done if the authorities could be moved to take an interest in Maternity and Infant Welfare. Much can be done, even where at first sight new legislation would seem to cut across caste law. The Hindu religion is a very adaptable one, and tactful pressure can, and does, "adapt" it.

MARGERIE SMITH.

For many years I was utterly ignorant of the sufferings of the women, as dust was thrown successfully into my eyes when I became inquisitive in that direction, but now that truth is out there is no need for dust. We are trying to wake up public opinion against the unnecessary suffering of the women in Srinagar. I will mention but one or two of the causes of this suffering. The age of consent in India (it being a country which is considered fit to rule itself) is fixed at 12 years; Kashmir being a native state goes one better and fixes it at 10 years. Now it does not need much imagination to grasp the suffering of these little girls, especially when they are often married to middle-aged men. Their sufferings are hideous. Then, according to Hindu law, widows may not re-marry. Many of the widows are child widows who have never known their husbands. They are human, and hence they often become pregnant; but to save the face of the Hindus the children must not live, for the Brahmins (and nearly all the Hindus in Srinagar are Brahmins) consider themselves a holy people, and hence must keep up appearances. Now the dhais who attend women at child-birth are utterly ignorant of surgery and of the need of cleanliness; they attempt to do operations that only a skilled doctor can do, their only surgical instruments being a dirty knife and spindle of a spinning-wheel, hence the heavy mortality.

Just lately a certain dhai killed three women in a fortnight, and no action is taken by the authorities. We are trying to wake up the younger generation of men "to see red" when these matters are brought to their notice, and also trying to shame the State officials into taking action. It is like attacking a brick wall with tooth-picks, but we do not despair. It is just a matter of pluck, perseverance, and faith. In short, just pegging away. You will, I know, back us up at your end.

C. E. M.

## THE WOMAN'S LEADER

Every Friday. One Penny.

In the present issue appears the second of a Series of Articles by Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, J.P., LL.D. which will extend throughout the Autumn and Winter months, entitled

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The Session begins on MONDAY, 1st OCTOBER, 1923.

For further particulars apply to the

REGISTRAR, The University, Birmingham.

## COMING EVENTS.

## LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

- SEPT. 23. Keswick, Mill Hill, Reigate.  
 SEPT. 24. Boston, Newport, Woking, S. Norwood, Grangetown, Northampton, Redhill.  
 SEPT. 25. Ossett, Middlesbrough, Rushden, Sandown, Teddington, Woking, Wellingborough.  
 SEPT. 26. Hoylake, Cowes, St. Leonards, Southwell, Bromsgrove, Woking, Thirsk, Bolsover, Tibshelf, London, Warwick.  
 SEPT. 27. Ryde, Redditch, Stourport, Idle, Elland, Melbourne, Codnor, Bradford.  
 SEPT. 28. Southampton, Niton, London, Heanor, Keyworth.  
 SEPT. 29. Huntington, Petersfield.  
 SEPT. 30. Leominster.

## N.U.S.E.C.

- SEPT. 21-28. Portinscale, near Keswick, Summer School.

## EDINBURGH S.E.C.

- OCT. 5-8. Week-end School at Dunblane.

## INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CLUB, 55 GOWER STREET, W.C.1.

- SEPT. 27. A Joint Reception with the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

## WESTMINSTER WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

- SEPT. 27. 3 p.m. At 26 Moreton Street, S.W.1. Mrs. Grayson on "Citizens of the Future."

## WAKEFIELD WOMEN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION.

- SEPT. 24. 3 p.m. Meeting at Tule Croft, Sandal, by kind permission of Mrs. Lodge Hirst. Speaker, Miss Helen Fraser: "The Future of the Women's Movement."

## LEAGUE OF THE CHURCH MILITANT.

- SEPT. 25. Tea and Discussion. Revision of the Marriage Service. Assembly Rooms, Royal Hotel, Plymouth. 4.30 p.m. Free invitation tickets to Tea and Discussion from L.C.M. Staff, Church Congress Exhibition.  
 SEPT. 26. L.C.M. Corporate Communion, 8 a.m., St. Catherine's Church, Plymouth. Celebrant: The Rev. F. M. Green, B.D.  
 Public Meeting and Discussion. The Ministry of Women. Athenæum Lecture Hall, Plymouth. 5.30 p.m.

## TYPEWRITING AND PRINTING, Etc.

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## TO LET AND WANTED.

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PURE HOME-MADE JAM AND BOTTLED FRUIT.—Orders taken at the House Assistants' Centre for 1 lb., 2 lb., 3 lb. or 7 lb. jars. Single small jars can be bought at the Centre. Write and enclose stamped addressed envelope for price list.

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.

CAR FOR HIRE, 8d. per mile, no tips taken; car open or shut; by hour, day, or week; owner driver.—Miss Ibbotson, 51 Lancaster Gate, Hyde Park, W.2. Tel. Padd. 3895.

## DRESS.

KNITTED CORSETS.—Avoid chills, no pressure. List free.—Knitted Corset Co., Nottingham.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.—Secretary, Miss Philippa Strachey. Change of Address: Wellington House, Buckingham Gate. Enquiries: Room 6, 3rd floor.

THE PIONEER CLUB has reopened at 12 Cavendish Place. Town Members £5 ss.; Country and Professional Members £4 4s. Entrance fee in abeyance (*pro tem.*).

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston Square, S.W.1: Sunday, 23rd September, 6.30, Dr. Dearmer.

ALLEVIATE LONELINESS by forming Congenial Friendships, home or abroad.—For particulars write, Secretary, U.C.C., 16 Cambridge Road, S.W.1.

JOIN INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CLUB, 55 Gower Street, W.C.1. Subscription, 7s. 6d. per annum. Luncheons, and Teas in the Cafeteria and in the garden. Thursday Club Suppers and Discussion Meetings re-open in September, 27th September. A Joint Reception with the International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

SUMMER SCHOOLS.—National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, Portinscale, Keswick, 21st Sept. to 28th Sept.—Apply, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster. Edinburgh Society for Equal Citizenship, Week-end School, Dunblane, Scotland, 5th-8th Oct.—Apply, 40 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh.

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