

THE
WOMAN'S LEADER

IN POLITICS IN INDUSTRY IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
 IN THE HOME IN LITERATURE AND ART IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND

THE COMMON CAUSE

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POLICY.—The sole policy of THE WOMAN'S LEADER is to advocate a real equality of liberties, status and opportunities between men and women. So far as space permits, however, it will offer an impartial platform for topics not directly included in the objects of the women's movement, but of special interest to women. Articles on these subjects will always be signed, at least by initials or a pseudonym, and for the opinions expressed in them the Editor accepts no responsibility.

NOTES AND NEWS

Traffic in Women and Children.

The Assembly of the League spent a heated and difficult morning last week discussing the subject of the trade in women and children. The struggle between France and England, to which we referred last week, continued, and again France, in the person of M. Hanotaux, was beaten by Mr. Balfour. The French attitude is strange. M. Hanotaux, brilliant and subtle, did everything in his power to postpone the signing of the Convention, while Mr. Balfour, realising the danger of delay, urged that no bureaucratic red-tape reasons should prevail. Finally, France was defeated and the British proposal adopted by thirty to nil. Immediately, sixteen nations signed the Convention, and the adhesion of many more is expected immediately after the return of the delegates to their own countries.

Woman Suffrage in Belgium.

The conflict between the Chamber and the Senate in Belgium is becoming more and more bitter over the question of woman suffrage in the provincial elections. Last week the Chamber rejected the Woman Suffrage Bill, which had been adopted by the Senate, by 89 votes to 66, with 9 abstentions. The Left voted against the reform in the Chamber, accusing the Right of advocating it purely in order to catch votes. The Right indignantly replied that they were in favour of the Bill because, for communal elections, this reform had already been carried. The Bill must now return to the Senate, and we trust that the battledore and shuttlecock game will not go on much longer.

The Common Serjeant.

The Common Serjeant seems to imagine that the province of a jury is to keep a male prisoner in countenance. He was trying a man for a grave libel on the character of a married woman. The prisoner did not deny the offence, but pleaded justification, while the prosecution alleged that the letter was written for the purpose of blackmailing the woman's family. For some reason or other the Serjeant directed that the women jurors should

be discharged and replaced by men. He did not trust himself to give a reason, but oracularly remarked that "certain matters to be dealt with in the case made that course desirable." In other words, the Serjeant, and no doubt the prisoner, preferred that arrangement, and the lady who had been libelled did not much matter.

The Common Lodging House.

Our readers will remember that some months ago we published some very striking articles entitled "Over the Border." The writer of those articles tells us that she still finds, in her visits to the London common lodging houses, that young girls drift in who are in trouble, but who do not intend to go on to the streets, and that they are invariably pulled down by the women of the regular prostitute class who live in these houses. An effort is being made to get a by-law passed, fixing an age limit of admission for girls to common lodging houses, but the question of this new by-law must turn on the existence or provision of alternative accommodation for young girls. Liverpool has already taken steps to this effect, and in London a list is being made of existing shelters in every district. Everyone who read those soul-stirring articles will appreciate the danger of allowing girls still amenable to influence, lonely and in trouble, to drift into those refuges for prostitutes, run for private profit, for lack of safer accommodation.

Hostels for Women Workers.

The Sub-Committee on Co-operative and Communal Arrangements of the Housing Advisory Council of the Ministry of Health have been considering the question of women's hostels. Although the Committee's original terms of reference dealt only with the provision of hostels in connection with the State-aided housing schemes, it was felt that the housing of women workers was a most pressing question. The Report, just issued, says that the demand for accommodation is not confined to the poorest classes, and the need cannot be met merely by the provision of

the ordinary lodging-house type of accommodation. There must be some assistance, direct or indirect, from the State or the municipalities. The Committee, of which Lady Emmott is Chairman, recommend that two classes of hostels should be provided; small ones to house fifteen to twenty girls, for which purpose large houses could be used, and large hostels holding seventy-five to two hundred women, for which new buildings will be required. This is one of those urgent needs which no Anti-Waste candidate should deny, since it affects the health and well-being of so many women, and the provision of these hostels would ease the housing pressure considerably.

Teeth.

Mrs. Edward Mellanby has been appointed by the Medical Research Council and the Ministry of Health to serve on the Committee which is investigating the causes of dental decay. The fact that she collaborated with her husband in research on rickets and the dietetic problems connected with this disease of malnutrition, indicates that the relations between the feeding of infants and young children and bad teeth is a main line of the Committee's inquiry. Far too long we have regarded dental decay as a result of civilisation, and have been content to spend enormous sums on remedying its ravages or in arresting them. If the Committee's inquiries result in transferring the blame from the majestic march of progress to our inefficiency in domestic catering, matters will begin to look more hopeful. It is very appropriate that a woman should take a leading part in investigating a condition of things which could be improved, if not entirely improved away, by better pre-natal care, breast-feeding, more scientific catering, more intelligent cooking, and a wholesome acceptance of the fact that a baby, even though it does trail clouds of glory, is a young animal, and that teeth are the tools with which nature provides it, as well as an adornment useful if it should become a film star.

Milk for Mothers.

We feel we cannot protest too often or too strongly against the Ministry of Health's recent decision to cut down the 50 per cent. grants on expenditure for milk for expectant and nursing mothers and for children under three. We realise that the giving of milk in cases of necessity at less than cost price, or even entirely free, must be regarded as a form of relief. We feel, however, that it is very desirable that this relief should be left in the hands of Infant Welfare Centres, since these are able, by means of the expert physicians attached to them, to prescribe the right amount of milk and watch the result on mother and child. No such supervision would be possible if relief in the form of milk giving were placed in the hands of the Guardians, who have not the necessary machinery for such work. We therefore hope that sanitary authorities and the public will protest against the reduction in the amount of grant payable on this service, which is likely to prove even more valuable during the coming winter than it has already shown itself to be in the past.

Child Slavery in Hong-Kong.

Those who have followed the course of events with regard to the child slavery in Hong-Kong, both in the House of Parliament and in the Colony itself, will be interested to know that a mass meeting was convened there on July 30th last by the chief supporter of the "mui tsai" custom in the Colony, the Hon. Mr. Lau Chu Pak, an unofficial member of the Legislative Council, and the chief adviser of the Secretary for Chinese Affairs, and (in all matters relating to the Chinese) of the Governor himself. In giving notice of the meeting he issued an invitation to "discuss our old practice of keeping servant girls" (which is his description of this custom, which is so contrary to British ideals of freedom and justice), and 500 Chinese availed themselves of it. For one hour and twenty minutes he pressed the following points upon his audience. That because this custom goes on unchecked in China, therefore it was not forbidden by Chinese law. (The Under-Secretary for the Colonies stated in the House on May 4th, 1921, that this custom is illegal in China.) That this practice is, in the greater number of instances, a "presentation" (for money, be it noted!) and not a sale. He did not add, what was subsequently stated by Dr. Yeung, that the presentation is permitted to go further still, and the possessor of a "mui tsai" can make a present of her to somebody else, if he has a mind to! Mr. Lau Chu Pak said further that because buying for prostitution is forbidden by law, therefore it does not take place with regard to "mui tsai," but only in the case of children who are bought for "adoption." (The Colonial Office repeatedly deny that there is any connection between the "adopted" children in Hong-Kong and the purchase for immoral purposes. On December 8th, 1920, Mr. Amery spoke

of these children as "adopted daughters" in reply to Mr. Shortt. Now, we have the chief adviser in Chinese matters to the Hong-Kong Government stating in public that "those who buy and keep girls for prostitution generally make special arrangements with the girls' parents, and pay higher prices for them, and in some cases they pretend to buy for adoption.") The Hon. Mr. Lau Chu Pak declared at a later point in the proceedings that if the "mui tsai" system were suppressed, the concubine system would also have to go. This remark of his, and, indeed, the whole subject, leaves one pondering.

Champion for the Mui Tsai.

It is refreshing to learn that a Chinese gentleman, Dr. Yeung Shiu-chuen, spoke against this infamous custom and championed the cause of the "mui tsai." He said that it could not be denied that some "mui tsai" were bought with the intention of reselling them as prostitutes, and that the practice of the direct selling of "mui tsai" for prostitution was called *tse chu fa*, the girls being described not as "mui tsai" but as "adopted daughters." The custom, he said, was the greatest feeder of the brothels, and the degradation of human beings, their kidnapping or sale, would never be checked while the "mui tsai" system existed. As to the use of the "mui tsai" for sexual purposes by their masters, he said that they were frequently taken as concubines. The "mui tsai" must have someone to fight their battles for them, for they are quite unable to fight them for themselves. Enumerating the hardships which "mui tsai" frequently suffer, Dr. Yeung proceeded: "They have no liberty, but must give complete obedience to their masters; owners can chastise them, whether justly or unjustly; any complaint by the 'mui tsai' means extra punishment; the 'mui tsai' is under the orders of several members of the household, and is often whipped for not carrying out conflicting orders; they are sometimes kept up all night to fan the mistress of the house, while she played the game of 'ma cheuk.' If the girl dozed she would be punished." All this is a most serious indictment against the domestic custom of "adopting" girls, and it is obvious that it requires the most careful investigation on the spot. Legal measures, as well as inquiry, are no doubt necessary, but the first step should be the establishment of a Commission of British and Chinese ladies in Hong-Kong, to report on the actual situation of these children. In addition, a Foundlings' Home and Industrial Colony should be established, for the fact that in a territory over which the British have jurisdiction child-hawkers throng the streets, is a disgrace which we ought not to tolerate for a moment.

Disabled Nurses.

Disabled war nurses in receipt of a disability pension, may, if they are unable to return to their pre-war occupation, apply for free training in some other profession. The scheme allows for the payment of training fees and the maximum pension, and applications should reach the Controller, Women's Training Branch, Ministry of Labour, St. Ermines, S.W. 1, on or before October 31st. Nurses, however, who are demobilised after that date, may have three months from the date of their demobilisation in which to apply, and nurses who are in attendance either at a convalescent centre of the Ministry of Pensions, or as in-patients at a War Office or Ministry of Pensions hospital may apply within three months of their discharge.

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WOMEN IN COUNCIL.

Year by year the meetings and conferences of the big women's organisations mark the progress of the civic consciences of women, and perhaps the best register of all is the annual meeting of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland. This body, by reason of its size and its comprehensiveness, can never be in that unpopular minority which constitutes the vanguard of a new movement. Being, as it is, the general amalgamation of all the women's social and political bodies, it necessarily treads a middle course, curbing the agitators, and pulling along the sleepy minded, and doing incalculable good to both sections in the process.

When we say that the N.C.W. includes all the women's organisations, however, we must make one important exception, for it includes none of those women's bodies which are directly affiliated to the Labour Party. That this is the case is not the fault of the Council, which has, again and again, invited that "co-operation without commitment," which it is its care to secure. But the Labour women have persistently and consistently refused to have any part in this or any other movement in which other women take a share, to their own and everyone's exceeding loss. We should be very glad to publish in these columns any explanation on their behalf of this official attitude. For our part we profoundly deplore it, and so, we believe, do a great many of those women whose political sympathies are Labour, but who are not tied tightly in the party bonds.

With this exception, however, the N.C.W. does include the vast majority of the organised efforts of women for public work; it contains both propagandist bodies, such as the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, and more strictly administrative ones, such as the National Organisation for Girls' Clubs, and its deliberations, therefore, and all the other ramifications of its complex, but efficient machinery, enable it to call upon both theory and practice in securing its considered opinions.

This great Council held its annual conferences last week, in Sheffield, under the chairmanship of the Countess of Selborne, where it adopted, with practical unanimity, a number of resolutions dealing with the position of women and the protection of children. The nature of these resolutions show how far public opinion has advanced in the last year, and we find reason for unmingled satisfaction in their purport. The Council approved the principle of equal pay for equal work; it protested strongly against the destruction of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, and supported a resolution favouring the continuation of Trade Boards; it supported Equal Guardianship and the separate taxation of married women, and the increased use of women on juries; and every one of these things are among the immediate objects which this paper supports. We get new hope from this evidence that women of all sorts and kinds support these aims of ours.

In addition to these subjects, the Council adopted a number of proposals for the better protection of children and young people, particularly in regard to their moral surroundings. It called for the licensing of theatres, the censorship of films, and for an inquiry into the treatment of juvenile delinquents. It also urged extended education in citizenship, and showed, as is, of course, natural and right, that the women of this country are keenly alive to the needs of their children, and are anxious to use their political power in this, among other directions.

One other resolution, passed by the Council with but nine dissentients, was one calling for the practical limitation of armaments, and the delegates who spoke supported this both because of the need for present economy, and because of their hatred of war. As one delegate said, if nothing is now done, and if we sink back into the old habits, our sons will have died in vain, and our grandsons will go out to fight once more the battle which should be ended now. In giving the support of the organised women of the country to this cause, the N.C.W. has taken an important step. For in these days of enfranchisement the support of women is a very valuable thing.

Besides the business meetings, the Conference week contained a number of public gatherings, and much very generous private hospitality, with drives upon the moors and visits to the interesting factories and armament works which Sheffield contains. Perhaps, more valuable still, it provided that occasion for personal contact between workers in different fields, and for discussion of the problems which arise from practical experience. The Council assembled a large body of women who are carrying on the varying details which make up social work, and from such a meeting place they carry back refreshment and new courage for their tasks.

The President of the Council for the ensuing year is the Lady Frances Balfour.

Y.W.C.A. CLUBS.

By EVELYN W. MOORE.

"The Y.W.C.A. in Service for the Girls of the World"—thus were the aims of the Association concisely stated the other day by an American member.

To be of service to girls of all classes, under all conditions—to be able to help them wisely in the extraordinary complexities of modern life and thought—above all to show them that through Christian fellowship each has a place where her own special contribution can be made, is a great and inspiring task claiming all our faith and enthusiasm.

Take, for example, the life of the average girl in a small manufacturing town in the Midlands. She is working at one of the many more or less skilled occupations which the trade of the town provides. Her evenings are her free time and her interest in life is centred round those short evening hours. She wants change and enjoyment and a chance to express herself, but she seeks them restlessly and often unconsciously. The town itself probably cannot offer her more than a choice of cinemas, an occasional play or variety entertainment from a touring company, and a local concert. If she is outside the range of the Churches (and she probably is) the streets and poorer class of cinema will be her chief resource. The coming of a girls' club into the town, well planned and on a large scale, can alter the whole outlook of such a girl. There are a great many other girls joining, so she does not feel odd, and there is plenty going on, so she is not bored.

In Walsall there is such a club (to take one out of many in the country) and it is a genuine part of the life of the town. Its membership and vitality are proved by the attendance register, between 800 to 900 attendances per week being recorded. The educational programme is well thought out; the guide work is strong; but the greatest impression left on the mind of the visitor is that in Walsall, club membership stands for service to the community. Groups of girls will be found giving help to outside activities: the funds of the club are largely raised by the efforts of its members, and the whole atmosphere is one of service.

One thinks of a smaller club in another centre. Here the numbers are smaller, and a younger and more lively type of girl forms the majority. Discipline is probably more difficult to obtain, but a dramatic class has found the way out. This has meant everything to some of the wilder members. It has provided an outlet for their otherwise untamed spirits, and given them an absorbing interest throughout the winter months. A Play Centre has been organised in connection with this club, and the senior members give regular and quite invaluable help on the play evenings. The boys who, at first, only came occasionally to a mixed social have now a dramatic class of their own and are as interested as the girls in their work. Thus, in its smaller way, this club is also a centre for social service.

A third (and very different) experiment of the Y.W.C.A. is the Portsmouth Blue Triangle Club at 12, Grosvenor Place. This club was originally started for the use of educated girls in uniform, and at one time no less than nineteen different women's war organisations were represented in its membership. During the demobilisation period the club was in tremendous demand, its sleeping accommodation of twenty beds being taxed to the uttermost. At the beginning of 1919, at a general meeting of its members, it was decided to put the club on to a permanent basis. It was agreed to restrict the membership to women between the ages of seventeen to thirty-five on joining, in order to keep the club as young as possible, and that an essential qualification for membership must be either war service in a recognised organisation or work entailing some form of social service.

The membership now stands at well over 800, and the club has a unique atmosphere of friendliness about it. As it is primarily intended for girls earning their own living, a great effort is made to keep the prices of food as low as possible, so that members can afford to entertain their own friends at the club. The canteen arrangements are therefore very simple, members waiting on themselves and their guests. Certain members have undertaken regular duty at one of the very poorest Y.W.C.A. centres near Vauxhall, and we hope very much that this small beginning may some day develop into a more ambitious scheme. We should like to see the Portsmouth Club members adopt some less favoured club and become responsible for its work.

BURNING QUESTIONS.

We call the attention of our readers to the fact that in the heading of "Burning Questions" we endeavour to present the political thinkers. We do not ourselves express an editorial opinion, beyond this, that it is each woman's business first to be well-informed and then to come to her own opinion.

A REVIEW OF THE RISE AND GROWTH OF THE MOVEMENT FOR WOMEN POLICE.

In all progressive movements there comes the psychological moment in which an idea—that has been shaping itself in many minds—takes form, and as it comes to birth so are born the men and women who are to give it nurture and lead it to maturity. The war was the psychological moment which enabled those who had long felt that police forces should consist of both men and women to put this conviction into practice. Within a few days of the declaration of war, in 1914, the National Union of Women Workers (now the National Council of Women) had, with the consent of the Home Office, the War Office, and the Admiralty, organised the now famous Women Patrols.

A Woman Patrols' Committee was formed, of which, throughout the whole period of the war, Mrs. Carden, O.B.E., was Hon. Secretary, and within a very few months between 2,000 and 3,000 of these voluntary patrols were enrolled. Each patrol carried a card signed by the Chief Constable of the district in which she was working, authorising the police to give her every assistance in their power, and wore the official armband of the National Council of Women inscribed with her number. The card and armband were the official guarantee that she was working with the express sanction of the local Police Authority and of the Central Patrol Committee, and neither were transferable.

These patrols were voluntary part-time workers who gave one or more evenings a week, year in, year out, to patrol the streets, public parks and open spaces, railway stations, and places of amusement in the interests of the young girls and indirectly of the soldiers and sailors with whom they were thronged.

In many places they worked under a whole-time leader, and the National Council of Women had a band of organisers who went about the country starting the work, and in that way keeping it on more or less the same lines.

The experiment proved a complete success and extended all over the United Kingdom, and as far as South Africa. In all, some 7,000 patrols were enrolled—paid and voluntary.

In 1916, Sir Edward Henry, the then Commissioner of Police, who from the start had cordially supported the movement, applied to the National Council of Women for a number of patrols to assist the police in selected areas. They were paid at the rate of 7½d an hour, but were not employed individually by the Commissioner, but through the N.U.W.W., with whom he contracted for a supply of thirty patrols.

The innovation succeeded, and in 1917 the N.U.W.W. decided to form a body of whole-time paid patrols, under a specially trained supervisor, Mrs. Stanley. They still had a large number of part-time voluntary patrols at work in London under a paid organiser.

By June the Commissioner was employing forty whole-time women patrols attached to police stations in the Metropolitan areas, in addition to a large number of part-time paid women. They were also employed with the Metropolitan Police at Woolwich Arsenal and the Royal Cordite Factory, and in a number of other places.

In August, 1918, Sir Nevil Macready succeeded Sir Edward Henry as Commissioner. He was fully convinced that it was in the interests of the community that some police duties should be discharged by women, and equally convinced that any women so employed should become an integral part of the police force.

With the consent of the Home Secretary, Sir Nevil Macready appointed a small division of women police, known as the Metropolitan Police Women Patrols, with Mrs. Stanley, the Supervisor of the N.U.W.W. Paid Patrols, as their Superintendent. The division was formed from the whole-time patrols of the National Union of Women Workers, from the Women's Police Service, and from the open market. All applicants have to pass a strict medical examination and the special selection board at New Scotland Yard. If successful they are given instruction at Peel House on the same lines as men. Full uniform is supplied; the pay is now that recommended in the Report of the Home Office Committee, and they are an integral part of the Metropolitan Police Force, but have not, up to the present,

made the declaration of a constable. Their work is of great and growing importance and its sphere is continually widening.

Both the Women's Patrol Committee and the Women's Police Service, of which more will be said later, set out with the aim of creating the official policewoman, and having attained it for the Metropolis, the former body withdrew their voluntary patrols from London.

We have traced the evolution of the policewomen in London, but the work in the provinces and in Scotland has been hardly less important. Part-time voluntary patrols were started all over the country in 1914-1915 by the Headquarters Organisers. It was soon realised by Miss Joseph, one of the first of the N.U.W.W. Organisers in the West of England, that the work had come to stay, but that regular training facilities must be available for the women undertaking it; and, further, that such training should be obtainable in the provinces, where conditions are so different from those in London. This realisation led, in 1915, to the formation, under a representative Committee, of the Bristol School for Policewomen and Patrols, with Miss Peto, O.B.E., as Director.

During the five years of its existence an extraordinary amount of work was accomplished, of which only a small portion can be recorded here. One important innovation was the training of whole-time women for Somerset. They were an unqualified success, and in one town they were placed on the rates.

Patrols for the Q.M.A.A.C.'s and the W.R.A.F.'s were suggested by the schools to the Heads of these services, and led to the War Office appointing them and doing the School the honour of entrusting it with their training, Miss Peto first being sent by the War Office to France to study the special needs of the Q.M.A.A.C. with the Expeditionary Force. Seven officers and 184 other ranks were trained for that service, and one officer and forty-eight other ranks for the W.R.A.F., and when, in 1919, the training was transferred to London, Miss Peto took temporary charge; but the Armistice brought this part of the work to an end with cordial recognition from all the Commands and also from Overseas of the value of the patrols to the corps.

A great deal of propaganda work was accomplished. Miss Peto went all over England, to Scotland, and even as far as Denmark, on the invitation of the Danish Council of Women, to explain the work of, and need for, policewomen. Her visits to Scotland led to the desire for a Training School of their own, and this was formed in 1918, Miss Tancred, their Director, receiving the major part of her training at the Bristol School.

It was decided to link the schools together by means of a Central Committee composed of representatives from each, and this was strengthened in 1919 by the addition of Liverpool, whose voluntary patrols, under the able leadership of Miss Cowlin, had rendered conspicuous service throughout the war, and who was now training whole-time women paid by the Watch Committee. The importance of what was being done may be gauged by the fact that the Carnegie Trustees made a grant of £1,200 to the Central Committee in recognition of the national value of their work.

"The Women's Police Service" was started almost contemporaneously with the patrols. This began as the "Women Police Volunteers," and was formed by Miss Nina Boyle, its initial work being service at the railway stations at the time they were flooded by Belgian refugees. Early in 1915, one of Miss Boyle's principal helpers, the late Miss Damer Dawson, severed her connection with the parent body and formed the much better-known "Women's Police Service." These were unofficial policewomen in uniform who did cognate work to that of the patrols of the N.U.W.W. in streets and open spaces and around camps, in railway stations, &c. Their most important work was the policing of munition factories, which was entrusted to them by the Minister of Munitions in 1916, and which they discharged with conspicuous success until the close of the war. In all, between 900 and 1,000 women were supplied by them for this important work.

(To be continued.)

F. C. J.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER
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No. 1.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1921.

MONTHLY.

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SOME NOVELS.

- An Enthusiast. By E. C. Somerville. (Longmans. 8s. 6d.)
- The Singing Captives. By E. B. C. Jones. (Cobden-Sanderson. 6s.)
- The Blue Hat. By Margaret Westrup. (T. Fisher Unwin. 7s. 6d.)
- If Winter Comes. By A. S. M. Hutchinson. (Hodder & Stoughton. 7s. 6d.)
- Vera. By the Author of "Elizabeth and Her German Garden." (Macmillan. 7s. 6d.)

There are those amongst us who used to think of the authors of "Some Experiences of an Irish R.M." as humorous writers. This was perhaps, because we had been accustomed to think of the Irish as a comic nation. Events—and especially those of the last nine months—have shaken this point of view, and in re-reading even the earlier books of E. C. Somerville and Martin Ross our thoughts dwell most on the deep vein of tragedy. The latest book of the remaining collaborator is a novel dealing with 1920, and though it is as full, or almost as full, of bright flashes of wit, and of tender, laughing descriptions of animals and humans, as those written with her friend in past days, there can be no doubt as to its essential sadness. Dan Palliser, a young Irishman of the landlord class, having gone through the European war and inherited an estate, determines to devote himself to farming and to Ireland, and to eschew all private and political strife. It does not take long to make all parties regard him as a traitor. Even without the deliberate seduction practised on him by Lady Ducarrig, his single-minded endeavour was doomed from the first, in a country where, as the author says in her preface, "the cold virtue of impartiality is practically unknown."

The title of "Singing Captives" is taken from a line in Webster's "White Devil":—

"We think caged birds sing, when indeed they cry."

It is a sincere and delicately finished study of a group of caged birds, a rich modern family imprisoned in the conventions of their class and race and period, in their narrow education, and the too comfortable lives they lead. Caroline Peel, the central figure is conscious of her cage. She is a sensitive pessimist, an ironist with emotions that are only too easily stirred; life can hurt her too much; she shrinks from it, and in doing so unconsciously withdraws herself from those to whom she is drawn by her affections. The solitude that she has thus created for herself is broken into by a catastrophe that destroys the family fortunes. In the light of it Caroline suddenly realises that the family she has despised are, like herself, captives, even though singing ones; the realisation breaks down some of the bars of her own cage. The book, like "Quiet Interior," shows a real psychological insight focussed upon a very small circle. The style is restrained and yet quite normal; it has a delicate but exquisite beauty which will make the book very attractive to those whose ears are open to this kind of bird-song, and whose own cages are not too remote from these captives of 1920.

"The Blue Hat" is the story of the transplantation of a little London-bred milliner's assistant to Cornwall and a colony of artists. Minnie's growing fear of, and hatred for the alien

nature and the alien human beings, coupled, as regards the latter, with contempt for their "fiddling about with paint tubes and bits of canvas," and their inability to accomplish any "real work," is very well done. Her husband Jim, with his kindness and stupidity, and absorption in the changing colours of sea and sky, is also quite convincing. The story is too long drawn out, and all the part of it that relates to "Julian Eversleigh" and the perplexities of Nancy might have been omitted without loss.

This fault of over-lengthiness is much more trying in another recent story of an incompatible marriage, "If Winter Comes." It stretches over the years between 1908 and 1919, and includes a great many people and a great many descriptions, as well as references to a large number of public events. It is quite impossible to bear with the sentimental and conventionally un-conventional hero through all this; when, somewhere about the three-hundredth too closely printed page, he gets "haemorrhage on the brain," the reader feels too much in danger of the same fate to have any keen interest as to whether he recovers or not.

Since the creation of Willoughby Patterne, the attempt to portray egoists has been a favourite exercise with English-writing novelists. In Meredith's hands it was a subtle business, tending to make most of us feel that we had seen something horrible, and that we were not quite certain whether the frame which surrounded it was that of a case or a mirror. The delineation of egoists in recent fiction has been coarser; the portraits have become so monstrous that we have gradually felt reassured. We have realised that contemporary novelists were not trying to show us any aspect of themselves or ourselves, but merely sharing with us their enjoyable vengeance on some dearly-hated relation or friend. This movement reaches its climax in the latest book by the author of "Elizabeth and Her German Garden." In "Vera" the morbid taint which is faintly suggested by some of the author's earlier books becomes painfully evident. "Elizabeth" does not attempt to make Wemyss real or even possible, she only revels in making him monstrous. She loses all care for art and lets herself go in describing his behaviour. One cannot help feeling that she enjoys making it as disgusting as she can. As a novel the book cannot be taken seriously: it offers food for thought to psycho-analysts.

I. B. O'MALLEY.

Eudocia. By Eden Phillpotts. (Heinemann. 7s. 6d.)

Mr. Eden Phillpotts, perceiving that the Byzantine spirit is not dead, has made for our amusement and warning a "comedy royal" out of the circumstances which obtained for Eudocia, widow of Constantine, her release from an oath of perpetual widowhood. Eudocia is romantic and beautiful; her lover, Romanus Diogenes, is a picturesque captain of a barbarian body-guard of the Byzantine Cæsars; the courtiers are as foolish, and the court fool as wise as befits a comedy which is, at the same time, a satire. The patriarch who releases Eudocia from her vow so that she may wed his brother, is very properly discomfited, and Eudocia's more excusable duplicity wins all along the line. Nothing could be less like Mr. Phillpotts' Dartmoor, but here, as in his more familiar vein, the landscape is more important and attractive than the people.

BOOKS ON PSYCHOLOGY.

The Psychology of Industry. By James Drever, M.A., B.Sc., D.Phil. (Methuen. 5s. net.)

The Old Psychology, says Dr. Drever, sought for "light on the nature and destiny of the human soul." The New Psychology studies human nature "in order practically to control human behaviour and make it more efficient in our own case as well as in the case of other people.

Thus, where Socrates contented himself with inquiring what was "the good man," the New Psychologist, we take it, will try to turn himself and other people into "good men." That is a fascinating notion, but, alas, in this book it is given only the narrowest possible interpretation, and we are called upon to admire increased output, no matter of what.

In one firm an "intelligence test" was applied which resulted in "removing some of the most industrious and reliable of the girls." But the output was increased. Intelligence tests, it would seem, are the great new invention. The U.S.A. got efficient soldiers for the Great War by selecting those who labelled "pompous" and "ostentatious" as synonyms. Did murder of the King's English, we wonder, warrant them apt at killing?

We can fancy the Pyramid builders might have employed some such dodges to secure efficiency. But are they scientific?

The book leaves one with a feeling that common sense has been left out. "The work is being assiduously pursued at the present time in several laboratories" of testing the qualities and traits that make a good salesman. But what if a boy has set his heart on being a salesman, or if nothing will induce him to enter the profession?

Does this kind of New Psychology tend to the omission of factors which do not lend themselves to being marked and measured? That is the impression we get. For instance, a story is quoted of two apple-growing estates called upon to meet an urgent order. In one of these estates the men worked shorter hours and yet they filled more cases. This is said to be a "striking demonstration of the fact that overtime is sometimes highly uneconomical." We remember Mill's Plurality of Causes, and should like to know how the two teams compared.

It is symptomatic of the present state of Europe that we require psychology to be a handmaid to materialism. Some day we shall return to sanity and recover our interest in the nature and destiny of the human soul. Then Industrial Psychology will take a wider outlook and not lose sight of the wood for the trees.

The Psychology of Day-Dreams. By Dr. J. Varendonck. (George Allen & Unwin. 18s. net.)

Dr. Varendonck was serving at the front when he conceived the idea, following a hint from Freud, of studying and analysing his own day-dreams, in order to trace their connection with the dream-proper on the one hand, and, on the other, with trains of conscious, directed thought.

His inquiry is pursued in this book with a candour, a patience, and an accuracy that remind one of Freud himself. Never, surely, were wandering thoughts so conscientiously examined. He dogs their steps as they retreat into the unconscious depths and become merged in visual hallucination; he follows their tracks as they remount into consciousness, and clothe themselves in verbal form; and all the time no interconnection, important or trivial, escapes his watchful eye, no trait goes unrecorded. For the most part the book is stiff reading, but occasionally Dr. Varendonck opens vistas before us, as when he suggests analogies between foreconscious chains of thought (as he calls his day-dreams) and ancient Greek and Hebrew dialogue, children's games of the question and answer type, and the method of instruction by catechism. In all alike the aim is to solve a problem, develop a theme or situation. This, too, is the aim of conscious thought, but while that is directed by the will, foreconscious chains of thought are directed by the feelings. When the two coincide we experience something akin to inspiration.

The great merit of undirected thought is its access to the stores of unconscious memory, where all that was once perceived is registered. "Memories of whose existence we were

ignorant flash through the mind: they help us or distract us, bring us a solution or make us swerve from it." "When the foreconscious ideation is in full sway, the memory is no longer an inert mass. . . . It appears, on the contrary, as a dynamic contrivance possessing a pressure of its own, something like the internal fire of our planet; it passes from latency to activity, making itself felt as soon as it becomes freed from the weight with which conscious repression keeps it down in waking life." (P. 111.)

Dr. Varendonck does not escape that pre-evolutionary view of morality—the fallacy of ignoring moral evolution—which clings to so many exponents of psycho-analysis. The theory has no necessary connection with Freud's great discoveries, but it would seem to be taken over with them uncritically by Jung and other followers.

Dr. Varendonck at least puts it plainly, so plainly that it is easy to detect the implied error. "The history of mental evolution," he says, "teaches us that consciousness is mainly the result of successive repression of our affections. We are able to act and think voluntarily only in so far as we are capable of silencing our feelings."

"If man has become a conscious organism, thanks to the relative mastery he has acquired over his feelings, he has not succeeded in vanquishing nature entirely—that is, he has not been able wholly to free his intellectual memory, the basis of his intellect, from the affective and motor memory." (P. 244.)

What, pray, but feeling, ever led a man to master his feelings; and if we aim at vanquishing nature, is it not our nature so to aim? The true antithesis, surely, is between higher feelings and lower, not between feeling and intellect, which are incomparable.

M. K. BRADBY.

POLITICS IN TWO CONTINENTS.

The Passing of the New Freedom. By James M. Beck. (Doran, New York. 7s. 6d.)

Mr. Beck's book consists of an attack upon President Wilson. It takes the form of two imaginary dialogues between the leading personalities of the Paris Peace Conference, accompanied by two explanatory essays on the American Constitution in relation to the policy and personality of the ex-President. The dialogues are, however, not wholly imaginary; they are interspersed with passages (indicated by quotation marks) lifted bodily from the actual writings or speeches of the persons into whose mouths they are put. This method of isolating utterances and giving them an artificial context has one advantage from the point of view of the would-be satirist: it intensifies their original absurdity. And this is particularly so in the case of President Wilson—though, indeed, it is difficult to imagine a setting which could palliate the utter fatuity of such a statement as the following:—"Until the advent of America in the war, the Allied armies were inspired by no high ideals and were fighting with lowered heads, and it was not until they heard the accents of America's ideals that they lifted their heads and raised their eyes to heaven. . . . Did Wilson really say that? We can hardly believe it. And yet—the passage is enclosed in inverted commas.

As a matter of fact it must be confessed that Mr. Beck's dialogues are not very good. Their satire is laboured, and they are written throughout in the language of Mrs. Marcet's "Conversations on Political Economy." This phraseology appears singularly unsuitable when attributed to such persons as Clemenceau and Lloyd George. His essays are, however, more interesting. They reflect a form of political faith which has no exact parallel in this country, and which it is a little difficult for English people to understand, i.e., a simple and unshaken belief in the plenary inspiration of the "Fathers" who made the U.S.A. Constitution. Such understanding is difficult for us, not merely because in the political field we have no written constitution upon which to focus it, but also because we have got out of the habit of believing in the plenary inspiration of any document. Only in those ever-narrowing circles of religious thought which still refuse to compromise with the Higher Criticism, only among the faithful adherents of Marxian socialism, do we meet the spirit which inspires Mr. Beck's ecstatic eulogy of his Constitution. But this, of course, is nothing to boast about. We can claim no merit for abandoning our old reliance upon the written word of the past unless we generate a new reliance upon the unfolding experience of the

present. Without doubt, Edmund Burke dead is a safer political guide than Lloyd George living.

Nevertheless, apart from the merits or demerits of such a view-point, apart from the merits or demerits of Mr. Beck's unconscious exposition of it, here is a psychological phenomenon which it is important for us to study. When we have done so, America's attitude to the League of Nations will become a shade more explicable.

The Future of Local Government. By G. D. H. Cole. (Cassell. 5s.)

Mr. Cole brings forward in "The Future of Local Government," a scheme of reorganisation which stands in sharp contradiction to that outlined by Mr. and Mrs. Webb in their recent book "A Constitution for the Socialist Commonwealth of Great Britain." Mr. and Mrs. Webb suggest the break up of England, for local government purposes, into minute "ward" areas, each with one or more directly elected representative, and with power to group themselves into larger *ad hoc* bodies for the performance of their various functions. Mr. Cole, on the other hand, suggests the creation of "regional" authorities responsible for the administration of immense areas varying in population between the metropolitan area with 9.6 million inhabitants, and Wessex with 1.9. These "regions" would, of course, contain both urban and rural populations, and would in some cases, as in the "region" of Lancastria, comprise the whole of a large industry. This last fact leads Mr. Cole to suggest the "region" as a convenient unit of socialisation for a certain type of industry. The book is, of course, written with an eye on the Guild Socialist future; thus its author provides for the development of his scheme on the lines of vocational control, functional representation, and what Friedrich Engels would call "the withering away of the State."

The scheme is, however, something more than an enlargement of the Guild Socialist programme. It is, as the author explains in his final chapter, "a step that would be beneficial even if it were taken in isolation, and the rest of the mechanism of present-day society were left substantially undisturbed." Certainly to persons interested in the problems of Local Government, persons who can at the same time nerve themselves to endure a re-statement of Mr. Cole's conviction that one man cannot possibly represent another except for the performance of a single definite purpose, this book is to be recommended. It contains a valuable practical suggestion for the devolution of administrative and economic functions onto a body more specially fitted to deal with them than are our Government departments in Whitehall. At the same time, it points to a solution of the eternal problem of how to develop twentieth century public services on a framework of areas which have been determined largely by the strategic necessities of prehistoric England, or by the paternal aspirations of the Tudor monarchs.

M. D. S.

A Political Pilgrim in Europe. By Mrs. Philip Snowden. (Cassell. 7s. 6d.)

Mrs. Snowden has a good right to call herself a pilgrim. So many pilgrimages are recorded or referred to in the tale of her activities from 1919 till the beginning of this year that her book becomes a little confusing to the reader, who never quite knows whether he is in Berne, Baku, or Constantinople. He gathers a general impression that when Mrs. Snowden arrives home from one International Conference she generally finds some one waiting on the doorstep to drag her off to another one. The confusion is increased by the fact that every place she goes to seems to remind her of previous occasions when she has met a different set of people there on behalf of a different organisation, and every individual she meets recalls former meetings in other places and other circumstances. This is an exaggeration, of course, but not a very bad one; it makes one a little breathless even to read about what Mrs. Snowden has

done in these last years—especially when we remember the speeches she must have made—a subject to which she hardly refers. She does tell us a little about almost everything else, from the political conditions of the countries she visited to the washing accommodation (or lack of it) in the trains in which she travelled. But she tells us most about people. The number of political characters of all grades who flit through her pages is amazing. When one has realised that the book has an excellent index, the temptation to pick out from it names of people one knows oneself, and to see how she has described them, becomes overpowering. Having done this, however, one turns back to read about the others, and though there are so many of them that it is a little difficult to take them all in, one gains some very vivid impressions of men and women who are making or marring, or merely muddling, the beginning of a new historical period. Mrs. Snowden is both fair and discreet, but she has given us some shrewd criticisms, and readers who wish to see her amused tolerance of a troublesome person pass into severity towards one who risks discrediting the causes for which she stands, should read her account of her relations with Frau Rosika Schwimmer.

It is hardly necessary to say, however, that the intention of this book is not to give us pleasant or scathing gossip about persons, nor a dazed impression of Mrs. Snowden's own overwhelming activity. It was not merely to see and to talk that the author undauntedly struggled backwards and forwards through a distracted and disorganised Europe. She went in order to find out how those who are suffering most in the present can be helped; how those who are, on the whole, suffering least can be roused in conscience; and what is the kind of future which will give most chances of happiness to all.

Mrs. Snowden is a Socialist, but those who have read her earlier book* will not need to be told that she is no Bolshevik; and some of the most interesting pages in "A Political Pilgrim" are those in which she summarises her objections to Communism, as it has recently been understood. What she saw in her Pilgrimage was not only a world agonising under what is called "material" suffering, children perishing by thousands, and flourishing lands turned to desolation; it was also a world suffering from many different forms of tyranny, and from that all-pervading suspicious terror which is the worst legacy of war. Visiting a young Sinn Feiner in hospital, Mrs. Snowden found that he neither smoked nor drank, and that he passed on the cigarettes she gave him to a comrade.

"It is the rule of the Republican Army," added the gentle Catholic Sister, who was nursing these wounded boys, "that no alcohol must be taken. Would to heaven it were the rule of the British Army, too! But they tell me that Dublin Castle gives drink freely to the men it sends out upon its black errands." She stopped suddenly, and busied herself with one of her patients, in some confusion, for fear she had said too much. It reminded me of a pathetic school teacher in Petrograd, who told me things about herself, thinking I was sympathetic, and then became overwhelmed with fear lest she had made a mistake and revealed her secrets to a Bolshevik spy. "You will not give me away, dear madame? I have said nothing wrong, have I? Only that we are very hungry and very unhappy. Say you will not report what I have said. Swear it! Swear it!" And she pressed my hand for fear of what might befall her till I could have shouted with pain.

This juxtaposition is not accidental. Mrs. Snowden means us to feel that the tyranny of Russian Communists is not essentially different from that of British "Coalitionists," and that tyranny is a curse and a degradation whatever it is called. The most interesting part of the book is that which describes her visit to Ireland. She is one more in the procession of witnesses who have come from England to see and to testify to the sufferings the British Government has caused. Those who will read this part of her book with attention at this time will, perhaps, find it easier than before to understand the distrust and bitterness which has complicated the recent negotiations at Inverness.

I. B. O'MALLEY.

* "Through Bolshevik Russia," published by Cassell. Reviewed in THE WOMAN'S LEADER, September 24th, 1920.

SHORTER NOTICES.

The Mother and the Infant. By Edith V. Eckhard. (G. Bell & Sons. 6s. net.)

Miss Eckhard's book is a most admirable survey. The only possible criticisms that occur to one are that, as is almost inevitable, the events of the time during which the book was actually being written are slightly out of perspective, and that here and there repetitions occur. Readers five years hence will wonder why a private Member's Bill for the Amendment of the Bastardy Laws, which failed, like most private Members' Bills, to pass into law, should occupy so much space. Those who promoted the Bill and worked for its success will, however, rejoice, and let us hope that in due time the reforms they advocated may be attained.

Miss Eckhard begins by explaining the need for Child Welfare work: she quotes vital statistics, though she is delightfully moderate in her use of figures, and she illustrates them by admirable little graphs and charts. She makes it abundantly clear that a high rate of infant mortality is an index of unsatisfactory social conditions, and that infant deaths result from no one cause, but from a complex of causes. She goes on to explain the various means by which infant mortality can be attacked, and in every case her explanations are a model of clearness and terseness. She does not waste words, but she leaves nothing out. It is a most excellent book, full of common sense, moderation, knowledge and reason, and everyone who is interested in this, surely the most vital of all social problems, should hasten to read it.

L. FISHER.

The Passing of the Poor. By M. E. Blyth. (S.P.C.K. 3s. 6d. net.)

Miss Blyth, who came to her work as a country Poor Law Guardian fortified by experience of the wards of a London hospital, a Scottish maternity hospital, and a life-long friendship with the poor of a country district, admits that the existing Poor Law needs amendment, but gives a very pleasant picture of the inmates and officials of at least one union workhouse and infirmary. She says, and one is glad to believe it is so, that the self-respecting poor no longer look upon the workhouse as a refuge for their old age with dislike and distrust, but as a comfortable asylum which they have the right to take advantage of. She deprecates the meagre allowances so often thought sufficient for widows and mothers of young families, mentioning a case where a young woman unable to obtain work received 4s. 6d. in cash and six loaves for herself and five young children, though her only other source of income was half-a-crown a week from her husband's club. The husband himself was in the county asylum. Miss Blyth illustrates her thesis with many stories of poor men and women who have been her friends, and whose "wisdom," she advises us to ponder over and, if possible, pass on for the benefit of future generations. She has a very human touch, and draws upon writers from S. Chrysostom to Stephen Reynolds to support her contentions.

Manual for Health Visitors and Infant Welfare Workers. Edited by Mrs. Enid Eve. (John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

In this manual an account is given of the many and varied activities of the Health Visitor. Her work in towns and in country districts is described, her difficulties and many interests. Chapters are contributed by different writers on such subjects as Infant Welfare, Maternity Centres, Tuberculosis, each very clearly and carefully treated from the point of view of the health worker. Together they give a very full picture of her many duties.

This alone would make the book of great value to those who contemplate taking up the work; but besides, such matters as salaries and holidays are dealt with, and the necessary qualifications, mental and physical, are considered, and full information as to training is given in the appendix.

Much good and practical advice is offered with regard to the difficult matter of personal dealings with the poorer classes, among which so much of the work lies, with some amusing and enlightening personal experiences. Here are two "don'ts"

from the chapter headed "The Tuberculosis Visitor." "Don't be official; remember you are a visitor and therefore a guest." "Don't produce a notebook; in some quarters it may even suggest the policeman's formula—'Anything you may say now may be used in evidence against you.'"

With regard to the relationship of the woman Sanitary Inspector or Health Visitor to her superiors and other workers, some of the observations are not quite so happy. One gathers an impression of the flawless "visitor" urged to deal tactfully with the imperfections of Borough Councillors, Medical Officers of Health, District Nurses, &c. Doubtless they have them, but so also may the Health Visitor. Her recognition of the latter fact would surely make for diminished friction. A good word is put in, however, for the woman assistant M.O.H.

Handwriting Reform. By David Thomas, Director of Education for Carnarvonshire. (Thomas Nelson & Sons. 1s. 6d.)

Mr. Thomas desires to see our writing closely resemble printed characters and each letter consequently divided from its neighbours. The transition from writing to print would, he says (and no doubt justly), be easier for learners, and the "print" writing more easily legible; he brings forward also some evidence to show that children do not write more slowly when they separate the letters than when they join them. But there are observations to be made on the other side of the question. The virtue of the machine-made is one thing, the virtue of the hand-made another; and while to be legible as print is desirable, to be legible like print is to lose all personal character, which is one of the characteristic charms of handwriting. And for this very reason writing that presents a close resemblance to print is not always so very legible. There are young people, nowadays, who write a square, upright hand, as legible as any print and of singular beauty.

In the matter of speed, again, it is surely the rates of adults that should be compared. Children all write—and ought to write—slowly; they ought also to keep the form of each letter well-differentiated; and the isolation of each is doubtless an assistance to the beginner. But a good deal of evidence will be required to outweigh the *a priori* probability that, among adults, a more connected hand is more rapid. And, unquestionably, rapidity is the second among the qualities that a handwriting should possess.

Teaching the Mother Tongue. By Philip Boswood Ballard, M.A., D.Litt. (Hodder & Stoughton. 4s. 6d. net.)

Readers of an impatient temper might do well to peruse Dr. Ballard's five last chapters, which are constructive, before his eight first ones, all of which are devoted to an arraignment of grammar as a school subject. That grammar, as usually taught, is useless, or very nearly useless, and that the great majority of learners dislike it, he proves pretty clearly. But grammar lessons can be given, even to young children, which they will enjoy like a game, and which will leave them interested in words as expressions of thought and with a considerable power of perceiving logical relations. Of this I am sure because I have myself given such lessons. When once he begins to consider what should, rather than what should not, be the way of teaching the native language, Dr. Ballard's energetic and combative good sense is so warming and stimulating that one longs to run out, secure a set of children, and put his principles straightway into practice. He exhorts the teacher to encourage, not to dishearten; to welcome and foster exuberance rather than niggle over verbal errors; to let the children choose their own subjects so that they may be endeavouring to express what they think, instead of acquiring the fatal habit of uttering words with no thoughts behind them. Above all, he urges the vital truth that books are the great teachers of the tongue in which they are written; and declares boldly that, although well-written books are best, yet no book is any good to a child if he can get no pleasure from it, and that an ill-written book is better than none at all. And, as we read Dr. Ballard's own book (with so much pleasure that it must certainly be doing us good), a vision rises before us of a world in which every child has learned the joy of browsing the printed page, and is permitted to browse in peace. Oh, golden age! And oh, what an audience for the journalist who respects his craft!

CLEMENTINA BLACK.

THE NURSING PROFESSION TO-DAY.—IV.

PRIVATE NURSING.

In every considerable town there is sure to be at least one "Nurses' Home," which does not admit in-patients, but acts as an agency for supplying trained nurses to private cases. They are paid a fixed salary and receive their uniform and travelling expenses; and they are expected to live at the "Home"—a species of hostel—in between their spells of duty.

A nurse who attempts to take up private work (other than midwifery) on her own account often has considerable difficulty in making a start and getting sufficient local connection to pay her expenses. If she is personally known to one or two medical men, they may be able to help her a little, but doctors frequently prefer to recommend a nurse from an established agency rather than an acquaintance of their own, since, in the former case, if she should prove unsatisfactory, the patient's friends will blame the agency and not the doctor. And it must be remembered that private nursing requires very special qualities of tact and adaptability; many excellent hospital workers are quite unsuited for it; and a nurse who has gained golden opinions from the vicar's wife may be regarded by Mrs. Newly-Rich as "a stuck-up piece of conceit," or she may succeed in pleasing Mrs. Newly-Rich and shock the vicar's wife by her homely manners and cheerful flow of conversation.

Hence the majority of private nurses are forced to sacrifice their liberty and their fees for the sake of the constant work, the regular if insufficient pay, and the freedom from responsibility of the "Home."

They will soon become unconscious converts to the good old street-corner type of primitive Socialism. For they will behold the proprietor of the Home, who does nothing—or apparently nothing—except make appointments and answer telegrams, smilingly pocketing their hard-earned guineas, whilst they, the nurses, who do all the dirty work, must be content with thirty-odd pounds a year and a standard of dietary and rigidity of discipline which recalls the Seminary for Young Ladies of our grandmothers' days. They may have been well broken in by their earlier experiences as hospital probationers, but now they are older, they have received—or they ought to have received—their full training; they have, perhaps, exercised the authority of a staff nurse or ward sister, and they submit less kindly to the absolute rule of this new so-called "Matron," who may or may not be a trained nurse herself.

The Home is an ordinary dwelling house, or perhaps two dwelling houses knocked into one, and the bedroom accommodation is planned on the assumption that only a certain number of nurses will ever be "in" at one time. If this calculation proves incorrect, as it is often apt to do, a good deal of overcrowding takes place. And the proprietor is not always as considerate as she might be in her arrangement of the nurse's duties, and is rather more ready to listen to some quite unreasonable complaint made by an exacting patient than to a perfectly legitimate protest made by the nurse who has attended him. We come back once more to the stupidity, the sheer stupidity, of the tradition which decrees that nurses, alone amongst women workers, should habitually be treated as if their choice of a career was a rather grave misdemeanour. It is impossible to get the best out of anybody in this way; and when we hear complaints—more or less indefinite—against the private nurses supplied by these agencies, let us remember that if they do not look after their own interests they will assuredly find no one else to do so. It is also a trifle illogical to expect them to be as seriously disturbed by the illness or death of some member of our household as we are ourselves, when we have called them in largely in order to have the benefit of their calmness and common sense.

It is an unfortunate thing that private hospitals admitting in-patients should have acquired such a bad reputation for extortionate charges and inefficient attendance. It is still more un-

fortunate—for the patients—that these accusations should have a solid foundation in fact. As a rule, such places are quite inadequately staffed, and there is nothing to prevent them from actually taking "probationers," who, needless to say, cannot and do not receive a proper training, but who may be called upon at any time, in moments of emergency, to perform duties which a general hospital would only entrust to a fully qualified staff nurse. A private hospital, it must be remembered, stands in the best residential quarter, the rent is high, the rates are high, and a good deal of capital is expended over furniture. There must be economy somewhere, and the most obvious economy is to employ the minimum number of nurses, and pay them no more than they are worth. The patient's friends are frequently encouraged to visit him at all hours, and to do a considerable part of the nursing themselves; and this is certainly better than leaving him unattended, or leaving him to the tender mercies of an inexperienced stranger; but it is not exactly what he is paying ten guineas a week for.

The management of a private nursing home rests in the hands of a few not disinterested individuals, whereas the general hospital works in the wholesome light of open public criticism. If our general hospitals ultimately become State-supported institutions under the direct control of the Ministry of Health, it would no doubt be a good thing for their own financial position; but from the point of view of the public it is even more necessary that private homes and hospitals should submit to some measure of legislative control. A definite standard of efficiency should be demanded and maintained; I know of one such place which has no electric light, and another which has no theatre—the operations being performed in the patients' bedrooms. It would be no bad thing, indeed, if they were licensed from year to year, as a public-house or a place of entertainment is licensed; the renewal of this being made conditional upon their proper management. And they should never be permitted to employ any but trained and certificated nurses.

A better system still is the increasingly popular one of setting aside certain wards in every large general hospital for the benefit of paying patients, although the fact should be stressed that such patients must receive exactly the same treatment as those who cannot afford to pay anything at all; their fees merely securing them a certain measure of privacy, and perhaps rather more frequent visits from their friends. In a few towns "middle-class hospitals," admitting only paying patients at two or three guineas a week, have already been established. It is an idea that requires further development.

Meanwhile, the trained nurse who has some idea of "settling down" as the head of a private hospital or Nurses' Home, should try, as far as possible, not to imitate the weak points of her predecessors, but to avoid them. A good deal of capital is always necessary to start such an enterprise, and it is far more likely to succeed if it is worked by two friends in conjunction, one acting as matron and one as housekeeper, since these duties should not fall upon the same pair of shoulders. The matron should be free to consider the needs of her patients, and should not be distracted by the caprices of the laundryman and the butcher; the housekeeper should not have to shelve the question of the dinner or the spring cleaning because "a bad appendix has come in."

But here, as elsewhere, the main factor making for success or failure is personality. A short-tempered, tyrannical woman, or a woman possessed of tact and sweet temper but a "born muddler," had better sink her money in the sea than in any sort of nursing establishment. And how rarely do we find a thoroughly sweet-tempered woman who is not a muddler!

"If all the good people were clever, and all clever people were good, The world would be better than ever we thought that it possibly could!"

MADGE MEARS.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Offices: Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1. Telephone Museum 6910.

LOUTH BY-ELECTION.

The following letter has been received from Mrs. Wingham:—

"DEAR MISS MACADAM,—Will you please thank your members for their warm congratulations and for all their kindness to me. I do indeed feel that the result would not have been achieved except for the women, both workers and voters, who rallied in such a generous way to my help, and I am particularly grateful to your Society for the help they gave. . . It thrills me to know that women are waking up at last, and that all our hopes for them in the old Suffrage days are being realised."

LIST OF HELPERS.

The following is a list of our helpers in the by-election. If any name is omitted we shall be glad to know:—

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.—Miss Eleanor Rathbone, Miss Macadam, Miss Merrifield, Mrs. Oliver Strachey, Miss Ward.

Miss Auld, Miss Beaumont, Lady Beilby, Mrs. Cloudeley Brereton, Miss Bright, Miss Hilda Crook, Miss Dunbar, Mrs. Elborough, Mrs. Arnold Glover, Mrs. Godwin, Miss Hartop, Mrs. Hills, Mrs. Hosking, Mrs. Hubback, Miss Oliver Jones, Miss Knight, Miss Low, Miss Parry, Miss Pierce, Miss Pratt, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Rathbone, Miss Robinson, Rotherham W.C.A., Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Ryland, Mrs. Spielman, Miss Styler, Miss Verrall, Mr. L. L. Whyte.

The following Societies of the N.U.S.E.C. sent representatives: Canning Town, Hendon, London, Liverpool, Newport, Brighton, Birmingham.

THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

Societies are reminded that the Municipal Elections are approaching, and that it is of urgent importance to have as many women candidates as possible come forward. We hope that our societies will be able to assist in this most important work. We also invite the assistance of our societies in putting to the candidates in Municipal Elections questions prepared by the

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE NURSING PROFESSION TO-DAY.

MADAM,—It is with the greatest disappointment I have read the articles, "The Nursing Profession," I and II, in the pages of THE WOMAN'S LEADER, September 16th and 23rd. The tendency to-day in hospitals is to close wards for lack of staff until suitable temporary accommodation can be found to house the increased number of nurses required as a result of the shortened hours of work.

Your correspondent fails to realise that nursing to-day is a highly skilled, scientific occupation, or she would scarcely suggest women of forty should seriously contemplate entering for training, and if the State Register allows nurses to register at the age of twenty-one it is only on an equality with the Register for Medical Practitioners. The best training schools provide their nurse-probationers with all facilities for tennis, swimming, music, and debate, and in many the restrictions against smoking have been withdrawn.

Nurses' and probationers' meals are taken by a responsible Sister; half-an-hour is commonly allowed for dinner, with fifteen minutes' interval before returning to the wards, and it is the exception, and not the rule, for nurses to share a room. There are few callings open to women in which students in training are paid, and it speaks well for the *hated* "living in" system that nurses and probationers are refusing to avail themselves of facilities "to live out." The bathing accommodation to be found in an up-to-date Nurses' Home is in the ratio of one bath to each six nurses.

During the last five years the nursing services have organised themselves from within, and are endeavouring to make an apathetic public realise the nature and the national value of their work. It is not the nurse in training, it is the fully certificated nurse who is so shamelessly underpaid, and the fault lies with the people of this country, who, to their eternal discredit, have been content to exploit one section of the womanhood of their race in order that the health of the worker on whom their commercial output depends might be maintained at the price of sweated labour.

GLADYS M. E. LEIGH.

MADAM,—I have read the article on "General Nursing," which appears in your issue of September 23rd, to a gathering of professional nurses, and we are agreed that the account given by "Madge Mears" is not acceptable as a description of the life of the profession. Possibly her description may apply to one particular hospital, where she has had the misfortune to find herself, but I think her experience is the exception—not the rule.

Instead of loathing the uniform, nurses generally regard washing dresses as a necessity when engaged in ward duties, but the misery of strings is unknown to many, while I can assure the sympathetic reader that *never* have I seen, or heard, of any nurse suffering from "a long, open wound in the throat," which the writer claims the "unspeakable collar" inflicts on every unaccustomed wearer. Further, I may say that

N.U.S.E.C. Copies of these questions and of other literature bearing on Municipal Elections generally can be had on application at Headquarters.

COUNCIL FOR THE REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Two Conferences, at Central Hall, Westminster, have been arranged by this Council for Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, October 18th and 19th, from 2.30 to 4.30. On Tuesday, Lord Robert Cecil will speak on "The League of Nations—the Work of the Second Assembly," and Miss Maude Royden on "The Need for Women in the League of Nations." On Wednesday, October 19th, Dr. Inazo Nitobe, Assistant Secretary-General of the League, will speak on "The Social and Humanitarian Activities of the League," and Mr. John F. Harris on "Armenia and the Native Races."

Tickets may be had on application to Headquarters, 4s. for whole Conference, and 2s. 6d. for a single session. Tea tickets 1s.

HEREFORD GROUP CONFERENCE.

A Public Conference will be held at St. Peter's Church House, on Tuesday, October 18th, at 3 p.m. The subjects to be discussed are Parliamentary work in the constituency, press work, &c. *Speaker:* Miss Macadam. A discussion will follow by representatives of the Malvern and Leominster Associations.

FALMOUTH S.E.C.

A very successful meeting was recently held under the auspices of the above Society in the Garden Room, Woodlane. There was a good attendance of keen supporters, who enjoyed an excellent and inspiring address from Mrs. Hubback, Parliamentary Secretary, who gave an account of the various Bills supported by the Society, and details of their passage through both Houses, and the work women are doing. The meeting was presided over by Miss J. H. Genn.

in many training schools each nurse has a bedroom to herself, and never, either as a junior or a senior, did I experience any trouble in getting a hot bath nightly.

To the credit of my seniors be it said that the kindly good-night and word of encouragement were the usual *rite*—not the exception. Seniors have all passed through probation days, and although some may have forgotten them, the majority have not, but the over-sensitive novice is apt to translate all attempts at teaching into fault-finding.

It is true the profession has many grievances, but, even viewed in the light of "professional grumbling," I am afraid such extravagant statements will do more harm than good.

C. H. MCARA.

EMPLOYMENT OF MARRIED WOMEN.

MADAM,—Your description of the attitude of the Glasgow Corporation Labour members towards the dismissal of married women in their employ as "extraordinary" is amusing. You are evidently ignorant of the ordinary way of looking at this matter held by the average Labour man. So far from his cordial support of dismissal being "extraordinary," it is, on the contrary, entirely consistent with his Oriental views on the position of a man's property in females. He objects to a potential or actual mother working anywhere except in her own home, and the more idealistic Labour man objects even to her having to do any domestic work at all, believing that machinery should relieve her of that. So wonderful and worshipful is a mother that men or "the State" should hold her in such reverence that she should not be expected to work for her living, like ordinary mortals. It should be the glad duty of others to keep her in perpetual idleness.

His attitude is amusing, but not nearly as inconsistent as your own. You, one gathers, want to have mothers kept by the State as pensioners, and at the same time you seem to want them to have freedom to compete for work with the men who will pay the pensions. You cannot have it both ways. The Labour man will be with you heart and soul in your advocacy of "pensions for mothers," but he will not have mothers working at other jobs than being mothers, as well. And it is not his attitude which is inconsistent, but your own.

ADA NIELD CHEW.

[We quite agree that you can't have it both ways. But our correspondent seems to overlook the fact that the majority of women are married, and have to do their own domestic work and look after their own children, and that home-making is actually women's chief and typical industry. Our claim is that it should be recognised as work on a level with other professions. If a married woman decides not to do this work herself, but to employ another woman to do it for her, she is always at liberty to do so, whether the occupation of home-keeping is paid or unpaid. Whether she would be allowed to draw her housekeeping pay under a scheme of family endowment, and use it to pay someone else, would depend on the details of the scheme. But in either case she ought to be perfectly free to choose what she thinks best for herself and her family.—ED., "W. L."]

COMING EVENTS.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

OCTOBER 10.
At Birkenhead. *Speaker:* Lt.-Col. Sir Frederick Maurice, K.C.M.G.
At Leeds, Victoria Hall, 8 p.m. *Speaker:* Rt. Hon. J. R. Clynes, Esq.
OCTOBER 11.
At Liverpool, St. George's Hall, 8 p.m. *Speaker:* Lt.-Gen. Sir Frederick Maurice, K.C.M.G.

NEWPORT WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

OCTOBER 11.
At Temperance Hall. Annual Meeting. *Speaker:* Miss Eleanor Rathbone. *Chair:* Mayoress of Newport.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE STATE PURCHASE AND CONTROL OF THE LIQUOR TRADE.

OCTOBER 11.
At Cardiff, Women Citizens' Association, 8 p.m. Debate: "State Purchase v. Prohibition." *Speakers:* "Mrs. Renton—Mr. G. B. Wilson."

OCTOBER 12.
At Burnham, National Council of Women, 8 p.m. Subject: "State Purchase a Solution of the Drink Question." *Speaker:* Mrs. Renton.

WOMEN'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT SOCIETY.

OCTOBER 13.
A Public Meeting will be held at the Corn Exchange, Gloucester, at 8 p.m., on "The Value of Women in Public Life." *Speakers:* Councillor Miss Clara Martineau, J.P., Councillor Miss Edith Sutton, J.P., Miss Bertha Mason, Councillor Mrs. Morris, P.L.G.

OCTOBER 14.
A Conference of Women Councillors and Guardians will be held in the Guildhall, Eastgate Street, Gloucester. Subjects: "Local Government Hygiene" and "The Place of the Local Authority in the Care of the Mentally Defective." *Speakers:* J. Middleton Martin, B.A., M.D.; J. R. Bibby, M.B., D.P.H.; Miss Evelyn Fox.

FIGHT THE FAMINE COUNCIL.

OCTOBER 11-14.
At Caxton Hall. Conference on Economic Recovery and World Peace.

OCTOBER 13.
In Central Hall, Westminster, 8 p.m. Great Demonstration on Disarmament.

C.B.C.

Society for Constructive Birth Control and Racial Progress. First regular meeting, Thursday, 13th October, 1921, at 8 p.m., Lecture Room, Hotel Cecil. Presidential address by Dr. Marie Stopes: "Anecdotes of the Past, Present and Future of Birth Control."

INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CLUB.

OCTOBER 12.
9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly. Subject: "Post-War Problems of Rural Reconstruction." *Speaker:* Col. J. Malcolm Mitchell. *Chairman:* Mr. J. Wells Thatcher.

EDINBURGH W.C.A.

OCTOBER 10.
At Livingstone Hall, South Clerk Street, Edinburgh, at 8 p.m. Subject: "Women in Parliament." *Speakers:* Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, D.Sc., J.P., Miss Rosamund Smith.

PIONEER CLUB.

OCTOBER 18.
Reading of original Poems by Mr. Alfred Noyes, 8.15 p.m. *Chair:* Mrs. E. S. Willard.

FAMILY ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE.

OCTOBER 12.
At 39, Grafton Square, W.C. 1, 7.30 p.m. National Union of Women Teachers (London District Joint Committee). *Speaker:* Mrs. Stocks, B.Sc. (Econ.).

OCTOBER 14.
At Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 4 p.m. British Dominions Women Citizens' Union. *Speaker:* Mrs. Hubback.

N.U.S.E.C.

OCTOBER 11.
Roehampton, 2.30 p.m. Subject: "The General Election." *Speaker:* Miss Deakin.

OCTOBER 12.
Kingston, 3 p.m. Subject: "Wages and the Family." *Speaker:* Mrs. Hubback.

C B C THE SOCIETY FOR Constructive Birth Control and Racial Progress.

Established at the Inaugural Meeting held on Tuesday, 16th August, in the Hotel Cecil.

President: Marie Carmichael Stopes, D.Sc., Ph.D., F.L.S.
Vice-Presidents: William Archer, Esq., Councillor Margaret Ashton, M.A., Sir James Barr, C.B.E., M.D., Edward Carpenter, Esq., The Rev. Dr. H. Corner, M.A., Harold Cox, Esq., M.A., The Lady Glenconner, Sir Anthony Hope Hawkins, M.A., Councillor E. King, J.P. (Mayor of Illington), Sir W. Arbuthnot Lane, Bart., C.B., M.B., Mrs. Peibick Lawrence, The Lady Constance Lytton, A. Baldwin Raper, Esq., M.P., Sir Archdall Reid, K.B.E., F.R.S., Rt. Hon. G. H. Roberts, J.P., M.P., Mrs. Alec Tweedie, F.R.G.S., H. G. Wells, Esq., B.Sc., J.P., J. Havlock Wilson, Esq., C.B.E., M.P.
Hon. Secretary: Councillor H. V. Roe.
Hon. Treasurer: Aylmer Maude, Esq.

Hon. Solicitors: Messrs. Braby & Waller, Dacre House, Arundel St., Strand. A General Executive Committee, and Special Committees are formed.

TEMPORARY OFFICE, at the Mothers' Clinic for Constructive Birth Control, 61, MARLBOROUGH ROAD, HOLLOWAY, LONDON, N.19.

OBJECTS: The objects of the Society are (a) to bring home to all the fundamental nature of the reforms involved in conscious and constructive control of conception and the illumination of sex life as a basis of racial progress; (b) to consider the individual, national, international, racial, political, economic, scientific, spiritual and other aspects of the theme, for which purpose meetings will be held, publications issued, Research Committees, Commissions of Enquiry, and other activities will be organised from time to time as circumstances require and facilities offer; (c) to supply all who still need it with the full knowledge of sound physiological methods of control.

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