

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

Women and the Savidge Inquiry.

The appointment of the tribunal of three men to deal with the Savidge Case has left the organized women of the country keenly disappointed that no women was appointed. It is difficult to imagine an inquiry which more closely affects women than the present one. Not only do women share with men the same solicitude regarding the liberties of the subject, but here is a case in which it will be necessary to question once again a young girl whose exposure to a grave ordeal is the very *raison d'être* of the inquiry. The qualities of "well-known calmness and impartiality" claimed for the members appointed are not a male prerogative. The matter was ably raised in the House of Commons by Lady Astor, Miss Wilkinson, and Mr. Ernest Brown. Miss Wilkinson regretted that "when a woman rose in this House to raise this matter, which is felt very keenly by a large number of women connected with all parties judging by the letters we have received on this subject, the suggestion should have been received with shouts of derision." We earnestly hope that on the second tribunal to be set up, which will inquire into the general question of police methods with witnesses, and which, inasmuch as it deals with a larger question, will necessarily be a larger committee sitting for a longer time, a really adequate number of women will be appointed. The comments by Green Bench on this incident are worthy of note.

Women on Juries.

As was widely reported in the Press, three women jurors asked to be excused at the Old Bailey on 22nd May, when the case of an alleged offence against a boy was about to begin. They based their objection on the plea that the case was a particularly unpleasant one. A stern rebuke was administered by the Recorder, Sir Ernest Wild, K.C., as follows: "This is a case affecting the honour of young children, and I should have thought that women were the proper persons to serve. You shall be released, but I think your decision is deplorable." Fortunately, the places of two out of the three shirkers were filled again by women. The interesting point in this incident is not so much that women were found to fail in their duty—this is not the monopoly of one sex alone—but that public opinion and the Press should so strongly have condemned them. Not many years ago their action might have been commended as showing suitable feminine modesty.

Police Evidence.

The dismissal of a charge for soliciting at Bow Street Police Court on 23rd May provides a timely comment on the question now in the limelight of the validity of police evidence in this kind

of case. A hotel employee recently come to London, whose character was warmly testified to by her employer, was in the habit of taking an airing in Southampton Row at the end of her day's work. A policeman stated that he had known her as a prostitute for four or five weeks, even though he admitted he had never seen her out later than eleven o'clock. In order to clear herself the girl had to undergo and pay for a medical examination. The magistrate, while allowing her costs, went out of his way to say he was not making any reflection on the police. This may or may not have been called for; but it certainly causes us to reflect once again on the injustices of the present law.

The Labour Women Muzzled.

We offer our sincere sympathy to those Labour women who care passionately for the interests of the child-bearing women in the home, on the defeat at the Portsmouth National Labour Women's Conference of a resolution referring back that part of the Annual Report which deals with the Labour party's attitude to Birth Control. The relevant paragraph called attention to the accepted policy of the Labour party which lays it down that the subject of Birth Control is not one which should be made a political party issue. It is understandable that the acceptance of such a dictum must be peculiarly galling to women who know that year after year, by overwhelming majorities, the Labour Women's Conference has registered the desire that the Ministry of Health may so far modify its policy as to allow birth control information to be given at welfare centres to those mothers who ask for it, and who know that only by political action in the House of Commons can such a change be made. It is a dictum which implies that the executive of the Labour party is unwilling to risk anything in the nature of tactical difficulties on a matter which primarily concerns the interest of its women members. In face of a weighty appeal from Mr. Henderson, speaking with all the majesty of his official party authority, and in the presence of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, the Women's Conference decided by a vote of 257 to 254 not to press the matter. For loyal women members of the party the decision must have been an extraordinary difficult one. We hope that for the officials of the party who exacted this act of obedience victory was not without its sting. It followed closely upon the heels of a resolution by which the Women's Conference pledged itself to raise by hook or crook £10,000 towards the party funds. And Mr. Henderson's speech in favour of self-denying acquiescence followed one in which he thanked the women on behalf of the whole party for their loyal and strenuous efforts.

National Federation of Women's Institutes.

As our readers will have seen already in the daily papers, a very interesting and successful Annual Meeting, the 12th, of the National Federation of Women's Institutes, was held last week in the Queen's Hall, London, under the chairmanship of Lady Denman. In a brief note it is impossible to do justice to the very valuable and varied work that is being undertaken by the Women's Institutes throughout the country. Lady Denman put forward an appeal for encouraging the use of the telephone in rural areas, urging that the present regulations should be modified in such a way as to make it easier for villages to instal the telephone. Lord Eustace Percy, in addressing the meeting, said that the Board of Education were at present engaged on a big reconstruction of their educational system, and that they hoped to be able to give to village children the same opportunities possessed by children in the towns, but that this would require in some measure the concentration of country children in larger schools. "The Preservation of the Countryside" was the fitting subject of an address given by Professor G. M. Trevelyan, and a resolution was carried by the meeting

calling upon the Women's Institutes to press for the erection of houses and buildings of a practical character, and in keeping with their locality.

A resolution was also carried by the meeting expressing its appreciation of the work done by the Carnegie trustees for country people, and in particular the benefit conferred by the establishment of rural libraries.

The "Suffragette Spirit."

Members of the old Suffragette Societies have formed an interesting memorial as a method of immortalizing those pioneers who might otherwise, now that their task has been so satisfactorily accomplished, lie neglected. A series of yearly lectures, to be known as Suffragette Lectures, have been started in honour of some women famous for her advocacy of equality between the sexes. Miss Evelyn Sharp gave the first lecture on 22nd May, and took Mary Wollstonecraft for her subject. She could not have made a happier choice. She told once again the fine story of that true pioneer among women, basing her descriptions and comments on an intimate knowledge and sympathy with Mary Wollstonecraft's writings, letters, and times. One fact that may not be generally known, cited by Miss Sharp, was that Mary Wollstonecraft's *Vindication of the Rights of Women* was preceded by a *Vindication of the Rights of Men*, as an answer to Burke's attacks upon the French Revolution. Miss Sharp reminded her hearers of the shortness of her life, Mary Wollstonecraft having died at the age of 38, in giving birth to the daughter who was subsequently to become Mary Shelley.

The Expiation of a Blunder.

The General Medical Council displayed a reasonable sense of proportion last week when it decided, after hearing Dr. Dorothy Logan's explanation of her Channel Swim hoax, not to erase her name from the medical register. That she ever intended to lay permanent claim to a bogus Channel swim record, nobody for a moment believes. That she put her name to a false written statement without any realization of its legal importance, and this for the purpose of playing a gigantic practical joke on the public—that she was, to use her own words "such an idiot" as to commit this moral and legal offence—most people, including the General Medical Council, are convinced. That it is a grievous mistake to do something which is intrinsically wicked, namely, to tell a series of lies and knowingly sign a false statement of fact, however lacking in legal significance, most simple-minded nursery moralists would unhesitatingly assert, in spite of the contrary policy adopted by accredited governments which seek to justify breaches of recognized morality by considerations of national policy. But added to this widespread consensus of public opinion is an almost unanimous belief that Dr. Logan has most amply expiated her error under the scourge of public and professional criticism, that she has had a rotten time of it during the past six months or so, and that the greatest happiness of the greatest number is best served by allowing her henceforth to pursue in peace the honourable and exacting profession for which she has fitted herself.

Two Amazons of the Past.

It does not often fall to our lot to have occasion to rejoice over the activities of the authorities of 100 years ago, but we did have occasion to do so when we read an article in one of our contemporaries last week. It appears that 100 years ago women constables were appointed by rota as a matter of course. But that is not all. The little Cheshire village of Rinshall Vernon just 100 years ago appointed a woman constable, a woman overseer, and a woman supervisor. Thus in one year three women were appointed to posts, two of which needed, as our contemporary says, "courage and physical strength, besides what the common law demanded, honesty, knowledge, and ability. The supervisor, or surveyor of highways, had not much to fear. But the overseer of the poor (and this within two years of the outbreak of 1830) must count on obloquy, if not on violence. And the constable, with her duties of watch and ward, of keeping the peace, of separating quarrellers, of arresting scoundrels, of prying into offences against health and morals—the constable should be Amazonian indeed to fill efficiently her dangerous office. . . We may imagine that the overseer was not among those upon whom fell, two years later, the wrath of the mob; and the constable is pretty sure to have acted, without knowing it, on the opinion of Bacon, who wrote that the use of the office "is rather for preventing or staying of mischief than for the punishment of offences". That is a

principle which police officers of either sex, in Hyde Park or outside it, do well to bear in mind.

Surely these secrets of the past will give courage to our wavering "watch" committees, and inspire Scotland Yard to appoint women to posts less obscure than that of Police-Chaperon!

Where East and West Amalgamate.

It is very encouraging to hear of a women's organization working in Shanghai for the amelioration of the conditions under which children are employed in factories; still more so when it is known that seven nationalities are at present represented in the organization, American, British, Chinese, Dutch, German, Japanese, and Portuguese, the majority of the members being Chinese. Although the principal object of the organization is to help the child worker in Shanghai, much useful work is also done in attempting to get women appointed to municipal bodies such as the Film Censorship Board. It is interesting to hear of work being carried on in such an international spirit, and it is most encouraging to know that the keen interest of Chinese women has been aroused in the affairs of their own country. About two years ago the work started, and it is to be hoped that it will have every opportunity of developing successfully along the broad lines on which it has begun.

Improper Books.

A few days ago one of the editors of this paper asked at a bookstall at King's Cross station for a detective story. She happened to mention to the attendant that it must be cheap and one which her children had not read. The assistant, in what was obviously perfect good faith, recommended a volume which made one of a series of cases solved by a certain detective and from the picture on the cover and the description printed there by the publishers seemed to be a murder story of the ordinary type. Happily the purchaser looked at it before handing it on to her family, and discovered that though it started in the usual way its subject was certain repulsive and abnormal forms of sexual vice, and that it contained not only topics but descriptions which no human being, not commercially interested, could endure to see in the hands of children. Now it may be a pity that detective stories are so largely read by boys and girls at school, but there can be no question that they are. And one of the reasons is that parents suppose that if they deal with sex at all it will be casually and in a sawdusty way. If this is going to be changed, and publishers are going to add the by-ways of sex to the usual recipe, then they should give some indication of the fact which would enable bookstall attendants to know what sort of book they are dealing with. This complaint has nothing to do with the right of grown-up people to read what they please, or authors to write about what interests them. It is another question altogether, a matter of organization, and as such we think book-sellers might well take it up with the publishers who supply them.

Women Auctioneers.

Since, in France, an auctioneer is a public official, the admission of women to that occupation is a matter of legal enactment. After the Revolution they were definitely debarred from entering it. In 1924, however, it was enacted that auctioneers might be appointed "without distinction of sex", and it is only a few weeks ago that the first woman took advantage of this enactment, when Mme Barrois succeeded her late husband as auctioneer of Chaumont. The work which she will have to do is given a special significance by the notorious French law of property which requires statutory proportionment of a deceased husband's estate among his widow and children, as the values on which such apportionment is based are determined by auction sales, even if the property in question is bought in.

Another Woman Diplomat.

Another woman diplomat is forthcoming in Mme Alexander Kollantai, to be the representative of the Soviet in Paris.

Received With Thanks.

We have been asked by the Save the Children Fund to acknowledge a generous gift of £5 from an anonymous donor in aid of the Welsh Miners' children and earthquake refugees.

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 woman'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.

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF.

Readers with a taste for history should during these coming weeks turn to their files of the *Common Cause*, 1918, and extract the issues of 18th January, 25th January and 8th February. If the habit of methodically filing records of historic interest is not theirs, they should refer to the chapter "The Last Phase" in Dame Millicent Fawcett's little book, *The Women's Victory and After*. They will find much to interest them to-day, as we are approaching to-day the final stage of the victory won in 1918. In a leading article appearing on 18th January, 1918, we read of the memorable struggle in the House of Lords during the committee stage of the Representation of the People Act, culminating in a division—134 for the retention of the Women's Suffrage clause and 71 against.

Last Tuesday, over ten years later, the scene in the gilded chamber was in a sense re-enacted—this time on the occasion of the second reading, when appropriately enough Lord Banbury moved the rejection of the Bill. Once again "the forces of freedom and self-government overcame the forces of autocracy". In 1928, only thirty-five peers went into the lobby against the Bill, but the actual majority—114 it is significant to note—was only sixteen more than that of ten years ago. In 1918 the House was crowded with expectant opponents from all corners of the island, tense with excitement. Last week, even as the division approached and Lord Birkenhead wound up the debate on behalf of the Government, the red benches were far from full and there were only occasional patches of interest. Only the remnants of a defeated army manfully stood to their guns.

On the first day of the debate a visitor from another sphere would certainly have thought that things were going badly against us. The Lord Chancellor's lucid and convincing exposition of the Bill was followed by Lord Haldane, a loyal friend on the last occasion, who blessed the Bill on behalf of the Labour party. Then Lord Banbury rose to begin the attack. But his treatment of the subject has lost the rich flavour that made his speeches such priceless relics in the House of Commons. The Duke of Northumberland followed with a characteristic speech of pure pessimism. Lord Astor came to the rescue with a well-reasoned plea that the whole teaching of modern civilization is against emphasis of sex distinctions in citizenship or in social relations. Then followed a series of exceedingly heavy speeches against the Bill relieved by a short favourable speech by one of the youngest Peers present, Lord Idesleigh.

But on Tuesday the atmosphere became rather more exhilarating. After a dull speech from the Earl of Middleton against the Bill, Lord Balfour of Burleigh, in a speech which rang of the true feminist gospel, warned the House that if it were so ill-advised as to throw out the Bill "there would be such a storm in the country that when the dust had settled you would wake up to find that your Lordships' House was no longer in existence". Ten years ago the present Lord Balfour's father, one of the leading opponents of women's suffrage, made the proposal of a referendum that repeated itself this year in a speech from Lord Hunsdon of Hunsdon. The son of another leading antagonist of the past, unlike Lord Balfour, was unfortunately not to be found in the vanguard of progress. Lord Halsbury, an old man of 93, put up a stout opposition on the occasion of the last fight and the present Earl has inherited his reactionary views. In a witty speech, interlarded with attractive but irrelevant quotations from Plato, Montaigne, and Balzac, he amused the House, but could hardly be said to have made a serious attack.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

EQUAL FRANCHISE v. EQUAL TREATMENT.

The week before the Whitsuntide recess was interesting. We began by discussing the administration of prisons in England and Wales. Nobody called the attention of His Majesty's faithful Commons to the fact that the debate took place on the anniversary of the birthday of Elizabeth Fry. It was interesting to hear the personal experiences of Members who had served prison terms, some of them in the struggle for the enfranchisement of women, and with the Lord's debate on the latest Bill almost concluded there were echoes of "old unhappy, far-off things and battles long ago." Members were glad to learn that crime was still diminishing and that several old prisons had been sold. There were few M.P.s present during the evening either for the wireless or prisons debates, but there were some first-rate speeches and a determined attempt to secure a new Borstal Institution. At question-time this week Members showed

The most sincere and effective contribution to the debate was made by Lord Lytton, who spoke as one who indeed knew the movement from inside. He spoke of the women who fought the battle for their rights in those far-off and difficult days, some of whom had not lived to see the fruit of their labours. His speech was, indeed, as he hoped the passing of the Bill would be, "a wreath laid on the tomb of these early champions." He spoke of the change that had come over the spirit of the controversy; all the bitterness had gone from the discussion. An interesting feature of his speech was the way in which he boldly faced the large accession of women to the electorate. He admitted frankly that it had already had the effect of adding to the uncertainty of elections and he believed had been responsible for a very large turnover in votes in certain constituencies in recent by-elections. "The pendulum is now longer than it used to be and it swings therefore with greater momentum." The Bill would, he said, add still further to the length of the pendulum and to the momentum with which it will swing and consequently to the uncertainty of elections. This is a point of view which we should like to follow up. But this fact, he claimed, was no justification for withholding a measure of justice long overdue.

After Lord Lytton's moving speech the House seemed lost in darkness literal and metaphorical. Suddenly the lights were turned on, revealing a fuller and livelier House and an air of expectancy spread from the Benches to the Galleries. Then Lord Birkenhead arose to close the debate exactly as Lord Curzon had done ten years before. He spoke as an unrepentant anti-suffragist. "I am against . . . I always shall be against the extension of the franchise to women." But he then proceeded to explain that there was not the slightest inconsistency in his present defence of the measure. He described "how gradually, yet how inevitably we descended the slippery slope" of the franchise for women. He wound up with the recommendation to the Lords to go into the Lobby in favour of this Bill, "if without enthusiasm, yet in a spirit of resolute resignation."

Ten years ago Lord Curzon, as Leader of the House on the similar occasion, spoke as one who wholeheartedly opposed the vote for women. (He was then president of the National Society for Opposing Women's Suffrage.) Then the unexpected occurred and after a momentous pause he, like Lord Birkenhead on Tuesday, asked the Lords to consider what would happen if on this matter they came into collision with the House of Commons. Lord Curzon did not indeed like Lord Birkenhead recommend his colleagues in opposition to go into the Lobby to vote for the Bill, but, warning them against precipitating a conflict from which the House would not emerge with credit, he announced that he himself would not vote either way.

Among the listeners to the debate were a few of these who had been in the thick of the fray in 1918. Dame Millicent Fawcett, who then led her ranks to victory, sat on the Gallery benches beside her successor in office, Eleanor Rathbone. Another pioneer worker with long memories, Miss Lowndes, was close by. Other representatives of the suffrage organizations which did not turn the key in their office doors when the first instalment of the vote was won, but which have unceasingly worked through the interval, also sat through the entire debate. Though the intense thrill of the 1918 victory was absent, there was a quiet content in their hearts that the inevitable end of a long struggle was at hand.

some uneasiness as to the terms of the Government reply to the Kellogg proposals, and I think more will be heard when the House resumes. On Tuesday we returned to Currency, but the speeches of the pundits were shortened by opposition to an Essex Water Bill. The opposition turned almost entirely on the charge of 10s. made yearly for baths in cottage houses by the Company which was seeking new powers. The world moves. The Equal Citizenship Bill, as my readers know, found 114 Contents, and only 35 non-Contents. The final day's discussion was marked by an amazingly brilliant and audacious speech, utterly cynical in character, from the Secretary of State for India. "F. E." on Woman Suffrage can now be left to "Low" and "Mr. Punch." The heated half-hour in the Commons on Wednesday showed that it is a long way from Equal Franchise to equal treatment in public service.

When the Home Secretary made his announcement of the three Commissioners, Members, for some obscure reason, desired no further debate, and there were hurricane shouts of "Agreed," "Agreed." Several Members rose and Lady Astor was called. She wished to call attention to the absence of a woman on the Tribunal and was scandalously treated. Miss Wilkinson made a spirited attempt to get fair play for the Member for Sutton but in vain. The back benches came as badly out of this debate as they showed up well on the last occasion. Mr Ernest Brown had the prevision to hand in an amendment to include one woman, and he obtained a hearing for a short reasoned speech. His voice is an asset on occasions when things are stormy, and his fellow Members know it is useless to shout against that wonderful instrument. Miss Wilkinson seconded in a passionate little speech, but it was of no avail. The Home Secretary treated the matter as settled, but Mr. Ernest Brown must have had some difficulty in making up his mind to withdraw, which, in the end, he did. It should be understood that the feeling was not so much against putting a woman Member on the Tribunal as the expression of unthinking impatience in the face of an attempt to alter what was regarded as settled. The protest will probably have its effect in the composition of the Tribunal which is to consider the larger question. It was, however, amusing to hear Members in the lobby using the argument that now everybody had the vote there was no need for the special representation of women. I am wondering how long it will be before it is recognized in official circles that women "are also God's creatures" when questions of evidence are to be decided. The Evolution of our National Insurance System moved further forward through the passing of the latest Bill. Mr. Neville Chamberlain received many thanks for his dexterity in bringing shore fishermen into the scheme. Now that pensions are linked with insurance it was an obvious injustice that they and their widows should be outside its operations. It was a vivid little debate and the decision to treatment preparation of the boats at the beginning and the mending and barking of nets at the end as part of the actual voyage will, I believe, solve most of the problems involved. It is an old story of a life of risks. The fisherman Apostle has a great phrase in which he prays for a heightening of spiritual values and uses the word "perfect," i.e. "mend you," an echo of the days when he, like our present fishermen, mended his nets.

The adjournment day was fully occupied by two discussions one on the Coal Industry and the other on the State of Trade. Between four and five there was a friendly, but definite, long-range duel between Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Churchill, who did not look well. As ex-Servicemen would say, "They fired ranging shots." Commander Kenworthy made the last speech but left Mr. Macquisten one minute in which he gave us this week's smile.

Mr. Macquisten: I would like to point out to the hon. and gallant Gentleman that this talk about constant hard work is all wrong. It leads to stupidity. I would remind him of the old proverb, "All work and no play, makes Jack a dull boy." Some of the Members of this House who make the most speeches and ask the most questions are the dullest." And so home very merry!

GREEN BENCH.

JOSEPHINE BUTLER AND THE POSITION TO-DAY.

At the Conference held at the Guild House on 12th May, representing twenty organizations, on "Josephine Butler's Challenge and the Position To-day," the following resolutions were passed:—

(1) Abolition of the Regulation of Vice.—This Conference urges the Government to take steps which shall secure the complete abolition of the State regulation of vice and of licensed brothels in our Crown Colonies and Dependencies.

(2) Protection of Children.—This Conference regrets that the Government has been unable to find time this session for legislation dealing with the better protection of children from sexual offences and raising the age of marriage. It trusts that such legislation may be introduced at the earliest possible moment.

(3) Street Offences.—This Conference calls for the immediate and complete abolition by the Government of all legislation dealing with prostitutes only and demands that equal evidence be required in the case of both sexes.

THE BARMAID HARDY ANNUAL.

By LADY BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH.

The barmaid hardy annual is with us again. There have appeared the usual articles in the Prohibitionist Press, and one in *The New Campaigner*, by the Rev. C. F. Tonks, advocating legislation to forbid the employment of barmaids. The echoes have penetrated as far as *THE WOMAN'S LEADER*, as evinced by the interesting letters which have been printed therein.

There would appear to be five angles from which to view this question:—That of the Licensed Trade, that of the Prohibitionist, that of the Social Reformer, that of the General Public, that of the Barmaid. All are worthy of consideration, but the really important one is the last. Let us consider them separately.

The point of view of the Drink Trade.—Women are the best salesmen, and they attract custom. This is not the only trade where they excel as salesmen, neither is it the only one where they attract custom. One of the letter-writers objects to the words, "Smart girl wanted." Into the word "smart" she reads all the evil of the world. The writer has clearly never had to apply in answer to an advertisement, "Smart typist wanted," or she would know that "smart" in this occupation, as well as in that of barmaid, shop assistant, parlourmaid, tea-room waitress, means sharp, quick, alert, pleasant, accurate, and efficient. If the Drink Trade required an immoral, alluring, beautiful, sensual, or vicious woman it would probably not hesitate to say so. It hesitates at little which is good for Trade.

The point of view of the Prohibitionist is that Drink and everything that has to do with it is evil: the thing itself, the purveyor (whether manufacturer or employee) and the consumer (both moderate drinker and confirmed drunkard). From this standpoint obviously sensuality and vice would appear to be the only reasons for the employment of women where there are men consumers, and of men where there are women consumers. The belief in evil and in the vice of other people is one of the most deeply ingrained characteristics of certain natures. It is impossible to argue with because it is an instinct and not a reasoning.

The point of view of the Social Reformer, including the Temperance Reformer other than the Prohibitionist, could, I think, fairly be described as one of intense dissatisfaction with the present system of supply and sale of drink to the public. They most certainly deplore the existence of the very low type of public house described in Mr. Selley's book. But I think the majority of them would agree that the way to purge the country of this type of house is to purge the country of private competitive ownership of the liquor trade, and not the dismissal of 26,000 barmaids and the closing of yet another avenue of employment for women.

This is certainly the view of the advocates of the Carlisle system, where women servers are employed as a matter of course in the public houses, which in Carlisle under disinterested ownership and management are respectable places, and where the presence of women behind the bar is an assurance of the respectability of the house.

The point of view of the General Public is more difficult of definition, but it would appear to be that it wants a place to go after working hours which is clean, pleasant, warm, and cheerful, and where it can obtain alcoholic or other refreshment, but where such refreshment is not compulsory or forced upon it. The presence or absence of women is probably immaterial, although many women and many men like to be served by women, and their presence generally seems to be congenial.

That section of the male public (a diminishing one) which regards every woman as a vehicle for immorality is to be found not only in public houses but everywhere where women have to work and to be—the tea shops, the theatres, the streets, the trains. There are only two ways of protecting women against this nuisance, complete emancipation or complete incarceration. Many people would no doubt prefer to advocate the latter.

I have not yet heard it suggested that the theatrical and catering professions should be closed to women on account of what they see and hear and have to put up with in the course of their work, but doubtless this suggestion will come as soon as all the other professions (always excepting domestic service) have been closed to women "mainly in their own interests" in order to "protect" them.

Now for the point of view of the women themselves.—In spite of all that is said about the profession of barmaid, it is considered a good profession, because generally speaking, it is fairly well paid. This is the ultimate criterion of all the professions for all "wage-earning women. It is quite true that conditions under which barmaids have to work are frequently bad, although

they are no worse than in some other occupations. Let us examine some of them:—

"Stuffy, smelly, unhealthy atmosphere."

Also to be found in many underground offices and workshops, some factories, hotel and shop kitchens, public lavatories, public laundries, many private houses, some post offices, many shops.

"A hard life."

But not nearly so hard as that of a large number of domestic servants, and the majority of married women in the little homes.

"Temptation to insobriety."

Less now than in former days. Most of the cases usually cited are of very old date. It is doubtful if the percentage is higher than in many other occupations.

"Moral temptations."

Present also in hotels, shops, theatres, cinemas, city and other offices, and in far more alluring form.

Mr. Tonks himself says that "the majority of those who enter this business are respectable girls who desire to remain so." If the profession were as immoral as it is painted by the prohibitionists I doubt if respectable girls would even consider entering it. The truth probably is that the standard of morality among barmaids *to-day* is just as high as that of many other professions. Such statements as: "Their presence in the bar is detrimental to their own social and moral interests and lowers the whole standard of womanhood" is an exaggeration which must be resented not only by the women themselves, but by any thinking woman who considers this question in an unbiassed manner. The intention of those advocating this prohibitive legislation, that (*vide* Mr. Tonks) "it is not proposed to prohibit a licensee from having the assistance of his own wife and daughter in his own bar if, in the exercise of his domestic responsibility as husband or father he considers such employment desirable for her," will hardly commend itself to readers of *THE WOMAN'S LEADER*, and it contrasts oddly with his later doubt whether "a Christian mother would feel that it was her daughter's vocation." Between the devil of the licensee father, and the deep sea of the Christian mother, we would recommend that the girl should choose for herself.

The remedy for the evils connected with the barmaid's profession, as with all other professions and occupations, lies in the improvement of the conditions for all workers under which it is carried on. At this time, when there is a brighter prospect than ever before of ridding the nation of the private ownership of the drink trade with the consequent pushing of the sale of drink and the disorderly public houses, it is surely not the time to close yet another avenue of employment to some 26,000 women.

THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF LABOUR WOMEN.

PORTSMOUTH, 1928.

There were 656 of us, about five-sixths being Labour party delegates and one-sixth from women's organizations not necessarily affiliated to the Labour party.

A resolution to exclude all unaffiliated organizations from future conferences was heavily defeated on the second day.

Looking back to last year's conference at Huddersfield, the Portsmouth Conference makes one feel a sense of greater satisfaction, of greater confidence, and more patriotic pride. It may have been due to our meeting in the South—farther from the areas in which, in 1927, the women were still feeling the immense physical and nervous strain of the industrial struggles of 1926, from those areas in which they are still suffering from the ever-growing horrors of the débâcle in the coal industry. It may have been partly due to the greater dignity of our surroundings: the Portsmouth Guildhall, with its huge portraits of civic dignitaries, its vaulted ceiling, its great height, and ample floor-space, certainly impressed one differently from the square sordidness of Huddersfield's Town Hall. It may have been partly due to the greater carrying-power of the voice of this year's chairman, Miss Susan Lawrence, and partly to the much smaller number of delegates who were sent there expressly to make trouble for the platform. To quote our chairman, when calling upon Miss Bondfield to reply to a personal attack, we were "sick and tired" of these methods; and, indeed, Miss Bondfield struck a very high note when she reminded us that "individuals don't count very much in our movement." She also brought us back to sound economics when she told us that the real solution of the unemployment problem was the organization of work for wages—not unemployment insurance.

A similar opportunity to "speak for himself" or rather, for the Executive of the Labour party, was given to Mr. Arthur Henderson, in connection with the decision of the Executive not to pledge itself (as desired in a resolution previously passed by two women's conferences) to instruct the next Labour Minister of Health to lift the ban against giving birth control information at subsidized Welfare Centres. Supported by Miss Ellen Wilkinson, he asked the Conference to distinguish between a political issue and a party issue, and urged that those who wished to see the ban lifted would find the shortest road to success in uniting with sympathizers in all parties. Taken immediately after the unexpectedly early arrival of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, who was received with cheers and musical honours, the resultant vote showed the narrow majority of three in favour of the action of the Executive in refusing to make the issue a plank in the party's platform. More than 100 delegates abstained from voting.

Apart from the Chairman's address, perhaps the contribution to the Conference that will remain longest in one's memory is that made by Mrs. Dollan, of Glasgow, in moving an emergency resolution on the present mining situation. Mrs. Dollan contrasted vividly the action of the present Conservative Government in leaving the semi-starvation and lack of clothes in the coalfields to be met by a sum of £80,000 given *in charity*, while both that Government and its predecessors of 1922 and 1923 had given £135,000,000, through legislation, in "doles to the rich." Maintaining that "we in the Socialist movement wish to make the motive of production Christian," she ended with a fine peroration which I quote from memory: "We have invented many things in recent years, aeroplanes, television, wireless, and beam telegraphy. We have not yet invented the means of assuring the means of life to every worker."

Other issues—peace and disarmament, unemployment, maternal mortality, and nursery schools among them—provoked keen discussion, all of which centred round constructive proposals. Delegates had come for business, and a businesslike atmosphere prevailed to the end, when we expressed our thanks to Portsmouth for its hospitality—both to the many hostesses who had entertained us (arrangements could have been made for 2,000 delegates in private houses alone), and to the City Council, which had given us, free of cost, the use of their magnificent Guildhall.

AMY SAYLE.

THE LAUSANNE SUMMER SCHOOL.

18th-21st JUNE, 1928.

We publish below the programme of this Summer School, organized by the Committee for Peace of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship. The fact that these meetings are open to all who are interested in the feminist movement in its relation to the problem of peace, and more especially to all women conscious of their responsibility on this point—the entrance fee being fixed at 5 Swiss francs—shows also that the characteristic of this Summer School is one of serious and well-informed study. On the other hand, the programme affords many opportunities for informal meetings and excursions in one of the most beautiful parts of Switzerland, and at a particularly pleasant time of the year. We would therefore warmly recommend all those of our readers who can, to avail themselves of this privilege, and to send in their names without delay to the Secretary of the Organizing Committee, Miss D. Bieneman, Rue Enning 1, Lausanne, who will give all necessary information on practical matters, such as hotel accommodation, etc.

Sunday, 17th June.—Informal reception by the Swiss Association for Woman Suffrage (place to be announced later).

Monday, 18th June.—Opening meeting. "Present position of the three questions: Arbitration, Security, Disarmament." M. Christian Lange, General Secretary of the Interparliamentary Union. Discussion led by Miss K. D. Courtney (Great Britain). Continuation of the discussion. Tea party at Langedoc, the country house of Mr. Ernest Bovet, General Secretary of the Swiss League of Nations Union.

Tuesday, 19th June.—"What is Security?" M. William Martin, of the *Journal de Genève*. Discussion led by a member of the Peace Committee. "The Kellogg Proposals." M. Georges Scelle, Professor of Dijon University. Discussion led by Miss E. Balch (U.S.A.). Evening: Public Meeting on "Woman Suffrage and Peace." (The names of the speakers and the hall to be announced later.)

Wednesday, 20th June.—"Arbitration." A speaker from the Secretariat of the League of Nations. Discussion led by a member of the Peace Committee. "Arbitration." Probably

(Continued at foot of next page.)

TYPEWRITING.

M. McLACHLAN and N. WHITWAM—TYPISTS.—4 Chapel Walk, Manchester. Tel.: 3402 City.

TO LET AND WANTED.

KENDAL.—Restful and cheerful. From 2½ guineas a week. 350 feet up; grounds, 5 acres; open view to the sea. Tennis, golf links, garage. Excellent cooking. Motor buses to all parts.—Mrs. Williamson, Underfell, Kendal.

FURNISHED FLAT to be let, £110 yearly, inclusive; 3 rooms, bath, geyser, electric light, gas fires. Also 2 furnished FLATLETS at 25s. each weekly. Suitable for professional women or students.—Apply, Mayman, 168 High Street, Notting Hill Gate, W. (Phone: Park 2943.)

N.R. BASINGSTOKE, beautiful country, restful atmosphere. 2 single bedrooms and sitting room, daintily furnished, in garden Bungalow, with board, garage, baths. Terms moderate.—Box 1476, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Tufton Street, S.W. 1.

TO LET, 7 weeks from end July, modern labour-saving HOUSE, facing Hampstead Heath, own garden tennis court, 6 minutes tube station; rent 5 guineas weekly.—Apply, Box 1, 474, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Tufton Street, S.W. 1.

FURNISHED FLAT, minute from sea, 3 rooms, kitchen.—Gregory, "Oakleigh," Combe Martin, Devon.

CHILTERN HILLS.—To let for July and August, an attractive little House, two sitting, three bedrooms, bathroom, electric light; wide views.—Cobb, Chinnor, Oxon.

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EAST CLEVEDON (Somerset).—Furnished HOUSE to be let; three sitting, four bedrooms, bath (h. & c.), kitchen with usual range also gas cooker, small garden; near golf links and the sea; 3 guineas weekly. Free for June, July and September.—Apply, Miss C. Browne, 30 Park Hill, Ealing, W.5.

FLAT, unfurnished, 3 large rooms, kitchen, bath, electric light; vacant mid-July; 2 guineas weekly, inclusive.—Williams, 102 St. Julians Farm Road, West Norwood.

FLAT, furnished, Highgate Village, mid-June till mid-September. Lounge, dining-room, double bedroom, usual offices; £2 2s. weekly; china and linen by arrangement; daily maid available; ¼ minute bus, 5 minutes Heath. View by appointment.—BM/BLMN, W.C. 1.

FACING REGENT'S PARK.—Pleasantly furnished BED-SITTINGROOMS; widow's private house, every convenience, breakfast, etc., if required; Tel.: Primrose Hill 4131.—3 Titchfield Terrace, N.W. 8.

HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB.—Paying guests taken. BEDROOM and SITTINGROOM £3 15s., large BED-SITTINGROOM £3 10s., inclusive baths, lighting, heating service; all three rooms sunny, overlooking garden adjoining Hampstead Heath. Meals (meat or vegetarian) arranged to suit guests' requirements.—Apply, Miss Marshall, 2 Linnell Drive, N.W. 11.

TO LET, 2 guineas a week; Herne Hill, S.E. London; charming FLAT, lower part small house, comprising drawing-room, dining-room, bedroom, kitchen, scullery; garden; house recently furnished; 2 guineas for long let.—Apply, Box 1469, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Tufton Street, S.W. 1.

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UPPER MAISONETIE, large living-room, 2 available bedrooms, kitchen, bath. Would be let furnished for one or two months from about 20th June. Reliable house-keeper left. Sunny, airy. Low rent to careful tenant.—MERRIFIELD, 11 Vernon Terrace, Brighton.

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BUSHEY, Herts.—Freehold, £1,350. Sunny, picturesque, 6-roomed; gas, electric; bathroom, greenhouse, open-air room, garden, huts; open country.—Brackenbury, 2 Campden Hill Square.

WINSCOMBE, Somerset.—Sale, freehold detached six-roomed Cottage, labour-saving, modern sanitation, electric lighting, good garden, lovely views; suit 2-3 ladies.—Box 1478, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Tufton Street, S.W. 1.

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POST WANTED.

AU PAIR, July-August. Young German girl, now in England, seeks post town or country; light household duties only; German lessons.—Miss Wiecek, 14 Chadlington Road, Oxford.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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

EDUCATED HOME HELPS BUREAU, 190 Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W. 1, requires and supplies educated women for all domestic work. Holiday engagements. Registration: Employers, 2s. 6d.; workers, 1s. Suiting fee: Employers, 7s. 6d.; workers, 2s. (Victoria 5940.)

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 3rd June, 3.30, Miss Gertrude Eaton. 6.30, Rev. Hudson Shaw.

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