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WOMEN'S LABOUR LEAGUE



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No. 28.

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ONE-HALFPENNY.

The Guardians of the Poor.

The Opportunity of the Electors.

Monday, April 7th. 1913.

Accustomed as we are to the difficulty of getting a high percentage of votes at local elections, yet the absolute indifference shown to a Guardians' election is an ever-recurring marvel. Do not let it be a reproach this time.

Though the condition of the workhouse, the presence or absence of well-conducted children's homes, and the general administration of the poor-law, is a matter of vital importance to millions of our fellows, and may concern any of the workers personally at no very distant date, yet barely 20 per cent. of those on the register take the trouble to record their votes, even when there is an election.

Few are so fortunate as not to know some friend or connection, if not some nearer relation, who has had, at some time or other, to apply to the Guardians for some form of "relief"; and it is fairly common knowledge that one in every five of the workers dies in a poor-law infirmary, asylum, or some similar public institution; all workers—men and women—dread the workhouse and the poor-law as a disgrace, and as another name for insult and degradation, yet how many do anything to try to improve the evil conditions.

Not only are there few who take the trouble to record their votes, but few candidates come forward. Again and again in all parts of the country the same representatives are returned unopposed. Though it is evident to anyone who considers the matter that they represent nothing but their own interests, and have probably come forward in order to get on the Assessment Committee, so as to be able to regulate their own rates and those of their friends.

Women as Guardians.

Though there are one or two 'ladies' on most Boards, there are still several parts of the country where there are no women guardians at all, many where there is only one, and few where there are real working women who have first-hand knowledge of the poor, and keen sympathy with their sufferings. Do not let the opportunity go past on April 7th of increasing this small number.

Do women know, I wonder, that only a residential qualification is necessary. That is—that it is only necessary for a candidate to be over 21 and to live within the district, or even within one mile of the boundaries—and there is no need for her to be on the list of electors. The need for women on the board to look after the women and children is so obvious that a suitable woman candidate finds her election comparatively easy, and the opposition is rarely very active.

Meetings are nearly always held in the morning, and it is quite possible for a mother (whose children are past babyhood) to arrange a dinner that she can "leave to look after itself," and to "get forward with her work," once or twice a fortnight, so as to be able to attend board and committee meetings.

Of course it is a sacrifice. Not only the scramble to get things done at home is a difficulty, but the experiences are saddening, and the work is exacting,

But it is worth while.

There is not only no place where women are so much needed, but no public body where one voice makes so much difference.

On Town or County Councils, Education Committees, and some other places, one is apt to feel rather helpless without a seconder or supporter, but so much of the guardians' work is done in committee, and often by very small committees, and it deals so much with individuals, that the atmosphere is more personal, there is less speech-making, and practical work and interest tell at once.

What one woman can do.

For instance, a woman can see whether the women and girls in the workhouse and the children's homes have proper underclothing—(a matter that by no means can be taken for granted); she can see if the babies in the workhouse are properly tended, and have any chance of getting into the fresh air; she can see whether the children in the homes ever have a chance of play, or are kept at house-work all the time they are not at school; she can see if there is anything of a home atmosphere in the "homes," and if it is wanting, can do something herself towards creating it by personal interest; she can see that the old people who come before the committee are not bullied, she may even secure a seat for those who are tottering, and—best of all—she will sometimes be able to secure another shilling or two a week for a necessitous case, and after a little, it is to be hoped, will be able gradually to introduce a more generous scale for widows with children than is general at present.

For example, a working woman, whom a few women ran for a seat on the guardians in a northern town, was successfully returned three years ago, though the men belonging to the Labour Party told us it was no good to waste money on such a hopeless fight, and kept out of the way except for the valuable assistance of one loyal friend.

We canvassed the ward, managed our committee room, "marked off" in the polling booth, and looked up defaulting voters at the last minute, created a general interest, and returned our candidate on a heavier poll than is often seen at a guardians election.

The Destitute Mother.

Her work on committee has been most effective and benefited numbers. Soon after she took her seat, in the ordinary routine business, a case was brought up of a widow who had been left some years before with four children. The regular scale for that union was 1/6 for each child except the youngest, for whom there was nothing, and nothing for the mother. This widow had therefore been receiving 4/6 a week and the case had come up for reconsideration as the eldest child had reached the age of 14 and was now supposed to be self-supporting. "Well," said the chairman, "no particular circumstances, the rule, I suppose—3/- a week in future? Agreed, gentlemen—and Mrs. X?" he added as an afterthought, as his eye rested on the new member, "All right, what do you say, Mrs. X?"

She paused and said in a choking voice "I can't say anything, it is too terrible to think of, let alone speak of—a mother to keep four children, or three at any rate, on 3/- a week." That was all, but the men thought of it, apparently for the first time.

"Well, gentlemen," said the chairman, "shall we say 6/-?"

That was agreed, and one can imagine the amazement of the woman when instead of losing 1/6, she received 1/6 more.

That is just one instance that I have related to show how much can be done without making speeches, or rising to speak at all.

The presence of the same member has arranged for the girls in the homes to go to a holiday camp in the summer, (only the boys had gone before) has procured drawers for women in the workhouse, and improved clothing for boys as well as girls in the homes; and has ensured more considerate behaviour to "unfortunate" women who have to come before the board.

It would be easy to multiply instances of the good work women guardians are doing, but this one seemed worth selecting because Mrs. X was not only the only woman on the board, but the only representative of Labour also, so her position was one of special difficulty. Yet she was able to accomplish much in a comparatively short time.

The electors now have a splendid opportunity. Wherever there is a Labour candidate and especially a Labour woman candidate, they must do their best not only to vote themselves, but to bring others to the poll. Let everyone who reads this look carefully down the following list of Women's Labour League candidates, and see where their help can best be given. Let them remember that this is a battle for their destitute and unfortunate sisters, a battle to help those who cannot help themselves.

H. JENNIE BAKER.

List of Women's Labour League members running as candidates in the Guardians' Elections, April 7th, 1913.

LONDON.

Kensington Mrs. W. Jarrett.
Miss Mary Longman.

Woolwich

Mrs. Baillie.
Mrs. Jennings.
Mrs. Newman.
Miss Turnbull.

OUTSIDE LONDON.

Bargoed
Barrow

Miss Hetty Jones.
Mrs. Mills.
Mrs. Yeomans.
Mrs. Owens.
Mrs. Houston.
Mrs. Smith.
Mrs. Moran.
Mrs. Cawthorne.
Mrs. Gould.
Mrs. Casson.
Mrs. Midgley.
Mrs. Stansfield.
Mrs. Clarke.
Mrs. Beddow.
Mrs. Hilton.
Mrs. Auld.
Mrs. Gibbin
Mrs. Reed.
Mrs. Edwards.
Mrs. Jagger.
Mrs. Chalk.
Mrs. Kelly.

Coventry
Gateshead
Griffithstown
Hebburn Quay
Hull

Keighley

Leeds (Hunslet)
Leicester
Middleton
Newcastle-on-Tyne

Ogmore Vale.
Oldham
Swansea

The following have been returned unopposed.

Abertillery

Mrs. Phillips.
Mrs. Davies.
President of W.L.L.
Mrs. Barton.
Miss Fortey.
Mrs. Stretton.

Coventry
Leicester

International Notes.

WOMEN'S DAY.

The Socialist International Woman's Day was celebrated last month with brilliant success in Germany, Austria, Galicia, Switzerland, Holland and Russia! Special numbers of the various papers devoted to the Women's cause in the Socialist movement were published and distributed in great numbers. In the "Frauentag" of Vienna (Woman's Day), England was represented by a portrait of Mary Wollstonecraft, and a paper by Miss Marion Berry, a member of the W.L.L., on "Women and the Municipal Elections in Great Britain." An article by Miss Marion Phillips on "Woman's Suffrage in the United Kingdom" appeared in the current number of "Gleichheit." The German "Frauenwahlrecht" (Women's Vote), contains many interesting articles and pictures dealing with the woman's movement in all lands. The special Woman's number of the Russian Socialist organ, published in St. Petersburg, was confiscated by the police and the editor was prosecuted.

SWISS CONFERENCE.

The Swiss Union of Women Workers has arranged for its third annual conference to take place at

Zurich on Sunday, April 20th, Sunday being the only free day for the majority of the delegates. The Congress will discuss the feasibility of an annual international recognition of "Woman's Day," which this year took place pretty generally on the Continent on March 9th; the recognition by women industrial workers of May 1st as "Labour Day"; the suffrage question; the organisation of women into trade unions; and plans for a campaign to bring about a non-contributory insurance scheme for sickness and maternity benefits.

WOMEN WHO WORK.

An interesting table has just been published in Germany of the proportion of working women to the rest of the population in the chief countries in Europe. Apparently, Russia has the smallest total of all, as only 25 per cent. of her adult women are recorded as working for their livelihood. Other countries are given as follows: Holland, 38; Sweden, 38.4; United States, 38.4; Norway, 39.5; Spain, 40; Great Britain, 45; Denmark, 45; Hungary, 45.1; Germany, 45.5; Belgium, 46; Switzerland, 47; Italy, 50; Austria, 51.5; France 53. Although France thus exceeds in the proportion of women who are earning their living, America and Germany lead in the actual number of women so engaged. The figures for Russia are much lower than those warranted by the facts, as the industrial census on which they are based does not count married working women apart from the family unit.

JUVENILE COURTS.

When the Bill for the establishment of Juvenile Courts in Germany recently came up for its first reading in the Reichstag, there was a lively debate on the point introduced by the Socialists that women as well as men teachers should be empanelled as special jurors. The section of the Reichstag which opposed this proposal objected on the ground that jury service for women was rough and uncivilising, whereupon it was pointed out that in "uncivilised" countries such as France, Tasmania, the United States, Argentina, and Australia, women serve as judges and assistants in the children's courts.

MARY MACPHERSON, B.A.,
International Correspondent.

HOURS OF WORK.

I have a quarrel with the Spring, and include May, June and July in the dispute. From March onwards London discarding its Winter aspect becomes delightfully different. The sun shines on freshly grown grass, on newly opened buds, shewing a green that the art of the dyer has never equalled, on all the flaming colours of crocus, tulip and narcissi. But, alas! "when well appparelled April treads on the limping heel of Winter" men and women also desire new clothes.

Now, against fresh raiment I say nothing, partly because of the pleasure it gives, partly because I live in wholesome awe of the store in Bonchurch Road. I object to the new clothes because the making of them has—but let me tell you.

Roughly speaking there are half a million dress-makers, and the majority of them are young girls. They are formed on very much the same lines as the remainder of the community—that is to say, they like Spring weather, and they feel the joy and gladness of bud-opening time. But Fashion, alas! dictates that her ladies shall not decide on the colour and style of their season's gowns until the sun is shining, and commands that these young dressmakers shall work overtime night after night, just when Nature is calling them to come and dance away the memory of dark winter. When days were dull and short, and work would have been welcomed, they probably earned half pay because new dresses were not required; in Spring and early Summer they work till ten at night for three days a week; in August there is a compulsory month's holiday; in September slackness begins again. Some months they are sick and faint from overwork; in others they are weak from hunger and so the years roll on.

Was it not Mr. Hackett in the "Scenes of Clerical Life," who said "That's a bad sort of eddication as makes folks unreasonable." The ladies who constitute fashion and pleasure their idols have not been educated into thoughtfulness for the workers to whose skill they owe their brilliant raiment.

Hazy and confused ideas still exist as to the number of hours girls may work. A paper which ought to know better pictured an Inspector entering a workshop and asking the girls how long they had been working. They answered "from 8-30 to 7." "Ah!" said he, "that won't do." We doubt whether an Inspector ever said anything of the kind. If the girls had been working till 10-30, the law would have given him some ground for his comment. It would indeed be a splendid step forward if 7 was the closing hour, but alas, it is not!

The hours of work are quite easy to remember. Girls and women employed in non-textile factories or workshops—except laundries—can be worked from 6 to 6, 7 to 7, or 8 to 8 with 1½ hours off for meals. Overtime may extend the work-period for two hours on three days a week, and thirty days in 12 months. In the dressmaking trade practically all the permissible overtime is taken in the Spring months of the year. Thus a girl may be at work from 8 in the morning until 10 at night, and in addition she may have an hour's journey to and from her home—16 hours out of 24. On Saturdays she must have a half? holiday—that is, she leaves at 4, on the remaining days in the working week she will leave at 8.

Has it ever struck you that girls work for 74 hours a week in the Springtime. A 48 hour week is worked in co-operative factories; in these other dressmaking establishments 2½ days is added on to the working week. We wonder what the nation is thinking about when it permits such exploitation of its girl workers. Does it realise the ill health which must result from the position in which a seamstress sits; does it understand that the atmosphere of the room becomes almost unbearable during these long hours; does it understand the monotony of making one part and one only of the garment—sleeve after sleeve, but never the finished dress. Does it understand that these girls have no

opportunity of expressing their individuality—no leisure.

Plenty of time say the employers to seek their pleasure in the Winter when work is slack. Ah! but in the winter there is no money—not even for food. The nation you see is grinding these girls twice over, taking out of them all of work and beauty and strength it can get, giving in exchange as little money as possible, and for their amusement and pleasure they are heavily charged. Picture palaces, cheap theatres, music halls exist mainly on the small earnings of the workers.

The leaders in girls clubs who do try to give pleasure without cost—who are attempting in various ways to teach the girls to be something more than mere machines—are finding that clubs are of little use while hours are so long. The reason for the non-attendance given over and over again is “Oh I don’t get home until 9, and by the time I have had a meal and washed myself you are shut.” So there is this Enquiry into hours.

A question form has been printed and circulated asking girl workers in all employments to state the hours they work and the time it takes them to get to and from their work. When these are filled up club leaders will be able to say to the Home Office: “All through the country young girls are working these long hours, and our clubs are not nearly so useful as they might be because the members come to us tired and dispirited,—or they do not come at all.” Every work girl should fill up a form, which may be had from the National Organisation of Girls’ Clubs, 118, Great Titchfield Street, W.

Perhaps it is not Spring with which I had a quarrel, but with the people who are making a Purgatory out of what should be a Paradise. Possibly this Enquiry will help to make things better? It will, if you help.

MARJORIE GORDON.

N.B.—A copy of this form will be sent to every W.L.L. Branch with the next notices.—EDITOR.

WORKING WOMEN’S HOMES.

AN EXPERIMENTAL CONFERENCE.

We have all talked much and written much of the need of housing reform, but little progress has, as yet, been made in getting a real understanding of what kind of houses we need. The Central London Branch is making an effort to solve this particular question and is calling a Working Women’s Conference on Housing for Friday, May 30th, 1913.

The object of the Conference is to get a careful expression of opinion from working women as to the type of house that would suit them best in urban areas, and then to deal with the ways and means of obtaining such houses. The committee of the Hampstead Garden City have welcomed the project with warm sympathy, and have lent the Institute in the Hampstead Garden Suburb for the meeting. The Conference will consist of two Sessions, one from 3 to 5 p.m. and the other from 7 to 9 p.m. For the first Session Dr. Marion Phillips will be in the chair, and for the second Miss Margaret Bondfield, and Mrs. Barnett will welcome the delegates at 3 o’clock.

THE FIRST SESSION.

The first Session is to be devoted to what working women want, and the following resolution will be moved from the chair:

“That this Conference demands immediate housing reform, so as to secure for every house—hold a self-contained home, with a sufficient water-supply, a bath-room, a larder, and a scullery; and further demands that in all proposals to clear away slums in urban centres a first requirement shall be the provision of open spaces planted with trees.”

There will be three short papers dealing with different aspects, and each of these will be followed by questions. When the third paper has been read, there will be a general discussion, in which all delegates may take part, and amendments to the resolutions may be moved. The three papers will all be given by working women who have had direct practical experience in the work of running their own homes. Mrs. Mylles will deal with the relative advantages of flats and cottages, and the question of environment and transit; Mrs. Spink will speak on the question of the number of rooms which are necessary as a minimum, dealing with the controversy between the parlour and the kitchen, the importance of scullery and larder, etc.; Miss Price will take as her subject all that relates to water supply, bathrooms, and the vexed question of whether it is better to wash at home or use a municipal laundry.

At the end of the afternoon there will be an interval of two hours, during which tea will be served and opportunities given to visit some of the houses in the Garden Suburb, and to examine a large number of plans and models which are very kindly being lent by various organisations and private persons.

THE SECOND SESSION.

The evening Session will be devoted to a discussion of the following resolution:

“That this Conference demands amendments of the Housing and Town Planning Act and the regulations made under it, so as to simplify the procedure with regard to town planning, and to enable local authorities to carry out housing schemes for all classes of the population.”

This will be treated under three heads. Mr. J. Foot, Chief Sanitary Inspector of Bethnal Green, will read a paper on the present powers of Local Authorities to improve housing conditions, revise bye-laws, etc.; Mr. Raymond Unwin, who is the well-known authority on town planning, will deal with that aspect of the question, and Miss Mabel Atkinson will treat the difficult economic problem of whether or no municipalities should build houses for the people and let them at a rent which does not cover the cost. The same procedure will be followed with regard to questions, discussions and amendments as in the afternoon.

THE DELEGATES.

The Branch are inviting all kinds of Labour organisations and associations of working women to

send delegates. In the case of mixed organisations, such as the Independent Labour Party, a special request is being made that they should send women rather than men as delegates. In order to make the representation as wide as possible, a very low fee is being charged of one shilling per delegate, and visitors (who will not have the right to speak or vote), will be admitted at the cost of sixpence a head or half-a-crown for six tickets.

ORGANISATION AND VOTES.

We have given a full description of this Conference in the hope that it may stimulate other Branches to take up the question and arrange similar gatherings. We feel sure that nothing is more necessary for the health of the community than that working women should have every opportunity to come to decided opinions upon these questions of housing. As we had reason to show in these columns a few months ago, housing reform will be a farce if working women are not fully consulted and have not themselves fully considered the question. In this matter, as in so many others, we have but another example of the principle upon which the Women’s Labour League has always acted—the principle that not only do women need votes but they need knowledge and organisation in order to use them properly. The municipal vote, restricted as it is, would be of use to us in this business of housing if we had come to a clear decision as to how we wanted housing reform to be carried out, and had organised ourselves politically so as to give effect to our opinions.

M.P.

THE AMBULATORIO.

A BABY CLINIC ABROAD.

Rome is perhaps the last city in which one would expect to find a flourishing Baby Clinic. But there it is in Trastevere, one of the poorest and most thickly populated quarters of this ancient city, and its history shows how greatly it is needed.

Fourteen years ago, Madame Helbig, a Russian lady resident in Rome, was greatly impressed by the necessity for and the difficulty in obtaining, medical advice and treatment for the poor children of Rome, and with £20 to spend and a vast enthusiasm she set to work. She found a doctor equally enthusiastic, hunted up English, Danish and Swedish girls, among the various foreign residents, who volunteered to help in dispensing and managing the children, hired two rooms and started. In a very short time the number of patients proved too large for this accommodation and for the one doctor, and the staff was enlarged by the addition of his wife, Dr. Olga Signorelli and a paid nurse, although the dispensing and much of the general help is still in the hands of volunteers, while the institution took up new quarters in the ground floor of a very large house in the Via Morosini.

From the street one enters the waiting room, discoloured a cool pale gray, and furnished with benches enough for the 60 mothers and babies who may attend

in a morning, and a large stove. This is often very welcome as in the dwellings of the poorest in Rome there are no means of heating and all food has to be got out of doors. Opening from the waiting room is a light and airy consulting room, where the babies are seen and weighed and prescribed for, and behind that is the dispensary and a room with an installation of electric baths.

The Ambulatorio is open at 9 every morning except Thursdays and Sundays for eleven months in the year for children up to 8 years. There is no limit to the number but the door is closed at 10, and the doctors are always at work till midday or longer; and on two afternoons in the week the mothers or expectant mothers are treated.

The tiny babies look such queer little objects, swaddled up tight like mummies and only able to move their bright eyes. The doctors are trying hard to persuade the Italian mothers that a baby does not necessarily break in half, if you do not bind him up with yards and yards of stiff binding, but the custom dies very hard.

No operations are done at this clinic, but they undertake the after care of cases operated on elsewhere, and seem to have a good deal of tuberculosis bone disease to deal with. Tubercle indeed is their chief difficulty; quite half the children brought show signs of it, doubtless as the result of the poor, crowded and ill-ventilated houses.

On the other hand they do not suffer so much from our tonsils and adenoids, possibly because a bottle baby is almost unknown, and not a single babe ever has a ‘comforter.’ In Italy this luxury is reserved for children of the very rich who have English nurses.

Rickets they call “the English disease,” but there is plenty of it nevertheless, though the doctors say that the children of pure Italian parents who have not lived abroad rarely suffer from it, but only the children of intermarriages or of those who have lived long in New York or London. It is treated largely by electric baths and they get very good results.

Case books are kept and the previous living conditions of the children carefully noted. The father’s trade is often very hard to define. For instance, in winter he may be selling charcoal for scaldaio and turkey feather fans, and in spring he is teasing unfortunate tourists with offers of “vera cheap pos’ cards.”

Finance has been an ever present worry to the Ambulatorio. There are but few subscribers, so that it depends on donations, chiefly from English residents in Rome, or concerts organised by Madame Helbig, at which she herself plays, or sometimes on the sale of one of Dr. Signorelli’s famous vases from Bari.

The King and Queen of Italy are much interested, and the King has given 1000 francs (£40) on the birth of each of their children. The staff would like a Royal birthday once a month! Rent, doctor’s and nurse’s salary and cleaning come to about £150; medicines, chiefly cod liver oil, and other expenses come to £70 more. All dressings and bandages are given. For this sum, modest enough surely, even though money goes further than with us—an average of 60 children are seen daily.

E. WALLER.

ORGANISATION OF SOCIALIST WOMEN IN GERMANY.

Frau Clara Zetkin, the Secretary of the International Council of Women's Socialist and Trade Unionist organisations, sends me a very interesting and lucid account of the organisation of Socialist women in Germany. She says that in the year 1911 there were more than 130,000 women members of the Social Democratic Party, and more than 260,000 women organised in various Trade Federations. These women have all joined as individual members. This splendid result is due to the work of more than 20 years, during which propaganda has been carried on zealously and uninterruptedly, in spite of the many difficulties that had to be contended with in Germany, where there were until lately special laws against Socialists as a body, and in many States enactments forbidding women to join political associations, besides the usual prejudice against allowing women to exercise the rights of citizens. The law prohibiting women to be members of political organisations has been reformed throughout the whole Empire, as it was found to be useless; for in a guerilla war carried on for fifteen years the authorities were tired out and beaten by the women's persistency in doing under other names and forms what was forbidden by law. The general prejudice against women has to a great extent been overcome by the excellent work done by women.

The aim of the women's organisers has always been to get women to join the Socialist Party in the political struggle, and the Trade Federations to improve their position economically. All great questions have been brought directly before the women of the working class and have been treated from the historical point of view. Such matters have been shown to be intimately connected with the interests of working women themselves, and they have been made to understand that the Socialist Party and the Trade Federations are the only social factors to be trusted by the women to defend their rights, their liberty and their well-being. It has been recognised and insisted upon that the Trade Federations must on practical and moral grounds protect the interests of the women of the working classes with the same energy as those of the men. When there are no particular general questions to be emphasised, special women's questions are discussed, such as the protection of motherhood, the care of infants and children, including education and the propaganda for the full rights of citizenship.

Working-class women act with the Socialist Party and the Trade Federations in defending their joint interests and in working for full political and economic emancipation. These organisations have thus become accustomed to look at all events, questions and laws, not only from the standpoint of men but also from the point of view of women. It is thus impossible that the situation, needs and interests of the working-class women can be overlooked and forgotten. The women have learned what trustworthy and faithful champions

they have in their fellow Socialists and Trade Unionists, and the men have experienced the support and strength to be derived from the activity and co-operation of organised women.

Propaganda has been carried on at mixed meetings for women and men, in meetings for women only, at conferences, and so on. It has been found by experience that in speaking to women, women comrades have been more successful organisers than men. The propaganda has been extended and greatly helped by means of literature, leaflets, pamphlets, the women's fortnightly paper, "Die Gleichheit" (Equality) and by articles in the Socialist and Trade Union Press. Some of the leading women organisers have been trained in the women's movement itself. Those who have a good education in Socialist politics and in economics, have always been ready to help those who want to learn, who have been taught how to draw up a good speech, report or lecture, how to employ and collect statistics and where to find them. A great feature of the movement has been the institutions for study, clubs for working women, societies for tailoresses, dressmakers and other classes of workers. Then there are reading and debating evenings for women which have proved a very effective means for theoretical and practical training. One of the best and most effective means of educating women propagandists has always been the "Gleichheit," which has existed now for more than 22 years. For the first six or eight years its circulation was only a few thousands. But during that time the paper had educated the best of the women who were awakened to the truth of the Socialist teaching, and in proportion to their initiation in the work, the movement grew and with it the circulation of the paper, which has now 105,000 subscribers.

At all public meetings, conferences, concerts and festivals, there are a certain number of women entrusted with the duty of inviting women to join the Party, and the names and addresses of new members are collected. The matter is not allowed to end there, for women members are appointed as house to house visitors to fetch contributions and to distribute "Gleichheit," and other literature so that women who have once joined are not easily lost. Sometimes there is a special house to house propaganda, something like canvassing at election times in England, when women are told off to visit the homes of the workers, to speak with the women, and to try and get hold of their sympathies.

The success of these and other methods of organisation and propaganda carried on by our German sisters, and demonstrated by the large numbers of Socialist and Trade Unionist women given above, bear emphatic witness to the untiring energy, earnestness and far-sighted effort of the Socialist women of Germany.

M. A. M.

MAY DAY AND ITS MEANING.

May Day, I take it, is just Summer's Birthday, and for countless centuries there is record that on that day men, women and children the world over have felt quicken within them a desire to cease from their labours: to go forth from their close clustering homes, out into the open country, there to welcome the Summer in.

In the early days, I imagine, when the Adams all delved and the Eves all span, and there were no idle gentlemen and silly, scented ladies, the festival was one that knocked at the door of every human heart. But darker ages dawned with a civilisation that divided the human family into classes.

Who then, first, I wonder, among the poor slave workers of the world conceived the thought of making May Day sacred to the workers' cause—The natural symbol of their deliverance from the

"Smoky net

Of unrejoicing labour."

In England, in the days of the May Pole dancers, the men and maids who made merry on the green together, could hardly have sent their thoughts ranging from their village boundaries.

This year,—try and imagine the marvellous changing of the time—when our workers gather yet once more to celebrate the May, their thoughts will be carried out to every country under the sun. Their hearts will be lifted up and their hands stretched out to their fellow workers, in the farthest East as in the nearest West, with them to welcome in what we believe will surely prove the Summer tide of the human race.

And if the range of the May Day message be so vastly grown, what of its depth of meaning? At first it can only have been a vague notion,—the stirring of the seed, deep hid in the heart of humanity.

The sunshine is for all.

Human life was built for joy.

Song is for man as well as the birds.

The sower should surely reap: the worker win ease and delight.

But slowly men's reading of the truth grew clearer.

"The sunshine is for all!"

With the call of the summer in their blood the workers grew impatient of the slavery that bade them for ever be building up the "House of Pain" for their fellows in other lands, as well as for themselves at home,—with palace piled on palace for their masters' everywhere. To the first articulate cry, "No class has a right to rob another of its place in the sun," was added a second, "No nation has a right to hold down another nation in the shadows." Between the workers of the world there is and can be no quarrel.

From the birth of the International up, almost to this last year, the two vast thoughts have been deemed sufficient, and each May Day their echoes rolling like the thunder of the sea, from shore to shore, have been at work to rebuild the world.

But the message was not yet complete.

There is a strange Trinity lurking in every perfect Unity: in the three primary colours that are hidden in the white sunshine, in the father, mother and babe of the family, and so in the Message of May Day.

This year, not faintly or tentatively, not on a poor little platform by itself, but as an integral part of the whole mighty message comes the third call. "No man has a right to hinder the climb upward toward the sun of his fellow woman." The sun,—freedom to grow, to work and to enjoy,—is for all!

As I think of it, my pen held spell-bound with the heart throb from the blue sky above, from the waving trees. The dream of the new world's May Sunday takes form and shape, and under the leaping arches of a glorious Cathedral, I seem to see a vast throng of happy worshippers, solemnly chanting the wonderful cadences of our Twentieth Century Universal Creed of Salvation. "Three in one and one in three,—one and indivisible, the Trinity of the Truth, of the Truth that shall save mankind, of the Truth that shall free the nations,—of the Solidarity of the Human Race."

And if some gentle Welsh Sister of our Labour League, with no haunting echoes of the creed of St. Athanasius in her brain begin to wonder what madness has befallen the erstwhile practical Mrs. Bruce Glasier, let her think what new loveliness of home life will invade her Welsh valleys when our skilled craftsmen are set free to build sweet garden villages instead of 'Dreadnoughts,' say 350 million pounds worth in a single seven years.

Or if a brave Lanchashire mother, hot from her evening baking about the weary factory hours have sped, feel tempted to a good natured "pouf" of scorn for mere fine words,—let her too sit and think what strange gladness her life would have known had her man's healthful days of but eight,—nay—six hours' length sufficed to provide her, her children and their home with its every living need. Or if, finally, some fierce-eyed Suffragette toss our paper from her, contemptuous of the woman who will not be won from legal allegiance to the worker's cause, let her try to realise how from this May Day onward, the workers have declared the women's cause their own, and how honest is the warmth, aye, and oftentimes splendid the glow of love in the eyes of a woman whose man fares forth each morning, cheerfully facing for her sake and for the children she has borne him, long hours of hard and may be dangerous, even deadly toil.

KATHARINE BRUCE GLASIER.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SOCIALIST AND LABOUR ORGANISATIONS. (British Section).

Hon. Sec.: Miss Mary Longman, 3, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

The next meeting of the Council will be held at the Women's Labour League Office, 3, Lincoln's Inn Fields, on Monday, April 21st, 1913, at 8 p.m. The chief subject of discussion will be the methods of organisation among women in Germany, Denmark and Austria. We hope to have an answer from Frau Clara Zetkin on the points with regard to German organisation that were raised at the last meeting. In view of this discussion the letter from Frau Zetkin in this issue is of special interest.

This meeting will be open to visitors.

HOW I BEGAN TO EARN MY LIVING.

No. 3. IN THE KITCHEN.

As a girl I was supposed to be very delicate and my people thought it would be foolishness to let me go to work. My home was a farm in Scotland, and I suppose I would have remained there and been a kind of invalid all my life, if I had not got thoroughly tired of doing nothing. It happened that I went for change of air to a town in England, and at that time I wanted very much to be a confectioner. But I think my parents thought the premium for apprenticeship in that trade was too large to risk for such a poor weak thing as I was.

So one day I went to a Registry Office and got a situation as kitchen maid. It was a big house with eight servants, and a reputation for changing them so often that they used to say that Sutton, the carrier, stopped to pick up or put down a tin trunk at the gates every morning. Well, I was twenty then, and I stayed three years and rose to be cook. Plenty of work and change of air soon made me strong and well, but at the end of three years I thought I would like to see a bit more of the world. I gave notice, much to my lady's disgust, and when I left I found that my troubles began.

Every place I tried for, I failed to get. All would be well until they had gone to my former mistress for a reference. Perhaps I would never have found another, had I not chanced on a lady who knew the former one and did not attach too much importance to what she wrote. This lady told me that my reference said that I would insist on having my own way!

From that time onward I had many a pleasant experience. I made up my mind that I would never stay for more than a year or so in one place, and so I moved about, living in town and country, and meeting all sorts of people of many nationalities.

My own experience makes me think domestic service good for girls so long as they are well looked after. I know very little of service where only one or two are kept and that is different. It was good for me to get right away where there were strangers and where I had to work. I always found mistresses easy to get on with if I was firm with them. You must insist on your own way so far as your own concerns go, and then if you keep the rules of the house (and have a clear understanding that the unreasonable ones are done away with), and do your work well, you find the life goes fairly smoothly. With a cook who is kind and looks after her carefully, a young girl can have a healthy and happy life.

I always objected to the evening out for young girls, especially when they were strangers. I preferred that they should have a couple of hours off in the afternoon and a whole day every month. If they do not go out until after dark there is no way to amuse themselves, and they are likely to get into difficulties. But in the day-time there are shops to look at, plenty of people about, and they are better occupied. In the country there are the beauties of nature. Then, too, I think it is much better to let the girls have their friends to come to the house to see them, even their young men friends! Young

girls and young boys naturally want to be together, and should be so openly. I never would have stayed in a house where this was not allowed for the girls under me.

I notice that some ladies think it a hardship that under the Insurance Act their maids may not be able to go on having the family doctor as he may not be on the Panel. My own experience is that the maids will appreciate this. For example, the family doctor goes down to the drawing room after seeing a girl, and usually soothes the mistress and lets her feel perhaps that there is far less the matter with the girl than is really the case. Then, of course, the mistress wants her to be better and about again sooner than she should be. I am sure it will help the girls a great deal to have their own doctor, who will be in a more independent position towards the mistress.

What I think domestic servants ought to be always remembering is that their work must be honestly done and their spirit independent.

A NORTHERNER.

The Baby Clinic.

12, Telford Road, North Kensington, W.

The Conference organized in Kensington Town Hall on February 26th, by the Baby Clinic and the various Schools for Mothers in North Kensington, was a great success: and the hearty thanks of the Committee are due to Mrs. Chitty, who made all the arrangements for us and sold a very large number of tickets.

The Bishop of Southwark took the chair, and Mr. Will Crooks, Mrs. Pember Reeves, Dr. Bentham, Miss Clara Grant, Mrs. Lawrence Irving, Dr. Winifred Warner and others spoke to an interested audience of more than 300 people. The only drawback was that there was not sufficient time to discuss all the interesting points connected with the care of children that were raised by the various speakers.

Readers are reminded that June 28th is the Birthday of the Clinic, and it is not too soon to begin taking thought as to what we can do to celebrate the occasion, and incidentally, of course, to assist the Clinic funds. One friend has undertaken to collect 100 shillings. If this is beyond the reach of some of us, could we not manage 100 pence?

Subscriptions:—Mrs. Moon, Mrs. Shuckburgh, Miss Isabel Smith, Miss Helen Fryer, Mrs. L. H. Hoover, A. N. Macnicoll, Esq., Miss Reid, The Lady Kelvin, Miss Chick, Mrs. Chitty, Mr. and Mrs. Baylis.

Donations:—Stanhope W.L.L., The Lady Charnwood, Mr. Miles Handy, Mrs. W. Jarrett (collected), Mrs. Manuel, Mrs. Baume, Mrs. W. K. Jackson, Mrs. James White, Miss Hodges, Mrs. Nelson Hardy (collected), The Lady Plunket, Mrs. H. C. Bradby, Mrs. T. H. Carson, Mrs. Minet, Sewing Party (3, Lincoln's Inn Fields).

Hon. Treasurer:—Mrs. P. H. Nodin, "Minook," Coulsdon, Surrey.

COMRADES.

She had plunged with all the enthusiasm of seventeen. The Suffrage Movement had more powerful, but no more ardent followers than this little dressmaker's apprentice. She had been converted by an open-air meeting towards which she had drifted while waiting for a friend. At the moment her interest had been faint, but at the Sunday dinnertable a remark from her aunt that women were better without the vote had evoked the rapid outpouring of all she had heard. She was a little frightened of herself, but having nailed her colours to the mast, kept them there, and by reading and thinking over such Suffrage papers as came her way, she had become a strong Suffragist.

Soon she found her attitude to the world altered. Hitherto she had always enviously admired the fine ladies in fur and feathers who glided up the richly-carpeted stairs of the Court dressmaker for whom Betty worked, but now she began to despise them. She felt that they were all Antis, perhaps a rather hasty generalisation. Madame also came in for her share of contempt, as did the slight, fluff-haired Secretary, who was Madame's right hand. These two little knew what was going on in the mind of the demure maiden with blue bows on her pigtails, who waited on them so meekly. "They just spend their life fawning on rich women," said the little judge, "trying to dress as much like them as they can." For one night the Secretary, laying aside the sweeping green gown which she wore in the show-room, put on—not her natty coat and skirt—but a shimmering evening dress, with shoes and all to match, and went off in a taxi with a man in evening dress. She herself was just trudging off to a protest meeting in the Queen's Hall, and felt the contrast keenly. Altogether she was on the way to becoming an unbearable little prig when an incident occurred to save her.

It was the Secretary who first opened her eyes.

"Get me the cupboard key," she said, "it's in my coat pocket—right hand."

Betty went and drew out, not the key, but a badge with "Votes for Women" in large letters. The Secretary saw it and laughed.

"Oh, I didn't know that was there. You see I take it off when I am near the office."

Betty stood speechless for a minute, then rallied.

"You don't mean you're a Suffragist?"

"Yes, I do," the Secretary answered simply.

"Well!" said Betty, "Well!" There seemed nothing else to say.

"Why not?" said the Secretary, "didn't you think I'd brains enough?"

At this reading of her thoughts Betty had the grace to blush.

"If Madame knew," Betty said solemnly, "do you think she'd give you the sack, unless you promised to give it up?"

The Secretary drew herself up; she really looked rather fine.

"I should say, "Madame, you cannot buy my con-

science! I have been with you four years, but I would rather leave you to-night than give up being a Suffragist."

Ah me, for the grandiloquent speeches we never have the chance to make!

"Would you really say that?" said Betty, a trifle awed, and then in a merciful lull of customers, they exchanged ideas in the corner of the fitting-room. Betty went much further than the Secretary, who wanted women to have the vote, and knew that certain changes would come, but did not mean that re-organization of the social structure for which Betty yearned. Still she was perfectly sound. They passed to talking of Madame—her inability to see the light.

"Fancy that fool of a Blethers"—thus Betty politely designated the window-cleaner—"has a vote and Madame, who runs all the show, hasn't, and doesn't care. She must be as big a fool as Blethers," she added, wrathfully.

What more might have been said was cut off by the entrance of Madame amid a cloud of pink chiffon which Betty was to roll up. Betty set to work, her mind busy trying to reconcile her conception of the Secretary up till to-day with the new idea of her which her declaration as a Suffragist demanded.

The next day a mightier shock was given her. Madame vanished!

The Secretary knew nothing about it, and the servants could only say that she had gone out the afternoon before and said she might not be back that night and she would write. Murder, suicide, kidnapping, elopement with Blethers, all these had been discussed and dismissed before the Secretary received her letter. Then the news spread. Madame was in prison for refusing to pay taxes! She refused because she was tired of taxation without representation. She had made over her goods to her sister, so they could not distrain, and she had been sentenced to seven days. She was getting on well and sent the needful instructions to the Secretary and the cook about business and domestic affairs. She knew they would do their best and she would find everything all right when she came out. And she would never pay taxes again till women had the vote.

Then arose confusion of tongues for a time. The Secretary alone was silent, realising what it might mean. For Madame would not have the matter hushed up and any enquiring customer was to be told the truth. Although she had arranged that no customer was to be disappointed by the absence of the head, she could guess the comments of such as Lady Kingpatrick. She paused to marvel on the power of a movement that could call a Society flunkey like Madame, a butterfly creature like herself and a monotonously employed little thing like Betty, in such an imperious tone, and could inspire them with the same purpose and hope. But she roused herself to remind the girls this was not the way to back up Madame. Quiet reigned after that, but ten minutes later Betty burst out once more, "Well," she said, "if this doesn't get us the vote, nothing will."

M. LAWRENCE.

Industrial Women's Insurance Advisory Board.

Chairman: MISS MARY R. MACARTHUR (W.T.U.L.)

Vice-Chairman: MISS L. HARRIS (W.C.G.)

Secretary: DR. MARION PHILLIPS, Women's Labour League, 3, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.

The following letter has just been issued to all working women on Insurance Committees.

DEAR FRIEND,

I hope that the following notes may be useful to you:—

I. SANATORIUM BENEFIT.

There is no doubt that an Insurance Committee is entitled to allow as "sanatorium benefit" to all those who are receiving Domiciliary Treatment, anything which the doctor attending the patient thinks is needed. This not only includes medicines, cod-liver oil, sputum flasks, etc., but nourishing food, milk, meat, eggs, etc., and even blankets, warm clothing or air cushions. But the question has been asked us by one of our representatives, must the Committee inquire first into the income going into the household?

The Board is strongly of opinion that no Insurance Committee has any right whatsoever to make any inquiries into the income of the family of an insured person. The Committee should order any benefits which the doctor in attendance states are required for the proper treatment of the patient. I may add that it is unlikely that the doctor would order what the patient already had, and further that amongst insured persons it is extremely unusual for luxuries such as fresh eggs, quantities of milk, meat or warm blankets, to be within the buying power of the patient. Fight strongly against any system of income inquiry in such cases.

2. MATERNITY BENEFIT.

The Board would be very glad to know whether you have heard of any cases in which the husband used the 30/- Benefit himself and his wife failed to get any advantage from it.

Another question which has been raised is in connection with Maternity Benefit for Deposit Contributors. One Committee appointed its members to act as visitors and it was proposed that the visitor should demand the production of a marriage certificate.

The Board are of opinion that this is not necessary and that it is sufficient if the husband signs a statement when applying for the benefit. In any case,

the wife should not be worried in the matter. Every care should be taken to leave her in peace, so far as it is possible, at the time of her confinement.

We think you would find it very useful if you got into friendly relations with the women Sanitary Inspectors and Health Visitors in your district, as they could tell you a great deal about the mothers of new babies which would be helpful. Would you please tell me to what extent the Notifications of Births Act is in force in your district.

3. We are now asking Mr. Lloyd George to receive a deputation to consider the question of the expenses of working women on the Insurance Committees. If you would answer the questions printed below and send them to me before March 27th, it would be a great help in preparing your case to have these definite facts before us. If you have sent these facts before, do not trouble to do this.

Please write and tell me how you are getting on. If you can remember any particular matter in which you had a chance of saving the Committee from making a mistake because of your special knowledge of working women's lives, I should be so glad to hear about it.

All good wishes,

Yours very truly,

MARION PHILLIPS.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Board was held on March 27th, 1913, and a full report of the proceedings will be given in our May number.

EXPENSES ON INSURANCE COMMITTEE

DURING FEBRUARY, 1913.

1. Railway Fares.
Have they been repaid?
2. Cost of Meals away from home.
3. Loss of Time at Work.
4. Difficulties with house-work, children, etc.
5. Number of Committees and Sub-Committees attended.
6. Have you missed any on account of expense?
7. Usual time away from home on Committees.
8. Your name and Insurance Committee.

Working Women on Insurance Committees

I. SOME NOTES FROM GLOUCESTER.

Mrs. Liddington, who represents the National Federation of Women Workers on the Gloucestershire Committee, lives in Coleford, in the Forest of Dean. The Committee meets at Gloucester. Working women will realise the sacrifice she is making in giving her work thus, when they read what she says:—

"I have now served seven months on the Gloucestershire Insurance Committee and only missed one meeting. I am on the Finance Committee and the District Committee, and they wanted me very badly on the Sanatorium Committee, but I could not see my way clear as that Committee meets so often. Although I have to go two or three times a month, we try to arrange the meetings on the same day.

We must keep on fighting for expenses. I, for example, am a working man's wife and it comes hard on us. I have to leave home at 8-30 in the morning and I return at 8 in the evening, so you see it is a long day and means a lot of out of pocket expenses for dinner and tea and so on. We only get our third class railway fare and that is not enough.

Please do not think that I am tired of the work, for I am deeply interested in it, but I think it wants showing up. I have been up four weeks' running, and we have meetings for the next two weeks, so that will mean six weeks on end.

I cannot tell you much about the Sanatorium Benefit. I got papers for two young men in this part to go and they have greatly benefitted, but from what I hear, the Committee can only treat very few. They are crippled for want of funds.

We ought to have our District Committee formed by now, but the Commissioners have not sent down the appointments yet. We have got four members of the W.L.L. on and two working men, so we ought to be able to do some good, but there is so much red tape about it and that takes so much of the money that the funds are bound to be crippled."

II. WHAT A CORNWALL REPRESENTATIVE THINKS.

"I have attended eight meetings," our representative says, "and have had no expenses paid whatever until last week, when they simply sent five railway fares. There are still three owing, and the Commissioners have paid no out-of-pocket expenses, so you may think it will throw the working classes out, and that is what I think and believe is intended. I leave after 8 in the morning and do not get back until 7-30 at night, and once a quarter it is 11-30 before I get home. Since the strikes a lot of trains have been taken off, and if you miss one it is generally four hours before you can get another, and as the station is two miles from the meeting place it makes it a tiresome and expensive day, although you can't help liking it when you get there—it is such interesting work."

She describes how when she proposed a resolution as to payment of expenses, some thought they should do it for the love of the work—and then they went and had a 3/6 lunch!

This representative sacrifices not only her time and money, but something perhaps more precious—her

weekly half-holiday with her husband. How fine it all is, this splendid spirit of public duty, the co-operation in the home, the unselfish smoothing over of difficulties, the true faith in democracy which sets loose this magical spirit of human service in the hard-driven, home-loving working woman of to-day!

POLITICAL NOTES.

THE NEW SESSION.

The Parliamentary Session will be chiefly occupied with further discussion of Home Rule and Welsh Disestablishment. The only new legislation in which the Women's Labour League is especially interested is a promised Education Bill. This will deal in some way with half-timers, secondary education and continuation classes. We will deal with this question in our next issue. Another important step has been taken by the Board of Trade in proposing the establishment of Trade Boards to deal with the shirt-making and hollow ware-trades and cheap confectionery. On these industries also we hope to publish interesting articles in the near future.

WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE.

The King's Speech, of course, made no reference to Women's Suffrage, but it held a disquieting element in promising a Plural Voting Bill. The Independent Labour Party replied to this in the following Resolution which was passed at their conference on Tuesday, March 25th, by a large majority:—

"That this Conference condemns emphatically the breach of faith of which the cabinet has been guilty in withdrawing from its oft repeated pledge to take full Cabinet responsibility for any Woman's Suffrage Bill which passed its second reading by a free vote of the House of Commons; and declares that the only satisfactory method of dealing with the situation thus created is for the Government itself to introduce a Woman's Enfranchisement Bill framed on broad and democratic lines, and invites the Labour Party to bring all possible pressure to bear on the Government to secure this, and, in particular, to vigorously oppose and defeat all proposals for amending the franchise or registration laws unless women are included therein."

Our Branches are taking up the work of suffrage propaganda with renewed vigour and have already distributed nearly 50,000 leaflets on supporting the Labour Party's declaration at their Conference in January.

NEXT ISSUE.

Next issue will see the League Leaflet under a new title. We have grown out of the "Leaflet" stage and our title now is misleading alike to readers and advertisers. A new title and new title-page will therefore be interesting surprises for all our readers on May 1st.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The Annual Report, including a full report of the Conference, is now ready and will be sold at 2d. a copy or 1/9 post free for 1 dozen. It contains over 70 pages so that it will give full value. Every Branch should have 1 copy for every member and some over for new members and subscribers.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS

TO WORKING WOMEN.

Remember! A Well-spent Rate is the Truest Economy.

VOTE FOR LABOUR and RETURN

The Candidates who know what Working Women Want.

Labour stands for the following reforms, especially important to women.

HOUSING.

Well-built self-contained homes with a plentiful water supply, a bath, a larder and sufficient sanitary arrangements—at a reasonable rent. Private landlords do not give us this, so the municipality must build such homes and plenty of open spaces must be left around them.

CHILDREN.

Safe and clean playgrounds near their homes, but away from the dangers of the motors, and children's rooms at the Public Libraries in all town areas. Provision by scholarships for all the children able to profit by further education, whose parents cannot afford to keep them at school. Thorough Medical Inspection, followed by treatment of ailing little ones and food for those who are hungry—whether in school or in holiday time. Smaller classes and better buildings and a fair rate of pay for all teachers.

HOUSE REFUSE.

Sanitary dust bins and daily collection of house

refuse, which should be disposed of in a dust destructor. Provision by the municipality of overalls for men engaged in this work, and arrangements for washing them, so that the dirty clothes need not be brought into the homes for the wives to deal with.

FOOD.

Careful inspection of all food (including milk) for sale; so that a housewife may get food fit for human consumption, and full value for her carefully laid out pennies.

WAGES.

A living wage for all men and all women in the employment of the Council, from the office charwomen upward.

ALLOTMENTS.

Provision of allotments wherever wanted at reasonable rates and at a reasonable distance from the peoples' homes.

WOMEN VOTERS

Support these Principles and help to gain

A Clean and Prosperous Town,

Happy Sturdy Children,

Well-built Convenient Homes,

Cheerful Healthy Mothers.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S LABOUR LEAGUE

(A self-governing organisation of working women affiliated to the Labour Party).

GENERAL OFFICES: 3, LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS, W.C.

Hours 10-30 to 1 o'clock or by appointment.

Branches in England, Scotland and Wales.

OBJECT.

To form an organisation of women to work for independent Labour representation in connection with the Labour Party, and to obtain direct Labour Representation of women in Parliament and on all local bodies.

MEMBERSHIP.

Women members, and wives and daughters of members of societies eligible for affiliation to the Labour Party (including Trade Unions, Trade Councils, Local Labour Representation Committees, Co-operative and Socialist Societies), and others in agreement with the object are invited to join the Women's Labour League. Societies of women which are working in agreement with the object of the W.L.L. and are not eligible for direct affiliation to the Labour Party, shall be eligible for affiliation.

METHODS.

The members of the Society will work with the Labour Party locally and nationally, and help Labour candidates in local and Parliamentary elections.

They will educate themselves on political and social questions by means of meetings, discussions, distribution of leaflets, etc.

They will take an active interest in the work of the Poor Law Guardians, Educational Bodies, Registration of Voters, Town, District, and County Councils, and Parliament.

They will work to secure the full rights of citizenship for all women and men.

They will watch the interests of working women in their own neighbourhood and strive, where possible, to improve their social and industrial condition.

OFFICIAL ORGAN:

THE LEAGUE LEAFLET, one halfpenny monthly, or one shilling a year posted.

ALL WOMEN

Interested in the

LABOUR MOVEMENT

Should read the notes appearing in the

LABOUR LEADER

On

WOMEN & LABOUR.

EVERY FRIDAY. Price One Penny.

Order Early from your Newsagent.

Publications.

Annual Report, including Report of Conference. Price 2d., or 1/9 a dozen.

How to do the Work of the League: By Dr. Marion Phillips. Price 1d., or 9d. for 13.

Baths at the Pithead and the Works: By Mrs. Bruce Glasier, Mr. T. Richardson, M.P., etc. Illustrated. Price 1d., 9d. per 13.

The League Leaflet: A monthly publication. Price 1d. post free, 1/- per annum, 9d. for 2 dozen.

My Favourite Recipes: A Cookery Book by Women of the Labour Party. Price 6d., or 4/6 a dozen.

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