

THE  
WOMAN'S LEADER

IN POLITICS  
IN THE HOME  
IN INDUSTRY

IN LITERATURE AND ART  
IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND

THE COMMON CAUSE

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# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND  
COMMON CAUSE.

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

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CORRESPONDENCE should reach the Editor not later than the first post on Monday. The Editor's decision is final.

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## NOTES AND NEWS

### The I.W.S.A.

The success of the I.W.S.A. meeting was assured from the moment that it was known that it would be truly international not only in spirit, but in the flesh, a position guaranteed by the presence, besides the British officials of the Alliance, of Mrs. Chapman Catt, Madame de Witt Schlumberger, Dr. Ancona, Madame Antonia Girardet-Vielle, Frau Schreiber-Krieger, M.P., and Frau Lindemann, M.P. The woman suffrage cause has moved very quickly since these veterans last met upon a London platform, and the atmosphere of success achieved is much more favourable to such an occasion than that of hope deferred, which had long been too familiar to political women. That we join with the great meeting of Monday night in congratulating Mrs. Catt upon the American victory goes without saying. We go, indeed, even further, and congratulate women, even the least civilised women of darkest Africa, upon a great step forward in this direction, which must, in time, reach out over the whole world.

### Children's Courts.

The Committee stage of the Juvenile Courts (Metropolis) Bill resulted in the passing of an amendment reducing the status of women magistrates in Children's Courts to that of assessors, while the Stipendiary himself is the only responsible official. The Government's original plan for a Court consisting of one man and one woman magistrate, with the Stipendiary as President, will, we hope, be restored to the Bill at the Report Stage, since amendments, which are contrary to the best opinion, were not accepted by the Government. Mr. Rawlinson, who was responsible for them, loses few opportunities of whittling down the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, and for this purpose presses into his service the most varied armoury of antique weapons.

### Probation Officers.

The Home Secretary has appointed a Departmental Committee to inquire into the present methods of training, appointing, and paying probation officers. The reason for this Committee, whose chairman is Sir John Baird, is to consider whether any alterations are desirable in order to secure at all Courts a sufficient number of probation officers with suitable training and qualifications. The members of the Committee are: Mr. T. W. Fry, O.B.E., Metropolitan Police Magistrate, Mr. S. W. Harris, C.B., C.V.O., of the Home Office, Mr. Oliver W. Hind, J.P., of Nottingham, and Miss A. Ivimy, formerly Probation Officer at Bow Street Police Court.

### Juvenile Prisoners.

Mr. Murray Macdonald asked the Home Secretary whether, in view of the fact that an increased number of boys between fourteen and sixteen were sent to prison, either under sentence or on remand, or to await removal to other institutions, during the year ending March, 1920, he will take steps to put an end to the imprisonment of boys and girls between fourteen and sixteen, since it is an admitted fact that imprisonment is not only a futile, but a barbarous method of correcting children. Mr. Shortt reminded the House that under the Children Act no child between fourteen and sixteen was sent to prison unless the Court certifies that he is of so unruly a character that he cannot be detained in a place of detention, or of so depraved a character that he is not a fit person to be so detained. Of the eighty-five boys between fourteen and sixteen received into prison during the time under discussion, only seventeen were sentenced to a term of imprisonment. The remainder were received into prison on remand and were subsequently sent to reformatory schools, placed on probation, or otherwise disposed of. In every case a certificate was given by the Court. In the circumstances, the Home Secretary added, he was unable to take any action in the matter. But it seems obvious that more remand homes should be provided, so that these children should be spared what must be a horror and torture to the mind of the very young, and cannot conceivably do any good.

### Trials in Camera.

Women who are quite aware of the disadvantages and injustice of trials *in camera* will welcome a change in the direction of greater reticence in reporting, not only those cases which have hitherto been heard *in camera*, but of all cases involving indecency. It is well, however, not to run to the other extreme. Detailed and picturesque reports of divorce cases and criminal assaults are against public morals, and, what is more important, they cannot pillory the offender without causing extreme suffering to the person aggrieved. One may well pity a girl who has to tell her story of shameful indignity in open Court before strangers, but when this story is reproduced in full in the local paper that is read by all her neighbours, her punishment is greater than anything her assailant can be made to bear. The Press, which is not without blame in this matter, would be glad to cease imitating its less reputable members if it could do so without financial loss, and we might cease to see the police, the clergy, the magistrates of a small village conniving at the escape of a malefactor because village life could hardly survive the miasma arising from his misdeeds if he were brought to justice. The

names and addresses of the parties in such a case, the charge, and the punishment inflicted should be published (all these material facts are withheld when cases are tried *in camera*); this is the publicity that justice demands; to give more may often be to punish the innocent.

### Uncertified Insanity.

Dr. Addison attempts, in the Ministry of Health Bill, to legislate for shell-shocked soldiers by allowing qualified persons to take charge of patients suffering from "incipient" mental disorder, or disorder of "recent origin," without certification, for a period of less than six months. Cases of shell-shock, puerperal mania, or delirium tremens, were, it was pointed out, cases which may be completely cured, and which should not carry with them the stigma associated with insanity. The standing Committee agreed with this, though objection was taken to the idea of confining a man suffering from shock in the same house with a violent alcoholic. Everyone, in fact, recognises that the mentally unstable, if they are to have the best chance of recovery, must associate with normal or nearly normal companions. For pursuing this object and excluding, or withdrawing, from lunatic asylums the cases which are called incipient, or temporary (but which claim special treatment really because they are curable), it must not be forgotten that the unhappy residue will be in worse case than before, because they will virtually be labelled as incurable, and will be associated only with incurables. If any system of grading is put into force it should be arranged by the help of the best specialist advice obtainable, and subject to constant revision. We have little trustworthy information as to incurable, as distinguished from curable infirmity. The accepted view that insanity of long standing is incurable may mean that the asylum atmosphere is especially unfavourable to recovery, or it may mean that insanity long untreated is incurable. The two things are worlds asunder.

### Inspection of Nursing Homes.

It was pointed out in the debate on Clause 11 of the Ministry of Health Bill that the hospital question cannot be adequately dealt with without reference to private nursing homes, which are hospitals under another name. Nursing homes should, of course, be inspected. In many of them the patients get good accommodation and careful nursing, but in others conditions obtain that would not be tolerated in public hospitals or private houses. Patients have a right to know whether the general practitioners or specialists who recommend specific homes are shareholders in them, for though it may be quite unobjectionable for a physician or surgeon to have an interest in the house to which he sends his patients, it is wrong to pose in these circumstances as a neutral who will see justice done as between home and patient. From the nurses' point of view inspection is very desirable. It is true that the proprietors of the best nursing homes dislike the idea of inspection almost as much as do their less reputable rivals, but in practice they would benefit from the levelling up of the standard by the disappearance of the worst specimens where untrained nurses, incompetent housekeepers and discredited doctors do very much as they like.

### A Panel Doctor's Five Thousand Patients.

Some legal limitation of the number of patients a panel doctor is responsible for seems to be necessary, when it is realised that it is possible for a doctor to have 5,400 panel patients. In a recent case at Stratford a doctor was sentenced to three months in the second division for being drunk in charge of a car in Kingsway and causing bodily harm to a woman. In the defence it was stated that he had four practices and would have to sell three of them to pay compensation and the costs of the case, so that it is an ill wind that does nobody any good. But in view of the experience of many women of the inadequacy of the medical attendance of the great majority of overworked panel doctors, something should be done to remedy this state of affairs.

### Nurse Teachers.

Sir Herbert Nield asked the Minister of Health whether the Ministry will take steps, either alone or in conjunction with the

Education Department, or will endeavour to induce the latter, to make a grant for the appointment of a nurse-teacher at the Isleworth Hospital. There are always a number of children there suffering from various complaints in the nature of tuberculous affections of the limbs, and other illnesses which need prolonged treatment. These children are debarred from receiving elementary education for long periods, and the appointment of a nurse-teacher would be invaluable. Dr. Addison replied that he had informed the Brentford Guardians that, in his opinion, it was desirable that such an appointment should be made, but he added that there were no funds out of which a grant could be made by the Ministry of Health. Surely this is economy gone mad?

### Vote! Vote!

The long debate in Cambridge about the question of the admission of women to University membership is wearing to a close, and presently the cry will go up from an impatient public, "Vote! Vote!" Next Wednesday, the 8th, this great question will be settled in the Cambridge Senate House. "Settled," did we say? Yes, if the faithful rally to Cambridge in sufficient numbers on that great day, as it is believed they will do. But if they should not? The answer may be given in the words of a distinguished Girtonian. "If we are defeated on the 8th, we set to work again on the 9th." It is this faith of Cambridge women in themselves, in their national cause, and in their powers as citizen-voters, which is already beginning to soften the mountains of academic prejudice, selfishness and indifference. The man of the rank and file, the man who would resist the implications of equality if he dared, begins to realise where the true force lies. He says to his friends, "It is no use prolonging this struggle. Oxford has admitted women to degrees and membership. This talk about Cambridge holding out as the last University for men only is foolish. Sooner or later the equality of men and women in the University is bound to come. If we do not yield now, but wait till the democracy and Parliament coerce us, we shall make the University look silly." And looking silly must at all costs be avoided. Here is a specimen instance of the way things are going. Two men, X and Z, some weeks ago had not yet decided what to do about Report A. They promised each other that if either of them could find a good reason for voting against it, both should join the opposition. The other day X asked Z whether he had yet discovered a presentable reason against Report A. "No," replied Z, "have you?" X had to admit that he had been no more fortunate. Wherefore X and Z, being honourable men, will both vote for Report A on Wednesday. Thus the opposition loses four votes on a division; and this kind of leakage is going on all the time.

### Select Enemies.

At the beginning of this week Members of the Cambridge Senate received important documents from both sides. Most significant of all were the rival lists of supporters. Allusion was made in these columns last week to the splendid list of names on the Report A side. It is a wonderful list of scholars, men of letters, men of science, of law, of affairs, philosophers, moralists, and many other workers. The President of the Royal Society, Professor Sherrington, has given his support, and in the list itself are, beside those mentioned last week, Professor James Ward and Dr. A. North Whitehead. Many Cambridge people imagined that to set against the list of over a thousand names on the Report A side, the opponents would present a list which would be strong numerically, at all events. But behold, they have published a list of names which are said to be selected, and not complete. Can it possibly be that the total list, if published, would not be a very long one? The publication of this list gives the first hint of weakness. But since the names are ostensibly of the star order, Cambridge scrutinises them all the more closely. Cambridge notes that the professorial ranks of the Antis are only indifferently filled. It looks at the shortlist, and it asks, "But where is the Master of —? and where are Professors So-and-so and So-and-so?" For some reason even the charms of a select society have failed to allure the distinguished absentees.

**Mixed Universities.**

Further strength has been given to the Report A side by fifty-nine Cambridge men who have had experience as teachers in Universities "where complete equality has been the rule." Alluding to the suggestion made that "joint education at the Universities has, or may have, drawbacks from the point of view of men," they say that "we wish to state emphatically that we have noticed no drawbacks of the kind suggested from any one of these points of view." Indeed, they go further. "Both as students and as colleagues," they unite in saying, "we have found that the women in the Universities where we now work, or have worked, contribute to the academic life of men elements by which that life is both widened and strengthened." The signatories to this document occupy professorships, or other teaching posts, in the Universities of London, Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool, Glasgow, Aberystwith, Newcastle, Bristol, Reading, Bangor, Cardiff, Nottingham, St. Andrews, Edinburgh, Birmingham, Auckland (N.Z.), and Rome. A statement of this serious and reasonable nature, added to such powerful expositions of the women's side as were contained in Mrs. Adam's article in the *Cambridge Review*, and Mrs. Sidgwick's letter in the *Educational Supplement of the Times*, makes such a lamentable exhibition of taste as that presented by Professor Sir William Ridgeway, with his talk about "philandering" and unfair examiners, shrink to its real insignificance. But we have reached the time when the vote to be given next week is everything. Let every worker for our common cause of human progress who is qualified to vote, come himself, and let others send voters to Cambridge.

**Two Cambridge Views of Marriage.**

Sir William Ridgeway's contribution to the question of women's degrees at Cambridge is the lament that University women may marry, and that in that case all their training will be wasted. The Master of Downing replies with much urbanity to this astonishing misapprehension of the object of education, and the result of marriage. If to marry is to become mindless and without memory, who, of this generation, will undertake it? And if a University training is valueless, except to those who are going to turn it to financial account, how wrong a view Mr. Fisher takes of education! Fortunately, there are Cambridge notables who are more optimistic about learning and matrimony, and in their hands it is safe to leave our cause.

**An American Minister of Education.**

It is reported that President Harding intends to include a Minister of Education in his Cabinet, and that he is going to appoint a woman to the post. As matters now stand, this is not quite as big a thing as it sounds, for each State makes its own educational laws, and the actual control of educational policy is in the hands of the local authorities. The Federal Government has, at present, only a Bureau of Education within the Department of the Interior, and the Commissioner of Education only collects information and administers endowment funds. Even the State Superintendent can only investigate, criticise, and advise. It does not seem likely that Americans will favour centralised administration, or give up willingly the present system of local control. Unless President Harding means to make some radical change, the Minister of Education will be little more than a figure-head. Still, to raise a woman to Ministerial rank creates a precedent, and it is unlikely that American women will let the matter rest there. Modern women are not much given to being figure-heads.

**Girl Slaves in Hong Kong.**

Colonel John Ward has again directed the attention of the House of Commons to the sale of Chinese girls in Hong Kong, who are bought to be made domestic serfs, or prostitutes, the transactions being covered by the name of adoption. The local authorities in Hong Kong deny that such a practice exists; three years ago they admitted its existence, but refused to interfere because it was a "Chinese custom." Colonel Ward was warned in 1917, by the Colonial Office, against giving publicity to the matter; the local authorities have communicated what may be a warning, though it looks like a threat, to the wife of an official of H. M. Dockyard, who was indiscreet enough to interest herself in the girls. The Church of England Men's Society has protested without result. Hong Kong is a British colony, and slavery is against the law of the British Empire and of China; neither Government, one might suppose, need concern itself to discourage private persons who are anxious that the law should be observed. Perhaps Chinese protesters are being told that this is a "British custom."

**NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.**

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

The week has been overshadowed by the murders in Dublin on Sunday, November 21st. It is necessary to go back to another Irish crime, the murder of Lord Frederick Cavendish and Mr. Burke in Phoenix Park, to find a parallel for the emotion which swept over the House. It was universal. It found an outlet, undignified, unworthy, and regrettable, in the assault on Mr. Devlin; himself a gallant figure, personally popular and respected. It is not necessary to say anything about this unseemly scuffle, which has been very fully and very fairly handled in the Press, but it is worth adding this; when Mr. Devlin got up to ask his question, he had the whole House against him. No sooner had he been assaulted than he had the whole House on his side.

All through the week the shadow of Ireland lay heavy. Question time always brought on a jarring wrangle between the little band of Irish members and the Chief Secretary; a wrangle in which facts are always in dispute and it is never possible to get at the truth. The House supports Sir Hamar Greenwood as strongly as ever, but the feeling is growing that members are not being told the whole story. However, this does not affect the general attitude. They remain convinced that reprisals are justified, and they support Sir Hamar Greenwood because they believe him to be of the same opinion.

It was in this temper that the debate took place on Wednesday, November 24th, on Mr. Asquith's Vote of Censure. Mr. Asquith was not effective. The Chief Secretary undeniably was, and he dealt successfully with the fire of fierce interruptions and interjections to which he was subjected. But the debate cleared up nothing, and peace is as far off as ever.

To complete the story of Ireland, the debate in the House of Lords ended on Thursday in a great majority for the Government. In spite of what has been said in the Press, it did not reach a high level. The case on both sides was put with force, and occasionally with eloquence: Lord Birkenhead showed that no one excels him in getting a verdict, whatever the composition of the Jury. Lord Curzon was at his best, and his best is good. Lord Middleton was excellent in temper and in depth. Lord Grey showed all his old powers over men's reason. But there was no speech which stood out as did that of the Duke of Argyll on Gladstone's first Bill, and the general level was somewhat trite. But the result of the debate means that the Government will get their Bill unaltered. And many members think that that puts a settlement further off than ever.

The rest of the week was spent in finishing the Agriculture Bill. Its concluding stages were full of interest. Opposition to the Bill hardened. The moderate agriculturist joined forces with Mr. Pretyman and his cavaliers, and Sir Arthur Boscawen was heavily attacked. But he held his own to admiration. The Bill must be considered as a whole. It is for the remaking of the industry. This involves good wages for the labourer, security for the farmer, guaranteed prices for the producer, and efficient cultivation and, therefore, plentiful food for all of us. Sir Arthur Boscawen fought on the broad issue, and fought with success. Only twelve members voted against the Third Reading, and they were a strange medley, including Colonel Courthope on the extreme right, and Mr. Hogge on the extreme left. But the Government lobby was much more remarkable, for in a full House they mustered only 161. Nearly all the agriculturalists who generally support the Coalition abstained, and the fate of the Bill in the House of Lords is obscure.

Thus Agriculture occupied Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday; Ireland was interpolated on Wednesday; and on Friday was taken the Women's (Employment) Bill. It will be remembered that this measure is one to carry out the International Convention passed last year at Washington. It allows the employment of women and of persons over sixteen on two shifts, from 6 a.m. till 2 p.m., and from 2 to 10 p.m. Thus it allows women to work later at night than our Factory Acts, under which they must stop at 8; but it gives them a working week of 44 hours in place of the 60 hours possible now. The case for the Bill will be stated elsewhere. The debate, which was a good one, showed a sharp cleavage. The Labour Party opposed; partly, no doubt, from genuine dislike of two shifts, but largely also from dislike of women's labour. They received odd allies in the Lancashire members, whose speeches, it must be confessed, were addressed rather to Lancashire than to Westminster. The bulk of the House, after the Report of Mr. Inskip's Committee, supported the Bill, and it will get through.

**WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE.**

In this country we seem to have travelled a long way since the days of the suffrage agitation; but although street-corner meetings and rotten eggs are almost forgotten delights, we have not really travelled as far as we think.

The meeting in London of the Board of Officers of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance, which has been taking place this week, brings us face to face with our feminist position and shows us, "as plain as a pikestaff," where we are. For the international gathering naturally leads us to compare our progress with that of other countries, and in the comparison we find that we stand only about half-way up the scale.

At the one end (the right one), the Scandinavian peoples, at the other, the Latins, and ourselves in the middle, with Germany and the United States decidedly in front. It takes some of the conceit out of us to recognise this, but it is probably good for us, all the same.

The degree of enfranchisement that women have in Great Britain is really a very partial affair. Not only is there the curious, and intensely aggravating, age-limit, but there is also the different basis, which, in practice, cuts out a very large number of those women who most want to vote. It is time we wiped out these anomalies and really achieved our vote "on the same terms as it is, or may be, granted to men."

For a long time most people have thought (and probably with justice) that the rest of the franchise would probably come, more or less automatically, on the next occasion when a Government was about to go to the country without the certainty of being returned. Such a moment, it was argued, would be the only likely moment for the party machines to tolerate the extra trouble of a still more widely-extended electorate; and no Government would be so prodigal as to waste this almost sure bid for a couple of million or more new voters. And so public opinion has waited, letting water flow under the bridge.

It is, however, time, and high time, that we took action to stir people out of their pleasant somnolence. We cannot allow such depressing views of public life really to guide our actions, nor can we forget that it is the unenfranchised women, even more than the enfranchised ones, who need the protection of the vote to-day. All women, whether they be over or under thirty, have the same general need to be citizens; both alike require, and are required, to take their share of the nation's decisions of policy. But beyond this common need, which has always been the very foundation of the demand for suffrage, there are, at this moment, special reasons why the class of women now excluded should be the very one to be voters. The married woman in her home must, indeed, care for housing and expenditure, for prices, and for health; but even more urgently and more acutely does the unmarried and independent worker care for unemployment and for trade.

It means bread and butter to-day to be protected in Parliament; the power of political organisation means the keeping or the losing of your job, little though this ought to be the case, and it is undeniably because they are not a well-packed and alarming body of voters that so many of the temporary Women Civil Servants are to-day being thrust out of their work.

It is time, then, that we put an end to the present situation, and secured this final completion of our political enfranchisement, and we must make the Government know that we are in earnest about it. To this end every one of our readers should see that her own Member of Parliament signs the Memorial already received by him from the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. The Memorial runs as follows:—

"We, the undersigned Members of the House of Commons, call upon

the Government to introduce a Bill next Session to extend the franchise to women on the same terms as it is granted to men.

"The present law, which only enfranchises those women over thirty who are either householders or the wives of men voters, means that the great majority of industrial and professional women, three-quarters of whom are under thirty, are debarred from the chief privilege of citizenship and the protection of the vote.

"We urge you, therefore, to introduce legislation next Session which will remedy this glaring inequality between men and women, an inequality which exists in no other country in which women have been enfranchised."

If the coming of our visitors from other countries has roused these feelings of shame at our own position, we must hasten to add that these are not the only feelings that their coming evokes. Insular and British we may be, but we are not so self-centred as to think only of ourselves when they are with us. Their coming is an honour and a pleasure, and their example and experience a source of the deepest interest to all British feminists.

The meeting held at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Monday, Nov. 29th (which we report in another column), was a wonderful inspiration to all who attended it. It was, indeed, a living example of the faith that nations must live by to-day, the faith that all countries are bound together in the common need to make this world a safer and a better place. In the suffrage movement we have long known that the feminist ideals which stirred us to action in our own country coincide very closely with those which have been alive in others; the struggle for the vote in France to-day is familiar, even in its details, to those who worked through the years between 1910 and 1914 in this country, and the activities of German women, now they have the vote, run as close a parallel as is conceivable with our own. As it is with our movement, so, no doubt it is with others. We do not claim that women have a monopoly of high ideals, or even of good sense, and we are sure that every internationally organised body has found the same uniting forces in every one of its constituent groups. And from all this we must conclude, as, indeed, we had already done from other grounds, that international co-operation for the common good is a real and living possibility. It is even a necessity, with war, and famine, and disaster so close behind us and so near before. It is a moral necessity, too, the great ideals of the League of Nations being, indeed, the only clearly good outcome of the great and miserable war we have passed through, and if, by our Suffragist organisation, and our own practical experience of how it can work, we have added even a little to the mutual understanding of distant lands, we have, indeed, done something worth doing.

One definite thing stands out very clearly from the interesting meetings and discussions, both public and private, which have taken place this week, and that is that the essential preliminary of the vote really must be cleared out of the way of women's efforts at international co-operation. However well the women's organisations of Norway and of Spain may understand each other, the effect of it will be but half, or less than half, its value, if Spanish women do not count politically as of any value at all. The thing, that we have to finish up and tidy off in this country, has got to be pushed right through from start to finish in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Greece, and all the countries of the East, while in Italy its very favourable start has to be made good. This is an essential preliminary to any further work, and we are glad, indeed, that the discussions of the Board have turned so largely upon how the countries that are well on their way can help these other ones along. Here, for all our incompleteness, we have made a definite start, and if there is any way in which we can be made useful we will gladly seize upon it.

## BURNING QUESTIONS.

We call the attention of our readers to the fact that in the topical and controversial matters which we treat under the heading of "Burning Questions" we endeavour to present the principal views on each question held by differing groups of political thinkers. We do not ourselves express an editorial opinion, beyond this, that it is each woman's business first to be well-informed and then to come to her own opinion.

### THE POOR LAW.

By THE COUNTESS OF SELBORNE.

I am not at all sure that while the pundits have been talking about the "Reform of the Poor Law," that organisation has not already adapted itself to the changed popular sentiment in regard to Poor Law relief.

This is not unlikely, because the Poor Law, among all our local Government institutions, is the one that is in the most direct contact with the democracy. The administration of each small area is under the direct supervision of a popularly elected body, which is renewed at short intervals, and is therefore in close touch with all the waves of feeling that sweep over such an electorate.

If it were not for the restraining hand of the Ministry of Health many Boards might go even further in the direction of sentimental administration than they do now.

If it is admitted that public assistance to poverty is a necessity, I do not see what better machinery could be devised than that of the Poor Law. None of the suggested substitutes are as good. Nominated committees of the County Council are not nearly such vital bodies as the elected Guardians. When the Education Act of 1902 first came into force, there were nominated district committees set up in several counties. I do not know if any of them persist still. In my own county they were very soon given up. The nominated pensions committees have been most disappointing in action. Guardians, who in rural districts are also district councillors, attend well, are businesslike, sensible, sometimes unreasonable, often prejudiced, but they represent the people who elect them, with their virtues and faults.

Now what part of the poor law could we abolish? I can imagine that the thorough-going Socialist will wish to abolish the elected Board, as Socialists, who are usually bureaucrats, always dislike directly elected bodies. But I cannot imagine Liberals wishing to get rid of such a genuinely democratic institution, and they are certainly not unpopular with Conservatives, who have got to know them, and, like the philosophic dog in Plato's dialogues, only like people they know.

Is it wished to abolish workhouses? Some such refuge for the destitute must be maintained. Infirmaries? The universal tendency now is to develop them. The relieving officer? He is a necessity, but I think he would more often fulfil the functions he is designed for if he were a she. Women relieving officers have already made their appearance, and it is certainly a profession particularly suitable to them.

I have therefore no sympathy with those who are crying out for the abolition, or radical change of the Poor Law. Certain adjustments there are I should like to see.

Poor Law Infirmaries should be utilised for all who want them. The practice has crept in of quite well-to-do people using them in some districts, and I do not think this should be checked. It has reached its full development in the case of isolation hospitals, which are used by everybody, so that generally the fact is forgotten that they sprang from the Poor Law.

Some co-ordination should take place between all the Poor Law Unions in a county. This might be done under the County Council, and so bring the larger and smaller bodies together.

This would facilitate special hospitals for cancer or consumption being set up for the whole county, and those patients who were willing being transferred to them. An analogous arrangement is in force for lunatics.

Co-operation between county and district would be much easier if the doctors employed by them belonged to one service. This might be attained by requiring the chairmen of the boards of guardians to take part in the selection of the county medical officer, and the health committee of the County Council to have a part in the selection of district medical officers. The two sets of doctors now are often hardly on speaking terms, and seem to take as much pleasure in hindering one another's work as in promoting the public health.

Orphans, and children who have been "adopted" by the guardians (that is to say, children whose homes are so bad that they have been removed from the guardianship of their parents) might be transferred to schools under the Education Authority. But the great mass of Poor Law children are "ins and outs" liable to be removed at any moment, and they are best kept in "scattered homes" or district schools, attending the ordinary elementary school.

Finally, there is one recommendation of the Minority Commission with which I am in hearty accord.

Casuals ought to be transferred to the care of the police. The casual ward should be at the police station, and the expense of maintaining it put upon the Home Office. Guardians and their officers can give no effective supervision to this form of relief. It is not fair to put it on local rates, as vagrants have no homes. The whole apparatus of forced labour and compulsory detention brings in a spirit entirely alien to the sympathetic assistance of misfortune, which is the *raison d'être* of the rest of the Poor Law machinery.

The change over would cost something, but I believe it would result in an economy, as many casuals would not be willing to put themselves in close proximity to the police.

There is one resolution that certainly ought to be taken. If we do not abolish the Poor Law, all relief of distress from public funds should be under it, as otherwise waste and overlapping infallibly occur. A serious enquiry ought now to be held on the granting of milk to "nursing and expectant mothers." That should be put under the supervision of the relieving officers. Old age pensions, and widows pensions should also be paid after consultation with them. If the money for widows' pensions is to come from the rates, or partly from the rates, they would naturally pay it. They might have been employed as agents of the central government to pay the old age pensions quite as reasonably, as the customs officers, who are at present entrusted with that duty. To maintain an expensive official system for the relief of distress, and then agree that to offer relief through it is an insult to the unfortunate, can only be compared to the plan of the White Knight.

"For he was thinking of a plan  
To dye his whiskers green  
And then to use so large a fan  
That they would not be seen."

## THE WOMAN'S MOVEMENT IN MODERN GREECE.

By WINIFRED GILES.

The Woman's Movement in the Greece of to-day can be classified under four headings, which may best be described as follows:—

1. The Feminist Party of the Lyceum Club, Athens.
2. The Greek Women's League for Equal Rights.
3. The Feminist Socialist Party.
4. A group of Societies which I will designate as the Philanthropic Woman's Movement.

It is, perhaps, interesting to Western feminists to have a short description of these four sections.

The first, the Lyceum Party, is the oldest, and was founded in 1911. It is known chiefly by its President, Madame Paren; long before there was any defined Suffrage feeling in Greece she was an advanced woman in the broadest sense of the term. Until recent years, and particularly until the expulsion of King Constantine, she was, by virtue of position and brain, the outstanding feminist among Greek women. Under her, the Lyceum Club of Athens became what it now is—a first-rate woman's club, especially from the intellectual standpoint.

The Greek is a fanatic in his politics, and the value of Madame Paren's past and present work, and of the Lyceum Club in general, is undoubtedly at a discount among her compatriots owing to the fact that she is fervently pro-Constantine, and has, in fact, but recently returned from exile. She is one of the most rigid of the anti-Venizelists and is declared, by the Venizelists, to use her club and its feminist work as a cloak for royalist propaganda.

Finally, the Lyceum Club stands for intellectual feminism, and it is perhaps a little inclined to have the "votes-for-upper-class-women-only" idea. The President is in close touch with the movement in its international form; she has brains and is a woman of courage and principle; though royalist she is a patriot; if disloyal to Venizelos she is loyal to Greece. Madame Paren and her party have much of value to offer to the development of feminism in that country.

The Greek Women's League for Equal Rights was founded this year, largely through the vision and energy of Madame Theodoropoulos. When, in January last, one of the Greek Deputies—Mr. Typaldo Bassia—put before the House of Deputies a very sweeping and well-planned Bill for the granting of equal civil and political rights to Greek women, the more advanced Greek women realised that they must begin to organise what had, up to that time, been vague ideas and opinions on woman's suffrage. Mr. Bassia worked indefatigably and addressed meetings everywhere. Mr. Venizelos, on his return, pronounced himself in favour of granting woman suffrage as soon as there should be a real demand from the mass of Greek women. This logical attitude found immediate response in the foundation of the Greek Women's League for Equal Rights.

Madame Theodoropoulos, herself a professional woman, had for some time been in touch with the woman's movement internationally, and had made a very thorough study of the progress of the movement. She called together eight or nine women and the Society was formed. She is now the Secretary of the Society and is a Venizelist, an ardent patriot, and a woman of considerable driving force and energy. She was one of the Greek delegates to the recent Suffrage Congress at Geneva.

In a recent interview with Madame Theodoropoulos, I suggested that it would be a tremendous achievement if this—the first Greek women's Society organised definitely for suffrage—should be absolutely non-party, and I know, if it lies in the power of the President and her Committee it will remain non-party. At present it consists largely of Venizelists, but a courteous and most tactful invitation to co-operate has been sent to royalist and Socialist women.

The Constantine-Venizelist question is of such an acute nature, so many on both sides have suffered imprisonment and hardship, that it is an incredibly difficult task to attempt any form of reconciliation yet. Still, if anyone can bridge the chasm the women can, and I know that the most serious and earnest in all parties are hoping for this.

The Feminist Socialist Party is, as yet, in its infancy. Women in Greece have only recently assumed any industrial importance. As with us, so the war brought changes to the Greek girl, who is now seen in banks, Government offices, and on trams. It is in the moderate Socialist Party of Greece that

we find a definite attempt to organise them industrially and politically. This Socialist Party is called by other Socialists the "Academic Party," and certain it is that the leader and his wife hold in a small degree a similar position to that held by Mr. and Mrs. Webb in England. Mr. Yanios and his wife translate and publish many Socialist pamphlets from the Italian, French, and German, and it is Madame Yanios who is the leading spirit in the feminist Socialist movement.

In actual membership it is small, but it is keen and it is growing. Women are already admitted into one or two unions on fairly reasonable terms and, in the Tobacco Workers' Union they came out on strike with the men and behaved altogether as good trade unionists should.

Meetings are being held to discuss the conditions and improvement of domestic service in Greece, particularly in Athens and its suburbs, where a very large number of girls are so employed.

The National Council of Women, Patriotic League, Little Friends of the Poor, Red Cross, Infant Welfare, and many other Committees form what I call the Philanthropic Woman's Movement. This is the only group of the four which is not organised for political purposes, but it must be considered a part of the feminist movement in that it contains some of the finest of Greek women and shows them to possess a great amount of initiative and organising ability. The work of these societies is quietly done, but with a surprising amount of persistence, regularity, and efficiency, and the members of this "Philanthropic Woman's Movement," when they become politically conscious, will take up the question with seriousness and thoroughness.

Any article setting out to give a true portrait of Greek feminism is not complete without the information that in Athens there are several excellent women doctors. There is a brilliant young woman bacteriologist in the service of the Greek Government; there are increasing numbers of girl students at the University; and a woman is editor of one of Athens' leading daily newspapers.

There were two aspects of feminism in which I was particularly interested; the pacifist and what we must call the moral.

The first is in a very difficult position in Greece, as anyone knowing even a little of recent Balkan history can imagine. All Greek and Balkan women are tired and weary of wars and massacres, but there is always the same old question: "How can we be pacifist if the Bulgarian and Turkish women do not hold the same view?" The answer is, of course, that it is a question of organising any such feeling in all countries simultaneously, and as there is a Balkan Communist Federation so there must be a Balkan Feminist Pacifist Federation.

The problem of morals is already on the programme of the suffrage society, which has a special sub-committee for the study of this question. Vice is regulated in Greece and prostitution considered a necessity. Fortunately, many Greek women—and a few Greek men—are not convinced of the necessity either for prostitution or for the regulation of vice. The Suffrage Society is considering the question of affiliation and co-operation with the International Abolitionist Federation.

All this sounds as if the woman's movement in Greece was in a surprisingly advanced state, but in justice to the Greek women, as much as to ourselves, it is only fair to point out that, like many things in Greece, it sounds much better and much larger than it is. The Greeks have a craze for "the latest thing," and this, to a certain extent, accounts for the recent development of the suffrage movement in Greece, though it would be unjust to many of the splendid women in the movement to say that this craze applies to the whole suffrage movement. Hope, however, lies in the strong personality and driving force of several of the leading women, who will keep the suffrage movement alive and progressive, and the eagerness to know about other countries and other movements all over the world is a very valuable asset to any movement.

Greek women have intelligence and enthusiasm; they are eager to learn and will have a wide scope for their power. I am confident that when they have had a little time in which to learn the valuable lessons of co-operation and organisation they will play an important part in the life and politics of the Near East and in the feminism of the world.

## THE CHANGING WORLD OF EDUCATION.

In no department of life are movements of change at present more marked than in education; and in scarcely any other can such movements be of so much interest to women. On the whole, the tendency of the experiments now being made in every part of the world is towards replacing command and inhibition by freedom, spontaneity, and self-government. To some observers these experiments seem to offer the greatest possible promise for the world's future; to others they appear deplorable examples of "soft pedagogy." Here, as always, the only sure plan is to read, examine, ponder, and judge for oneself.

### THE NURSERY TRAINING SCHOOL.

In August, 1911, the Nursery Training School, founded by the Women's Industrial Council, was opened in King Edward's Road, Hackney, a district retaining more of the salubrity for which it was once famed than most people, perhaps, suppose. The aim was to train girls of superior working-class families for employment as children's nurses, and the method chosen was to have resident students caring for resident (but perhaps only temporarily resident) children between the ages of one month and five years.

In August, 1914, the school having considerably outgrown its dwelling, the managers had resolved to build and were about to sign the lease of a site just within the border of the Hampstead Garden Suburb. They held to their plan in spite of the outbreak of war, and in August, 1915, the school was transferred to its new home in Wellgarth Road. The building, admirably designed by the late Lieut. A. Wyatt Papworth, R.E., faces towards its own garden on the south-east, and the main ground floor rooms open into a verandah which serves as a sleeping and playing place when weather forbids the use of the garden. Above the verandah runs an open corridor from which ten small nurseries are shut off by folding screens only, so that except in extremely cold weather the occupants spend their lives practically in the open air. This system of small separate nurseries for babies—never more than four being together—has proved a great safeguard against that spread of infection which is the main danger where very young children are gathered together. It also provides for the students conditions of training which closely resemble those of a private nursery.

During the school course—a complete year—each student spends six months or more in the nurseries and has the care of one child, or sometimes two, for a month at a time. Songs, games, and simple occupations suitable for little children are taught; while lessons and practice in cookery, cutting and making of children's garments, housewifery, and laundry work fill up the course. Students attend lectures dealing with the care of children and are also admitted to Dr. Eric Pritchard's Infant Consultations and to Dr. Denne's dental clinic for school children. They are encouraged to write a nursery diary, and many of them keep up the custom—a most useful one for persons in charge of children—after they go to various posts. For all this training and the year's board and lodging the fee is fifty guineas—a considerable but inevitable advance upon that of nine years ago. There are, however, possibilities of help in this matter for applicants who cannot afford the full amount at once.

The demand for the workers when trained greatly exceeds the supply, and comes not only from private families—though that alone would more than absorb the whole number—but from many kinds of philanthropic and public institutions. The students, also, vary more than the founders of the school foresaw, both in age and in social standing. None are admitted under sixteen; there have been a few as old as forty. On the whole, the years from eighteen to twenty-two seem the most desirable ones for the training, and any girl with a real love for tiny children may find in the sunny rooms and gardens of the nursery training school a place of happy preparation and an avenue towards a most useful and valued occupation, in which she need never be out of employ, will be better paid than in most women's callings, and will find scope for those protective and tender emotions which have no place in even the best of shops, offices, or factories.

### BEMBRIDGE SCHOOL.

By H. J. MASSINGHAM.

I went to Bembridge School, in the Isle of Wight, for a week-end to give a lecture, and as I only saw the school in its leisure time and for a day and a half, I am hardly qualified to give more than a quite general impression of it. That impression is more like a colour-pattern—brown-skinned boys, white gulls, carmine-breasted linnets, pied magpies, lavender flax, scarlet poppies, green grass and blue sea (for the school has a magnificent natural environment on the edge of the chalk cliffs)—than one of departure from educational routine. But, after all, the ultimate test of every system of education is the material it shapes, and judging from the boys themselves—their manners, cheerfulness, intelligence, zest in life, health (in the broadest terms), natural freedom, graciousness, eagerness for knowledge, and amicable and equalitarian relations with one another and the masters—the Bembridge experiment is justified of its fruits. For these boys were far and away the most attractive that I have ever encountered, and though it is now many months since my visit, I retain all the vividness of the surprise and pleasure I experienced in their company. The Sunday of my stay happened to be wet; and the boys remained in the house all day—a searching test for young colts. They stood it extraordinarily well, and I will remember that the talks I had with them interested me so much that I never felt a moment's boredom, though I was shut up with a houseful of miscellaneous strangers in their teens and in every way remote from my own milieu. When I left, it was with the conviction that these boys, if they continued to develop along the paths they were then pursuing, would be citizens worthy of the best commonwealths.

I lectured to these boys on natural history, and a thing that astonished me was that none of them showed the smallest trace of the collecting spirit, a postulate of boyhood regarded as inevitable. They had established a natural intimacy with a life that was not their own, but with which (though they knew it not) they were subtly and intricately related. And this in itself was no small enlightenment. The curriculum of the school is a varied one; apart from games and expeditions and outdoor life generally, it includes a scientific training, modern languages, civics, modern international history, including the movements of current politics; arts and crafts, including workmanship in wood, natural history, music (I heard a boy who sang like an angel), drawing; and humanity to man and beast. I assume that this most admirable gathering together of the different branches of knowledge which compose modern humanism, includes English literature, so greatly superior to ancient Latin and even Greek literature, with which public schoolboys are stuffed to nausea, and the only bone I would pick with its wisdom is that it leaves out anthropology, a grasp of which is an essential foundation for all true educational progress. The curriculum does in fact embrace a literary training, since I was shown specimens of some boys' verses, and as long as there is no question of publishing them, however good, such initiation into the art of self-expression is of the utmost value. It did not appear to me that the boys were in any way fitted into an educational bed of Procrustes, like that of the cast-iron academic routine of the public school, which utterly kills the most precious and at the same time commonest hereditary endowment of normal youth—the desire for knowledge. On the contrary, the boys were left to pick and choose their own mental food, and without this waiting upon and cultivation of natural predisposition all education is a fraud and a sham. A rather happy, fruitful and significant idea of the authorities has been the care they have taken to avoid over-specialisation, another curse of the public school and the curse of many other institutions when boyhood is past. A sound, general enlightenment, an all-round view of the world seemed to me, if I have interpreted it rightly, the principal object of the authorities, and this is the way of light,

## THE PROBATION SYSTEM.

By CECIL LEESON.

Secretary of the Howard Association; Author of "The Probation System," "The Child and the War," &c.

When the physician mixed common sense with his medicine we got the science of Preventive Medicine. Similarly, when the criminologist mixes common sense with his science we shall get Preventive Criminology. For, as the modern physician realises that his success lies in co-operation with nature and natural forces, and not in opposing them, so will the modern criminologist come to see that his success lies, not in repressing, but directing the natural energies of that multitude of people called "criminal." Indeed, already he is coming to see this. As blood-letting gave place to fresh air, and bad physic to good drains, so torture and death are giving place to examination and treatment.

Our treatment of criminals still tarries in the bleeding-and-a-bottle stage, nevertheless. "Thou shalt not" usurps "Thou shalt." We still seek to repress a vicious interest, when all that is needed is a new interest in its place. Children cry to heaven that their minds be filled, their ambition fired, and we flay their bodies. Men, needing the therapeutic influence of hard work, we clap into cells where they can idle as much as they like—which is much! We accuse criminals of possessing anti-social minds, and show the quality of our own minds by taking them completely out of society. But we are coming to the end of this phase. Indeed, even our officials seem to realise that the process of substituting goodwill for illwill in a lawbreaker need not inevitably be preceded by antagonising that lawbreaker. Nay, more, we realise that no offender may be "reformed" unless he chooses—unless his free co-operation in the adventure be first secured. This is the dominant idea embodied in the Probation of Offenders Act, the driving force of which is constructive friendship, the basis of which is co-operation with the offender, the sovereign justification of which is—that it works.

There is much misunderstanding of the Probation System, however. In some parts of the country you may hear magistrates in one breath laud Probation because it avoids inflicting the stigma that contact with the police involves, and in the next committing the child to the care of a Probation officer who is also a policeman, and is known to be one both by the child's parents and by their neighbours. Let me say that I am not attacking the police Probation officer himself. I know many of them in various parts of the country, and for some I have great admiration and respect. Take them away from the Force, put them directly in the employ of the magistrates for whom they work, change their district, and there would be little to be said against them. Moreover, if at the same time it were possible to safeguard their pensions, most of the men would prefer to be put on this new footing.

A second example of the misunderstanding under which Probation labours was illustrated in a case I heard at a police-court in the neighbourhood. A youth of seventeen, first offender, and, from the circumstances, clearly a case for Probation, was tried and remanded in custody for a week. I knew the Probation officer had completed his inquiries, and, since it is one of the purposes of Probation to avoid the committal of impressionable lads to prison, I asked the clerk why this lad was committed. "Well, you see," he said, "we don't like offenders to go out on Probation before they've had just a taste of prison. They wouldn't think anything had happened, else!" Later in our conversation, I asked the clerk whether it was not his experience that when once a youth had been to prison he seemed not to care how many times he went again. He agreed, but appeared to see no connection between that circumstance and giving "just a taste" of prison to prospective probationers. More serious even than this is the confusion that exists with regard to the Probation System and penal methods generally.

A little while ago I was discussing Probation with a gentleman high in our prisons administration, and he told me that, in view of certain statements I had made, he had circularised the governors of English prisons in order to discover what proportion of prisoners between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one had been previously on Probation.

"I found," he said, "that no less than 46 per cent. of the males and 36 per cent. of the females had previously been on Probation; surely that is a grave reflection on the administration of the Probation System?"

"Not at all," I replied. "It tells one nothing at all about

the Probation System, except that it is not being used nearly so often as it should be. What interests me is not that 46 per cent. of these youths in goal have been on Probation, but that 54 per cent. of them have not, but have been sent straight to prison."

This incident serves to show what, in my judgment, is the first function of the Probation System. *In Probation magistrates have a sieve by means of which they may separate those offenders who do not need institutional treatment from those who do.* That is a point that needs emphasis. The administration of justice can never be strictly logical, for the human factor is a variable factor—which is the only certain thing about it. At the same time, general principles are not only useful but necessary, and, in the interests alike of the community and the offender, one such principle should never be to commit an offender to a penal institution unless it is quite certainly necessary. This implies a new point of view. Prisons and certified schools are now often the magistrate's first resort; I suggest they should be the last. Conversely, instead of requiring very good reasons for releasing an offender on Probation, the magistrate should require very good reasons for doing anything else. I know quite well that such reasons often will be forthcoming. For instance, to release on Probation the daughter of an immoral woman would be itself a crime; while to put some epileptic on Probation on condition they are of good behaviour would be like putting a one-legged man on Probation on condition he didn't limp. Nevertheless, I am convinced that the best rule any magistrate could observe is, "Never sign a commitment without first signing a Probation order." It is unlikely that every person sent to prison will first be tried on Probation, but there is no reason why 75 per cent. of prisoners should not have been so tried.

The character of offenders placed on Probation is, naturally, and rightly, largely governed by the character of the Probation officer at the magistrates' service: the better the Probation officer, the more difficult the cases he will be able to succeed with. At the same time, the fact that an offender is guilty of a grave offence is in itself not a reason for refusing to apply Probation to him. On the contrary, such an offender is often more likely to go straight than one who is on Probation for a minor offence, because the graver the offence, the heavier will be the penalty imposed if the Probation conditions are not observed, and the offender will know this quite well.

It is not yet sufficiently realised, especially with children, that the chief thing for the magistrate to consider is not the offence committed, but the offender who committed it.

Probation is not bearing anything like the share of the penal burden that it could bear if we had a really national Probation System, and not a mere collection of makeshifts. The Probation System has been operative for nearly twelve years. During this time we have seen almost as many kinds of Probation as there were courts using Probation. We have also seen the results obtained by many of these courts. We know which forms of Probation have succeeded, and which have failed. I suggest, therefore, that the time for experiment has passed, and the time for action is here. We know that, where you have Probation officers lent by private philanthropic or religious societies, the results do not at all compare with those obtained where the Probation officer is directly employed by the court for which he works. We know that police Probation systems often defeat the very purpose of the magistrates in using Probation. Is it not time, then, that we had a national Probation System based on the model of those courts that show the best results? It was with this purpose in mind that the Howard Association, the Penal Reform League, and the State Children's Association joined forces in the matter, and drafted a Bill to put Probation on a proper footing—to make the conditions obtaining in those courts where fewest probationers were reconvicted available for all the courts in the land, to ensure that Probation officers acquired the requisite training and social knowledge efficiently to do their work, to see they received salaries which bore some relation to the value of the work they do, and, finally, to set up a national advisory and directive body in the shape of a National Probation Commission, such as has been found necessary in every country wherein Probation has been acknowledged as a serious and valuable instrument in the definitely constructive side of the magistrate's work.

## THE TWO-SHIFT SYSTEM.

The House of Commons took this week the postponed debate on the Report Stage of the Employment of Women and Young Persons Bill. At the end of last session this Bill got into difficulties in the Committee Stage over the question of the prohibition of two day-shifts for these classes of workers, and the Bill was accordingly held up while a Departmental Committee of the Home Office held an inquiry into the matter.

The results of the inquiry are embodied in the interesting Report issued by them on November 12th (which can be obtained from the Stationery Office, price 2d. net), and both the Report and the published evidence on which it is based, are worth careful reading. The upshot of the Report is that the Committee recommend that the two day-shift system should be allowed, as regards women, for a limited period, and under special sanction from the Home Office. They hold that this will be a useful experiment and that it should be reviewed in about four years' time. With regard to young persons of both sexes under sixteen, the Committee recommend that two shifts should be prohibited, on the ground that the continued education under the Fisher Act would be rendered much more difficult. These conclusions were evidently arrived at after the hearing of much contradictory evidence. Again and again in the Report, the opinions of witnesses with equal experience are described as "contradictory," or "inconclusive," and the Committee are driven to admit the very obvious fact that as regards the workers themselves, "Some like one thing, some another."

The objections to the two-shift system are dealt with very fully. "These . . . were, for the most part, voiced by representatives of various labour and women's organisations. . . . Generally speaking, we received no confirmation of these fears, either from the workers themselves or from such experienced and skilled observers as factory inspectors and doctors." So far as the medical evidence is concerned, indeed, there appears to have been no ambiguity at all, all the evidence being to the effect that no bad results on health had been found.

The question of housework very properly occupied attention. "We find that most of the women do a certain amount of housework, particularly when they are working on the afternoon shift . . . and the majority of witnesses seemed to assume that they would, in any circumstances, help, to some extent, with the housework. . . ." "It is true that married women in some cases, do feel it is an advantage to them. But I found also that . . . the single girls say they like it, especially where . . . there is no second shift on Saturday afternoon, so that every other week they get the whole Saturday off. . . . They set it off against the lost evenings of alternate weeks—the fact that they are going to get a Saturday entirely to themselves. . . ." "Married women certainly appear to think that they are able to arrange their domestic work to better advantage when working in shifts, and very much appreciate the opportunity afforded for shopping. One witness pointed out to us that she was able to see more of her child than when she was employed from eight a.m. to six p.m. every day."

On the balance, the evidence seems undoubtedly to support the conclusions of the Committee. If no other point had been raised than this, they would, indeed, have been justified. "If the system is prohibited we think it is clear that the result will be to throw a considerable number of women out of employment . . . the reduction in employment in the electrical industry alone would amount to 20,000 people." With this before it could any sensible committee sitting in the autumn of this year come to any other conclusion?

From the point of view of women's equal chance of wage-earning this Report, if upheld, as in essentials it has been, in the House, is of great value. To differentiate the rules for women and for young persons is, in itself, a great advance. Women are, after all, adult and responsible creatures, and it is time they were treated as such, and this Report is, therefore, welcome for that alone. It is welcome, too, because it reduces the difference between women and men as employees, and so makes their greater employment more possible. It is all very well for Members of Parliament to draw pathetic pictures of the life of a working woman, and to inveigh against a system in which women go out to work. Plenty of this was heard in the House, and some of it was very moving. But we have got to face the world as we find it, and if women do not go out to work they will stay at home and starve. Let them, then, have as fair a chance to work as they can get—and by this Report we believe they have gone a step forward.

In the debate the Government upheld the Report, and on a division the two-shift system was permitted under special licence by a majority of eighty-six. An amendment safeguarding its

operation was accepted which provided that licences should not be granted if the Joint Industrial Council objected to it, and the next five years, therefore, are a time in which experiments on really short shifts and part time employments may be carried on. There is great scope for enterprise, and we believe that when the subject comes up again it may be very differently regarded by the Labour Party than it is to-day. R. S.

## A DIARY OF WORK.

By SIR LEO CHIOZZA MONEY.

What can only be called the *persecution* of the Telephone Department continues. Careless of truth, careless of justice, the organs which set themselves to decry public work attack the Post Office for not giving us a perfect telephone system, although the State did not take over the business until nineteen months before the war began, and although, since the Armistice, the Post Office has not been able to obtain deliveries of material from the private contractors. The matter is of considerable importance to women workers, because the system is operated in detail by women. The effect of the unfair attacks is to make subscribers impatient with the girls. As the Postmaster-General has pointed out, the Exchanges are open to subscribers. Let any telephone subscriber who loses his telephone temper go to the nearest exchange and see the operations. He will never again undervalue what is done for him.

## EFFICIENT POST OFFICE WOMEN.

The fact is that if our business firms were only one-half as efficient as the Post Office it would be well for the community. The telephone system itself suffers from the too common slackness of the business subscriber, who often neglects to make proper arrangements for prompt attention to calls, and who, not infrequently, rents a single line for a business large enough to employ three or four. As I have pointed out before, the average public employee is far more efficient than the average private employee. Those who doubt it should take note of the work done at Post Offices. Let them observe the calm, rapid work of the women clerks, who never allow themselves to be rattled, and who work the extraordinary complications of a modern Post Office counter, with its mixture of post and telegraph, pensions and postal orders, parcels and savings banks, with an astounding degree of efficiency. The average postal servant gives one the impression of being incapable of error. And, in truth, it is nearly that; we depend upon the Post Office as upon the rising of the sun. Give the Telephone Department five years and it will be running the best telephone system in the world. The palm, at present, is with Sweden, where a splendid service is run by the Government.

## FALLING SALARIES.

There are too many indications that the salaries of women clerks are falling. I see in a leading morning newspaper an advertisement for a shorthand-typist, which offers sds. a week for a girl who can do one hundred and twenty words a minute in stenography and seventy words a minute on the typewriter. This sort of thing is aided by the discharge of women clerks from Government offices to make room for ex-Service men. The consideration which ex-Service men deserve (when they have actually served in the fighting line) is ill-requited by setting them to do work which could be better done by girls. For a man, a man's job.

## THE REMEDY.

The only protection for women workers is to be found in combination for mutual aid. It did me good the other week to see the women teachers marching through London, with bands and banners, to demonstrate their solidarity. Let the women clerks remember that they have an excellent Trade Union, which has already done much, and which could do ten times more if its membership were doubled. (N.B.—The address of the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries is 12, Buckingham Street, Strand, London, W.C.)

## ERRATIC DISTRIBUTION OF WORK.

In a rationally organised society the distribution of work would be according to capacity. As things are, young girls are often set to do work only fit for strong men, while strong men are mocked by work which should be reserved for women. The case of ex-Service men filing papers in a Government office is only one illustration out of many in this matter. There is an army of young men in the United Kingdom doing unproductive work, even while girls are managing dangerous machines. In the war women proved that, on occasion, they could do most things that men have done. In peace we deliberately set men to invade women's work, as though society did not need them to engage in productive operations.

## THE INSTITUTE.

## AUTHOR'S NOTE.

[The author wishes it to be plainly understood that her sole object is to afford some help to those who, either on their own behalf, or on behalf of a relative, have some reason for urgent personal anxiety upon the subject of "mental hospitals" and their management. It appears to her very necessary to dissipate the dense fog of misapprehension which at present surrounds this delicate and difficult question; and since a series of circumstances, briefly dealt with in the opening chapter, enabled her to gain the rather unique and not very enviable experience of three weeks' treatment as an ordinary patient in such an institution, she feels it her plain duty to give the public the benefit of this experience. She has no reason to suppose that the "Institute" was anything but a very fair specimen of its kind; and that eminently unhelpful stunt, a *succès de scandale*, is the last thing she wishes to achieve. What the public wants is a simple and unvarnished record of actualities. The conversations reported are not imaginary, but are, as far as possible, set down verbatim.]

## CHAPTER I.

## PROLOGUE.

The heart knoweth its own bitterness; and it is necessary for me to recapitulate the series of events leading up to the experiences hereinafter described. My narrative, shorn of irrelevant, personal detail, begins in the "suicide ward" of a general hospital, some time in the small hours of an autumn morning.

Bright lights, warmth—I am rolled in blankets and packed between five full-sized hot water tins, the style of the old-fashioned railway foot-warmer—and a group of busy people about the bed. I am vaguely conscious of their vigorous attentions; conscious of lying utterly passive in the midst of them; conscious of nothing else. But I notice the white, cotton screens that surround me, and traditional knowledge tells me what these are for.

Somebody has gripped my wrist.

"Pulse?"

"Yes—I do believe—better shove in another strychnine, though —."

My arm is pulled out from beneath the blankets; the needle goes in. And now efforts are being made to arouse my attention and I am trying feebly to respond.

"Don't go to sleep! Whatever you do, don't go to sleep!"

"No—I won't—certainly, I won't—shouldn't think of it —." (This is a lie.)

And presently I hear myself asking idiotically: "Well, look here, when may I go to sleep?"

Somebody laughs, and a kind, Scotch voice says, "In just a wee while now; I'll tell ye when."

They have all been at work upon me for several hours; their night's routine of duty or slumber has been rudely disturbed; I am the most unpopular and despised type of patient that any hospital can admit; and next day there will be trouble with the police. Yet there is a prevailing atmosphere of goodwill and hearty professional interest in my welfare.

A passage from "Our Mutual Friend" drifts inconsequently across my mind:—

"If you are not gone for good, Mr. Riderhood, it would be something to know where you are hiding at present. This flabby lump of mortality that we work so hard at, with such patient perseverance, yields no sign of you. If you are gone for good, it is very solemn; and if you are coming back, it is hardly less so. . . . It is something so new to Miss Pleasant Riderhood to see her father an object of sympathy and interest, to find anyone very willing to tolerate his society in this world, not to say pressingly and soothingly entreating him to belong to it, that it gives her a sensation she never experienced before. Some hazy idea that, if affairs could remain thus for a long time, it would be a respectable change, floats into her mind. . . . They administer to him with such extraordinary interest, their anxiety is so keen, their vigilance is so great, their excited joy grows so intense as the signs of life strengthen, that how can

she resist it, poor thing! And now he begins to breathe naturally, and he stirs, and the doctor declares him to have come back from that inexplicable journey where he stopped on the dark road, and to be here. . . . As he grows warm, the doctor and the four men cool. As his lineaments soften into life, their hearts harden towards him. It would be too much to suspect them of being sorry that he didn't die when he had done so much towards it, but they clearly wish they had had a better subject on whom to bestow their pains."

The house surgeon has, presumably, got out of his warm bed and dressed at two a.m., for my sake, and has watched the ensuing technical miracle with real enthusiasm. Eight hours later he appears as a dark, sulky, ill-mannered young man, who regards me with a frank and unashamed loathing which almost demands one's respect—it is so genuine. His senior, however, looks at me with thoughtful, deep-set eyes, that betray a faint gleam of something like sympathy and comprehension.

The usual questions.

"What did you take?"

"How much?"

"What did you do that for?"

(Yes, it is comprehension.)

"Some day, perhaps, doctor, you will know yourself."

"Well, perhaps I shall; but I want to know why you did it. . . ."

Big and bluff is the visiting physician who comes round in the evening, and who is incapable of altering his customary bedside manner for any type of patient whatsoever. Before he can stop himself he is inquiring heartily: "Well, what can I do for you?" And he brings a girl student with him, who fixes upon me the silent and eager gaze of a small child faced with a new animal at the Zoo. . . .

I have no clothes, no possessions, no money. Naked came I into this world. A full-sized masculine night-dress of rough, striped flannelette, stamped with the large, black insignia of the hospital, is presently produced for me, together with a masculine dressing gown and a pair of enormous leather slippers, much worn and cracked, of dissimilar shapes and sizes.

The beds in the suicide wards are adapted for a peculiarly messy type of case; or else their rigid and unyielding contour is intended as an appropriate alternative to a slab in the city mortuary. The pillow, too, is filled with crackling straw; and the blankets have seen some service with other suicides. Yet, permission to sleep having been duly obtained, sleep comes in snatches, despite the increasing uproar of footsteps and voices in the corridor a few yards away, and the feeble groanings of another patient in the opposite corner. There are four beds in the suicide ward, but two stand empty. No superfluous decoration is wasted upon this apartment, to which no visitors but the police are admitted; but some flowers are brought in for the mantelpiece, and upon another shelf stands, quaintly enough, a little flower-pot with a tiny growing sprig of laurel.

Well, we did not forfeit our laurels in the stern old pagan days.

The vixenish little woman of forty-five or so, who acts as ward sister, and who works off her surplus irritability upon patients and probationers alike, has no use for laurels and no use for me. Not even the black-visaged house surgeon can display quite such candid and unhesitating disapproval. But from the younger nurses, without exception, I receive nothing but infinite kindness, extending to unauthorised cups of tea at four a.m., and sevenpenny novels smuggled under my bedclothes "in case sister sees." I have my full share of their gentle and skilled attention, too; and this, although they are very busy in the adjoining general ward, where—so I am told—"some of the wifies is no verra weel."

In hospital, for the first time in my life, I, too, have become a "wife." My bed is directly in line with the open door giving

on to the main corridor. The white cotton screens being removed upon my return to life, I have a view of everything that goes on. Nurses and doctors hurry up and down; porters hurry up and down. Something has happened to a patient in the opposite ward; presumably the last thing that can happen to any patient, for a relative, crying into her cheap fur muff, is shown into the sisters' room amidst a momentary respectful hush; and my white screens are again in requisition, and there is a trolley in the corridor, and some hasty searching in the big, locked linen-cupboard for sheets. . . .

And behold, in due course of time, a uniformed apparition on guard outside my door, self-conscious, embarrassed, and looking, as all members of the Force do in unfamiliar surroundings, more like a stage policeman than one would have thought possible.

A nurse comes in with a slip of paper. She wants my name and address, and is uncertain about the spelling.

"What's that for, nurse?" (I know very well what it's for.)

"Och, it's juist for a wee pairpouse of my ain."

Behold, the apparition is satisfied, and has departed. . . .

Of all our country's laws—for which we, as enfranchised and acknowledged citizens, are now formally responsible—is not this universally recognised as the most entirely farcical? The only thing which might conceivably act as a wholesome deterrent to hysterical or half-hearted suicides would be the knowledge that their attempt, if unsuccessful, would be treated frankly as murder and penalised by capital punishment. And if this appears too harsh a policy, then, for heaven's sake, leave us all alone! In nine cases out of ten, the man who puts himself out of the world is very far from being a desirable or useful citizen; and the best comment upon his action would be the silent acquiescence of his fellows. And in those instances where the leap is taken, not in a sudden fit of temper or jealousy, but deliberately, with the idea of avoiding such threatened calamities as blindness, or prolonged incapacity of any kind, then the act might be considered—as, indeed, it is now considered by all reasonable people—rather a matter for praise than for censure.

Believe me, the sheer futility, the waste of time, the hopeless irrelevance of the orthodox police court proceedings can only cause a great deal of needless annoyance and distress to everybody except, perhaps, the prisoner; he is probably sustained by a profound sense of their inherent absurdity, and by the soothing contrast between his own comparatively dignified position and that of the unfortunate presiding magistrate.

"The accused was discharged on promising not to repeat the offence. . . ." What was his mental comment as he gave that fantastic promise?

"The accused, was discharged in the care of friends. . . ." And if one's friends are unwilling to undertake the charge? Why, then, one can satisfy the authorities, and remain safely out of reach until further proceedings may fairly be supposed to have lapsed, by a few weeks' residence in the Institute. But this alternative is rarely chosen; and only a genuine desire to see for myself what was the true position of a patient behind the big doors after the key had been turned, tilted the balance of my own decision. Is the universal dread and horror of such places justified, or is it not? May we confidently place our helpless relatives in such hands, or may we not?

For, nowadays, Institutes live and thrive exceedingly, as it becomes more and more difficult to deal with even a mild "borderland" case of mental breakdown in the home surroundings, amongst all the difficulties and perplexities of daily life. Mildly eccentric old people, young people whose nerves have given way under some prolonged strain, would, once upon a time, have been allowed to regain their normal balance naturally, in a familiar place and amidst familiar faces. But now, no one has time to spare for looking after them, and Dr. This, That, or the Other assures us that they will be far better off in the Institute that he so warmly recommends—has he not sent dozens of patients there already?

What are the real facts?

We can hardly expect an unprejudiced reply from Doctors

This, That, and the Other; and visitors are either carefully excluded, on the ground that their admission would disturb the patients, or are only permitted to see exactly what those in authority wish them to see. And a patient recently discharged will hardly be inclined to talk about his own experiences, and will receive very little credit if he does. Indeed, the urgent desire of every such ex-patient to conceal the fact of his temporary residence in such a place, forms the most effective shield for those responsible for his detention and treatment there.

(To be continued.)

## OURSELVES.

The Annual Meeting of the Shareholders of the "Common Cause" Publishing Company, Limited, takes place on the day this issue of THE WOMAN'S LEADER goes to press. The Directors have decided to take the readers of the paper as well as the shareholders into their confidence, and to lay before them, plainly and without exaggeration, the position of the paper.

In all respects but one the position is entirely satisfactory. The development and scope of the paper which took place when its name was changed last February, have been welcomed on all sides. Contributors and correspondents have arisen in welcome profusion. Government Departments and important politicians have supplied articles and news, prominent social workers have sent suggestions and information, employers and workers have both sent opinions and news to our columns. We feel that we can say, without boastfulness, that the political and social articles in our paper are reliable, up-to-date, and interesting, and that we are becoming increasingly necessary to women in public life.

On the literary side we are no less pleased with our new development. Writers and critics of the highest standing send us contributions, often as gifts, and it is only lack of space that prevents a still further expansion of this part of the paper.

These advances have been accompanied by a steady rise in our circulation. In the last nine months we have enrolled a thousand new regular readers, and our casual sales steadily increase. Old subscribers do not often abandon us, and we feel sure that as we go on our readers will become more and more numerous.

It is, however, on the financial side that our position is bad. Our circulation, while far better than it was in 1918, is not yet good enough to cover our expenses. We still lose a fraction of a penny each week on each reader, and shall estimate to do so until we have 3,000 more of them. Our advertisements, too, remain insufficient, and it is in this direction that we most need help. If our readers will remember that we are a really useful medium of exchange, and that through our columns they get in touch with the large class of women who share more or less their general outlook, they will make an even greater use of our miscellaneous advertisement columns. And if, in addition, they can point out to any business woman that our public is a special one, a public of sensible women, to whom good materials, books, and household improvements are of interest, a public interested in having new ideas shown, they will do us real service. Our advertisement agents are the British Periodicals Ltd., and they will follow up all introductions with the greatest care. As things stand, the Directors firmly believe that the paper will get onto a sound commercial footing if it can last long enough. But if it is to last it must continue to spend money.

The present price of production is five times that of 1914, and as yet shows no sign of coming down. The capital of the Company was enlarged in February to £20,000. Of this, about £10,000 had been spent on "The Common Cause" before that date. Of the new capital, £6,000 has been raised since February. The Directors must now appeal for the rest of the money, trusting that those who find the paper useful will support it. The shares are £1 shares, and can be paid up 5s. at a time if desired. There may be readers who are willing to give money to the paper without taking shares, or who can give smaller sums than £1. We propose to publish in these columns a list of any such contributions, as well as of applications for shares received in future.

We should also be extremely grateful for suggestions from our readers both as to improvements to the paper and as to methods of increasing our circulation. These contributions should be addressed to the Editor, Mrs. Oliver Strachey, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1.

## REVIEWS.

**Spring Shall Plant.** By Beatrice Harraden. (Hodder & Stoughton. 8s. 6d.)

Miss Beatrice Harraden has given us in "Spring Shall Plant" another of her charming books. Her heroine this time is a delightful creature, whose career—or that part of it which falls between the ages of eleven and twelve—we follow with the greatest interest. Though Patuffa is, of course, a desperate character, who worries her parents and schoolmistresses to distraction, she always comes through her wicked adventures with flying colours, and with the undisguised sympathy of all disinterested onlookers. She runs away from all the schools from which she is not expelled, and, finally has to be sent to Germany (a pre-war Germany, and very tenderly treated by Miss Harraden) as the only safe place for a person of her incendiary disposition and precocious acquaintance with the A. B. C. Among Patuffa's friends are a Russian Nihilist lady (her godmother) who has made a thrilling escape from Siberia, and who encourages anarchist tendencies in the young; the world-renowned and terrifying violinist, Stefansky, who, in spite of his ferocious appearance, is an angel of light and does not murder Patuffa when she breaks his favourite Strad; a curious kind of Bohemian-gentleman-artist-millionaire, whom his daughter, Patuffa's school-friend, calls Chummy; and an old gardener who utters words of wisdom as he instructs Patuffa in the art of planting asparagus. Patuffa's Mamma is almost as charming as her daughter, and though she has all the virtues and is thirty-six, enjoys a day off from her family with the most commendable gusto, is thrilled by smoking a cigarette in the society of the Prussian anarchist, and is amused and not at all shocked when the world-renowned and terrific violinist invites her to elope with him, nor, indeed, unduly grieved when Patuffa's Papa proposes the same improper course of action to Patuffa's governess—though she was the only nice one Mamma ever succeeded in finding.

In fact, Miss Harraden's story is like a box of fondants, sweet, melting, delicately tinted, pale pink, pale green, pale mauve, pale yellow—gently humorous, gently ironical, gettily sentimental. How well we know those delicious morsels, fabricated and arranged with all the art of a first-class confectioner, and how much we enjoy a little feast of them!

**Guest the One-eyed.** By Gunnar Gunnarson. (Gyldendal. 8s. 6d.)

A story which covers three generations and selects from their lives the most dramatic incidents acquires, by a process of telescoped tragedy, a melodramatic complexion not always intended by the author. Sudden changes such as that experienced by Ormarr a Borg, when on the eve of success he renounces fame as a violinist, or of his brother Ketill when he exchanges a life of almost incredible, deliberate wickedness to become a wandering saint, may appear merely fantastic when they are recorded without adequate preparation, and the reader is tempted to look back with regret to the earlier part of Mr. Gunnarson's story which deals with pastoral life in Iceland in the time of Orlygur a Borg, the farmer who plays his part of benevolent tyrant so well that his neighbours call him King of Borg. Many of the sayings of Guest are beautiful, but coming from him they lose something of their effect, because not until the end of his life is the reader assured of his sincerity.

**The Fourth Dimension.** By Horace Annesley Vachell. (John Murray. 7s. 6d.)

Mr. Vachell's latest novel, "The Fourth Dimension," will, no doubt give enormous pleasure to a great number of school-girls. Nothing could be more delightful. The heroine is the daughter of a simple country parson; at home they think nothing of her; nobody imagines that she has any particular looks or any particular talent; but one day she takes a minor part in some village theatricals, when, of course, by a natural coincidence, the great actor-manager, Sir Felix Crewe, is one of the audience. He at once recognises her potential genius,

and from that time forward she flies from triumph to triumph; she is invited to perform in private theatricals at the Duchess's house-party, is kissed by the Duke (*en tout bien tout honneur*), talks on familiar terms with Cabinet ministers, dazzles a young playwright of budding genius, is implored by all the leading lights of the profession to take important parts in first-class productions, is coached by Miss Ellen Terry herself, swims from success on the boards in Manchester to triumph on the boards in London . . . and then, when she is at the height of her glory and a star of the first magnitude, she flings all to the winds—glory, career, salary—for . . . the sake of the man she loves! Oh! schoolgirls! Can you imagine anything more rapturous?

**Visions and Beliefs in the West of Ireland.** Collected and arranged by Lady Gregory. (G. P. Putnam's. Two vols. Price 22s. 6d.)

Lady Gregory's book is a collection of the beliefs, superstitions, and legends, which she has gathered herself from the lips of the peasants of West Ireland. She reproduces them in the form of conversations which she noted down accurately at the time. This method involves a good deal of repetition and a certain disjointedness which makes the book a little difficult to read consecutively. But there is here, obviously, an immense amount of most interesting material for the folklorist, collected scrupulously and carefully. It is a work which could only have been accomplished by some one possessing a real love for humanity and a deep sympathy for the frame of mind which has given rise to similar beliefs all over the world in the early stages of civilisation. Lady Gregory almost intimates that the fact that these legends and beliefs are so nearly identical in form, so widely spread, and so concurrent, is a proof that they are founded on truth. But we may, perhaps, explain this fact as adequately, by recognising that everywhere the primitive mind works in the same fashion—personifies the mysteries which surround us, attributes every inexplicable event to warring and Manichaean powers of good and evil, and has deeply imbedded in it the instinct of propitiation. Lady Gregory's introductory chapter on the Fairies, Good People, or Sidhe, as they are called in Ireland, is an extremely interesting *résumé* of all that she has been able to make out about them from the lips of the present-day Irish folk. She describes the habits and customs of this strange people carefully and respectfully, as becomes a person dealing with a race possessed of such powers and using them so unaccountably. She tells us how they live, how they dress, how they play, what they eat; how they steal mortals and sometimes keep them seven long years, and sometimes send them back; how they strike down the healthy in the twinkling of an eye and cure the sick; how they take on strange shapes; how they are sometimes friendly and sometimes hostile; how they utter warning cries for those about to die, and in what ways they can be best propitiated. Most of this we had already learnt from Allingham's admirable little poem on the good folk, beginning, "We daren't go a-hunting for fear of little men," but there is one item of Lady Gregory's account which we have seen nowhere else, and which adds a fine touch of supernatural horror to these creatures, who so mysteriously blend the trivial and the terrifying. "The greatest power among them is their fool—the Fool of the Forth, Amadan-na-Briona. He is their strongest, the most wicked, the most deadly; there is no cure for anyone he has struck."

As an amusing sample of Lady Gregory's stories, we will quote Mary Glyn's anecdote of the celebrated witch, Biddu Early, about whom there is a whole collection of tales.

"It is Biddu Early had the great name, but the priests were against her. There went a priest one time to stop her, and when he came near the door the horse fell that was in his car. Biddu early came out then and bid him give three spits on the horse, and he did that and it rose up then and there. It was himself had put the evil on it. 'It was yourself did it, you bodach,' she said to the priest. And he said, 'You may do what you like from this out, and I will not meddle with you again.'"

The book has two essays and some notes by Mr. W. B. Yeats added to it by way of appendix; they contain, amiably and somewhat incoherently set forth, his opinions about psychical matters.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## REACTION IN GREECE.

MADAM,—May I add a very cordial protest to that of Mrs. Giles against your editorial comment on the result of the Greek elections?

It is perfectly true that there is reaction in Greece—but not in the sense in which those words were used in your issue of November 19th. It is a reaction against a régime of intolerable tyranny inflicted by one man and his handful of followers on one of the most democratic nations on earth.

The result of the elections came as no surprise whatever to those who were cognisant of the true state of affairs in Greece. That state of affairs has been sedulously concealed from the world at large by pro-Venizelist propaganda. Free elections have revealed the truth; and those who can read between the lines will now begin to realise that the popularity of M. Venizelos is as great a myth as the pro-Germanism of King Constantine.

The only surprise—and an admirable surprise it is—is the unexampled patience and dignity with which the Greek people endured a reign of tyranny.

The Greek people has now expressed its will; for M. Venizelos himself insisted that the one issue in the elections was the choice of himself or King Constantine. Hence, madam, my surprise at the tone of your editorial note. For I had understood that the WOMAN'S LEADER expressed no party opinion in politics, but reflected the policy of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. That policy includes adherence to the principles of the League of Nations; and one of the chiefest of those principles is the right of peoples to self-determination.

To the few of us who have long known the truth about the Greek situation, Greece, far from being under a cloud, has just emerged from one; and the citizens of Athens—delivered from a modern Themistocles—breathe free for the first time for three and a half years. To the many of us who are feminists it will be good news to know that King Constantine has for long been a convinced Woman Suffragist.

I am aware that this letter expresses a strong party political opinion; but as your editorial note expressed as strong a one on the other side, I feel justified in claiming the right of reply.

ELIZABETH ABBOTT.

## STATE ENDOWMENT OF MATERNITY.

MADAM,—I should like to reinforce the appeal of Miss Rosamond Smith in the WOMAN'S LEADER of November 19th to the Societies of our Union to consider very carefully the resolutions on adopting a scheme for the State Endowment of Motherhood, which will come before the next Council. I was not in England at the time of the 1919 Council or I should have opposed the adoption of the principle by the National Union as I did at this year's Council.

I regret very much that a set of suggested debates on the question has not yet been arranged by Headquarters, and I would urge Societies who discuss the question to have both sides well represented at any discussion.

I hope, also, that those of us who are opposed will have, and will take, opportunities to state our case in print as fully as those advocating it have done. I feel, as Miss Smith does, that the adoption of a scheme is quite likely to split the Union, and I think our Societies and members might well ask themselves, apart from the merits or demerits of the case, if it is a wise policy to force this issue to a conclusion with its inevitable result, before the National Union has finished its basic task of securing votes for women on equal terms with men. That is surely the most important, the fundamental work we have to do, and any decision which would weaken the forces that in our Union work for this right, and which would be made on a scheme that to many of us appears far from calculated to free women, seems a short-sighted policy. The Union's great work, in my view, is to strive to establish equality and justice in that big world of equity that leaves on one side particular political party philosophies and schemes.

This scheme belongs definitely to a political philosophy, and our National Union members would do well to consider it in that light.

HELEN FRASER.

## IRELAND REVISITED.

MADAM,—I would suggest to Mrs. Rickard to look a little further back—to the rebellion of 1916, which was the cause of the raids and arrests of 1917-18.

The reason the Irish police have, as she says, ceased to maintain law and order, is that they have been obliged to forsake their ordinary duties because of the attacks made upon their lives and their barracks. They tried, with extraordinary courage, to defend themselves, and to perform such duties as they could in their depleted condition until help was sent from England. They are still fighting for their lives, and for ours. To call the accidental shooting of Ellen Quinn a murder seems to us a misuse of the term. By a strange fatality innocent persons, women and children, are most frequently the victims of random shots such as are unfortunately the outcome of the methods of warfare now carried on in this country.

I cannot accept Mrs. Rickard's challenge to disclose my name and address. She is in safety in England, and would be here because of the attitude she has taken up. I would not be safe if my name appeared attached to these attempts to show the other side, therefore I must remain anonymous. With thanks to you for giving publicity to both sides of the question I will now leave the subject to other writers.

MADAM,—My feeling and that of the other Irishwomen I know, both in England and Ireland, is one of united abhorrence of the awful murders recently committed in Dublin. Those who have written to me or discussed the question with me, all feel the bitterest grief to think that innocent people should suffer, in an unending circle of horror.

L. RICKARD.

## WOMEN POLICE.

We have received for publication, and are glad to insert, copies of two important letters which have passed between the Scottish Training School for Policewomen and the Viscountess Astor, M.P.

29th October, 1920.

DEAR LADY ASTOR,—The women of Scotland interested in the Police-woman movement have found great cause for anxiety in a suggestion made by yourself before the Committee on the Criminal Law Amendment and Sexual Offences Bill. You are widely reported in the public Press as having suggested that "if women had the power of arrest all the good they were able to do now as a friendly force would disappear and the women police would be no more successful than the men are now."

May I ask you to give the following points your consideration:—

Upon the adoption of the Report of the Committee on the Employment of Women on Police Duties depends the whole future of Police-women.

The foundation of the Report is that women should come under the Police Acts. In no other way can their service be regularised.

If women are to come under the Police Acts they can only do so by making the statutory declaration of a constable, which means the power of arrest. The report of the Committee makes it abundantly clear that without the power of arrest policewomen have no status, and no adequate protection in the performance of their duties. Further, their conditions of service can only be put on a proper footing by instructions issued by the Home Office and Scottish Office in terms of Police Act, 1919, Clause 4.

The recommendations of the Report are so splendid, and their adoption without delay so desirable, that you will, I am sure, realise that any withdrawal from the principles contained in it, particularly coming from our only woman Member of Parliament and one of the signatories of the Report, will do the cause irreparable harm.—Yours truly,

(Signed) E. TANCRED,

Director, Scottish Training School for Policewomen.

4, St. James's Square, S.W. 1.

1st November, 1920.

DEAR MISS TANCRED,—In reply to your letter, I am very glad of this opportunity of correcting a most unfortunate misrepresentation of my real opinion on the power of arrest for policewomen which has appeared in the Press. The sentiment attributed to me in the course of the cross-examination of a witness before the Criminal Law Amendment Committee in no way expresses my own views. I feel most strongly the vital need that women police should have the power of arrest. The fact that I was a signatory to the report of the Committee of Enquiry on Women Police, which definitely recommended that they should be "vested with the legal powers and status of a constable" should be sufficient evidence of my views on the matter.—Yours sincerely,

(Signed) NANCY ASTOR.

Miss Tancred,

Director, Scottish Training School for Policewomen.

## THE CHILDREN OF GERMANY.

MADAM,—The letter signed "A London Child Lover" raises a large number of issues, and I can only ask for space to deal briefly with a few of them.

Whatever the duty of Germany may be, she is utterly incapable at present of feeding her children. The people are in a state of semi-starvation and are taxed to the uttermost, and when the Government has met the demands of the Allies, there will be little left for private charity.

It is natural that charity should begin at home, but there is no reason why it should end there. Moreover, where England counts her suffering children by thousands, Germany counts them by hundreds of thousands, and their condition is not merely heartrending in itself, but a grave menace to other nations, including our own.

After all, it is not a question of what Governments ought to do, but of what people are suffering; otherwise one might say something of the desirability of our own Government placing the hospitals in a position to carry on their noble work without being continually harassed by the question of ways and means.

Finally, let us remember that children are children all the world over, and have the same claim on our love and sympathy.

H. C. SHAWCROSS.

## PRESIDENT WILSON.

MADAM,—Can you spare me a line of two of your correspondence column for the suggestion that possibly Societies affiliated to the N.U.S.E.C., and individual supporters of the League of Nations might like to do as certain Free Churches in this town have done, and send a message of good cheer and gratitude to President Wilson? He will celebrate his 64th birthday on December 28th. But his labours and sorrows on behalf of the League and all that enlightened women hold dear have made him prematurely an aged man. Would not such birthday greetings be like a "cup of cold water" to one who is as truly broken in the service of us all as any wounded soldier?

M. D. JORDAN.

## ART NOTES.

## THE GOUPIL GALLERY.

There is a very good and comprehensive exhibition of paintings and drawings now open at the Goupil Gallery. It may be characterised as apostolic, containing as it does work by such masters as Wilson Steer, Augustus John, Walter Sickert, William Nicholson, Matisse, and Cézanne, while in spite of the absence of some well known leaders, the ultra modern schools are well represented by such artists as William Roberts, Bernard Meninsky, and Walter Bayles.

Good work, of whatever school, holds its own in any company; after the clash of rival creeds it is a relief to turn to the beautiful series of drawings by Augustus John. Here is art which is for all time, aloof, serene, and strong. As a painter Mr. John is sometimes disappointing; as a draughtsman he is unrivalled and secure. Nothing could be more complete or more exquisite than such drawings as No. 5, "Study of a Boy," or No. 6, the drawing of a woman's head. In the large ground floor gallery Mr. Wilson Steer's paintings of boats on a tidal river have the place of honour. No. 64, "Storm Clearing," is perhaps the most beautiful and most unusual of the three. Mr. Sickert's "Obelisk" and "Place d'Envermen," William Nicholson's still life paintings, and Ethel Walker's "By the Window" are all at the usual high level which distinguishes these artists. The first floor galleries are filled with a very varied collection of paintings. Benjamin Nicholson, in his efforts to escape from the parental complex, has suffered a transference of his affections to the newest school of painting. He has vigorously blacked the noses of his sitters, hollowed thin cheeks, and endowed them with sorrowful expressions; they are now quite up-to-date.

A young artist, who achieves the distinction of seeing through her own eyes, is Clara Klinghoffer, whose charming portrait of a child, No. 136, is full of individuality and conviction. William Roberts is also an individual painter; his grim "Stockbroker's Clerk" is impressive as well as depressing. Mary McCrossan, on the contrary, has an exhilarating painting, No. 99, of boats on a blue sea, while Bernard Meninsky, Beatrice Bland, A. M. Hind, Adam Slade, M. E. Atkins, and Ludovic Rodo are all well represented. In the third gallery there is an interesting study by Matisse, No. 193, "Sur le Sofa," and a beautiful small landscape by Cézanne, No. 220. Charles Ginner's "Chidock, Dorset," and William Strang's "The Sphinx," are two of the best paintings in this room. Wyn George presumably lights her fire with ovoids, and this has a disastrous effect on her portraits, especially as regards the lower limbs of her sitters, which too closely resemble these home comforts. In two little landscapes, Nos. 240 and 242, she escapes from this obsession.

Among the watercolours, Walter Taylor's two drawings of Hastings, Nos. 305 and 324, are very fresh and pleasant in colour. Edward Vulliamy in "The Blyth," No. 287, has made a charming drawing of a very difficult subject. E. B. Lintott, C. Maresco Pearce, Thérèse Lessore, H. M. Livens, Douglas Fox-Pitt, H. Davis-Richter, H. Weaver Hawkins, and Norman Howard, have all sent good work; but several large and rather vulgar paintings of interiors by W. B. Ranker rather offend the eye. Eric Gill shows some very interesting sculpture.

## THE CHILD AS ARTIST.

There is an interesting exhibition of paintings and drawings by children of "Serbia, Vienna, and elsewhere," now on view at 217, Knightsbridge. The work as a whole is well worth seeing, showing the gradual development of the child's vision of things from quite infantile work up to the age of fourteen, by which time the child's mind seems to have matured, and the main principles of colour, drawing, and design to have been mastered. While some of the artists have obviously been influenced by the ordinary illustrations in children's books, others are really original and individual. It is interesting to see how very closely a good deal of the work of the most modern school of painting approximates to the child's vision; some of the drawings would be very much at home in any "advanced" exhibition. One is glad to notice how few of the drawings seem to have been influenced by the war. Battle, pestilence, and famine have very little place in the exhibition, the child mind, in spite of the overwhelming tide of suffering, still dwells on fairies, Christmas trees, and other happy fancies. The proceeds of the exhibition are to be devoted to the "Save the Children Fund," and it is to be hoped that it will attract a good audience.

E.

## "THE WOMAN'S LEADER" EXHIBITION.

At the end of the war, many thousands of women—disciplined to the routine of daily work, and rejoicing in the mental vigour and sanity that such discipline brings in its train—found themselves faced with the alternative of returning to the more or less aimless idling from which they had emerged, or of embarking on a perilous adventure to make a place and a fortune for themselves by their own wits and enterprise.

The columns of THE WOMAN'S LEADER have revealed two interesting facts—that a remarkable number of women have chosen the latter alternative, a number so large as to seem almost incredible to anyone not possessing the facts; and that these women have launched out in most interesting directions. A large number have naturally elected to set up tea-shops and milliners' shops, a direction in which women have been successful for many years. But many others have started as pioneers on novel and interesting lines. These adventurous spirits are scattered throughout the country districts, as well as in London, and they include not only those whom hard necessity has spurred on to earn a living, but women of comfortable circumstances who have felt it impossible to allow energies called forth and developed by the war to stagnate, to the detriment of themselves and to the loss of the community. But their work is known only to the comparatively small number of people with whom they are in personal contact.

To take only a few instances—there are the women builders who are launching the most practical and fascinating schemes for farm colonies, schemes that are not merely dreams but houses in the making; there are the women decorators who are converting the homes of the average person into things of real beauty; there are the women architects who are busy planning the sort of houses women want; and so it goes on. It would indeed be difficult to find a field of activity that has not got its women workers, pioneers in many though they be. These are still early days for women in the trade and business world, and little is known of their work in this direction. Advertising on a scale that would bring in any sort of a return is a luxury that only flourishing and well-established firms can indulge in nowadays, and this fact may account in some way for the ignorance of the general public of the work that is being done by women pioneers in the new spheres that have so recently been opened to them.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER, bearing in mind that a light under a bushel is not in the best position for performing its illuminating function, and believing, too, that examples of successful enterprise may inspire others too cautious to venture along untrodden paths, has decided to hold an Exhibition to allow these pioneers to show what they have done.

"Indoors and Out"—the name of the Exhibition—indicates sufficiently that many of these new enterprises have had their origin in ideas suggested by household difficulties faced and overcome. Women's work, from the designing of a dwelling down to the growing of flowers to grace the dining table, will find a place in this scheme for bringing before the public the work women are doing.

The Exhibition is being arranged by THE WOMAN'S LEADER in co-operation with the Women's Institutes, and a joint organising committee has been formed. The work of the Women's Institutes in organising women's activities throughout the country is so well known that the advantages of such co-operation need no elaboration.

Under the direction of this committee sections are being prepared to illustrate all this new work. There will be building by women for women; this will include models of the houses women are building in different parts of the country. Decorating and house furnishing will show that women have a special gift for creating beautiful and artistic interiors and harmonious colour schemes. Women in business, whether it be furniture, antiques, millinery or dressmaking, will have an opportunity of exhibiting their work. Labour-saving devices; gardens, their planning and arrangement; and all the thousand and one comforts and treasures that differentiate a home from an illustration in a trade catalogue.

The Exhibition will take place in London at the end of February, and in the meantime the committee will be glad to receive any suggestion for making the Exhibition as widely useful and representative of women's work and business enterprise as possible. These, and applications for space from women desiring to exhibit whom the LEADER has not already approached, should be sent to the Exhibition Department, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 62, Oxford Street, London, W.



REPORTS.

THE PROBLEMS OF EMPLOYMENT.

The report of the London Society for Women's Service, presented at the annual meeting held at the Caxton Hall on November 22nd, contains an admirable summary of the employment position during the past year. The Women's Service Bureau is mainly occupied with professional workers, but the political and propagandist work of the Society covers the whole field, and, as the report indicates, the key position during this year has been found in the struggle of women to enter the Civil Service on equal terms. "We of the London Society," runs the report, "know that in one direction, at any rate, we shall find firm ground beneath our feet; we advance with confidence along the familiar and thorny road of our enfranchisement of women, but we must not be surprised to find that our progress is hotly opposed. No greater change has taken place in the last six years than in the position held by women in the life of the nation; no greater reaction has occurred than in this connection, no more desperate effort made to return to the status quo ante. We know that any such return is impossible, but we have still far to go before we reach our goal of political, economic, and social equality. We possess the safeguard of the vote, and the awakened enthusiasm and dauntless assurance of the young, but we are weak in organisation, in financial resources, in knowledge of public life. . . . The conflict centres in the domain of employment. To us the truth shines out bright and clear—so long as the wage is determined by the sex of the earner both men and women workers will suffer, and from that suffering will spring increasing bitterness, which will penetrate all classes of society and end by poisoning our national life. Recognition of the importance of this fact has come to be accepted as fundamental by all the important organisations of women; it has rapidly gained ground amongst politicians of all parties, and has been acknowledged in the decision of the League of Nations Council to throw open posts on their staff to open competition without regard to sex; it has against it the vested interests of those employers whose first object is to lower wages, the blind terrors of ignorant rivals in the labour market, and the disinterested opinions of those persons who believe that women's disabilities are such that employers should receive a bribe to engage their services. Closely allied to this question of equal pay is the question of equal opportunity, which may perhaps with more reason be regarded as woman's demand for fair play, though a wider view would perceive in it a simple demand for fair play for the work."

For these clear principles the Society has done remarkable work during the year, and all who agree with them would do well to become members of the Society and to help its activities.

The record of detailed administration and of the financial position was received with great attention by the members, especially in view of the fact that serious curtailment of the work had been contemplated. £203 was promised at once towards the necessary funds, and although much more is needed the Society was united in its determination to persevere. Resolutions were passed simplifying the constitution, and the new officers and Committee were elected as follows:—President, Miss Philippa Fawcett; Treasurer, Mrs. Gordon McArthur; Committee: The Lady Emmott, Mrs. Arnold Glover, The Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves, Mrs. Kinnell, Mrs. Oliver Strachey, Miss Helen Ward. The M.P.s, who had so greatly helped the Society during the year, Major Hills, Sir Samuel Hoare, Sir Donald Maclean, and Sir Philip Lloyd Graeme, were enthusiastically and gratefully thanked for their support.

An urgency resolution calling upon Members of Parliament for the London area to sign the Equal Franchise Memorial of the N.U.S.E.C. was unanimously adopted, and the Society set off upon its new year's work with the determination to "strain our powers of resistance to the utmost to hold our own against the forces of reaction."

A WELCOME TO MRS. CHAPMAN CATT.

At the mass meeting to celebrate the enfranchisement of the women of the United States, which was held in the Central Hall, Westminster, on November 20th, Mrs. Chapman Catt, the American Suffrage leader, received a very enthusiastic welcome. In the regrettable absence of Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., C.C., M.A., Mrs. Fawcett, J.P., L.L.D., took the chair. As Mrs. Fawcett and Mrs. Chapman Catt approached the platform together they were received with cheers from all parts of the crowded hall. Mrs. Fawcett, in welcoming Mrs. Chapman Catt in the name of the enfranchised women of Great Britain, compared the long struggle of American women with our own, and said the two had run along strangely parallel lines for very many years. Mrs. Fawcett proposed the following resolution:—

"That this meeting tenders its sincere and hearty congratulations to the women of the United States of America on their magnificent victory in having gained the franchise on the same terms as men under the inspiring leadership of Mrs. Chapman Catt, a victory which will have a widespread influence on the progress of the movement all over the world."

Mme. de Witt Schlumberger, who represented French women, seconded the resolution. Mrs. Fawcett then put the resolution to the meeting, and it was enthusiastically carried.

Mrs. Chapman Catt then described how the American women had won their great victory, a victory that had been so much harder to attain in America than in Great Britain, for in the former case it was a matter of convincing not one parliament but thirty-six. In America the sympathies of people speaking as many as ninety different languages had to be enlisted. Mrs. Catt vividly described how they had won New York City. It was done by getting at every single New York citizen, men and women, approaching them personally and keeping a card index of all their particulars. Mrs. Catt appealed to newly enfranchised women to keep their minds fixed on the big things and not to become too absorbed in the little and trivial happenings of to-day.

Lady Astor, M.P., who was greeted with that enthusiasm to which she must by this time be well accustomed, proposed the following resolution:—

"That this meeting demands that the women of the United Kingdom should be given the vote on the same terms as men, and call on

the Government to introduce a measure into the next Session of Parliament so that the example which has been shown in all countries of Constitutional government may be followed, and the stigma of inferiority resting on British women may be removed."

Lady Astor spoke of the Labour Party's Bill which would have enfranchised women on the same terms as men; she said the Bill was not defeated by the Government, but by a few gentlemen who were too fond of practising obstructionist methods.

Frau Adela Schreiber-Krieger, M.P. (Germany), Dr. Margharita Ancona (Italy), and Mme. Antonia Girardet-Vielle (Switzerland) also made short but interesting speeches on the position of women in their own countries.

A very generous response was made by the audience to an eloquent appeal for funds which was made by Mrs. Corbett Ashby on behalf of the several women's societies organising the meeting.

CONFERENCE OF WOMEN MAGISTRATES.

The Conference of Women Magistrates convened by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship was, by kind permission of the Lord Mayor, held at the Mansion House on Tuesday, November 30th. The Lord Mayor, in welcoming a gathering of women magistrates, remarked that they would be more appreciated than men in the hearing of cases in which women and children and matrimonial problems were concerned. Sir John Baird, representing the Home Secretary, expressed the satisfaction of the Home Office in welcoming a meeting of the new magistrates to discuss the manner in which they proposed to approach their duties. They would have great freedom in the discharge of these duties, for the power of the Home Office in over-riding the decisions of Justices was very small. Almost all the women magistrates appointed had distinguished themselves in some form of public service; in judicial matters they were magistrates primarily and not women primarily; they must base their decisions on law and evidence. There was a responsibility and a power added to women, and in the exercise of judicial functions they would add to the inestimable services performed by women for the community in the past. The Home Office welcomed the Society of Magistrates as a means of obtaining some uniformity in sentences and decisions, and also as a body with which the Home Office could consult when it desired to learn the opinions of magistrates up and down the country. This consensus of opinion would obviously be incomplete unless it included the views of women. The agenda of the Conference made it plain that the women attending it would pay particular attention to cases involving crimes against women and children, but this was not their whole duty. The meeting was a good augury for the splendid work confidently expected from women magistrates in the future.

Mrs. Fawcett took the chair in the absence of Miss Rathbone on account of family bereavement. She said that she was herself ignorant of the many powers and duties of Justices, but she was certain that they must not attempt to tip the balance in favour of women as sometimes in the past it had been tipped against them. A communication which was read from Miss Rathbone expressed the hope that some special line of study might be indicated which could be followed by magistrates with the object of fitting them for their position. There had been a tendency in the past to think any kind of service good enough for an unpaid office. If the Conference set up a series of sign posts indicating possible lines of advance, it would have done its work.

Sir Edgar Sanders then read his address on General Procedure and Powers, at the close of which Mrs. Fawcett asked the leave of the speaker to print his paper in THE WOMAN'S LEADER. Since the value of Sir Edgar's comments and advice resides more particularly in the completeness with which the ground is covered, it is unnecessary here to attempt a precis of what was followed with close attention and deep appreciation. Many questions were put by women justices, and in answer to these Sir Edgar stated that it was not competent for a Court to hear cases *in camera* except those which came under the Incest Act, but that the gallery might be cleared. The Press, if asked to suppress unpleasant details were very willing to do so. He stated that the provision of places of detention was the duty of the police or the Joint Committee, but that magistrates could inspect them, and if dissatisfied should complain, in the first instance, to the responsible authority, and then, failing satisfaction, to the Home Secretary, who had the power of the purse by withdrawing the grant if detention places were inadequate or unsuitable. A Justice, though not appointed as a visiting justice, was permitted at any convenient time to inspect any prison in her jurisdiction, including Borstal institutions to which prisoners from the county might be sent. The Home Secretary is glad to give facilities to Justices to visit prisons other than those they are entitled to inspect. Questions were put as to the constitution of the rota, the right of magistrates to ask questions otherwise than through the chairman, and other matters which Sir Edgar described as "domestic," and which, he said, should be brought up at the Quarterly Meetings which County Magistrates must, and Borough Magistrates usually do, hold for discussion and for the expression of corporate opinion.

The afternoon sitting was devoted to an inspiring address by Mr. Cecil Leeson on Probation Work, which will be found on another page, and Dr. Hamblin Smith's exposition of the Birmingham Scheme for Examination of Prisoners, a system by which prisoners on remand or probation are examined by medical experts with a view to judging them, not on the basis of a single breach of the law, but on their whole record. Prisoners are treated as patients rather than as suspected criminals, and observed for indications of physical and mental disabilities which may explain their aberration and which may be treated otherwise than by punishment. Lunacy and mental defect, epilepsy, alcoholism, shell-shock, hysteria, suppressed complexes are causes of irresponsible law-breaking, while physical disability may prevent the sufferer from earning an honest living. Special abilities of criminals or mental defectives are useful in effecting reformation. If all young delinquents and first offenders could come under such a scheme, the current of crime would dry up at its source.

[As stated above, Sir Edgar Sanders' address will be printed, verbatim, in next week's issue, and a full report of the Conference will be given.]

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### OBJECTS

The object of the N.U.S.E.C. is to work for such reforms as are necessary to secure a real equality of liberties, status, and opportunities between men and women.

Any Society may be accepted by the N.U.S.E.C. that is willing to include the object of the Union within its objects, and to pay an affiliation fee, varying from five shillings to two guineas, according to membership.

The privileges of affiliated Societies include:—

1. That of helping to decide the policy of the Union, which is also that of THE WOMAN'S LEADER, at the Annual Council meeting.

2. Free use of the Information Bureau; use of the Library at reduced charges; admission of members of affiliated Societies to the Summer School at reduced charges.

3. The receipt of our monthly circular letter, including Parliamentary suggestions for the month.

Privileges 2 and 3 are extended also to individual subscribers of one guinea or more per annum to Headquarters.

### AUTUMN LECTURES: ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE OF WOMEN IN THE HOME AND IN THE LABOUR MARKET.

Last lecture, Tuesday, December 7th, at 5.30 p.m., at the Women's Institute, 92, Victoria Street, S.W. 1. "The Ethical Aspects of the Movement for Economic Independence." Lecturer, Miss Eleanor F. Rathbone, J.P., C.C.; Chairman, Rt. Hon. Sir John Simon, K.C.V.O., K.C.

It is hoped that Mrs. Chapman Catt, President, and other officers of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance may be present.

Mrs. Soddy, acting Honorary Treasurer of the N.U.S.E.C., has arranged to have a stall of hand-made Christmas presents for sale during the tea preceding the lecture, 4.45 to 5.30. She will be glad if anyone able to send contributions to this stall could send them to Headquarters not later than Monday, December 6th.

As this is the closing lecture of the course, and distinguished visitors are expected, it is hoped that there will be a large attendance.

### CARDIFF S.E.C.

On Tuesday, November 16th, the members of the Cardiff S.E.C. met at the office, 17, Quay Street. Tea was provided, and this gave an opportunity for a little friendly intercourse. After tea, Miss Clara E. Collet, M.A. (Fellow of University College, London), gave an interesting address on "Fixing Rates of Pay." An animated discussion followed.

### HARROGATE S.E.C.

A very interesting meeting was held at Harrogate on Wednesday, November 24th, by the new Branch of the N.U.S.E.C., when Miss Helen Ward gave an address on "What we mean by Equal Citizenship."

Lady Lawson-Tancred, who presided, said that the Harrogate Branch, though a new one, was really a revival of the old Women's Suffrage Society. The general view of women's sphere and activities had changed very much since the days when Jane Austen used to throw a piece of fancy-work over her MS. when anyone entered the room, so as to hide her unfeminine occupation, and there had been many and rapid changes of late. But there was much room for improvement still, and we had to fight against a great deal of apathy among women themselves.

Miss Helen Ward, speaking on the duties of citizenship

generally, laid special stress on the Guardianship of Infants Bill, promoted by the National Union, on the question of women's service on juries, and on the demand for equal franchise. She explained the exact position of women with regard to service on juries, and urged women on no account to shirk this opportunity of service to the community when it came their way. There were still men in power who would be only too pleased to avail themselves of any pretext for avoiding the presence of women on juries, and they would make the path of the shirker fatally easy. It was essential, therefore, that women should perform the duty to the best of their ability whenever the occasion arose.

Miss Ward ended her address with an eloquent and very impressive appeal to the audience not to forget the debt of honour which enfranchised women owed to the unfranchised. The women under thirty included vast numbers of professional and industrial women, many of whom were facing evil days. Their problems and difficulties were various, but they had one crying need, which required no arguing or pleading—the vote—which ought to be granted forthwith. The agitation for this piece of elementary justice must be the first charge on our work and energies.

Resolutions on the Guardianship of Infants Bill, and on the Juvenile Courts (Metropolis) Bill, proposed and seconded by members of the Branch, were passed unanimously, and after a number of questions had been asked and answered, the meeting concluded with a very hearty vote of thanks to Miss Ward.

### GLASGOW S.E.C.

The annual meeting of the Glasgow Society for Equal Citizenship, which took place in the Central Halls, Glasgow, on Nov. 25th, derived special interest from the fact that the members welcomed four of their leaders who have recently been chosen for public offices in the city, and the occasion was marked by a reception to the ladies—Miss Frances Melville, vice-president, and Mrs. J. T. Hunter, hon. vice-president, on their appointment as Justices of the Peace, and Miss M. A. Snodgrass, hon. secretary, and Mrs. Mary Bell, member of the Executive Committee, on their election to Glasgow Corporation. Colonel Denny, C.B., presided, and cordially congratulated the new Justices and Councillors. By resolutions adopted the meeting recorded satisfaction at the passing into law of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill, and subsequent legislation which enables women to be appointed as Justices of the Peace, jurors, and police, and urged the authorities concerned to make full use of their new powers; re-affirmed the demand for the extension of the franchise to women on the same terms as to men; equal pay for equal work; urged the Government to facilitate the passing into law of the Guardianship of Infants Bill; urged upon the Secretary for Scotland the necessity for improving legislation as regards the status of the illegitimate child, and noted with satisfaction that the Married Women's Property (Scotland) Bill had passed its Second Reading.

### YORKSHIRE COUNCIL FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

We are asked to draw special attention to the Sale of Christmas Gifts, organised in support of the Yorkshire Bureau for Women's Service and the Yorkshire Council for Equal Citizenship, which is to be held at the Priestley Hall, City Square, Leeds, on Wednesday, December 8th, at 3 p.m. The Sale will be opened by Dame Margaret Lloyd George, D.B.E., J.P. Continuous entertainments have been organised by Mrs. J. E. Thornton. The Sale will be open both afternoon and evening.

## COMING EVENTS.

### LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

The following meetings on League of Nations subjects will be held:—

DECEMBER 3.  
At Manchester.  
Speakers: Tom Shaw, Esq., M.P., Havelock Wilcox, Esq., M.P., Rt. Hon. Sir Laming Worthington Evans, M.P., Lady Bonham Carter.  
At Barrow, King's Hall.  
Speaker: Mr. Collin Brooks, M.C.

DECEMBER 5.  
At Bedford, St. Martin's Church.  
Speaker: Canon Bickersteth Otley.  
At Mitcham, the Cricket Pavilion.  
Speaker: Frederick Whelan, Esq.

DECEMBER 6.  
At Birkenhead, Town Hall.  
Speaker: Prof. Gilbert Murray.  
At Canonbury, Harcourt Congregational Church.  
Speakers: Oswald Mosley, Esq., M.P., Rev. Thomas Nightingale.

DECEMBER 7.  
At Hammersmith, Parish Hall, Church Lane.  
Speaker: Frederick Whelan, Esq.  
At the Forum Club, 6, Grosvenor Place.  
Speaker: Henry Vivian, Esq., J.P.  
At Paddington, Women Citizens' Association, Paddington Town Hall.  
Speaker: Miss Rachel Parsons.

DECEMBER 8.  
At Uxbridge, Congregational Church.  
Speaker: Major the Hon. E. F. L. Wood, M.P.

DECEMBER 9.  
At Marlborough, Wesley Hall.  
Speaker: Miss Curry, O.B.E., M.P., Col. Greig, C.G., K.C., M.P., Thomas Grundy, Esq., M.P., Miss Elizabeth Macadam, M.A.  
Chair: Lady Emmott.  
Admission free.

### NATIONAL UNION OF EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

DECEMBER 7.  
At the Women's Institute, 92, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.  
Subject: "The Ethical Aspects of the Movement for Economic Independence."  
Speaker: Miss E. F. Rathbone, J.P., C.C.  
Chairman: Sir John Simon, K.C.V.O., K.C.

### YORKSHIRE COUNCIL FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

At the Priestley Hall, City Square, Leeds.  
Sale of Christmas Gifts.  
To be opened by Dame Margaret Lloyd George, G.B.E., J.P.  
A Public Meeting, organised by the following Societies, Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, Kensington Local Government Association, Kensington Women Citizens' Association, Kensington Society for Equal Citizenship, League of the Church Militant, will be held at the Kensington Town Hall, on December 13th, at 8.30 p.m.  
Subject: "The Need for Women in Parliament."  
Speakers: Major Hills, D.C.L., M.P., Col. Greig, C.G., K.C., M.P., Thomas Grundy, Esq., M.P., Miss Elizabeth Macadam, M.A.  
Chair: Lady Emmott.  
Admission free.

### THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

Will give a Dinner to welcome Mrs. Chapman Catt, at the Florence Restaurant, Rupert Street, December 5th, at 7 p.m.

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

DECEMBER 6.  
At Torquay, Women Citizens' Association.  
Subject: "State Purchase a first step to Temperance Reform."  
Speaker: Miss B. Picton-Turbervill.

DECEMBER 7.  
At Torquay, National Council of Women.  
Subject: "State Purchase of the Liquor Trade."  
Speaker: Miss B. Picton-Turbervill.  
At Morecambe, Women Citizens' Association.  
Subject: "State Purchase of the Liquor Trade."  
Speaker: Mr. R. B. Batty.

DECEMBER 8.  
At Teignmouth, Town Hall (W.C.A.).  
Subject: "Temperance Reform through State Purchase."  
Speaker: Miss B. Picton-Turbervill.

DECEMBER 9.  
At Maidenhead, Town Hall (W.C.A.).  
Subject: "State Purchase the Way to Local Option."  
Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

### WILLESDEN WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

A meeting will be held on December 9th, at 8 p.m., in the Harlesden Public Library.  
Subject: "The Public Health Services."  
Speaker: Dr. Councillor Granger Evans.  
Chair: Councillor Miss Royle.

### THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

DECEMBER 8.  
At the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn.  
Subject: "One Year of Municipal Work."  
Speaker: "Mrs. La Chard."  
Chair: Mrs. E. M. N. Clark.

### BIRMINGHAM WOMEN'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT SOCIETY.

DECEMBER 6.  
The Annual Meeting will be held at King Edward's High School for Girls, New Street.  
Subject: "University Training for Women as a Preparation for Public Service."  
Speaker: Miss Macadam, M.A.

### THE NORWOOD SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S WORK.

DECEMBER 4.  
Sale of Work, at 48, Anerley Road, S.E. 19.  
Opening Ceremony, 2 p.m.  
Entertainment, 3 p.m.  
Speaker: Mrs. Cameron Swan.  
Subject: "The Lady Chichester Hospital, Hove."  
4.15 p.m.

### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, LTD.

DECEMBER 8.  
9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W. 1.  
Subject: "The Press, its Power and Influence."  
Speaker: Mr. J. A. Spender.  
Chairman: Mr. J. C. Squire.  
8.15 p.m.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

KENSINGTON TOWN HALL.—Fellowship Services. 6.30, Miss Maude Royden. "Friendship and Morals."

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, Grafton-street, Piccadilly, W. 1.—Subscription: London Members, £2 2s., Country Members, £1 5s. (Irish, Scottish, and Foreign Members, 10s. 6d.) per annum. Entrance fee, one guinea. Excellent catering; Luncheons and Dinners à la Carte. Bedroom accommodation.—All particulars, Secretary. Tel.: Mayfair 3932.

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TO LET FURNISHED, two good first-floor rooms; gas fire; use of bath-room; good position; near Hampstead Heath and Parliament Hill.—Box 4,506, WOMAN'S LEADER, 170, Fleet-street, E.C. 4.

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REQUIRED, the services of an experienced social worker to undertake Rescue and Preventive Work amongst children in North London; salary, £225 per annum.—Apply Miss Purves, Hon. Sec., 10, Wells-street, Gray's Inn-road, W.C. 1.

FOR THE RETIRED, WEALTHY, AND INDEPENDENT: most useful and interesting occupation (profitable if desired).—Box 4,489, WOMAN'S LEADER, 170, Fleet-street, E.C. 4.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

YORKSHIRE COUNCIL FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP SALE OF WORK, Leeds, December 8th. Please send "White Elephants," i.e., things you do not use but others may highly appreciate—to help the Scarborough, Filey, and Malton Stall. Parcels should be addressed to Miss Stephens, c/o Lady Lawson Tancred, 18, Park Row, Leeds, before December 6th.

HANDWASHING by two ladies; underlinen or household (except sheets); fine blouses a speciality; work quickly returned; also mending if desired.—Saywell, 11, Handforth-road, Clapham.

## LITERARY.

TRANSLATIONS from French, German, Scandinavian, Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese; moderate.—Miss Slater, 24, Lloyds Square, W.C. 1, late Government Translator.

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**H**OSTEL for Lady Workers; terms, bed and breakfast, from 4s. 6d. per night; from 16s. 6d. weekly; convenient for all parts.—Mrs. Wilkinson, 59, Alban-street, Regent's-park (Portland-road Station). Telephone: Museum 5486.

**R**OOMS and breakfast (Gentlewomen only); temporary or permanent; gas stoves.—Miss Kemp, 10, Endsleigh-street, W.C. 1.

**S**ERVICE ROOMS (Unfurnished), large airy rooms, 19s. to 34s. inclusive; service, light gas for gas-ring.—Write for appointment, Proprietors, 7, Ormond Terrace, N.W. 8.

**P**AYING GUESTS received in well-appointed house, opposite Dulwich College grounds; late dinner; large double sunny bedroom now vacant; terms, with full board, 50s. each.—77, Alleyn Park, Dulwich, S.E. 21.

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**S**ECOND-HAND CLOTHING wanted to buy for cash; costumes, skirts, boots, underclothes, curtains, lounge suits, trousers, and children's clothing of every description; parcels sent will be valued, and cash sent by return.—Mrs. Russell, 100, Raby-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

**C**HRISTMAS PRESENTS.—Tortoiseshell Articles, Bag Frames, Cigarette Cases and Holders, Photo Frames, Hair Brushes, Combs and Pins, &c., straight from Italy.—Box W.4, WOMAN'S LEADER, 170, Fleet-street, E.C. 4.

**C**HRISTMAS CARDS, quaint and original, hand-painted; sample 4d.; assorted packets of six cards, 2s., post free; Calendars, 6d., 9d., and 1s.—"Noel," The Athene Studio, 29A, Davies-street, Mayfair.

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