

# The Common Cause

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## Notes and News.

### Widows' Pensions.

On February 26th, in the House of Commons, Major O'Neill asked the Prime Minister whether the Government is prepared to promise legislation with regard to the provision of State pensions for necessitous widows with children, in order to enable such mothers to bring up their children under conditions of home influence and control. Mr. Bonar Law answered that the Government is not prepared to propose any such legislation. This definite answer has once more dashed any hopes of immediate amelioration in the conditions of life of the vast army of widows of working men and their children. Thus the widows of men such as munition workers, miners, &c., who have in many cases given up their lives while working for the community, and whose pay has never, even by the most hardened advocates of thrift, been considered sufficient to support their families after their premature death, are either to be thrust back again under the Poor Law, or to exist in semi-starvation; and in addition in many cases are forced out to work, leaving their young children uncared for. The arguments for Widows' Pensions have been given over and over again in these columns, and by no one more cogently than by Miss Rathbone in her recent articles. It is difficult to imagine the reason for the Government's refusal even to consider the granting of these pensions; we presume that the high financial cost is what will be chiefly quoted in its defence. It is true that an adequate system of Widows' Pensions is bound to run into many millions of pounds, but both sides of the balance sheet should be considered; and it must be remembered that there will be not only a large direct money saving in the sums now spent on out-relief, and on orphanages, workhouse schools, &c., but also a vastly greater indirect saving in the substitution of opportunities for a healthy, happy family life, suitable for the upbringing of efficient citizens; for the dragging life of penury, separation and anxiety which is suffered by so many of the families of widows and orphans to-day is bound to lay up the seeds of future disease and crime. It is interesting to note that in many of the States of America where Widows' Pensions have been granted searching inquiries have been instituted into

the problem of why so many men have died young, and what improvements can be made in industrial conditions to prevent so many fatal accidents and disease. This refusal on the part of the Government makes it even more necessary for the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies to carry out its campaign, referred to last week, to attain this reform. The Government is, as everyone knows, very much influenced by public opinion, so that it is up to each one of our readers who has this reform at heart to do what he or she can to show that there is a united public opinion behind it. Great assistance can also be given to those who are directing this campaign by suggestions as to how to clear up the more difficult points in drafting any particular scheme. Is there to be a sliding scale for the pension, according to the income already possessed? What authority is to administer the pensions? Is the cost to be defrayed by rates or taxes, or both? What are to be the rules, if any, regarding inspection and the engaging of the mother in outside work? Is the pension to be stopped altogether once the children have passed school age? Proposed solutions of any of these problems will be most welcome.

### "Existing Inequalities" and the Government.

A very interesting answer was given by Mr. Churchill in the House of Commons to a question asked by Mr. Raper on February 27th, as to whether the Government would give sympathetic consideration to the claim of women doctors serving under the War Office for a recognition of their rank and privileges. The Secretary of War said that he was not prepared to introduce legislation during the present Session on the point raised, and gave as his reason for this refusal that "the general policy of the Government in seeking to remove the existing inequalities between men and women cannot be held to commit them to immediate action in this sense in every sphere." We are glad to know that the Government do remember that their "general policy" is to remove the existing inequalities, but we should be still more glad if they could see their way to taking immediate action about it, not in every sphere, but in some spheres, or even in one!

### Women as Lawyers.

We print on another page the text of the Bill to "remove disqualifications on account of sex, for the admission of persons to the practice of the law." It provides for the admission of women as students of the Inns of Court; for qualification as barristers-at-law; for being called to the Bar, and practising as barristers. It also provides for the admission of women to practise as solicitors, under the Solicitors' Act of 1843, and the subsequent Acts which amend it. Unfortunately, it only applies to England, and not to Scotland or Ireland. It was introduced by Lord Buckmaster in the House of Lords on February 26th, and seems to meet with very wide support. The *Times* (which has not always been feminist in its views!) says, in a leading article on February 27th: "It is unfortunate, if lawyers are sensitive to lay criticism—and they have had their share in drama, fiction, and satire—that some of them leave themselves open to the charge that they fear the rivalry of women. If women are capable of becoming good lawyers and advocates, then it is in the public interest that they should have the opportunities which are now granted to men. Nothing but an unreasoning sex bigotry could deny them facilities to enter the legal profession. If, on the other hand, lawyers contend that women are incapable intellectually of practising the law, then it is irrational to refuse to allow them so to prove themselves in the public sight."

### The Ministry of Health Bill.

The Ministry of Health Bill was read for a second time on February 27th, after an interesting discussion, towards the end of which Major Astor recalled how Lord Rhondda had told the House that if such a measure were passed it might save the lives of a thousand babies a week. "Since the beginning of the war," said Major Astor, "the country has lost at least five hundred thousand infants. Children have died who ought to be alive now. They have died largely because it was nobody's business to look after them. There were four departments, but there was no Minister who could be made responsible. There was no Minister whose first duty it was to see that they were properly looked after. They died because of bad housing and malnutrition, and because of bad pre-natal, post-natal, and natal conditions. Anybody who looks into it realises the amount of preventable suffering, debility, and disease which women have had to suffer because of inadequate attention and assistance at the time of childbirth. It is because of that that we ask you to set up this new Ministry, whose first and most important function will be to improve the conditions under which people live."

### Women and the Ministry of Health.

The women's amendments to the Ministry of Health Bill have been tabled. They provide that one of the consultative councils to be set up shall be called the Women's General Consultative Council, and shall consist entirely of women; that in making appointments the Ministry shall make no discrimination on account of sex; that a fair proportion of the higher appointments shall be divided between the sexes; and that one at least of the chief secretaries shall be a woman. These amendments are supported not only by the Watching Council (to which we have frequently referred in these columns) but by a large number of women's organisations, including the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, the Federation of Medical Women, the Federation of Women Doctors, the Association of Head Mistresses, the Midwives' Association, the Federation of University Women, the Women Pharmacists, and the National Union of Trained Nurses. We hope that our readers will support these amendments, and that those who can will go to the important meeting of which details are given on page 579.

### Industrial Fatigue Research Board.

We are glad to gather, from a reply given by Mr. Fisher to a question from Major Hills on February 26th, that the appointment of one or more women members to the Industrial Fatigue Research Board is "under consideration" and that an announcement shortly will be made. Major Hills pointed out that the work of the Board is largely similar to that of the Health of Munition Workers Committee, on which women sat and did work of great value. Mr. Fisher said that it had always been recognised that the original membership of the Board would have to be extended, and that additional members had, in fact, been appointed on two occasions. He added that women investigators had been employed from the beginning. This is, of course a, good thing; but, as we have many times pointed out in these columns, what we demand is not only that women should be employed to collect facts or to do practical work on the staff of Government departments, but that they should have a share in making the decisions which afterwards have such an important effect on the work and lives of women as well as of men.

### The Shop Assistants' Minimum.

The question of a minimum wage for the three million shop assistants and other workers in the distributive trades was discussed by a joint conference of employers and employees at the Ministry of Labour on February 28th. It has been decided that Trades Boards shall be established for the distributive trades, for the purpose of providing machinery to regulate wages, and the discussion on Friday mainly turned on whether there should be a Board representing the whole of the distributive trades, or a separate Board for the grocery and drapery businesses, which comprise the largest section. The general feeling at the conference appears to have been in favour of a joint Board for the whole of the distributive trades, with sub-committees representing the various sections. The conference adjourned till March 7th, in order that a decision might be reached.

### Women and Laundry Work.

A short time ago the Ministry of Labour admitted the unsatisfactory conditions of women's work in domestic service, while at the same time it stated that former domestic servants who did not accept situations now offered them were being refused the unemployment donation. The same question has now come up about women in laundries. In reply to a question from Mr. G. Terrell on February 26th, Mr. Pratt, on behalf of the Ministry of Labour, admitted that "the shortage of women's labour in laundries is probably due to the relatively low wages offered in many cases, coupled with long hours, and other conditions which do not make this class of work in general attractive to women applicants for employment." He further stated that it is proposed to set up a Trade Board for this industry, with a view to establishing a more satisfactory level of wages. As regards the out-of-work donation, Mr. Pratt said that "women for whom laundry work is considered a suitable occupation have this work offered to them, and if they decline it their right to remain on donation is referred to a Court of Referees for decision." But when pressed as to what the rate of pay is which is considered unsuitable when offered to these women, Mr. Pratt was unprepared to answer. This is, after all, the main point. We are glad that there is a prospect of improving the conditions in the laundry industry in the future, but what we want to know immediately is, Are women being driven back into it while it is still a sweated trade?

### Five Thousand Women Drawing Out-of-Work Donation at Tottenham.

It is officially stated that five thousand women workers are receiving the out-of-work donation at Tottenham. A number of local firms report a shortage of skilled woman labour in departments which have just become important again, because of the industrial changes following the cessation of hostilities. It was suggested by Major Prescott in the House of Commons that the Government should encourage some of the unemployed women to learn new trades by making a grant to them while they were in the course of tuition, similar to the grants made to women while they were under instruction for the manufacture of munitions of war. The Ministry of Labour did not commit itself about the Tottenham workers beyond admitting the figures of unemployment amongst them, and stating that the local demand for skilled women workers registered at the Labour Exchanges is small. All they said about the suggestion made by Major Prescott, and applicable to many places other than Tottenham, is that the question is "under consideration." We hope it is!

### The Women Welders.

The Society of Women Welders is to be congratulated this week upon two things. The appointment of its General Secretary, Miss Anne H. Tynan, to the Industrial Unrest Commission, set up as the outcome of the great meeting of employers and employees called by the Government, is a matter of great encouragement. Not only are the welders to be congratulated upon the recognition of their able Secretary, but the Commission is also to be congratulated upon securing the services of so experienced and so devoted a woman Trade Unionist. The second matter for congratulation is the fact that the Society has won its first unemployment donation dispute before the court of referees. A member of the Society had taken up welding two years ago, at the age of eighteen. She had been trained for it, and was in receipt of about three pounds a week at the time of the signing of the Armistice. During the uncertainty of contracts the firm for which she was working temporarily dispensed with her services, and she became entitled to the unemployment donation of twenty-five shillings a week. After a few weeks she was offered a job in a leather manufactory at a pound a week, with a prospect of learning something of the trade. She refused the job on two grounds. First, because a pound a week was not enough to live upon, and second, because she already had a skilled trade which was certain to re-engage her before long, and did not want to take away from a worker who had not, the chance offered of learning and starting in the leather trade. The case was referred to the court of referees, and on Miss Tynan appearing on the member's behalf, the court at once sustained her objections, and approved her refusal of the job, which has now been passed on to a worker without a skilled trade. This once more establishes the contention of the welders that they are women trained for a job recognised as skilled.

### Women and Domestic Service.

There are signs that domestic servants are turning towards trade unionism as a means of improving their status and conditions. The Manchester and Salford Women's Trades and Labour Council are taking steps to organise domestic servants in the district, and judging from the response they are receiving, there is every probability of some organisation being set up. There is no doubt that with the backing of an active organisation the domestic workers will stand a better chance of becoming an effective force than if they stood entirely on their own. There is, also, on the part of those mistresses who have not hitherto been model employers, a growing realisation of the demands which domestic workers are now putting forward, and of the reasonableness of such demands. It is hardly necessary to point out that the conditions to which domestic workers are refusing to return did not maintain in all domestic workers are refusing to return did not maintain in all houses. As in many other trades, conditions varied widely; there were at one extreme the over-worked, sweated "slaveys" of many lodging houses and some middle-class homes, and at the other the lucky workers who received all, and often more, consideration than they demanded. Between these two extremes were many variations, including the domestic workers in rich homes who were subjected to basement bedrooms, overcrowding, and insufficient rest; and those who, though working for modest employers, were far better treated. On the whole, the worst sufferers were girls from poor town districts, who were by circumstances prevented from obtaining good posts, often being employed by people in only a rather better position than themselves; whereas country girls wishing to become domestic servants could usually obtain references and recommendations to good situations from some residents in the locality to whom they were personally known. It seems, therefore, that the really important point is to establish centres of training which shall be open to all, and from which the best employers will obtain the best workers.

### Women and the Police Service.

A Committee has been appointed to deal with the pay and conditions of service of the police. So far there is no woman among its members, but the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies has written to the Secretary of the Committee to ask that one shall be appointed. In view of the very important part which women police will obviously have to play in the future, and of the necessity for securing good conditions for them from the beginning, it seems very important that this should be done. Meanwhile, we would call the special attention of our readers to a letter from the Scottish Training School for Police Women and Patrols, which we publish in our correspondence columns. It is obvious that there is quite as much work for women police to do in Scotland as in England, and we hope that suffragists will do what they can to support the Scottish movement. One police woman must be almost lost in Glasgow, with its two million inhabitants, and apparently there is not even one in Edinburgh.

### The Pay of Nurses.

The Central Council for District Nursing in London held its annual meeting on February 25th, at which a resolution was passed expressing the opinion that the salaries of district nurses should be increased. The matter was referred to the Executive Committee, which was instructed to take the action necessary to secure the increase. A resolution, moved by the Chairman, Dr. Arthur H. Downes, was also passed, directing the committee to inquire into the adequacy of the provision of district nurses in the County of London, and to make recommendations to the Council. On February 25th, Sir Watson Cheyne asked in the House of Commons whether the pay of nursing sisters in the regular naval service is to be raised, as it is in the case of naval officers and men. Dr. Macnamara replied that the matter was under consideration.

### The W.R.N.S. and Demobilisation.

On February 24th, in the House of Commons, Mr. Aneurin Williams asked the Secretary of the Admiralty whether, in view of the future developments of the inauguration of new branches of work under the Admiralty, the employment of members of the Women's Royal Naval Service would be considered, seeing that no displacement of men would thereby be involved, and that unemployment among women was on the increase. Dr. Macnamara replied that, after full consideration, it had been decided to demobilise the Women's Royal Naval Service; but, he added, this would be carried out gradually.

### Unprotected Children.

It seems evident from a reply given by the Home Secretary that the Children's Act needs "tightening up." It seems that in 1913 (the only year for which figures were available) no less than two hundred and thirty-nine children under five years of age lost their lives as a result of burns from unprotected grates and stoves. No figures were available for children between five and seven, though the Act considers children as infants requiring some protection up to the latter age. We could not help wondering as we read these sinister figures whether some of the babies who perished in this dreadful and preventable way were not children of widows and other unsupported women, who had to go out to work. The Children's Act might be improved, but at the moment we feel the most urgent way of protecting the children is to restore to them the protection of their own mothers, in cases where this is now taken from them.

### Women and the Church.

At the meeting of the Representative Church Council on February 26th, when a proposal for the establishment of a National Assembly of the Church of England was discussed, an amendment, moved by the Bishop of Lichfield and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Temple, making women eligible for membership to the Assembly, was carried.

### Half-a-Million Raised by the Y.W.C.A.

We are glad to learn that during the past three years half a million pounds sterling has been raised by the Young Women's Christian Association for its splendid work. As much money as ever will be needed, for the Association does not propose to close its clubs now that the war is over. Letters are continually being received from members of the Q.M.A.A.C. and other corps begging that their clubs may be kept open, and there is no doubt that they are of immense value to thousands of girls and women. The Y.W.C.A. has also a scheme in hand for the forming of a domestic orderly corps, with hostels, for the training of domestic workers. We hope that this scheme will quickly become an accomplished fact.

### Women in Local Government.

March 6th is polling day for the London County Council elections. The women candidates, of whom there are fourteen, are as follows. Those for Municipal Reform are Lady Trustram Eve (North Hackney), Mrs. Hudson-Lyall (East Fulham), Miss Rosamond Smith (Shoreditch), Mrs. Dunn Gardner (North-West Camberwell), and Mrs. Hopkins (South-East St. Pancras); those belonging to the Progressive Party are the Duchess of Marlborough (North Southwark), Miss Adler (Central Hackney), and Miss Ida Samuel (Stepney); those representing Labour are Miss Susan Lawrence (Poplar), Mrs. C. S. Ganley (South Battersea), Miss Margaret McMillan (Deptford), Mrs. Montefiore (South Hammersmith), and Mrs. Ada Salter (Rotherhithe). Mrs. Lamartine Yates (North Lambeth) is the only independent woman candidate. Mrs. How Martyn, who, it will be remembered, stood as Parliamentary candidate for Hendon, is now offering herself as a County Council candidate for the South-West Hendon division of Middlesex, with the intention of conducting her campaign without expense, that is to say, sans election address, sans polling cards, sans canvassing, and sans motor cars. Meetings will be held, and her election address will appear in two local papers. Mrs. How Martyn's intention is to stand as a champion against a system of electioneering which, by increasing unwarrantable expense, is discouraging candidates with moderate means from standing.

### The Death of Mr. W. C. Anderson.

The death of Mr. W. C. Anderson is a severe blow to the Women's Movement. Mr. Anderson was a strong, steadfast, consistent supporter of Women's Suffrage. Workers in the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies will remember the many occasions on which he has stood by them, his constant comprehension of the position of the Union, and his readiness in responding to every call, both for political work and for the defence of women workers. Suffragists looked to Mr. Anderson to be a strong support to them in the struggle for the economic freedom of women, and in his untimely death they suffer a grievous loss. We feel that all our readers will wish to join in the expression of deep sympathy which the Executive Committee of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies has sent to Mrs. Anderson, better known to us as Miss Mary MacArthur. She has suffered a particularly cruel loss, for her husband was also her fellow-worker in the cause that she has most at heart.

## WOMEN WORKERS AND INDUSTRIAL UNREST.

ONE thing could hardly fail to strike a woman suffragist observer at the great Conference called by the Minister of Labour to consider industrial unrest, and that was the comparative invisibility of those who are, at the moment, most deeply concerned of all. Six or seven women were present and one of the speakers began by saying that he represented women as well as men; the one woman who spoke was received with sympathy and when, at the close of the Conference, a Committee of workers and employers was elected to continue the discussion, the workers began by electing the two women who had been nominated before choosing twenty-eight men from the forty odd names before them. Nevertheless, it was very difficult to distinguish the women among the serried ranks of men in the hall, and all through the discussions one had the feeling that to most of the speakers the question of women's work was a side issue, a small part of the problem, and not, as it is to us, the very heart of the matter. There were, of course, exceptions; the most marked being Mr. Arthur Henderson, who never speaks on any problem without at once showing that he has considered the woman's side of it as well as the man's, and whose whole action on this occasion was directed towards getting some practical help from the Conference for those who are least able to help themselves. But Mr. Henderson has always been a Suffragist in the largest sense of the word; his attitude is hardly typical of the average Trade Unionist; it is, alas, far away from that of the average Government official. This last appeared clearly in the speech of the Minister of Labour. The Prime Minister, unfortunately, did not refer to women workers at all.

Sir Robert Horne admitted the facts about the position of women only to deny their gravity, and to announce a "remedy" which, to some of those present, seemed more in the nature of a mortal thrust. Speaking of the general position as to unemployment, he had argued that it was not, after all, so very much worse than before the war—only 6.5 per cent. as against 5.6 in 1914. "But, of course," he went on, "the proportion of unemployment amongst women is very much greater—there are great numbers of women out of work. But then we must remember that numbers of women who worked during the war had been doing nothing at all before, and," he said, "it is improbable that they will want to continue in employment." To those who know the facts, the idleness of these so-called idle women is at least doubtful; the smile of incredulity his turn of phrase caused was marked, but Sir Robert probably did not understand it, and he continued: "There is the large unemployment donation—it is, perhaps, too large; it compares too favourably with the pay given to women in the trades in which they engaged before the war. There is a very natural reluctance to go back to employment so long as the donation lasts." And, in reply to the question expressed in the expectant faces of his audience, he announced that when the first thirteen weeks of unemployment benefit ended, the Government would "do as the Trade Unions do,"\* and reduce it, and that the reduction would be from 29s. to 20s. per week in the case of men, and from 25s. to 15s. in the case of women.

Sitting there and observing Sir Robert Horne, with his very obvious sense of responsibility, his very obvious desire to be quite fair, one could not help wondering whether he in the least realised the meaning of his words to women workers. Probably he did not. There are only a few statesmen in this country who at all understand women's questions; women, and especially working women, have been too long unrepresented, unorganised, inarticulate; they have too recently begun to emerge into the light of day; politicians have too long been accustomed to use words about them, without understanding the facts that those words represent, and without danger—or hope—of being brought to book; only a very few leaders have realised that in regard to women, as in regard to the working classes, things are not as they were.

To a suffragist listener the facts looming behind the Minister of Labour's consolatory words were these: Before the war, the right to work outside their own homes, was, to a very large extent, refused to women. The growing numbers who had to work in order to live, or in order to support dependents (since they themselves had no one on whom they could depend), were forced into trades in which the pay and conditions were so bad that only workers who had no choice would accept them. The other growing number of women who wanted to work in order

\* It was afterwards pointed out that the Trade Unions only reduce their donations when they are forced to do so by lack of funds, and that this does not apply to the Government.

to acquire independence, or because work is part of life—just as religion and family ties, and friendship, and pleasure are parts of life—were forced to work for nothing, or for lower wages than men, and sometimes they unwillingly helped to increase the misery of the others in the sweated trades. Thus it came about that, before the war, large numbers of women were working for wages so low that 25s. a week—the equivalent of something less than 12s. 6d. in 1914, "compares favourably with them." The result was a mass of human misery, which only those who have studied the history of the sweated trades, and of prostitution in relation to it, can begin to imagine. The war came, and "numbers of women worked who had been doing nothing at all before." The reasons for this were manifold. One was that British women, like British men, have great public spirit, and that it was their country, as well as the men's that was in danger; women answered the call to the factories, as men answered the call to the guns. Another was that there were a great many women wanting to work, who had never had a chance of using their capacities before. But there was a third reason not less imperative than these; in the opening of fresh occupations to women; in the breaking down of barriers which had confined them in a few trades, the economic slaves of this country found some relief from the merciless pressure which was driving them to death or prostitution; a door to freedom was opened, and they passed through it.

It is that door which the action and inaction of the Government threatens to close, and unless the men's trade unions thoroughly grasp the situation, they may find themselves helping to push it. The first shove was the demobilisation of women munition workers, without the provision of any schemes of employment. The second is the reduction of the unemployment benefit. It was the consciousness of this on the part of some of his listeners that gave Sir Robert Horne's words such a sinister ring. Great numbers of women are unemployed now, and, as more and more dilutees are dismissed, the numbers must continue to swell. Nothing that has happened up till now, nothing that the Minister of Labour said at the Conference, gives us the right to hope that the Government has any large schemes for re-employing women in preparation. Were such schemes in existence, no unemployment donation would be necessary, the women would go back to work. But there is, in most cases, no suitable work to go back to. There is one palliative to the almost unbearable situation created—as we cannot but think—by the Government's lack of enterprise, and that is the unemployment donation of 25s. a week. It is not, and cannot be an inducement to refuse suitable work, because a worker who refuses to accept a suitable job at once ceases to receive the benefit; but it is a safeguard against being forced to accept grossly unsuitable work, and it is a weapon against destitution. Now we have been told that it is to be reduced to 15s. a week, a sum equivalent to something less than 7s. 6d. a week in 1914. The effects that must follow are obvious. No woman can live in decency on 15s. a week, any more than she could live in decency on 7s. 6d. a week before the war. But women workers will be forced to take jobs at that wage; they will eagerly accept jobs at 16s. or 17s. a week, because those will put them a shilling or two further from starvation. By reducing the women's benefit by 10s. and the men's by 9s. the Government is effecting another disastrous economy, and is perpetrating a fresh injustice. The women drop by a larger sum in actual cash, and far more in proportion than do their men fellow workers. But even this is not the worst, for by this scale of donation to women the Government is deliberately setting a sweated standard of women's wages, and it is pushing far too many women back again into the sweated trades, where excessive competition had already produced inhuman conditions. It is refusing in advance the women's desperate claim to economic freedom, which is just beginning to be articulate. It is destroying the only safeguard that could protect them from being used as blacklegs against the men. We can only describe it as an act of madness, and one which must inevitably prepare the way for serious and continued industrial unrest.

Nothing was more remarkable at the Industrial Conference than the frank recognition, by all the speakers (and especially by the Prime Minister) of the fact that the present troubles do not spring altogether from the old causes, but rather from a new demand on the part of working men—a demand which they are right to make. Those who have fought for freedom and for Britain are determined to have freedom for themselves and a British worth living in. No enlightened person disagrees with them, least of all the Prime Minister. Will not he see, will not

they see, that the women's demand is as just, and even more urgent than theirs? In a sense it is part—the most pressing part—of theirs; the working man's plea for a higher standard of life, and for leisure to live, is echoed with even more poignant emphasis by the working woman. But the woman has more to ask for. She needs not only subsistence and leisure, but also freedom to use all her capacities, and to share in all kinds of work. Till she has gained that, there can be no solution for her of the industrial problem, and this will mean that there is no solution for her brothers; their position will be a danger to any industrial settlement, and she will inevitably be forced to bring it all to naught. We look to enlightened Trade Unionists therefore to help her, and to enlighten the Government, which still seems to sit in darkness. It is encouraging that Miss Margaret Bondfield and Miss Anne Tynan have been elected to the joint committee, and that they will have the support on it of Mr. Henderson, Mr. Stuart Bunning, Mr. John Turner, and other just-minded men. It gives us hope that women's questions will not long be invisible to those who are seeking the causes and cure of the deep social troubles, which with restraint suitable to our national temperament, we have agreed to call "Industrial Unrest."

## Modern Tendencies.

Perhaps the main characteristic of good citizens is usefulness; and in order to be of use they must possess knowledge, insight, and devotion. The knowledge must be not only of the past and present, but also of what the future is likely to be; and, in order to estimate this, insight is needed to read significances, and to gather the trend of opinion and of events. The citizen must study tendencies as well as traditions.

From what has been already achieved is the material gathered for further progress—material not always easily discerned, but necessary to the pioneer. In a sense, the detection and use of modern tendencies is the climax of the study of Civics, for from them can be formulated the needs of the coming generation, and thus the definite work of citizenship is indicated.

Insight and practice are wanted for the detection, the grouping, and the interpretation of the tendencies of our times. Much may be gathered from current journals which discuss present day affairs; from political and industrial events, such as the formation of a Coalition Government and the prevalence of strikes; from meetings and speeches. Books issued with a purpose are also useful, but the caution must be made that a knowledge of history and facts is required before opinions can be formed.\*

The significance of events is important: the Imperial Conferences held since 1887 have shown that a greater unity of the British Commonwealth was evolving; the Registration Act of 1915, although not used as it could have been, yet was a sign that the nation was beginning to expect every man and woman to do their share in a time of crisis.

The main tendencies of the present fall into four spheres—those of Young People, of the State, of Industry, and of Social Ideas—and it behoves all citizens to know what is happening in these spheres and why it is happening.

Ellen Key, the Swedish feminist, has called this the century of the child; and on all sides care for children, who are the coming generation, evinces itself. Miss Margaret McMillan is awakening our sense of responsibility towards the health of little ones; school nurses, doctors and clinics are searching out, if not curing, ailments to which children should never be subjected; thought is being taken for the babies of unmarried mothers; and the Ministry of Health itself will be mainly a Children's Ministry. After the physical comes the mental, and education is becoming a question of practical and living importance. The new Education Bill is a step forward, and there are many more steps to take; but of more permanent character, because based on fundamental principles of psychology, is the work of a few pioneers in the sphere of educational theory and practice. The work of M. F. J. Gould with regard to moral education (without moralising) that is carried on in a spirit of world-wide significance,† and the suggestions of Dr. F. H. Hayward to bring about familiarity with beautiful art, poetry, music, and "lives of great men" in schools by means of rituals, are two indications of what education may be. And the recognition that definite teaching and training in citizenship is necessary will bring school more in contact with life, and thereby intro-

\* The books being issued in "The Making of the Future" series, edited by Geddes & Branford and published by Williams & Norgate, 5s. each, are excellent.

† See *British Education after the War* (Watts & Co., 1s. 6d.).

duce more reality into education.\* Other tendencies with regard to child welfare can only be briefly touched upon here: the First Offenders' Acts, the Children's Courts, the Little Commonwealth, and Borstal System all point to the fact that prevention and cure rather than punishment is the method for dealing with juvenile crime; and continued education will also interact strongly on this aspect.

The woman citizen who engages herself with any of the elements sketched above will be placing herself in the stream of progressive tendencies, and will not only help but be helped by it.

Our conception of the function of a State has been greatly widened during the war. No history has yet been written of the development of State intervention, but the war has seen an enormous increase of action in this direction. Before the war we had the Insurance Act; Wages Boards, and partial control of factories, mines, shops, &c., and since war broke out railways, food, profits, &c., have been placed under State control. In all probability this tendency will increase, and gradually all vital industries will pass into the hands of the community.

Devolution of authority and function is being followed more and more in all spheres of the British Commonwealth, from the relegating of power to dominions, to the giving of local authority to parishes. This aspect of government is of an importance not yet fully recognised, and enhances the dignity of citizenship wherever it may be exercised. Even in the problem of India it has its effect, and in some respects the Town Council is as great a power as Parliament.

It may be that the tendencies with regard to Industry will prove to be those that will influence the immediate future most deeply. It behoves every citizen to become acquainted with the problems at issue, and to have some knowledge of the history of industrial conditions. The growth of the Co-operative Movement and of Trade Unions (with their later development of gigantic federations, such as the alliance of the Miners' Federation, the National Union of Railwaymen and the Transport Workers), should be studied, and the meaning of Syndicalism, Socialism, and National Guilds, with their aims and distinctions, should be comprehended before opinions are formed on so vast a question as that of Labour in the present day.

The modern attitude to labour is changing, for, if nothing had taught us before, the war brought home to us the fact that physical labour is the basis on which our civilisation rests. This is not saying that it is that civilisation; a material basis does not imply that everything which uses it as its foundations is material. But every true idealist knows that he must be a realist as well.

Questions such as those of women in industry; of married women with young children working out of their homes; of equal pay; of wages, salary, or maintenance; of what Prof. Geddes calls the Vital Budget (*i.e.*, what is obtained as housing, food, clothing, air-space, access to beauty in nature or art), as distinct from money wealth, all deserve and are receiving attention. It is not wise to take a stand on "Equal Pay for Equal Work" and to go no further, for the idea of pay for work is not one of high ethical value, and there is a higher justice than commercial justice.\*

Various changes in social ideas are gradually permeating the thought of the twentieth century. They can best be regarded in a threefold aspect, and good citizenship requires that such subtle growth of new conceptions should be watched, so that the tendency may be considered when events have to be interpreted or action has to be taken. One direction in which ideas move shows that Carlyle's dictum: History is the biography of great men, can no longer be regarded as true. An individual now can no longer lead, and the function of the great has rather become that of interpretation. The causes for this are many: no one can now become a master of all knowledge; no one can now grasp all social factors; our life and civilisation have become too complex and many-sided for any one to tower far above the others. When Pitt made his last public speech in the Guildhall, soon after the battle of Trafalgar, he said that Europe could not be saved by one man, and thereby showed he grasped this tendency. It is one which has the effect of making an individual of less importance, but all individuals of more importance.

Another change has come about in our ideas concerning freedom. The cry of *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity* belongs to a period of more than a century ago. We no longer regard

\* A most interesting account of the education of a citizen is given in the pamphlet, *A Citizen Soldier: His Education for War and Peace*, published by Headley Bros., in the "Papers for the Present" series, 6d.

† This question has been discussed rather more fully in the February issue of *The Humanist*, 2d.

freedom as an end in itself; some of the greatest tyrants in history have been "free," and their freedom has been a curse. Mere freedom for its own sake is egotistic, and above all things the good citizen is altruistic. His aim is Service, and in order to serve one must be bound in many ways. It must not be thought that the conceptions of our ancestors who fought nobly for liberty were wrong. All things, including the tendencies of past ages and of modern times, must be judged relatively to conditions. What was justifiable and right a thousand or a hundred years ago may be neither the one nor the other nowadays. A wide survey of conditions, and a knowledge of history, together with psychological insight, all three of which should characterise the good citizen, will generate the attitude of relativity, which, after all, is only one of common sense.

The third tendency of thought is in the conception of Humanity as an entity; a kind of self-consciousness of race is developing, and manifesting itself in different directions. A slight indication is the spread of Esperanto as a language for all to speak; in another way the proposed League of Nations shows the commencement of some body to act on the principle that the human race will ultimately be a unity. With this self-consciousness is coupled a sense of dawning power. Humanity, when it acts as such, can direct its own evolution; more and more is it conscious of this possibility, and it will finally realise that it is mainly a question of direction of forces. The war has proved that what we collectively wish to do we can do; and when all direct their energies to one end, that end will be gained. With increased self-consciousness comes increased sensitiveness, and humanity is realising that there are things in the world it can bear to allow no longer. The awakening of the citizen spirit in women has made this clearly manifest. Poverty, preventable disease, and war, declares the brave citizen, shall exist no longer; we cannot bear them. Both men and women, therefore, with their more sensitive human nature, band together to clear the evils from the world.

With these brief indications of the tendencies in our own days, those who desire to place their thought and energies at the service of the Commonwealth, in ways that will work permanent good, can enter the stream at the point that interests them most, and row towards the World Beautiful that is no dream, but a reality as yet unfulfilled.

E. M. WHITE.

## The Ideal Ministry of Health—II.

By DR. C. W. SALEEBY, F.R.S. (Edin.).

To Learn and to Teach,  
To Guard and to Help.

### III.—TO GUARD.

#### OUR DEFENCE AGAINST DISEASE.

THE Ministry must guard the supply of the biological needs of every citizen—such as air, light, water, food. These are not all, for man needs shelter and recreation, and more; evidently our Ministry would be impotent if it did not control and supply good housing, and, infinitely more, good housing, for "breathing and to be." It must supervise ventilation and fight atmospheric pollution by smoke and dangerous products of combustion. It must preside over the water supply, excluding typhoid bacilli, for instance, therefrom. It must undertake the hygienic supervision of the milk supply, excluding therefrom typhoid and tubercle bacilli and many others. Hitherto we have witnessed the tragic farce that the Local Government Board is responsible for notifications of tuberculosis and the provision of beds for tuberculous children, that the Insurance Commission is responsible for the distribution of sanatorium benefit, and the Board of Education treats tuberculous children, whilst the Board of Agriculture is allowed to neglect its duty of excluding tuberculosis from our national milk supply. Folly so deadly will be impossible when the Ministry of Health can guard this food, which is as indispensable for the culture and maintenance of the racial life as are light and air and water.

#### FOOD AND HEALTH.

Clearly, indeed, health being a state of life, and life requiring not only air, water and light, but also food, the Ministry of Health must permanently discharge several of the functions now discharged by the Ministry of Food. The hygienic supervision, protection from impurity and infection, and distribution to all according to at least the minimum needs of age, sex, employment—of our food should be a fundamental part of the Administration of National Health, for all life, and, therefore, all health depend upon a sufficiency of the right kind of food,

and we increasingly discover the immense importance of food in relation to disease, the infections, the intoxications, and the so-called "deficiency diseases," such as rickets and scurvy. Those who were most closely in touch with Lord Rhondda at the Ministry of Food know best how he functioned there as Minister of Health, just as he had already done at the Local Government Board. The physiological apportionment or rationing of food supplies, the choice of what foods to import in the freight-space available, the fixing of prices to encourage production of foods most needed, public education in dietetics, the establishment of national kitchens, the restriction of brewing, the priority arrangements for milk, the prohibition of cream, are all instances, some—such as rationing—for war time only, some for all coming time, of the administration of food for health. The ideal Ministry of Health will necessarily include a great sub-department concerned with food, including such matters as we have named and those with which hitherto a department of the Local Government Board has dealt under the impossible conditions of administrative chaos.

I submit, further, the proposition that the Ministry must have full opportunity to advise on the production of food. The Board of Agriculture has always, hitherto, confounded the two functions of the land—to grow money or to grow food. The politician and the landowner naturally and habitually think in terms of money. If the land will grow most money by the media of, say, mustard and hops, then that emetic and that narcotic are the crops for them. But, in fact, the land is Our Land, the source of our life, and its function is to grow food for our lives and health and happiness.

#### DRINK AND HEALTH.

Our Ministry of Health must survey and be, in part at least, responsible for all the needs of life. It will direct and guard not only food but drink. The Central Control Board of the Liquor Traffic, under Lord D'Abernon, since May, 1915, has been discharging with great success what were clearly none less nor other than health functions, including most valuable research and education—learning and teaching. That Board was set up, under the Ministry of Munitions, with reference especially to the temporary needs of war. Its functions, not least to learn and to teach, must evidently, so long as we produce and consume alcoholic beverages at all, be discharged—under the conditions of peace, and without penal powers—by any Ministry of Health that is not to ignore one of the principal causes of national ill-health.

First to learn, then to teach, and to guard the due supply of the needs of life: these are primary and general functions which must be discharged by the Ministry of Health for the nation as a whole. It does not need to be said that such duties will be continuous, from generation to generation—from the adolescent or pre-parent, through the expectant mother, the infant, the "home-child" (as I prefer to call the pre-school child), the school child itself, and thence the adolescent or pre-parent again. The Ministry which learnt would not need to be taught the folly of caring assiduously for two links in the living chain, whilst that between them is left to rust and rot—as adolescence is now.

#### IV.—TO HELP.

But in our imperfectly constituted society there are times when the functions already defined will not suffice. The adolescent, for instance, is apt to find him or herself in tragic circumstances where admonitions, however wise, will no longer avail. Living help is needed. The mother also, and her helpless infant, are constantly in such need. They cannot help themselves. Society has failed to solve the social problem of motherhood—infant mortality, with its medical problems, being really the consequences of that failure; and the victims cannot save themselves. Living help is needed. The ideal Ministry of Health—as I asked when first putting forward at the Conference of our National Council in June, 1915, the demand for it as an urgently required war measure—will include a special department, largely staffed by women\* and concerned with motherhood and infancy; not only learning and teaching and guarding, but looking maternally at maternity, and grand-maternally at infancy, with love in its eyes and help in its hands. Better this than that our infancy should be torn in pieces between the existing departments who strive for it, each like the spurious mother whom

\* I wish all success to Lady Rhondda's campaign for the proper representation of women in the new Ministry. It will be concerned with a population comprising some three million more women than men; and its primary functions, if it is to be preventive and constructive, will be concerned with mothers and children, those weak who are the beginnings of all strength.

Solomon exposed. I will go further and repeat my plea for a Public Maternity Service, as a living memorial to Lord Lister and Florence Nightingale, who shall stand one on each side of the mother in her creative hour, reincarnate in the persons of trained men and women, clean to their finger-tips, making an end for ever of puerperal fever and *ophthalmia neonatorum* and the gynæcological hospitals now filled with the consequences of incompetent and dirty midwifery. To ask for this service, for a need which has never yet been and cannot otherwise be met, is not to prejudice in any direction the argument for a National Medical Service, which is a further question to be settled on its own merits.

#### A DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION.

If we are to help parenthood we must begin by helping adolescence, which we now neglect as it has never been neglected in any past time or place. We must rescue it from the unholy Trinity of cities, Mammon, Bacchus, and Priapus. One fundamental—not accessory—way to help is to provide recreation, which is a physio-psychological necessity for all, but especially the young. The work of the Y.M.C.A. during the war, and the policy of the Liquor Control Board, in providing places of play and amusement, such as cinemas, show how we may help adolescence—which may properly be called pre-parenthood, and upon which, therefore, the national and racial destiny depend—by making our Ministry of Health include a Department of Recreation, of play and pleasure and leisure which serve life and health, instead of inviting the three chief enemies of life and health—tuberculosis, venereal disease and alcohol, of which the two latter, being *racial poisons*, poison the future when they poison adolescence.

I have not yet alluded, except incidentally, to that co-ordination of overlapping departments which is so evidently needed, and which specially interested Lord Rhondda when I submitted these proposals to him at the Local Government Board early in 1917. That also we must do, and at once; but even that is a small matter compared with the first principles herein laid down. Certainly we must repair our mistake of 1911, and combine the Local Government Board for England and Wales and the National Health Insurance Commissions for England and Wales. A similar need exists in and for Scotland and Ireland. These things, and many more, can and will be accomplished. But here our concern is to state the principles of the ideal Ministry of Health, taking it for granted that, in order to realise its objects, the Ministry will brood creatively over present departmental chaos. Nor is this ideal impossible. Such a Ministry existed, within its limits, under my wonderful friend, Lord Rhondda, statesman, and hero, during his last devoted year, when he gave his health and life to save the food of Freedom.

#### FIRST AND LAST PRINCIPLES.

I would end as I began with these simple common words, to learn and to teach, to guard and to help, and reiterate, them because they contain very nearly the whole duty of man, and because the need of these principles is illustrated, most tragically and calamitously, as women everywhere know, in the doings and intentions of certain existing movements in relation to the so-called venereal diseases, which are really the racial diseases, and which threaten the health of the army, the surviving fathers of the future, during demobilisation, as no foreign foe threatens our defenders in time of war. How different would the racial

## THE WOMEN'S MUNICIPAL PARTY

### Non-Party

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prospect be if, instead of the principles, to neglect and threaten, to punish and bully, we looked at our adolescents as if we had once been young, and set ourselves to learn and to teach, to guard and to help. These will be the principles, in this sphere and in all others, of the ideal Ministry of Health.

## Women's Place in Local Government.

WHILE women were fighting for the recognition of their right to the Parliamentary vote, the little interest taken by them in local government, and the very small number of women serving on either county, district, or parish councils, for any of which they have been qualified both as electors and members since 1894, was frequently urged as an argument against Women's Suffrage. A pertinent reason, apart from the restrictive nature of those qualifications, for the abstention of many women whose services on such bodies would be invaluable to the community has been in the past the difficulty of exercising any real influence in local administration without the weight of the Parliamentary vote behind them. But now the disability no longer exists it behoves enfranchised women to refute the charge of indifference and lack of public spirit by taking a due share in the responsibilities of local government.

The importance of the various bodies which serve as successive stages in the system of self-government that is the peculiar heritage of the Anglo-Saxon race has not been sufficiently understood by women. Together they stand for the provision of transport facilities, the maintenance of highways, lighting and water supplies, education and finance within their respective areas; while on their efficient exercise of the powers committed to them depends in a large measure the effective application of all Public Health Acts, Housing Acts, and, in rural districts, the administration of the Poor Laws. To-day, in view of the far-reaching schemes of reconstruction in all departments of social legislation—schemes that embrace the creation of a Ministry of Health, the immediate erection of some 300,000 workmen's dwellings, and the abolition of the workhouse system—it is more than ever necessary that women councillors should safeguard the interests of the mothers and children of the country in matters which so vitally concern their welfare.

But if women are to take their place during the next three years in local government no time is to be lost. The triennial elections for all these bodies are being held this month, beginning with the County and Borough Council elections in the first week, followed closely by urban and rural District Council elections, and the parish meetings which are to decide the composition of the parish councils for the next three years. There are at present only twelve women serving on County Councils, six of whom are claimed by the L.C.C., and although urban councils show a rather better proportion, the women of rural district councils are in an almost negligible minority, notwithstanding the fact of their admitted usefulness on boards fortunate enough to have secured their co-operation. A parish councillor of the gentler sex is so great a rarity that it frequently comes as a surprise to parochial electors to learn that women are and always have been eligible for that office. In the case of County, Borough, and District Councils nomination is necessary, and for the two former the burgess qualification, e.g., ratepayer occupation within the county or borough. The County Council among other functions, is the educational authority within its area, exercises joint police control, levies the county rate, and has large powers under the Public Health Acts, and Housing and Town-planning Acts, and in matters of licensing and finance. But while the County Council occupies an intermediary position between the District Councils and the supreme authority of the Local Government Board, the Borough Council, with similar powers, constitutes with its mayor and corporation a practically self-contained example of local administration.

District Councils are urban or rural, according to whether the combined parishes they represent are situated in town or country. They meet fortnightly, and are composed of one or more members from each parish in the group. All parochial electors are eligible to serve on them, the women's qualification being now the same as for the Parliamentary vote, except that the age clause does not apply. The functions of both councils vary only so far as the different conditions of town or rural life require; but in rural districts the councillors discharge in addition the duties of Poor Law Guardians for their Unions, while in towns Boards of Guardians are elected as separate bodies. But the Poor Law functions of the rural councils are likely to be transferred in the near future to some other authority appointed directly by the County and Borough Councils. The District Council, whether urban or rural, exercises a variety of powers

inherited from the defunct sanitary authorities and highway boards, with regard to public health and the upkeep of roads, as well as others under the Housing and Building Acts; and has authority to abate nuisances, protect rights of way and commons, sanction tramways, and levy special rates for public improvements.

Lastly, the Parish Council brings us to the fundamental unit of self-government. It is the modern successor of the ancient vestry, the public functions of which, as distinct from the ecclesiastical, were transferred to it by the Local Government Act of 1894. A parish meeting must be held annually in every parish, however small; but only those with a population of three hundred and over are required to form a parish council, which consists of from five to fifteen members elected triennially by the parochial electors at the parish meeting, usually by a show of hands, but by a poll where it is demanded. The council appoints overseers to assess the poor-rate, and may provide recreation grounds, improve water supplies, and sanction the closing or diversion of highways. It must, if the parish meeting demands it, adopt the Public Baths and Washhouses and Public Libraries Acts, and has authority to impose a rate up to a penny in the pound for such purpose; and it can, with the consent of the County Council, raise loans for securing allotments and for other public improvements. There is work on the parish council both for the woman familiar at first hand with local conditions as they affect working-class homes, and for the leisured woman whose independent position will enable her to urge without fear or favour the highest good of the community and the especial needs of the working mother and her little ones. With the exception of specially appointed committees, the parish council meets only once a quarter, the minimum attendance required by any local body imposing no grant tax upon even the busiest of women. If public spirit, like charity, begins at home, then the parish council stands for the first corporate duty of the enfranchised woman.

Whether women will speedily awake to their responsibilities in the matter of local government depends largely upon the educational value of the Women's Councils and Women's Institutes springing up in the towns and villages of our land. The opportunity of training working women in the duties of citizenship is especially theirs, and such efforts, if wisely directed and patiently pursued, must bear fruit in wider ideals and purer politics in the days to come.

M. PAIGE WOOD.

### Women and the Church.

The Bishop of Exeter in Convocation a few weeks ago stated his belief that it would not be *wrong* for a woman to speak in a church provided that she addressed women and children only.

The very day the Bishop made this (not too courageous) statement, a woman was preaching in cassock and surplice from a Church of England pulpit to a mixed congregation of men and women. Nor is it an unusual occurrence, for a woman preaches weekly in a certain London church, and as a rule to a large and interested congregation. While the dignitaries of the Church discuss hesitance, and fear, the thing is being done.

The very thought of a woman preaching in a church is a shock to some people; if such people would only go and hear a woman preacher even in a Church of England they would, I am convinced, suffer a far slighter shock than they anticipate. I remember being in a church when a woman read the lessons; it was the first time it had ever been done. She feared that there might be some audible protest; this I did not anticipate, but I was quite prepared for a few people to get up and quietly walk out of the church as a protest. When the moment came for the lesson to be read I realised how foolish had been our fears. The reader was dressed like the choir in a cassock and surplice, and on her head a soft covering, the lessons were read with unusual clearness and *sense*, no one stirred, and one felt how natural, after all, the proceeding was.

I am persuaded that the exclusion of women from the ministry of the Church is fundamentally non-Christian. It harmonises much more with the teaching of Mohammed than with teaching of Christ. There is no hint in the teaching of Christ of either class or sex distinction. It is difficult to write or speak on this subject without covering ground that will be familiar to many readers. It is preposterous that one of the reasons given for not allowing women to speak in a church—for be it remembered that laymen are permitted so to do—should be *because the church is consecrated*. This was the reason given by a certain vicar when

refusing to lend his church for intercessions led by a woman. He little realised the wealth of insult to half the human race that such a line of thinking involves, nor how profoundly contrary to the whole spirit and teaching of Christ was his attitude on the subject. It will possibly be said that the vicar quoted was an exceptional man. I fear he was only exceptional in that he was courageous enough to state what was in his mind. The fact that so many clergymen are glad for women to speak on religious subjects and the spiritual life as long as it is not done actually within the walls of a church points to the fact that a vast number share his views. Of course, there are other reasons. Custom and tradition have weight, and doubtless many follow the custom as it is the easiest thing to do, without thinking through the why and the wherefore of the attitude they adopt.

To me the most fundamental reason why women should preach within the church is that apart from the contribution of the woman's mind, the message given through the Church is and must be imperfect. God speaks through the best of the human race—not through the best of one-half of it alone. Men and women are different, and there are aspects of Divine truth that women apprehend more vitally than do men, and vice versa. All down the ages the aspects of Truth that are apprehended more vitally by men have been emphasised within the Church and in the teaching of the Church. It is bound, therefore, to be imperfect. I emphasise this whenever dealing with the subject and cannot refrain from doing so, as it is the foundation stone of the whole subject. It is not for the purpose of upholding women's rights, nor for the purpose of making a claim to equality, that many are convinced women should have a wider share in the ministry of the Church, but from the deep conviction that the Christian message cannot be proclaimed in its fullness within the Church till women deliver—and are brought up to believe that they *can* deliver—their conception of the Christian message and of the mind of Christ. Many will say women should be given a wider ministry within the Church, or otherwise they will drift away from it. This is probably true, yet to give that as a reason for admitting them to a wider service seems to me sheer opportunism, and in itself could not, I think, claim the adherence of thinking people. Do we not need simply to get back to the mind of the Founder of our Faith? His whole attitude to women is a direct contradiction to the attitude of the Church. Again and again they are His direct messengers. He reveals to them truths with direct instructions that they shall be His messengers, even to His disciples. The Church had not then been founded, but is it conceivable that His whole attitude and spirit could change after the great birthday of the Church?

It is true He numbered no women amongst His twelve apostles. This presents no great stumbling-block to those who like the present writer have spent many years in the mission field in the East. Christ laid down principles which would liberate. He did not attack the system of slavery or the Jewish subordination of women, but his teaching inevitably led to the abolition of both. In some Eastern countries it still would be a practical impossibility, as it was in Palestine two thousand years ago, for women to travel about as the apostles were called to do in spreading the Christian message.

Contrary to the generally accepted opinion, St. Paul certainly encouraged the ministry of women, and he can be quoted as strongly in favour of women taking part in the actual services of the Church as against it.

Personally I believe that the first step in the right direction is to get people accustomed to the *thought* that women can take part in the services of the Church—to destroy the idea that there is anything unseemly in such a proceeding; to go further, and see in it an element of real beauty. To clergymen who are in sympathy—and, happily, there are many—I would say: use the liberty you possess, it is wider than many realise; provided your churchwardens do not object there is *no* law, ecclesiastical or otherwise, to prevent a woman reading the lessons. It might be well also to consult the congregation. Let her be clad in cassock and surplice so as not to draw attention to the person herself. Invite a qualified woman to preach—to begin with, on a week-day. Many of our Bishops are entirely in favour of something like this being done, though no isolated one can commit the Episcopal bench. Of course, they wish it safeguarded—and rightly so, though we cannot enter into that matter here, except to say there must really be complete liberation of the spirit in the training of women who would enter the ministry of the Church. Something new needs to be thought out, for there would be little hope of fresh life if the women went through the present theological colleges. The steps suggested may appear small, but if taken they will indicate a change of thought that

is essential, and more will follow. Preaching is not everything, and it is possible that women when liberated for full and complete service within the ministry of the Church will bring richer gifts and unveil deeper truths, which have hitherto lain untouched within the treasury of the Church of Christ. The Church must surely revoke its present attitude for its own sake, for the sake of what it loses within its ministry of inspiration and power by the exclusion of women.

EDITH PICTON-TURBERVILLE, O.B.E.

### A Contrast.

"Come and see my infants," said a school teacher; "they are most interesting. Nearly every nationality is represented, and almost all languages are spoken, though no one will own to German these days!"

I gladly accepted the invitation, and one autumn afternoon in 1918 found myself looking for an elementary school. Out of the busy stir and hum of a large thoroughfare in the centre of the town I turned into a narrow street with tall, old-fashioned houses hemming me in on every side, shutting out light and air, and making the street dark and dreary. My spirits sank at the idea of childhood spent in such surroundings. But, perhaps, bright and spacious school premises would compensate for the depressing neighbourhood. I passed the building I was looking for several times as I wandered up and down the street.

"Is it possible," I said to myself, as I entered a dark passage and climbed up a steep staircase, "is it possible that this is an infants' school?" Childish voices assured me that I was in the right place. Delightful infants they were, too. English, French, Swiss, Belgian, Austrians, Jews, Italians. The little Jews were particularly well grown and intelligent. The children sang and played for my edification. One small boy was delighted at being spoken to in French, and his lisping baby replies in that tongue entirely won my heart.

All the time my eyes kept wandering round the dark classrooms, and gazing out of the windows searching for some evidence of the fact that this really was a school in the twentieth century in one of the richest cities in the world. Was it all a dream, our boasted progress and interest in education and child life? Should I awaken presently and find myself living in 1879, when this school was built?

"Show me the playground," I asked, hoping to revive my drooping spirits by the sight and sound of the children at play. Down, down we went; the staircase was long and dark. I begged for guidance and called down the scorn of my friend, who remarked that babies of three and four years old found their way down alone!

A girls' school is above the infants' and so they share the playground. Amongst them also I noticed many nationalities, and was able to pick out a French girl at once by her tidy hair and neat black apron. Girls and infants played together in small groups. Here and there an elder sister shepherded her younger brethren. But oh, that playground! Below the level of the street! What light and air filtered in made it look even more dismal than the street. "Oh, yes," said the teacher cheerfully; "we sometimes get a gleam of sunshine in this corner in the morning and in that far corner in the afternoon."

Leaving the children to their play, hoping that their power of imagination would help "play themselves" into happier scenes, I visited the girls' school.

Here two standards shared one room. Would I like to hear the girls sing, and see them dance? asked the mistress. They sang beautifully, but I was all impatience to see where they would dance. "We only have this room," said the mistress apologetically. The room was full. Only a narrow passage at the end of the rows of raised seats, but here the girls danced in pairs, and even four together, in stocking feet, so as not to disturb the babies below. Beautiful, rhythmic, graceful movements, with all the zest and vitality of youth, a strange contrast this beauty of natural movement in such unnatural surroundings. Strange tales, the Belgian girl who returns home next month, will have to tell of the English school!

What about the strain on the health and spirits of the teachers! No easy task theirs—to show to these young minds the great, the good, the bright things of life, and the beauty of health day after day, in surroundings which are the negative of all these. To the children much of what they hear must seem like those fairy tales they love so well, but to the older girls

#### Ministry of Health Watching Council.

#### PUBLIC MEETING

ON THE  
Representation of Women

IN THE  
Ministry of Health

CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER

ON

Tuesday, March 11th, at 7.30 p.m.

Speakers: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D. (Chair)  
MRS. H. B. IRVING, VISCOUNTESS RHONDDA,  
MRS. CHALMERS WATSON, M.D. C.B.E., and others.

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an idle dream. No wonder they grow up with no vision of life. No wonder lives are cramped and stunted before they have time to develop and grow. No wonder that "a brightly lighted place" becomes their ideal of beauty.

Are there many school premises like these in England? I do not know. I dare not search, for already these haunt me as a nightmare.

MABEL SMITH.

### Reviews.

#### A FRENCH PAMPHLET.

Of special interest to English women at this time is a pamphlet entitled *Le Rôle des Femmes de Pasteurs en France pendant la Guerre*. It contains extracts from letters received by Madame de Witt Schlumberger, in answer to a questionnaire published at the end of 1916 in several Protestant religious newspapers, and also of letters from the pastors themselves, rendering homage to the work of their women colleagues. The women's letters are straightforward, quite lacking in pride and vain-glory. They state simply how the wife, when her husband went to fight, leaving her often with several small children, carried on the services, the Sunday schools, the sewing classes; visited the sick, conducted burials, marriages, christenings, and also preached. Indeed, the modest little expression "*faire une petite méditation*" occurs frequently. One writer states that, to begin with, she read a sermon, but, feeling that it was essential to address the souls of her listeners direct if she was to do them good, she formed the habit of preparing a "meditation" every Sunday. We hope that this very interesting and touching collection of evidence, which convinces one of the courage, unselfishness and devotion of many wives of French clergymen, will do much to break down the barrier which has kept women from all but the very humblest and least responsible portions of Church work.

Wheels, 1918. (Blackwell, Oxford. 4s. 6d.)

Although probably some of the contributors to this periodical would repudiate any idea so banal, the title *Wheels* does suggest progress, and for this reason it is appropriate, not because young poets and poetasters of both sexes do necessarily make progress in their work, but because the lively reader perpetually hopes that they have done so, and interestingly compares this year's contributions with last year's, and with the previous year's. There is one here who has advanced on her own lines more noticeably than the rest—Iris Tree, who, appearing before as an intelligent, self-conscious, fastidious dealer in rhythmical fancies, now shows herself surer, both in thought and manner, less artificial, more sincere, and less decoratively bitter. There was a grave and vivid beauty in her "Nassau" and "Myself in the City"; but there the technique, although good, was not fine enough for the theme; the material was not quite under control; sense and form were not successfully merged. But "Confessional," and "Analysis," though not ambitious in conception, are finely and subtly carried out, and "Gourmet" is a great advance on a former similar trifle, "Ballad." The fading, sighing end of "Analysis" is extremely skilful:—

"I am the day before disaster,  
The morning after feasting.  
The indolence of voices  
Stilled with sleep."

Edith Sitwell, on the other hand, has remained stationary; her verse remains delicate, obscure, curious, full of words such as flickered, glittering, green, spangled, bright, glass; very brittle and shining and highly finished, like one of the masks she loves. It is as though she had polished and chipped and varnished all depth and subtlety away; her obscurity is not in the least suggestive. There seems no reason why "Myself on the Merry-go-Round" should not go on for ever.

Osbert Sitwell's verse is naive, and he obviously takes a naive, childlike pleasure in expressing thoughts which are clichés, and which he does not transform. Sacheverel Sitwell is several stages further on. (He has his sister's passion for parrots.) "Pindar" is a charming poem. Aldous Huxley's prose is too close an echo of Rimbaud and *Trivia*. It was always clear from his poems that this writer was steeped in modern French literature, but his prose is flagrantly derivative, and therefore, though graceful, it should not be foisted on to the public. Two of Sherard Vines's contributions are already known to us. None of them fulfil his early and most remarkable promise; but "Clerk's Song" is true poetry, its last stanza

strange and beautiful, and phrased with his own characteristic, condensed, full simplicity. "Sunrise" is also memorable, full of deep light and colour. It is impossible to believe that the writer of "Hotel," "Mud," "Tod Als Freund" will stop here; but he cannot now be placed in the category of those who progress, where Iris Tree and Arnold James keep solitary company.

In "The Poet's Task" Arnold James shows how far he has advanced. We have no space to quote this poem in full. The following three lines, which summarize that task, are taken from a nameless poem; and it suffices to say that the writer is on the way to its accomplishment:—

"... Bringing to life again  
All beauty a heart has known  
And made its own."

### Correspondence.

#### DOMESTIC SERVICE.

MADAM,—One of your correspondents criticises our Household Orderly Corps Scheme on the point that the mistresses pay tenpence an hour and the girls get thirty shillings a week leaving a difference of ten shillings a week; also that each employer is supposed to contribute two guineas; and into whose pocket the remainder goes?

It is suggested that the uniform should be provided free of charge to the girls; there are two week's holidays to be paid for; and anyone who has had experience of the present influenza epidemic has realised the great incidental expenses that can arise, and which the management would have to defray. The salary for a capable superintendent of the Orderlies could not be less than £200 a year, and office, telephone, and postage expenses would have to be found. Also, though the demand for orderlies is large, it is possible that the hours could not always be fitted in, and if a girl were put on short time, say, during August and September, her wages would have to be paid all the same.

In this connection it might be pointed out that employers are free to engage a girl for one or two hours at a time at the same rate, while the ordinary daily worker demands a higher hourly rate for a short time.

In conclusion, as it is suggested and hoped that schemes of this kind would be run on a co-operative basis, if any profits were made they would come back to the employer.

JEANNETTE L. FRANKLIN,  
Hon. Secretary, Women's Industrial Council.

MADAM,—The letter in your issue of February 28th, from the staff of a house where there are five in family is lucid and interesting, but I am astonished that they should consider their amount of leisure a large one. Why, in this hard-working household where there are six in the family (four children), the cook and house-parlourmaid have quite finished work by 2.15. One or other brings and takes away afternoon tea for two—operations taking about three and five minutes respectively—otherwise they have no work till seven. It is the same in my friends' houses, for in the country we have no callers; but I hasten to add that there is quite as great a shortage of servants here as in London. Your correspondents say that the first housemaid has from two to four off duty, and the second from six to eight; but what in the world are they both doing from four to six—surely not housework? If two hours a day off duty were all that were required to secure a maid (nurses are excepted, of course) the domestic problem would soon sort itself.

M. SMITH.

MADAM,—The domestic servant problem will not be solved till the status of the domestic servant has been raised in due proportion to the rise in that of the industrial worker in the years preceding and during the war. The most hopeful way of securing this end is the organisation of domestic servants into Trades Unions. That former attempts made by the Industrial Unions have not proved very successful should not discourage effort. A Domestic Union should not blindly imitate an Industrial Union.

Many citizens now regard Trades Unions as part of the national machinery, and good mistresses should help the Unions by explaining about them to their servants. A good mistress should advise her maid to join a Union for the sake of less fortunate maids in order to gain better conditions for them.

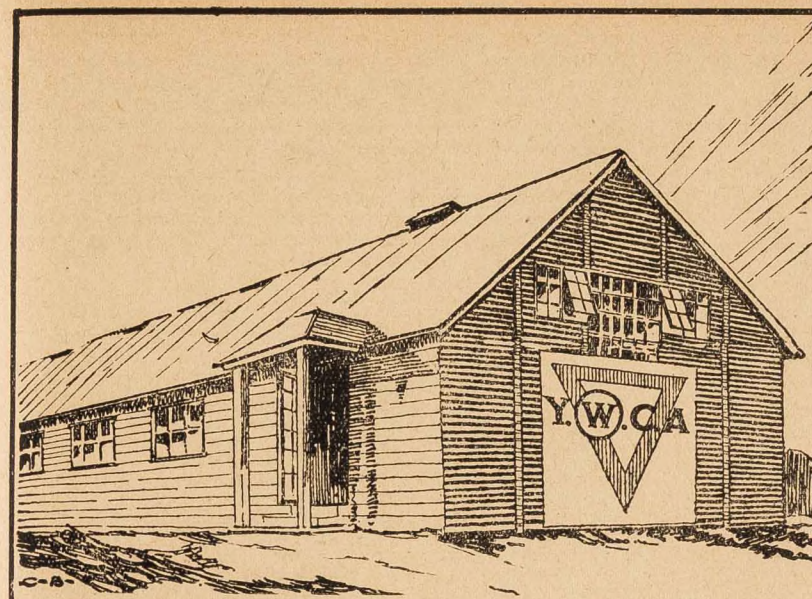
This is the way to replenish our homes with desirable domestic workers. When the trade becomes attractive again, there will be great opening for training centres in industrial towns, though not necessarily by means of hostels. The training required by the majority of servants could be, perhaps, better accomplished through a properly organised scheme of training by really suitable working mistresses.

HELEN J. KLAASSON.

#### LEGALISED CRUELTY.

MADAM,—I thank you for publishing F. E. Hunter's letter. I believe that when history reviews the conduct of the several nations who bore their part in the great war, one of the blots (I would hope the few blots!) for which our country will need to blush will be her merciless persecution of Conscientious Objectors. Whatever allowance may be made for the instinct of self-preservation in a crisis of national peril has to-day lost its validity. However, in such a crisis, we disallow individual faithfulness to that conscience which we were once wont to call the voice of God, there can be no patriotic reason for this continued persecution except resentment.

People venture to assert that our soldiers would not like the C.O.s released. With Malvolio "I think nobly of the soul" of our soldiers, "and no way approve his opinion." Brave men honour bravery even in



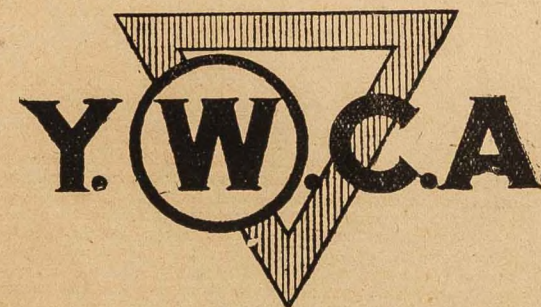
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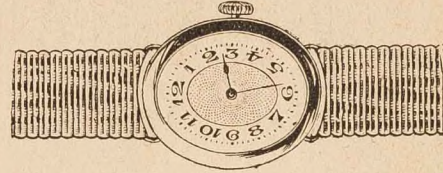
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forms alien to their own. One C.O., who, in the first year of war, won the Mons ribbon for splendid voluntary service in the Friends' Ambulance Union, and who was afterwards sentenced again and again to months of hard labour for resisting compulsory service, has recorded some instances of the soldiers' attitude and conduct towards him when a prisoner.

"If there be any ordeal in our position, it is outside the Army, not inside. There's not one in a thousand has the courage to stand by his conscience," said a soldier to me yesterday.

"We have had wonderful experiences with our guards, they come in frigid and a trifle suspicious, and leave after twenty-four hours, the best of friends. The C.O. attitude appears perfectly natural to them; in their own way many of them even understand it. They gave us a quiet 'Good luck to you wherever you go!' When we left. . . So long, chummy! Good-bye and good luck," were the typical farewells. . . On the eve of our court-martial one young fellow called us quietly aside—obviously affected—wished us the best of luck, said he believed every man ought to follow the dictates of conscience, &c. . . Immediately it was over the N.C.O. in charge of us prisoners came up close and said *sotto voce*, 'Well, good luck, chaps.' . . . I shall long remember the genuine handgrip, the few kind words of cheer, supplemented by a whisper, the very last words I heard before going in (to prison). There's hardly a man in barracks but honours you in his heart." (On Two Fronts. By Corder Catchpool.)

Again, it is urged that till demobilisation is completed, liberated C.O.s might compete unfairly in the demand for employment; but as a doctor remarked, the majority of them are more likely to compete for places in hospitals or convalescent homes, as bodily or mental wrecks, or to claim from their friends anxious and prolonged care before they are fit for ordinary life and work again.

Yet, while the Wellton group of criminals, sentenced some two years ago to penal servitude for attempting to murder Mr. Lloyd George, have already (it is said at his instance) been set at liberty, the recent representative and weighty Memorial to the Prime Minister praying for the immediate release of the C.O.s would appear to have had no effect.

During the throes of a life-and-death struggle, military victory has seemed to our nation, as to others, "the one thing needful"; and her profoundest honour and gratitude have rightly and naturally been reserved for those who have given their all for her preservation. But healing and reconstruction will not come to humanity through the same channels as military victory: they must come, if at all, through a return to our old (however imperfect) allegiance to Christianity—to the ideals of mercy—sympathy—and above all reverence for faithfulness to conscience.

CATHERINE C. OSLER.

MADAM,—It has given me keen pleasure to note, week by week in THE COMMON CAUSE, the broad outlook and wise tolerance of the contributors, and the absolutely just way in which opposing opinions have been allowed expression by the editorial staff. I should like to express my thankfulness that our women's paper has been courageous enough, and Christian enough, to publish the letter last week (signed "F. E. Hunter") pleading for justice to those Conscientious Objectors who are, to our national disgrace, still suffering a martyrdom for their faith in the sanctity of conscience. Few papers in England care, or dare to do the thing you have done. Why? Is England really losing her generous and magnanimous spirit? Does victory mean that? Either these men are looked upon by the authorities with craven fear or cruel vindictiveness. It is not in accordance with the nobler traditions of our country.

Moral progress implies that women must probe into these questions for themselves, and take a definite stand. To be ignorant of, or indifferent to a moral problem is for us women to fail in the trust that has come to us. In political life especially the women's outlook is needed, and we, who have for so long demanded justice, must surely possess sufficient sympathy to accord it to others whose opinion does not happen to coincide with our own.

Appreciating keenly your open column, I am, &c.,

ALICE JOHNSON.

### WOMEN POLICE FOR SCOTLAND.

MADAM,—Mrs. Dowson's letter in THE COMMON CAUSE of February 21st encourages me to write and enlist the sympathies and help of the Scottish Societies and members of the N.U.W.S.S. in the cause of Women Police in Scotland. The need here is no less urgent than in England, but the movement is much less advanced.

There are three women employed by police forces in Scotland, one in Glasgow (with its 2,000,000 inhabitants) attached to the C.I.D., one in Ayr, and one in Dundee. The policewomen in Ayr and Dundee were appointed in 1918, and worked in uniform in the streets and Police Courts.

Public opinion in Scotland needs to be aroused and educated if an irresistible demand is to be created, and at the present time there is an opportunity for voicing this demand. The Convention of Burghs meets in April in Edinburgh, and the subject of the employment of women police is on the agenda for the annual meeting; this will afford an opportunity for every town in Scotland to record its vote, through its representatives on the Convention of Burghs, for or against women police. Unless this question of employing women police is strongly supported—especially by the towns having their own police arrangements—it will be shelved straight away, and it may be a long time before so good an opportunity for bringing it before the public occurs again.

I am trying to arrange to address meetings on the subject of women police all over Scotland through March, and should be glad to communicate with any of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Branches who could arrange a meeting in their town. The time is short, and there must be concentrated effort on the part of the women of Scotland if this social reform

with women and children the law shall be administered by women police in police stations and police courts. I shall be grateful for any help or suggestions members of the N.U.W.S.S. may have to offer, and letters addressed to me at 13, Newton Place, Glasgow, will receive prompt attention.

EDITH TANCRED,  
Director, Scottish Training-School for Policewomen and Patrols.

### THE WORK OF THE DAY CONTINUATION SCHOOLS.

MADAM,—I have read with keen interest Miss Frodsham's article, which deals with the work of the continuation schools, and which appeared in the February 21st number.

I think, however, that Miss Frodsham has either not given the subject of physical training much thought, or she holds some wrong ideas about this subject. Miss Frodsham says, "While these continuation scholars need the most excellent experienced teachers, there is also room for young teachers, especially to help with the physical training."

I should like to point out that there is not only "room for," but urgent need for not any young teacher, as the article implies, but a highly-trained specialist. Miss Frodsham seems to think that most excellent experienced teachers are needed for other subjects, and that any young thing will do for gymnastics; but educational gymnastics are of great importance in these schools, and, moreover, they will need specialists, and, if possible, experienced ones. The elementary teacher who teaches gymnastics under the supervision of a specialist is doing good and useful work, but this type of teacher will not do for the continuation schools; the girls will be more advanced than the elementary school type, and at an age when they are more difficult to handle, they will be wage earners and beginning to be very independent. I do feel strongly that if gymnastics were to be properly taught in the continuation schools, it would do wonders for the general health of the nation. Girls in factories need gymnastics more, surely, than elementary school girls, because it is in the gymnastic class that the bad effect of the work on their bodies is counteracted. Girls who spend week after week on a machine, doing the same thing, are saved from becoming round shouldered and narrow chested by attending gymnastics. It would be a fine thing for national health if all factory workers were compelled to attend a gymnastic class once a week. A healthy body is the forerunner of a healthy mind, and these are the forerunners of good and useful work.

Besides affecting the body, gymnastics also affect the mind, both mentally and morally; they make the pupils quick-thinking and develop concentration. Morally they develop courage, self-control, endurance, and public spirit.

In Swedish gymnastics a good body and a sound mind are aimed at—not physical strength, but above all, mental, moral and physical control. It is to be sincerely hoped that the education authorities will realise the importance of this work, which I feel will do so much for national health if proper scope is given and a specialist employed.

AMY D. STEVENSON,  
Head of the Physical Training Department,  
Cadbury Bros. Ltd., Bournville.

### THE ELSIE INGLIS CHAIR OF MEDICINE.

MADAM,—During my recent visit to Serbia I was greatly impressed by the need for increased medical education in that country. The people themselves are alive to the necessity of meeting the needs, but, as in all their plans, they are hampered by lack of resources. They are, however, bravely shouldering the task of reconstituting the University of Belgrade, to include a medical faculty and the plans of the Elsie Inglis Chair of Medicine are to be incorporated in this scheme. I have come home firmly convinced that to support the London Memorial is one of the best ways of helping Serbia at the present moment, for the fund provides for future needs as well as those of to-day. Moreover, it combines practical help with that enthusiasm for high endeavour which the name of "Elsie Inglis" always inspires in the Serbs who have known and loved her. She stands to them as a shining example of the triumph of a highly-trained and practical mind over disease and distress, and as such is an inspiration to them in all their plans of reconstruction.

But there is a further reason why we here who have worked in the great cause of the enfranchisement of women should support the scheme. There is in Serbia a strong and influential body of women who are working for enfranchisement, and they look upon the plans for the Elsie Inglis Chair of Medicine with a special interest. The Chair is to be held for the first time by an Englishwoman, and this is regarded by them as a sign of the close contact and sympathy between the women of this country, who have won their fight, and the women of Serbia, who are but beginning theirs.

May I, therefore, beg all who have supported the work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals during the war, or who were co-workers with Dr. Inglis in the Suffrage movement, to show their sympathy with Serbia and feminism by sending a donation to the Honorary Treasurers, Elsie Inglis Memorial Fund, 66, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

MAY CURWEN.

### WOMEN AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

A correspondent has sent us the following letter, recently received from a Manageress of a factory:—

I am not sure that we have anything really to complain of, at the same time one cannot help feeling that it is hard on the women who had come forward when they were needed and worked hard and well. They were all given a fortnight's notice, which is all, I believe, that by law they ought to have had. And at the time I don't think they minded very much, I know I wish they would have minded more. There were two things that brought this about. I think, the first that they were really glad that the war was over and the men were coming home, as some of them thought and said, "in three weeks' time." I wondered very much who told them the "three weeks." The other thing that seemed to please them was the Unemployment money. They thought it was very delightful to get anything for doing nothing, and thirteen weeks seemed a very long time.

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I am sure, too, that many of them thought that at the end of the thirteen weeks the factories would open again with some new kind of work and we should all go happily on again.

When I talk to them now I find that they all wish and think that it is only the right thing that the men should have the first chance of whatever work is going. Of course, I think that too, but I cannot help feeling that it is a pity that when women were at last able to work at trades which really paid them, and which they were perfectly able to do in every way, that we have now lost all that. I wish it had been possible to have kept a few, even if it was not possible to keep all, for those few would have kept the job as women's jobs. For that is what I found in the factory, that it was most difficult to make the poor women take a job from the men. Poor women are so much more under their men that we are, and now that has all got to be fought again. I thought the feeling came partly that through when they leave school they both, boys and girls, know about as much as each other. The women stay at home and do housework and talk to each other and forget the little that they know; while the man reads the newspaper and even in his work has to do a certain amount of arithmetic or something, and so in a few years knows more than they do.

I know everybody thinks that domestic service is all that they can possibly want. But I don't think it is, and it is partly domestic service that has brought this very thing about. I think they feel that a little themselves though they don't quite understand what it is they feel. As one or two of them said to me in the factory, "It is the company, Miss, and when we are all talking together in the dining-hall you feel you're brought out. If you make a pudding at home, even if you make it very well, only two or three people know it, but in a factory if you do it well everyone knows and it makes one take an interest in one's work."

Then there were many women who really cannot go into domestic service; women with, perhaps, an old mother who is perfectly all right if left in the day but who does not like to be left at night; and on Saturday or Sunday the daughter would clean the house and cook and start her off for another week. I knew two or three sets of sisters who did this. They had no father and no brothers, and it was certainly much nicer for them to keep their home and have it always to go back to, and the mother could manage the every day work very well with their help and money at the week ends. But, as they said, what would £22 a year be, which is all they have a chance of now.

I am quite sure that if we want women to vote and take their place in the country some of us must help them, and not let them be shoved out of all the good work. They will go because in their homes the men always have the first chance, and therefore they think it is only right and proper that they should. Some of us must stand by them and help them if we can. I only wish I saw more chance of my doing it, but because I am a woman I have lost too.

### Reports, Notices, etc.

#### A BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS (QUALIFICATION OF WOMEN) BILL.

The following Bill was introduced by Lord Buckmaster into the House of Commons on February 26th.

An Act to remove disqualifications on the ground of sex for the admission of persons to the practice of the Law.

Be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual, Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. A woman shall not be disqualified by sex for being admitted—  
(1) as a student to any of the Inns of Court and for qualifying as a barrister-at-law and being called to the Bar and practising as a barrister-at-law;
- (2) as a solicitor or for acting or practising as a solicitor under the Solicitors Act, 1843, and the Acts amending the same, and the other enactments for the time being in force relating to solicitors.
- 2.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Barristers and Solicitors (Qualification of Women) Act, 1919.  
(2) This Act shall not extend to Scotland or Ireland.  
(3) This Act shall be construed as one with the Solicitors Act, 1843, and the Acts amending the same, and the other enactments for the time being in force relating to solicitors.

### Items of Interest.

#### SOCIAL STUDENTS' UNION.

The Social Students' Union is arranging to have a series of addresses as follows: "Women and the Legal Profession," by Mrs. Thomson (Miss Gwyneth Bebb); "The Purpose of a Ministry of Health," by Sir Robert Morant, K.C.B.; "The Education Act, 1918," by Sir Robert Blair; "War Pensions," by Mrs. H. F. Wood, O.B.E.; "Reconstruction or Revolution?" by Mr. J. J. Mallon; "Settlement Work," by Miss Hilda Cashmore. These addresses are intended primarily for members of the Union, but a few tickets are available for visitors and may be obtained from the Secretary, 11, Marble Arch, W. 1.

#### PIONEER PLAYS.

Women playrights were well represented at the February performance of the Pioneer Players; three of the four one-act plays performed were by women. Miss Constance Holmes's psychological trifle, dramatized, we believe, from her recent novel, was rather touching despite its lack of action. Miss Christopher St. John's *East Side* (translated into and performed in Italian) is an extremely dramatic play, full of life and interest and character. It was a pity that the leading woman's part was not better acted. Miss Gaspell's *Trifles* is as grim and memorable a trifle as the strangled bird found by the women in the play. Miss Gertrude Kingston acted with her usual artistry, which should by now have made her famous. Those interested in the drama should remember Miss Gaspell's name.

## National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.  
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### Headquarter Notes.

By the time this issue is in the hands of readers the Council Meeting will be in full swing, and many important decisions will probably have been taken. May they be such as will assure a successful future to the Union!

A reception in honour of Mrs. Fawcett, to which all Council delegates are invited, is being held at 50, Porchester Terrace, by kind permission of the Hon. Mrs. E. L. Franklin. A short account of this gathering will appear in next week's issue.

### N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

LONDON UNITS.  
On February 17th, Mrs. Kinnell was "At Home" at 38, Upper Grosvenor Street to the London Committee, old members of the London Units and friends of the Scottish Women's Hospitals.

His Excellency the Serbian Minister and Madame Jovanovic were present, and the former presented the London Committee with a plaque portrait of Dr. Inglis, as a recognition of their services to Serbia during the war. In his speech the Minister spoke of the sustained interest and hard work of the Committee, and the help afforded to Serbia by their organisation. He laid special emphasis on their close personal connection with Dr. Inglis, as C.M.O. of the London Units, and his hope of their interest in the future work of reconstruction in Serbia, and especially in the Elsie Inglis Chair of Medicine. Miss Palliser, in her reply on behalf of the Committee, thanked His Excellency for his gift, and for all the help and advice he had personally given to the Committee, during his residence in London. She expressed the Committee's regret at his imminent departure for Serbia, and their good wishes for his future. The "At Home" was also the occasion for the presentation of the Serbian Red Cross medal to the officers of the Committee, including Miss Palliser (Chairman), Mrs. Kinnell (Vice-Chairman), Mrs. Flinders Petrie (Hon. Secretary), the Viscountess Cowdray and Miss Gosse (Hon. Treasurers), and the Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves (ex Hon. Treasurer).

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## Forthcoming Meetings (N.U.W.S.S.)

MARCH 10.  
Sheffield—Nether Congregational Schoolroom, Norfolk Street—Public Meeting—Speaker: Mrs. Oliver Strachey—Subject: "Equal Pay"—Admission Free—Collection. 7.30 p.m.  
MARCH 11.  
Barnley—Y.M.C.A. Hall—Speaker: Mrs. Oliver Strachey—Chair: Evan Davies, Esq., B.A.  
MARCH 12.  
Lewisham—Evergreen Club, Nightingale Lane, Hither Green—Subject: "Woman and the Home." 2.30 p.m.  
MARCH 13.  
Birmingham—University—Speaker: Dr. Lena Walker. 7.30 p.m.  
MARCH 14.  
Bradford—Mechanics' Institute—Public Meeting—Speakers: Mrs. Oliver Strachey and the Viscountess Rhondda—Subject: "Equal Pay for Equal Work"—Chair: Dr. Margaret Sharp. 7.15 p.m.  
MARCH 17.  
Poplar—Presbyterian Settlement, East India Dock Road, Girls' Club—Speaker: Miss Reif—Subject: "The Importance of the Women's Vote." 8 p.m.  
MARCH 28.  
Reigate—Hethersett, Gatton Road, by kind invitation of Mrs. Auerbach—Speaker: Miss Margaret Jones—Subject: "The Agenda of the Annual Council Meeting of the N.U.W.S.S." 3.30 p.m.

### Coming Events.

#### HASTINGS AND ST. LEONARDS WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

MARCH 7.  
East Sussex Arts Club Gallery, Stonefield Road, Hastings.  
Speaker: Miss E. M. White.  
Subject: "The Citizen Throughout the Ages." 7 p.m.  
MARCH 14.  
Speaker: Miss E. M. White.  
Subject: "How to Study Civics." 7 p.m.

#### BRIGHTON AND HOVE WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

MARCH 13.  
Municipal Art Gallery, Church Street, Brighton.  
Speaker: Miss E. M. White.  
Subject: "Active Citizenship." 6 p.m.  
MARCH 13.  
Rall Hall, Hove.  
Speaker: Mrs. Henry Gervis.  
Subject: "The Education Act, 1918." 5.30 p.m.

#### WESTERN AND EASTERN STUDIO.

MARCH 7.  
2, Scarsdale Studios, Stratford Road, Kensington, W.8.  
Lecture.  
Speaker: Professor A. W. Bickerton.  
Subject: "Optimistic Message of Modern Science." 5 p.m.  
MARCH 14.  
Speaker: Dr. Miller Maguire, LL.D., F.R.H.S.  
Subject: "Modern Warfare: Its Principle and Practice" (General Foeh's Book). 5 p.m.

#### MINISTRY OF HEALTH WATCHING COUNCIL.

MARCH 11.  
Westminster—Central Hall—Public Meeting on the Representation of Women in the Ministry of Health.  
Speakers: Mrs. H. B. Irving, the Viscountess Rhondda, Mrs. Chalmers Watson, C.B.E.—Chair: Mrs. Henry Fawcett.  
Admission Free—Reserved Seats 1s., to be obtained from the Secretary, Ministry of Health Watching Council, 121, Victoria Street, S.W.1. 7.30 p.m.

#### FIGHT THE FAMINE COUNCIL.

MARCH 12.  
Westminster—Central Hall—A Public Meeting to call attention to the state of famine in many parts of Europe and to urge adoption of measures for relief.  
Speakers: Lord Henry Bentinck, M.P. (Chairman), Dr. V. N. Polovtsev, Mr. H. W. Nevinson, Mr. J. Harley, &c.  
Tickets: Numbered and Reserved, 3s., Reserved 1s.—Entrance Free.—Apply Miss M. E. Ellis, 77, Avenue Chas., Vernon Pl., Southampton Row, W.C.1. 8 p.m.

#### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF INFANT MORTALITY AND FOR THE WELFARE OF INFANCY.

MARCH 19.  
1, Wimpole Street, W.1.  
Speaker: Mrs. Robert Hutchison, M.B. (Medical Officer to the Princess Club School for Mothers, Bermondsey).  
Subject: "Problems in Artificial Feeding." 5.30 p.m.  
MARCH 19.  
12, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.2.  
Speaker: T. Shadick Higgins, Esq., M.D. (Medical Officer of Health, St. Pancras). 7 p.m.

#### THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

MARCH 14.  
92, Victoria Street, S.W.1.  
Speaker: Dr. Marian Arkwright.  
Subject: "Mimicry in Music" (with musical illustrations). 4.15 p.m.

#### NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN TEACHERS.

MARCH 15.  
Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, E.C.  
American Sale.—Twelve Stalls, Ladies' Orchestra, Concerts, Teas, &c.  
Object: To clear off debt on Albert Hall Meeting in support of Equal Pay for Equal Work, and to raise money for future propaganda work. 3 to 8 p.m.

#### PARENTS' NATIONAL EDUCATION UNION.

MARCH 12.  
23, Hyde Park Gardens, W. 2. (By kind permission of Lady Eady.)  
Speaker: Miss H. E. Wix (Assistant Organising Secretary, P.N.E.U.).  
Subject: "Religious Teaching in P.U. School." (With a Demonstration lesson). 3.15 p.m.

MISS MAUDE ROYDEN preaches in the City Temple, Holborn Viaduct, E.C., next Sunday, at the 6.30 p.m. service.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB,  
9, Grafton-street, Piccadilly, W. 1.—Subscription: London Members 22 2s.; Country Members 21 5s. (Irish, Scottish, and Foreign Members 10s. 6d.) per annum. Entrance fee, one guinea. Excellent Catering; Luncheons and Dinners à la Carte.—All particulars, Secretary. Tel.: Mayfair 3932.

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