

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

The Prime Minister and M. Poincaré.

Mr. MacDonald and M. Poincaré, in the letters which were published on the 3rd instant, both aimed at giving a general statement as to the point of view which has formed the basis of their respective foreign politics. Mr. MacDonald pointed out that Great Britain, no less than France, has its devastated area. It shows in our restricted commerce, our decreased purchasing power, and consequent unemployment. Whilst sympathizing with the French desire for reparations and security Mr. MacDonald showed clearly why public opinion in this country regards the present relations between France and Germany, and the military preparations and foreign policy of France, as a danger to the peace and stability of Europe, and consequently to the well-being of this country. It is a clear and forceful statement, and should help to make the French realize that a sane European policy is a matter of life or death to us. The exact bearing of M. Poincaré's reply is less clear. He agrees as to the need for a peaceful Europe, but claims that in aiming at reparations and security France is "simply seeking to create the conditions of a durable peace." This interchange of letters has probably helped to clear the atmosphere, and to prove the existence of a predisposition to goodwill on both sides.

The League's Greatest Task.

On 28th February Sir Arthur Salter, head of the Economic Section of the League of Nations, met the first Committee of Experts in Paris, and explained to them his report on the economic reconstruction of Austria. The Austrian experiment, he said, had been accomplished with a success which had exceeded all expectations, and could be applied to Germany with confidence, if certain precautions were taken. The members of the committee explained that they were not looking for a ready-made scheme from Sir Arthur Salter, but for suggestions drawn from Austrian experience, regarding the balancing of the German budget, the restoration of her currency, and the conditions for floating an international loan. Nevertheless, the possibilities indicated by him remind us of the shining visions of economic reconstruction which materialize wherever the essential background is provided; and by the essential background we mean the wholehearted will to reconstruct.

Notes for Women.

On Friday Mr. W. M. Adamson moved the second reading of the Representation of the People Act (1919) Amendment Bill. As was foreshadowed in these columns, this Bill was heavily weighted by containing in addition to the clause containing the simple point of conferring the franchise to women at the age of 21, as in the case of men, two further more highly contentious clauses, one dealing with the abolition of the business qualification and the other dealing with the assimilation of the Parliamentary and Local Government Franchise. We understand that considerable pressure had been brought to bear on Mr. Adamson before the debate opened to withdraw the Local Government Clauses of the Bill, and we are glad that he went so far as to state that he was prepared to separate the two franchises and to leave the question to the general sense of the House and to the decision of the Committee. Miss Jewson seconded the motion in an able speech, and it was supported in effective speeches by Mrs. Wintringham, Mr. Foot, Mr. Dodds, Lady Astor, Sir Thomas Inskip, Sir Barton Chadwick, and others. The Duchess of Atholl moved an amendment that the question of the extension of the franchise should be referred to a conference similar to that which made recommendations to the House before the Act of 1918. There was practically no opposition expressed to the principle of equality between men and women except by the Duchess of Atholl, though several speakers supported the proposal of a conference.

The Attitude of the Government.

The chief interest of the debate centred, of course, on the attitude of the Government. Quite early the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department stated that the Government were in favour of the second reading of the Bill, but that he could "give no indication now as to what the attitude of the Government would be if this Bill is sent to a Committee upstairs . . . and that it will be a question for the House itself as to the exigencies of Parliamentary time." As the debate proceeded, and speech after speech from all sides of the House united in supporting the Equal Franchise Clauses of the Bill, it became evident that the Government would find itself in a very false position in view of its pledges on the subject of the Labour Party, if something more definite were not said. Mr. Clynes was, therefore, apparently hastily summoned to the rescue, and went somewhat further than Mr. Rhy. Davies, though not nearly as far as we should have liked. He warmed up as his speech proceeded, and while indicating the necessity of shedding the more contentious clauses in Committee, stated as follows:—"The Government cannot now at this stage indicate precisely what their support may have to be in point of time, when the Bill emerges from the Committee stage, but if the Committee genuinely wishes to extend these rights to the women of the country, the Government will not be behind in endeavouring to provide time to pass the Bill into law." In the division 288 votes for the Bill and 72 against. A motion to commit the Bill to a Committee of the whole House was rejected by 247 votes to 77. So far good, the Bill proceeds to Standing Committee, and we sincerely hope that the debatable clauses will be abandoned and that it will return to the House a simple straightforward measure of the franchise of women of 21 on the same terms as men.

(See the division list on page 46.)

"QUALITY
AND
FLAVOUR"

BOURNVILLE COCOA

See the name "CADBURY" on every piece of Chocolate

MADE UNDER
IDEAL CONDITIONS

A Franchise Demonstration.

It was like old times to see women parading with posters and the old, well-known formula "Votes for Women and the same terms as Men." This was organized by St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance, with the help of Members of the Guildhouse, the League of the Church Militant, the National Union of Women Teachers and the Women's Freedom League. We congratulate the Alliance on a demonstration which attracted a great deal of attention. Several Members of Parliament spoke to the demonstrators, who kept going for three hours.

The Indian Marriage Market.

The proper age of marriage for girls was the subject of lively discussion in the Indian Assembly on 28th February, in connexion with Dr. H. S. Gour's motion to refer to a Select Committee a Bill which raises the age of consent from 12 to 14 years. The debate showed how hideously this particular physiological and humanitarian question is complicated by the religious scruples of orthodox sects. One speaker, however, pointed out that as a matter of practice, in the case of orthodox Hindus, economic pressure was settling the question, and parents were not now marrying their daughters till the age of 16, because bridegrooms were scarce and heavy dowries had to be given. The motion was finally carried without a division, and it is expected that the committee will report by 15th March. We hope that the reform embodied in this Bill will become law, for even when one had duly discounted the factor of earlier maturity in the case of Indian girls, the practice of early marriage, as it exists at present, stands condemned both on physiological and humanitarian grounds.

Juvenile Employment.

A one clause Bill, which should meet with practically no opposition, to give fuller protection to young workers between 14 and 18 has been introduced by Lord Cavendish Bentinck, and it is to be hoped that time may be found to secure its passage through both Houses of Parliament this Session. The Bill lays down "that by-laws under the Education Act, 1921, may prescribe the days on which employment is illegal, and prohibit employment absolutely or permit it subject to conditions." We regret the use of the word "may" instead of "shall," but all the same legislation on such lines will give opportunity of safeguarding the interests of young people engaged in occupations which are outside the scope of the Factory Acts.

Offences against the Person Bill.

Many far-reaching changes in the Criminal Code are contained in the Offences Against the Person Bill, which has been presented by Mr. Ammon and just issued. We hope to deal with the provisions of this Bill in an early issue.

Sir Leonard Dunning on Women Police.

Sir Leonard Dunning, H.M. Inspector of Constabulary, in his report for the year ended 29th September, 1923, speaks highly of the work of the police women, and states that in his opinion in many a large town there is police work which can be better done by a woman than by a man. Unfortunately, the figures of women police show a decrease on the previous year, though the number of attested police women is higher.

Welsh Women at Westminster.

Over nine hundred women members of the Newport Conservative Association travelled to London last week to visit the Houses of Parliament. They were received by Mr. Reginald Clarry, the Conservative Member for Newport.

Mrs. George Cadbury.

The National Council of the Evangelical Free Churches on Tuesday unanimously elected Mrs. George Cadbury, representing the Society of Friends, as President of the Council for the coming year. This is the first time that a woman has occupied the presidential chair.

Dame Ethel Smyth.

Readers of this paper will be interested to hear that Dame Ethel Smyth's Mass in D will be given at the Queen's Hall Symphony Concert on Saturday next at 3 o'clock. The Birmingham Festival Choral Society, conducted by Dr. Adrian Boult, will be responsible for the choral part of this work which, it is interesting to note, has not been heard in London for over 20 years.

Too Hard for Women.

Paris has decided that the woman sweeper is to disappear from her streets. The Paris "Balayeuse" was a characteristic and familiar figure, and as the Paris correspondent of the *Observer* points out, she kept the streets very clean. Apparently Paris has decided that the work is too hard for women. No doubt it is. And yet—has such a verdict ever been passed on work which men were not very glad to take over themselves? We await the day when the continuous physical and mental drudgery of the home will be condemned as "too hard for women". Meanwhile, its casualties continue.

Lunacy Reform.

We deal elsewhere with a question in the House raised by the notorious case Harnett v. Bond. We are sure readers of this paper will welcome the announcement that a Commission of Inquiry into the Lunacy Laws is under consideration. An article on this subject will appear in a forthcoming issue.

"Everywoman."

This week we greet a newcomer in the journalistic world—*Everywoman*, price 3d. weekly, published by Women Publishers, Ltd., 170 Strand. In an editorial introduction, *Everywoman* claims that she is "out to achieve something that has never been tried before, namely, to create a weekly paper for women that shall be really intelligent and really alive." Well—Well—Well! Having duly assimilated this rebuff, we commend it to our contemporary women's weekly papers. Doubtless our aims have been judged by our results; and, anyway, the young are notoriously intolerant. Meanwhile, Women Publishers, Ltd., has given us a most generous and varied three-pennyworth. We congratulate them on the ambition which they have denied to us, and wish them a rich endowment of the two qualities in which we have been found wanting!

Questions in Parliament.

NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.—On Monday, 4th March, Mrs. Wintringham asked the Prime Minister whether in view of the labours of the Select Committee on the Nationality of Married Women and the valuable amount of valuable evidence taken, he can allow an opportunity either for the introduction of legislation or for the setting up of a further Committee this Session. The Prime Minister replied that in view of the fact that the Committee referred to had failed to arrive at a conclusion and that the Imperial Conference of last autumn came to the conclusion that no case was made out for any change of the law on this subject, there seems no advantage in initiating further inquiry, and no possibility of legislation other than that recommended by the Committee for hard cases. Mrs. Wintringham further asked if the Prime Minister was aware that all Members of the House of Commons on this Committee were unanimous in favour of legislation. The Prime Minister replied that if he were convinced that anything could be done he would be perfectly willing to try it.

THE ASYLUM CASE INQUIRY.—On Monday, 4th March, Mr. Costello and several other Members asked whether the Government would appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the lunacy laws and their administration, in view of the evidence given before Mr. Justice Lush and the award to Mr. Harnett of £25,000 damages against the medical men for causing his confinement as a lunatic. The Prime Minister replied that the Government had not yet had time to give proper consideration to the issues raised, but agreed that *prima facie* it would appear that there is a case for full inquiry, and that the Government are fully prepared to consider the selling up of an appropriate body to undertake such an inquiry. Lady Astor got no reply to her question as to whether such a body would include a capable woman.

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

NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE.

We regret that pressure on our space due to the publication of the division list on Mr. Adamson's Bill has obliged us to hold over until next week "The Law at Work" and "Notes from Ireland" and interesting correspondence dealing with Miss Sheila Kaye-Smith's article "The Compleat Child," which will appear next week.

ECHOES OF THE PAST.

We wish that the galleries of the House of Commons last Friday, on the occasion of the debate on the Representation of the People Act (1919) Amendment Bill, had been filled with the stalwarts of the Suffrage movement who are happily still with us in the flesh. But even they are becoming accustomed to what once seemed impossible. We wonder what the thoughts of those who did not live to see the fulfilment of the cause for which they laboured would have been if they could have been present. What a change six years has wrought! The old historic parties have given place on the Government benches to the Party which alone in pre-war days was committed to our cause. A solid phalanx of Liberals below the gangway supported the extension of the vote to women on equal terms with men with genuine enthusiasm, and a considerable sprinkling of Members on the Opposition benches testified to their approval. There was a complete absence of that contemptuous and foolish jesting which characterized almost all past debates, and a full House considered the question with the utmost seriousness. But perhaps the greatest difference between this and previous Suffrage debates was the sight of eight women distributed among the three sections of the House. The political distribution of these eight women must have laid to rest once and for all the bogey of women's solidarity, for not only were they divided among the three political parties in almost equal numbers, but three belonging to the same party failed to agree on this fundamental question affecting their own sex.

But though the differences were so marked, there were moments when we felt that we were back in 1910 instead of 1924. It was a new and strange phenomenon to hear from the lips of a woman Member of Parliament a speech against the complete enfranchisement of her sex. The Duchess of Atholl, once a famous Anti-Suffragist, disinterred for the occasion some of the dusty arguments once so familiar in Anti-Suffrage speeches. The supposed absence of desire for the vote, the difficulties of the wives of wage earners in attending meetings, the preponderance of women, even the relatively small number of women on public

bodies, were all dragged out once more as reasons against a further extension of the franchise to women. This sort of thing comes with a singularly bad grace from a woman who owes her present opportunity largely to the suffrage movement. If she possessed as much imagination as she undoubtedly possesses ability, she might surely be expected to shrink from the responsibility of denying to the least of her less fortunate sisters even that shred of influence over legislation affecting their destinies which the vote confers. Sir Martin Conway's speech also had a flavour of pre-war days. His picture of the period of twenty to twenty-five as the flowering time of a woman's life had like most of his speeches a whimsical charm of its own, but we fear that it had singularly little relation to the facts of existence for the average factory girl, domestic servant, or young mother struggling to maintain her little home on her husband's out-of-work pay.

But on the whole the debate was a memorable one, and we confidently believe it inaugurates the last phase of the Woman Suffrage movement in this country. There was practically no articulate opposition to the principle of equality in the franchise between men and women, though some held the view that it was too soon to reopen the question after the compromise of 1918.

But having said all this, we must confess to a sense of disappointment at the Government's attitude. Considering their past record as a party, one might surely have expected something better than the tepid and indefinite assurances of Mr. Clynes and the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department on behalf of the Government. Making all allowance for the "sense of responsibility" on which members of the Government insist so persistently, surely we might expect a Party pledged up to the hilt as the Labour Party is to the principle of Equal Franchise to take a stronger line in its support. Have they no "sense of responsibility" towards their past professions of belief? Mr. Clynes himself admitted that the sections affecting women would be "a simple matter." Why not then have said plainly that the Government were prepared to give their full adhesion at least to this part of the Bill?

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

Domestic politics have been overshadowed during the past week by two events which, taken in combination, are of supreme importance—the fall of the Belgian Cabinet and the fall of the French franc. Both are symptomatic, one in its political aspect, the other in its economic aspect, of a growing reaction against the policy which led French and Belgian troops over the boundaries originally foreshadowed by the Treaty of Versailles. Because of this occupation, with its costs and its trade interruptions, M. Theunis has lost the confidence of his Chamber. Because of it, the French Government has moved progressively further from the balanced budget of stable finance. Never, since the outbreak of the "Peace," have conditions been more favourable for the initiation of a change in European policy, and Mr. MacDonald appears to be taking that initiative with a delicacy of diplomatic touch which generations of Whig and Tory diplomatists might envy.

Only we must all hold our breath while he continues his delicate work, so delicate are the delicate susceptibilities of our former allies. And the trouble has been that during the past week some of us broke down under the strain. Mr. Henderson was, of course, the worst culprit. *Qua* Secretary of State, it was unpardonable of him to interrupt the tension by saying that which *qua* individual he is quite at liberty to believe—indeed, do not all sensible people (including Mr. MacDonald himself) believe that the future peace of Europe depends upon an intelligent and equitable revision of certain clauses of the peace treaty, whose working has reduced Europe to a state of continuous undeclared war? But of course he oughtn't to have said it. Mr. Henderson is one of the best-liked and most warmly respected members of the present Cabinet; incidentally he is one of the best friends that the supporters of this paper have ever had in the House of Commons. Members from all sections in the House gave him a rousing welcome when he was presented by his two sons and took his place on the Treasury Bench.

But from the point of view of domestic politics, the "star turn" of the week was undoubtedly last Friday's

debate on Mr. Adamson's Bill for the equalization of the franchise as between men and women, and the assumption of the local government to the Parliamentary franchise. The Bill was read a second time by an enormous majority, though there was general agreement with Mr. Clynes' description of it as an overloaded Bill. The overwhelming majority of the House is now in favour of an equal franchise as between men and women—indeed, the solidity of their friendship was shown by their rejection of Lord Wolmer's subsequent motion to refer the Bill to a Committee of the whole House; a device which has been used before, and with success, to dish the chances of a Woman Suffrage measure. But there is grave doubt as to whether or no the same can be said of the Bill's highly controversial local government clauses; and its future fortunes may be said to turn entirely upon the form in which it leaves committee, where the real battle will be fought out.

But all friends of the women's movement will join in regretting the passive part played by Mrs. Philipson in going into the wrong division lobby, and by the active part played by the Duchess of Atholl in speaking against an Equal Franchise measure. The Labour Members, of course, did her an injustice about the tinkers. She has had a lot to do with tinkers, curious as it may seem, and has played no small part in attempting to alter the conditions of their vagrant and somewhat parasitic lives. But the House resented her all but tasteless suggestion that the advocacy of such a measure constituted a wrong to the men who died "to make the world safe for democracy."

One last matter deserves special mention in the chronicle of an exciting week: the Cabinet have appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Clynes to consider its intentions with regard to the Singapore Naval Base. Apparently the Admiralty is getting restive for a decision. And apparently the Government listens to expert advice at the Admiralty!

[The views expressed in this column are those of our Parliamentary correspondent, and are not our editorial opinion. Like so many other things in this paper they are expressly controversial, and comment upon them will be welcomed.—ED.]

WHAT I REMEMBER.¹ XXVI.

By MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT, J.P., LL.D.

EARLY SUFFRAGE WORK: SOWING SEED.

In one of the biographies of Abraham Lincoln, it is told how when a young man, he visited New Orleans and saw the slave market there in full activity, a going concern. "He saw a young mulatto girl exposed naked before the buyers and handled by them as if she were an animal . . . one of his companions declared that Lincoln burst out, 'My God, boys, let us get away from this. If ever I get a chance to hit that thing, I'll hit it hard.'" The biographer states that the effect of this incident upon Lincoln's thought and feeling throughout his subsequent career could be easily traced.²

I am very far from comparing myself with Abraham Lincoln or of comparing the legal and social subjection of women in England in the 19th Century with the gross horrors of the slave trade in its most terrible aspects. Nevertheless, I confess to having been very much moved to devote myself to gaining political and social equality for the women of my own country by two small accidentally-heard conversations between women. One took place in my own home before my marriage and the second after it, in the waiting room at Ipswich Station. Imagine then, Alde House packed to its greatest capacity for a dance; three in a bedroom in lieu of the usual two: a fire and two of our guests and myself sitting over it before dressing for the dance. I was by far the youngest of the three. My two companions were talking, and presently took up the subject of the failure of a recent marriage in our immediate circle. The young husband and wife were estranged and no one exactly knew the reason why; after pursuing this interesting theme for some time, one said to the other, "I cannot see what she has to complain of. Look how he dresses her!" I fumed inwardly, but said nothing. I thought I would like to try to make that sort of talk impossible. I kept on thinking about it, and the shame and degradation of it, which seemed to be accepted by my companions as a matter of course. I did not know anything at that time about "kept women," but "Look how he dresses her" was of its essence.

The other conversation which greatly influenced me was in the waiting room at Ipswich Station, and was between two clergymen's wives, who were busy making small articles of lace, which were to be sold for the benefit of the schools in their respective parishes. "What do you find sells best?" said No. 1 to No. 2, who instantly replied, "Oh! things that are really useful, such as butterflies for the hair!" Of course, there was a comic aspect to this which I did not fail to appreciate, but I hoped a time would come before very long when intelligent and active-minded women would cease to regard "butterflies for the hair" as "really useful."

What I have already written explains, I hope, how it was that from quite early youth I worked continuously but not exclusively for Women's Suffrage, first as a member of Mrs. P. A. Taylor's Committee in 1867 and afterwards until we won the vote in 1918. It was, of course, obvious that work for political freedom represented only one phase of a many-sided movement. Speaking generally, its most important departments dealt with, (1) Education, (2) An equal moral standard between men and women, (3) Professional and industrial liberty, and (4) Political status. My special experience and training fitted me best as I thought for work on behalf of the fourth of these, but I recognized that this was only one side of the whole question, and I was likewise convinced that whoever worked for any of the branches of our movement was, whether he knew it or not, really helping on the other three. I was ready with any help I was able to give to these, whilst concentrating for my own special part upon the fourth. My leaders on the education question were Miss Davies, Professor Henry Sidgwick, Mrs. William Grey, and Miss Mary Gurney; on the equal moral standard they were Mrs. Josephine Butler, Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, Sir James Stansfeld, and Professor Stuart; on professional and industrial freedom, my sister Elizabeth and Miss Jessie Boucherett, the former leading the claim of women to professional, while the latter was championing their claim to industrial, freedom.

The history of the early years of the work for opening up avenues of industrial employment for women would form curious reading now; it is embodied to a large extent in the reports of the Society for Promoting the Employment of Women. This Society, founded in 1859, is still flourishing and active; but in the 64 years of its history it has seen almost a complete

¹ This article is one of a series which will extend over several months.

² See *Abraham Lincoln*, by F. I. Paradise, Mills & Boon, London, p. 23.

revolution in the direction which has been its constant object to promote. In its earlier years it had to convince the public that, for instance, the dressing of ladies' hair was an occupation not beyond the powers of an average woman. "Impossible, madam," said a male hairdresser to my sister, Mrs. Smith, "it took ME a fortnight to learn it." What would people of this type have thought if they could have seen women acting successfully as omnibus conductors, gardeners, engineers, doctors, lawyers, auctioneers, bank clerks, glaziers, librarians, indexers, etc. As I am writing this page I see in the *WOMAN'S LEADER*, 23rd November, 1923, a paragraph describing the greatly increased activity of women in commerce; while in *The Times* of the same date, it is noted that the French Senate had recently adopted, without discussion, a proposal that auctioneers' "commisaires priseurs" in France shall in future be nominated without distinction of sex. The same paragraph calls attention to the fact that the woman auctioneer is already in existence in England; and that Miss Barlow acts in this capacity on behalf of the firm of Messrs. Sotheby & Co. The newspapers record almost daily the increasing activity of women of all classes of society in business. The thing is marching by itself, and no longer needs artificial support.

When I first began Suffrage work one of my chief colleagues and helpers was Lilia Ashworth (afterwards Mrs. Hallett), of Bath, a niece of Mr. John Bright and also of Mrs. MacLaren, of Edinburgh. Lily Ashworth was one of two beautiful sisters, orphans, "richly left," or what was considered so in those days. They had been brought up as Quakers, and they dressed with exquisite care in the rich simplicity, but not in the style, of the sect to which they still belonged. Both were delicately fair, with hair the colour of undyed floss silk. They had a charming house, Claverton Lodge, on Bathwick Hill, where we rested after our suffrage journeys in what was to me unwonted luxury and comfort. We were told that the fashionable young men of Bath used to assemble outside the door of the Quakers' Meeting House on Sundays to see these two beautiful sisters enter. Anne, the elder of the two, never spoke or took part in public work of any kind. But she helped and supported the movement in every other way in her power. It was delightful, coming back, after a round of sometimes dusty, rowdy meetings to the quiet and luxurious comfort of the home which Anne created at Claverton Lodge. We had, from the first, a good deal of support in the West Country. F. W. Newman, the brother of the more famous Cardinal John Henry Newman, was a staunch supporter. He had become a Unitarian, and brought our movement under the favourable consideration of the Unitarian body. Among other supporters in the West of England I may mention the poet, T. E. Brown, then a master at Clifton College, Dr. Percival, the head master, afterwards the Bishop of Hereford (Dr. Percival and I became co-trustees for a Working Women's Benefit Society at Bristol), Helen Blackburn, later our invaluable secretary in London, was in these early suffrage years living in Bristol, where she had much influence and brought us the sympathetic support of numbers of the most distinguished residents, among them the Sturges, the Tanners, Dr. and Mrs. Beddoes, and many others. From 1868 a real suffrage organization began to grow up in the country. Its chief centres were London, Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol, and Edinburgh. In London our leaders were, besides Mrs. Peter Taylor, Miss Davies, my sister, Mrs. Anderson, Miss Ashworth Biggs, Mr. Shaen, Mr. Stansfeld, and Mme. Bodichon (Barbara Leigh Smith). In Manchester we were led by Miss Becker, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Bright, and Mr. John Thomasson, the elder; in Birmingham by Mr. and Mrs. Osler and the Sturge family. The Bristol leaders I have already named: while in Edinburgh we had a brilliant group of men and women among whom we counted Professor Masson, the author of the monumental life of John Milton, Mrs. MacLaren, sister of John Bright and wife of the member for the City of Edinburgh, Miss S. S. Mair (the initials S. S. stand for Sarah Siddons, she is a granddaughter and a worthy descendant of the great actress), and the Misses Stevenson, whose house in Randolph Crescent was the headquarters of all kinds of active work for opening new opportunities for women. I once asked Sir Johnstone Forbes Robertson, who did such active service for our cause in its later stages, how he had been converted to Suffrage; he answered that he had never needed conversion; he was a born Suffragist, and he said, with a smile, that he must have contracted Suffrage views in his infancy from his godfather, Professor Masson.

THE LEGITIMACY BILL.

Two Legitimacy Bills have been introduced this year, one by Lord Buckmaster in the House of Lords, the other by Colonel Campion in the House of Commons. Owing to the very long debate on the Franchise Bill on 29th February, Colonel Campion failed to secure a second reading, but Lord Buckmaster's Bill has passed its second reading, and the Committee stages are fixed for 6th March. Both these Bills were based on Mr. Betterton's of last year, and they are very similar, so that in any case one would eventually have had to be withdrawn. It is strange that England and Wales should be behind other civilized countries in providing modern legislation for the legitimation of children born out of wedlock, by the subsequent marriage of their parents to each other, as until the year 1295 such legitimation was allowed by the State, under the Roman Law which then prevailed. Since Mr. Neville Chamberlain introduced his Bastardy Bill, in 1920, efforts have been made each year to get a Bill dealing with Legitimation through Parliament, but although these have met with encouragement from all political parties, fate appears to have been against them. The present Government, like its predecessors, is favourably disposed to a Legitimacy Bill, and failing a Government measure, it is hoped that facilities may be given for Lord Buckmaster's Bill to be passed this session. The burning question at the moment is whether the Act is to be on the broad lines proposed by Lord Buckmaster and Colonel Campion, so as to include the children of all such parents (divorced or single) who eventually marry each other, or whether its benefits are to be restricted to those whose parents could have married at the time of the child's birth. A proviso to exclude children born of adultery has been keenly discussed in the House of Commons more than once, and efforts are being made to have it included in this year's Bill.

A great many people who care for their religion, for morality and the British high ideal of family life, when asked whether they are in favour of legitimating the children born of unfaithfulness, will on first thought say "no"; but a large percentage of these same people will probably change their opinion if they give careful and sympathetic thought to the subject. England as a nation does not like divorce; it does not wish divorce to be encouraged, nor to see the moral standard of the country lowered. But the Legitimacy Bill is not a Divorce Bill. The law of England and Wales already permits divorce for unfaithfulness on the part of husband or wife, and also allows the divorced person to remarry; some people appear to forget these facts in arguing against the Legitimacy Bill as it now stands. After their new marriage the persons concerned are received into society, and the very fact of the divorce is probably forgotten. But what of the child who has been a cause of the divorce? Under our present laws that child is for ever illegitimate. Do those people who oppose the legitimation of these children ever seriously consider how they themselves would have liked to go through life as a "bastard"? Do they picture what would have been their own feelings if as a young boy or girl they had suddenly realized that the birth certificate which was to be shown on entrance to a competitive examination, to the Army or Navy, or for some pension scheme, would give away the horrible fact that they were illegitimate? Children feel these things so terribly, the sting never dies as life goes on; and why should the innocent suffer for the misdoings of their parents? The parents suffer in the unhappiness of the child, but they at least were responsible for their own actions, however bitter the punishment; to penalize the child seems absolutely unjust. If the child is legitimated a new birth certificate will be issued. An argument which is frequently brought forward in favour of the insertion of this proviso, is that England and Wales would then be in line with Scotland. The people who make this assertion are unaware, as a rule, that there is no Legitimation Act in Scotland: the law which prevails is based on Roman law, and on decisions which have been given in regard to legitimacy; it is not definitely agreed amongst authorities on the Scots law, as to whether the parents must have been free to marry at the beginning of the child's antenatal life, or whether freedom at the time of marriage is the only stipulation. If England gets a Legitimacy Act, Scotland would surely be obliged to have its own law definitely coded, and why should we be held back by Scotland; let Scotland come into line with England and Wales in this matter. The Dominions have largely adopted the wider policy, New Zealand having recently repealed the proviso included in its original Legitimation Act of 1908. Switzerland, Germany, Austria, and Norway have no proviso, and the law of France permits legitimation in most cases after divorce.

One of the greatest difficulties in regard to legitimation of course is in connexion with succession to property. The clauses in the Bill which deal with succession will probably be much discussed, and until it is through Committee it is hardly worth while to deal with them in detail in these columns. The main principles which Lord Buckmaster has proposed are that (1) the legitimated child shall have no right of inheritance under entail or trusts which have been created before the Act comes into force; (2) after the Act is passed it shall share alike with other heirs, and may inherit under an intestacy as if born legitimate, but if the right of succession to any of the property depends on seniority in the family, the legitimated child is to rank in the family as if born at the date of the marriage of his parents, thus it will not usurp the rights of a legitimate child born of the first marriage; (3) no legitimated child may inherit a title, and if property is entailed to go with a title it must pass to the legitimately born heir who inherits; (4) if the illegitimate child has died before the marriage but has left children they may inherit as if the father or mother had been legitimated by the marriage; (5) a legitimated child shall pay death-duty as if legitimately born, instead of as a "stranger-in-blood," as it does at present; (6) it shall have the same right to maintenance as if legitimately born. It must always be remembered that in England and Wales, everyone has the right to leave his own property and money to whomsoever he pleases, and anyone may bar legitimated persons from inheritance, if he wishes to do so.

The National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child has been interested in the promotion of Bills dealing with illegitimacy for the past five years, but has always realized that the question of the proviso must be settled on the floor of the Houses of Parliament. After much investigation of the problem, however, and wide experience gained through the Case Department, which has dealt with thousands of cases, the Council recently held a Conference on the question of the insertion of this proviso, and took a vote on the subject at the subsequent meeting of its own members. A resolution was passed in favour of the Bill without any such restricting proviso, and it was found that there are apparently only a very few of the Members and of the Societies which are represented on the Council, who wish to see the proviso retained.

The readers of the *WOMAN'S LEADER* are thoughtful people. It is to be hoped that they will make up their minds on this important and urgent matter, and if they are in agreement with those who wish to see the proviso omitted they should get their own Member and other Members with whom they are in touch to vote against such a restriction. SUSAN MUSSON.

A CHOICE OF BOOKS.

ROMAN PICTURES. By Percy Lubbock. (Cape. 7s. 6d.)

Various aspects of Roman life in the foreign colony seen by a young enthusiast who is taken in hand by one after another of these would-be Romans and told by each that he only has the key of the Roman secret. Each chapter tells of a fresh experience, till at last the reader (and the young enthusiast) come back to the first initiator, who proves not to be so very Roman after all.

TWO GENTLEMEN OF CHINA. By Lady Hosié. (Seeley Service. 21s.)

The author studied at Newnham, and joined a friend in Peking in order to start a school there for the daughters of Chinese officials. This plan was frustrated by the outbreak of the Revolution, and Lady Hosié spent some months as a guest in the family of one of the gentlemen mentioned in the title of her book. Her account of these and other Chinese friends is sympathetic and attractive.

BRIDEWELL HOSPITAL, PALACE, PRISON, SCHOOLS. By E. G. O'DONOGHUE. (Lane. 21s.)

The Palace of Bridewell was first used to receive the Emperor Charles V. It lodged Ambassadors, and it was here that Holbein's famous picture was painted. Yet in less than forty years after it was completed, it had become a house of correction. The story of these vicissitudes and of the founding of the Charitable Corporation, which included the five great hospitals, is told in a lively and interesting manner.

HETTY GEYBERT. By Georg Hermann. (Allen & Unwin. 7s. 6d.)

Berlin in the eighteen-thirties is an unusual setting which adds the spice of novelty to this quiet and charming story of a young girl and her orthodox Jewish relatives. It is well translated by Miss Anna Barwell.

THE SHEEP AND THE GOATS.¹ AYES.

Ackroyd, T. R.
Adams, Rt. Hon. William.
Alden, Percy.
Alexander, A. V. (Sheffield, Hillsboro').
Allen, R., Wilberforce (Leicester, S.).
Allen, Lieut.-Col. Sir William James.
Ammon, Charles George.
Aske, Sir Robert William.
Astor, Viscountess.
Attlee, Major Clement R.
Ayles, W. H.
Baker, W. J.
Banton, G.
Barnes, A.
Barrie, Sir Charles Coupar (Banff).
Batey, Joseph.
Bellairs, Commander Carlyon W.
Bentinck, Lord Henry Cavendish.
Berkeley, Captain Reginald.
Birchall, Major J. Dearman.
Birkett, W. N.
Blades, Sir George Rowland.
Bondfield, Margaret.
Bonwick, A.
Bramson, Sir Thomas.
Briant, Frank.
Brittain, Sir Harry.
Broad, F. A.
Brown, A. E. (Warwick, Rugby).
Brown, James (Ayr and Bute).
Buchanan, G.
Buckle, J.
Bullock, Captain M.
Caine, Gordon Hall.
Chadwick, Sir Robert Burton.
Chapple, Dr. William A.
Charleton, H. C.
Church, Major A. G.
Clarke, A.
Chimie, R.
Chuse, W. S.
Clynes, Rt. Hon. John R.
Collins, Patrick (Walsall).
Compton, Joseph.
Comyns-Carr, A. S.
Costello, L. W. J.
Cove, W. G.
Crittall, V. G.
Crooke, J. Smedley (Deritend).
Cunliffe, Joseph Herbert.
Davidson, Major-General Sir J. H.
Davies, Ellis (Denbigh, Denbigh).
Davies, Evan (Ebbw Vale).
Davies, Major Geo. F. (Somerset, Yeovil).
Davies, Rhys John (Westhoughton).
Davison, J. E. (Smethwick).
Dickson, T.
Dixey, A. C.
Dodds, S. R.
Dudgeon, Major C. R.
Duffy, T. Gavan.
Dukes, C.
Duncan, C.
Dunn, J. Freeman.
Dunnico, H.
Edwards, C. (Monmouth, Bedwelty).
Edwards, John H. (Accrington).
Egan, W. H.
Erskine, James Malcolm Montith.
Falconer, J.
Fletcher, Lieut.-Com. R. T. H.
Foot, Isaac.
Franklin, L. B.
Gardner, B. W. (West Ham, Upton).
Gardner, J. P. (Hammersmith, North).
Gates, Percy.
Gillett, George M.
Gorman, William.
Gosling, Harry.
Gould, Frederick (Somerset, Frome).
Graham, W. (Edinburgh, Central).
Gray, Frank (Oxford).
Greenall, T.
Greenwood, A. (Nelson and Colne).
Grenfell, D. R. (Glamorgan).
Griffiths, T. (Monmouth, Pontypool).
Grigg, Lieut.-Col. Sir Edward W. M.
Groves, T.
Grundy, T. W.
Guest, J. (York, Hemsworth).

Guest, Dr. L. Haden (Southwark, N.).
Guinness, Lieut.-Col. Rt. Hon. W. E.
Hall, G. H. (Merthyr Tydvil).
Hamilton, Sir R. (Orkney and Shetland).
Hardie, George D.
Harney, E. A.
Harris, Percy A.
Hartington, Marquess of.
Hartshorn, Rt. Hon. Vernon.
Harvey, C. M. B. (Aberdeen and Kincardine).
Harvey, T. E. (Dewsbury).
Hastings, Sir Patrick.
Hastings, Somerville (Reading).
Haycock, A. W.
Hayday, Arthur.
Hayes, John Henry.
Hemmerde, E. G.
Henderson, A. (Cardiff, South).
Henderson, T. (Glasgow).
Hoare, Lieut.-Col. Rt. Hon. Sir S. J. G.
Hobhouse, A. L.
Hodge, Lieut.-Col. J. P. (Preston).
Hodges, Frank.
Hoffman, P. C.
Hogbin, Henry Cairns.
Hogge, James Myles.
Hood, Sir Joseph.
Horlick, Lieut.-Col. J. N.
Howard, Hon. G. (Bedford, Luton).
Hudson, J. H.
Hughes, Collingwood.
Inskip, Sir Thomas Walker H.
Isaacs, G. A.
Jackson, R. F. (Ipswich).
Jenkins, W. (Glamorgan, Neath).
Johnson, Sir L. (Walthamstow, E.).
Johnstone, Harcourt (Willesden, East).
Jones, J. J. (West Ham, Silver-town).
Jones, Rt. Hon. Leif (Camborne).
Jones, Morgan (Caerphilly).
Jowett, Rt. Hon. F. W. (Bradford, E.).
Kedward, R. M.
Kennedy, T.
Kenyon, Barnet.
Lamb, J. Q.
Lambert, Rt. Hon. George.
Lansbury, George.
Laverack, F. J.
Law, A.
Lawrence, Susan (East Ham, N.).
Lawson, John James.
Leach, W.
Lessing, E.
Lindley, F. W.
Linfield, F. C.
Livingstone, A. M.
Lloyd-Greame, Rt. Hon. Sir P.
Locker-Lampson, Com. O. (Handsworth).
Loverseed, J. F.
Lowth, T.
Lumley, E. R.
Lunn, William.
McCrae, Sir George.
MacDonald, Rt. Hon. J. R. (Aberavon).
Macdonald, Sir Murdoch (Inverness).
M'Entee, V. L.
Macfadyen, E.
Mackinder, W.
McLean, Major A.
Macnamara, Rt. Hon. Dr. T. J.
Macpherson, Rt. Hon. James I.
Madan, H.
Mansel, Sir Courtenay.
March, S.
Marks, Sir George Croydon.
Marley, James.
Martin, F. (Aberdeen and Kincardine, E.).
Masterman, Rt. Hon. C. F. G.
Maxton, James.
Meller, R. J.
Meyler, Lieut.-Col. H. M.
Middleton, G.
Millar, J. D.
Mills, J. E.
Mitchell, W. F. (Saffron Walden).
Mond, H.

¹ Division list on Bill introduced by Mr. Adamson to amend the Representation of the People Act.

Morel, E. D.
Morrison, Herbert (Hackney, S.).
Morrison, R. C. (Tottenham, N.).
Morse, W. E.
Mosley, Oswald.
Moulton, Major Fletcher.
Muir, John W.
Muir, Ramsay (Rochdale).
Murray, Robert.
Murrell, Frank.
Naylor, T. E.
Newman, Sir R. H. S. D. L. (Exeter).
Newton, Sir D. G. C. (Cambridge).
Nichol, Robert.
O'Grady, Captain James.
Oliver, George Harold.
Ormsby-Gore, Hon. William.
Owen, Major G.
Paling, W.
Palmer, E. T.
Parkinson, John Allen (Wigan).
Perry, S. F.
Pethick-Lawrence, F. W.
Phillips, Vivian.
Pilkington, R. R.
Ponsonby, Arthur.
Potts, John S.
Purcell, A. A.
Raffan, P. W.
Raffety, F. W.
Raime, W.
Rankin, James S.
Rathbone, Hugh R.
Raynes, W. K.
Rees, Capt. J. T. (Devon, Barnstaple).
Rendall, A.
Rentoul, G. S.
Richards, R.
Richardson, R. (Houghton-le-Spring).
Roberts, Rt. Hon. F. O. (West Bromwich).
Robertson, J. (Lanark, Bothwell).
Robertson, T. A.
Robinson, W. E. (Burslem).
Romeril, H. G.
Ropner, Major L.
Rudkin, Lieut.-Col. C. M. C.
Samuel, A. M. (Surrey, Farnham).
Sassoon, Sir Philip A. G. D.
Savery, S. S.
Scurr, John.
Seely, H. M. (Norfolk, Eastern).
Sexton, James.
Shaw, Rt. Hon. Thomas (Preston).
Shepperson, E. W.
Sherwood, George Henry.
Short, Alfred (Wednesbury).
Simon, Rt. Hon. Sir John.
Sinclair, Major Sir A. (Caithness).

TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—Mr. W. M. Adamson and Miss Jewson.

NOES.

Ainsworth, Captain Charles.
Ashley, Lieut.-Col. Rt. Hon. W. W.
Baird, Major Rt. Hon. Sir J. L.
Barnston, Major Sir Harry.
Becker, Harry.
Blundell, F. N.
Bowyer, Capt. G. E. W.
Buckingham, Sir H.
Bull, Rt. Hon. Sir William James.
Campion, Lieut.-Col. W. R.
Cautley, Sir Henry S.
Cecil, Rt. Hon. Lord H. (Oxford University).
Clarry, Reginald George.
Cobb, Sir Cyril.
Cockerill, Brig.-Gen. G. K.
Cohen, Major J. Brunel.
Conway, Sir W. Martin.
Craik, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry.
Curzon, Captain Viscount.
Dalkeith, Earl of.
Davison, Sir W. H. (Kensington, S.).
Eden, Captain Anthony.
Eyre-Monsell, Com. Rt. Hon. B. M.
Fremantle, Lieut.-Col. Francis E.
Gibbs, Col. Rt. Hon. G. A.
Greene, W. P., Crawford.
Gretton, Col. John.
Hacking, Capt. Douglas H.
Hall, Lieut.-Col. Sir F. (Dulwich).
Hannon, Patrick Joseph Henry.
Hennessy, Major J. R. G.
Herbert, Capt. S. (Scarborough).
Howard, Hon. D. (Cumberland, N.).
Huntingfield, Lord.
Iliffe, Sir Edward M.
Jackson, Lieut.-Col. Hon. F. S.
King, Capt. Henry Douglas.
Lorimer, H. D.
Lynn, Sir R. J.

Smith, Ben (Bermondsey, Rotherhithe).
Smith, T. (Pontefract).
Smith, W. R. (Norwich).
Snowden, Rt. Hon. Philip.
Spears, Brig.-Gen. E. L.
Spence, R.
Spender-Clay, Lieut.-Col. H. H.
Spero, Dr. G. E.
Stamford, T. W.
Stephen, Campbell.
Stranger, Innes Harold.
Suter, Rear-Admiral Murray F.
Tattersall, J. L.
Terrington, Lady.
Thomas, Rt. Hon. J. H. (Derby).
Thorne, W. (West Ham, Plaistow).
Thornton, Maxwell R.
Thurle, E.
Tillett, Benjamin.
Tinker, John Joseph.
Tout, W. J.
Trevelyan, Rt. Hon. C. P.
Turner, Ben.
Vaughan-Morgan, Col. K. P.
Viant, S. P.
Vivian, H.
Wallhead, Richard C.
Walsh, Rt. Hon. Stephen.
Warne, G. H.
Watson, W. M. (Dunfermline).
Watts-Morgan, Lieut.-Col. D. (Rhonda).
Webb, Lieut.-Col. Sir H. (Cardiff, E.).
Webb, Rt. Hon. Sidney.
Wedgwood, Col. Rt. Hon. Josiah C.
Weir, L. M.
Welsh, J. C.
Wheatley, Rt. Hon. J.
Whiteley, W.
Wignall, James.
Williams, A. (York, W. R., Sowerby).
Williams, Dr. J. H. (Llanelly).
Williams, Col. P. (Middlesboro, E.).
Williams, Lieut.-Col. T. S. B. (Kennington).
Williams, Maj. A. S. (Kent, Seven-oaks).
Williams, T. (York, Don Valley).
Wilson, H.
Wilson, C. H. (Sheffield, Attercliffe).
Windsor, Walter.
Wintringham, Margaret.
Wood, Sir H. K. (Woolwich, W.).
Wood, Major M. M. (Aberdeen, C.).
Wright, W.
Yerburgh, Major Robert D. T.
Young, Andrew (Glasgow, Partick).

TELLERS FOR THE NOES.—Mr. W. M. Adamson and Miss Jewson.

OUR WOMEN M.P.s.

The main event in Parliament from the woman's point of view was the debate on the extension of the Franchise, when Miss Jewson, in a clear and well planned maiden speech, seconded Mr. Adamson's motion. Mrs. Wintringham and Lady Astor gave effective support, and we regret that, in view of the large number of Members desiring to speak on this subject, the House did not have the opportunity of hearing Miss Bondfield or Miss Lawrence. We would much like to have heard these two women on this particular subject. The Duchess of Atholl moved an amendment that the matter be referred to a Conference. She is an able speaker, and we cannot help regretting that on this subject at least her views are so reactionary. Mrs. Hilton Philipson did not succeed in catching the Speaker's eye, but she left no doubt in the minds of onlookers as to her views on the subject. Lady Terrington, on the contrary, who also failed to get an opportunity to speak, is a strong supporter of the measure. Six women members of Parliament supported the Bill—Lady Astor, Miss Bondfield, Miss Jewson, Miss Lawrence, Lady Terrington, and Mrs. Wintringham. The Duchess of Atholl and Mrs. Hilton Philipson opposed it.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: Miss ELEANOR RATHBONE, C.C., J.P. Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. SODDY. Hon. Secretary: Miss E. MACADAM. Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HUBBACK. Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1. Telephone: Victoria 6188.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING, 26th, 27th, 28th March, London Central Y.M.C.A., Tottenham Court Road.

The *Business Meetings* of the Council will be held on Wednesday, 26th March, Thursday, 27th March, and Friday, 28th March, 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. (Thursday, 2.45 p.m. to 4.45 p.m.). Resolutions relating to Bills before Parliament especially affecting women, Equal Pay, Solicitation Laws, Widows' Pensions, Women Police, etc., will be discussed, and in view of the political situation the proceedings will be of especial interest. All Sessions will be open to the public, and the Gallery of the Hall will be reserved for visitors. Visitors' tickets may be obtained in advance from the Secretary, 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1, or at the Hall (price 1s. a day, or 3s. for all business meetings), and in view of the particular interest of the proceedings, this year visitors will be very warmly welcomed.

Applications for delegates' tickets should be made as soon as possible. The Secretary would be glad to receive the names of any delegates requiring hospitality.

Copies of the Preliminary Agenda may be had on application (price 4d.). The Final Agenda will be posted to Secretaries of affiliated Societies on 14th March, and extra copies of this can be had after that date on payment of the same sum.

A *Public Luncheon* will be held at the Holborn Restaurant on Thursday, 27th March, at 1 for 1.15, at which the guests of honour will be Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., J.P., and the following women Members of Parliament and men Members of both Houses who have given help to the work of the N.U.S.E.C., during the year:—Lord Askwith, Lady Astor, Miss Bondfield, Mr. William Graham, Miss Susan Lawrence, Mrs. Philipson, Lord and Lady Terrington, Mrs. Wintringham, and others. Invitation cards (5s. for delegates, 7s. 6d. for non-delegates) may be obtained from the Secretary, N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1. Applications should be made early.

An *Evening Reception* will be held at Bedford College, Regent Park, N.W. 1, by kind permission of the Principal, on Fridays 28th March, at which guests of honour will be Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, Miss Rosa Manus, of Amsterdam, Madame Malaterre Sellier, of Paris, and distinguished representatives of the Dominions, Overseas and foreign countries.

An *Officers' Conference* will be held at the Central Y.M.C.A. on Saturday, 29th March, at 11 a.m., at which questions of organization will be discussed. Further particulars will be announced later.

Leaflets giving particulars as above will be forwarded for distribution on application to the Secretary, 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT (1918), AMENDMENT BILL.

Hansards giving the official report of the debate on the above Bill on Friday last, 29th February, can be obtained from Headquarters, price 7d. post free. Societies whose Members of Parliament figured in the Division lists and still more those whose Members played an important part in the debate are asked to

communicate with their Members in order to express gratitude or the reverse.

SUMMARY JURISDICTION (SEPARATION AND MAINTENANCE) BILL, 1924.

This Bill is now printed, and copies can be obtained from Headquarters, price 1½d. post free.

INFORMATION DEPARTMENT.

Our members will be interested to hear that since we have moved into Dean's Yard, the information department has been increasingly used by Members of Parliament, especially when a debate concerning any of the special points on our programme is about to take place. The increased interest in these matters is also reflected in a considerable increase of the number of inquiries from all over the country.

WANTED—HOSTESSES!

Offers of hospitality are even more urgently wanted than ever before for the coming Council. Many delegates who pay heavy railway fares have asked for hospitality, and so far in vain. Will anyone who can help in this way write at once to Miss Beaumont at Headquarters. Societies wishing for Proxy Delegates should also apply to her.

SUTTON COLDFIELD W.C.A.

The Sutton Coldfield W.C.A. held an At Home in the Town Hall to welcome their new President, Mrs. Kempthorne, J.P., the wife of the Bishop of Lichfield. It was very largely attended, and was in every way a great success.

BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.—WOMEN'S SECTION.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, who represents the I.W.S.A. and the British Overseas Committee on the Women's Committee of the British Empire Exhibition, writes:—

A committee of representatives under the presidency of the Duchess of York and with Lady Galway as Chairman, is working in connexion with the British Empire Exhibition, in order to organize hospitality to overseas visitors. Many will come for business, others for pleasure, but we believe all think of Great Britain as the "homeland". Some will find cordial friends or relations, but in many cases there will be no personal ties, and it would be indeed a tragedy if our kinsmen and kinswomen should come thousands of miles to know Great Britain only by her hotels and boardinghouses. This Committee is therefore organizing hospitality under two heads, (1) General, (2) Individual or personal. It is chiefly under the second head that it is hoped readers of the *WOMAN'S LEADER* will help in some of the following ways:—

1. If people live in the country will they send in their names to Mrs. Grove, British Empire Exhibition, as willing to look after overseas visitors whose forefathers lived in the neighbourhood, and who wish to revisit it? To give lunch or tea, meet a train, arrange for a drive to the outlying village, recommend hotel or inn, and suggest sight-seeing, would be a real welcome home.

2. Give tea, lunch, or evening or garden party at home or in one's club to a small or large number of visitors, stating if liked which Crown Colony or Dominion one would prefer to entertain.

3. Attend for a few hours at the Pavilion in the Exhibition grounds which is being organized by the British Overseas Committee of the I.W.S.A. (Mrs. Giles, 11 Adam Street, Strand, W.C.), and talk to the visitors and interest them in the work of the women's organizations here, and help them find out what to see. Women from South Africa, Quebec, or Newfoundland who are struggling for the vote would like to get into touch with the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Women from Australia who see before them the industrialization of their towns, are keen to know how to avoid our mistakes. The great object is to give as much possible chance of making personal acquaintance with our visitors. The British Overseas Pavilion will be open for six months, so that we are urgently in need of volunteers.

DELICIOUS FRENCH COFFEE

RED

WHITE & BLUE

For Breakfast & after Dinner

In making, use LESS QUANTITY it being much stronger than ORDINARY COFFEE

COMING EVENTS.

GUILDHOUSE, ECCLESTON SQUARE, S.W.1.

APRIL 5. All day Conference on "Housing." (Preliminary notice.)

GUILDHOUSE W.C.S.

MARCH 17. 4-4.30 p.m. The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. "Town Gardening." Mrs. Margery Allen, London Gardens Guild.

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CLUB, 55 GOWER STREET, W.C.1.

MARCH 13. 8 p.m. "Dr. Knöck, a Bavarian Minister."

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

MARCH 11. 4.30 p.m. Wellington House, Buckingham Gate. Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., C.C., M.A., on "Widows' Pensions."

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

BARNESLEY S.E.C. MARCH 12. 5.30 p.m. St. Mary's Parish Room. "The Improvement in the Position of Women since the Days of Queen Elizabeth." Speaker: G. G. Alexander, Esq., M.A. Chairman: Dr. Francis, M.O.H.

BOLTON W.C.A. MARCH 11. 7.30 p.m. 2 Fold Street. Mrs. Nicholson on "Women in the Home."

EDINBURGH W.C.A. MARCH 12. 8 p.m. Royal Society of Arts Hall, 117 George Street. "Educational Developments." Speaker: Mr. Alexander Morgan, M.A., D.Sc., Director of Studies Provincial Training College. Chairman: Miss C. E. Ainslie, B.A.

KENSINGTON S.E.C. MARCH 12. At "The Venture," N. Kensington. Miss Macadam on "Widows' Pensions."

PRESTON W.C.A. MARCH 11. Miss Marion Fitzgerald on "Smoke Prevention."

SIX POINT GROUP.

MARCH 18. 8 p.m. Mass Meeting in Queen's Hall on Widows' Pensions, Equal Guardianship of Infants and the Rectification of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act. Speakers: Professor Winifred Culles, O.B.E., Mr. Isaac Foot, M.P., Miss Ada Moore, Mr. Henry Snell, M.P., Dame May Whitty, D.B.E. Chair: The Viscountess Rhondda.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.—Secretary, Miss Philippa Strachey. Women's service Tuesdays, 4.30-6.30, 12th February to 18th March. See "Coming Events."—Wellington House, Buckingham Gate, Westminster.

THE PIONEER CLUB has reopened at 12 Cavendish Place. Town Members £5 5s.; Country and Professional Members £4 4s. Entrance fee in abeyance (*pro tem.*)

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 9th March, 6.30, Miss Maude Royden: "Our Christian Faith: Love is God."

LONELY? Then send stamped addressed envelope to Secretary, U.C.C., 161, Cambridge Street, S.W. 1.

JOIN INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CLUB, 55 Gower Street, W.C. 1. Subscription, 7s. 6d. per annum. Luncheons, and Teas in the Cafeteria. Thursday Club Suppers 7 p.m., and Discussion Meetings 8 p.m. 13th March: "Dr. Knöck, a Bavarian minister."

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