

THE  
**WOMAN'S LEADER**

IN POLITICS                      IN INDUSTRY                      IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
IN THE HOME                      IN LITERATURE AND ART                      IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND  
**THE COMMON CAUSE**

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**NOTES AND NEWS**

**Santa Fé and Woman Suffrage.**

Although women have been granted the municipal vote in the Province of Santa Fé, they have lost the Parliamentary vote by eighteen votes to fourteen. Don Luis Bonaparte spoke at great length, and urged that women should have political rights on equal terms with men. He pointed out the humiliation to Santa Fé to be classed with the most backward nations of Spanish America, who alone opposed this right, nevertheless by four votes the amendment was lost. We hope that the setback will be only transitory.

**Swedish Women M.P.s.**

Five women Members of Parliament were returned in the recent Swedish general elections, which is a splendid result of the first women's vote. The election of Miss Kerstin Hesselgren to the First Chamber has already been reported in THE WOMAN'S LEADER, and Miss Elisabeth Tamm, another Liberal woman, who is a skilled agrarian and the manager of her own large estate, has been elected to the Second Chamber. The other women members of the Second Chamber are Miss Bertha Wellin, a Conservative, who has for many years been a town councillor of Stockholm, and the two Socialist members, Mrs. Nelly Thüring, who is a town councillor of Gothenburg, and Mrs. Agda Ostlund, who is President of the Social Democratic Women's Union in Stockholm. We congratulate both Sweden and the women M.P.s most heartily.

**Women Mayors.**

Four women were elected as Mayors last week. As already reported, Councillor Christina Hartley (Liberal) was elected for Southport, where she is the first woman to hold the chief citizenship of the Borough. Miss Hartley said that from the moment she had the offer of the mayoralty it was her desire to show her practical sympathy with the unemployed, and she therefore handed to Councillor Yates, leader of the Labour party, a cheque for £1,000, representing her official salary of £500 and a donation from her father of a further £500. The other Liberal woman Mayor is Councillor Miss Clara Winterbotham at Cheltenham, while Alderman Mrs. Ellen Chapman, J.P. (Conservative), has been re-elected for Worthing, and Mrs. J. M. Phillips re-elected for Honiton.

**The Municipal Elections.**

We have one or two more names to add to our last week's list of successful women candidates. From Bolton comes the welcome news that at last a woman councillor has been returned, in the person of Mrs. Agnew. The success is even more than usually welcome, since she was a non-party candidate run by the Bolton Women Citizens' Association, and all the forces of party machineries were against her. A few days before nomination day the Progressive candidate was labelled Coalition, and the joint combination boasted a three to one chance against the W.C.A., and a majority of five hundred. Mrs. Agnew, however, carried the day with a majority of 183. Both she and the Women Citizens' Association are much to be congratulated. Another successful woman candidate is Mrs. Suttill, who is an Independent, and the first woman councillor for Bridport. Manchester has come off badly as far as women councillors are concerned. Although five women stood for election, only one was elected, and as two former councillors, Miss Ashton and Mrs. Howie, had resigned, the net result is that there are only four women in the new Council as against six in the last. We congratulate Miss Kingsmill Jones on her election, and wish her every success.

**Women and the Civil Service.**

The situation of women in the Civil Service is as bad to-day as it can well be. In spite of the unmistakable intention of the House of Commons, women are still being treated on sex lines within the Service, and the dismissals of temporary staff are being carried out without regard to the findings of the Lytton Committee. Nothing is so difficult to attack as the entrenched passive resistance to change of the permanent Civil Service; but there is no manner of doubt that they are carrying their obstruction too far. Illustrations are so numerous that it is difficult to select, but perhaps their behaviour over Whitley Council Representation is as clear an example as any of their very obstinate resistance to the claims of women. The Staff side has informed the Federation of Women Civil Servants that their claim for direct representation "cannot be acceded to." Now this would be all very well if the Federation were small or insignificant, or even if men and women were being treated regardless of sex so that their interests were the same. But so long as women are graded apart within the Service, they clearly need separate representation. The history of the Whitley findings during the last year is proof enough for any sceptic.

### Assimilation and Regrading.

As our readers will remember, one of the early anti-women acts of the Whitley Council was the Assimilation Agreement, by which all the men in the second division clerks grade were promised immediate admission to the new executive class, while all the women in the parallel grade (doing in many cases identical and interchangeable work) have been put into a new class two steps lower in pay and status than the men with whom they have been working. Mr. Mosley asked a question about this last week, the scandal of it being greatly increased by the fact that there are not in the whole Service enough executive posts for all these ungraded men, and many of them are now held redundant, at their higher pay, on the inferior work. This state of affairs is financially wasteful, and most unjust to the women and the temporaries, all of whose promotion is hopelessly blocked, and whose down grading on assimilation is the only way in which the Treasury can try to save some of their wasted money. Mr. Hilton Young, answering Mr. Mosley, gave a long rigmarole so worded that no one can understand head or tail of it unless they know the technical ins and outs. But the gist of it was that, alas, it is all too true. When a very long and involved answer is given to a Parliamentary question one may be sure that it is because the Government is trying to cover something up.

### The Law Society's Examinations.

In the results of the Preliminary Examination of the Law Society, which was held on October 19th and 20th, there is the name of one successful woman candidate, Ulrica Anne Hastie, amongst forty-four men, and in the Intermediate Examination, held on October 26th and 27th, Beryl E. R. Barefoot, with three men, was placed in the first class. Annie L. Amphlett, Edith A. J. Berthen, M.A., and Annie D. Downey also passed the examination in company with seventy men. It is not necessary to take both parts of the examination at the same time, and the legal portion only of the examination was passed by four women, Charlotte M. Beatty, B.A., Cecilia M. Cruttwell, Edith L. Ingram, and Margaret I. Neave, and eighty-nine men. The proportion of women entering for these examinations is still very small, but the results are very satisfactory.

### Children and the Cinema.

A report is shortly to be laid before the L.C.C. on the question of children and the cinema, and official action will probably be taken on the basis of this report. It is an important and difficult question, and involves the double consideration of the advantages or disadvantages to children attending the pictures, and also the educational value of the cinematograph. Opinion on this second question is divided. The objection to the introduction of the film into the school curriculum is that a certain excitement is created which prevents that perfect mental quietude which is deemed to be necessary if education is to be satisfactory. On the other hand, the Birmingham Education Committee eighteen months ago experimented very carefully and thoroughly with films shown to 1,000 school children in literature, geography, science, natural history, and composition classes. The Committee came to the conclusion that the movement of the pictures induced concentration; that the intelligence of the children was exercised to an extraordinary degree, and that the pictures, in nature study and geography especially, would save hours of explanation by teachers. Since then films have been introduced into the educational curriculum in many places with satisfactory results. It will be interesting to see what conclusions the L.C.C. will come to, and what suggestions will be made to overcome the undoubted undesirability of the ordinary picture theatre for children.

### A Referendum of Women.

Sir Ernest Wild has returned to the attack and has tabled a motion in the House of Commons that, "in view of the fact that women were not consulted before being rendered liable to jury service, nor was there any expressed desire on their part for such service, it is expedient that a referendum be taken forthwith whereby all women now on the Jurors' Lists should be asked this question: Do you desire women to serve on juries?" It is amazing how active some people are in raising obstacles in the path of progress.

### Women and the Church.

The Rev. R. J. Campbell is quietly carrying into effect in Christ Church, Victoria Street, the recommendations of the Lambeth Conference on the Ministry of Women. A series of special services are being held in his church for men only and

for women only. Mr. Campbell obviously does not agree with the Bishop of Exeter that women should not preach to a congregation of men, for on Sunday, November 6th, Lady Barrett addressed a congregation of men only. Miss Picton-Turbervill occupied the pulpit at a special service last Monday, her subject being "The Spiritual Aspect of the Woman's Movement."

### The International Abolitionist Conference.

The following resolutions were passed by the International Abolitionist Conference recently held in Rome:—"The Conference considers that Regulation of Prostitution, which is in effect a discriminating measure, generally denies equal rights to the woman, and draws much of its force from the position of inferiority which is found where the woman is in a legal and social position which is not equal to that of the man. Equality is desirable to permit women to protect themselves against all oppressive measures, and in particular to fight effectively against the system of regulation. The Conference believes that the most effective methods of combating venereal maladies are reform of social life and true education, and provision of free confidential treatment. The Conference is persuaded that compulsory treatment cannot be applied impartially, and, therefore, affirms the superiority of the non-compulsory measures over all compulsory measures. The Federation places on record its profound conviction that the teaching of self-disinfection against venereal disease by public authorities at public expense, tends to encourage sexual promiscuity, undermines the conscience of the people, lessens the sense of personal moral responsibility, and is dangerous to public health because it promotes a false sense of security against infection. The Conference declares that one of the best methods of combating juvenile prostitution is to afford to minors of both sexes the fullest possible legal protection; the Conference therefore declares that the principles of the Federation are not opposed to the State undertaking the guardianship of those minors who are proved to be in circumstances likely to cause or encourage their seduction, prostitution, or criminality. Concerning adults of either sex, the Federation reaffirms its belief that personal and private prostitution is a matter which concerns the conscience, but which does not constitute a legal offence. It therefore declares that no person should be compulsorily interned or imprisoned either as a sanitary reformative or punitive measure solely on account of his or her own prostitution."

### Enterprising Women.

Women are, more and more, entering fields hitherto exclusively reserved for men, or striking out on new lines on their own account. Miss Florence Parbury, for example, who owns her own private aeroplane, intends shortly to fly to Holland and to carry out experiments from it in the use of wireless telephony. She expects that music played at a concert at the Hague will be transmitted to a party of listeners stationed at Marlow, and hopes that through experiments of this sort flying in all sorts of weather will be rendered far less dangerous. Miss Edith Place, another enterprising woman, has started the first publishing company to be directed, financed, and staffed entirely by a woman. She is full of original and enthusiastic ideas, and we wish her every success in her most interesting undertaking.

### British Children Outside the Empire.

A question was asked in the House this session about the progress made in regard to securing to the children of British parents resident abroad the status of British nationality, although they might be born outside His Majesty's allegiance. Mr. Cecil Harmsworth answered that the proposals approved by the recent Conference of Prime Ministers for the amendment of the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act, 1914, in the sense indicated have been submitted to the favourable consideration of the Governments of the Dominions and India, on receipt of whose replies it is hoped that it may be found possible to introduce a Bill into Parliament embodying these proposals. The Bill is to apply generally to all countries.

*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.

## MORAL AGITATION.

The world is still stocked with machine-guns and rifles, gases and poisons, and land and sea monsters of iron and steel, and the idea that these are forces which can control the destinies of mankind is not yet extinct. But, underneath this mechanical crust, there is a new force growing up which is greater still, an armament of human ideals which is more powerful than all other defences, and, before long, this new force will sweep all the others out of existence.

As yet, this force is not recognised in this country at its true importance, but in the United States it is well established; directed as it is upon the Washington Conference, it is proving positively alarming to politicians and diplomatists of the old school. The movement of the American public, we are told, "is almost evangelistic in its fervour." It expresses itself in prayer and procession, and it is raging through the Western States like a prairie fire. In many aspects, and particularly from the part that women are playing in it, it recalls that curious and significant movement, the women's Temperance Crusade of 1870, which threw village after village in Ohio into a state of moral upheaval, and took processions of grandmothers to the "saloon parlours" to pray. But the present movement is far wider, and, being directed on the conference, and backed by real political powers, it is far steadier too. It is informed by more knowledge, and guided by better organisation; but in its essence it is the same thing, a moral agitation for the removal of an ancient evil. And it is a sign of hope.

There are two things about the politics of to-day which are hopeful, and it seems as if there are only two. One of them is the steady growth of the feeling of internationalism and the steady increase in the desire for knowledge of other countries which goes with it; and the other is this same moral fervour which is now crowding into our public affairs. As yet both things are ineffective, functioning with difficulty in a world which is utterly unused to them, but it is quite clear that they are both moving fast. International co-operation and that sort of national spirit which makes understanding between nations possible, is visibly growing and expanding through the League of Nations and the great world movements to which it is related. The change can be seen almost hour by hour, and it is the one constructive thing to which all nations must turn for their salvation from the world ruin which is following in the wake of the world war.

The other element, the moral agitation, is less obvious; but it is spreading rapidly nevertheless. And its spreading is undeniably helped by the coming of women into political affairs. Not that women have more moral fervour than men; they have not. But women are unused to the traditions of business and the cumbersome movements of parties; they have not grown hardened to the practical obstacles which beset moral movements when translated into action, and they are ready to rush, with the enthusiasm of inexperience, towards the logical consequences of their faiths. It is easy for diplomatists to sneer at "emotionalism"; one of our leading weeklies said only last Sunday that "the problem of disarmament depends for its solution very little on enthusiasm," and there are signs in the United States, and elsewhere, that statesmen are a little embarrassed by too enthusiastic a support for this cause. But, let them say what they like, the world is not as it was in 1914. Other values and other standards are abroad in politics, and a new procedure is sweeping away the old rules of the game.

The Washington Conference, towards which all these new forces are directed at the moment, has made a most auspicious opening, and the concrete American proposals have brought home to us the belief that something can actually be done. We do not yet know how much, but we hope. And while we hope we must act, supporting this moral agitation with all our might and main.

"Limitation of Armaments will never be imposed by Governments on Peoples," as the League of Nations Report on this subject very truly sets out, "but it may be imposed by Peoples on Governments." It may, and, indeed, it must. Without a great moral movement towards peace and good will, this civilisation can last no longer.

## NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

### By OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

The Session of Parliament came to an end last Friday, amid a very general uncertainty as to whether this same House would ever assemble again. The closing days of the Session were not remarkable for any great event; the Unemployment Relief Bills passed through, and, it is to be hoped, become operative. On the Consolidated Funds the debate, as is usual, ranged over a wide area, from the Russian Famine to the Secret Service, but the only outstanding event was Mrs. Wintringham's maiden speech. This, which she delivered on Wednesday last, was an unqualified success, and met with approval in every quarter of the House. It was brief and very simple, and delivered in a very pleasing manner. Mrs. Wintringham has a beautiful voice, and evidently knows how to say what she wants in a straightforward fashion. The House is looking forward to her later speeches.

The only other incident of the last week was the question of privilege, which arose over a speech of Mr. John, in which he said that Members were often drunk in the House. Towards allegations of this kind the House is naturally extremely sensitive, and a great deal of feeling arose on the matter. It was raised in the House itself, and, on the Speaker's advice, the apology and withdrawal of the offending member was accepted, and the incident closed.

The general political situation is, of course, the subject uppermost in the minds of all who are interested in the daily doings at Westminster, but on this subject it is very difficult to say anything of value. Rumours and counter-rumours abound. Several imaginary alternative Governments have been set up, at least two new Coalitions are in the air, and a general election is confidently expected. The attitude of Ulster and the support given to it by the Diehards make any great hopes of the Irish Conference practically impossible, and the fact that all the members of this Government are pledged not to coerce Ulster is the one trump card that faction possesses. An appeal to the country on this issue would reveal a very distracted state of parties, and might lead to any result. It would be an election of the very queerest kind, with opponents without opposition, and it might return an even more confusing situation than we have now. And yet we appear to be nearing a deadlock. The Unionist Conference this week, whose decisions are not known as I write, may clear the air. But no one at Westminster is very sanguine.

With the constituencies in their present mood, with unemployment rife and parties all at sea, no member likes the thought of an election. The door would be open for irregular independents, who might easily get into the House on quite other issues, and while the present members were duly talking away about Ireland they might find themselves left out in the cold. The fact is that the Irish issue is, and always has been, a dim one in most English constituencies. It is more dim than ever now, when nearly everyone is agreed. And an election on this question alone would be a most remarkable event.

One other significant political event has happened this week in the speech of Lord Robert Cecil to his constituents on the subject of party divisions. He is one of those men whose speeches are reasoned and reasonable, and if, as some people now seem to expect, a Grey-Cecil Party comes into existence it may do something to clear up the present tangle of muddles in which we move. But there is no sign, as yet, that the old party traditions have lost their hold, even though so much of the substance has gone out of their differences. People talk freely of a splitting-off of the Unionist Diehards from the bulk of the Conservatives, and equally freely of a break-away of Mr. Lloyd George from all his Unionist followers, and a reuniting of all the Liberals under his banner. But it is wonderfully easy to talk!

Meanwhile, the great events at Washington hold the stage, and Mr. Balfour undoubtedly spoke for the whole of this country when he accepted the big principles set forth by Mr. Hughes. It is too early as yet to say what actual concrete results may come of this naval cut, but it is clear at any rate that the Conference will not be lost, as the Paris negotiations were, among a tangle of hopeless futilities.

[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.]

## WOMEN HOUSE PROPERTY MANAGERS.

Housing is one of the many subjects about which people have become bitterly discouraged in the last year. So much *was* to be done. The new houses that were to be built seemed a kind of symbol of the new England which we once hoped was to arise after the war; pictures of attractive white villas with scarlet roofs on Housing Bond posters reminded us of a word which once—was it a dream?—resounded through speeches and stared from every newspaper column, the mystic word Reconstruction. But most of these houses have proved as unsubstantial as many other castles in—shall we say, in Wales? It is difficult to believe they will ever exist; and in the meantime, both those who think that the only salvation is economy in necessities, and those who think there is no salvation in the present social system at all, have lost interest in the subject.

In the meantime, however, individuals live and die, and do both in places that are equally unfit for either process. In the meantime also, those undiscourageable reformers who, whatever their ultimate ideals, believe that they must do their best with whatever material is at hand, go on working. A proof of this is a little book recently published on "House Property and Its Management,"\* and further proof will be found in a visit to some of the work described in it.

The book consists, first, of some selections from the writings of Miss Octavia Hill; secondly, of an article called "Women Managers—A Crown Estate"; thirdly, of a paper on the "Management of Municipal Houses in Amsterdam," and, lastly, of a report on House Property Management, issued by a Committee of the Women's Section of the Garden Cities and Town-Planning Association. It is the second item which is most interesting, and which may stimulate the reader to go and see with his own eyes what can be accomplished in the way of improving housing conditions even at the present time.

The estate in question lies between Albany Street (Regent's Park) and the Hampstead Road. It belongs to the Crown, and is administered by the Office of Woods. In past years most of it had been leased out for residential purposes. Lately, however, many of the leases have fallen in, and the Office, instead of disposing of the sites again for a term of years, has decided to hold and manage the estate, and for this purpose has appointed Miss Jeffery, a house property manager trained under Miss Octavia Hill, with a staff of eight women under her.

Going from the plans in Miss Jeffery's office, with their suggestion of spaciousness and beauty, to walk through the existing streets and see what has actually been accomplished, one realises the need house property managers have for an indomitable spirit; but looking from one house which is being "managed" to the one next to it, which is still held on a private lease, one feels that the little they can do immediately is probably well worth while.

There are at least three obstacles to carrying out the ideal plans. In the first place, the leases under which the existing houses and sites are let, are of different lengths and have begun at different times, so that they only fall in gradually, and some have still a good many years to run. In the second place, the Office of Woods, like every other office and individual at the present time, has to economise, and cannot build as it would. In the third place, when houses are packed tight with at least three times as many people as ought to live in them, and not even a third of those people have anywhere else to go, one can't pull them down without causing a present misery which no future good can justify.

With these obstacles in view the immediate work of Miss Jeffery and her helpers has confined itself chiefly to doing urgent sanitary repairs, whitewashing, and papering; to finding out what the tenants most want done; and to getting them to make a good use of any improvements that can be accomplished.

It is here that the "management" comes in. In old days the landlords and the tenants appear to have vied with each other in making the houses uninhabitable. The landlords have not only let the houses fall into decay but, thinking only of more

\* *House Property and its Management.* (George Allen & Unwin, Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

rent, they have in many instances built over the back yards which should give ventilation, and space to the houses. In several cases small cottages have actually been erected *in the back yards of other houses.* There is no means of getting to them, or of carrying dustbins or anything else from them, except through the other houses, and the front windows of one dwelling practically look into the "sanitary accommodation" of the others. Tenants treated in this way were naturally not well trained either in regard to hygiene or to the rights of others. They have to learn respect for their dwellings and their neighbours, and the women managers have to do what they can to help. They have to do it too, by modern methods, and not by the somewhat autocratic rule which is assumed in Miss Hill's writings, and which makes them such curious reading at the present time. It is difficult work, and the salaries paid are hardly adequate to the qualifications necessary. These qualifications include some training in the technical side of estate management, a side in which women have up till now been somewhat deficient, as well as some social science training. The London University now grants a Degree in Estate Management and a College of Estate Management has been opened in London. The opportunities for social training offered at the London School of Economics and elsewhere are already known.

Miss Jeffery believes that in spite of the low salaries for the necessary high qualifications, and in face of the difficulties and discouragements of the work itself, there are women who will welcome the opportunity of constructive employment and be glad to help the work to take its proper place in professional spheres. We hope she is right, and we advise anyone who is thinking of it to begin by purchasing the little book which is the occasion of this paper, and then, if she continues to feel interested, to write to Miss Jeffery and ask for an opportunity of visiting the Cumberland Park Estate.

I. B. O'MALLEY.

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## DAYS ON MEDICAL DUTY IN EASTERN EUROPE.

By DR. E. MARIAN LAYMAN.

Some months ago I was attached for medical work to an English Relief Unit in Serbia. We had our headquarters at Nish. This is comparatively civilised, and on our busy surgical work there I have no reason to dwell. Circumstances, however, brought me to the remoter side of Greater Serbia, in a district interesting on account of its strong Turkish colouring. Novi Pazar, the former capital of the Sanjak of that name, is, of course, a recent acquisition to the kingdom of Serbia.

I found myself one brilliant morning on the pass between Mitrovitza and Novi Pazar, an unknown life ahead for several weeks. I was to be locum tenens for the State doctor, officially a Serb, actually a Montenegrin. Much as I enjoyed that marvellous kola-drive, I regret to report that nothing happened. No shots were fired, no comitadji so much as poked out a head. Our two escorts (carrying mails) once ordered me sternly, though kindly, to cease from skipping about the road and enter my vehicle. It was a lonely spot, with plenty of cover. Anyhow, we lashed up our ponies and drove like the devil for several kilometres. They were a marvel of endurance. The two pairs romped into my new home at a brisk trot after a ten-hours' day, with steep climbs and a villainous track here or there. We clattered over "High Street" Bridge (there are twenty odd bridges in Pazar), and—I hadn't a camera. I have never imagined an opening scene in well-staged opera could be so absolutely lifelike.

We now close our shops dutifully on Sunday, hang out the national flag from every upper window on every Prasnik, and sit fezzed, cross-legged and solemn on the bare benches till permitted to re-open. The weekly Piaz is our great distraction. Albanians bring horses, donkeys, and tiny foals, surely too young to travel; Serbs the inevitable sucking pig or sow, Montenegrins, Croats, Jews, and sundry aliens bring carpets, worn as bathwraps, dazzling to the eye, wedding coats of gold and velvet, wonderful saddles and embroideries, and dump them on the cobblestones for inspection.

Afternoons in June showed our banja\* at its giddiest. Kola parties rattled and jolted out along the water course, arriving usually with one wheel off, and ponies trembling and sweating; sipped their coffee under the trees, and took the cure for hours at a time inside.

The District Hospital was singularly unconvincing at first sight. It did not at any time commend itself to me as a building suitable for the sick and wounded. From its narrow, curly staircase, hitting your head if you couldn't remember, to its Poliklinik (a dispensary, consulting room, operating theatre and dressing post in one small room), it was all wrong. As a residence pleasing enough, being an empty harem surrounded by garden and with a double wall, broken down in places. A ruined stable overlooking the street seemed eminently suitable for light repairs, an outside staircase, and, behold, an isolation ward! I proposed this tactfully on hearing we had no means of isolating any of our 1,800 residents. "Credit, we have not!" replied official authority, with gesture expressive of passionate despair. Certainly things must be difficult for a Government confronted with a new district, foreign in sympathies, ultra-conservative, and unproductive for generations past.

We dined on many lovely evenings in the rose garden, watching the sunset on near hills, and storms brewing on distant ones. I slept, at first, but little in my spotless room, owing to the attacks of numerous parasites which deserted the walls at a run when I sank into bed. But Sister Anna (I will call her so) hailed from Utrecht. Her passion for spring cleaning saved me from despair. She routed most of those bugs. This lady seemed to regard her post as a rest-cure, despite the fact that she had no time "off-duty," and had not applied for a holiday for heaven knows how long. Perhaps it was, by contrast with her experience, still fresh and moving, as recounted in broken English, of many months' bombardment in Monastir, where a Dutch Unit worked, ate, and slept in a cellar without pause.

I found myself, as medical officer, supported by Sister and boy and girl orderlies. The latter played many parts, and did it smiling. Gievko, a ruddy youth of eighteen, helped at dressings, cleaned the wards inadequately, dug up onions from our compound, raced into town for cigarette at the Ekonom's behest, and chased the younger patients (who adored him) over the flower beds. Reluctantly, he overlooked our monthly sanitary squad—but ah! this memory, indelible as horrible, shall be

\* Stone building enclosing a sulphur bath.

omitted. Nada, a beauty of sixteen, was housemaid, scrubber, waitress, interpreter, and surgical dresser for emergency operations of the gorier sort. "Gievko is a good boy," observed Sister; "but Nada, for operations! She has more nerve." And I was astonished myself at the things I required of that school-girl. Sister talked German fluently (I have no German), English a little, and three words of bad Serb. I, being English, was no better than I should be, linguistically. Nada! Gievko!! I used to bawl in despair when peasants trooped in and volubly detailed their alarming condition. Those remarkable young people would bound in, grinning, and translate village Serb (adulterated) into pigeon Serb (my own), in which mangled tongue I was accustomed to impart my daily needs.

One blazing morn, our work in full swing, there crawled up an oxkola from a mountain cottage two days' journey away. Within, a weeping half-imbecile mother, and her son, aged twelve, unconscious—unmistakable. "Sister, where's a nice place for this typhus?" I inquired. "There is not; but, he will stay?" "Oh, yes, he's coming in all right, and dying too," I muttered. "How about the landing outside our sitting-room, what?" It was Sister who carried the lad upstairs, and nursed him behind a muslin curtain barrier till he died three days later. It was Sister who looked uncommonly flushed three days later still, confessing to "much headache" and to my horror, pink-eyed as well. "I see, yes, you do look rotten, Sister. But I've just admitted that young Turk of yesterday. He must have an operation to-day. Say five o'clock? I'm sorry. But then, you see, you can be ill afterwards," I continued rather lamely. "I'm afraid he must, you know." "At five, yes, we will operate. And—I will not be ill," declared my invaluable ally. It spoils the story, but she was quite well next day, and no further typhus troubled us.

I met Sister at breakfast on my third morning in Pazar. I was not—falla Bogum—as yet on duty, my colleague and I having overlapped by a trifle of ten days owing to lack of liaison between our respective H.Q.'s. "You did not hear, last night?" inquired my Anna. "Slept pretty soundly, I'm afraid, Sister." "Last night," she gasped, gesticulating unconsciously, "One prees'ner—has—flown away!" "Good for him, Sister. How did he do it?" I cried, having paid one visit already to disused harem No. 2, a few doors down the street, now styled the prison infirmary. "How did he fly, Sister?" It appears the poor wretch had scrambled through the bars and dropped some twenty feet, weak as he was, only to be grabbed in the street and clubbed on the head by gendarmes with a butt-end of a rifle. Sister, hearing the horrid din, directed them from her upper chamber to rouse Dr. Stefanovic from his lodging, I slumbering undisturbed. I rejoiced to hear that our malefactor escaped his troubles within twelve hours, owing to a smashed skull, and heaven knows what deadly injuries besides, from the excessive vigour of his captors.

In Serbia proper I have met one or two prisoners undergoing twenty years' sentence, in leg-irons weighing twenty kilograms—to be shot at the end of it. One woman in Prokuplje (they do not manacle women) had fallen to treachery when the Bulgars swooped down and invested that town a few years ago. She fraternised, betrayed to their death a dozen of her countrymen—and lo, their brother "comitadji" burst down from the hills to which they had retired, fought like devils in their native town, and ousted the enemy from the Town Hall. I saw the walls bespattered by machine gun fire, and the repairs in progress on that fine fortress building overlooking the winding Toplitza. So the traitor met her fate ere long, and during my stay in Prokuplje was working out her sentence with execution ahead.

In Prokuplje at my Serbian colleague's request, I became dentist *pro tem.* to a prisoner in chains whom we had accepted under our care for his attack of influenza. Convalescent, our criminal must have his teeth out (the bad ones, *bien entendu*). So I approached the bed—and his guards promptly took up strategic positions by the window. Nothing would induce them to hold him. Yet that hired assassin, who had accounted for fifteen innocent strangers in a kafana, was polite, courageous, deprecating. He reminded me of a pious grocer's assistant, leg-irons and all; and I desisted from the horrid game when he assured me he'd really had enough. He too was to be shot after ten years' confinement. Who passes these appalling sentences?

(To be continued.)

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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### RESIGNATIONS FROM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

During the last few months the Executive Committee has lost two of its members who have both served the N.U. as officers, Miss Rosamond Smith and Mrs. Game. Mrs. Game has left London and found it impossible to attend meetings of the Committee. As Honorary Secretary during a very difficult period in the history of the Union, Mrs. Game not only held things together at Headquarters, but did all that she possibly could to help and encourage our Societies to come through their post-war difficulties successfully. Since her resignation as an officer, Mrs. Game has given whatever help she could to her successor, and it tempers our sense of loss to know that she will not entirely break off her connection with the N.U. Miss Rosamond Smith, both as Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, and perhaps still more as an able speaker, is well known to most of our Societies, and her quick mind and clear-cut opinions will be greatly missed on the Executive Committee. Miss Smith, who has recently been elected to the important post of acting Vice-President of the N.C.W., has been obliged to resign from the N.U. We feel, however, that Miss Smith will always retain her interest in our work, and that in many different ways she will continue to help us and the causes we have in common.

### NEW MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE.

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., and Miss Verrall, M.B.E., were co-opted to fill the vacancies created by the above resignations. Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., is a former Vice-President of the Grimsby N.U.W.S.S., and is President of the Louth W.C.A. affiliated to the N.U.S.E.C. Miss Verrall is Hon. Secretary of the Surrey, Sussex, and Hants Federation, and has also wide experience of our work.

### BY-ELECTION AT SOUTHWARK.

The N.U.S.E.C. will be taking action in the approaching By-Election in South-East Southwark, and is anxious for the help of voluntary workers who will be asked either to attend the meetings of the candidates, in order to put to them our questions to Parliamentary candidates, or to help in some other way in making our programme known to the electorate.

At the Hornsey By-Election we received a considerable measure of help from the teachers and civil servants, and hope that in Southwark an even greater number of helpers will come forward. Further particulars will be announced later.

### OFFICERS AND HEADQUARTERS STAFF AT HOME.

It has come to our notice that some former members have come to live in London and are not yet in touch with our work. It has been proposed that the Officers and Headquarters Staff should be at home one afternoon

a month to see visitors and explain the present work of the Union. The first of these gatherings will be held on December 7th, from 3.30 to 6. Teas will be provided at a small charge. We will be glad to see any members of the N.U. or other friends on this occasion.

### LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS.

We are sometimes asked what our Local Correspondents do for us. A letter has been recently received from a Local Correspondent who is keeping the flag flying for us in a Northern town. Her individual activities on our behalf excel those of many organised societies. She represents our point of view in season and out of season through the medium of other local organisations; she deals with the necessary Parliamentary correspondence; she questioned the recent candidates for Municipal honours, and canvassed for women candidates. She talked N.U.S.E.C. politics recently at a rabbit-pie supper and at a whist drive, and is now working at the Equal Franchise Memorial!

### CARDIFF W.C.A.

On November 2nd, a meeting was held at the City Hall, presided over by the Deputy Lady Mayoress, Mrs. Robinson. The speaker was Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher, wife of the Minister of Education, and the large audience listened with the greatest interest to her address.

In discussing the place of women in the life of the nation, Mrs. Fisher welcomed the refusal of women voters to think in terms of party at a time like the present when the old party system was in a state of flux, and showed that they were best serving the interests of the State by treating such subjects as child welfare, education, and housing on non-party lines. She thought that the veil of mystery that surrounded the woman voter gave her a certain advantage at the present time, for politicians are obliged to consider the unknown quantity in their constituencies.

### ANNUAL REPORTS.

Nothing encourages us more at Headquarters than to receive Annual Reports from our Societies, which indicate active work throughout the country. An excellent record of work has just been received from our Chester Society. This includes Parliamentary work, a Week-end School and Conference, Municipal work, Police Court Rota, and speakers' class. We recommend the following sentence to the notice of other Societies: "The Chester Society is now undertaking propaganda work in neighbouring places, its aim being the formation of Parliamentary Committees for Equality Work." A special Hon. Secretary has been appointed for this work.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### WOMEN AND WAR.

MADAM,—No one who was present at the meeting in the Central Hall, Westminster, on Armistice Night, can doubt that a great number of women, who differ among themselves on other political subjects, agree in the determination to try to do away with war. But, if we were all of us encouraged by joining in this demonstration, I think many of us were, at the same time, made to realise more clearly the extreme difficulties of the glorious task now offered us. Lady Astor's words about the need of a change of heart in each of us must have gone home to most of our consciences; but, if all need a change of heart, do not most people also need a change of mind?

Miss Bondfield spoke as if everyone must now realise that war is wrong, and seemed to assume that if people consent to war it is out of wickedness, or, at any rate, out of (mistaken) self-interest. But, as a matter of fact, it is not only our wicked passions that sustain war, and no intensity of conviction that war is against their interest is certain to prevent people from taking part in it. I believe that, at the present time, the hearts and souls and consciences of a vast majority of men and women will still uphold war, provided that they think it is a defensive war, and that they believe it is necessary for the protection of things, which, in their eyes, are worth the expense of human life. Of course, every individual has his or her opinion about what is dearer than life. Miss Bondfield said women ought to be willing to die rather than be protected by means which they know to be wrong. So they are, many of them! It is not difficult to bring human beings, whether men or women, to the state of mind in which they will face death rather than consent to wrong; they can even be brought to do a harder thing and face the death of their children. But most people have something which they believe it is right to defend, not only at the risk of their own and their children's lives, but at the cost, if necessary, of thousands of other lives. It may be religion, or honour, or the sacred soil of France: it may be our English ways of looking at things, or our faith to other people who depend on us, or our ideal of freedom for humanity. It may be the Union Jack or it may be the Red Flag; but whatever it is, most of us have some kind of banner which we are prepared to defend even at the expense of other people's lives. And we feel ourselves right in doing it. This seems to be the greatest difficulty in the way of permanent peace, except the will to war in our hearts of which Lady Astor spoke.

I suppose a true conversion to pacifism only takes place when people have come to feel that the things they hold dearer than life cannot be defended by doing violence on their behalf. Most of us have still a long way to travel before we reach that point. As the cause of Peace is best served by clear thinking, I think it is well to look this difficulty, as well as others, in the face.

We must think, as well as will, and meantime we can also be doing; the immediate reduction of armaments will decrease the probability of war, and it is a matter about which many can agree who cannot yet feel in their hearts that there is no cause for which they would wish their country or their class or their children to fight.

I. B. O'MALLEY.

### ORGANISING WORK FOR LEISURED WOMEN.

MADAM,—May I suggest through your paper, that women who did such excellent service by establishing hospitals during the war, may continue their good work in other directions? Women of status who have money and leisure, and would be willing to start and organise, shall I say, depôts, for the making of toys, blouses, book-bindings, and other industries, right in the centre of industrial areas. It is not enough to have these agencies at large towns contingent to smaller towns, they must start in the midst of the smaller places. For instance, a typical mining town has no industry of my description whatever, and there are scores and scores of girls who would be kept out of mischief and given a chance of trained knowledge of a particular industry. A population of 27,000 lives in the town of which I am thinking, and I feel confident, from a life-long knowledge of it, that if a woman of personality and influence worked on these lines the results for good would be infinitely more than Girl Guides, Girl Scouts, and such Societies, commendable as they are.

M. P.

### "THE OLD VIC."

MADAM,—The admirable work done by the Royal Victoria Hall, popularly called "The Old Vic," is now well known. By a very strenuous effort Miss Baylis and her colleagues have succeeded in producing Shakespeare performances and operas, continuously, on lines artistically right, at such low charges that every section of the public is able to see them. So warm has been the appreciation of these performances that it is certain that their cessation would be regarded as a disaster by the people generally, and not least by the Vic's many friends in the Dominions overseas. It is to avoid the disaster that we now venture to appeal to you.

The Old Vic has now reached a crisis in its career. Some time ago the London County Council warned the Management that it would have to put its house structurally in order. The building is an old one, and compliance with the County Council's standard will mean heavy expense. The County Council has been very forbearing, as the Vic would be the first to acknowledge with lively gratitude. Now, however, the time has come when these alterations and extensions must be carried out. If this is not done, the Vic's licence may be in serious danger. As it happens, the building is so placed that the Vic cannot extend except by disturbing its neighbour, the Morley College. Therefore, the Vic must provide a new home for that Institution. A suitable building in the near neighbourhood is available if funds can be raised to acquire it. To reinstate the Morley College, and to make the necessary alterations and extensions of the Vic premises will cost about £30,000. Of this sum the Vic is able to lay its hands on about £10,000; for the remainder it must look to the interest and generosity of the public.

In asking for help on an occasion of very great stress we feel that we are justified in appealing not only to the regular friends of the Vic (who

certainly will not fail it), but to all who are concerned for the humanities. The work of the Old Vic is moral and spiritual, no less than artistic, and there is abundant evidence of its actual influence for good.

Contributions of any amount will be thankfully received and can be sent to the Secretary of the Old Vic Appeal Fund, Royal Victoria Hall, Waterloo Road, S.E. 1. Cheques should be made payable to Sir W. P. HERRINGHAM (Chairman of the Governors).

H. H. ASQUITH, L. C. F. CAVENDISH, DUNSANY, HERBERT FISHER, JOHN W. GILBERT, A. BONAR LAW, W. MANCHESTER, ARTHUR PINERO, ETHEL SMYTH, CYRIL SOUTHWARK, J. H. THOMAS, EVERARD G. THORNE.

### UNDERSTAFFED PRISONS.

MADAM,—In your leaderette, in the issue of November 11th, it is reported that Mr. Shortt gave as a reason for locking the cells at 4.30 at Brixton, and 4.35 at Holloway, the reduction in the hours on duty for the staff. I should like to point out that before the war, when there was no question of an eight-hours day for wardresses in Holloway, the cells were locked by 4.45 p.m. One can only conclude, therefore, that it is one of the many archaic and harmful regulations in our prisons.

Would it not be a simple matter for Mr. Shortt to give the order that, when the offenders are under twenty-one years of age, their cells shall not be "locked for the night" until the lights go out at 8 p.m.? This would not do away with the solitary confinement, but it might obviate the nerve-racking knowledge that for no reason whatsoever can they get out of their cells until next morning.

LILIAS MITCHELL.

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

A PROTEST MEETING against the dismissal of Dr. Miall Smith on account of her marriage.

WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE  
CROWDALE ROAD, ST. PANCRAS.

Friday, Nov. 25th, at 7.30 p.m.

Speakers:—Prof. Winifred Gullis, O.B.E., D.Sc.; Prof. Louise McLroy, M.D., D.Sc.; Helena Normanton, B.A.; Miss Agnes Dawson; Mr. E. Leslie Burgin, LL.D.

Chair:—Mrs. Mustard.

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### COMING EVENTS.

#### LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

NOV. 18. Banbury Town Hall. Speakers: J. H. Clynes, Esq., Prof. Gilbert Murray.

NOV. 19. Newcastle Town Hall, 3 p.m. Speaker: Rev. Suddart Kennedy.

NOV. 22. Guildford Guildhall, 7 p.m. Speaker: J. F. Green, Esq., M.P.

North Shields Memorial Wesleyan Church. Speaker: Right Hon. J. M. Robinson.

NOV. 23. Scarborough, Municipal Hall, 8 p.m. Speaker: Frederick Whelen, Esq.

NOV. 25. Croydon, North End Hall, 8 p.m. Speaker: Right Hon. Lord Robert Cecil, K.C., M.P.

#### LEAGUE OF THE CHURCH MILITANT.

NOV. 15. Little Aston Vicarage, 8 p.m. "The Lambeth Resolutions and the Ministrations of Women." Speaker: Miss C. Ellis.

NOV. 21. Castle Cary Vicarage, 2.30 p.m. "The Admission of Women to Holy Orders." Speaker: Mrs. Marston Acres.

#### WESTMINSTER COALITION LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

NOV. 21. St. Andrew's Hall, Ashley Place, S.W.1. "Syndicalism." Speaker: Mr. Marshall J. Pike (of the B.C.U.).

#### WOMEN'S ENGINEERING SOCIETY.

NOV. 22. At 26, George Street, Hanover Square, 6.15 p.m. "Women and the Conquest of the Air." Lecturer: Miss Mary Abbott.

#### FAMILY ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE.

NOV. 15. At Barnes, W.C.A. Speaker: Miss Lilian Dawson.

NOV. 23. At Highgate, Women's Co-operative Guild, 34, Claremont Road, N. 6. Speaker: Mrs. Barbara Drake.

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## COMING EVENTS (Continued)

## PIONEER CLUB.

NOV. 22. 8.15 p.m. Debate: "That Englishwomen do not adapt themselves easily to overseas conditions." Opened by Mrs. Bright. Chair: Mrs. E. M. Field.

## INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CLUB.

NOV. 23. 9. Grafton Street, Piccadilly, 8.15 p.m. Subject: "Psycho-Analysis." Speaker: Mr. William Brown, M.D., D.Sc. Chairman: Dr. Christine Murrell.

## EDINBURGH W.C.A.

NOV. 24. At Gartshore Hall, 116, George Street, 7.30 p.m. Social evening. Guest, Mrs. William Fyfe.

NOV. 25. Morningside Parish Church Hall, Newbattle Terrace, 8 p.m. Mock Trial. Chair: G. D. Murray, Esq., K.C., M.P. Tickets, 1s., 2s., and 3s. Lady Yester's Parish Church Hall, Infirmary Street, 8 p.m. Public meeting: "League of Nations." Mrs. Hannay, O.B.E., J.P. Chair: Prof. Kemp Smith, M.A., D.Phil.

## KENSINGTON S.E.C.

NOV. 23. Mrs. Claude Taylor and the Executive Committee at home at 1, Pembroke Studios, Pembroke Gardens, at 3 p.m. Chair: Miss Picton-Tarbert, O.B.E. Speaker: Miss Macadam, M.A., on "Special Questions and Legislation affecting Women."

## WOMEN'S GUILD OF EMPIRE.

NOV. 22. Morley Hall, Hanover Square, 8 p.m. Speakers: Miss Decima Moore, Mrs. Flora Drummond.

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

NOV. 21. At 144, High Holborn, W.C.1. 7 p.m. "Fairy Tales: a General Outline of Comparative Religion." Speaker: Mrs. Charles Beatty, C.B.E. Chair: Mrs. Flowers.

NOV. 25. At the Working Men's College, Crowndale Road, N.W., 7.30 p.m. Protest meeting against the dismissal of Dr. Miall Smith on account of her marriage. Speakers: Prof. Louise McIlroy, M.D., D.Sc., Prof. Winifred Cullis, D.B.E., D.Sc., Helena Normanton, B.A., Miss Agnes Dawson, Mr. E. Leslie Burgin, LL.D. Chair: Mrs. Mustard.

## BRITISH FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN.

NOV. 22. A dinner will be held at the Plane Tree Restaurant, Great Russell Street, W.C.1, at which Miss Eileen Power, M.A., F.R.Hist.S., will be the principal guest.

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

NOV. 21. At Gray's, Women's Co-operative Guild, 7.30 p.m. Lantern Lecture: "State Purchase." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell.

NOV. 22. At Clapham, Adult Education, 8 p.m. "State Purchase the Solution of the Drink Problem."

NOV. 23. At Worthing, National Council of Women, 3 p.m. "The Case for State Purchase." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell.

NOV. 24. At Hampstead Garden Suburb. Women's Co-operative Guild, 3 p.m. "State Purchase of the Liquor Trade." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell.

## N.U.S.E.C.

NOV. 18. Harrogate. "The Present Economic Position of Women." Speaker: Miss Macadam.

## MEDICAL, Etc.

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PUBLIC SPEAKING.—Miss MARION MCCARTHY. Specially arranged Course of Instruction ensuring rapid efficiency. Langham 2630.—For particulars apply 16, Hallam-street, Portland-place, W.1.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

JUST OUT, MRS. SWANWICK'S NEW BOOK, "Women in the Socialist State" (International Bookshops Ltd. 3s. 6d. net). *The Manchester Guardian* writes on Nov. 8th: "Mrs. Swanwick's essay is based on a practical desire to get the best co-operation of the sexes in a co-operative form of society. It is always as precise in thought as it is concise in expression; Mrs. Swanwick would make an apt instructress in the art of writing short books."

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston-square, S.W. 6.30, Miss Maude Royden. "The God Within Us."

THE PIONEER CLUB has re-opened at 12, Cavendish Place. Town members, £5 5s.; Country and Professional members, £4 4s. Entrance fee in abeyance (pro. tem.).

THE STATE AND SEXUAL MORALITY, 1s. 9d., post free. Order this constructive Report from Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, Orchard House, Great Smith-street, S.W.1.

WOMEN'S GUILD OF EMPIRE. 8 p.m., Tuesday, November 22nd, Morley Hall, Hanover Square. Miss Decima Moore, Mrs. Flora Drummond.

CONSERVATIVE WOMEN'S REFORM ASSOCIATION, 48, Dover-street, W.1. Annual Ball, Hyde Park Hotel, November 30th.—Full particulars from the Secretary.

AT CHRISTMAS.—Civic Study Tour in Paris. Organised by the Civic Education League. Making a survey of social conditions, Parliamentary and Municipal buildings, conditions of industry, art institutions, &c.; also the environs of Paris. Leaving London December 27th, for 14 days.—For full particulars write Miss Margaret Tatton, Civic Education League, 65, Belgrave-road, S.W.1.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 58, Victoria Street, S.W.1. Vic. 3542. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Posts found; employers suited; expert advice and information on training and openings.

## PREPAID CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS 1d. a WORD, 6d. EXTRA FOR BOX NUMBER.