

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

Blind St. Paul's.

There is a curious magnetism about St. Paul's Cathedral which every New Year's Eve draws many thousands of Londoners to its vicinity. They flow in from the outer and inner suburbs, by tram and on foot. Some bring bottles of beer and flagons of whisky wherewith to drink the New Year in. Some are of the degree which would not be seen dead beside a bottle. Some wear paper hats, some not. But whatever their motive or degree, they come in their hundreds of thousands, shoulder to shoulder, breast to breast, surging through the tortuous approaches to St. Paul's Churchyard, and surrounding the Cathedral till it rises once more like a rocky island of Portland stone in the perpetual motion and murmur of the sea. And having come, listened to the chiming of midnight, danced as best they can—a few elbowed steps of ragtime—or (if they are of the kind which does such things in public) hoarsely bawled a snatch of topical song, they melt away—back on foot or by tram to slums and suburbs—leaving behind them many scraps of paper, a few broken bottles, a *posse* of tired and tolerant policemen, and in the air a strange atmosphere of baffled expectancy. As though they came expecting something—something perhaps from within themselves—all the same, something vaguely connected with St. Paul's. But St. Paul's, throughout all their aimless and seemingly unsatisfying performance, remains blind, deaf, and dumb. No door is opened to them, no light shines upon them, no music sounds for them. Nothing comes out from St. Paul's to meet those inarticulate aspirations which the peculiarly significant tick of the old year's last midnight so irrationally kindles. No sight nor sound for a moment focusses the multitudinous thoughts of that many-headed mob and gives expression to its unity. And yet, as they came last year, and the year before, so, doubtless, they will come next year and the year after. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that St. Paul's is displaying in this matter a very deplorable lack of imagination. What would its neighbour, St. Martin's, make of a similar occasion?

A Fair Field and No Favour.

The Trades Union Congress has determined, during the coming year, to undertake a campaign of propaganda and organization having as its object the increase of trade unionism among women. The necessity for such action is demonstrated by a comparison of the percentage decrease in trade union membership since its 1920 high-water mark. Male trade unionism has declined from a total of 6,994,000 to 4,720,000, a decrease of 33 per cent. Female trade unionism declined from 1,340,000 to 811,000, a decrease of 47 per cent. Nor do these figures tell the whole story. For in the earlier period, the figure quoted

for women embodies a smaller percentage of the total number employed than is the case with men. The scheme now adopted by the General Council of the T.U.C. involves the intensive cultivation of the industrial areas of Great Britain, district by district, beginning with Manchester. We wish it all success. One of the contributory causes to the depression of women's earnings by employers and to the cold-shouldering of them by organized male labour, is the relative reluctance with which in the past they have combined for the attainment and defence of standard conditions. But we would add to our good wishes for success, a very strong appeal to the Trade Union Congress. If women are to emerge in the industrial arena as disciplined competitors with men, who will accept no favour and engage in no undercutting or "unprofessional conduct"—*they must be accorded a fairer field for their wage-earning activities than they have as yet enjoyed.* If the male trade unionist has learned anything from the history of wage movements, he should have learned that over a long period, the larger supply and demand conditions of labour are a determining factor. From this he may deduce the fact that to confine a numerous class of workers to a narrowly restricted field of competition is to ensure that disorganization and exploitation will be a feature of their existence in that field. If the new campaign is to be permanently successful barriers to the employment of women must be removed, and taboos must be lifted, anti-women prejudices must be dispelled. Economic expediency combines with human justice in support of such a demand.

The I.L.P. and a Living Wage.

The I.L.P. council has issued a "call to action" for 1926, which embodies its conception of what should be the immediate aims of the Labour Party. Prominent among them is the demand for a national "living wage" which should make the primary needs of the workers a first charge on the product of industry. This demand is coupled with the proposal (indeed how else could it pretend definite and practical shape?) for some form of family endowment. The form recommended by the council involves the distribution by the State from the proceeds of direct taxation, of allowances proportionate to the number of family dependents—thus securing at one blow a measure both of horizontal and vertical redistribution of income. It is further suggested that the Labour Party should set up a commission to determine the size of such a living wage in relation to prices, and that the resultant programme should become the keystone of its immediate practical policy. This "call to action" will be submitted to the I.L.P. conference at Easter for endorsement. We congratulate the I.L.P. council on its vision with regard to the implications of a "living wage"—a vision which unfortunately does not as yet seem to be shared by the Trade Union elements in the Labour Party. We sincerely hope, however, that the preference of I.L.P. members for the form of family allowances indicated in the afore-mentioned manifesto (a preference which is understandable and logically in accordance with Labour Party principles) will not tempt them to shut their eyes and ears to the immediate possibilities of achieving similar results by the alternative methods of national insurance or the industrial pool. The policy of the British Labour Movement, not excluding the trade unions, has always been characterized by a certain readiness to compromise with facts and political possibilities for the attainment of concrete gains and the immediate improvement of working-class standards. We suggest that here too a compromise may be offered whose acceptance will be conducive to the health and well-being of many thousands of working-class women and children—and that only a very stiff-necked devotion to theoretical perfection would counsel its rejection.

Teachers in Council.

The National Union of Women Teachers, which opened its annual conference in Bristol on 29th December, showed throughout its multifarious deliberations a vigorous militant spirit combined with profound solicitude for the well-being of the schoolchild. The first was symptomized by the unanimity with which the conference passed resolutions condemning the dismissal of married women teachers and calling upon the Government to extend the franchise to women on the same terms as men. The latter inspired discussion on the shortcomings of popular cinema entertainments. Both united to call forth unequivocal and uncompromising hostility to the policy embodied in Lord Eustace Percy's recent ill-fated Circular 1371. The proceedings opened with an address by Miss Jackson, of Manchester, who was installed as President for the coming year. The past year had, she pointed out, been fruitful in its lessons to women. Among such fruit she indicated the findings of the Burnham Committee, the judgment relating to married women teachers, the mutilation of the Equal Guardianship Bill, the failure of an Equal Franchise Bill and of Lord Astor's Bill to enable peeresses to sit in the House of Lords. All these things, she added, showed the continued necessity for the organization of women. Women in the professions, in business, in industries, in the home, were fighting to a common end. Each needed the support of the other, and only their combined efforts would bring about reforms that were of national rather than sectional import. Such was the spirit of the N.U.W.T. Conference.

A Bankrupt Baronet.

We have formerly had occasion to call our readers' attention to the dubious activities of a certain unworthy baronet named Sir Broderick Hartwell. This gentleman was accustomed from time to time to circularize the public, inviting the investment in maritime ventures having as object the supply of whisky to American bootleggers. The matter was so arranged that Sir Broderick Hartwell's vessel transferred the shipment of alcohol at sea, and outside the limits of the U.S.A. Government's jurisdiction—actual breach of the U.S.A. law being thus left to American nationals. In connection with such enterprise Sir Broderick's circulars were in the habit of foreshadowing, for the benefit of those invited to participate, enormous profits accompanied by negligible risks. But woe upon those who were led by such "glittering prizes" to participate in this attempt to undermine the laws of a friendly Great Power! And woe upon Sir Broderick! Six shipments reached their goal and secured their dividend. A seventh, the heaviest of all, met with the nemesis which it deserved. A mutinous captain, a providential ruffling of the waters of the Atlantic, and the greater vigilance of the U.S.A. prohibition officers combined to deprive Sir Broderick and his partners of their unjust reward. Last week the Official Receiver informed a meeting of creditors that the total liabilities of the now bankrupt baronet amounted to about £250,000—the approximate value of his ill-fated seventh shipment. We have derived much satisfaction from this tale of misfortune, and we sincerely hope that Sir Broderick Hartwell will emerge from it only with difficulty and public discredit.

The Women's University Settlement.

Miss Edith L. Calkin, B.A., London University (Bedford College), has recently been appointed Warden of the Women's University Settlement, Nelson Square. In her new appointment Miss Calkin has succeeded the three remarkable Newnham women who for over a quarter of a century have directed the activities of this pioneer settlement. Miss Margaret Sewell, happily, is still closely associated with the settlement as chairman of its committee. To Miss Sewell we owe the beginnings of the movement for training workers for social administration, and she recently contributed a most valuable chapter on the early experiments on training in the book recently published, *The Equipment of the Social Worker*, by Miss Elizabeth Macadam. When reasons of health brought about her resignation her friend, Helen Gladstone, took her place, and though her official connection was severed some time ago her interest continued until her death, recently reported in these columns. Last of the three came Miss Sharpley, who had been associated with the place and with the new efforts to train workers almost since she left college. She, too, has been obliged to lay down her work on account of her health, but we hope that, freed from the burden of administration, she will turn her unique knowledge and experience into account in other directions.

Buy a Broom.

Interesting lights on modern social life are sometimes visible in the most unexpected places. We do not propose, at present at least, to enter the field of controversy on the safeguarding of certain industries, though the quality of the supply and the price of such articles as brooms, brushes, gloves, cutlery, lace, silk, and embroidery is one which obviously concerns women, but buried in the reports of the different committees appointed by the Board of Trade in accordance with the terms of the memorandum relating to procedure and inquiries in connection with the safeguarding of industries we come across some significant social facts. In the report of the Committee on brooms and brushes, of which Lady Trustram Eve was a member, we read that the demand for household brooms and brushes has either diminished or, at any rate, not expanded in proportion to the growth of the population. We hasten to explain that this is not attributed to an increase in married women's work, or to the shortage of domestic help, but to the wide introduction of carpet sweepers, vacuum cleaners, and—to the diminished use of carpets. On the other hand, we are informed that the use of the tooth brush has shown great "expansion" in recent years. This is partially ascribed to cleanly habits acquired by men serving in the Forces, but mainly to campaigns by educational and health authorities. The "consumption" of hair brushes according to some witnesses, on the other hand, was also on the wane owing to the universal fashion of shingling, but this fact is not alluded to in the report. The report of the Committee on gloves, of which Lady Askwith was a member, tells us that here, too, fashion is changing, and that the "consumption" of gloves, both leather and fabric, is less than in pre-war days. We await with interest the report of the Committee, on which Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan serves, which under the same procedure is considering the lace, embroidery, and silk industry.

A New Programme at the Guildhouse.

Between now and Easter Sunday the "Five Quarters" Sunday afternoon meetings at the Eccleston Square Guildhouse are to be devoted to "Some Suggested Reforms." The suggestions cover a wide area: "The Reform of the Cinema," as expounded by the Hon. Ivor Montague, "Street Laws," by Miss Neilans, "Traffic," by Sir Henry Maybury, "Fundamentals of Drink Reform," by Lord Astor, "Birth Control," by Professor Julian Huxley, "Family Endowment," by Miss Rathbone. We have not quoted them all, for want of space—though all are worth quoting. But we have quoted enough to show that the Guildhouse standard is being well maintained, and that those persons who spend their week-ends within easy reach of Eccleston Square are much to be congratulated.

A Brilliant Woman Accountant.

Out of 233 candidates in a recent final examination for incorporated accountants, a woman, Miss G. E. M. Dodsworth, of York, headed the list and carried off the first prize and first certificate of merit. We congratulate her on her success and offer her all good wishes in the career which lies ahead of her.

An Interesting U.S.A. Appointment.

The December issue of *Equal Rights* contains news of an interesting political appointment in the U.S.A. For the first time in history the Speaker of the House of Representatives has appointed a woman, Miss Mildred Reeves, as his secretary.

Our Future Plans.

We have an interesting announcement to make in connection with next week's issue. Some of our readers may have read the series of articles recently contributed to *The Times* by Lord Apsley, describing his experiences as a settler in Australia under the Group Settlement Scheme. It may be remembered that Lady Apsley joined him in his experiment, and that as "Mr. and Mrs. James" they shared the lives of pioneer settlers on the undeveloped lands of Western Australia. Lady Apsley will contribute to our columns an account, from the point of view of the settler's wife, of life under these somewhat primitive conditions. And the first of her two articles will appear next week.

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.

THE BIRTHDAY OF THE LEAGUE.

By L. P. MAIR.

The League of Nations celebrates its sixth birthday on 10th January, 1926. Its sixth year has been more crowded than any previous one with achievements in all the many fields to which its work extends.

1925 has seen the biggest step towards real peace in Europe since the conclusion of the war in the Treaties of Locarno. Those treaties could not have been made if the League had not been clearing the ground for them for years in its discussions of the security problem; they bear the imprint of the League at every turn; most important of all, they are bound up with the entry into the League of Germany, whose absence from its discussions has been its most serious handicap up till now. Locarno dealt with arbitration and security. Geneva is dealing with disarmament. An expert commission has set to work to prepare concrete schemes for a world disarmament conference; and meantime a beginning has been made with the conclusion of a Convention on the control of the arms traffic drawn up in May.

Two disputes have been settled by the League this year. One arose from an insignificant frontier incident between Greece and Bulgaria. Here the prompt action of the League stopped in a few days what might have become a general Balkan conflagration. The other was the long-drawn-out dispute between Great Britain and Turkey over the Iraq frontier, which the Council finally fixed at its December session.

In the economic field the reconstruction of Austria has been brought to a successful conclusion, while that of Hungary and the settlement of Greek refugees continue to prosper. A new scheme has been launched for the settlement of Armenian

refugees on a suitable tract of land in the Caucasus by means of a small fund to be raised by the League.

The Health Section opened a bureau at Singapore in February, where news of epidemics in the Far East is collected and circulated by wireless. Its value is already so much appreciated that it is now proposed to set up a similar office on the West Coast of Africa.

The humanitarian work of the League is continually expanding; as fast as one problem is dealt with another arises. The big new piece of work done this year was the drafting of a Slavery Convention, which provides for drastic measures against the slave trade, the gradual abolition of slavery in all its forms, and certain restrictions on the employment of forced labour for private profit. Earlier in the year the Opium Conventions represent an important step towards the final suppression of this abuse. In one Convention the nations promise to abolish opium-smoking as soon as production is sufficiently controlled to do away with the risk of smuggling, while the other sets up a Central Board of Control to supervise international transactions in manufactured drugs. The League recently took over the work of the International Association for the Protection of Children, and has set on foot a number of inquiries into international problems affecting children, such as the protection of children stranded in foreign countries. Another new development this year is the establishment at Paris of an Institute of Intellectual Co-operation, whose work is to promote contact between Universities and other intellectual workers in the various countries.

THE DECEMBER MEETING OF THE LEAGUE COUNCIL.

By K. D. COURTNEY.

The meeting of the Council of the League of Nations at Geneva between 9th and 18th December was one of the most important sessions so far held. The Mosul question naturally dominated the discussions of the Council, but there were other issues before it of far-reaching importance—the Græco-Bulgarian dispute, the initiation of the preparatory work of the Disarmament Conference, and the Conference on general economic problems agreed upon at the last Assembly.

Altogether there were thirty-five items on the agenda, including reports on Austrian and Hungarian finance, the question of the Polish munitions depot in Danzig, and the appointment of the League High Commissioner, whose term of office expires in February, 1926; the frontier between Kenya Colony and the mandated territory of Tanganyika; the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry to investigate opium growing in Persia, and the possibility of substituting alternative crops; and the settlement of Armenian refugees. This catalogue, which is far from exhausting the list, gives some idea of the variety and the extent of the subjects dealt with by the League, and of the importance of following its discussions.

There is space here only to touch upon one or two of the more outstanding decisions arrived at by the December Council. The Mosul question has been so fully reported in the papers, and has been the subject of such widespread discussions that it will suffice to remind readers that the Council had before it the advisory opinions of the Permanent Court of International Justice on certain points it had submitted to that body. The International Court on 21st November expressed the opinion (1) That the decision to be taken by the Council would be binding on the parties concerned, and would constitute a definite determination of the frontiers between Turkey and Iraq; and (2) That the decision to be taken must be unanimous, the votes of the interested parties not being taken into account. As all the world knows, the Council resolved to act in accordance with the opinion of the Court, and after ten days of negotiation and attempts to reach an agreement between Great Britain and Turkey, it came to a unanimous decision to award the disputed Mosul area to Iraq, adopting the so-called Brussels line as the frontier. The Turkish representative had already declared that Turkey would not accept the award, and, indeed, the Turkish delegation absented itself from the meeting at which the award was given. The next steps in this difficult problem now lie with Great Britain and Turkey.

As regards the Græco-Bulgarian incident, after hearing the statements of the Greek and Bulgarian representatives, and the

conclusions of Sir Horace Rumbold's Commission, which had already been before the public, the Council adjourned the subject pending the elaboration of a report by the "Rapporteur," Sir Austin Chamberlain, and two members of the Council appointed to assist him. A week later the matter was given a final hearing, and the recommendations of the Rumbold Commission were approved almost in their entirety by the Council. It will be remembered that the Commission had specified the payment by Greece to Bulgaria of a considerable sum in respect of material and moral reparation. Count Kalfoff, the Bulgarian Foreign Minister, accepted the ruling of the Council. M. Rendès, the Greek Representative, accepted the general principle, but was silent on the point of payment. "It is, nevertheless, much to be hoped," writes the *Times* correspondent, "that there will be no equivocation by the Hellenic Government."

Among the other more important matters discussed by the Council there remain the decision as to the formation of a Committee to prepare the work for the Economic Conference agreed upon by the Assembly in September, and perhaps most important of all the proposals in regard to a disarmament conference. At a public meeting on 15th December, the Council gave its approval to the proposal to hold an Economic Conference, and agreed upon the composition of a Preparatory Committee. This will be of a technical character, consisting not of Government representatives, but of experts whose task will be to collect information and perhaps draft rules of procedure for the conference proper. It is expected that the preliminary work will be over before the next meeting of the Assembly.

The proposals in regard to a Disarmament Conference are a little more complicated and deserve a word or two of explanation. In one of the resolutions of the last Assembly the Council was invited to make a preparatory study with a view to a conference for the reduction and limitation of armaments to be convened when the conditions of general security appeared to be sufficiently assured. Locarno gave a fresh impetus to the disarmament movement, and a committee of the Council was appointed upon which Great Britain was represented by Lord Cecil to discuss the composition and the programme of the proposed Preparatory Committee on Disarmament.

Some difficulty was found in reconciling the views of the French and British representatives, but this was ultimately achieved, and the Council finally approved the plans for the constitution of a Preparatory Commission which is to do the necessary preliminary work before a conference for the reduction of armaments can be called.

Invitations to sit on the Preparatory Commission will be sent to the United States, Soviet Russia, Germany, Poland, Rumania, Yugoslavia, the Netherlands, Finland, and Bulgaria, as well as the ten States which are represented on the Council; and all members of the League will have the right to send any suggestions or views in writing. It is hoped that the invitations will be sent out before the end of the coming week, and the first sitting of the Commission is fixed for 15th February. The instructions to the Preparatory Commission are put in the form of questions, and one of them is: "Is it practicable to limit the ultimate war-strength of a country or must any measure of disarmament be confined to the peace strength?" Another question is: "By what standard is it possible to measure the armaments of one country against the armaments of another, i.e. effectiveness, period of service, equipment, expenditure, etc.?" In yet another there is mention of the density and character of railways, durability of frontiers, the time necessary to transfer peace armaments into war armaments, and the amount of security which any nation may expect to obtain from others in virtue of treaties or other contracts. Furthermore, a questionnaire is to be circulated to all Governments on the question of controlling the private manufacture of arms.

As the correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* points out: It is possible that examination of the various sides of the problem may still create great difficulties and cause some delay in convening a disarmament conference, but the fact remains that now a special League organ exists, composed of responsible representatives of at least 17 Governments, entrusted with the exclusive task of preparing a disarmament conference.

The appointment of this Commission may prove to be the most far-reaching decision of a Council distinguished by the amount and by the importance of the business before it.

THE STORY OF MRS. STAN HARDING.

For some years the newspaper-reading public has been aware—vaguely—of the story of Mrs. Stan Harding. Indeed, Mrs. Harding herself, ceaselessly pressing for redress, is a familiar figure in the lobby of the House of Commons—a sensitive, almost emaciated figure, with occasionally the nervous gesture and hunted glance of one who has at some time or another descended into hell. It was known that she had been the victim of Bolshevik cruelty in some peculiarly distressing form, that diplomatic notes had emanated from the late Lord Curzon on her behalf, and that an indemnity had been extracted from a reluctant Soviet. Now, with the publication of her book, *The Underworld of State* (George Allen & Unwin, 6s.), we get the whole story, from start to finish, diplomatic notes, contemporary Press comments, and all. Breathlessly we read it from its first page to its last, oblivious of distraction and intolerant of interruption. And having done so we rule out of our fiction list any further contributions by Oppenheim and Le Queux. They are no longer necessary. Why write fiction on such subjects when it is so far overshadowed by the gloom and horror and devilry and ramifications of recorded fact?

Very briefly indicated, the bare bones of the story take the following shape: Mrs. Stan Harding was a free-lance journalist, at times a painter, and on her own confession one of the world's wandering vagabonds. Her wanderings, which took her to many corners of the earth, including China and Fitzroy Sq., eventually led her to post-war Berlin, a depressing and disillusioned city, where she developed a strong political interest combined with radical sympathies which bred in her a desire to visit Bolshevik Russia and if possible to be the new experiment in proletarian freedom. Thus, having obtained the necessary permit and some valuable introductions, she set off in the capacity of accredited correspondent to the *New York World*. It is at this point that the sinister and malignant figure of Marguerite Harrison emerges. Mrs. Harrison was (and presumably still is) an agent of the American Secret Service, who was employed after the November revolution to act as an Anti-Bolshevik spy. In the course of her operations, conducted under the cloak of journalism, she was spotted and arrested by the Soviet Government, but subsequently released by them, their condition being that she should enter their service and act on their behalf as spy upon the goings out and comings in of foreign visitors to Russia. In this capacity she was on one occasion employed to share a room with Mrs. Bertrand Russell and on another occasion to accompany an unsuspecting British Labour Delegation down the Volga. But Mrs. Harrison chose to pursue, in her own ways, the cause of anti-Bolshevism. Instead of denouncing to her new employers

the misdeeds of their enemies, she chose rather to denounce the faked misdeeds of their actual or potential friends. Among these latter she included Mrs. Harding, already personally known to her, with the result that immediately upon entering Russia, Mrs. Harding was subjected to official surveillance, finally arrested, condemned to death, and held in captivity for six months. By the end of that time Mrs. Harrison had been herself unmasked and re-arrested. Meanwhile Mrs. Harding, released as a diplomatic preliminary to the Anglo-Russian trade agreement of 1920, returned to England to tell the tale. Mrs. Harrison was subsequently released for similar reasons of State, since when she has enjoyed the protection of her Government and the appreciation of the American public. So much for the bare bones. The bulk of the book, its blackest horror and most absorbing interest, centres of course upon Mrs. Harding's six-months' period of imprisonment—upon the methods of the famous Tche Ka or Extraordinary Commission, under whose auspices she was imprisoned without trial and subject to continual passages of cross-examination—upon the conditions of solitary confinement in the abominable Lubianka prison—upon the more cheerful and adventurous promiscuity of the Boutirka—and upon the physical hardships of cold, famine, and dirt which were the lot of all Russians during that desperate autumn of 1920, but which were reflected with magnified severity upon the Soviet's multitudinous and indiscriminate prisoners. We are left wondering how Mrs. Harding's body stood the rigour of it and how her mental balance survived the repeated temptation to follow Mrs. Harrison's easier alternative by acquiescing in a trumped-up confession of anti-Bolshevik activities and promising in future to act on behalf of a new master.

And now, what are we to make of it all? There is no doubt as to what Mrs. Harding intends us to make of it. Her record is not published in despite of Bolshevik tyranny. Without cherishing affectionate remembrances of the Tche Ka and its ways, she nevertheless is able to regard them with a certain amount of objective tolerance. "The Soviet took over these methods from the Tsarist régime," she writes, "and finding itself much less secure than its imperial predecessors, applied them on a far more extensive scale. Any Government which attempts to enforce its rule on a hostile majority is obliged to rely on terrorism, on numberless spies and provocators, and on all sorts of shabby underground work." That Russia during the early years of the Bolshevik régime degenerated into a land where one half the population spied on and intermittently denounced the other half is a fact which has struck many observers. As a fellow prisoner of Mrs. Harding remarked: "The chiefs of the old Tsarist police were more accurate; they didn't arrest the wrong people to the same extent . . . above all, the Tche Ka shoots much more freely. No proof is needed, suspicion is enough. The terror is far greater, so that people who would have scorned to save themselves by betraying others in the old days do so now. One must trust no one now that treachery is a civic duty." It is therefore the method of the secret service that Mrs. Harding is up against; the secret service of the Soviet Government, its combined devilry and absurdity exaggerated by a precarious tyranny; the secret service of the U.S.A. with its continued patronage of the unsavoury Mrs. Marguerite Harrison; and our own secret service, analogous in its unprinciples, but fortunately less disturbing to our daily lives and personal relations than that of our Eastern neighbour—our own service, whose existence renders it impossible for us to take official cognizance of the beam in America's eye—Mrs. Harding's book is in fact an indictment of the nastiest and most poisonous methods of modern warfare and interim peace. She wants us all to know about it because in her opinion those who tolerate its existence and finance its activities are not, like the executioner of St. Joan, "guiltless of the death of the soul."

M. D. S.

WOMEN IN 1926.

See the "WOMAN'S LEADER". 1d. Weekly.

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WOMEN IN 1925.

DAME LOUISA ALDRICH-BLAKE, D.B.E., M.S., M.D.

By L. MARTINDALE, M.D. B.S. (Lond.).

The passing of the Dean of the London (R.F.H.) School of Medicine for Women, on 28th December, 1925, will be felt by thousands of her friends, colleagues, students, and patients, as a great personal loss, for as one said "We shall never see her like again."

Only a great surgeon wins such a reputation for brilliant skill, calm judgment, courage, and resource, and in Dame Louisa we recognized not only all these qualities, but in addition the sterling virtues of sincerity, purity of mind and motive consideration for others, and a great loveliness. She was directly descended from Thomas Aldrich, High Sheriff of Suffolk in 1699, and the niece of the late Admiral R. D. Aldrich, and first-cousin of Rear-Admiral Pelham Aldrich.

She was educated at Cheltenham College, and the University of London. As a student she was brilliant. She was the first woman to obtain the degree of Master of Surgery. In the M.B. she took 1st class honours both in medicine and obstetric medicine. In the B.S., 1st class honours in surgery with marks qualifying for the Gold Medal. After qualifying she became Surgical Registrar and Anaesthetist at the Royal Free Hospital, and was afterwards House Surgeon, Clinical Assistant, Senior Assistant to Out-patients, and Surgeon to the New Hospital for Women (Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital). She was also Surgeon to the Canning Town Women's Settlement Hospital, and Consulting Surgeon to the New Sussex Hospital, Brighton, and later Consulting Surgeon (with beds) to the Royal Free Hospital.

In 1914 she was created Dean of the London School of Medicine for Women, and from that till the present time has exercised an important influence on many generations of women medical students. It must be remembered that hers was one of the two largest schools of medicine in London, St. Bartholomew's being the other school showing this distinction.

During the war Dame Louisa spent three of her vacations abroad. In the Christmas vacation of 1914 she helped in the work of the unit at Château Tourlaville, near Cherbourg, whither numbers of Belgian and French sick and wounded soldiers were being brought by sea. In August and September, 1915, she went out under the Anglo-French Red Cross to the Hospital at Royanmont for French soldiers, which was under the charge of Miss Ivens, M.S., and a staff of British Medical Women and Nurses. She relieved Miss Ivens of a good deal of operating work, returning again the following year.

In 1916 she heard through the Royal Society of Medicine that medical women would be welcomed for service with the R.A.M.C. On circularizing the women on the Medical Register she received many offers for service, and 80 women were sent to hospitals in Malta in August and September, serving there or in Egypt and Salonika till the end of the war. In the October of that year she was informed by the War Office that at least fifty more medical women were required for service in hospitals in England with the R.A.M.C. She again circularized the graduates, this time only those qualifying during the preceding ten years, and as a result large numbers of young graduates were appointed and served until these additional hospitals were finally closed down.

Dame Louisa's work and influence for good will only be fully realized as the years go by. She was a great Dean, administrating with wisdom, justice, and vision.

She was a brilliant surgeon, operating with great skill and judgment; not only at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, on the Honorary Surgical Staff of which she served for thirty years, but also at the Royal Free Hospital and at the New Sussex Hospital, Brighton, and during the war at the W.A.A.C. Hospital at Isleworth, and at the Herbert Hospital, Woolwich.

She was original, initiating several new methods of surgical technique, and although her busy life left little time for publishing, the articles that she has contributed from time to time to various medical works and journals will leave their mark on the surgical literature of this country.

The love and admiration she had won for herself from rich and poor, young and old, were wonderful tributes to the strength and greatness of her character.

Those who were present will never forget the ovations she received at the Royal Free Hospital dinners, and again at the Jubilee Dinner of the London (R.F.H.) School of Medicine for Women at the Guildhall on 24th December, 1924. The entire

(Continued at foot of next column.)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MATTERS.

By BERTHA MASON.

THE PARISH PUMP.

We have repeatedly drawn attention in our articles on Local Government matters to the lack of interest shown by so many Local Government electors to the needs of the community of which they are a part, and to their obligations as citizens. We submit that this indifference is largely due to ignorance of the duties and responsibilities of electors and also to the failure to realize how enormously the health, happiness, and well-being of the inhabitants of a district are affected by its Local Government. A striking illustration of this is shown by the following story which appeared in a daily paper a few weeks ago.

On the 19th December, 1925, so the story goes, in a little English village, a parish poll was taken for or against a public water supply, 74 persons voted in favour and 288 against. There are in this village numerous wells which have recently been tested and found to be polluted, one of which supplies the village school with 235 scholars. About two years ago a new school-master was appointed. Shortly after he took up his duties he suspected the school well. It was tested, and it was found that refuse of all kinds was draining into it; the well was then closed. Attempts to get a pure water supply for the school have failed. At present the school house has no supply at all. Many of the cottages are in a like position. The nearest water supply to the school is a pump known as "The Parish Pump" on the roadside, which bears, so we understand, a notice that the water must not be used for drinking purposes. It has been condemned for 18 months, but it is the only water supply for a number of houses in the immediate locality. There are other wells in the district on which the inhabitants depend for water. Into one of these wells flows drainage which saturates the ground on which the pump stands. The health of the village is reported not to be good! Many cases of tubercular trouble amongst the school children. The next village has a good water supply from a tower with connection in existence for a supply to the village under review, but, a belief prevails that heavy cost will fall on the inhabitants if the connection is made. A poll having been demanded, it took place on 19th December, when, as already stated, only 74 out of the 362 who went to the poll voted in favour of a pure water supply. Such is the story. The facts as we read them we now give. So far as we can ascertain they remain uncontradicted up to the present.

We have reason to believe that the case to which we draw attention is not an isolated case, we could quote others did space admit. Our object at the moment is to point the moral. It is this:—

One of the duties of a Parish Council is to see that the houses in the parish have a proper water supply. "The Parish Council may use any well, spring, or stream within the parish, and may, by agreement, bring it to the houses." Where the existing supply is unwholesome or inadequate, as it often is in villages, the Parish Council should make a representation to the *Rural District Council*.

We do not know, so far as the case under review is concerned, what, if any, action the Parish Council had previously taken in regard to the matter. One thing seems clear, however, it was the electors in this case who voted against a pure water supply, apparently for fear of some rise in the rates.

We would point out that people cannot be healthy if their supply of water is inadequate and impure. Economy which leads to an insufficient and impure water supply in a village spells disaster and threatens danger to the health and even to the lives of all the inhabitants.

The question of cottages and water supply must, or ought, to appeal to men and women alike, and no better work can be done by women than by helping to make the Parish Councils, which are concerned with these matters, a real power for good in every village, and by educating the electors of each parish to a sense of their civic duties and responsibilities.

(Continued from previous column.)

assembly rose to do her honour and the applause seemed as if it would never stop.

It appeared, indeed, as if the medical women of Great Britain, their friends and colleagues, and the great body of distinguished men who had worked with her, could not do enough to proclaim their faith in her, and a loyalty and allegiance which will never die.

SOME THOUGHTS ON CO-EDUCATION.

The criticism that co-education undoubtedly often arouses is largely due to the prevalent confusion between the two kinds of "Dual" schools, those where there is mere co-instruction, and those where there is true co-education. In the former the boys and girls live together naturally for meals, lessons, lectures, walks, handicrafts; and no distinction (on sex lines) exists between prefects in their jurisdiction over boys and girls.

The perfectly natural desire for the stimulating companionship of the other sex is usually assumed to be merely physical, but those who have experience in co-education know it to be mental and spiritual also, and that not in any sentimental way. Boys and girls need not be sympathetic or friendly to stimulate one another, they may be quite indifferent or even antagonistic. This stimulation is right and should be the normal thing in the world, giving life a spice. It is because this perfectly wholesome, normal stimulus is either totally lacking, or else supplied in a twisted form, that the "separate" school goes wrong. In the lower type of boy or girl this results in depravity; in the far more common decent one, in suppression and starvation of one part of their nature. This latter results when they "grow up," in unnecessary shyness, in antagonism, or in misguided love affairs, or perhaps even in the unhappy choice of a marriage partner due to ignorance of the other sex.

In the "separate" school, an effort is at least made to shut out all sex stimulation; youth is deliberately refused opportunities of natural association with the other sex. In "co-instructional" schools the disturbing stimulus is provided, but the natural, wholesome satisfaction found in intercourse, in hobbies, expeditions, etc., is denied and disaster is therefore courted. In "co-educational" schools, on the other hand, the stimulus is admitted, the boy or girl is trained to use—not abuse—it, just as they are trained with regard to any other gift or quality. Thus knowledge in each sex of the other is acquired, knowledge which the ordinary educated person has to acquire with difficulty, often through bitter experience. At a co-educational school every boy and girl at least gets this knowledge, even if intellectually incapable of acquiring mental learning, or physically unable to excel at games.

The apparently natural evolution between boy and girl is very marked and perhaps rather unexpected. It may perhaps be described thus: the youngster of about 12 usually possesses a whole-hearted scorn of, and distaste for, the other sex; boys are always together by choice and so are the girls; they are in a sense in rival camps and are sometimes rather unfriendly to each other in a mild way. At about 13-14 they begin to see excellent points in one another, and are friendly and free and easy, with much teasing and leg-pulling but absolutely no sentimentality. From about 15-16 they are very conscious of one another, there is much partiality for special pals, quite wholesome but rather "lanky", and some shyness and some chivalrousness on both sides. Then from about 16-18 they have almost all passed through this awkward, sometimes embarrassing, stage, to delightful comradeship—not in twos and fours (as in the last phase) but in big groups; and a most delightful, wholesome and sympathetic spirit prevails amongst the heads of the school, the school prefects, house prefects, captains of football, cricket and lacrosse; both boys and girls are ready to go out into a world where the sexes must mingle in business, in professions and in social life. Such a preparation for life is truly valuable. Would that it were available for everyone.

C. J. M.

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ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING.—24th to 27th FEBRUARY.

Societies are reminded that all resolutions for the Council meeting should be sent in by 11th January, and that in order to save time all applications for delegates' tickets should be accompanied by the delegate's fee of 2s.

THE EDWARD WRIGHT AND CAVENDISH BENTINCK LIBRARY IN 1925.

We would earnestly appeal to our Societies to make more use in the coming year of our well-stocked Library on Feminist, Social, and Economic Subjects. With a view to enabling Societies to order Book Boxes more freely the charges have been considerably reduced, and are now as follows:—

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We hope that many more of our Societies will become subscribers; and every effort will be made to send them suitable and up-to-date books. Some Societies cover part of the cost by making a small charge to their own members for borrowing the books, and this suggestion may be helpful to Societies who are not too strong financially.

The following books have recently been added to the Library:

THEN AND NOW.—Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher.
LETTERS OF LADY CONSTANCE LYTTON.—Lady Betty Balfour.
THE POLICE COURT AND ITS WORK.—H. T. Waddy.
WAGES AND THE FAMILY.—Paul Douglas.
THE HOME OFFICE.—Sir E. Troup.
THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.—Sir Arthur Newsholme.
BANKERS AND CREDIT.—Hartley Withers.
POPULATION.—Professor Cair Saunders.
OUTLINES OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT (2nd edition).—J. J. Clarke.
EQUIPMENT OF THE SOCIAL WORKER.—Elizabeth Macadam.
SOME FALACIES OF ARTIFICIAL BIRTH CONTROL.—M. Edge.
THE GRAMMAR OF POLITICS.—Harold J. Laski.
HOME OFFICE REPORT ON CHILDREN'S BRANCH (Juvenile Courts), 1925.

THE YOUNG DELINQUENT.—Cyril Burt.
MORAL EVIL IN LONDON.—H. Stringer.
THE ENGLISH VILLAGE.—Harold Peake.
CHILD LIFE IN WESTMINSTER.—L. E. Beach.
FINANCE OF GOVERNMENT.—Major J. W. Hills, M.P.
RECONSTRUCTION.—Maurice Fanshawe.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN GREAT BRITAIN.—By Authors of IS UNEMPLOYMENT INEVITABLE.

PRISON COMMISSIONERS' REPORT, 1924.
THE LAND AND THE NATION.—Report of the Liberal Land Committee.

THE TOWN AND THE LAND.—Report of the Liberal Land Committee.

HOUSE OF MY PILGRIMAGE.—Lilian Faithfull.
THE PIONEER POLICEMAN.—Commandant Mary Allen.
OPIUM AS AN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM.—W. W. Willoughby.
FROM DAWES TO LOCARNO.—George Glasgow.

THE UNDERWORLD OF STATE.—Mrs. Stan Harding.
SIR EDWIN CHADWICK.—Maurice Marston.

PRIMITIVE RELIGION.—R. Lowie.
REMINISCENCES.—Jane Harrison.

REPORT OF CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL INSURANCE.—League of Nations Union.

REPORT OF CONFERENCE, JULY, 1925.—British Commonwealth League.

RISE OF MODERN INDUSTRY.—J. L. & B. Hammond.
ENGLAND ON THE EVE OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION.—P. H. Moffitt.

INTRODUCTION TO INDUSTRIAL ADMINISTRATION.—John Lee.
ENQUÊTE SUR LES LIVRES SCOLAIRES D'APRÈS GUERRE.—Dotation Carnegie.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

GLASGOW S.E.C. and W.C.A.

A reception to Miss Eleanor Rathbone, M.A., J.P., was held on Wednesday, 16th December, in the Cadorn Restaurant, where a large number of friends had much pleasure in welcoming her. Miss Melville presided, and Miss Rathbone took as her subject "The Old and the New Feminism." Under the former she placed most of the reforms for which women had been working since the War, such as Equal Franchise, Equal Guardianship, and the Equal Moral Standard. While she held that these objects were all most useful and desirable she considered there was a large number of reforms which affected women in their capacity as wives and mothers and did not fall under the old headings. In these subjects such as the recently won Widows' Pensions and the still to be won Endowment of Motherhood, she considered that the future work of the feminist would lie.

On the motion of Mrs. T. Johnston, Miss Rathbone was thanked very cordially for her stimulating speech.

A MANCHESTER APPEAL.

The Manchester Branch of the Women's International League has addressed an appeal to former friends and colleagues of the late Mrs. Annot Robinson on behalf of her two daughters, aged 16 and 14, who have been left unprovided for. The appeal, which is signed by Miss Margaret Ashton, Mrs. Thoday, Mrs. Norbury, and Mrs. Muter Wilson, recalls the fact that Mrs. Robinson "was a devoted mother and knowing the only provision she could make for her children was to give them a good education, she gave up public work three years ago and resumed her profession of teacher." It was a hard fate which frustrated her enterprise—and we gladly commend to the attention of our readers the efforts which her friends are making on her behalf. The Hon. Secretary of the fund is Mrs. Tomlinson, of Meadow Bank, Ambleside.

A CALL TO LONDON GRADUATES.

The Twentieth Century Society of London Graduates reminds its members that the following resolution will be moved by Dr. Montague Barlow at a meeting of Convocation to be held at S. Kensington on 15th January at 5.30 p.m.: "That the Senate be asked to call the attention of H.M. Government to the anomaly whereby in this University Constituency graduates who are women are debarred from exercising the franchise until they attain the age of thirty years." The Secretary of the Society adds that "if Dr. Barlow's motion is to be carried it is essential that all those interested should attend." We commend this reminder to the attention of all those of our readers who are members of Convocation of London University.

LEGAL REFORM IN TURKEY.

We hope in the coming year to hear more about the legal changes which will occupy the attention of the Turkish Grand National Assembly. An article in *The Times* on Friday, 18th December, described the remarkable constitutional overhauling that is foreshadowed. It quotes from the President Mustapha Kemal Pasha strong words beginning: "The New Turkish régime rejects in their entirety the old superannuated methods of government." The article states that after the proposed changes, which will be modelled on the Swiss civil code, at one single blow the position of the Turkish woman will be radically changed in regard to marriage, divorce, and inheritance and she will henceforth be on the same footing as her Swiss sister. Possibly the new Turkey in her ambitions for a political life in conformity with the best in modern ideals, will go further than Switzerland and enfranchise its women.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WHEN CRIMES ARE NOT CRIMES.

MADAM,—May I ask your correspondent, Miss F. K. Powell, to elaborate her statement that a man "who criminally assaulted them (girls) in a house of ill-fame would never have been arrested"? Surely S. 5 (1) of the Criminal Laws Amendment Act of 1885 as amended by the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1922, which makes it a criminal offence if "any person unlawfully and carnally knows or attempts to have unlawful carnal knowledge of any girl being of or above the age of 13 years and under the age of 16 years," applies equally whether the offence was committed in a house of ill-fame or anywhere else. And S. 16 of the Children Act, 1908, makes it a criminal offence for a person having the custody, charge or care of a child or young person between the ages of four and sixteen, to allow that child or young person to reside in or frequent a brothel.

We have still far to go, as recent events have again shown, before we have given adequate protection to children and young persons. But I think we have gone further than Miss Powell's letter would lead one to infer and if we have not I should like to know exactly how the section I have quoted is interpreted in practice.

ERNA REISS.

DISARMAMENT AND THE WILL TO PEACE.

MADAM,—Recent events in Europe have created a favourable atmosphere for the next step towards lasting Peace, disarmament and compulsory arbitration for all disputes.

We believe that one method by which this new international order can be hastened, is to be found in the assumption of individual responsibility for upholding Law in place of War.

The "Arbitrate First" Bureau is a non-party society including in its ranks Conservatives, Liberals, and Socialists. It has been formed as the nucleus of a world organization pledging its adherents to withhold support from any Government which refuses to submit the causes of the dispute to arbitration, or which refuses to accept the decision so given, the term "arbitration" being used in its widest sense.

Endeavouring to lift this issue right out of the rut of political divisions, we desire to emphasize the positive side of its propaganda which seeks to create in the individual a new sense of loyalty to international law; it is thus a buttress to all Governments applying sincerely the principles of the League of Nations.

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H. M. SWANWICK,
Editor, *Foreign Affairs*.

107 Ladbroke Road, W. 11.

MIXED CLUBS.

MADAM,—I wonder if it is allowed to use your columns to ask if anyone knows where I can get a complete list of clubs for both sexes together, residential and non-residential, and for women only and men only. The mixed clubs is my particular interest at the moment. I frequently get asked to recommend clubs; but not being a club woman myself I find myself very inadequately informed. Therefore if a list with barest details exists I would be glad to be told when and how I may get hold of one.

(Dr.) G. W. PAILTHORPE.

40 Parliament Hill Mansions,
Highgate Road, N.W. 5.

[If any of our readers can throw light on our correspondent's question we suggest that they should write direct to her at the address given.—ED.]

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FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 10th January; 3.30, Music, The Right Hon. Sir Robert Home, M.P., on "The Nation's Business." 6.30, Mr. J. Middleton Murry, "The Teaching of Christ."

C.B.C. Society for Constructive Birth Control and Racial Progress, and the Free Clinic originally founded by Dr. Marie Stopes and Mr. H. V. Roe in Holloway. New central address: 102 Whitfield Street, Tottenham Court Road, London, W. 1. Social workers anxious for local instruction, but without funds for independent Clinics, can obtain the services of a C.B.C. certificated Nurse for one day weekly or monthly from above.

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