

not to be taken away

The Common Cause

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Notes and News.

Women and the Civil Service.

As we pointed out in our comments on the Gladstone Report on Women in the Civil Service, that Report was a great falling back from those issued by previous Government committees. We are glad that the Ministry of Reconstruction has issued the Report of the Sub-Committee of the Women's Advisory Committee which was appointed to consider the position after the war of women holding temporary appointments in Government departments. This Report discusses some of the recommendations put forward by the Gladstone Committee, and takes a much more advanced line. In discussing the measures to be adopted during the interim period before open competition can be resumed, it urges "that equal treatment as regards eligibility for permanent appointments should be extended to all persons temporarily employed in Government departments during the war, and held to be unfit for combatant duties, whether the unfitness was due to health or to sex."

Equal Opportunities and Equal Pay.

Turning to the employment of women in the Civil Service, when open competition is resumed, the Committee consider that women should be eligible to all grades of appointments on the same terms and on the same conditions as men. "In the recruitment of women," they state, "it is equally important to substitute for the existing complex and uneducational arrangement a simple and intelligible scheme of recruiting corresponding to definite educational stages. We therefore recommend that women be admitted by the same examination and at the same age as men to the proposed Junior Clerical, Senior Clerical, and Administrative classes. In recommending the employment of women on the same conditions as men, we intend to imply that they should have equal opportunities of promotion and an equal scale of pay."

Government Typists.

The Report goes on to discuss the present methods of recruiting Typists and Shorthand Typists, and says in regard to these classes that more complaints are made both of the conditions of employment, and of the inefficiency of the workers, than in respect of any other grade. On the part of the typists, there are complaints of long hours, of monotonous and mechanical work which yet requires close and constant attention, and of lack of promotion; on the part of heads of depart-

ments, complaints of inefficiency and lack of interest. The Sub-Committee think that dissatisfaction on both sides is justified, and is attributable to the low standard of general education required on admission, and, within the service, to lack of responsibility, lack of variety in the work, and lack of stimulus derived from hope of promotion. They recommend, therefore, that typing and shorthand be done by persons admitted through the ordinary examinations for the clerical classes, and that neither typing nor shorthand-writing should be subjects in the competitive examinations for these classes. Various arrangements are suggested by which candidates who are successful in the examinations should be given opportunities for qualifying afterwards as typists or shorthand-typists. The Sub-Committee think that if adequate educational qualifications are required, every woman clerk engaged in typing should be responsible for the accuracy of her own work. Such responsibility is in itself educative, and they are convinced that much time is at present wasted in checking inaccuracies due to lack of education. It will not be necessary that any girl or woman should spend her whole official life in mechanical copying, and suitable candidates will be able to look forward both to variety of work and to the same prospects of promotion as are open to those who entered by the same examination as themselves and have taken up other forms of work.

Need for Women in Administrative Posts.

As an exception to the proposal that both men and women should be eligible for all appointments it is recommended that an appointment should be tenable only by one sex in any case where this restriction is desirable owing to the age or sex of persons under the superintendence of the officer. For instance, it is essential, the Report states, that provision should be made for the appointment of a due proportion of women officers and inspectors for prisons, asylums, and industrial schools, where women, girls, or children are among the inmates. Somewhat similar considerations point to the advisability of the employment of a woman establishment officer in Government departments where women are employed in junior posts, and to the appointment of women to committees charged with the selection of candidates for appointment, where some of the candidates are women. In particular the Sub-Committee think that one of the Civil Service Commissioners should be a woman, and that a woman should be appointed to the section of the Treasury dealing with Civil Service Organisation. Further recommendations refer to the provision of training in other occupations to meet the needs of the women who are displaced from Government departments, and the granting of financial assistance in the case of those who cannot otherwise afford to meet the expenses involved.

The Ministry of Health.

Dr. Addison has now been formally appointed Minister of Health. We are informed that the first step he will take as Minister is to set up four Consultative Councils to give advice and assistance in connection with medical and allied services, national health insurance (approved Societies' work), local health administration, and general health questions. Each of these Councils is to consist of not more than twenty persons who have had practical experience of the matters for the purpose of which it is established. We are glad to hear it again officially stated that there will be a number of women on the Councils. We hope that their names will soon be announced. We must point out that this inclusion of women has not taken place without considerable effort and propaganda on the part of women workers themselves. The Watching Council of the Ministry of Health has done invaluable work in organising the agitation. It represents a very large number of women's societies, and the necessity for its existence has been proved by the many difficulties that it has had to meet and overcome.

Good News from America.

Good news continues to reach us from America about the Federal Amendment. A week ago we thought that the necessary ramification of the amendment by the legislatures of thirty-six States could not be completed before 1921; now, however, the latest mail from New York brings the welcome news that ratification is possible in time for the next Presidential Election in November, 1920. Our valued correspondent, Mrs. Ida Husted Harper, writes under the date June 13th:—"None of us had dreamed that there would be any chance for ratification until the legislatures met in special session in 1921; but all of a sudden came the desire on the part of certain Governors to call special sessions, and the opportunity was offered for the big 'drive' we are now in the midst of. Mrs. Catt instantly telegraphed to twenty-two Governors, who were in favour of Woman Suffrage, with the most satisfactory results; and it really looks as if between now and the Presidential election in November, 1920, we shall be able to secure the ratification by thirty-six legislatures. Probably this may be accomplished between now and next spring, as nine meet in regular session next January and a number of special sessions will have to be called to pass upon various emergency measures that will arise out of the signing of the Peace Treaty. Of course the great struggle will be for the last six or eight, but there is such a tremendous favourable public sentiment that the Legislatures may have to yield." The ease with which one State Legislature after another has adopted Woman Suffrage for Presidential and Primary elections since 1913, when this method was successfully adopted in Illinois, makes us very hopeful that Mrs. Harper's confidence is not misplaced and that Women's Suffrage will be part and parcel of the Constitution of the United States in 1920.

International Council of Women.

The International Council of Women has been holding an informal Conference of representatives of the National Councils of Allied and Neutral countries. Some very interesting discussions took place among women from France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Italy, Serbia, America, Canada, Australia, South Africa, and Great Britain. The first day's Conference was on questions of public health, the second on moral questions and on emigration, the third on legislation specially affecting women. Very pleasant social gatherings took place after the Conferences were over. On the last day the women from neutral countries entertained the British and other Allied women to tea, and there was much of that individual exchange of opinion for which there is so little opportunity among people of different nationalities, and which is often more fruitful than even the most informal conferences.

Madame Avril de Sainte Croix's Address.

No one who has exercised her imagination, no one who has even kept her eyes open to facts during the last five years, could have been surprised to hear Madame Avril de Sainte Croix say, at the first day's meeting, that the effort to establish a single moral standard, and to raise the public opinion of Europe to a higher standard on moral questions, had fallen back rather than progressed during the war. This is not only because, in Madame de Saint Croix's own grave words, women have been the victims of crimes as horrible as any that were committed in the darkest ages of medieval savagery, but because, in all the countries at war, considerations of public health, which means in the long run public efficiency, have almost inevitably blocked out the moral aspect of sex relations. This is particularly tragic, because at the time of the declaration of war the abolitionists believed that they were on the eve of a great triumph. Denmark, Holland, and Norway had followed Great Britain in suppressing the State Regulation of Vice, and it was hoped that Italy likewise might be about to take this great step forward. The outbreak of war did indeed stop the White Slave Traffic, properly so called, but it resulted in turning the minds of many of those officials who had been working for the suppression of this traffic to what became for the moment the more urgent question of combating venereal disease. The fact that millions of young men were taken away not only from their homes but from all natural human life, and placed in conditions which were both artificial and horrible, inevitably resulted in the spread of this terrible scourge. It

threatened to undermine the strength of the fighting armies, and it naturally became the first consideration of the authorities in all countries to try and suppress it. Nor is it to be supposed that in the new Europe which is now to be built up hygienic considerations will lose their force. Evils created by the war have not died with it. The physical efficiency of the chief European nations has been grievously impaired, and we still have to live in a world in which comparative physical efficiency is of overwhelming importance to every State. Madame de Sainte Croix pointed out that moral reformers must not ignore this aspect of life as it is at present. They must not attempt to act as if hygienic considerations were not there. They must face the whole question from the physical as well as from the moral side. It is the more possible to do this, because not only those who have worked for years for the abolition of state regulated vice, but also all the leading scientific experts are now agreed that in the long run the hygienic and the moral aspects of this effort are not opposed but complementary to each other. No one who has studied these questions seriously now believes that venereal disease can be stopped or diminished by the state regulation of vice. Those who put hygiene first may, indeed, differ from those who put the single moral standard first about emergency measures, but they do not really differ about the policy to be aimed at. Feminists who feel that right relations between the sexes are the most important thing to be sought for in social relations, must study the great questions of public health in order that they may be able to show what is the right way of dealing with them. Madame de Sainte Croix's address, and her contributions to the discussion, were not only inspiring to those present, but gave sane and sensible guidance as to the right line that their future efforts should take. It was a great pleasure to hear this colleague of Josephine Butler's speaking in England. The magnificent words in which she defended the title of Josephine Butler's Society can hardly be translated: "Ce nom est tout un drapeau," she said. It was a ringing phrase!

French Prize for English Women Writers.

The two French newspapers, *Femina* and *La Vie Heureuse*, are about to offer a prize of 1,000 francs (£40) for the best recent English work of imagination by an English woman writer. The volume selected will be translated into French and published in France. The prize will be awarded by a committee of English women of letters acting in collaboration with a committee of French women of letters. It is interesting to note that *La Vie Heureuse* has ever since 1905 allotted a similar prize for the best novel of the year written by a French woman. This latter prize was started as a protest against the exclusion of women from the annual prize given by the Goncourt Academy.

Miss Fry on the Universities Finance Committee.

We are glad to see that Miss Margery Fry is a member of the Standing Committee just appointed by the Treasury in consultation with the Board of Education, the Secretary for Scotland, and the Chief Secretary for Ireland, "to enquire into the financial needs of University education in the United Kingdom, and to advise the Government as to the application of any grants that may be made by Parliament towards meeting them." Miss Fry is an authority on University education and finance. She had a distinguished University career at Somerville College (Oxford), and is now on its Council. She has also done important administrative work for the University of Birmingham. She was in charge of the women's section of the Friends' War Relief Committee in France during the war, and is now secretary of the Penal Reform League. As most of our readers already know, she is a member of the Executive Committee of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, and has lately been representing the Union in Paris, where she did valuable work for the feminist cause.

Equal Citizenship in Yorkshire.

We are interested to hear that members of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship in the three Ridings of Yorkshire, have combined to form a Yorkshire Council. The movement for equal citizenship is strong in Yorkshire, where Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher and Mr. J. R. Cross have been working to consolidate feminist organisation, and have had the assistance of that vigorous organiser, Miss Hartop.

Pre-War Practices Bill.

Mrs. Fawcett writing to the *Times* on June 20th, says:—"The Restoration of Pre-War Practices Bill is one that must be welcomed by all who love fair play, since it is the fulfilment of pledges given. It is, however, a Bill that deals with the future of a principal industry of this country, and one that decides the fate of many thousands of men and women workers, and it is therefore important to consider it carefully in the light of the pledges to see that it does not give away more than was promised. This country must have increased production at once, if financial stability is to be maintained, and if pre-war customs hinder this we must be careful, in the interests of our very existence, to see that we do not go back farther than we are in honour bound to go. Every one knows that it was a pre-war custom (rightly or wrongly) to limit output; every one knows, too, that the pre-war exclusion of women from engineering was a waste of natural resources, and these two practices, viewed in the light of the last four years, do not seem to have been wise ones. Since the unions insist, however, we must by law restore these two customs in all pre-war engineering trades, and no one can dispute this, disastrous as the results may be. But need we restore pre-war customs in post-war trades and tie up new industries in the fetters of old ones? It does not seem as if the pledges need bear so wide and so ruinous an interpretation, or that because women were not allowed to build ships before the war it must be illegal for them to build aeroplanes to-day. The effect of this Bill upon the employment of women will be little short of disastrous. It is not, however, generally noticed that the effect upon the employment of ex-Service men will be almost equally unfortunate. If the Bill passes as it now stands, no ex-soldier who was not an engineer before the war may work in any of these trades, and any employer who finds work for him must pay a fine of £25 a day for so doing. Is this, too, a part of the bargain, and if so, must this also extend to new industries as well as old ones? I hope that the House of Commons will consider these difficulties, and will answer them before the Bill comes out of Committee." An interesting comment on Mrs. Fawcett's letter is afforded by a letter in another column of the same issue of the *Times* from an ex-soldier who had almost completed his engineering apprenticeship when the war broke out. After serving through the war, he found work immediately on discharge in an engineering firm, but two days later the shop steward demanded his dismissal on pain of a strike because his qualifications were not considered satisfactory. Yet he had had eight years engineering experience. This looks as if a too rigid application of Trade Union rules might, as Mrs. Fawcett says, have disastrous results for discharged soldiers as well as for women.

Miss Royden on Women in Industry.

"If you turn women out of industry now it will be simply because you are afraid of their competition," said Miss Maude Royden to an audience of men at Whitefield's Tabernacle. "Their war work has shown them to have more brains, more adaptability, and more initiative than you supposed, and they have learned that they can work almost as hard and stand quite as much strain as you can." Miss Royden went on to say that it was only right that men should return to the places that had been kept open to them, but she pleaded that industries which had expanded during the war, such as the engineering industry, should throw their doors open to men and women alike. She urged the principle of equal pay for men and women, the result of which would be, she said, a natural selection of industries in which women could participate, and a far happier and more communally useful selection than was allowed them with their present selective scope. She urged also the endowment of motherhood, so as to give women in the home an equal status with those in industry.

Towards Industrial Peace.

The activities of the Joint Committee appointed by the National Industrial Conference, and their negotiations with the Ministry of Labour, have almost entirely escaped public attention. Their deliberations have, however, been productive of substantial results, and the country has now been informed that agreement has been reached between the employers' representatives, the trade union representatives, and the Minister of Labour with regard to the terms of the two Government Bills on maximum working hours and minimum time rates of wages. The draft Bills have not yet been issued to the public, but it is understood a 48 hours week is to be secured by legal enactment for all employed persons, not only in trade and industry but in many other occupations, with the exception of domestic servants,

seamen on ocean-going vessels, employees in positions of trust and confidence, persons who work for two employers in the same week, and members of an employers' family who reside and work in the employer's house; and it also provided that workers who come within the scope of the Coal Mines Regulation Act of 1908 shall be excluded from the operation of the new Act. The first two classes of workers, namely, domestic servants and seamen, were omitted owing to the obvious administrative difficulties, but an enquiry is to be held regarding their conditions of employment with a view to finding to what extent they can be brought within the scope of the Bill. In any case it will be open to these classes themselves to apply to be brought within the scope of the Bill. In the event of it being found impracticable to cover them, it is expected that efforts will be made to secure for them at least some improvement of their present conditions of employment. As was generally expected, the Wages Bill will provide for the setting up of a Statutory Commission to enquire and decide what the minimum rates of wages should be for (a) adult persons, and (b) young persons; regard being had to the cost of living and to other relevant matters. The preamble of the Bill states that it is expedient to fix minimum rates of wages for all persons who are employed on time rates or any other form of remuneration which will provide an adequate living wage. It would thus appear that agreement has been reached on two Bills of great value to the workers of this country. If, when the Bills are made public, they meet with the approval and acceptance of the workers concerned, there is every likelihood that steps will be taken immediately to secure from the trades unions their assistance in the setting up of the proposed National Industrial Council, representative equally of employers and trade unionists.

Married People's Income Tax.

A few weeks ago, when the amendment was moved to the Budget in the House of Commons to remove the appalling tax on marriage, the Chancellor of the Exchequer created a bad impression upon Members who listened to him by treating in a spirit of levity a question which vast numbers of people regard as a matter of vital principle. He has probably recognised his mistake by now, and it is therefore to be hoped that when the subject again comes up in the House of Commons in a few days' time on the Finance Bill, he will adopt a tone more suitable to the dignity of his office, and more in consonance with the seriousness of the subject—one which deeply affects the feelings of many thousands of families throughout the country, as no one who has thought about the matter will for a moment deny. It will be of great help in removing the burden of this unjust tax if every reader of these lines will write individually and persuade their friends to write individually to their Members of Parliament, asking them to support Commander Locker Lampson's amendment when it comes up on the Finance Bill in the House of Commons.

National Baby Week.

Full particulars of the arrangements made for National Baby Week will be found in another part of this issue, and we should like to draw the attention of our readers to the excellent list of lectures to be given at a National Conference which will be held at Kingsway Hall on July 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. In *Maternity and Child Welfare* for June there are many excellent articles which bear closely on some of the subjects to be dealt with at the Conference. Notable among these are "Institutional v. Home Training for Young Children," by Dr. Eric Pritchard, M.A., and "Infant Mortality and Housing," by Professor Leonard Hill, M.B., F.R.S. There is also a summary of the report which has been prepared in the Intelligence Department of the Local Government Board for the Welfare Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Munitions on the welfare of the children of French and German women who have been working in factories during the war. As a study in comparative methods it is of very real value to all those who have followed the progress of infant welfare in our own and other countries.

"Women under Thirty" Meeting.

We take this opportunity of again reminding our readers that the "Women Under Thirty" Meeting in support of the Women's Emancipation Bill will take place at Farringdon Street Memorial Hall, on Tuesday, July 1st, at 8 o'clock. All our readers who can possibly do so (whatever their age) are urged to attend and to join the procession, which will form up outside the offices of the London Society for Women's Service, 58, Victoria Street, at 6 o'clock.

WOMEN OF MANY NATIONS.

THE very interesting meetings organised by the International Council of Women in London last week, were not primarily Suffrage meetings, but the achievement of the political franchise is so much the most interesting thing that is happening to women at the moment, that the delegates present did, rightly and inevitably, spend a great deal of their time in talking about that. This was, of course, specially the case on the third day, when the subject was the laws affecting women in the countries represented on the International Council. Miss Van Dorp, a woman jurist from the Netherlands, who opened the discussion, said that the endeavour to get the laws altered so as to improve the civil position of women was in her country, as in others, bound up with the struggle for votes. When she and other Suffragists had pointed to the laws affecting women as an argument for the Suffrage, they had been told that they could get all they wanted from the good-nature of men, but in spite of the good-nature of men the laws had remained bad. It was only now, when enfranchisement was practically won, that there was a hope of changing them. This view of the matter was borne out by the experience of representatives from countries where Women's Suffrage is already won, or on the point of being won. Mrs. Fawcett described how the Lord Chancellor of Great Britain, formerly a pronounced anti-feminist, had, since the passing of the Representation of the People Act, discovered that he was a supporter of women as magistrates. "Circumstances have changed," he said. "They had," was Mrs. Fawcett's comment; "seven million circumstances had changed!" At a later moment of the afternoon, Miss Forchhammer described what Danish women, enfranchised in 1915, have done and hope to do with their votes. Nine women Members were returned to the first Danish Parliament after the Suffrage and Eligibility Bill had been passed. This Parliament is now discussing a Bill for the complete emancipation of women; if it passes they will have equal opportunities in every sphere of national life, including the Church. Reforms in the marriage and guardianship laws are also being discussed. In Italy the demand for Women's Suffrage has itself been enough to produce a change. A Bill for the civil emancipation of women was hurriedly passed by Parliament, as a kind of sop to those who were agitating for the vote. Italian politicians had said to each other, "Women are determined to have something; let's give them civil rights." Signor Orlando recently declared himself in favour of Women's Suffrage; but in Italy the fear of the supposed clericalism of

women entertained by most Latin politicians is even stronger than elsewhere, because it is thought that it will reinforce the Papal Court, always such a bugbear to the established Government.

The immediate interest of the struggle for votes will now be greatest in the Latin countries, because in the English-speaking countries, in the Scandinavian countries, and in the Teutonic countries the battle is far advanced, though not completely won. In Eastern Europe it is more difficult to know what is happening or likely to happen—Russia did indeed adopt Women's Suffrage at the time of the Revolution, but now it seems doubtful whether anybody is ever going to vote there at all. Serbia will probably be one of the first Eastern European countries to pass a constitutional Women's Suffrage measure. One of the very first things that the Serbian women did after the Armistice was to start a Women's Suffrage Society in Belgrade. It was warmly welcomed by the men. The Serbs do not forget Dr. Elsie Inglis, and they remember how Serbia and Women's Suffrage were joined together in her heart. We, on the other hand, remember the sympathy for her Suffrage ideals shown by the Serbian officers and doctors with whom she worked. Serbia has moreover a strong practical reason for enfranchising its women quickly; as it is one of the lands most devastated by war, it is one of those that most need the efforts of all its people for reconstruction.

Passing from the Near East to the Far East, we see the women of Japan beginning to work for freedom. A Japanese delegate, Madame Adena, spoke at the International Council's meeting and told how the breaking down of Japanese feudalism had immediately resulted in the spread of schooling for girls as well as boys. Girls, she said, were already becoming teachers, secretaries, typists, craftsmen; the immediate need was for a broader, deeper kind of education, which would fit the girls for the new world in which they had to play their part.

In all countries the women's movement has striven first for education, then for the Suffrage. As we pointed out last week, it appears certain that the next stage of the advance will be towards equal opportunities in the industrial world. In the Netherlands the laws that restrict women's labour are already being withdrawn, and the movement for "Equal Pay for Equal Work" is strong. In this phase of our effort, as in the last, we women of different lands move forward side by side. If ever there was an International Movement it is the Women's Movement.

Women and Wealth.—II.

THE DEPENDENCE OF THE "UNOCCUPIED."

Out of a female population of 23,270,000 in 1911, we have seen that roughly 15,970,000, or nearly 70 per cent., were economically dependent, in the sense of possessing only an indirect claim on the national income through their social and legal claim on someone else's share. Of these dependents 8,530,000 were "unoccupied" married women, nearly as many, i.e., 7,440,000 "unoccupied" girls under twenty. And the two questions which these figures suggest have yet to be considered:—is the economic dependence of the 15,970,000 desirable? Is the economic independence of the 7,300,000 a genuine independence?

In the first place let us deal with the economic dependants—the "unoccupied" girls and wives, and, for convenience sake let us ignore the girls. The huge majority of these, i.e., 6,720,000, were children under fifteen, whose dependence is essentially an educational problem affecting both sexes, and not a feminist problem within the scope of this article. That leaves us with our 8,530,000 married women—only a minute fraction of whom may be assumed to possess private incomes from property in their own right. Now it is remotely conceivable that if the national income were large enough in the aggregate, and if the existing industrial system resulted in an equitable distribution of wealth among the persons taking part in its production, if, in fact, every family income were sufficient to support a family, then the economic dependence of the married woman might not be an undesirable thing. A second condition would, however, be necessary to ensure this; the state of the law with regard to the economic position of the married woman would have to be such as to ensure for her and her children a fair proportion

(not merely a bare subsistence minimum) of that total family income earned by the productive exertions of the man. The right of the father to live like a lord of creation on an undeclared wage—doling out week by week a fixed sum for household expenses, would have to cease. So long as this is a social custom and a legal possibility the economic dependence of the wife will lead to moral injustice and economic waste, however adequate the family income may be.

We know, however, as a matter of fact that in modern economic society neither of these conditions is fulfilled. As regards the total adequacy of production, Professor Bowley calculates that in 1911 an equitable redistribution of the national income would have "little more than sufficed to bring the wages of adult men and women up to the minimum of 35s. 3d. weekly for a man and 20s. for a woman, which Mr. Rowntree, in the *Human Needs of Labour*, estimates as reasonable." And this verdict presumes, of course, a very debatable fact, i.e., that the redistribution could take place without affecting the aggregate productivity of the country. Meanwhile, of course, we know that whatever may be the adequacy of the total national income with reference to the population dependent upon it, in 1911, as at the present time, it was distributed in such a way that the family incomes upon which the bulk of our eight and a half million married women were dependent, were entirely inadequate for the support of a family. This is a fact which needs no illustration; it is familiar to readers of THE COMMON CAUSE as a matter of everyday personal observation, quite apart from the facts and figures established in such studies as Professor Bowley's

Division of the Product of Industry, or Mr. Rowntree's *Human Needs of Labour*. And the inadequacy of the law and its method of administration as an engine for securing, in exceptional cases, to the wife and children a fair share of what family income there is, needs as little illustration. Here, again, is a fact which is perfectly well known to readers of THE COMMON CAUSE.

This, then, brings us to the second step in our argument. We know that as a matter of fact under present conditions the economic dependence of women involves, in a huge number of cases, inadequate resources and, in a small number of cases, inadequate legal protection where those resources might be sufficient. Let us imagine, however, that in the near future these two evils are corrected. To the writer, in view of widespread and increasing dissatisfaction with the existing industrial system, it requires no wild stretch of imagination to conceive of our obtaining a very much more equitable distribution of the produce of industry in the near future. It is more difficult, however, to conceive in practice of such legal and administrative control of family life as would secure in exceptional cases of human selfishness a fair distribution of the family income within the family. Indeed, it is easier to conceive of such fair distribution resulting simply from a widespread "change of heart" under compulsion of an overwhelming public opinion. Nevertheless, let us, for the sake of argument, take the plunge and imagine these two conditions fulfilled. Do we now find that the economic dependence of the married woman has become a desirable, or at least an innocuous, social institution? There are some persons, among them many good feminists, who would reply to this question in the affirmative; taking their stand upon an idealistic view of the family as a group within which the notion of individual property does not, or should not, exist. To such persons the argument that a wife, however adequate the income of her husband, will desire "something of her very own," will make no appeal. Indeed, argument on such a point is apt to focus itself upon the moral legitimacy of the almost universal human desire to own and control private property. On the one side it may be doubted whether so universal a desire, duly subject to moral controls, is one to be condemned offhand apart from the evils to which it is apt to give rise. On the other side it may be argued that the family is one in a sense in which the economic state is not one, and that the institution of private property may be undesirable in the former, but desirable "because of the hardness of our hearts" in the latter. These speculations are, however, dragging the writer out of her depth, and must remain, as far as this article is concerned, uncompleted. They need not trouble us, however, in our pursuit of economic independence, because even though we may ignore the desire of the married woman for "something of her very own," we still find that a perfectly equitable system of distribution will result in wastage. It will result in wastage so long as it treats the family as an economic unit irrespective of its size. Even if we take Mr Rowntree's scientifically calculated minimum of 20s. for a woman and 35s. 3d. for a man which Professor Bowley tells us could be borne (other things being equal) by the national income as it stood in 1911—even if we take as minimum male wage the sum which is considered sufficient to maintain a family of five persons, supplemented by State allowances for children in excess of three—even then we fail to get a really scientific adjustment between family income and family needs. The family is still penalised economically, the national income is still being, though in a lesser degree, inequitably distributed, as presumably it must be so long as the only channel for the distribution of wealth is the debt to an individual created by his or her co-operation in the production of exchangeable wealth.

Obviously, then, the whole system of economic distribution as described in the preceding article must be modified—and modified in the direction of "to each according to his need." On the face of it, apart from a general extension of what Mrs. Sidney Webb calls "the principle of Universal Provision," that is to say, the provision of public services at the expense of the community, this seems a difficult principle to introduce into a system wherein wealth is distributed "to each according to his economic value." But by a stupendous natural coincidence the difficulty is solved. In the case of the ordinary wage-earner there is no direct connection between the effort by which his wages are earned and the needs upon whose satisfaction those wages are expended. In the case of the dependent married woman there is a direct connection between the effort by which she fulfils her social function and the needs which demand material satisfaction. The measure of her effort is the size of her family, and the size of her family is the measure of her needs. Therefore we may conclude that by treating motherhood as an

economic service to the community, by providing the married woman with an income by virtue of her own efforts, we are at the same time moving a very long way in the direction of that ideally economic system, distribution according to need. The machinery by which such a principle could be carried into effect has been amply discussed in the pages of THE COMMON CAUSE under the title "Endowment of Motherhood"—it has been outlined in detail in a recent publication, *Equal Pay and the Family*, reviewed in these columns. It involves, of course, the raising of a sufficient sum in taxation to endow all mothers having dependent children—irrespective of their husbands' incomes. It is, so far as the writer knows, the only practical solution which has so far been put forward to meet the problem of economic wastage resulting from unequal family requirements; and in meeting that problem it secures to the married woman the essential condition of economic independence—a share of the national income in her own right, by virtue of her own efforts.

Let us, then, briefly sum up the foregoing discussion before proceeding to the second question: The economic dependence of the married woman is, in practice, complicated by two evils, inadequate family resources and inadequate legal protection. If the second were eliminated and the former attacked by the better distribution of wealth among those engaged in its production, economic wastage would still exist. The only way to secure the necessary correspondence between family income and family need is to bring motherhood into line with the production of economic wealth, and remunerate it as a national service with funds raised in taxation from the whole community. By so doing the economic independence of the married woman as mother is secured, and secured in order to meet an economic need if not a moral one.

MARY STOCKS.

(To be continued.)

The Suffrage Struggle in France.

[We are delighted to publish the following communication from Madame de Witt-Schlumberger, and we ask her, and our readers, to pardon the rather hasty translation.—ED., COMMON CAUSE.]

The Suffrage campaign is being carried on in the Senate, and efforts have been made to gain over individual Senators to the cause. One of the best ways is always personal converse, and we Suffragists have divided up the Senators among us. But it is sometimes very difficult to reach a Senator whom one longs to convince by searching arguments of the justice of our cause, but who, for his part, is not very anxious to receive a visit from a Suffragist, and is still less anxious to be convinced. These gentlemen are very polite when we discuss things with them, but there is some distance between that and the promise of a direct vote for Suffrage, especially for the Parliamentary Suffrage. It is easier to get promises about the Local Government franchise, but even that is sometimes impossible. Yet we have the feeling that we are gaining ground. The worst of it is that we have not got much time before the elections. We shall have to move quickly if we want to escape the first-class funeral which the opponents of the Bill in the Senate design for it. Circumstances have been against us because of the strikes, and because of the questions connected with the Peace Treaty, and because of electoral reform. Everything which causes any excitement about home or foreign affairs is used as a pretext for putting our demand on one side. It is the everlasting refrain known to Suffragists of all lands: "You must understand, Madame, that at this moment our attention is occupied with business of much greater urgency than Women's Suffrage. You will certainly get it in a later Parliament; but this is not the right moment." As we, on the other hand, think that this is the very moment, we arranged a deputation of the Presidents and Secretaries of the principal French Suffrage Societies to the Committee of the Senate. This took place on June 11th, in the Senate House, and the President invited all those among us who had undertaken to put forward special points in our programme or general arguments for Suffrage to speak. But there was no reply from the Senators of the Committee nor any discussion. We heard afterwards that our judges had been impressed by the clearness, the calm, and the moderation of our statements, but our speeches were received in cold silence. We knew beforehand that we should not convince the Committee, which is intensely hostile to our claim, and in which we have only six or seven supporters out of about twenty-seven members. In the Senate itself the proportion of Suffragists is fortunately far greater, as will be seen when the Bill is discussed.

The following is a circular letter which we read to the Committee, and which we left in the hands of each member of it when we went away:—

"MONSIEUR LE SENATEUR,—We ask you to consider with good will, and in a spirit of justice, the Women's Suffrage Bill which was sent up to you by the Chamber with such a magnificent majority.

We ask for the Suffrage because women who are citizens, pay taxes and make a great contribution to the wealth of the country should also take part in governing it. Their views are not represented, yet does not justice require that they should be given the power of defending not only their own interests, but those of the family which they desire to strengthen, and to establish more firmly?

In all the countries where women have votes, and are eligible for Parliament they have studied questions of general importance and have also specialised in those which concern infancy, health, education and morality. The same would happen in France.

Women ask for the Vote to struggle against depopulation. They can only admit their responsibility in this matter if they are given civil rights which alone will enable them to work for the protection of children and of the home.

They ask for it in order that they may struggle against infant mortality—that scourge which is devastating our country and which diminishes so rapidly in the lands where women vote and in which they have initiated and carried efficacious laws. In Australia infant mortality has fallen from one hundred and eleven to sixty-seven per thousand in fourteen years. In New Zealand from one hundred and thirteen to fifty per thousand in twenty-three years.

They ask for it in order to struggle more efficaciously against prostitution, against venereal disease, against alcoholism, which has so diminished in those countries where women's votes have carried prohibition. We ask that the suffrage should be extended to us immediately in order that we may at once take part in the reconstruction of our country, which needs the forces of all its children at this unique moment of its history.

France has in her hands a marvellous tool for this work—the strength of her women, who offer it to her with the entire devotion of which they have already given proof. We believe, Sir, that you will not allow this offer of service to be scornfully repulsed at a time when most nations have accepted the co-operation of women with gratitude and have recognised its utility.

French women would suffer deeply if they found that they were looked on as inferior to the women of other nations. They cannot believe that they deserve such an insult. We beg you, Sir, to prevent it by giving us the suffrage which we ask from you.

We venture to count on you, Sir, and we remain, yours, &c.,
Madame Jules Siegfried (Présidente), Madame Avril de Sainte Croix (Secrétaire Générale), pour le Conseil National des Femmes Françaises (a Federation of one hundred and fifty Associations of Women);
Madame de Witt Schlumberger (Présidente), Madame Brunschvieg and Madame Pauline Rebour (Secrétaire Générale), pour l'Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes (a Federation of eighty Departmental Groups);
Madame Maria Verone (Présidente) pour la Ligue Française pour le Droit des Femmes;
Madame Amélie Hammer (Présidente), Madame Juliette Fr. Raspail (Secrétaire Générale), pour l'Union Fraternelle des Femmes;
Madame Fonseque, pour la Société pour l'Amélioration du Sort de la Femme;
Madame Mesnage, pour le "Droit Humain."

Other deputations are to be received almost immediately by the Committee first, one of working women, then a great deputation of war-widows, which we hope will have some effect. We are also considering a deputation from the women of Alsace and Lorraine. If we had more time before us, we should feel calmer about the prospect of gaining some kind of franchise before the elections. What we must escape at all costs, I say again, is being buried under flowers. We don't want to be buried!

MARGUERITE DE WITT SCHLUMBERGER.

How French Women Welcome the Vote.

Our English friends who have been so absorbed in the question of the Parliamentary Franchise, and who have struggled to obtain it with such vigour and with such watchful tenacity, are asking each other, and asking me, how public opinion in France has received the vote of the Chamber granting full suffrage and eligibility to women. It is not the opinion of Suffragists that is asked for—they only represent an infinitesimal minority which, of course, could only rejoice in a victory more complete than they had dared to hope for. Nor do people seek to know the opinion of a Government newspaper like *Le Temps* which is naturally amazed and horrified—for has not Votes for Women (up till now merely a suitable subject for gallant ridicule) suddenly become a serious problem? It is not these special points of view that are enquired about, but those of women in general.

The principal newspapers sent reporters to question newspaper sellers, street hawkers, tram-conductresses, women bakers, housekeepers, women workers in the great shops and businesses, &c., and here are some of the answers they received. First, we have the opinion of those who, without quite knowing why, are hostile to Women's Suffrage.

"Votes for Women? O dear, dear! There's not one woman in a hundred at the Halles* who would put herself out for a thing like that!"

"Votes for Women? You don't mean to say that the Chamber have passed it? Really? I haven't been reading the Papers."

"Votes for Women? We didn't see that. O, well, we don't read the Papers; we have too much to do for that!"

"Votes for Women? O, that's all nonsense: we've more important things to see to. You men make such a muddle of things as it is that it's hardly worth our while to mix ourselves up with it. Might go worse still!"

"O, that's just politics. We have plenty to do with things that really matter."

"People have got on very well without Women's Suffrage up till now. Not having it didn't stop the world going round; in fact, nobody was really any the worse!"

Then here is the other side of the picture. The opinion of all those who really want to help to make the wheels go round.

"Well, haven't I got as much sense as any man? Why shouldn't my opinion be asked? I've common sense; I can think about things. If I vote I shall weigh things well before I do it."

"Vote? Of course I shall vote, and I shall try to see clear and get fair play for poor old people and the kiddies. If the opinion of a sensible woman balances that of some idiot, it will be all to the good."

The street hawker says: "Well, it's about time! So now we shall be able to make ourselves heard as well as the men. They'll have to pay some attention to us now! You see, since I read in the newspapers that I've got the right to vote, I take more pleasure in selling my lettuces. My barrow seems to go more easily. I feel that I'm somebody now, and that the copper looks at me in quite a different way; he doesn't say 'Move on' in the nasty way he did yesterday."

Side by side with these women, we find the immense majority of indifferent ones, who don't know yet . . . who haven't even thought. . . .

A woman of great literary gifts, who is, perhaps, the greatest writer of our times, gave the newspaper correspondent who interviewed her, this amazing answer: "Women's Suffrage? Why I never thought about it!"

And from the great mass of women comes a kind of dazed murmur: "Well, I've got my work to do. I don't know. . . ."

These statements seemed to reflect the opinion of the greater number of Frenchwomen; but some journalists took the trouble to see these women again a few days later. Many of them had thought then, and the matter did not appear so trivial. "Well, on thinking it over, it's not a thing to say 'No' to."

"Well, if other people vote, I shall vote too."

"As women vote in other countries, why shouldn't Frenchwomen vote?"

And, finally, this phrase, which is absolutely typical, will serve for a conclusion:—

"Well, the ballot paper isn't a thing I should have fought about; but since the Deputies offer it to me, I'm delighted!"

ALICE LA MAZIERE.

* Halles: Central Market.

Over-Valuing Leisure.

The world is full of demands for leisure. Not so very long ago the eight-hour day was an ideal. The forty-four hour week, the forty hour week, and now the thirty-eight hour week are being pressed for, and that not only by those whose work demands great physical endurance, or continuous mental concentration, but by clerks whose conditions of employment usually entail a slack period several times during the day. The reaction against hours of work which are economically and physically unjustifiable has gone very far indeed.

In industrial work we have at last disposed of the terrible theory which made the factory of the middle nineteenth century an inferno. We know that output is not increased by lengthening working hours. An employer, now-a-days, must be stupid as well as brutal to keep children, women, and even men twelve hours daily at machine or loom. It does not pay him in the long run. The employee, oddly enough, sometimes thinks it pays him if he is on piece-work, but he also is learning wisdom. Scientific persons making laboratory experiments or practical tests of industrial fatigue, show us quite clearly how the long working day is the shadow which is grasped only at the price of losing the substance in the form of a good output in quantity and quality. But mankind, always greedily absorbing fallacies, is coming to believe that the pendulum cannot swing too far back. We are in danger of forgetting that there is a point beyond which to shorten hours is to lessen output. We cannot go on paring down our working week without sooner or later reaching the point where the curve begins to round upon itself. This is so obvious that it is generally forgotten.

There are, of course, other kinds of work in which reduction of hours can bring no increase of result. To shorten the working day of a station master, a nursemaid, a lift boy, may be necessary in the interests of their health and happiness, or for the sake of the risk entailed to passengers and infants if these workers who rule and serve us should nod at their posts. But to shorten their day is to require a substitute, and, as a rule, a substitute who must be paid. The clerk's case is not entirely similar either to the industrial or the "caretaker" employee; it partakes of both, and the economically best length of his working day is difficult to estimate. But, like the others, he (or more numerously, she) must come to a point at which his or her claim for less will meet with refusal.

This, some say, is because of the evil nature of things in general, which requires us to spend a proportion of our lives in bondage to the physical necessities of ourselves and others. Is this a true bill? Have we any just quarrel with a universe that grants us but little leisure? I call it a universe because one naturally talks of one's small affairs in the widest of wide generalities, and because our own small circle is to all intents and purposes the universe to us.

On this question of the value of leisure, unrationed, if I may so describe it, unrestricted except by convention, conscience, inertia, or other forces which can be resisted with success, the real expert is the middle-class Englishwoman now of middle age. She has long "enjoyed" leisure, and is competent to speak of it. Her testimony is none the less valuable because her opinion on other subjects is not held in very high esteem. She was brought up to be perpetually at leisure; that was her duty. She did not earn her living, because to do that would be a reflection on her parents. She had no absorbing occupation, because this would prevent her being always available as assistant, companion, or audience to someone who had a life of his own. She was happy if father, brother, or husband let her share in his work; happy, that is, until the partnership was dissolved by life's chances and changes. Unless this share of a man's life were offered her, she must fall back upon devoting herself to some woman, mother or married sister. The emptiness of this was a nightmare, not as cynics explained, because women are quarrelsome and petty and jealous of one another, but because the doubly diluted cup of one whose leisure is devoted to helping another to do nothing in particular is too insipid for endurance. This is the leisure of the good woman; those whose idle hands are employed, as the hymn writer suggests, by Satan, need not be brought into the argument. Young women of this generation are allowed to have a trade or profession; the middle-aged were given by the war an opportunity of ceaseless work, which they seized upon with an eagerness at once fierce and tenacious. Idle men who drug themselves by means of sport and exercise so that their unoccupied hours are spent in a restful torpor, will never know how middle-aged middle-class women dread going back to the state of things in which they "made occupation" for themselves. Such made occupation may be of great value to the community, but for the maker it has neither the stimulus

nor the calming qualities of work that must be done. The cessation of self-appointed toil brings no gay reaction; there is no feeling that we deserve a holiday, it always seems to be stolen, never earned.

Here, working women who have had no leisure, and middle-class women who have had too much, seem to come to a definite clash of opinion, which even now embitters industrial disputes as to hours and the comment upon them, and has all the air of a class war. Each side envies the other and, consequently, neither is ready to learn from the other's experience. The dangerous side of the demand for leisure is that its over-emphasis constantly induces people to believe, if not to say, that work is in itself an evil. The Garden of Eden story does not mean that Adam's descendants must be punished by being made to work, but that they must work because they had sinned. It is not quite the same thing. Work is an anodyne for suffering, and the only one. Middle-aged women loved, when they were young, a poem which spoke of

"Work, that healing of divinest balm
To whomso has the courage to begin."

They loved it, but found it disappointing when "work" only meant needlework.

There was another quotation—"Blessed is he who has found his work; let him seek no other blessedness"—which did a good deal of harm, though it is true enough if the emphasis is put, where it belongs, on "seek." It then means that he who has found the work he loves is sure of happiness; he need not seek it, it comes to him.

This is the truth that is apt to be obscured by the pursuit of leisure and the shortening of hours. As the working day shrinks there is more and more a tendency to believe that the kind of occupation we choose does not matter. It matters more than almost anything. *La carrière ouverte aux talents* means, no doubt, that every one of us may rise to wealth and eminence if he have the ability. That is important, but immeasurably less important than that each of us shall be able to choose his career, work at the thing he likes to work at. If this can be ensured, payment and holidays take a secondary place. The artist does not want an eight hour day. He is indifferent, not because the practice of the arts is easy, but because his work is his pride and pleasure.

We hear a good deal of the effect that the opening of various occupations to women will have in raising women's wages. This is all to the good. But the better part of the development is in the chance it gives to women of choosing their own work. When the work we want to do is the work we have to do, our lines have fallen to us in pleasant places. If circumstances, conventions, our own want of enterprise have shoved us into occupations we dislike, not all the short hours and high wages will save us from misery. It is one thing to be resigned to the position in which Providence has placed us, and quite another to bear with fortitude misery into which we have thrust ourselves. One of the most astonishing things to a woman who has survived from the days when woman's sphere was not large enough to swing a cat in, is the haphazard, somnolent mood in which young men and women choose their work, as though they were making a choice among evils and comforting themselves with the reflection that "though painful at present, 'twill cease before long." When children were slow in making up their minds, an old man of my acquaintance used to remonstrate. "Now, little Missy, don't be so picky." By all means be picky, and encourage your children to be so. Resignation is not the virtue for a young woman who has the world before her. When we have the work we were made for, the leisure question will settle itself.

E. M. GOODMAN.

Why They are so Unrested.

The tea party was in full swing, with the buzz of talk only heard where the tea is of the uncontrolled variety with scones of the best quality. The subject was congenial, if not of the freshest. One was reminded of the peroration with which a Northern friend wound up a discourse on the wickedness of those whose political views differed from her own. "Believe me, miss, the badness of them ones is undeniable." On this occasion "them ones" were the working classes. A general hotel strike had been on for many weeks, to the great inconvenience of visitors to the city for the big Spring Agricultural Show, held after an interval of five years. One instance after another of unreasonable demands and inefficient service was given, and all felt that complete satisfaction only gained by a conscientious conviction of the misdoings of one's neighbour. Doubtless it was all true; does not everyone know the tale, the

kitchen whitewashed on top of the old coat, though the estimate specified for cleaning it off; the gardener who has solved the problem of doing the least possible work in the greatest possible time; the maid, treated with every consideration and well paid, who scamps her work in every way she can?

But is that the whole story? Granted the wages are high, the hours short was it always so? Were these concessions given by the employers of their own free will, and from their own sense of justice? In some cases it may have been so, but in how many? Charlotte Brontë describes in *Shirley* how Robert Moore watched the operatives streaming into the mill at six on the December morning, with many young children among them. When it was proposed to restrict child labour, a deputation waited on the Home Secretary of the day to explain that such a step would ruin the textile industry. To-day, amidst all the outcry over the unreasoning demands of Labour, what attention is paid to the people who have no power to follow the historic advice, given by a Prime Minister in the days before the Representation of the People Act—"make yourselves a nuisance?" Hotel servants are on strike, and every guest at the tea party instances cases of short hours and high tips. Yet a charwoman, looking for work lately, was told the hours were 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., with two hours off, wages 15s. a week. Charwomen do not go on strike yet; sometime they will organise, will follow the accepted method for forcing public attention, will gain increased pay and shorter hours. Then, having tasted success, they will go on, and the unreasonableness of their demands may be as real as is the injustice of present conditions. They will be told these demands, if granted, will ruin business. They will have heard that before, when they asked for the most moderate concessions, and will pay no heed. Then there will be an outcry against their unreason. This will happen, if the imaginary Charwomen's Union follows the usual course, and if employers adopt their usual methods.

As the talk went round over the excellent tea, and the denunciations of the domestic servant waxed more vigorous, the mind wandered to the story of a well-intentioned member of the much criticised class, who had heard of the out-of-work donation. Lizzie came to her mistress, "If ye please, mem, wull ye gie me my discharge?" "What do you mean, Lizzie? De you want to leave?" "Och no, mem, but they say if I hae my paper, I can get twenty-five shillings a week for daeing nawthin', an' I thoct I wud like a wee holiday, an' I dinna want to go and put ye about, but I wud stay, and gie you half the money. There's Bella, at Mrs. Barr's, an' she strollin' about all day, and bought hersel' a gran' umbrella, wi' a silver hanle, and a blouse all trimmed wi' lace and beads." As for the inefficient work, a Dublin woman says, "How can they work right, when they never learned? Ye can't learn any thing in a tiniment room, wid an open grate, and no convanience of anny soort, and no one can go to the Tech. but them that can live widout workin', and the ladies doesn't know how to train them, and is that unreasonab, ye woulnd't credit it. The cratures woul rather be sellin' herrins on the street nor be down in a basement kitchen day and night."

Other reasons for bad work are given by a friend from the North, who has worked over thirty years for one firm, and whose wages were advanced a year ago to £1 a week. "I always worked hard and done all I could to save the boss money. The men woul say, Wumman dear, but you're a softy to kill yersel' for the likes of him. Catch us doin' it! And then last summer he riz their money, and I got no bolus, nor nawthin', because he knew I was quiet and feared like. That's why they're so unrested. They say, we're not goin' to put up wi' Maggie's treatment, we'll kick up a row, and make him gie us what we want."

Working men and women are convinced that the question in any dispute is not the quality of the work done, nor the length of service but whether the employé will or will not put up with things as they are for a little longer. If the employé were a woman, it was generally safe to conclude she would do so, but even Maggie means to do something. "I'll just tell him that he shouldna tak an unfair advantage, an' I should get a rise, an' if he is stiff, an' I dinna get it, I can go, but he'll never get another to slave as I done." That is why they are so "unrested." Reasonable demands, conceded only after trouble has been made; good work inadequately rewarded, this has been in many cases the measure meted out by the employing class. The employed, now they have tasted power, will apparently mete out treatment, perhaps as hard, often as unjust. The good employers will suffer with those of whom Maggie's boss was the type, until at last wisdom comes to both sides.

DORA MELLONE.

A Vindication of Canvassing.

Women's Citizens Associations have been started in different parts of the country with a double object—the education of the public with regard to the increased representation of women on public bodies and the education of women citizens in political, civic, and economic questions. There can be no doubt that their labours have already borne fruit, but much still remains to be done. At the best such associations touch a very small percentage of the electorate. Meetings even during the excitement of an election attract comparatively small numbers, especially of women. Open-air speaking has a great deal to be said in its favour. It reaches a type of person who cannot be touched in any other way, but the average lower middle-class woman is a little doubtful of the respectability of a gathering in the open air, and even if interested is apt to be ashamed to be seen lingering on the borders of a street-corner crowd. How, then, can we reach the greatest number of individual women and bring home to them their individual responsibility?

The writer ventures to put in a plea for house-to-house canvassing as a method of active educational propaganda. Such canvassing is, of course, easier and more effective, given an obvious excuse—such as the candidature of a suitable woman—when it becomes a means to a definite end. But door-to-door education may be made in itself so valuable that it should not be necessary to wait for the chance of an election before undertaking it. There are, of course, many who disapprove of canvassing, and some recent elections have been tried without it. It has even been suggested that it should be made illegal. The reasons that are urged against it are the burdensome labour and organisation which it entails, the expenditure of human energy and difficulty of finding suitable canvassers, and, most important of all, a democratic distaste to what may appear to be an unwarrantable intrusion on personal liberty of judgment and interference with the right of the individual to form his own opinion independent of outside interference. The validity of the two first criticisms depends on the return yielded in response to the additional expense and labour. The last seems to hang on an incorrect notion of what canvassing should be. It certainly applies with justice to much unintelligent canvassing. It is true that in an Utopian state in which each citizen took a deep personal interest in the public good, anything of the sort would be out of place. But we must recognise present conditions as we find them. We have to deal with an electorate largely composed of men and women with little or no political training or experience. We have still to fight against ignorance, sex-prejudice, and, perhaps worst of all, apathy and complete indifference. Canvassing, if done in the right spirit, is at least an attempt to stimulate men and women in the duties of citizenship, and may, if well done, play an important part as a means of political and civic education.

Much depends on the view that is taken of the function filled by the canvasser. If canvassing means pestering people against their will to vote for some particular party candidate favoured without consideration of his personal qualifications, policy, or programme, nothing can be said in its favour. If, however, the canvasser presents himself as the representative of the candidate, the situation is entirely changed. In an ideal election any voter however insignificant, should have the right of access to the individual who seeks his suffrages. There may be questions he would wish to ask on some matter of public policy to which he has failed to discover a satisfactory answer in the election address, or there may be some issue not prominently before the public at the moment. The canvasser must act as a medium of communication between candidate and elector and remember that the justification of his work depends on his success in doing this. Personal experience has convinced the writer that canvassing undertaken on the assumption that the voter, while entitled to come unaided to his own decision, may wish to clear up some uncertain point or to discuss both sides of the question is rarely resented and often genuinely appreciated.

Canvassing, to be effective as educational propaganda, must not only be carried on in the right spirit, but must be intelligently done. The type of canvasser who is wanted to-day should be a cross between a missionary and a teacher. She must have a cause or mission before she can hope to arouse interest and enthusiasm in others; she must herself be educated before she in turn can help to educate others. In a recent by-election in the North on behalf of a woman candidate for a City Council much of the canvassing was successfully done by working-class members of the Women's Citizens' Association who had been carefully instructed in the special points of interest beforehand. If canvassing be undertaken at all, it should be regarded as a form of very skilled political work for which some definite

preparation is necessary. Classes should be arranged beforehand in which its full possibilities as civic or political education should be explained. A rough syllabus of such classes might be drawn up on the following lines on the assumption that an election campaign is about to be carried on for a woman candidate standing on independent lines for a Town or Borough Council:—

1. Technique of Canvassing: Importance of good manners, patience, and good temper; need for strict accuracy in reporting views held by voter (the columns on the cards marked for and against are often filled in with an inaccuracy that verges on dishonesty by a worker of an unduly optimistic temperament); the duty of the conscientious delivery at the committee room of any information or message which should reach the candidate.

2. The Psychology of Canvassing: How to stimulate interest; how to handle ignorant objections; when to persist and when to desist; how to choose arguments which will appeal to the particular individual; how to draw out interest from the personal to the impersonal.

3. The Ethics of Canvassing: (Unfortunately this is often necessary): The strict avoidance of any personalities: no unfavourable comments on the opposite side: no sort of undue pressure: no urging to abstain from voting at all if against candidate favoured by canvasser.

4. The Work of the City Council: Its powers and duties: its various committees and the work entailed: its percentage of women to men: the relation of the work of the Council to home life: housing, health, education, &c.: party politics and local government: expenditure and economy.

5. The Candidate: Woman's place on a public body: aspects of work that can be dealt with better by a woman than a man—e.g., maternity and child welfare, housing, &c.: ideal of co-operation between men and women: the candidate's address and its points explained: her views on other controversial matters likely to be brought forward, such as temperance reform.

The perfect canvasser who can be sent with safety to the well-informed voter eager for a discussion should be much more thoroughly equipped for her work than this imaginary syllabus indicates. She should understand something of the social, economic, and industrial issues before the country at the time of the election. The well-trained canvasser will recognise her own deficiencies and will mark out the intelligent, interested, but not wholly convinced, voter and see that he has an interview either with the candidate herself or someone who can cope with his arguments and objections. The perfect canvasser should not be in a hurry. She should know how long she may prolong the discussion without encroaching unduly on the time of her victim. Though the ground covered may be less, thoroughly conscientious work is not only sounder from an educational point of view, but is the best policy in the end.

Canvassing in order to secure new members of an association or to arouse interest in some local meeting requires more tact and rather less knowledge. On the whole, people take canvassing rather good-humouredly at the time of an election. Canvassing without the recognised sanction of an election is more difficult and is largely a question of good manners and the tactful presentation of some project which will attract attention.

Many shy people dread canvassing and some, no doubt, are quite unfitted for it. On the other hand, given some degree of courage and enterprise combined with a love of humanity and a lively imagination canvassing will be found to possess a fascination of its own. Canvassing from door to door in different types of districts has its intensely human interest. It gives quick, sometimes vivid impressions of other lives in normal circumstances. The canvasser sees rich and poor, fortunate and unfortunate, intelligent and ignorant. She gains glimpses of interiors that she would never otherwise have access to—not only actual physical interiors, interesting and diverse as these may be, but into mental interiors, much more interesting and much more diverse. Canvassing is an invaluable opportunity for the social student to see democracy at work and realise, as in no other way it can be realised, the lack of any real link between the mass of the people and its so-called representative government.

The future woman candidate should see the much-abused practice of canvassing in a new light, not only as an opportunity of popular education, but an opportunity of gaining personal contact which success at the polls will not break but which will characterise her relationship with her constituents as long as they do her the honour of choosing her as their representative.

ELIZABETH MACADAM.

A Modern Novelist on the Unconscious Self.

Mary Olivier. By May Sinclair. (Cassell. 7s. net.)

"Mary Olivier" is the best novel that Miss Sinclair has written for some time. We feel, as we read it, that there is a pattern running through it, and that the pattern is informed by much of that intellectual beauty which Mary Olivier herself set out to seek. The outer and the inner of events of a woman's life between the ages of two and of forty-seven are related, or conveyed, in less than four hundred pages, and leave one with a sensation of completeness, without weariness, rarely afforded by a modern novel.

Yet Miss Sinclair is very modern. She shows it by her passionate, if not always conscious, interest in the unconscious. The *Inconscient* (to return to the Maeterlinckian name by which many of us first knew this strange creature) is only to be caught on the dim borderland between sensations and emotions, dreams, and thoughts. It is there that Miss Sinclair, like other twentieth century novelists, pursues him. She does it with more success than most, and if the sensations she produces in us are not without discomfort, that may be only because she *does* succeed in unveiling an aspect of life which exists but which many of us still prefer to ignore. If so, she is following in the paths of the earlier realists. This reflection suggests the question why most people can now read "Madame Bovary" or the "Rougon-Macquart" series without discomfort (if not without boredom), while modern psycho-analytic realism—especially if it is as clever as Miss Sinclair's—causes a more active irritation. Perhaps it is partly because we have got used to the facts of heredity and even to the facts of lust; we have realised the existence of these things, and acknowledged their nearness to our own individual lives; we know the evil in our blood and the corruption of our passions; but we have not yet brought ourselves to recognise the secret sins that lurk beneath the surface of our minds. This may be the reason; on the other hand, it may be that our comparative calmness about the unpleasant truths forced on our attention by nineteenth century realists arises from the fact that we have had time to test them by experience, and that we know they are not the whole truth. The psycho-analyst truths have not been subjected to this test, and we do not know where to place them, or what proportion they bear to the rest of life; therefore, we fear them.

Miss Sinclair is not obsessed by the subconscious as Zola was obsessed by heredity; on the contrary, she has a Grecian sense of proportion; but "Mary Olivier" is a psycho-analytic novel. Nearly all the characters in it suffer the devastating effects of the Suppressed Wish. The heroine herself is repressed and hemmed in as girls who grew up at the end of last century generally were. Neither her instincts, nor her affections, nor her intellectual cravings are allowed any kind of free play; they are forced back into the subconscious and become harmful as imprisoned things can be. It is only when Mary Olivier is middle-aged that she wins freedom—partly through circumstances—the death of most of her family and the gain of a separate income, and partly through her own action. She acknowledges her longings, achieves them, and then deliberately surrenders the thing that she wants most. At least she thinks at the time that it is the thing she wants most; but when the renunciation is made, she discovers that what she truly wants most is freedom; freedom to be herself and to touch reality—if there is any reality—freedom, at least, to take the risk.

So we leave her happy at the end. The relations who made it so difficult for her to be so are very well described—especially the dominating mother, whose gentle womanliness sucked the life-blood out of her children. Mrs. Olivier seems to have been a woman of much the same type as Helen Pendennis, and the methods by which her character is impressed on us are a sufficient indication of the change that has taken place in the art of fiction in the last hundred years. As a modern novel "Mary Olivier" is very good, and if, in spite of all its philosophy and subtlety, we miss something in it, it is only what some of us, at least, miss in all modern fiction—some element of passion, of ecstasy, of what we might call the inexpressible, if it had not once and again been expressed. It is not missing from modern life, only from the description of it. This may be why Shakespeare sometimes seems so much more "like life" than any modern or Victorian realist. The question suddenly presents itself, whether what we miss may not, after all, be the Unconscious, that elusive being which has so many shapes, and flies those who seek him? Shakespeare had never heard of him, of course, but perhaps after all it was he and not the moderns who knew him best?

I. B. O'M.

The Splendid Influence of the Y.W.C.A.

Before I leave France in the course of the next few days, I feel that I should like on behalf of the Church of England Chaplains of the B.E.F. to express my very real appreciation of all that the Y.W.C.A. has been to our girls since they came out to take their part in the War.

That our girls have done so splendidly is in no small measure due to the healthy atmosphere of your Huts and the splendid influence exercised by your most excellent staff. My chaplains have always spoken in terms of the highest praise of the work of the Y.W.C.A. and I want to thank you on their behalf for the many ways in which you have given them invaluable help.

LLEWELLYN H. GWYNNE,
Bishop,
Deputy Chaplain General
To the B.E.F.

This letter was received last month by the Organising Secretary in France of the Y.W.C.A., Blue Triangle Clubs.

What the world needs to-day are Christian women, with strength of soul and rightness of character and outlook. Through all the work of the Association for the girls in all their various needs runs one central aim—that of bringing before them the claims of Christ and His Kingdom, in order that those who work with them may stand together for the Kingdom of God.

Unless funds are immediately forthcoming, this great work must slacken. Will you not send a gift, large or small to-day to:—

**The Hon. Treasurer,
The Earl of Harrowby,
Y.W.C.A., Room 9,
26, George Street,
Hanover Square, W.1.**

Women Wartime Workers' Fund, Registered Under the War Charities Act, 1916.

Correspondence.

(Letters intended for publication should reach the Editor by first post on Monday.)

WOMEN AND THE PRIESTHOOD.

MADAM,—Kindly allow a few words from a small, and hitherto silent, section of your readers. I refer to those members of the Church of England who hold, with unwavering faith, to the covenanted mercies of God in the Catholic Church. They have refused, in turn, such alterations in Church order as are involved in deletions from the Creed, legal dispensations from keeping the Ten Commandments, changes in the matter of the Sacraments, or arrest in the succession of the Ministry.

Measures designed to any of these ends must continue to meet with their unqualified opposition; because they believe that such measures, if taken, would bring about the death of their branch of the Catholic Church. Furthermore, they believe that that branch has, as yet, the guidance of the Holy Spirit. If Orders be a Sacrament at all, to substitute women for men, in it, would surely be as fundamental an alteration of its matter as to substitute milk for wine in the Sacrament of the Altar.

MARGERY SMITH.

NATIONAL ORGANISATION OF GIRLS' CLUBS.

MADAM,—Once more we venture to plead with those fortunate people who possess gardens in or near London. We would ask them to be so very kind as to issue invitations, through our Organisation, to girls who are at work all the week, and thoroughly appreciate a restful Saturday afternoon spent in pretty surroundings.

Our Secretary will be glad to make all arrangements for small or large parties, and we beg your readers not to hesitate to write to us even if they can only entertain quite a small number. We can assure our hostesses that they will find their guests the very best company.

LILY H. MONTAGU,
Chairman.

118, Great Titchfield Street, W. 1.

SUMMER SCHOOL.

MADAM,—I should like to urge all our Societies to send representatives, if possible, to our Summer School at Cambridge during the first fortnight of August.

I feel that our Societies have suffered a good deal recently from the very size and complexity of our programme. We have no longer, as we had before, a single simple object, familiar to us all, which presented only the difficulty of ringing the changes upon the same tune, so as to prevent the monotony of incessant reiteration. We are now working for a number of reforms, all of great value and urgency, but nearly all involving, if our propaganda is to be effective, a specialised knowledge of social, industrial, or political conditions, which is not the possession of everyone. The Summer School affords an invaluable opportunity to our workers of acquiring a working knowledge of the broad outlines of our subjects. It also affords, what is equally valuable, an opportunity of making or renewing acquaintance with each other, and of re-awakening that sense of comradeship and loyalty which used to be such a marked feature of our National Union, but has to some extent unavoidably died down during the absorbing pre-occupation of a war.

We have secured the great advantage of co-operation with the Summer School of Civics and Eugenics. Their interesting courses of lectures will be open to our students, as well as the courses which are specially our own, and their organisers have been good enough to undertake for us the formidable task of obtaining suitable quarters for all our students. Owing to the great demand for lodgings, it is most desirable that names should be sent in as early as possible, if satisfactory accommodation is to be secured. Cambridge is not an unpleasant place in which to spend a fortnight of the summer.

May I suggest that the officers of our Societies should make an endeavour, not only to attend themselves, but to secure the attendance of some of the younger women who have recently joined or may be induced to join our Societies, and among whom our best recruits should be found. The future belongs to them, and they will be the greatest gainers by the reforms for which we are working. If the bursaries which are being offered make it possible for any working women to come too, so much the better. Possibly some Societies might be able to give a bursary of their own for this purpose.

ELEANOR F. RATHBONE.

JULY 1st MEETING.

MEMORIAL HALL, FARRINGDON STREET.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Volunteers are urgently needed to sell **Our Paper** on the route of the Procession and outside the Hall. This will be an excellent opportunity of making the paper better known. Will you help?

The Procession will start from the office of the Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, and march to the Hall. Will sellers please send their offers of help to the Manager, COMMON CAUSE, 62, Oxford Street, W., and come to the offices of THE COMMON CAUSE at 6 o'clock for the papers.

Reports, Notices, etc.

National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship

The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

President: MISS ELEANOR F. RATHBONE.

Hon. Secretary:
MRS. A. K. GAME.

Hon. Treasurer:
MISS ROSAMOND SMITH.

Secretaries:

MISS INEZ M. FERGUSON, MRS.
HUBBAC (Information and Parli-
amentary).

Offices—Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, Ox, London. Telephone—Museum 2668.

Headquarters Notes.

Women's Emancipation Bill.

Societies are reminded that the report stage of the Women's Emancipation Bill will take place on July 4th. They are therefore asked to remember that, to be effective, any resolutions on the Bill they are prepared to send in should reach their M.P. and Mr. Bonar Law before that date.

Women Under Thirty Meeting.

The following processions are being organised to march to the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, E.C., on Tuesday, July 1st, before the public meeting on the Women's Emancipation Bill organised by the N.U.S.E.C. and the S.J.C.I.W.O.:

1. Processions with banners of the N.U.S.E.C. will form up outside the Offices of the London Society for Women's Service, 58, Victoria Street, S.W. at 6 p.m.
2. The second procession will form up behind the Offices of the Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C. (corner of Bury Street), at 6.30 p.m.
3. A procession representing University and Training Colleges will start from the south quadrangle of University College, Gower Street, W.C. at 6.30 p.m.

All interested in the Bill are urged to join in any of these processions, and those willing to bear banners will be specially welcomed. Graduates are asked to wear academic dress. Mrs. Haslam, the Pioneer Veteran of the Suffrage Movement in Ireland, will be attending the procession with the Irish banner. Irishwomen are urged to join up behind this banner at 58, Victoria Street, S.W.

Telegrams from Societies and individuals in sympathy with this Bill will be read at the meeting.

Women Members of Parliament and Proportional Representation.

The N.U.S.E.C. will hold a meeting at the Caxton Hall on Thursday, July 3rd, at 7 p.m. in connection with the annual meeting of the Proportional Representation Society by kind permission of this Society.

This meeting will be addressed by Mrs. Strachey, who will show the connection between Proportional Representation and the election of Women Members of Parliament. It is hoped that a general discussion will take place, and that members and their friends who are interested in this subject will attend the meeting.

Summer School.

Final entries for the Summer School must be sent in by July 15th. Fees must be sent at the same time.

Half-Yearly Council.

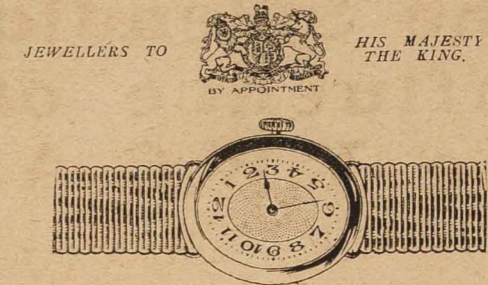
It has been arranged, by kind invitation of the Glasgow W.S.S., to hold the Half-Yearly Council in Glasgow on October 7th, 8th, and 9th. Detailed arrangements will be sent to Societies as soon as possible. It is greatly hoped that Societies will, if possible, arrange to send their full delegation.

News from Societies.

Huddersfield.—The Annual Business Meeting was held on May 27th, 1919, and the following officers were elected:—Chairman of Committee, Mrs. Donkersley; Treasurer, Mrs. Wilmshurst; Secretary, Mrs. Dyson; Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Fleming; Committee, Miss Siddon, Miss M. Johnston, Miss Alice Robson, Mesdames Beaumont, Blameres, Haigh, Hoyle, Hardy, Rennards, Tupper, Carey, and Laycock. Great regret was expressed that Miss Siddon, who has done so much for the cause during her long term as President, could no longer continue in that office, but it was a great satisfaction to know that she would be able to give service on the Committee.

Fruit Pickers Wanted in Scotland.

Mr. William Macpherson of Blairgowrie House, Blairgowrie, appeals through the Y.W.C.A. for twenty girls to pick raspberries. He says: "I should be much obliged if anyone willing to bring a party would communicate with me and I would give any further particulars required. I do not cater or cook meals for my pickers, but I provide cooking stove, coal, necessary cooking utensils, plates, &c., and I should be willing to pay £2 per week to anyone who might come with the girls who would be willing to do the catering, cooking, and necessary cleaning. Provisions are easily obtained in Blairgowrie." Railway tickets would be issued at reduced rates. An inexperienced picker can earn 4s. or 5s. per day, and those experienced much more. The picking goes on from about July 20th to the end of August.



Watch Bracelets

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Ask your Draper for THE FERSTRONG 196 WHITE CAMBRIC, 40 inches wide, the Queen of Lingerie. Words cannot express the merits of this unrivalled cambric. White as snow, soft as silk, its loveliness must be seen to be realised. See "Ferstrong 196" stamped on selvedge.

Also ask your Draper for THE CRÉPE DE FERSTRONG 247 Quality, 39 inches wide, in different shades. The best substitute for Crêpe de Chine. Unrivalled for Ladies' and Children's Dainty Garments; also Blouses, Jumpers, Boudoir Caps, Camisoles, &c. This material is the most attractive, fascinating, and economical ever produced, and being made out of the purest and finest cotton the world can produce, also absolutely pure in itself, can claim the highest hygienic property, which contributes health and beauty to the wearer. See "Crêpe de Ferstrong 247" stamped on selvedge.

Write to:—
FERSTRONG DEPT., 32, KING ST. WEST, MANCHESTER, for free patterns and shade cards, and if any difficulty in obtaining this material, we will send you names and addresses of leading Drapers, who guarantee to execute orders in United Kingdom, by post, postage free, on receipt of remittance for same.

N.U.S.E.C. Scottish Women's Hospitals.

Subscriptions are still urgently needed, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, S.W.H., Red House, Greenock, or to Headquarters, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh. Peace has now been declared, but the Sick and Wounded are still on our hands, and will require care and attention for some time to come. The Committee therefore urge the necessity of continued and even greater support from the public, to meet the many demands that are constantly coming from Serbia. Cheques and Postal Orders should be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland."

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Mrs. Bayne Jardine (Serbia)...	2	0	0	* Alexander Cuthbert, Esq. ...	1	0	0
Anonymous ...	1	0	0	* The Misses Douglas, per Mrs. Wright (Elsie Inglis Memorial Fund) ...	26	5	6
Per Miss Walker's Collection taken at lecture per Miss J. Vernon Harcourt ...	4	0	0	* Anonymous ...	5	0	0
War Work Club, per Mrs. H. W. Ferguson ...	10	0	0	* Alex. Cupples (monthly donation) ...	2	0	0
* Miss Molly Eyre Poppleton From a Friend ...	5	0	0	* Mrs. T. L. Paterson, per Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treas., S.W.H. (Elsie Inglis Memorial Fund—Serbia) ...	1	0	0
Anonymous, Serbian Relief ...	10	0	0	* Oldham Women Citizens' Association, per Miss Mitton, Hon. Treas. ...	4	0	0
Per Miss E. J. Sloane, Hon. Sec. Leicester W.S.S. Mrs. A. H. Paget, 21, Slater Street, Council School (Boys' Department) Leicester, per Mr. Buckley, Headmaster, 10s. ...	1	10	0	Miss E. M. Cruthwell ...	2	6	0
Thomas Clapperton, Esq. ...	2	0	0	* Further subscriptions from America, per Miss Kathleen Burke, per Messrs. Morgan Grenfell & Co., London, per Messrs. J. P. Morgan & Co. ...	2	0	0
Anonymous ...	1	18	6	Miss Evelyn A. Cowdell ...	2	0	0
* Collected by Miss Sinclair for "Learnmouth" Bed ...	4	18	0	Miss E. Y. Drummond ...	6	0	0
Forward as per list to May 31st, 1919 ...	£339	0	11	* Oxton War Work Party, per Miss M. W. Weddell, Hon. Secy. ...	5	0	0
Less subscriptions received for the "Elsie Inglis Memorial" Committee: Ascot W.S.S., £50 Cupar W.S.S., £30 Donation earmarked for Dr. McPhail's Children's Orphanage, Belgrade, per the Mayor of Petermaritzburg ...	150	0	0	Private Dancing Exhibition, per Mrs. Stewart McKenzie ...	2	2	0
Further donations received to June 19th, 1919:—				Miss George ...	5	0	0
* Birmingham Burns Club, per Robt. McKenzie, Esq., Hon. Treas., for "Burns Club Beds," £50; result of lecture on April 11th, per Mrs. Robertson, £6 ...	56	0	0	* Biggar and District Women's War Relief Work Party, per Mrs. Robb ...	64	0	0
* Holt S.E.C., per Miss F. Lloyd, Treasurer—Result of Jumble Sale ...	38	0	0	Sale of Trunk ...	5	0	0
* Stranraer and Rhins of Galloway W.S.S., per Miss Frances L. Hislop, Hon. Treas. ...	7	3	6	Anonymous ...	5	0	0
* Miss Alice M. Kemp ...	10	0	0	Birkenhead W.E.S., per Miss Mary E. Dalby, Hon. Treas., for upkeep of bed, £2 10s. 6d.; Miss Edith Craven, £2 ...	5	10	6
Miss Mary Smyth ...	0	10	0	Miss Peterkin ...	15	0	0
Anonymous ...	0	10	0	Mrs. Byer's Pupils' Entertainment, per Miss Geraldine Cooke ...	10	3	9
* L. S. P. (Serbia) ...	0	10	0	Mrs. Lovell ...	2	2	0
* Miss Russell, per Mrs. McCuaig ...	3	12	7	Per Miss C. M. Ryley, for "Bingley" Bed ...	19	5	6
				* "G. G. R." ...	3	0	0
					£401	156	4

* Denotes further donations.

FURTHER LIST OF BEDS NAMED.

Names of Beds.	Donors.
"Birmingham Burns Club," further subscriptions, ...	per Robt. McKenzie, Hon. Treas., Birmingham Burns Club.
Port-Glasgow (Salonica, further donation, 1 year) ...	Port-Glasgow W.S.S., per Mrs. Anderson.
"Oreadian" (Belgrade, further donation, 1 year) ...	Per Mrs. Watson, Kirkwall.
"Vive la France" (Salonica, further, 6 months) ...	"Two Members of Glasgow W.S.S."
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It is very important that our readers should support the advertisers and mention THE COMMON CAUSE whenever purchasing, ordering goods by post, or paying accounts. Many firms of the highest repute have used our columns, but they will only continue to do so if they know they are supported by our readers. We are confident that our readers do give such support, but it is necessary to make it known to the advertisers. The following is a list of some of THE COMMON CAUSE advertisers, past and present. Cut it out for reference:—

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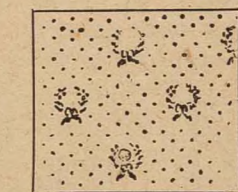
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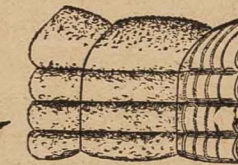
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Forthcoming Meetings (N.U.S.E.C.)

JUNE 27.
Bradford—Girls' Patriotic Club—Annual Meeting—Speaker: Miss R. Hartop. 7 p.m.

JUNE 30.
Birmingham—Temperance Hall—Speaker: Mrs. Corbett Ashby—Subject: "Widow's Pensions"—Chair: F. O. Roberts, Esq., M.P. 8 p.m.

JULY 1.
Birmingham—36, Augustus Road, Edgbaston—Drawing Room Meeting—Speaker: Mrs. Corbett Ashby—Subject: "Widow's Pensions"—Chair: Mrs. Eric Carter. 5.30 p.m.

JULY 3.
Sutton Coldfield—W.C.A. Meeting—Speaker: Mrs. Ring—Subject: "Equality before the Law." 3 p.m.

Coming Events.

NATIONAL BABY WEEK COUNCIL.

JULY 1-3.
National Conference on Infant Welfare.
Kingsway Hall, W.C. 1.

Lecture Programme.

NATIONAL BABY WEEK—A National Conference on Infant Welfare will be held at the Kingsway Hall, Kingsway, London, W.C. 1, on July 1st, 2nd and 3rd, from 10 to 1, and from 2.30 to 4.30 each day.

Tues., July 1st.—Antenatal and Neonatal Mortality and its Prevention. 10-1 p.m. Inaugural Address by the Right Hon. Christopher Addison, M.P. Chairman: Sir Arthur Newsholme. Papers will be read by Dr. Amand Routh, Dr. Eardley Holland, and Dr. Morna Rawlins. 2.30-4.30 p.m., Dr. C. W. Saleeby, Dr. J. J. Buchan, and others.

Wed., July 2nd.—10-1 p.m., "The Work of the Midwife in Relation to Antenatal and Neonatal Mortality." Papers will be read by Dr. J. S. Fairbairn, Dr. Vera Foley, and Miss M. Burnside. 2.30-4.30 p.m., "The Industrial Employment of Mothers in Relation to Infant Mortality." Chairman: Dr. Mary Scharlieb. Papers will be read by Dr. Rhoda Adamson, Miss Barker, and Mrs. Holden.

Thurs., July 3rd.—"The Illegitimate Child." 10-1 p.m. Chairman: Sir John Kirk. Papers will be read by Lady Nott-Bower, Mr. Robert Parr, and the Lord Bishop of Kensington. 2.30-4.30 p.m. Chairman: Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher. Papers will be read by Mrs. A. C. Gotto, Dr. W. F. J. Whitley, and Miss Adelaide Cox.

Apply to Miss Halford, Secretary, National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality, 4, Tavistock Square, London, W.C. 1.

BRIGHTON WOMEN'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION.

JULY 1.
Pioneer Club, 4, New Road, Brighton.
Speaker: Miss E. M. White. 6 p.m.
Subject: "Education."

JULY 2.
Essex Hall, Strand, W.C.
The Union of the East and West.
Speaker: The Hon. Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjee.
Subject: "India, Past and Present."

JULY 8.
Speaker: Miss E. M. White.
Subject: "The British Commonwealth. (A) Its Growth and Salient Features." 6 p.m.

JULY 15.
Speaker: Miss E. M. White.
Subject: "The British Commonwealth. (B) Its Problems at Present and Outlook for the Future." 6 p.m.

JULY 22.
Speaker: Miss E. M. White.
Subject: "Reconstruction." 6 p.m.

ARCHBISHOP'S COMMITTEE FOR INDUSTRIAL AND OTHER WORKERS.

JULY 7-11.
Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford.
A Conference intended for all workers among girls.
Main subjects of the Conference: "The Working Girl of To-day; Her Quest and Her Need; The Environment and Problems of the Working Girl; and Our Contribution towards their Solution."

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MISS MAUDE ROYDEN leaves for her holiday on July 1st, and will be very grateful if correspondents will hold over their letters as far as possible that month.

THE COMMON CAUSE.

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