

THE
WOMAN'S LEADER

IN POLITICS
IN THE HOME
IN INDUSTRY

IN LITERATURE AND ART
IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND

THE COMMON CAUSE

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THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND
COMMON CAUSE.

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

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NOTES AND NEWS.

American Woman Suffrage.

Woman Suffrage in America is an established fact, and a proclamation has been issued confirming it as the 19th Amendment of the Federal Constitution. The prohibitory injunction obtained by the anti-Suffragists in Tennessee has been superseded by a writ issued by Chief Justice Lansden of the Supreme Court of that state, and twenty-seven million American women will be able to vote at the forthcoming Presidential Election. We congratulate them once again with all our hearts, and hope that they will use their newly won power for the good of the world and the League of Nations.

Feminism in the East.

Much indignation has been aroused among the conservative Mullahs of Resht by Asanullah Khan, who recently not only proclaimed aloud the dreaded doctrine of Communism but advocated the emancipation of women and the abolition of the veil. In spite of much excitement on the part of the Mullahs the woman's movement is growing, and Teheran houses many of its supporters. Our readers will remember the Prime Minister's dilemma last winter when faced with an angry deputation of women, who threatened to "down veils." He evidently had something of the gift of our own Prime Minister for extricating himself from an unpleasant position, for he passed the ladies on to their religious leaders. Notwithstanding the musical comedy atmosphere which the daily press attributes to the Persian woman's movement, it is in reality growing quietly but surely, and we may count on the emancipation of women there in the not too far distant future.

The International Council of Women.

The sixth quinquennial meeting of the International Council of Women is to be held in Christiania early next month, under the presidency of Lady Aberdeen. Delegates are expected from thirty countries, but Germany has decided not to send representatives until she is a member of the League of Nations. Dr. Alice Salomon, a well-known German social worker, was nominated corresponding secretary by several National Councils, but Germany's decision makes her acceptance impossible. The Storting has been lent by the Norwegian Government, who have also most generously given a grant of £2,000 towards the expenses of the meeting. The subjects for discussion are numerous and varied, including the international interchange of public school teachers, the right of women to choose their nationality, training in citizenship and instruction of girls in laws affecting women and children, endowment of motherhood, elimination of private profit from the sale of drink, suppression of the "white slave" traffic, and equality of moral standard. Official Government representatives are expected from several countries, and the discussions will be watched with great interest.

The fact that so many women in the world are voters gives a new importance to all forms of organisation among them, and the National Councils, representing as they do very wide affiliations of women's societies, can have if they choose a great influence upon the progress of social legislation.

Women's Protest to the Ministry of Health.

The women's section of the Garden Cities and Town Planning Association has protested to the Ministry of Health that many of the State-aided houses are not as good as they might be. The scullery in the non-parlour type of house is generally badly shaped and too small, and the third bedroom is far too tiny to be of any real value. Many minor alterations are suggested, and it is obvious that the advice of women on these matters is essential. The Housing Advisory Council, which included several women representing influential women's societies, has not been called together by the Ministry of Health since 1919, and the resulting errors in house planning are the price the community has to pay for the Ministry's neglect of its women advisers.

The Metropolitan Asylums Board.

The London County Council's reconstruction scheme for the health services of the County of London implied, it will be remembered, that the Council should take over the control of the Board's fifty institutions with 25,000 inmates, as well as fifty-five infirmaries, homes, and schools belonging to the Poor Law Guardians. The M.A.B. has now issued a considered protest against this step. One of the reasons given for superseding the Board was that that body is anomalous in its constitution, being only indirectly elected. The Board replies that the Council itself, when it is dealing with the management of institutions, co-opts members from outside and that these co-opted members, being less distracted by other claims, have, in fact, a large effective share in institution arrangement. If the Council should extend this system on taking over other institutions with a population equal to that of a large town, it will merely substitute a control by a largely co-opted authority for that of an indirectly represented one. This is a good debating point; it is more important that the institutions managed by the M.A.B. are efficiently conducted, and that the L.C.C., which has already to deal with the Building Acts, education, fire brigades, public parks, the licensing of music-halls and theatres, highways and improvements, and main-drainage, is obviously over-worked, and would be ill-advised to undertake further large responsibilities. Moreover, the L.C.C. is elected largely on a political basis; the Asylums Board sees no reason to import party politics into arrangements for the care of the sick. Very many women will agree with them in this attitude and will prefer to entrust a proportion of our public work to a non-party body, even though it be "anomalous." The Asylums Board has our sympathy in

desiring an alteration of its name more in keeping with its work. To most of us "asylums" mean "lunatic asylums" and this kind of institution is already under the L.C.C. Unification has a great attraction to some minds, but others prefer not to put all their eggs in one basket and will wish to see the Asylums Board, with its sixty years experience of managing institutions, remain in control of its schools and hospitals for the present. The policy of the Ministry of Health is one of large areas, but the London County Council cannot conveniently administer an area having a population as large as Scotland unless its scope is somewhere limited.

Unhealthy Areas in London.

The Committee appointed to consider the principles to be followed in dealing with unhealthy areas has issued an interim report relating to London. It advises, as the essential remedy for unhealthy over-crowding, the removal of surplus population to garden cities consisting of dwellings for less than fifty thousand inhabitants. But these, obviously, cannot be built in a day, and when they have come into being there is no guarantee that the surplus population will live in them. It is more likely to crowd into the districts bordering its old home, and to make a fresh unhealthy area of what was an overcrowded district previously. Liverpool, it seems, has made successful efforts to retain its old tenants in new buildings which have replaced unsuitable dwelling-houses, but in the case of six L.C.C. schemes which displaced tenants during rebuilding, only one in fifty of the old inhabitants returned to the new houses. Clearly the L.C.C. has something to learn from Liverpool. Until large resettlement schemes can be carried out the Committee recommends that old houses shall be carefully repaired and managed under the Octavia Hill system. An interesting suggestion is that a local authority should be empowered to declare overcrowded districts "congested areas," and to prohibit demolition of dwelling houses or erection of buildings other than houses while overcrowding continues. The removal of the severe restrictions on rents will make repair of existing houses possible even to landlords of small means, and it is the business of the local authorities to see that necessary repairs are at once taken in hand.

Insanitary Theatres.

It is good news that the Actors' Association has at length prevailed upon the Ministry of Health to circularise the local authorities with regard to the insanitary condition of many theatres licensed by them. They may "attach reasonable conditions" to the granting of a licence, but frequently hitherto have not considered it reasonable to demand satisfactory sanitation, ventilation, means of heating, or a moderate standard of cleanliness either behind the stage or in the auditorium. Any playgoer in the possession of his five senses could mention West End theatres where an odour of stables or drains pervades the stalls, and suburban and provincial theatres with dressing-room accommodation resembling that of a travelling circus are far too common.

Exhibition of Household Things.

The Whitechapel Art Gallery's next exhibition will be organised by the Design and Industries Association, with the object of showing the public what is useful in a home, and why, and what is not worth having, and why it is not useful in spite of its cheapness. Bad design is a fault common among household things, and no end of misplaced ingenuity is used to make things look like anything but what they are. As well as trying to educate the public into discarding stupid, ugly things, the object of the exhibition is to show the average householder the tremendous improvement in modern furnishing, of which he is probably hardly aware. Political and domestic enfranchisement march side by side.

Homes for Mothers and Children.

The Ministry of Health has compiled a list, which is shortly to be published by the Stationery Office, of Residential Institutions in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare. There are 318 homes with 4,599 beds dealing only with mothers and children. The homes are divided into five classes—homes for mothers and babies; homes for children under five; maternity homes and hospitals; hospitals for children under five, and convalescent homes. The only institutions of this kind which are not included in the list are those which the Ministry has inspected and found unsatisfactory. The outstanding feature of this list is that it is a very great deal too short.

Sanatorium Treatment in America.

Sanatorium treatment of tuberculosis has been a failure in Great Britain under the Health Insurance Act, and a very modified success under the War Office. In the United States things are even worse. The New York *Nation* states that soldiers in the Home Sanatorium in the Adirondachs received no maintenance allowance between March and August, and that the keepers of the boarding-houses where the single men live have had to borrow money to provide them with food. The patients have an allowance for medical supplies, but this is inadequate owing to the slowness of the Government in paying chemists' accounts, which excuses or justifies the tradesmen in charging ex-service men much more than market rates. America's failings are no excuse for ours, but it is important to notice them because our Government Departments, taking no account of the well-earned prestige of Great Britain in health matters all the world over, has hardly left off imitating Germany before it begins to copy America in preventive medicine. We should do much better to consult our own experts, who are many and distinguished but very ill-rewarded.

Soldiers in Hospital.

There are still eight thousand soldier and sailor patients in London hospitals suffering from shell shock and from wounds which will not heal. They feel that they have been forgotten by the public which, during the war, lavished cigarettes and fruit, motor rides, and theatre tickets, concerts and entertainments on them. They have not even the joy of telling the sympathetic and credulous visitor some impossible story of "how they were wounded." Lady Astor recently drew public attention to them, and an entertainment committee has been formed which calls itself the Not-Forgotten Association. Now that transport is not the difficulty it was during the war, private owners of cars could easily help to make the men forget the tediousness of long hospital treatment, and the Red Cross have promised to take the men to any private entertainments which are arranged. Miss Marta Cunningham is undertaking the organisation of the Association, and anybody interested should communicate with her at 86, Ladbrooke Road, London, W. 11.

Service Women for Overseas.

Though it is disappointing that very few service women should have applied for the free passages offered to the Dominions by the Imperial Government, it is not very surprising. The Dominions said, almost with one voice, that there was almost unlimited demand for domestic servants and very little for other workers. Even girls who have no disinclination for housework were discouraged when they learned that young women born in the Dominions and Colonies can seldom be induced to undertake this kind of work; the inference was natural, that conditions of domestic service overseas are unfavourable to a degree which more than compensates for the higher wages offered. This, we believe, is a misapprehension, and it is certain that having started a career overseas as a domestic servant is no handicap to a woman capable of other work, while the high salaries make it easy to save in view of a change of occupation which may involve some small outlay. There are seven thousand situations awaiting girls in Sydney alone; the voyage is made under comfortable conditions, and all expenses are paid, and even if no other career should offer itself, the ex-service woman after a year's domestic work would be able to pay her passage home and have a little over. The middle-aged observer is sometimes inclined to marvel at the lack of the spirit of adventure among her young contemporaries. A futurist frock, a little strong language, and a cigarette seem to satisfy their cravings, while she herself, at length emancipated from the system which required her invariably to be home by tea-time, would like nothing better than a free passage to the antipodes, even if there was a threat of housemaid's work at the end of it.

Women as Railway Police.

The Caledonian Railway is appointing policewomen for service at its larger stations. This is a very wise step in view of the continued difficulty of railway travel and the number of young women who are obliged to seek work away from home, and whose limited means hamper them in obtaining lodging or refreshment when they travel. This is the opportunity of the harpy and the white slave trafficker, and the presence of a uniformed woman whose duty it is to assist travellers and protect them from molestation is an obvious safeguard. No policewoman, it is true, can do very much to protect those young women who prefer risk to safety, but this, though a common argument against their appointment, is not worth a moment's consideration.

Food Supplies during Strikes.

We understand that the Government will enforce drastic rationing in the event of a coal strike, in case transport is eventually dislocated. It will be a wise, even an essential precaution, for the miners, in preparation for a long strike, are believed to have arranged with the co-operative stores for their own provision; but they can hardly complain if the Ministry of Food overrides their plans and arranges for all reserves to be shared equally.

The Ministry of Women.

The report of the recent Lambeth Conference which was lately published deals, among other matters, with the position of women in the councils and ministrations of the Church. The Bishops agreed that the Order of Deaconesses should be restored and resolved that women should be admitted to those Councils of the Church to which laymen are admitted, and on equal terms. Opportunity is also to be given to women to speak in consecrated buildings, and to lead in prayer at other than the regular Church services. Women will be certain to accept the new opportunities offered them courageously and may, by their self-sacrificing service, bring a new vitalising spirit into the teaching of the Church, but we do of course regret the restrictions still imposed on their ministry. We hope to publish shortly an article on this important subject.

Saving Coal in France.

French housewives have become accustomed to saving fuel by the Spartan method of sitting in unheated rooms, and will welcome the growing success of engineers in making the waterfalls and swift-flowing rivers of their country take the place of fuel as sources of electric power. The river Rhone is about to be harnessed, and France, with an available water power greater than any other European country, may not long have to choose between comfort and penury. The Bill which has been passed to authorise the Paris-Orleans Railway using the waterfalls in the Dordogne, contemplates that after providing power enough for the railway, it will have three times that amount to dispose of for other purposes. Travellers in the Black Forest will remember the gun factory at St. Blasiers, which uses the waterfall during working hours and lets it loose to deafen the village at dinner-time and at night. Modern improvements will perhaps arrange for waterfalls to cook our dinners and light our lamps when the factories give them a holiday.

Eggs.

The Ministry of Food speaks with two (if not more) voices. In the Commons it assures us through Mr. McCurdy that it ought not to be considered as a trading concern, and in the Lords, by the mouth of Lord Crawford, pleads that it, "the biggest commercial organisation in the world," cannot be expected to sell off its stock, worth a hundred and thirty millions, in less than two years. This may be so; certainly the food at the end of two years will be worth a good deal less than a hundred and thirty millions. Nor is there any certainty that the Ministry may not increase its stocks instead of selling out. It is apparently uncertain whether to trade in Egyptian eggs this season, and in the meantime is withholding permission for the non-official import of eggs from this source. Egyptian eggs, though small, are good when they are fresh, and since Egyptian hens lay for a very short time, the consumer cannot fail to realise that eggs appearing in the market when this season is well past are no longer fresh. It will be a pity if "Government eggs" should rival "election eggs" on their own ground; the election variety is at any rate cheap.

Union-Owned Shops.

The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union is raising £100,000 for setting up factories and shops for the manufacture and sale of women's clothing. Its President, Mr. Schlesinger, is urging the need for a reduction of prices in the interests both of the workers and the public. He anticipates that the new enterprise will bring down the cost of women's clothing and afford an opportunity to workers to take a part in the management of their industry.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

The close of a session gives opportunity for review and reflection, and to do so is specially valuable on an occasion such as this, when Parliament has been occupied with many affairs of the most vital moment, on which opinion is bitterly divided, and the discussion of which has been conducted with some acerbity. No body of opinion comes out of that discussion unchanged. Each political party, while it has had the share in the moulding of events, has, in its turn, been deeply modified by them. No school of thought, Conservative or Socialist, Liberal or Labour, Coalition or Bolshevik, stands precisely where it stood a year ago, and it is of interest to try to assess the amount and nature of the change, and whither it leads.

The first thing that strikes the observer who compares then with now is the largely increased authority and weight of the Prime Minister. A year ago, he was in process of losing, and losing rapidly, most of the reputation he gained from a successful war. The peace terms were unpopular, the situation in Russia disquieting; in home affairs the Government had shown lack of grip; constituency after constituency was turning round and rejecting Coalition nominees by majorities which were derisive, and altogether it looked as though those who from the beginning had prophesied only a two years' life for the Government would prove not far wrong. Such was the situation then; what is it now? Very different indeed, the Prime Minister stronger than before and his enemies discredited. Two elements have contributed to this, as in all human affairs—his own actions and his opponents' mistakes—and since Napoleon held that your adversary's errors were the chief factor in successful strategy, let us consider them first.

The opponents of Mr. Lloyd George, as of all British Prime Ministers, can be grouped in three classes. There is first of all the regular opposition; next those who lie further to the left, and think the other does not go far enough; and lastly the adversaries in his own party. The younger Pitt, having to deal at the same time with Fox and his friends, with the revolutionary committees, and with his own dissatisfied supporters, was faced with a problem not dissimilar. Now in British politics, as in the religions of antiquity, forces and tendencies are personified and given the names of individuals. So let us call the elements which oppose Mr. Lloyd George by the names of Mr. Asquith, Mr. Adamson, and Lord Robert Cecil. How do these three leaders stand now compared to a year ago?

If the reader will cast back in memory to the day after the Paisley election, it will be remembered that on the day on which Mr. Asquith could have taken his seat the House discussed the terms of the peace with Turkey. Many persons in the House and in the country disliked these terms excessively; above all the Gladstone Liberals, a most powerful body of men, were exasperated at the thought of the Turk being left in Europe, and would have welcomed a "bag and baggage" policy. Altogether there existed one of those states of smouldering anger and leaderless enthusiasm which, under the touch of a political mortar, would have burst into a clear and devouring flame. All that Mr. Asquith had to do was to take the night express to London, and there to make a speech laying down the old traditional Liberal policy towards Turkey, and he would have got a response which would have surprised him. Instead of which he did as many a general has done before him, and proceeded to celebrate a victory not yet won. He allowed himself to be taken off to some unimportant jubilation in his new constituency, and thereby lost his opportunity. By so doing he committed two mistakes which proved irretrievable; he failed to use an occasion which a kind providence had provided for him, and he surrendered the attack, the offensive, to Mr. Lloyd George. To do so is as disastrous in politics as in war, and so the sequel proved. Instead of following up his Paisley victory by a blow at the enemy's heart, Mr. Asquith sat idly by for a week or more, and when he first made a big speech in the House spoke on economy. It is possible that he spoke well and sensibly, but this speech was not the right sort for the object he had in view. If Paisley was right Mr. Lloyd George was a national danger, and should be driven from power. That object was not attained by platitudes about economy. Mr. Lloyd George sat silent. There was no need for him to say anything. His adversary had let the opportunity slip. Thenceforth Mr. Lloyd George has had the attack and Mr. Asquith has been on the defensive.

Thus did the leader of one great party commit suicide for the Prime Minister's benefit. How Mr. Adamson and Lord Robert Cecil acted not dissimilarly will be told next week.

FEMINISTS AND FREE DISCUSSION.

By ELEANOR F. RATHBONE.

During this and next week the National Union for Equal Citizenship is holding its Summer School at Ruskin College, Oxford. The object of the National Union is identical with the policy of THE WOMAN'S LEADER, viz., the achievement of a real equality of status, liberties, and opportunities between men and women. With this principle as a basis, the Union has built up a programme, subject to annual revision at its Council Meeting, of reforms necessary to the attainment of its object and from among these reforms it has selected the following as ripe for immediate action: Extension of the Parliamentary Franchise to women on the same terms as it is granted to men; equal guardianship of children; equal pay for equal work; an equal moral standard; pension to civilian widows with dependent children, and support of the League of Nations.

It has further recommended its members to make a special study of the Endowment of Motherhood, with a view to arriving at some considered judgment on this difficult question at its next Council.

It is easy to see that such a programme as this does not present a simple issue capable of being grasped by everyone as did the question of Parliamentary enfranchisement. It bristles with points that are controversial, not only as between feminists and old-fashioned people who believe in women "keeping their place," but among feminists themselves, and to carry on effective propaganda on its behalf needs a knowledge of facts and an understanding of principles—political, social, and, above all, economic—which can only be attained by real study and free discussion. For example, even the relatively simple topic of Widows' Pensions raises a number of questions involving possible differences of opinion, such as the scale of the pensions, whether they should be extended to all widows with young children, or only to those below a certain income level, by whom they should be administered and whether the administration should involve any form of inspection or test of the children's well-being, and so forth. Further, the propagandist needs to be armed with a knowledge of the systems of pensions already in existence, such as those in Norway and in the United States.

The demand, again, for "equal pay for equal work" achieves apparent simplicity only because it begs the difficult question of what we mean by equal work; whether we want equal earnings for all, whether men or women, who are engaged on the same kind of job, or whether the principle allows of a grading of rates that would take account of differences in output, or in overhead charges, or even of the permanent disabilities of sex, such as a woman's greater liability to "go off and get married just as she is beginning to be of some use." Even when the enquirer has made up her mind on these points, there is the still more difficult question of the relation of the demand for equal pay to the question of the maintenance of families, one surely which no body of feminists can afford to neglect. The enquirer is forced to own that a nation which professes to base wages no longer merely on supply and demand, but in part, at least, on the human needs of the worker, cannot very well ignore the differ-

ence between the needs of the bachelor and spinster, and those of the married man with a family to keep. At this point she is dismayed to find herself confronted with what seems at first sight an inconsistency between two of the reforms on her programme, the demand for "equal pay" and the demand for adequate maintenance for wives and children. Seeking an escape from the dilemma, she quickly finds herself launched into the absorbing issue of State endowment of families, as to which feminist opinion is still acutely divided.

These are a few of the questions that are being studied at the Oxford Summer School, together with other matters not included in the special programme of feminism but of interest to women as citizens, such as Local Government, Penal Reform, the Economics of Domestic Life, and not least the great topic of the League of Nations. Some have expressed surprise to find this included in the programme not only of the Summer School but of the N.U.S.E.C. itself as one of the reforms necessary to a complete equality between the sexes. Even women, however, who would repudiate the imputation of pacifism recognise how closely the interests of women are bound up with the cause of international peace.

It is easy for superior persons to make fun of the institution of Summer Schools, which attempt in the course of a fortnight or so to give instruction on such a variety of large and complicated issues. Obviously the value of the instruction given cannot in itself amount to much. But if the organisers of a Summer School know what they are about there is no fear that their students will regard their lectures as anything more than a kind of glorified syllabus indicating the lines of further study. What really matters is that what is given shall be clear, definite, and thorough as far as it goes, not woolly, verbose, and pretentious. Thoroughness, after all, is a question of quality rather than quantity. One has known University courses that amble along over a whole session without conveying anything to their students except a smattering of facts and theories and a bad habit of inattention.

No doubt the motive that brings a large proportion of students to Summer Schools is not so much a desire for knowledge as for the opportunity of meeting men and women with the same kind of interests as themselves. Many workers, especially those addicted to "causes," are lonely people living among uncongenial surroundings, who in their short summer holiday find more refreshment in intercourse with kindred spirits than in mountain or sea.

In running its own Summer School the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship has but followed in the wake of many other political societies. It differs, however, from many of them in seeking to give its members an opportunity of hearing both sides on every issue it touches. Its members may be Protectionists or Free Traders in fiscal matters, but their long discipline in the Suffrage movement with its experience of the disadvantages of seeing life through blinkers has made them all convinced believers in free trade in opinion.

BURNING QUESTIONS.

We call the attention of our readers to the fact that in the topical and controversial matters which we treat under the heading of "Burning Questions" we endeavour to present the principal views on each question held by differing groups of political thinkers. We do not ourselves express an editorial opinion, beyond this, that it is each woman's business first to be well-informed and then to come to her own opinion.

A WINE MERCHANT ON STATE PURCHASE.

By ERNEST OLDMEADOW.

As a wine merchant, I am asked every day for an opinion on State Purchase. I answer by a question. Is the State to buy the inns and ale-houses and wine-shops with a view to giving the public a better service of alcoholic refreshments? Or, is State Purchase a Prohibitionist device to enable the State, after a short interval, to close down such places altogether?

Women who would scorn to behave dishonestly in the ordinary concerns of life have privately admitted to me that they are working for State Purchase solely as a half-way house to Prohibition. Let us test this procedure by some illustrations. A benevolent-looking dame visits a poor unmarried mother and exclaims: "I want to adopt your baby. I can nurse it, and feed it, and clothe it, and educate it far better than you can. Make the child over to me." Six months later the mother enquires and is told: "Come, come, be reasonable. The child had a social stigma upon it. Besides, there is a world-shortage of food. I drowned the little chap quite painlessly last Tuesday." Or again; a millionaire goes the round of indigent Austria's monasteries and art galleries declaring: "Your works of art could be restored and far better shown if you sold them to me. I will pay cash down." Having bought a hundred masterpieces, he says: "These Madonnas encourage Popery. These Venuses incite to immorality. I shall therefore make a bonfire of the lot." In both cases good motives might be pleaded; but the trickery would be no less shabby and detestable. Women reformers who believe that all alcoholic drinks are noxious, even beers and light wines, should not help the State to traffic in them for a single day. It will be a sorry thing if the first big problem to be tackled by women voters and women members of Parliament is to involve a sham "deal." The concluding sentence of Lady Astor's far-bruited maiden speech contained a solemn warning against trying to fool the working man. If the working man should find that he has been fooled by Lady Astor's colleagues he might show himself possessed of a memory.

It will be a case of fooling the nation if State Purchase is set up as a mere nine-pin to be knocked down again. Those who have made up their minds beforehand that they will not give it a fair chance should leave it alone. Too many women seem to argue: "Some people will never be converted to Prohibition until State Ownership has been tried and found wanting, so let us appear to try it but let us take good care it is a failure." I cannot distinguish this strategy from the crooked opportunism which women so justly condemned in men-made politics, and I hope that no straight-minded woman will have anything more to do with it.

How State Ownership would be treated by those who are inwardly vowed to Prohibition may be inferred from their behaviour towards Private Ownership—the existing system of licenses. My own belief is that nationalisation of "drink" would prove even less practicable than the nationalisation of mines and railways, and that the shortest and surest way to reform can be found in the amendment of our present system. Our Prohibitionists, however, long ago chose "end, not mend" as their slogan. Private Ownership has not been given a chance.

I am speaking of our own day and generation. There was a time, no doubt, when brewers and publicans shared in that frightfully excessive free-trading of which other manufacturers and shopkeepers were equally guilty. But, while other trades have been allowed and assisted to come into line with the improving moral consciousness of our time, the drink trade has been too often bludgeoned back. Perhaps a bit of my own personal experience may be adduced. Thirty years ago, when I was a teetotaler, some kill-joys asked me to work for the temperance cause in a large industrial town. The reforms seemed sound until the morning of our appearance before the licensing bench. To me it was an illuminating day. Every application by a licence-holder for leave to improve his premises was fought tooth and nail by the reformers. If the hapless publican had been proposing to instal an opium-joint or a gambling hell or a den of nameless vice he could hardly have been opposed more rabidly. At last my gorge rose, and in youthful innocence I asked a Free Church minister at my side: "How can we blame the Trade for a bad moral atmosphere when we won't let them ply the punkahs?" He retorted: "My young friend, you don't understand. We want the public-house atmosphere to grow worse, not better. *We want it to stink.*" And when, on discussing this hideous answer with others, I found that it was not that minister's private doctrine but an accepted tenet and practice of his company, I felt that the poor Saturday night drunkards were saints in comparison. Yet some of those very ministers of religion and lay-preachers were accustomed to denounce hotly and scornfully the alleged teaching of certain other Christians that "the end justifies the means," and that we "may do evil that good may come." If Christianity teaches one thing more than another, it is the inestimable worth of each individual soul; yet the Reverend A. and Pastor Z. have been conspiring for years to dig more deeply and manure more richly the seed-bed of intemperance, so as to justify their exaggerations by forcing up a riotous, scarlet crop of "frightful examples." They have laboured with might and main against

SOME THINGS THAT MATTER.

By SIR LEO CHIOZZA MONEY.

[Sir Leo Chiozza Money and Mr. Harold Cox will write alternately upon things that matter. The Editor accepts no responsibility for any of the views expressed by these two eminent economists.]

A PROPERTYLESS PEOPLE.

It is necessary to insist again upon the indisputable fact that the great majority of our people own an almost negligible portion of the aggregate wealth of the nation. Mr. Harold Cox, confronted with the plain and uncomfortable facts revealed by the Death Duties, takes refuge in a vague reference to the property of people with less than £100. But, of course, when the most liberal estimate is made on that head, it remains true that about two-thirds of all the property left by all the people who die in a year is left by only 4,000 persons, which means that about 120,000 persons own two-thirds of the entire United Kingdom as a going concern.

The great mass of our people is propertyless under Individualism. Those who desire other than statistical evidence should proceed to examine for themselves the great mass of the houses of London, including not only those of the working classes, but of the lower middle classes. To watch an average household removal of these classes, as I have often done, not through impertinent curiosity, but as a student of society, is to be saddened.

Property! I am astonished that any Individualist can have the hardihood to take the word into his lips. As things are, our people at large are cursed with a lack of personal property, and I repeat that the main object of Socialism is to confer upon them the private property (in its proper sense) which does not now exist.

SOCIALISM INTERPRETED BY AN INDIVIDUALIST.

I am exceedingly sorry that Mr. Harold Cox should go out of his way in his last article to attribute to leading Socialists a knowingly false interpretation of Socialism. Mr. Harold Cox does not improve his case by alleging that Mr. Sidney Webb "astutely" disguises the aims of Socialism in order to placate sections of society. Mr. Webb has earned the gratitude of every serious thinking man by a career which has been marked no less by its honesty of purpose and extraordinary magnanimity and disinterestedness than by its intellectual brilliancy. It is absurd and discreditable to hint or say that Mr. Webb really believes that household furniture, for example, should belong to the State, but that he disguises his belief.

Once more, then, let it be stated in the plainest terms that the great body of Socialist opinion aims not at the abolition of personal property, but at the *Nationalisation or Socialisation of the means of large-scale production and large-scale services.* That is to say, we should think it silly to nationalise a cricket bat or an ordinary sewing machine, just as we should think it silly not to nationalise a sewer, a school, an ironworks, a mine, or a hospital.

Suppose I treated the opponents of Socialism as Mr. Cox treats Mr. Webb? What should I do? The task would be an easy one. The ridiculous process would proceed thus:—

The great majority of the opponents of Socialism believe in Old Age Pensions, although Old Age Pensions amount to Socialism. Mr. Harold Cox, however, in his logical way, violently opposed Old Age Pensions when he was a Member of Parliament, and endeavoured to defeat them.

If I used Mr. Cox's methods I should say: Observe, Mr. Cox is an opponent of Socialism and an opponent of Old Age Pensions, therefore every anti-Socialist is an opponent of Old Age Pensions. It would be mere logic-chopping, absurd, and to be deprecated.

those of us who work to refine the public-house into something like a French café or a German biergarten, where a man may eat and drink soberly and decently with his wife and children. They have preferred to disjoin families and to besot individuals. I believe they have more drunkards to their account than all the publicans and all the brewers. To say that they have acted thus for the sake of unborn generations will not do. We have no right to send Bill Juggins to hell so as to frighten William Juggins, his son, and Harold Juggins, his grandson, from following him. This is one of the presumptuous sins from which we ask the Church to be delivered. My point, however, is that those who have stuck at nothing to discredit and degrade the inn and the alehouse under the present system cannot be trusted to play the game with State Purchase. Merely changing the owners of the inns will not change the hearts of the opportunist Prohibitionists. *Timeo Danaos.* State Purchase is being shoved along just now by too many people who intend it to be another Wooden Horse of Troy. From such hands Britain should refuse the gift.

Some readers may demur that it is a grave matter to charge one's opponents with bad faith. I agree. And, lest anybody should think that I make the charge in a spirit of levity, here is one out of many available proofs. It is taken from page 23 of the twopenny reprint of Lady Astor's maiden speech, a reprint which was neither hastily nor irresponsibly produced. I refer to a lurid red-and-black diagram headed "The Nation's Drink Bill," in which "the red portions show the loss of temperance progress." For 1914 the drink bill is given as 164½ millions, and for 1919 it is estimated as 400 millions. The compilers of the diagram cannot have been unaware of two vital facts. First, there is the all-round increase in the price of commodities which has affected "drink" equally with boots, sugar, butter, and bread. The price of the pamphlet itself is a case in point, seeing that we are charged twopence for what would have been barely a penn'orth of paper and print five years ago. Second, there are the enormously increased duties on spirits and beer levied in successive War Budgets and flowing back to the community as revenue. When these two adjustments are made it is found that the public in 1919, as compared with 1914, devoted to liquor a smaller rather than a larger proportion of its total expenditure on food and drink. There are other diagrams in the pamphlet annotated with explanations to support State Purchase. Why does page 23 alone bear nothing save a title and a diagram? There are about six square inches of type space on page 23 left blank, so lack of room cannot be pleaded. Further, all mention of the increased duties is carefully suppressed on page 15 in the hints for reading the diagrams. Meanwhile, with this disingenuous pamphlet in their hands, stern moralists are canvassing our working women with the story that the nation is squandering over a million pounds a day on drink, and that there would accordingly be a pound a week extra for each family if drink were voted out of our midst. Until certain champions of State Purchase cut themselves loose from what I must regretfully call very deliberate dishonesty in controversy they must not expect us to entrust them with the solution of a great moral problem.

I do not forget that, quite apart from the cloaked and masked Prohibitionists whose opportunist support of State Purchase makes plain citizens angry, there is another group who advocate State Purchase in a perfectly honest and straightforward spirit and wish to see it succeed. If I should again be accorded the editor's hospitality I shall venture to lay before this second group some practical experience and some friendly argument.

Here is another exercise in the same art. The majority of anti-Socialists support State education, although State education is Socialism. Mr. Harold Cox confessed to the Coal Commission that he would abolish State education. Would that entitle me to say that because Mr. Cox takes up this amazing ultra-individualist attitude all anti-Socialists are tarred with the same unfortunate brush?

If the readers of THE WOMAN'S LEADER will turn to Mr. Cox's last article they will see that I have not caricatured his methods. For example, he quotes Mr. Noah Ablett as opposed to the use of money. Therefore, says Mr. Cox, Mr. Ablett is a consistent Socialist, and Mr. Webb and the present writer and others who think like them are not Socialists because they do not agree with Mr. Ablett!

The amusing part of it is that even the most Individualist States have abolished the use of money in connection with important commodities, turning the industries which deal with them into pure communist services. Because States do this it does not follow that they must abolish money in every connection.

Cannot a serious subject, I ask again, be dealt with seriously, or at least with a proper sense of humour? When Mr. Cox argues with men who expound a social policy, what avails it to taunt them because they do not precisely agree on every point? When Mr. Cox was a Liberal and Home Ruler he differed profoundly on many points from

WOMAN'S PLACE IS THE HOME.

The Housing Problem is one of the most serious of the domestic difficulties which face us to-day. We all know that it is difficult; we none of us know exactly what the difficulties are, or how they can be met. Money is said to be one, scarcity of labour another, scarcity of materials a third, contractors' rings a fourth, Government delays a fifth, and so on. It is high time that women looked into these difficulties to see if they are all real, and if so, to try and remedy them. "The Woman's Leader" proposes, therefore, to publish articles on various aspects of housing during the summer months, in order to suggest to its readers subjects for their own investigations. We shall have articles on policy and on plans, on facts and on failures, and we invite correspondence on any aspect of the question.

HOUSING AT GUILDFORD.

By L. POWELL.

The town of Guildford is proud to occupy a place among the very few most progressive in the kingdom in the matter of housing. With a present population of 20,000 or rather more, it has on hand schemes which will ultimately provide accommodation for about one-third as many again—schemes which are not merely in the air, but are actually being carried out at the present moment.

To begin with, two distinct municipal and State-subsidised schemes have been undertaken. The first, at Stoughton, just outside Guildford, is now complete, with eighty-three houses, mostly with three bedrooms, parlour, living-room and scullery, built about nine to the acre on high ground with a southern aspect. The second scheme is eventually to comprise 300 houses at Guildford Park, near the main Guildford Station, with four more houses at Bell Fields. Here also the site is on rising ground with a south slope. Of this latter, tenders for 124 houses have been accepted, mostly parlour type, and their construction is progressing rapidly, several being already roofed. Here also the density will be about nine to the acre; the site is thirty-four acres. Hollow brick walls, rough-casted, are being used with roofs of tiles or slates.

his admiring friends. Now that he is a Unionist he again differs from most of those with whom he is now politically associated. That does not necessarily reduce to impotence either Liberalism or Unionism.

The greatest causes in all history have been supported by men and women widely differing as to important detail. This is as true of Irish Home Rule as of Slave Emancipation; of American Independence as of Votes for Women.

I wrote in these pages a serious argument. Mr. Cox, apparently unable or unwilling to meet the argument, takes refuge in: *What you say has no value. It is mere astuteness. Observe, I can produce Mr. X. and Mr. Y., who don't believe in private property in mousetraps or fiddles.*

STATE PURCHASE OF WOOL.

IN THE WOMAN'S LEADER of August 20th Miss Eunice Murray says that the Government commandeered Colonial wool and paid the sufferers a small price. I assure her she has her facts wrong. The wool was bought by the Colonial Governments from the growers at an agreed price, and sold at an agreed price to the British Government, who agreed to pay in addition half of any further profit arising. This was pure Socialism, and exactly what I proposed in a book published on the eve of the war. The success of it was brilliant. Because it was Socialism it was commonsense. Miss Murray can find many cognate facts in my forthcoming book, "The Triumph of Nationalisation."

The third scheme (with which, as the writer has more personal knowledge of it, he will be excused for dealing more fully) is perhaps the most interesting, not only as being the largest and latest of the three, but because it is being undertaken by a Public Utility Society on co-partnership lines; and thus, while still State-subsidised and strongly supported by the municipality, is less hampered by official control. The Guildford Borough Council, in investing £20,000 in the Society, was the first public authority to invest money in a Public Utility Society under the Act of 1919.

The Onslow Village, Ltd.—such is the Society's title—bought from Lord Onslow at the end of 1919 a square site of 646 acres of undulating farmland on the western borders of Guildford. The site is bounded on the north by the L.S.W.R. (Guildford and Farnham) line, on the east by the Guildford Park housing site, and on the south by the top of the "Hog's Back." Main drainage, water and gas are available. The village is to be developed as a garden suburb on co-partnership lines (it is an offspring of the Co-partnership Tenants Society, though not actually controlled by it), and is building by direct labour under its own Works Department. It is proposed to devote 200 acres to the erection of 1,000 "working-class," State-subsidised dwellings, about 300 acres to small holdings, 50 to rather larger private houses, 50 to industrial development (this land will adjoin the railway with its facilities for a station and siding), and the remainder to churches, institutes and other public purposes. It

is thus hoped that eventually Onslow Village will become a self-contained model community.

The fact that the houses are being built with a density of only five to the acre gives much more scope for producing an attractive lay-out of roads and arrangement of blocks of houses; and what is actually being aimed at is to reproduce in this new undertaking that element of charm in our old English villages which comes from picturesque and irregular grouping of the buildings, rather than from the individual merit of the houses themselves. The price of building in these days precludes anything but a perfectly plain treatment of the exterior, with as little sacrifice as possible of good proportion; but it is still open to the designer to produce an effect by the handling of masses not in themselves striking.

Nine-inch brick walls rendered or rough-casted are being used in most cases, the cost of good facing or stock bricks making a brick treatment of exteriors practically impossible.

Each house will have an ample garden front and back; and in addition there will be land available and handily situated for those who wish to cultivate an extra allotment. Recreation and playing fields will also be provided.

Turning to the interior planning of the houses, it will be found that, while the larger proportion are to have three bedrooms, parlour, living-room, and scullery, provision will also be made for non-parlour types, for a few types with four bedrooms, and for a few with only two. A block of flats may later be built on the Hampstead Garden Suburb model.

A great point has been made in the arrangement of sanitary fittings; a glance at the plans will show that it has been found possible in almost every case to approach both bathroom and lavatory from the hall or landing, and without going through any room. This is so obvious a step in the progress towards a higher standard of comfort that one wonders it is not more insisted upon.

Gas cookers are provided in the sculleries, which are so arranged that if desired all the work of the house may be done here, and the living-rooms (which are fitted with "Servall" or other types of convertible grate with oven) used as sitting-rooms only. Coppers (gas heated) are placed adjacent to the sinks, so that clothes may be rinsed in the latter after washing; and hinged wood shelves are fixed over the coppers forming extra draining-boards to the sinks. Linen cupboards are provided in all houses, and service-hatches between living-room and scullery where this will save work. Gas is laid on to parlour and bedroom fireplaces ready for fixing of gas fires by those who wish for them.

Mention should be made of a Pisé-de-Terre (rammed earth) pair of bungalows which is being built as an experiment, which if it succeeds will probably lead to a more extensive use of this method of building, which was first revived some years ago in the neighbourhood of Guildford.

WOMEN AND HOUSE PLANNING.

A PROTEST TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

The Women's Section of the Garden Cities and Town-Planning Association has just sent an interesting report to the Ministry of Health criticising their recent publication "Houses Designed by the Ministry of Health in Connection with State-Aided Housing Schemes, 1920." These houses show a distinct lowering of the standard set up in the Ministry's Housing Manual which was published some time ago, and while the report recognises and appreciates the difficulties due to the present high cost of building, it regrets that in face of the general

demand among working men for parlour houses (a demand the Committee thoroughly endorse), the non-parlour house is given first place. They have further criticisms to make on the reduction of the superficial area of the houses which are here described.

The Women's Section, of which Lady Emmott is Chairman and Dr. Marion Phillips Vice-Chairman, consists of representatives of many important women's organisations, including Rural Housing Association, Association of Women House Property Managers, Women's Village Council Federation, National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland, London Society for Women's Service, Women's Political and Industrial League, Women's Local Government Society, National Baby Week Council, Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, Fabian Society (Women's Group), Women's Imperial Health Association, Metropolitan Public Gardens Association. Representatives of the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations have also been present at the discussion on this report, and are in entire agreement with its findings.

The main points dealt with, apart from the question of the non-parlour house, are the following:—

1. The scullery in these houses is too small and is badly shaped. It varies from fifty to ninety square feet, and in ten out of fifteen designs its size is less than eighty square feet, which was the minimum laid down in the Housing Manual. It is impossible in such a small scullery for a woman to carry on her work comfortably, or even have a place for all the necessary fittings which include a gas stove, copper and sink, a wringer, and a table. Moreover, wall space is so badly arranged that there is practically no opportunity for shelving, or for a rack for drying crockery, and the habit of placing the window over the sink is a particularly bad one.

2. The size of the third bedroom varies from sixty-three to ninety-eight square feet, but only twelve out of thirty-nine designs allow for so much as eighty square feet. Now the object of the third bedroom is to enable families with boys and girls to separate the two sexes. If the third bedroom is very tiny it is impossible to carry out this proposal, and if more area cannot be given to the whole house, the size of the three bedrooms should be made more nearly equal.

The report goes on to make some general recommendations which can be thus summarised:—

(a) In non-parlour houses the scullery should be a scullery-kitchen, and should be allowed ninety-six square feet minimum superficial area.

(b) The third bedroom should have a minimum superficial area of 100 square feet.

(c) Chimneys should be placed on inner walls so as to warm the whole of the house.

(d) The bathroom should open on a passage and not through the scullery.

Though objecting in general to back projections, the Committee suggest that if the area of the house is to be so greatly restricted as in many of these designs it would be well to have the coalshed and w.c. provided in a small and low projection so built as to obstruct light and air as little as possible. The extra space gained in this way could then be used for the scullery, which as the woman's workshop is one of the most important rooms in the house.

As the report points out, whenever the Ministry issue house plans they should arrange that before they are definitely decided upon they should be submitted for criticism to some Committee on which women sit. The Housing Advisory Council of the Ministry of Health provides this opportunity, and it is a matter of great regret that the Ministry has not made full use of it. We understand that it has not been called together since 1919, and thus useful criticisms which might be easily adopted and which would lead to the comfort of the woman working at home cannot be made until the plans are published.

E. A. BROWNING.

THE CRIB.

By D. K. BROSTER.

I.

Miss Bellamy hesitated a moment before entering. It seemed to her so odd to go into a church in the middle of the morning, when no "service" was proceeding. But it was extremely cold and windy outside, and the noise of the London streets always tired and bewildered her. She had still more than an hour to get through before her momentous interview with Miss Culling, at present the arbitress of her destiny—for upon Miss Culling's considering or not considering her a fit candidate for the post of third-form mistress in the High School over which she reigned, depended more than Miss Bellamy quite liked to face.

"At any rate," she thought, "it will be warm, and I shall have it to myself," and so pushed open the door of St. Perpetua's.

Had Miss Bellamy been more versed in the ways of what she would have called "Ritualistic" churches she might have known that quiet, or at least solitude, is rarely to be found in them. For they are not empty between services. Moreover, this was Christmas Eve. St. Perpetua's was, however, warm; a faddist might even have called it stuffy. A faint smell of incense greeted Miss Bellamy's disapproving nostrils, and there were, to her surprise, quite a number of people in the church. Most, but not all, were on their knees. To its congregation St. Perpetua's was a home; but home life has its disadvantages, and to-day, even as most houses were being decked, somewhat to their disorganisation, with holly and mistletoe, so here the last touches were being put to the adornment of this house, a proceeding which involved a certain amount of disturbance. But the effect pleased Miss Bellamy, save that one decoration—if decoration it were to be called—distinctly shocked her. This was the Crib, with its figures, half life-size, of the Child in the straw, and those who adored, down even to ox and ass, or at least the heads of them, looking in from behind.

"The Virgin Mary too!" thought Miss Bellamy indignantly. "This is a very Roman church!" And she passed swiftly by, to sink into a chair, and be alone with her anxiety.

Miss Bellamy hardly ever went to church, not that she was irreligious, but because there never seemed to be time. On Sundays she was always tired, and besides, it was the only day that she could attend to the repair of her all-but-shabby wardrobe, and give a little quiet companionship to her invalid mother. But she began to think, as she sat there in St. Perpetua's, her hands nervously grasping her worn purse-bag, that people no doubt came to this place to pray for things they wanted—were doing it now, perhaps—and perhaps they sometimes get them. Surely if God understood how terribly important it was for her to get this post, of which she had heard in so unexpected a fashion, and for which she was going to be interviewed on so unusual a day. . . . And suddenly she found herself on her knees, praying as she had not prayed for years.

It was not, however, for long. The scraping sound of chairs being moved on the tiled floor did not disturb her, nor the subdued intercourse of the decorators, nor the coming and going of people, nor even the fact that something unpleasant was being done to the pedal notes of the organ. It was a loud whispered conversation behind her which shattered her prayer, a conversation conducted in male voices, and concerned with the Crib.

"I am so glad that we have been able to get a more appropriate figure of the Holy Child," said one voice. "It is preposterous to be obliged to use, as we generally do, the image of an infant of about two years of age, instead of one even approximately like a newborn baby. At any rate, this doesn't look more than a few months old. I had it specially cast, you know."

Miss Bellamy glanced round and saw two priests in cassocks, both young, and rather alike, save that he who had spoken wore his biretta—not that she knew its name—more on the back of his head than the other, and seemed to be invested with the greater authority.

"About the positions, now, Woodward," went on this latter, stepping back, and viewing the Crib with a critical eye. "Somehow the composition doesn't seem to me to be quite right. I believe St. Joseph has got out of place. Now last year we had him—where exactly was it we had him? If we were to move

that shepherd a trifle. No, it is the Blessed Mother herself that is wrong. One can't visualise her kneeling just there."

A pause, while he shifted the figure.

"If you ask me," said he addressed as Woodward, "I think—though I don't know much about babies—that if I had been Our Lady I wouldn't have let the Child a moment out of my arms, especially if He had to lie on straw like that! I always fancy I should like a Crib where she holds Him, not worships Him, newborn as He is, from a distance."

"Then you would lose the full idea of adoration."

"Not a bit!" returned the younger man stoutly. "Mothers don't need to set their babies on the floor to adore them. They can accomplish that quite as well with them in their laps. My married sister. . . ."

"The cases are hardly similar," observed the elder priest drily. "Also you know quite well that you are using the word 'adore' with a different connotation. What a bother! I've fetched down this bit of backcloth. Give me the hammer and a couple of tacks, there's a good fellow."

Knocking followed, and then the younger man said reflectively, looking at the Christ child, "I suppose it's not irreverent to imagine that Our Lord was just as much trouble as any other baby. They seem to like that stage so much—mothers, I mean—the stage when their children are quite tiny and can't do anything for themselves, and must, one would think, be a horrible nuisance. My sister used to lament no end when my nephew passed out of it, and said she would give worlds to have him back again—like that, you know. I can't help thinking that Our Lady must still sometimes—no, that would shock you!"

He had at least succeeded in shocking Miss Bellamy, to whom it did not seem quite decent to regard the Virgin as a real person, who, nineteen hundred years ago, had had feelings like any other woman. The theme, however, was not pursued, but when a moment or two afterwards, she heard the authoritative young man, now displeased with the type of palm tree depicted on the canvas backcloth, launch into the impressions of Bethlehem which he had gathered on his recent visit to Palestine, she began to wish that he had remained there, and, instead of moving further away, she got up and left the church.

II.

At four o'clock that afternoon Miss Bellamy again pushed open the door of St. Perpetua's—but a very different Miss Bellamy from the morning's. The dreaded interview was over, and she had got her post—too old, too unmodern as she had thought herself—and she had even been offered a salary beyond her hopes. Because this fortune, which still seemed too good to be true, had carried her far from her usual self, and because she felt full of gratitude, she had come back to St. Perpetua's, where she had prayed in the morning, though for so short a time.

It was rather dark inside the church now, but here and there a light had been turned up. From the far end of one of the aisles came a low murmur, but that, and its conjunction with the glimmer of a surplice, held no significance for the little teacher, who was, besides, too much overwhelmed with her own happiness to see much that was external to her. She did, however, notice—for she had to pass her—that between the two great candles now alight on either side of the Crib was kneeling a woman with a shawl over her head. She herself went on up the church, and threw herself on her knees, her eyes wet. What did this success of hers not mean for her old mother, her struggling widowed sister, even for herself! She did not know whether to weep or sing. . . .

After a while footsteps went down the church, and in another moment a cassocked figure passed her where she knelt. It was the senior curate, he of the tilted biretta, who had just disposed of his last penitent, and was hoping that he should have time to snatch a cup of tea before Evensong. And for that reason he trusted that the shabby-genteel little woman, now the only worshipper but one left in St. Perpetua's, was not waiting to make her confession—a quite groundless apprehension. But the slight hesitation with which he passed her caused in Miss Bellamy, who knew nothing of the coming Evensong, an equally groundless fear that he wanted to shut up the church, and supposing therefore that she must go, she got up reluctantly from her knees and followed him, at a little distance, down the aisle.

And thus she was witness of a thing as strange to her as it was to the senior curate. For as they went down the aisle they both saw the woman kneeling before the Crib lean over the faldstool and put out a hand towards the little plaster baby. The priest in front of Miss Bellamy hesitated; then he went quickly forward.

"I am afraid that you mustn't touch the figures," he said gently.

The woman drew back her hand at once, but did not move from her knees.

"Some poor, half-crazed creature who has lost her child, probably," thought Miss Bellamy with a pang of pity. "I expect the clergyman thinks so too. I suppose he will turn her out, especially if he is going to lock up."

But if such were the senior curate's intentions he thought better of it, and all he did was to say: "Haven't you been here rather a long time? There are others who may want to say a prayer before the Crib." He half glanced round at Miss Bellamy, who had no such purpose.

The kneeling woman seemed not to hear. Her hands were now lightly clasped in front of her on the faldstool; her face was hidden by the folds that fell round it, but she seemed to be gazing straight and absorbedly at the Child. It was impossible to know whether she were old or young, even whether she were or were not "a lady," a point about which Miss Bellamy was something particular. It was true that she had a shawl over her head like a poor woman; or was it a mantilla, in which, so Miss Bellamy had heard, ladies were accustomed to worship abroad, in Roman Catholic countries? At any rate, it was very graceful, and completely baffling.

As she neither moved nor spoke, the priest gave her a last puzzled, compassionate glance, then, lifting his biretta, bowed to the Crib and went out.

This surprised Miss Bellamy a good deal; had he, perhaps, thought her responsible for this poor woman? Since, however, he was evidently not going to lock up the church, she herself need not leave it yet, and so she sat down in the nearest row of chairs and returned to the contemplation of her good fortune. To think that she would at last be able to give her mother one of those nice quilted dressing-gowns of Japanese silk; she would get her a fairly expensive one, as it would probably wear longer and thus be cheaper in the end. Then that really stylish coat and skirt in New Oxford Street; or would it be better to go on with her present costume and purchase instead a small necker? A fur gave such a finish, besides being warm; and those known as coney-seal or seal-coney. . . .

Miss Bellamy pulled herself up. It was not for such reflections as these that she had come into a church. If she must think of such unsuitable things within its walls she had better go. She rose, ashamed; but, having extricated herself from the row of chairs, stopped dead.

The worshipper at the Crib, whose presence she had temporarily forgotten, was kneeling now between the lighted candles with both arms passionately outstretched, and there was that in the attitude which pierced the little teacher, unimaginative as she was, with an instant feeling of being in the presence of something that she could not fathom—something great and even sacred. Was she a mother who had lost her child? The pose suggested neither grief nor madness. And, just as Miss Bellamy was wondering whether she could tiptoe gently past without being observed, the woman rose from the faldstool altogether.

"She is going to take up the Child!" thought Miss Bellamy, with a leap of the pulses. And with that she remembered the conversation overheard this morning, and illumination seemed to come to her. This was a mother—a little unbalanced, no doubt—who yearned to see her baby as it had been when it was small, and the plaster image, bearing perhaps some chance likeness, had been the nearest fulfilment of her desire. And though Miss Bellamy was not conscious of a thwarted motherhood in her own barren life, though she held that people now-a-days made far too much fuss about babies, there was in her heart some chord that responded, almost with pain, to the beautiful movement with which the veiled woman stooped, put out her arms and gathered up the Christchild into them from the straw, and stood there, her head bowed to the cold cheek as though it were alive and breathing, and there were no one else in the world but it and she.

"It might really be her own!" thought Miss Bellamy. Her eyes began suddenly to fill with tears, and she sought hurriedly in her bag for her handkerchief.

It was at that moment that the woman turned round, the little plaster baby in her arms, and, at last, Miss Bellamy saw her fully. . . .

The candles, the dark church, swam together in a golden haze.

"O, do You feel like that in heaven?" she gasped, and, falling on her knees, hid her face.

The senior curate, coming back into St. Perpetua's rather early before the Festal Evensong, was much perturbed to find, in an otherwise empty church, the shabby little woman in brown whom he had previously seen there, huddled together, with her face hidden, in the aisle not very far from the Crib. Her attitude was odd, suggesting that she had fainted while on her knees, but the most singular thing, which did not occur to him till afterwards, was that she was not in front of the Crib, but at right angles to it. At present his desire was to revive, if necessary to remove her, and procuring a glass of water he hastened towards her, relieved to find, when he bent over her, that she was quite conscious, though dazed.

"Let me help you to a chair," he suggested kindly. "I'm afraid you have had a shock or something. Hadn't you better sit down? Perhaps a little water—"

With his assistance the little brown woman did regain her feet, but she would not sit down, and refused the water. She was very pale.

"That—that woman," she began, and stopped.

"Yes? Did she frighten you? She is gone now. But won't you—"

"Do you know who she is?"

"No, I had never seen her before, to my knowledge; I did not see her face even then. But she is not here now; you were alone when I found you. I hope she didn't annoy you?"

Miss Bellamy continued to look at him in a way which certainly carried out his theory of shock. "But I—I saw her face!" she said in a shaking voice. Then she suddenly acceded to his previous request and sat down on the nearest chair. "I saw her face!" she repeated, and to the priest's dismay hid her own in her new, cheap gloves.

"Please tell me if there is anything I can do?" he asked anxiously.

She did not answer for quite a long time; then she spoke without lifting her head. "Could I speak to that young man who was here this morning with you?"

"Mr. Woodward, do you mean? Yes, certainly. He'll be in the church in a moment. You see we're just going to have the First Evensong of Christmas Day. I daresay he's in the sacristy now; I'll see."

As Miss Bellamy told her experience to the younger priest in the strictest confidence, it was never subjected to the clarifying processes of public analysis and discussion, and the magic formulae of "subjective hallucination," "subliminal uprush," "suggestion," and the like were never pronounced over it to resolve it into its (doubtless) component elements. On the contrary, Christopher Woodward's face was very wistful as he followed the banner of the Mother and Child in the procession at Evensong, and, after the service was over, he went to the Crib and kissed the spot where she had stood who was, to his thinking, without shadow of question what the little high-school mistress had taken her for.

He was no doubt a most credulous young man.

THE ROAD-MENDER.

By DOROTHY UNA RATCLIFFE.

A friend of mine is bent and old,
(A mender of roads on a Yorkshire wold)
His face is brown as the ploughed soil,
The furrows are deep and his hands know toil;
His corduroy coat is frayed and worn
And patches show where it has been torn.
At times he nods with a sudden smile,
At times we chat of birds for a while;
But he never gossips of folk, for he
Is full of a country-courtesy.
Lessen your speed as you motor by,
For work is long and dust is dry.
Oh! I shall be sad some too-near day
When my friend has gone from the wold highway.

PRESS TABLE REFLECTIONS.

By A WOMAN REPORTER.

Very few women when sitting on a public platform know what to do with their feet. They are satisfied if they can dispose their hands comfortably; feet and legs may look after themselves, and the public is treated to extraordinary antics and confidences.

This is the most disconcerting of the many worries the patient, long-suffering press table has to endure at a women's meeting. It is most irritating when its attention is concentrated on the display of feet and legs. At the Caxton Hall, for instance, the speakers sometimes sit behind a long table. The reporters, unable to see their faces, study their feet and make wild guesses. Who is that, they wonder, with her feet curled ungracefully around the legs of her chair? Who is the woman displaying so prominently the heavy rubber protectors on the soles of her shoes? And whose are the artificial silk stockings with lisle-thread tops?

We have frequent opportunities of noticing that the stockings are silk or cashmere, plain or ribbed all the way up, and we have even been permitted to observe that Mrs. X. wears garters, and we marvel at the fact that so many women, even those who appear most frequently on platforms, have never discovered that there is an art in sitting gracefully on a chair. Miss Frances Power Cobbe used to lament that in the days of her youth so much time was spent in teaching girls how to enter a room gracefully and how to sit on a chair; but I often think that if she were at the press table nowadays and saw what the reporters see she would start department classes for women speakers. She would feel that the audience should have its attention concentrated on what the speakers were saying; it ought not to be distracted by uneasy observation of awkward attitudes and the careless display of hosiery or of skirts pulled askew.

Even actresses who appear at public meetings sometimes adopt queer postures, but as a rule they arrange their legs and skirts prettily, and I am told that some speakers have learnt from them the advantage of having a platform skirt made just a little longer in front to prevent a hitched-up appearance when they are sitting down. Some curious observations might be made about light-coloured stockings as viewed from the press table and the emphasis they give to legs injudiciously placed, but it is enough to say that they are seldom a success.

The Englishwoman seems to take a pride in dressing to please herself without regard to the effect on the audience. She is even a little scornful if a colleague takes care to be well dressed. But after all the aim of a woman, who cares enough about a cause to speak for it in public, is to present her case effectively, and the question of dress is more important than she realises.

She should not only avoid all the eccentricities and untidinesses which unconsciously worry the audience, but she should so frame her face as to give full play to its expression. I remember one eloquent speaker who used to wear frocks of nondescript colours and shadowy hats. The reporters could watch her varying expressions, but to most of the audience she was nothing but a blurred figure and a pleading voice. It is very difficult to follow a speaker whose face one cannot clearly see, and for this reason unrelieved black should never be worn by a public speaker.

Lady Astor has adopted an ideal costume for the platform. Her black and white stands out against any background and never clashes with the frocks worn by other speakers, which is a point worth noting. The brim of her hat turns well back from her face, her white collar throws her features into relief, her white cuffs emphasise the gestures of her hands. Seen from far back in the hall her figure stands out clearly, and one can see every change of expression on her face.

There are not many women now who wear a blouse or a short jumper with contrasting skirt for platform work, and when they do the effect is bad, and so is the effect of a bulky fur coat,

or bunched draperies, or angel sleeves, or any other styles which spoil the lines of the figure. Brilliant colours set among darker shades have an untidy effect. There should be a certain uniformity of dress among the speakers on any one platform. We do not now see the incongruities of the old Suffrage meetings, when some of the speakers would appear in evening dress and the others in tweeds.

These are things that the reporters notice at their leisure, and that they know must have an effect on the audience. But it is really beyond their province to criticise, since they do not affect the reports. No editor would publish a frankly descriptive sketch of a women's platform. When the press photographer comes on the scene the speakers arrange themselves, and after the flash relapse into their old awkward ways.

What does concern the reporters is the untidy arrangement of the speeches. I am tired of hearing the press table blamed for poor reports, when those responsible for a meeting have done everything to make their work difficult. It is amazing that after all their years of experience so many women have never learned how to speak to the press. They have never even learnt that reports for morning papers have to be written early in the evening, and that therefore the principal speakers should speak first.

Usually the speakers ignore the press altogether. They address themselves to the immediate audience. They meander happily along—men are just as bad as women in this respect—perfectly content if they secure an immediate response. They do not take the trouble to be relevant, explicit, or concise, and then they complain loudly that they have not been adequately reported. How they expect the hapless reporter, who probably is quite unversed in the special subject, to take the pith out of a pithless speech I have never been able to imagine.

The wise woman with something definite and striking to say will not spread it over the whole speech. She will put it into half-a-dozen, concise sentences at the beginning, for which the press table will be truly thankful, and after that she may expand her theme to the audience as she chooses. She will never in any circumstances save the main point of her remarks for a telling peroration. This is the besetting sin of many earnest women. They have their just reward. They get the applause all right but they never get the report.

How often the speakers fail to be explicit only the press table knows. I remember a typical instance. It was at an important meeting where one woman was called on to describe a new and promising scheme. She enjoyed herself immensely, and so did her audience. She told them many amusing things. She held their attention. She was applauded at the close. One sentence alone in the middle of irrelevant chatter gave the least idea of what the scheme was. No doubt the hapless reporters were afterwards blamed for failing to give the information that they had never received.

This is an exaggerated instance, but far too often the speakers, even at great meetings to which many outsiders have been brought, are carried through on the happy assumption that it is quite unnecessary to be explicit. It is taken for granted that those outsiders already know precisely what it is the object of the meeting to tell them. No arrangement seems to have been made among the speakers themselves that the first speech or two shall be informative and the others provide comment or stir up enthusiasm, though one would think this would be the first thing for the committee to attend to.

Again, it is no uncommon thing for one speaker to say: "I meant to have spoken along a certain line but Mrs. X. has already done so." The press table wonders why the twopenny post or the telephone could not have discovered Mrs. X.'s intentions and given it a speech worth reporting.

DRAMA.

"On Our Selection" at the Lyric Theatre.

"Well, if that is a sample of their plays, Joe, —!" said a lady, as the audience streamed out into Shaftesbury Avenue. "Perhaps they like them like that," said Joe, tolerantly. They evidently do. "On Our Selection" has had a run of over 1,000 nights in Australia. It has been played amid rapturous applause in all the principal cities of Australasia. It is a kind of Colonial Chu Chin Chow. Mr. Bert Bailey's manner of receiving applause seems to show that in his own country he is something between an Oscar Asche and an "Abraham Lincoln."

It is unlikely, however, that he will achieve the success of either of these gentlemen in his present surroundings. The play would have had a better chance a year or two ago, when London was full of Colonial soldiers. But now that they have returned home it is too remote from what the ordinary playgoer expects to find within a stone's throw of Piccadilly Circus to have much chance of success.

It is not that the play is without its value. Indeed, it is so instructive that all Londoners who have not been to Australia most certainly ought to go and see it. The only question is whether they will. A selection (for the benefit of those to whom the title suggests an advertisement of Selfridge's or Derry and Tom's) is a clearing in the Australian bush. The programme claims that the play is "typical of life in the back country." And so doubtless in many ways it is. The local colour is very convincing and no doubt correct. It gives a very fresh and clear idea of the struggles and hardships of life in the bush, the difficulty of making a clearing, building one's own house, carrying water, looking after the stock, and a hundred other things which are mere names to us. It shows, too, the extraordinary lack of privacy which is one of the greatest hardships of a really simple life. The backwoods families appear to live in a kind of patriarchal way. Dave's father says he does not wish his son to have to propose to his girl as he did, "with her brother under the sofa, her mother looking in at the window, and her father in the next room waiting to borrow a pound when she had said 'Yes.'" But in spite of his father's good wishes Dave's proposal is interrupted every other minute by the irruption of one member or another of his family. This is partly, of course, owing to the necessities of the comedy and the dramatic virtues, but there is, no doubt, a great deal of painful fact underlying this cheerful fiction.

But the most striking fact illustrated by this play is one which we all know in theory—but find very difficult to realise—that the Australian colonies are at a very different stage of civilisation from our own. The astonishment with which this play fills the ordinary London playgoer shows how very little we understand what "life in the back country" really means. The successful play of Melbourne is at least three or four centuries behind the average "successful play" of London.

"On Our Selection" is called a "comedy," but is really a cross between melodrama and farce like most of the tragedies or tragi-comedies of our own 16th and 17th centuries. The hero, the heroine, the villains (father and son), and the madman all belong to the realms of pure melodrama. Jim Carey, the villain (played by Mr. C. Douglas Cox), would have been hissed at sight at the "Elephant." Richard III. did not wear the marks of his villainy more plainly. He wore smart riding-breeches and top-boots, in contrast to the cowboy attire of the upright characters, and always carried a riding-whip in readiness to horsewhip the innocent. On his first appearance he swaggers straight up to the heroine and asks in a loud undertone what such a pretty girl as she is doing in such an out-of-the-way hole in the backwoods. She must meet him in Brisbane, and he will show her what real life is. That shows the kind of young man he is. But he has his match in Sandy. Sandy, as played by Mr. Matthew Boulton, is a perfect melodramatic hero. He is tall, with broad shoulders, straight features, and a deep voice. His fists are usually clenched and his lips set, though occasionally unbending in a winning smile. He fells Carey to the earth with one blow and strides from the room in disgust. Unfortunately, Cranky Jack comes in and finishes the good work with a large silk handkerchief. Sandy is, of course, suspected of murder, and would have been hauled off to prison had not Cranky Jack turned up in the nick of time and told the whole story in his own lunatic manner.

But life in the back country is not all as serious as this. High spirits, not to say horseplay, flourish there as well as murder, love, and foul play. The younger members of "our

selection" are almost all comic characters. There is Dave Rudd, a nice young man, though stupid, who after a grotesque courtship marries a grotesque wife, with whom he lives in a grotesque hut, and is bullied by a grotesque mother-in-law. There is also another young Rudd with a shock of red hair and a stammer which is considered facetious, and a young sister engaged to a fat fiancé, with a squeaky voice, who is fired off the selection by Dad's air-gun.

Between the melodramatic and the farcical characters stands Dad Rudd, played by Mr. Bert Bailey of Australasian fame. He is serious with the serious characters and comic with the comedy figures. He slaps Sandy on the back and stands by him in his trouble. He tells in stirring tones the story of his own early struggles in the Bush. But he rushes out at Dave's mother-in-law in his nightshirt, fires the gun at Sarah's fiancé, and has his tooth pulled out by his friends on the stage.

Mr. Bert Bailey's acting sets the tone for the others, and it is as energetic and simple-minded as the play itself. The serious characters start, shudder, bite their lips, and clench their fists—make long speeches to slow music with an energy which in this country is usually associated with melodrama or the cinema stage. The comic figures tumble round the stage and knock each other about, and wink at the audience with an abandon which our English actors have now left to music-hall artists and circus clowns.

There is something attractive in such ingenuousness. One may not laugh a great deal oneself; but one can very well imagine how backwoods men and cowboys on a rare visit to town would split their sides at the witticisms of Dad and Joe. One can imagine their guffaws when Dad on being told that the cow is in the barley replies, with a wink at the audience, "Then I bet that by this time the barley is in the cow"; or when Sarah complains that the rain comes in through the roof of the hut in which she and Billy Bearup are to begin their married life and Dad replies, "Then let's hope he'll catch cold. It may deepen his voice." There is, moreover, something very genuine and attractive about the way in which Dad describes his early struggles in the backwoods, when in middle age he thinks he is ruined by the drought and exclaims: "I can do what a man with health, strength, and determination can always do—begin again." That is not the sort of thing we should say, but it seems to suit Dad.

Judged by its own standards the play is not quite serious enough in the right places. It is apt to turn against its own sympathetic characters. For instance, Dave is one of the most attractive members of the Rudd family, and though we have no objection to his mother-in-law being held up to ridicule we can hardly regard it as a legitimate subject of mirth that his wife should be so grotesque a figure. In the same way, it is hardly funny that their early struggles should have turned the two youngest members of the Rudd family, and also Dad's own brother, into complete half-wits. But these are small defects, and on the whole come from those exuberant high spirits which so often characterise extreme youth.

D. H.

The Englishwoman.—The September number of the *Englishwoman* contains many interesting articles, and the short description of the International Federation of University Women, by Winifred Stephens, divides with Miss Peto's article on Policewomen the honour of dealing with subjects of the most immediate interest. Miss Peto's sympathetic analysis of the Report and her internal knowledge of the work of women police patrols makes her article a valuable addition to the numerous *résumés* already written, and she strikes a necessary and very important note in referring to the work as a vocation. If all of us, on starting out on our careers, realised that good work can only result from the intense conviction that we are following a vocation, there would be far less discontent and unrest in the world and far more care would be taken in the choosing of professions. Mr. Moul's criticism of "Poetry of To-day" is incisive and illuminating, and the quotation from the prologue of Mr. Murry's "Cinnamon and Angelica" makes one anxious to read more. The interesting article on Anna Howard Shaw appears at an opportune moment, when, after the Lambeth Conference, people are discussing the Ministry of Women and everyone acknowledges that women have before them a tremendous opportunity for good.

RELATIVITY.

The Special and the General Theory. A popular exposition by Albert Einstein, Ph.D. Translated by Robert W. Lawson, D.Sc. (Methuen. 5s. net.)

In his preface to this book, in which he attempts to make his theory of Relativity intelligible to the ordinary non-mathematical reader, Einstein writes:—"The work presumes a standard of education corresponding to that of a University matriculation examination." It is quite true that, supplemented by his very lucid definitions, there are no passages in the book whose meaning would not be intelligible to the schoolboy who had attained this standard, but something more than the mere intelligibility of the terminology is needed if the average educated reader is to take in a new theory of space and time utterly incompatible with many old assumptions which he has taken for granted without even formulating them, all his life hitherto.

Einstein says he also expects "a fair amount of patience and force of will on the part of the reader," and this, too, is certainly very essential. The best thing to do is to read the book through once as rapidly as may be, if possible at a sitting, without attempting to criticise it, and then to go all over it again—and perhaps again. The book is beautifully put together, with nothing superfluous, and yet building up section by section all that is essential for understanding each new idea as it is brought up: mercifully, too, the print is large, each section quite short, and the translation excellent.

From the second, or perhaps the third reading, the coherent plan begins to emerge.

The theory of the relativity of time and space measurements, which is really the crux of the matter, was first put forward in order to resolve the apparent contradiction between two fundamental laws of physics, both of which have been immensely useful in explaining (enabling us to predict) events taking place in the material world. These two laws are the principle of relativity and the theory that light always travels in vacuo with constant velocity; but certain preliminaries are needed before the reader is able even to understand the definition or to appreciate the apparent contradiction which Einstein's theory of relativity resolves.

To begin with, the reader is made to clear his ideas on the relation of geometrical propositions to existent material objects. Euclid, for instance, is in itself merely logically coherent; it is only "true" (i.e., applies to material objects) if certain postulates concerning the material world happen to be true. The good work of undermining our unconscious assumptions about the material world begins when we learn that the "truth" of Euclid is limited. Before the limitation can be grasped the reader has to clear up his ideas on the subject of space. "Every description of events in space involves the use of a rigid body to which such events have to be referred," and if we want to think clearly we do well to replace this vague notion of "space" by the much more precise idea of "motion relative to a practically rigid body of reference," since, in fact, "there is no such thing as an independent trajectory (*lit.*, path-curve) but only a trajectory relative to a particular body of reference." Euclid is only "true" in relation to reference bodies of a particular kind (Galileian reference-bodies); in relation to non-Galileian reference-bodies Euclid simply does not apply.

Many of us are not wholly unfamiliar with this relative view of motion, but we realise it only intermittently when we make a special effort; for everyday thinking we fall back into the absolute view that some things are "really" still, while others "really" move.

To feel the force of the reasoning which follows it is important to be thoroughly accustomed to the view that space determinations only have a meaning if we are given the body with reference to which they hold. This, in itself, demands a considerable revolution of the ordinary man's point of view. Next we consider what sort of reference bodies to use. To illustrate the notion of reference-bodies we are given a train travelling uniformly along a railway embankment—positions in space may be determined relatively either to the "moving" train or to the "stationary" embankment—they are both possible reference-bodies. If now we imagine these reference-bodies prolonged in the three dimensions of space by perpendicular rigid rods, we could locate the position of anything in space relative to these reference-bodies by measurement along these imaginary rods.

We are now prepared to follow the definition of the principle of relativity:—"If, relative to K" (e.g., the embankment) "K'" (e.g., the train) "is a uniformly moving co-ordinate system devoid of rotation, then natural phenomena run their

course with respect to K' according to exactly the same laws as with respect to K."

Even when the definition of this principle is understood it is still not obvious to the ordinary man in what way it conflicts with the law of the transmission of light in vacuo. Einstein uses a simple example to illustrate this apparent conflict. Taking the embankment as reference-body, a ray of light will travel along it with a velocity of 300,000 km. a second. But if a train is also travelling along the embankment in the same direction as the light with a velocity of, e.g., 100 km. a second, then, taking the train as reference-body it would appear that the light must travel with a velocity of 300,000—100 km. a second, or *more slowly when the reference-body is the train than when the reference-body is the embankment.* But this conflicts with the law of the propagation of light in vacuo, which says that the velocity of light is always the same, no matter what reference-body is used.

Before the reader can see how this apparent conflict is resolved by Einstein's theory of relativity he must clear up his views on the nature of time. This is done by giving a precise meaning to the notion of simultaneity, and we are then sufficiently equipped to follow Einstein's demonstration that "Events which are simultaneous with reference to the embankment are not simultaneous with respect to the train, and *vice versa*," (relativity of simultaneity). Every reference-body has its own particular time; unless we are told the reference-body to which the statement of time refers there is no meaning in the statement of the time of an event. "As a consequence of its motion the clock goes more slowly than when at rest." We find that distance is in a similar position: a distance will be shorter or longer according as it is measured with reference to the embankment or to the train. For taking measurements "the rigid rod is shorter when in motion than when at rest, and the more quickly it is moving the shorter is the rod."

This view of the relativity of time and space is Einstein's discovery; if the reader can bring himself to accept it he can go on to see how it solves the puzzle.

"The possibility presents itself that the law of the propagation of light in vacuo may be compatible with the principle of relativity, and the question arises—can we conceive of a relation between place and time of the individual events relative to both reference-bodies, such that every ray of light possesses the velocity of transmission as relative to the embankment and relative to the train? The question leads to . . . a perfectly definite transformation law for the space time magnitudes of an event when changing over from one body of reference to another." Lorentz has worked out the values to be substituted for the time and distance measurements relatively to the embankment, in translating them into terms which refer to, e.g., the moving train: this is called the Lorentz transformation. The apparent conflict arose from supposing that the motion or rest of the reference-body made no difference to the lengths of time or distance measured with reference to it. This ordinarily accepted view leads to the Galileian transformation, and it appears that it has actually been possible to devise and carry out an experiment to test which of these two transformations, the Lorentz or the Galileian actually fits the observed facts best. Calculations made according to the Lorentz transformation were verified by experiment with amazing accuracy, while the Galileian transformation led to results which by no means corresponded with the observed facts. Thus this new relative view of time and space measurements is doubly supported both by resolving a theoretical deadlock and by results which have been verified experimentally.

It is a wonderful achievement for the author to have made it possible for the layman to take in at all so unnatural a notion as this theory of his, which rests upon the upsetting of some of the fundamental assumptions not only of classical physics but of plain common sense. It is out of the question that, lacking the mental background of familiarity with the actual theoretical and practical problems involved, the casual reader can possibly be made to appreciate fully the difficulty of the problem to be solved, or the enormous significance of the solution which Einstein has offered. But to the ordinary man or woman of decent education the mere fact that an intellectual discovery of first class importance has just been made, comes as a provocation and a challenge to get at least some idea of what it is all about. Those who have sufficient genuine interest and some powers of intellectual endurance now have a real opportunity of doing this by reading this remarkable book.

KARIN STEPHEN.

W.A.A.C. LETTERS FROM B.E.F. (Continued)

By M. E. ROACH.

11/12/17.

On Saturday I had a circular from the D.A.Q.M.G. desiring all O.C.s of Units to furnish a return of the amount of ground available for growing vegetables in their compounds. Accordingly I told our incinerator man to find out if there was any man used to measuring ground, and if so to ask him to step up. This morning a sergeant appeared; I told him what ground we must leave for four new huts, and he measured the rest and drew a neat little plan. There are 2,832 sq. yds. I sent it along to O.C. Troops with the suggestion that it might be taken over by some neighbouring unit and worked with theirs. This would save us all bother. In the army the great thing we are always told is to shift responsibility on to the person next higher up. I think I shall be quite good at that!

I have loved this camp. The girls have all been particularly nice, and have never given me any trouble. They are so sorry I am going, they kindly say I have been more like a mother than an officer. It is awfully upsetting for them having another change so soon. They have hardly got over Miss Rushworth's leaving yet. I have been feeling for the last few days, since I got the hang of things, that I could not be contented for long without more work. The Ad. who is relieving me has been working very hard and needs a rest, the C.C. said.

Wednesday.

My successor arrived last night. We had a jolly little supper. I sent two tins of bully round to the Supply Depot and asked if they could exchange them for anything more interesting, and they gave me some nice potted stuff. The A.C. and I argued for the length of supper on the essentialness or otherwise of "eyewash." I maintain that in the Waacs, as in the Brother Service, the only thing that matters is appearance, the man—or woman—who can play the part. We fought fiercely over this. She is really a good argument on my side if she did but see it. I say I should choose officials simply on their appearance and pedigree. She maintains that eyewash is all right on top of really essential things—a kind of homely oid body who looks after the unit and doctors their chilblains, being her ideal. I say that the pedigree ensures that. Her homely old body is not sufficiently sure of herself to be able to cut corns.

Miss Barker looks terribly in need of rest. She has come from a big hostel, and thinks this little place dreadful. But I, having seen other camps, know how nice it really is. I hope she will be happy here, and like the girls as much as I have.

13/12/17.

Queen Alexandra's Camp.

Oddly enough I met my new A.A. in the train. I was walking through the corridor wondering if I should find anyone I knew, when I saw a Waac officer and started talking to her.

The above is my address, but I am spending the night at another camp until Miss Logan leaves. She is going to start a new camp about sixteen miles out, and hopes to be there only for three weeks and then wants to return here. In that case I may be moved to the camp she is opening (I shouldn't like that. Trouble with Chinese), or I might go back to my last area, to a new camp that is to be started there. Mrs. Kenyon hovers about between the two camps, and messes in one or the other. Cuts her hair off and looks rather like a man. Good features.

I think I shall find the work here interesting. Miss Bott, who is coming to work with me, was born in Singapore. She speaks French, Italian, and German. She is only just out of hospital, poor thing.

14/12/17.

I go over to my new camp at 11.30 to see various things, and then "take over" at 2 p.m. Bott seems very keen. She is quite young, but old in the Waacs, having been out here since July. I find I am the newest but one in the whole area. Rather embarrassing. There are A.A.s in Queen Mary's who have been in France since May. One is an M.A. of Edinburgh and a Doctor of Philosophy of Paris. I like her very much. She is a daughter of Ramsay, the Egyptologist. I can quite sympathise with all of them in wondering why I, who have not been out a month, should be ahead of them. However, they have been very nice to me. It is jolly being at a big mess again. Miss Welsford,

a great botanist, is in charge. There is a Dr. Maclaren who lives here and works at both camps, and each camp has a V.A.D. and a sick bay. Mrs. Kenyon is very business like, and thoroughly knows her job. A girl named Francis works with Ramsay at Ordnance. They have each taken the place of Corporals. It seems odd not to be able to find a more suitable job for Ramsay than that. I should have thought the C.C. would have been glad of her in the office. They are both coming over to tea with me this afternoon.

15/12/17.

Yesterday, Logan, the departing A.A., took me over the world, called on me this morning and asked me to tea in his hut. He told me of a Chaplain from here who went home on leave with *spurs on*, a tin hat and a gas mask tied on his back! He had never left the base since he came out!

The Senior Medical Officer, who comes from our part of the world, called on me this morning and asked me to tea in his hut. He told me of a Chaplain from here who went home on leave with *spurs on*, a tin hat and a gas mask tied on his back! He had never left the base since he came out!

As you probably inferred from my letters, I was on the lines of communication, technically known as L. of C. Now, though I believe they actually hear the guns from here, I am at a base. I understand that bases are useful places in time of war, but they are very much less warlike than L. of C., and too big for one to see much of. Here one does not get orders daily from the O.C. or news from the Front sent on, or anything like that. One does not, so to say, see the war rolling by.

I am awfully busy with pay to-day, and can't understand the pay sheets here yet. I have been in six different areas (counting England) and have learnt a different system of pay in each!

I must try to describe this camp properly. It is a good-sized enclosure, with big kitchen and mess room, seven huts, each holding twenty beds, with covered passages leading to latrines and ablution huts. There is a very nice sick bay standing by itself which holds eight patients, and has besides a small kitchen, dispensary and nurse's bedroom. The worst part is the officers' quarters. There is a tiny office or orderly room, which is really too small for two of us and a clerk, and when girls come in to report there is no standing room. My bedroom opens out of this, quite nice, good stove, which is a great comfort; with three rugs and an eiderdown I still wake up in the small hours stiff with cold. This room opens into the mess room, also too small considering it is our sitting-room as well and there are two of us and a V.A.D. This room and the office have two windows each and doors into the compound as well as into my bedroom. On the opposite side of the mess room are doors leading into two tiny bedrooms, in one of which Bott sleeps. She has no stove, poor thing, so I have advised her to keep her door open as it is just by the mess room stove, and I bank that up the last thing.

The outside gate is locked at night and the key hung in my bedroom, and the first early worker steals in gently at 5 a.m. and abstracts it. So far it seems quite an easy camp to run. Mrs. Kenyon seemed to think I should have the girls rioting because they were so fond of Logan, but as yet they have been no trouble.

I met several of the camp staff at Hastings, where I enrolled a good many, and that is always a bond. One of the clerks was in the draft I brought over. We have been renewing memories of the voyage!

We live much more luxuriously here than I like, but I can't change it until I know whether I am permanent or not. The A.C. is proud of Queen Alexandra's reputation of having the best mess in this base. I must say Mrs. Hughes, the cook, is a woman of real genius.

(To be continued.)

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS.

ENGLISH WOMEN AND AMRITSAR.

MADAM,—Our thanks are due to you for publishing the contrasting and mutually illuminating documents on "English Women and Amritsar" in your last issue. They illustrate vividly the two points of view on our Indian Empire which have brought us to the parting of the ways. The letter from 679 Anglo-Indian women is an appeal for sympathy and protection for a small class of alien residents who feel themselves an unacceptable and antipathetic element in a vast population which they fear and distrust, with whom they have no desire to cultivate relations of equal friendship and comradeship, but from whose possible ill-will they desire efficient defence. Their position is one to arouse concern and solicitude: if indeed it be as perilous as the writers would make out, it suggests the withdrawal, at any rate temporarily, of an English society which requires to be kept under military protection.

The second article deals with the larger question of the conditions on which one race or nation may be justified in possessing and dominating others; a question which, in comparatively recent years, has challenged "the good old rule"—the simple plan "that they should take who have the power, and they should keep who can."

The two standpoints are irreconcilably opposed, and Anglo-Indians of long residence perhaps do not realise how effectually the advance of democratic ideas has undermined the "simple plan" once so unquestioned and sufficing, but for which we now find it necessary to substitute the argument of the benefit of our rule to the governed. We have (perhaps) hitherto made out a fair case for this argument as regards India, but recent events and methods are, to put it mildly, subjecting it to severe cross-examination.

Though not an Anglo-Indian, I have more than once visited the country, and have been the guest of British officials and traders as well as of native rulers. I have been proud, but also deeply shocked, in observing the manners and conduct of my countrymen and countrywomen towards their neighbours and dependants; and have always been convinced that the conception of the relationship described in your article—"a partnership based on mutual forbearance"—is the only one which can justify or make possible our future tenure of India.

The judgment on General Dyer has been pronounced less on a man who doubtless acted on lines he believed right and necessary than on the old theory of military government now on its trial in more than one quarter of the world. General Dyer is not the first man who has been crushed between two incompatible systems. It is possible to compassionate the fate of such men, and even to understand that were we in the position of threatened Anglo-Indian women in a time of such unrest, we might naturally regard General Dyer as a deliverer from imminent personal peril. But just because we are not in such peril, but able to form a more unbiassed judgment, we must conclude with your correspondent that "he could not see past the women under his own eyes to the women and children scattered in lonely places all over India, whose future safety he was endangering by his ruthlessness. Rioting has lately been common in India, and whenever riots occur in future there will now be added bitterness on the Indian and increased danger on the British side, because of Amritsar."

It is not because our sympathy is not poignant towards sufferers like Miss Sherwood and the terrified fugitives described by "Sipahi," but because it reaches further—to the helpless, unscourged victims of the Jallianwalla massacre, and further still—to the honour and good name of our country, which calls itself Christian—that many of us are thankful for the Dyer judgment.

CATHERINE C. OSLER.

WOMEN AND THE POOR LAW.

MADAM,—Re the interesting letter of Mr. Theodore Dodd, advising women to work for the reform of some of the Poor Law orders which press so unfairly on our sex, may I point out that the last and the worst quoted, by which "a husband has power by his marital authority to detain his wife in the workhouse, and that the Guardians would be justified in refusing her to quit the house under such circumstances" was altered some years ago.

In 1908 a very flagrant case came up in a London workhouse which counted a keen suffragist on the Board. Letters were sent to the papers, questions were asked in the House, and even Parliament was started at its own laws; the case became a plank on our platforms, converting many—especially ratepayers.

In 1911 a little play, "In the Workhouse," showing up the absurdity of the situation was produced by the Pioneer Players, and the following year the order was withdrawn—not by the authority of the Habeas Corpus Act, but by the judgment of the Jackson Case (1891) by which it was decided "that the husband has no right, where his wife refuses to live with him, to take her person by force and restrain her of her liberty." (60, L.I.Q.B., 346. See Poor Law Orders, 1913, page 91.)

MARGARET WYNNE NEVINSON, J.P.
Poor Law Guardian.

WOMEN JOURNALISTS.

MADAM,—In writing of women sub-editors and reporters I mean those engaged on daily, not weekly newspapers. I still maintain that as working conditions on London daily papers are governed by the agreement between the journalists' trade union and the newspapers proprietors it is more useful for women to belong to the National Union of Journalists than to the Society of Women Journalists.

Editors may care to engage non-union labour, but it is to be doubted whether union members would consent to work with non-union men or women.

MARIE HARRISON.

WOMEN AND HOUSE PLANNING.

With reference to our article on Women and House Planning, p. 681, we reproduce the substance of the first Monthly News Sheet and recommend our readers to get into direct communication with the Secretary.

The Women's Section seeks to co-ordinate and strengthen the work women are doing all over the country in the interests of housing by:—

- (a) Upholding a standard of housing that will meet the needs of women and children.
- (b) Providing and spreading information, regarding housing, labour-saving appliances, &c.
- (c) Stimulating the appointment of Women's Housing Advisory Committees, where such do not already exist.
- (d) Being ready to advise existing Housing Committees, and where necessary, to take action on their behalf.

A *Monthly Housing News Sheet* will be issued in order to circulate any fresh information regarding housing, &c., which may be of interest to women.

New Home Designs.—The Ministry of Health have recently issued a new set of standard house plans for which drawings and bills of quantities can be obtained on demand, and therefore a very extended use of these plans is likely to be made throughout the country. The attention of all those interested in local schemes is drawn to the report on these designs which has been drawn up by the Women's Section and forwarded to the Ministry.

Old Oak Estate, Hammersmith.—The new houses just completed by the London County Council were recently thrown open for inspection. A summary of approvals and criticisms as they reached this office is given.

Lay-outs of roads and houses good. Exterior of houses pleasing. Arrangements of front doors of two houses under one small covered porch bad, as valuable space is taken up for no obvious reason—porch dangerous in case of infectious disease. Sculleries much too small in non-parlour houses. Windows directly over sink are difficult to open. Space over sink should be left for a plate rack. Shelving too high. Hatchway required between scullery and living-room (hatchway would add nothing to cost of building and would save labour considerably). Coal-stores need outside shoots. Bedrooms—two fairly good, windows badly placed and no proper place planned for large bed. Third bedroom much too small (in one house, which was occupied, the tenant said third bedroom was too small for her son to sleep in, and so he had to sleep in his sister's room). Hot water circulator was fixed out of reach—it should be placed in an airing cupboard. Cupboards were too few. The space above the cupboard should be covered in up to the ceiling, thus forming a small store for unused articles instead of merely being a dust trap. Children skipping on the path outside pre-war houses on the estate said there was no playground except at the school, and that was not open after school hours.

It is gratifying to find houses ready for occupation and houses which are certainly an improvement on the old type, but at the same time women should make it their business to see that details of fittings, such as are mentioned above, should receive attention from the point of view of the women who must do the work of the home; a protest should also be raised regarding the diminutive size of sculleries in non-parlour houses and of the third bedroom in all houses.

It is in order that such important matters should receive attention and should be brought to the notice of the responsible authorities that the Women's Section urges the appointment of Women's Housing Advisory Committees in each borough, town, and village where they do not already exist.

House Fittings and Labour-Saving Appliances.—The time-honoured kitchener is not always the most effective kind of cooking stove to install in a new house. This kind of range entails a lot of disagreeable work as far as cleaning out flues and black-leading goes. It also consumes a lot of fuel, and further, it is always a cooking stove and never makes a pleasant fire to sit by. All these disadvantages are overcome by the *Interoven*, which is a cooking range capable of all the work of an ordinary range, and yet easily convertible into an open sitting-room fire grate; which requires the minimum of cleaning, and which will cook, heat bath water, and give a cosy fire all day with one scuttle of coal. The *Interoven* is, therefore, a very suitable stove for installing in a living-room where cooking is done, and which also is used as a sitting-room. Price (liable to revision) from £18 complete. Illustrated booklet can be had from the Interoven Company, 156, Charing Cross Road, W.C. 2.

Interchange of Information and Experience.—Women anxious to organise a Women's Housing Advisory Committee are invited to get into touch with the Women's Section. Secretaries of Women's Housing Advisory Committees are invited to send in short accounts of the work they have accomplished, so that the experience of one Committee may become helpful to another. The National Federation of Village Councils have circulated 3,000 copies of "Circular 40," which was issued by the Ministry of Health last December to all Local Authorities, advising them to appoint Women's Housing Advisory Committees.

Work done by Women's Housing Committees in connection with local schemes:

Women's Village Councils Housing Committees Report.

Warwick.—Change of cistern arrangements.

Solihull.—Step between scullery and kitchen removed from plan.

Bristol.—Shelving to be fixed at a convenient height.

Information Bureau.—Queries on all subjects connected with housing may be addressed to the Secretary of the Women's Section, The Garden Cities and Town Planning Association, 3, Gray's Inn Place, W.C. 1, and should be accompanied by a stamped envelope for a reply.

INTERIM REPORT OF LORD LYTTON'S COMMITTEE ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICE MEN IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

The following is a summary of some of the main recommendations of the Committee as far as concerns the relative position of ex-Service men now temporarily employed in Government Departments, and other temporary Civil Servants, men and women.

The number of temporary employees serving in Government Departments as on the 1st July, 1920, was 121,833, of which 42,919 were ex-Service men, 16,547 were non-Service men and 62,367 women, the corresponding figures for the 1st July, 1919, being total temporary staff, 173,338 of whom 24,271 were ex-Service men, 34,006 non-Service men, and 115,061 women. It will therefore be seen that in the course of twelve months, although the total number of temporary employees has decreased by 51,505, or 29½ per cent., the number of ex-Service men temporarily employed has increased by 18,648, or 77 per cent. Of the women, a considerable number are employed upon work which was considered by the Committee convened by the late Minister of Labour on the Employment of Disabled Men in Government Departments in their Report of the 30th July, 1919, as peculiarly appropriate to or normally performed by women, and of a kind, moreover, in which there were frequently no substantial facilities for substitution.

We think, however, that in all statistics of this kind provided by Departments, the numbers of women temporarily employed should be divided into three classes:

- (1) those engaged in work specially appropriate to women and regarded there as ordinarily non-substitutable;
- (2) those necessarily retained owing to the non-availability of ex-Service men;
- (3) those retained by virtue of their service claims or special efficiency.

We have had evidence that in the Post Office especially there are a certain number of women employed, mainly in the provinces, who fall into category (2).

We consider, further, that machinery somewhat similar to that set up during the war for the purpose of combing out for the Army should at once be established for the purpose of examining the justification for the retention of the non-Service men and women in category (3) in each Department; and for reviewing from time to time the classes of work which are at present under the terms of the Ramsey Report regarded as non-substitutable.

We recommend that in other offices employing an appreciable number of temporary staff there should be set up Substitution Committees for the purpose of advising the head of the office. These should consist of an officer of the Establishment Division of the Department concerned and of two representatives of the Staff Associations, one male representing the ex-Service men, and one female representing the women temporarily employed in that particular office.

On the question of the order of discharge we are not of the opinion that the claims to retention of non ex-Service men are stronger than those of women, who are compelled to earn their own living (which we have been assured is the case with the majority of those still employed), and we recommend that discharges should be effected *pari passu* from the two categories.

(1) Men and Women of Independent Means.

We recommend that Departments, if they have not recently done so, should immediately investigate the financial position of all men and women of the clerical or superior grades temporarily employed, and take steps forthwith to discharge those who may be found to possess private means. For this purpose a questionnaire modelled on the lines of that issued by the Ministry of Labour might be adopted.

We do not anticipate that this will prove a very fruitful field for substitution as the number of "pin money" workers still retained in Government Departments is probably not large.

It may be desired to retain the services of certain temporary officers falling within this category on the grounds that they are "pivotal." We recommend that exceptions should only be made in those cases in which it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the head of the office that such officers are indispensable and that their retention is essential in the interests of the public service.

(2) Men, other than Ex-Service, and Women who entered the Government Service after the date of the Armistice.

We recognise that in many cases these persons may be dependent on their earnings, but we regard the claims of ex-Service men as paramount, and we consider that such persons should normally be regarded as immediately substitutable, provided always, in the case of women, that they are not employed on exempted work for which ex-Service men are not available. As and when ex-Service men are or become available to carry out such work (e.g., shorthand typing) the question of further substitution should be investigated.

(3) Married Women (except in the case of Widows).

We consider that the case of all married women still employed should be carefully investigated and that steps should be taken to dispense with the services of these women, unless it is definitely proved to the satisfaction of the Substitution Committee and of the head of the office that such action would in any individual case entail considerable hardship or be seriously prejudicial to the efficiency of the Department.

We consider that ex-Service women should be treated on the same footing as ex-Service men and in the matter of retention should have priority over non-Service men and women, and when the reduction of staffs has reached a point which necessitates the discharge of ex-Service personnel no differentiation should be made solely on the ground of sex. We do not think it practicable to lay down in detail any order of priority for retention as amongst ex-Service personnel, but generally we consider that preference should be given to (a) disabled persons; (b) persons with service overseas; (c) other ex-Service personnel.

We consider, further, in cases of substitution that (as between women) priority of retention should be given to those women who have been accepted as candidates for the forthcoming examination for the clerical class.

The rest of the report deals with the forthcoming examination for Temporary Civil Servants for admission to the clerical grade. The conclusion was summarised in our Notes and News column a fortnight ago. The full report will shortly be printed and available at H.M. Stationery Office.



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NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS AND FROM OUR SOCIETIES.

OBJECTS.

The object of the N.U.S.E.C. is to work for such reforms as are necessary to secure a real equality of liberties, status, and opportunities between men and women.

Any Society may be accepted by the N.U.S.E.C. that is willing to include the object of the Union within its objects, and to pay an affiliation fee, varying from five shillings to two guineas, according to membership.

The privileges of affiliated Societies include:—

1. That of helping to decide the policy of the Union, which is also that of THE WOMAN'S LEADER, at the Annual Council meeting.

2. Free use of the Information Bureau; use of the Library at reduced charges; admission of members of affiliated Societies to the Summer School at reduced charges.

3. The receipt of our monthly circular letter, including Parliamentary suggestions for the month.

Privileges 2 and 3 are extended also to individual subscribers of one guinea or more per annum to Headquarters.

THE SUMMER SCHOOL.

The students of another Summer School left Ruskin College on the morning of Saturday, and by 4.30 the same day the College was again full of members of the N.U.S.E.C. School. The School was inaugurated by a delightful reception given by members of the Oxford Summer School Committee. Mrs. Stocks welcomed the students on behalf of the Committee, and short speeches were given by Mr. J. L. Stocks, St. John's College, Miss Burroughs, late Principal of St. Hilda's College, Miss Jacobsen, of Sweden, and our President. Ruskin College has proved to be an admirable centre for the work of the School. The arrangements are excellent, the staff so helpful. The only regret is that it is not possible to accommodate all the students. Special committees, formed for all kinds of recreation and boating, motor drives, tennis, have already been arranged. By a fortunate coincidence, Miss Maude Royden was lecturing in Oxford on Sunday, so that our students had an opportunity of hearing her. A good deal of interest has been aroused locally, and the office has been besieged by enquirers. One student bicycled in from the country, ten miles, to be in time for the first lecture at 9.15. On the first day it is too early to say much about the School, but everything promises well. A specially interesting feature is the presence of women from other countries—France, Sweden, America, Australia, Canada, are all represented, and Mrs. Gauntlett, a Japanese lady visiting England, is remaining the whole fortnight.

The three opening lectures on Monday morning were each the first of courses on the Economic Position of Women, Local Government, and the League of Nations. Mrs. Stocks prepared the way for a consideration of the Economic Position of Women by giving the first of two lectures on Theories of Population in which she referred to the motives underlying the belief in a large population, racial, militarist, and moral, which complicate the question—already a difficult one, by introducing prejudice and a want of clear thinking. She gave a very clear and illuminating account of the theories of Malthus and John Stuart Mill. Malthus urged that the population is always pressing on the means of subsistence, and that it increases more rapidly than production, so that a constantly decreasing standard of living must ensue. To meet the difficulty he advocated moral restraint, late marriages, and small families. John Stuart Mill put forward the view that in the production of wealth there are three factors: (a) Capital, (b) labour, and (c) land or other natural resources. While (a) and (b) are capable of almost indefinite expansion, (c) is limited in the last resort by natural laws and, subject to the invention and industry of man, must eventually reach a limit of expansion which cannot be increased. This has been called the Law of Diminishing Returns. The problem is to know when

in a complex social group the highest production from natural resources has been reached. It is obvious that once the line of highest production has been crossed each new life brought into the world will decrease the amount of food and other necessities which are available per head of the population. This point, however, is constantly changing. To Mill it seemed that this country would hardly support a larger population than the eighteen to twenty millions which had been reached in his time. But Mill had not foreseen the revolution caused by rapid and cheap transit which has brought the products of the great unsettled continents to our doors in exchange for our manufactures, thus allowing about thirty-seven millions at the present time to enjoy a higher standard of living than was dreamt of in the days of Mill. Who can say whether a new revolution will not produce similar results? But while the revolution in transit brought a sense of security to the population of pre-war times, the world conflict has changed our views and once again we have been led to realise the precarious nature of our food supply, and that the increase in population in the countries on which we have relied for our support may bring the theories of Malthus once more into prominence. Mrs. Stocks' able and interesting lecture was happily connected with the address on the League of Nations which was to follow, when, in answer to a question, she observed that the hope that small nations might be able to enjoy peace and a high standard of living rested with the League.

Miss Rathbone's lecture on "Problems of Municipal Government" followed. She asked students to observe that administration commonly lagged behind legislation partly because of a general neglect of the machinery of administration, and partly because so many Acts are permissive and depend on an active local authority inspired by the force of an educated public opinion. It is important for women going on to local authorities to make themselves acquainted with the Acts of Parliament governing the work of Local Administration. Though the paid officials in consultation with the Chairmen of the various local committees are chiefly responsible for the work, individual members exercise a certain critical influence as the representatives of local public opinion. After tracing the course of Local Government briefly from the days of the early charters granted to Boroughs and past the foundation of modern municipal government—the Municipal Reform Act, 1835—to the present time, Miss Rathbone came to what was, perhaps, the most interesting part of her lecture, a consideration of the problems of Municipal Trading. She compared the dangers of allowing control of a monopoly service by a private individual with the opposing fear of corruption and dictation by employees who are also electors, and went in detail into some of the reasons which have largely brought such services as gas, water, bath and wash-houses, markets, &c., under municipal control.

A report of Miss Ward's interesting account of the Covenant of the League of Nations will be given in our next issue.

SPEAKERS' LIST.

A useful list of those willing to speak on behalf of the N.U.S.E.C. has now been compiled and is available from headquarters, price 6d. Societies are asked to notify headquarters of their winter plans as soon as they can, as it is hoped to arrange speakers' tours wherever possible.

LIBRARY.

The following books have been added to the library:—"The Group Mind," William MacDougall; "A Day Continuation School at Work," W. J. Wray and R. W. Ferguson; "International Politics," C. Delisle Burns; "Proposals for the Prevention of Future Wars," Viscount Bryce, and others; "A Philosophy of Social Progress," E. J. Urwick; "A Constitution for the Socialist Commonwealth," Sydney and Beatrice Webb; "Christian Socialism," Charles E. Raven; "Economics," James Cunnison.

COMING EVENTS.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

The following meetings on League of Nations subjects will be held:—

- SEPTEMBER 6.**
 At the Cecil Hall, Ilford.
 Speaker: Frederick Whelen, Esq. 8 p.m.
- SEPTEMBER 8.**
 At the Primitive Methodist Church, Staveley.
 Preacher: Rev. Foster Jeffery. 6.30 p.m.
- SEPTEMBER 9.**
 At the Wesleyan Church, High Road, East Finchley.
 Women's Guild Meeting.
 Speaker: Miss Currey, O.B.E. 3 p.m.
- SEPTEMBER 10.**
 At the Public Hall, Uckfield.
 Speaker: Frederick Whelen, Esq. 7.30 p.m.
- SEPTEMBER 11.**
 At the Cromwell Hall, Nightingale Lane, Leytonstone
 Organised by the Leytonstone Sisterhood.
 Speaker: Miss Currey, O.B.E. 7.30 p.m.
- SEPTEMBER 12.**
 At the Town Hall, Howard Road, Cricklewood.
 Speaker: Miss Helen Ward. 3 p.m.
- SEPTEMBER 13.**
 At the Sisterhood Headquarters, Barking Road, East Ham
 Speaker: Mrs. Graham Lacey. 3 p.m.

THE Y.W.C.A. WORKING WOMEN'S COLLEGE.

- SEPTEMBER 30.**
 At "The Holt," Rectory Road, Beckenham.
 The Council and Students of the College At Home.
 "A Pageant of Women's Work," written and acted by the Students, will be performed in the garden.
 Tea 4.15 p.m.
 Pageant 5 p.m.
 For invitation card apply (before September 25th) to Miss Walters,
 Y.W.C.A., 25, George Street, Hanover Square, W. 1.

Our readers will learn with regret that continued ill-health has compelled Miss Trim to close the International Suffrage Shop, which has been of such great service to Suffragists of many lands for the last ten years. The business has been transferred to the Betterment Book Room, 40B, Rosslyn Hill, Hampstead, N.W. 3, which is peculiarly fitted to carry on Miss Trim's work because of its well-known sympathy with reform movements, so that old friends and customers of the I.S.S. will be able in future to obtain there the same assistance that Miss Trim was always ready to render.

THE Domestic Servant Problem

There are readers who for years past have obtained domestic help through our small advertisement columns. Why? Because we can supply them with the kind of service which is so difficult to find at an ordinary Registry Office. See page 672.

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