

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

Equal Franchise.

Step by step the Equal Franchise Bill marches triumphantly forward. On Tuesday, 12th June, the Committee Stage in the House of Lords was completed. An attempt was made by Lord Newton to provide that the electoral age for both men and women should be 25, and he was supported by a considerable number of mal-contents. His plea was the usual one of the danger of extending the franchise to a large number of ignorant voters. Lord Cecil opposed, mainly on the constitutional ground of the danger of fighting the House of Commons, and it was left to the Lord Chancellor to make a really fine speech in support of the maintenance of 21 as the age at which political majority is attained. "Not only the function of voting," he pointed out, "but every other function pertaining to man's estate, had always been attained by a citizen at the age of 21. It seemed anomalous that for the one purpose of voting he should not be allowed to exercise his privileges at that age." The amendment was lost by 87 to 41. We understand that at the Third Reading of the Bill will take place on Monday, 18th June, and that the Bill may receive Royal Assent during that week.

The Approach of Victory.

It is good to feel that the joy of a just and honourable victory after a long and honourable struggle is virtually ours. The sound of rejoicing is already to be heard in the land. We give below particulars of a Thanksgiving Service organized by the League of the Church Militant. The Women's Freedom League is making arrangements for a Victory Breakfast at the Hotel Cecil, as soon as the Bill receives Royal Assent. The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, the Mother Suffrage organization, is holding a Garden Party at Cliveden on Wednesday, 18th July, where large numbers of old and new voters will meet together to "rejoice and give thanks." Perhaps the most interesting celebration project, however, is the proposed portrait of Dame Millicent which the National Union and the London and National Society for Women's Service hope to have ready for exhibition and presentation at a public function before this memorable year is over.

The Epsom By-Election.

Epsom is to have two women candidates to choose from. Lady Blades, wife of the present member recently elevated to the peerage, will stand in the Conservative interest, and Miss Helen M. Keynes will represent Labour. We have so far no knowledge of the views held by either candidate on the reforms to which we are committed, as neither, so far as we know, has taken a prominent part in the suffrage movement. It is curious to note that with one or two conspicuous exceptions, the women who succeed in finding seats in the House of Commons

have not up to the present been outstanding figures in the campaign—still far from finished—for equality between the sexes. This is not, we think, because the struggle for the vote has given them a lop-sided attitude of mind unlikely to appeal to an electorate of ordinary people, but rather that it has engendered a non-party caste of mind which holds them aloof from party politics. Another reason is, we believe, to be found in the fact that in spite of the shortcomings of their leaders, many suffrage workers have been of Liberal persuasion, and if they remain true to the party their chances of Parliamentary success are practically nil.

Equal Pay in the Boot and Shoe Trade.

At the recent Conference of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives at Yarmouth, resolutions relating to wages urged a minimum of 65s. a week for men and 40s. for women. A strong protest was made against this discrimination between men and women. One speaker pointed out the argument of the family did not apply because young boys were paid more than girls of the same age, though every foreman would say that girls were more useful than boys because they stuck more steadily to their work. Other speakers pointed out that women had dependents as well as men. The conference was reminded that two years ago the principle of equal pay for equal work had been accepted. A difference of 25s. between the minimum pay for the man and the woman in a trade in which the earning capacity of women is recognized is so patently absurd that we hope nothing more will be heard of it. The resolutions were not put to the vote, but were discussed in order to ventilate the views of branch delegates.

Equal Pay at Geneva.

At the International Labour Conference the Convention for establishing Minimum Wage-Fixing Machinery was again discussed by the delegates on June 6th. The Indian Workers' delegate moved an amendment asking that any machinery set up as a result of the Conference should include arrangements for "equal rates for men and women doing work of equal value." Madame Eugenia Wasniewska, technical adviser to the Polish delegation, supported the amendment, and a magnificent speech in its favour was made by the French workers' delegate. This speech was based on his experience of the low wages paid to women tailors in his country, where they receive a third of the men's wages. Mrs. Betzy Kjelsberg, representing the Norwegian Government, Herr Feig of Norway, an Austrian delegate, and Mr. Walker, representing Australian workers, asked for the principle to be incorporated into a Recommendation to the Governments. "It is our common knowledge," said Mr. Walker, "that women are everywhere exploited. I also support it from the selfish point of view of the male, in order to safeguard the male wage rate . . . The older and wiser Trade Unions, the doctors, the lawyers, and the journalists, have adopted this principle." The amendment was eventually withdrawn after considerable discussion.

Women and the German Elections.

Figures relating to men and women voters in seven towns at the last General Election in Germany have now been published and, as the *Manchester Guardian* points out, throw an interesting light on the party affiliations of men and women respectively. In all the towns both the extreme parties, i.e. the Fascists and Communists, attracted fewer women than men, and the Social Democrats (corresponding, of course, to our own Labour Party) also attracted many more men than women in all the towns except one. The Democrats, who resemble our Liberal Party, had an equal number of men and women supporters; whereas in the Nationalist Party (Conservatives) the women's vote was 40 to 50 per cent higher than the men's. Similarly in

the Roman Catholic Centre Party the women voted in greater numbers than the men. It appears, therefore, that in Germany the effect of the women's vote is to shift the political balance in favour of clericalism and reaction, while acting as a check on extremism. On the other hand, although thirty-one women have been elected to the new Reichstag, nineteen of these belong to the Social-Democratic Party, no other party being able to claim more than three.

Assaults on Children.

A correspondent has sent us a cutting from the *Dundee Courier and Advertiser* reporting the sentence of one month imprisonment on a man for assaults on two little girls of seven years old. We have not heard what action the Dundee Women's Societies are taking in the matter, but we hope they will not stand still. A sentence of one month for such a horrible offence, with a few fatuous remarks about the importance of children's safety to play in the parks and a vague promise that if he had any more such cases he would deal much more severely with them, is not good enough. We believe that the offender in such a case is an abnormal person and that as such he should not be at large. But without attempting here to deal with the adequate punishment or treatment for such a revolting crime we would point the moral that little children must be protected from the very possibility of such an occurrence not by punishment when the evil has been done but by adequate preventive measures. We ourselves know nothing of the extent of Dudhope Park where the present assault occurred, but we repeat that every public place where children congregate should have its woman police officer and be properly patrolled.

"Obey" in the Scottish Episcopal Church.

The Provincial Synod of the Episcopal Church in Scotland held in Edinburgh last week decided to delete the word "obey" from the marriage service, and to substitute "and all my worldly goods with thee I share" for "with all my worldly goods I thee endow." The words "Wilt thou obey him and serve him" were by four votes to three changed to "Wilt thou love and comfort him." It was stated that in some mediaeval forms the word "obey" was not used.

Women in the Synagogue.

It is difficult to explain why women accept their position in the churches so placidly unless it is that they believe that to assert their claim for equality with men would be incompatible with the grace of meekness. The latest snub has been given to Jewish women when the conjoint Committee of the United Synagogue by a considerable majority rejected the proposal to confer upon women the right to vote for honorary officers and members of Boards of Management of constituent synagogues. The *Jewish Chronicle* last week comments severely on "the narrow-minded ignorance that has been exhibited" by this decision. It points out that several and among them the oldest and most orthodox Synagogues in this country allow women the vote. Of all manifestations of inequality in the treatment of the sexes, inequality in the Churches is in our opinion the most utterly inexplicable and inexcusable.

"First Women."

We have often had occasion in these pages to congratulate somebody or other upon being the first woman to perform some feat of skill or learning or endurance—or it may be to incur the pioneer responsibility of some newly opened professional opportunity. It is difficult to be a "first woman" on such occasions, for all the world looks on and the reputation of a whole sex rises or falls by the result. But it is at the same time somewhat exhilarating to be the first anybody to do anything. And who are we to deprecate a little pardonable liking for notoriety and public honour? We should ourselves like to be the first woman's paper to reach a million circulation. Anyone who has read the last memoirs of Captain Scott will understand and sympathize with the disappointment of a great man at finding that another great man has been before him at his goal. But sometimes the "first woman" seems to have little or nothing to boast about, neither skill, responsibility, nor peculiar endurance, and when this is the case the pursuit of "firstness" seems to lose in the eyes of onlookers, all its dignity. Such a pursuit is that of Lady Hay-Drummond-Hay who desires to be the first woman to cross the Atlantic as a passenger in the dirigible airship which is at present being prepared for flight by Count Zeppelin. Lady Hay has, it appears, offered a pretty

considerable sum of money to the commander of the airship for the privilege of being carried on this flight, which is, she considers, "about the only stunt left that is worth doing." In response to the question whether any other woman passenger was likely to accompany her, she replied, "I sincerely hope that no idea of taking another member of my sex will be entertained by those responsible for organizing the flight. I should certainly not be willing to pay the fare asked if I thought I was not to be the only woman on the ship. Naturally, I am very keen to earn the distinction of being the first woman to make such a journey." Well—Lady Hay is welcome to that distinction if she cares to pay for it in pounds, shillings, and pence. And if we cannot congratulate her on her good sense or her team spirit we can at least congratulate her upon her outspoken honesty of purpose.

Mrs. Pankhurst.

Our rejoicing at the approach of Equal Franchise is clouded by the news of the very serious illness of Mrs. Pankhurst. Our readers everywhere will join with us in earnest hopes for her recovery. We would like to send her a message of affection and sympathy in her weakness, and to remind her that as the hour of success approaches we cannot forget the distinguished share she took in bringing about victory.

Mistress Mariners.

At a meeting of Master Mariners held recently in Southampton a vote was taken upon the desirability of admitting women to the profession. It resulted in a majority of 33 to 2 against the suggestion. In the course of the discussion, one member asserted that he knew one woman who would have made a capable master mariner had she taken her certificate. The woman in question, who happens to be Mrs. C. B. Fry, wife of Commander Fry, of the Training Ship *Mercury*, subsequently expressed herself to a Press representative as emphatically in agreement with this assertion. She said that she would like to see women given a chance of becoming master mariners. The necessary qualifications which she named, nerve, comprehension, self-control, and stamina, were, she considered, present in some women as in some men. She herself had frequently led the boys of the *Mercury* aloft, a feat which she considered presented no difficulty to the average woman. Like Mr. Baldwin, she was convinced that you cannot cheat the sea; competence for the job, and competence alone can save a skipper's face, and make a skipper's reputation. Such competence would, she considered, be recognized and revered by a crew as readily in a woman as in a man skipper. Mrs. Fry's robust and generous faith in her own sex is both convincing and refreshing.

The Departmental Committee on the Training of Midwives.

In our issue last week, we gave a brief "Who's Who" of the members of the departmental committee appointed to consider the working of the Midwives' Act. We have, this week, to add to those the name of Mrs. Barton, General Secretary of the Women's Co-operative Guild, who has been invited by the Minister of Health to serve on the Committee as the result of representations made to him by the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organizations. In view of the attention which this subject has had from women's organizations represented on the Standing Committee, it is surprising that no representative was included in the first list. Mrs. Barton has wide experience of service on Government inquiries in addition to knowledge of this subject. The Women's Co-operative Guild, composed mainly of married working women, has for many years been specially active in connection with questions relating to maternity welfare, and the report of its maternity campaign will be a leading feature of its annual congress held at Plymouth this week.

Correction—Miss Anna Bateson.

The late Miss Anna Bateson, to whom reference was made in these columns last week, should have been described as sister (not daughter) of the late Dr. William Bateson, the biologist. Her father was D. Bateson, Master of St. John's College, Cambridge, and her mother a foremost worker for women's education at Cambridge in the 'seventies and 'eighties.

Women in the Church—a Correction.

We regret the omission of the all-important word *not* before consistently on line 8 in the second column of the article last week on "Women and the Church".

LADIES.

In a small pamphlet recently published by the Hogarth Press,¹ Lady Rhondda utters a serious warning to our politically emancipated womanhood against its present besetting danger: the social menace of the leisured woman. It is in her opinion a new menace. Not of course a new phenomenon, for the leisured woman, or rather the woman without any serious or responsible occupation, is at any rate an early nineteenth century phenomenon, and the Misses Bennett, of *Pride and Prejudice*, were probably more aimlessly and tediously leisured than any well-to-do young women of to-day. So were Shirley and Catherine Helstone, at a later date, when through their inhibited lives Charlotte Brontë expressed her own formulated discontent with such a state of affairs. Indeed, to most superficial appraisers of the woman's movement this particular phenomenon would appear to be not merely an old one but a dead one—a thing of the past, obviated once and for all by the new opportunities which have been opened for women and the new responsibilities which have been thrust upon them. The root of Lady Rhondda's thesis is that on the contrary it is these very opportunities and responsibilities which create the menace—that on the whole "the average leisured woman has not altered very greatly", and that whereas in her original obscure slave state she was a relatively innocuous member of the body politic, in her new emancipated and relatively influential state she is a public danger. Perhaps Lady Rhondda would agree that we express her view in saying that there is an inevitable "time-lag" between the emancipation of a class, race, or sex by the efforts of its leaders and the merits of its outstanding personalities, and the extinction in that class, race, or sex of the inherited traditions and values of its unemancipated state. The period of that "time-lag" is a period of doubt and danger. It is the old story perhaps of the beggar on horseback.

It is possible of course that Lady Rhondda's thesis, stated as it is with something of the exaggeration which forcible statement induces, lies open to criticism on two points. The first is that the area of leisure has been greatly diminished. Of the ladies mentioned above there can be little doubt that by hook or crook, Elizabeth and Mary Bennett would have escaped from it by one of those doors of opportunity which the late nineteenth century and the early twentieth have opened. Shirley with the letters J.P. and C.C. added to her name would be immersed in the government of the West Riding. The fate of Catherine Helstone is more difficult to predict, but in all probability only Jane

WHISPERS FROM WESTMINSTER.

THE SPIRIT OF PARLIAMENT.

Mr. Pepys put his finger on the mingled charm and irritation of the Commons House on 19th December, 1666, when he wrote: "Sir R. Ford did make me understand how the House of Commons is a beast not to be understood, it being impossible to know beforehand the success almost of any small plain thing; there being so many to think and speak to any business and they of so uncertain minds and interests and passions." There have been many to think and speak during the past week both in the Chamber and in the lobbies, libraries and smokerooms.

The public debate has been about public finance, or as Andrew Marvell put it in 1660, writing to his constituents at Hull, "this money news". The Finance Bill on Tuesday, Rating and Valuation on Wednesday and Thursday, a Financial Resolution for the imposition of a new duty of 25 per cent on enamelled hollow ware on Friday, and the Scottish Estimates to-day (Monday).

The debate on the Finance Bill was notable for an interesting passage at arms between Sir John Simon and Mr. Churchill. The Chancellor is evidently taking the Liberals seriously in the discussions on the Government Rating proposals and is devoting most of his attention to their criticisms and proposals. This, I suppose, is natural in view of their Industrial Report with its lengthy and important chapter on the problem. The effect in the House of Commons is interesting for the debate is oblique. Not from the pock-marked (by Mr. Gladstone's diamond ring) brass-bound box on the Government side straight across the table but from the Treasury Bench to the small group below the gangway on the back green benches. The Chancellor is speaking well and with conviction, but he does not look well and is evidently anxious as to the success of his schemes for the relief of productive industries. More members were on Epsom Downs on Wednesday than in the debating chamber. But the House filled up for a great duel on Thursday between Mr. Churchill

Bennett, altruistically serving the comfort of somebody's home, Lydia and Kitty expectantly haunting the fringe of the nearest garrison town, would remain to represent the class whose existence Lady Rhondda deplures. True enough. For those who chose to escape, and have a sufficient measure of resolve for the endeavour, escape is possible. But the point which she would impress upon us is that the continued existence of those who remain diffuses a poison through the body politic which prejudices the status of those who escape. The easy availability of the leisured Jane for any domestic crisis that may arise, fosters the expectation (obstinately cherished in a man-made social system) that Mary may be likewise summoned at any moment from her academic duties, Elizabeth from her literary ambitions. The eternal "flapping" of Lydia and Kitty continues to whet the hungry male craving for whole-time admiration and dependence. And for the diffusion of this social poison, the emancipation and influence of to-day have given to the diminished company of leisured women a wider and more potent range of destructiveness.

The second criticism which Lady Rhondda invites is that the whole problem is insignificantly small since it appertains only to the well-to-do classes. The great mass of women are not leisured, never were leisured, and never will be leisured. This again is true enough. And yet it remains true that the well-to-do classes, insignificant as they may appear when we bring the statistics of population into relation with the statistics of wealth, are still the classes which possess our literature, art, journalism, and administrative power. Any philanthropist who has observed the day to day operations of a hospital out-patient department must be well aware that they are conducted on the assumption that the working mother, like the doctor's wife, is a lady of leisure. And the fact that the first year or so of married life is in all classes apt to be a time of leisure (beyond which many expectant brides fail to look with any sense of reality) has reactions upon the seriousness and continuity of women's work in the labour market with which trade union organizers are painfully familiar.

Taken as a whole Lady Rhondda's pamphlet is a useful reminder of certain enduring rotten spots, or shall we say danger points, in the triumphant feminist movement of our day. And it is a tolerable reminder because, caring greatly for that movement, her remedy is to advance to a more responsible position and not retreat to a safer one.

and Mr. Lloyd George. Nevertheless I regard the two days' discussion on the Rating Apportionment Bill as the best sustained debate in this Parliament. The whole discussion should be read for almost every speech made its contribution. The back benches come out well. Captain Macmillan on the Conservative side, Mr. Ernest Brown and Mr. Kingsley Griffith for the Liberals, while Miss Susan Lawrence made incomparably the ablest speech from the Labour benches. I should like to hear this able woman member given an opportunity on one of her special subjects in a crowded House. Unfortunately she rarely gets asked except in the dinner hour or later in the debating chamber, and as her style is unusual Parliament has not yet appreciated the value of the stuff of her speeches. The instructed few who sit regularly to hear the debates regard Miss Lawrence as the ablest woman member in the House and as a real debater. Sir Kingsley Wood made a competent reply on the first day, full of quotations from Labour leaders, and provoked the interjection from a man on the mountain: "Is this from *Answers or Tit-bits*?"

Mr. Neville Chamberlain opened the second day's discussion and was as clear as always but unusually hesitating and perfunctory. This is doubtless to be explained in the difficulty of the task he has before him in applying the plans for rating relief in the sphere of Local Government. There is no need for me to describe at length the debate between the two giants. On the personal grounds the honours were about even, but there was a considerable feeling in the lobbies that on the merits of the proposals that the Chancellor had not met Mr. Lloyd George's criticisms. This personal duel will bulk larger and yet more large as the session advances and is all to the good, as it will tend to fasten the eyes of the electors on the concrete and practical problems under discussion. Mr. Snowden was not as precise as usual in his statement as to the effects of rates on industry and the Government spokesmen made great play with his speech.

¹ *Leisured Women*, by Viscountess Rhondda. Hogarth Press, 2s.

Young Mr. Boothby did exceedingly well. I am left wondering why no woman member thought it worth while to speak on Friday on the proposal to tax enamelled hollow ware, unless it was the fact that so little notice was given as to the orders of the day for Friday. The Scottish debate has turned on Land Settlement, Housing and Slum Clearance, and pensions, and has been well worth while for those interested in social problems. While the Chamber has debated "this money news" the private parts of the House have been full of talk as to "Mr. Speaker" and the Prayer Book. Many a member has lingered longer than usual in the Silence Room of the Commons Library to look at the panels on which the names of the speakers from Hungerford, 1377, to Whitley, 1921, are inscribed. I hope to say something more about the subject of our Speaker in my next article, and at the moment will content myself by saying that by a process of negative choice the new occupant of the chair would seem likely to be Captain Fitzroy. As to the Prayer Book, the issue is in doubt, but both sides are concentrating on the doubtfuls, and no one will know the result until, as on the last occasion, it is declared by the tellers. This week's smile is from the chair through the mouth of the Deputy Speaker (Mr. James Hope). On a point of order Mr. Kirkwood desired that the Secretary of State for Scotland should speak. Mr. Hope: "That is not a point of order. I have the power, in certain circumstances, to compel right hon. and hon. members to resume their seats, but I have no power whatever to compel them to rise." Laughter, in which Mr. Kirkwood joined. GREEN BENCH.

HOUSING FINANCE FOR THE YEAR.

By G. W. CURRIE.

THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH'S ESTIMATES FOR 1928.

The Ministry of Health has been in existence for nine years, and within that period the general death-rate has dropped from 14 per 1,000 to 12.3, and that of infant mortality from 80 to 70 per 1,000 births. These figures are very reasonably used by Mr. Chamberlain as showing in quite a broad way what measure of success has attended his department on the "health services" side of its work. They are not used by him as in any way shielding from public view the material respects in which the public health is unsatisfactory. Successive ministers of Health proceed from year to year reaping and garnering the good seed sown by the original National Health Insurance Act: this year's instalment of the harvest is set forth in what Mr. Chamberlain said in the course of his speech on the 1928 estimates concerning cancer, rheumatism, sleepy sickness, maternal mortality, dental trouble, and so on. The maternal mortality figures are certainly serious, and Mr. Chamberlain deserves unstinted support when he says, "Let us make no mistake about it. . . . I warn the Committee that these efforts are going to mean money. . . . I cannot believe that the national conscience will allow the lives of the mothers of this country to be sacrificed merely for the sake of a few extra thousands of pounds." We lay stress on the emphatic treatment of this portion of his department's successful work by Mr. Chamberlain not merely on account of its own inherent importance, but because it throws into relief the less satisfying results obtained in respect to housing. Rural housing hangs fire; slum clearance stagnates; overcrowding is not materially improved; reconditioning is on a disappointing scale. We have no wish to make these points more strongly than Mr. Chamberlain himself: it is better that his statement should speak for itself. Rural housing is "disappointingly slow. . . . nothing is ever done in a hurry in the country. . . . officials are. . . in many cases surprisingly ignorant. . . the local authority. . . have no right to deprive the tenant of the cottage of the improvement which Parliament designed for his benefit." So as to slums: "Really, when one thinks of the vast masses of people who are compelled to live under slum conditions, one cannot help feeling impatience that up to now so little has been done to help. . . . And overcrowding: on this point beyond saying that it was 'the most salient and urgent problem' Mr. Chamberlain did not enter into details and figures. Of reconditioning, his view was much more hopeful: over 600,000 houses were so dealt with in 1926. We have ourselves never ceased to urge that, apart from and in no sense instead of, the provision of new houses, the powers conferred on the community itself to secure reconditioning, and that for the most part without the expenditure of public money, have been too little used. Evidently Mr. Chamberlain agrees. With his setting forth of his department's work and policy on these

points, there must be a general feeling of satisfaction. His forecast of legislation to increase—or possibly only to redistribute—compensation to landlords, is unfortunately likely to cause a "slow-down" in clearance of slums and it is urgently desirable that having said so much, Mr. Chamberlain should lose no time in saying a good deal more. We cannot imagine that any increase he can contemplate will involve very much money: we do not agree that very many schemes are really held up on such a consideration as a genuine one, though we know the assertion is often made; and we attach more importance to avoiding further loss of time in this direction than to a comparatively small amount of money. In any given case, when it can really be shown that a scheme otherwise urgently desirable threatens individual injustice even on a small scale, the only reasonable line to take in our view is, "Secure the scheme and pay what is required to avoid injustice." What we do not like is the idea of endless delay under guise of avoiding individual injustice. Mr. Chamberlain is evidently looking into the point, and we are hopeful that he will succeed in dealing with it on these lines.

The Minister having, no doubt deliberately, avoided a definite statement of the extent to which the shortage of houses still exists, the whole point was raised in debate. Mr. Briant put the figure at 600,000 or 700,000, and Mrs. Runciman, in a valuable speech, took the line that this figure was dependable. Colonel Fremantle threw interesting sidelights on the position. At first sight his conclusions have the appearance of conflicting with those quoted; but it is an appearance only. He said: "One or two members have suggested that we are only building at a rate equal to our current requirements. This is not the case." Now it is clear that in 1927, for instance, we built twice, at least, what an annual crop of houses required by current requirement amounts to. But taking the ten year average performance since the war, we have done little if anything more than mark time, so far as the ratio of houses to people is concerned. Remember this; and the apparent conflict between these two authorities disappears. Again, each new house is better than an old one: quality is not quantity. Colonel Fremantle puts the point most fairly: ". . . You will find to-day that generally the position of overcrowding has slightly improved, but that it is still bad. In London over 16 per cent of the people are living in overcrowded conditions. . . ." In other respects of great interest and importance Colonel Fremantle's figures repay close consideration. He committed himself to the statement that "our shortage is actually, on the 1911 basis, only about 40,000 houses." We do not read this otherwise than as confirming Mrs. Runciman's figure: because, quite obviously, to translate 1911 figures into those applicable to 1928 you have to allow for a changed standard and a changed population. Increase of population alone means that we require say 400,000 more houses than twenty years ago, and any standard thought of now would condemn at least two hundred thousand houses which passed muster quite comfortably twenty years ago. At all events, there is no discrepancy worth mentioning left between these two authorities. On the length of life of a house, Colonel Fremantle made most interesting observations: he takes the life of a house at 100 years (80 years is frequently accepted but the point need not be argued) and the annual requirement to meet demolitions alone at 40,000; the total annual requirement he takes at 120,000 looking to the period dating from about twenty years ago and at 72,000 looking to the last few years. Mr. Briant clearly regards these estimates as unduly low: but, allowing for difference of outlook, we are inclined to think that the debate on the estimates showed a healthy unanimity of opinion as to the need for a continued public building programme. Mr. Chamberlain's words appear to put the case very well: ". . . while the housing shortage continues as acute as it still remains at present, I do not think the country will grudge the amount that is necessary to continue the building of new houses, although of course it will want to be satisfied that it is getting good value for its money. . . ."

Mr. Briant gave it as his opinion that in the year now current, 1928, we shall only secure 100,000 houses. If he is right, the position will indeed be deplorable: but clearly one must await events on such a calculation. By implication, Mr. Chamberlain repudiates such a conclusion. More demonstrably valuable was Colonel Fremantle's warning that while much can and should be done that is at present left undone by way of reconditioning under already existing powers, ". . . if you adopt reconditioning *instead of* rebuilding, you only postpone the evil

day. . . it is not an economic way of dealing with the problem to go on spending vast sums of money on reconditioning houses when they get towards the end of their life. . . ."

The upshot of the whole debate is to show the desirability of local authorities determining each in its own jurisdiction how the threefold processes can best be applied—to repair, to recondition, to rebuild. No conflict arises between them: they go hand in hand. Similarly, there is no real conflict between public and private building enterprise: obviously wholesale slum clearance schemes involve public finance.

Mr. Ernest Brown, M.P. for Leith, spoke late in the debate and made two valuable points. ". . . the plain truth as to the number of houses required to-day is that nobody knows how many are required." In effect his plea is for a re-survey. His second contribution lay in the report of a series of surprise visits to transplanted tenants paid by the Scottish Board of Health of whose thorough-going work a great deal too little is known in the country. ". . . 62 per cent were well kept; while 26 per cent were only in fair condition as regards cleanliness, and 12 per cent were definitely very dirty and were obviously kept by very careless tenants who did not appear to be making any attempt to live up to the new accommodation provided." Unending divergence of opinion is shown in speeches up and down the country as to how tenants removed from slums respond to a better environment, and this report is an attempt to supply an authoritative answer to a difficult question. The smaller clearance schemes were reported to show that as many as 80 per cent to 90 per cent of tenants made good. Another interesting fact was disclosed by Sir Kingsley Wood, who told the House of Commons that out of half a million cases of action by local authorities, more than one-half were rectified without any legal action at all. The Under-Secretary had the House with him when he entered a protest against any belittling of the minor repairs dealt with in such enormous numbers by local authorities. This less spectacular side of housing work is absolutely fundamental because it is so largely preventive; to the ratepayer it has the additional virtue of being paid for by the landlord. Little is to be gained now by lamentation over the money spent under the Addison Act: on the whole, we appear to be getting reasonably good value for current expenditure now. It was natural that the easier portions of the Ministry's task should have been tackled first. If all local authorities had been as active as some, much greater progress would have been secured. We wish Mr. Chamberlain well in his promised attack on the slums: it is overdue. His own speech on the estimates served to show once more how slums and disease are cause and effect, and how wasteful it is to tinker with the latter instead of attacking the former.

LAUSANNE SUMMER SCHOOL.

We greatly regret to announce that owing to unforeseen circumstances the School organized by the International Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship has had to be abandoned.

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL IN ENGLAND.

The annual Summer School of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom is being organized this year by the British Section and is being held at Westhill College, Selly Oak, Birmingham, from 27th July to 10th August. The subject of the School is: "New Theories of Government: Socialism, Bolshevism, Fascism, etc., and their Relation to International Peace." Mr. H. N. Brailsford and Mr. C. Roden Buxton will lecture on Socialism; Mr. E. F. Wise, C.B., and Mr. W. T. Goode on Bolshevism; Commendatore Luigi Villari and Professor Gaetano Salvemini on Fascism. On the last day of the School, Mrs. Swanwick will open a debate on "Is any one form of Government more likely to promote International Peace than another?" There will be excursions to Warwick and Kenilworth Castles and to Stratford-on-Avon. Mrs. George Cadbury is very kindly giving a reception to welcome the members of the School at The Manor House, Northfield, on the evening of the opening day, 27th July.

Westhill College stands on the southern slope of a hill about 450 feet above sea-level, overlooking a wide stretch of open country. It is 4 miles from the centre of Birmingham, which is easily reached by train or tram, and close to the beautiful Lickey Hills where there is an excellent municipal golf course. The College grounds of over 4 acres include hard and grass tennis courts, which will be available to those attending the School. The lectures and discussions will be given each day at 10 a.m.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

WOMEN'S WORK IN MODERN ENGLAND.

The ten years since the war have witnessed a gradual backward drift in the general attitude to women's work, which we have hardly yet begun to stem. The threatened closing of the London Medical Schools to women is as much a sign of the times as women's complete enfranchisement, although I believe it to be but a ripple in a back-wash which will be later swallowed up in the bigger tide that takes us forward.

But women have tasted, or been allowed to guess the taste, of economic freedom, during the war, and they cannot look back again, nor even be pushed back again for long. Miss Brittain's book¹ is as much a sign of the times as these new and old restrictions. Her title suggests a comprehensive survey of facts as they are, and what women are actually doing in England now; her publisher on the dust-cover conveys the idea that the chief value of the book lies in the suggestions of openings for future work:—

"What work is open to women? What training is required? Where can they get the information? What will it cost to become qualified? What will they get paid when they are qualified? All this and a great deal more Miss Brittain tells in this comprehensive book.

But one cannot cram so much as that into 200 pleasantly-set pages, even when the writing is as clear and able as Miss Brittain's. We do indeed find set down here in careful and logical arrangement a survey of the present openings for women in industrial, commercial, professional, and political work. But the root, the core, the *raison d'être* of the book are to be found in a burning sense of injustice at the present economic position of the woman worker, which shines continually through the mask of impartial analysis and scientific statement. It even leads at times to inaccuracies which would not otherwise arise. For instance, we are led to suppose that the prohibition of the use of lead paint by women "struck a heavy blow" at house-decorating as a *profession* for women. But the professional house-decorator rarely expects to do the manual work herself, and for any woman with a bent towards this attractive profession, the chief results of the Act will be to force her into the upper grades of it—a consummation devoutly to be wished, especially in view of the opposite tendency prevailing in other branches of work.

We sympathize with the author in her dissatisfaction with the present condition and immediate prospects of women's work in England; but her book would be more valuable if it either provided the impartial survey it suggests, or made an undisguised and reasoned appeal for reform. In an impartial and complete survey, there would need to be more adequate recognition of the unpaid work done by women in the home. In 1921, 87.1 per cent of the men in this country were engaged in gainful occupation, and only 32.3 per cent of the women. The majority of the remaining 67.7 women were obviously working; but they were not paid. The author has precedent for treating unpaid work as no work at all, but a more complete study would have given it place, and noted its economic effects upon the wage-earner. If the aim were merely to collect and present all the information which is needed by women planning a career of paid or organized voluntary work, much of the space devoted to general observations (admirable as these often are) might have been more profitably allotted to informative detail. Or, on the other hand, a thorough investigation into the remuneration of women in modern England, followed by a demand for equal pay, and an appeal to women workers not to look on child-bearing or rearing as sufficient reasons for abandoning other (paid) work—subjects which the author evidently has at heart—would have given, I venture to think, a more valuable book.

But would it have attracted the young women and their parents, with whose opinions and decisions the future rests? Hardly, perhaps. And after all, if the flies walk into this pretty parlour, the feminists may catch them; so the best of luck to *Women's Work in Modern England!* H. S. ANTHONY.

(Continued from previous column.)

and 8 p.m., leaving the afternoons free for visits to the Birmingham Art Gallery, Cadbury's Factory at Bournville, excursions into Worcestershire, walks on the Lickey Hills, etc.

Applications for membership of the School and all inquiries regarding fees and accommodation, etc., should be made to the Secretary, Women's International League, 55 Gower Street, London, W.C. 1.

¹ *Women's Work in Modern England*, by Vera Brittain. (Published Noel Douglas, 1928. 6s. net.)

ROYAL ACORNS.

Miss Eleanor Scott has written a novel¹ which will doubtless be hailed by many readers as a new indictment of the educational "regiment of women." This may, indeed, have been the author's major intention. If so her medium of presentation is unsatisfactory; since she has chosen as her setting a school exceptionally placed, whose circumstances and personnel can hardly be quoted as in any respect typical. It would be difficult to find, we surmise, in the length and breadth of England, a school so nerve-racked, so futile, so thrown back upon itself, so far removed to the end of its tether, as the school which Miss Scott portrays for us. Difficult but not impossible—for we have one such school in mind, though the laws relating to libel and slander preclude us from giving chapter and verse. Moreover, it happens to be a boys' school, and should therefore be quoted in support of an indictment of the monstrous regiment of men. But there it is—and its existence proves not that women *qua* women or men *qua* men are unfitted for a celibate existence, but that human nature sometimes goes sadly awry, and that persons entrusted with the management of public funds are not always sufficiently vigilant as to how such moneys are spent.

But it is possible that Miss Scott had other intentions. There is much in her story to suggest that her main indictment is directed against the financial arrangements of existing school pensions schemes and against the system by which increasing age, carrying with it an increasing salary scale, cruelly penalizes the older teacher in her search for employment up to pensionable age. We presume that Miss Scott has got her facts right. If so, her indictment is a very forcible one—our only complaint is that here her emphasis is somewhat too crude, too direct, for artistic effect.

Or it may be that she has higher quarry, and that her shafts are aimed beyond the roofs and chimneys of her provincial high school to the gleaming cupolas of Whitehall itself. Unpleasant as are her local schoolmistresses, her Board of Education inspectors are more unpleasant still; and on the top of their unpleasantness Miss Scott has chosen to invest them with a death-dealing power of dismissal and promotion which leaves the ordinary reader gasping with incredulity. Is it really true that H.M. inspector can descend upon a public secondary school and by a single nod of disapprobation, inspired it must be confessed by the flimsiest favouritism, filch from under the headmistress's very nose a valued member of her senior staff? If so, then it is not only the pensions scheme and the salary scale which require revision, but also the functions of the inspectorate and conditions of recruitment to the higher grades of the Civil Service. Clearly, in the Board of Education at any rate, they are not getting hold of the right people.

But let us give Miss Scott the benefit of any doubt that may exist, acquit her of serious intentions, and hail her book as a very enthralling story of exceptional people exceptionally placed—no less enthralling because at times a little improbable. Her title is perhaps somewhat misleading. The book is not really about a war among ladies. It is about the reaction of a group of ladies, most unfortunately situated as the victims of circumstance, to a common doom. The war, such as it is, is an incidental part of such reaction—the mutual recrimination of a crew stampeding from a sinking ship—recrimination which at crucial moments may be turned by a word or a glance into the stoutest loyalty. It is perhaps a pity that Miss Scott was moved to throw to the public the sop of an extraneous love affair. And we are inclined to think that if she had invested Whitehall with a halo of wisdom and objectivity she would have provided the perfect artistic contrast to the mean and hopeless pathos of her doomed school writhing in the latter stages of its cumulative deterioration. But it is a good story for all that—skillfully told, not without a measure of human insight, and possessing that consistency which is sometimes described as "grip".

M. D. S.

OBITUARY.

We deeply regret the death of Mrs. Plevin, of Chester, recorded elsewhere in this issue. Mrs. Plevin was one of those to whom THE WOMAN'S LEADER owed much help. She acted as agent for Chester, and helped us by securing subscribers and advertisements and not least by her loyal sympathy.

¹ *War Among Ladies*, by Eleanor Scott. (Benn, 7s. 6d.)

THE LAW AT WORK.

GIRLS AND WOMEN AT AYLESBURY.

The last Report of the Prison Commissioners gives us very scanty news of the girl's Borstal. We read that the daily average of inmates was 65; that 43 were punished and 70 were not; and that 14 went to camp. As regards their after-careers, it was stated that, of 96 girls discharged in 1923, 26 had been reconvicted at the end of two years, and 73 per cent had not again come into conflict with the law. These figures show rather better results than do those for the boys from Borstal.

There are at present 80 inmates; three of them have young babies which were born in the Institution, and whose presence has a homely and humanizing effect. Great efforts have been made to improve the workrooms, so as to give a real training for employment in the outside world. Nothing is easier than to talk of "teaching trades" in institutions, but in reality nothing is more difficult, as the conditions of a workshop in the outside world cannot be reproduced in an institution. This is true of domestic service as of other forms of training. The aim at Aylesbury is to give a girl a choice of the occupation which she will follow after she leaves. Power machinery has been introduced into the dressmaking shop, and a girl who is expert in the use of this can readily find employment. Electric irons have also been installed in the laundry, as it is essential that girls who seek for work in good laundries (and a skilled ironer is always in demand) should be thoroughly accustomed to their use. Besides this, the work on the farm and in the garden and in the officer's homes, as well as the ordinary domestic work of the Institution, goes on.

In the evenings the girls have classes in handwork, including weaving, basket work, knitting, embroidery, etc.; so that a girl who has a taste in this direction has a chance to develop it, and can carry on part of the work at odd times in her room. Every evening too, there are classes of a literary character; it is found that these are successful in enlisting the girls' attention and interest if they appear under a guise which was not familiar to them in their school days. Geography must be called Travel; History must be Current Events (with some judicious working back); and Composition must take the form of collecting the material for a Borstal Magazine.

The girls at Aylesbury are between the ages of 16 and 22. They are sentenced for two or for three years, the Committee having power to license a girl out at any time after three months. As a matter of fact the stay of each girl is usually for two years. One cannot but be struck by the unnatural conditions of the life for girls of this age, cut off as they are from home, from brothers and sisters, and all domestic interests, and from any society of the opposite sex. There is also the absence of any of the ordinary difficulties of life, the keeping of employment, the handling of money, and temptations to dissipation. There always seems a need of some half-way house so that the time spent within Institution walls might not be so long, and the plunge not so sharp from a life of sheltered routine to complete liberty.

At Aylesbury now, in a separate building, are eleven convict women who have been moved there from the grim surroundings of Walton Gaol, where the remainder of the female convicts (over 40 in number) still remain. Those at Aylesbury are the "Stars," that is, the younger in age, and those who have not yet acquired criminal habits. They have at Aylesbury plenty of open ground for farm and garden work, and also for the rearing of rabbits, goats, and pigeons. It is difficult to exaggerate the value of work of this last kind as an absorbing interest for certain natives. The breeding of Angoras for their fur is a profitable and attractive occupation, and it lends itself to real responsibility being given to individual inmates as each can be in entire charge of a certain number of animals.

It is a matter of opinion how far long sentences of penal servitude are justified in the case of some of these women, but, given the sentence and given the system, it is hard to see how either could be carried out better than at Aylesbury under the present Governor. The longest term convicts have all their meals in association and have also a piano and gramophone to help to pass the hours of leisure. They can earn a very small sum of money each month, which they can spend on materials to be cooked on their own gas cooking stove. As is always the case far higher types of character and intelligence are to be found amongst the convicts than amongst the ordinary inmates of prison or of Borstal Institutions.

CLARA D. RACKHAM.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: Miss ELKANOR RATHBONE, C.C., J.P. Hon. Treasurer: Miss MACADAM.
Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HORTON.
General Secretary: Miss HANCOCK.
Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.
Telephone: Victoria 6188.

GARDEN PARTY TO CELEBRATE EQUAL FRANCHISE.

It was only possible last week to put in a few lines just before going to press with regard to this garden party to be held at Cliveden, Taplow, Bucks (by kind permission of Lady Astor), on the afternoon of Wednesday, 18th July. The arrangements for this party are being undertaken by the Finance Committee, and we hope to announce full particulars with regard to the form of the party, travelling arrangements, etc., next week. Tickets for the party, price 5s. each, may be obtained on application to Headquarters. We have already received requests for tickets, and would urge those who wish to be present on this historic occasion to let us know as soon as possible as a large crowd is expected.

OXFORD SUMMER SCHOOL, September 4th-11th, 1928.

As would be seen from the provisional programme of the School, published last week, we have been fortunate in being able to add to our list of lecturers the names of Miss Vera Brittain and Dr. William Robson. Many of our readers will already know Dr. Robson, who is a lecturer at the London School of Economics, and takes a leading part in the work of the Fabian Society. Miss Brittain's attractive book on *Women's Work in Modern England*, reviewed in another column, shows how excellently qualified she is to speak on "Women in the Professions". Full particulars of the School, together with a copy of the provisional programme and a Registration Form, may be obtained on application to the Secretary, N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

WOMEN IN THE SERVICE OF HOSPITALS.

In accordance with the resolution passed at the Conference on Women in the Service of Hospitals held last month, the N.U.S.E.C. has organized a representative Committee to "consider the advisability of making representations on this subject (of facilities for the training of medical women) to the Hospitals themselves and to those bodies, public or voluntary, concerned with the finance and administration of Hospitals". The first meeting of this Committee, on which there are a number of medical women, and of representatives of several societies particularly interested in the question, was held on Monday, 11th June. It was then decided that the Committee set up by the Senate to investigate the position as it concerns the University of London and the Medical Schools which have banned women students should be asked to receive deputations from this Joint Committee of Women's Organizations. A certain amount of data has already been collected, and it is proposed to publish a leaflet summarizing the general position with regard to the present opportunities of women in the Medical and Hospital Services.

THE SIMON COMMISSION.

The National Union has sent a memorandum to the members of the Indian Statutory Commission urging the need for women to be appointed as investigators or technical advisers to the Commission in order that the generally acknowledged evils affecting the well-being of women in India—such as illiteracy, early marriage, high infantile and maternal death-rates, bad housing and sanitation, perpetual seclusion, etc.—may be thoroughly inquired into by the Commission. Accompanying the memorandum were extracts from recent reports and statistics relating to Health and Education in India.

OBITUARY.

We deeply regret to record the death of Mrs. Plevin, one of the earliest members of the Chester Women's Citizens' Association. Mrs. Plevin, who was interested in anything connected with women's status and interests, worked actively in the cause of the Association for many years, and her kindly and generous spirit in all the work she undertook was very much appreciated by all who worked with her and with whom she came in contact. Her loss will be mourned not only by her home circle but also by the members of the Association for which she has done so much.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

ABERDEEN W.C.A.

The Annual Meeting of the Aberdeen W.C.A. which was held at the beginning of this month was a very successful one. Mrs. Trail, who was again elected as President, said that the Association had been able to do valuable work during the past in interesting women in the responsibilities and powers, but urged the members to greater efforts and suggested the

formation of work committees to facilitate the organization of the work. Miss Smith, hon. secretary, gave an encouraging report of the work done during the past year and said that it was stimulating the desire among women for more knowledge on all questions relating to citizenship.

BIRMINGHAM N.C.W.

Future young women voters were entertained by the Executive of the Birmingham branch of the National Council of Women on Friday, 1st June. The Branch President, who was in the chair, emphasized the importance of the vote to women, the sacrifices made to win it, and the necessity for the co-operation of men and women in public life. Lady Brooks gave an account of the history of the N.C.W., its aims and ideals, and described the working of the Birmingham branch. An excellent speech on the origin and objects of the London N.C.W. Younger Group was made by Miss Mortimer, who aroused so much interest that she was surrounded and bombarded with questions during an interval for refreshments. The Chairman of the Citizenship Sub-Section explained lucidly the conditions for the formation of a Younger Group, and made suggestions as to the work to be done, but assured potential members that they were to be free to elect their own officers and work on their own lines. Pamphlets on the Oxford Summer School were distributed.

The meeting began and ended with music provided by a member of the Executive. Twenty-three of those present at this meeting asked to be called to a first business meeting of the Younger Group, and it is hoped that out of this nucleus a strong and enthusiastic organization will grow.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MRS. ABBOTT'S VISIT TO GENEVA.

MADAM,—A word in reply to the Note, in your issue to-day, under this heading.

You consider it "unfortunate" that Mrs. Abbott did not obtain for her mission a mandate from the N.U.S.E.C. and certain other bodies, and imply that without this she cannot "appear as really representing the women of this country".

In the short time available after the mission was proposed to her she endeavoured (successfully) to secure a joint mandate from the uncompromising *equalitarian* bodies mentioned in your Note, and is, I believe, content to represent (and *ipso facto* to "appear as really representing") that point of view. You would not have expected a delegate for Equal Suffrage to seek a mandate from the Anti-Suffrage Society; and, although (as is well known) the N.U.S.E.C. stands for Equal Pay, it must be equally well known to you—and indeed is practically admitted in your Note—that that body does not stand for uncompromising equality as between men and women in the matter of restrictive industrial legislation differentiating between the sexes. Standing for the principle that "the benefit of equal status is always and everywhere the same", for recognition of the fact that the industrial woman has just as undeniable a right to determine her own life and work as any other adult human creature, Mrs. Abbott is, in this mission to Geneva, in a position stronger, simpler and more universally clear of misunderstanding, backed by the genuinely *equalitarian* bodies of organized women, than if she were *partly* backed and *partly* not backed by Societies divided on this fundamental principle.

Equal Pay is not the only issue now under discussion at Geneva which affects industrial women; but in *all* that affects them Mrs. Abbott stands out as "really representing" the women of this country who claim at all times the adult status for women.

E. M. WHITE,
Secretary, The Open Door Council.

3 Bedford Square, W.C.

[We still feel that as Equal Pay was the outstanding issue affecting industrial women discussed at the I.L.O. this year, and as this has the support of all organized women, Mrs. Abbott's position would have been considerably stronger if her mandate had been wide—in fact national—rather than sectional in scope.—ED.]

THE NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP, 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

SUMMER SCHOOL

ST. HILDA'S COLLEGE, OXFORD, 4th to 11th September, 1928.

DEMOCRACY.

With the coming of Equal Franchise, so many citizens will become electors for the first time that there is obviously a need for every possible opportunity to study some of the problems which await solution. A Summer School, therefore, is being organized with the special aim of arousing the interest of New Voters in the responsibilities attached to the franchise.

COURSES.

1. PROBLEMS OF DEMOCRACY, including lectures on Can the vote be intelligent? the Ideals of the Conservative Party; the Ideals of the Liberal Party; the Ideals of the Labour Party; Local Government.

2. THE WOMAN'S MOVEMENT, including lectures on the History and Meaning of the Woman's Movement; Women in Industry; Women in the Professions; Feminism and Marriage; The Legal Status of Wives and Mothers; Family Endowment.

3. INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS, including lectures on Arbitration, Security and Disarmament, the Kellogg Proposals.

Arrangements will be made for SPEAKERS' PRACTICE CLASSES to be held, and for groups of students interested in particular subjects to meet together for study.

LECTURERS. The following are among those who have already promised to give lectures at the School:—Mr. Norman Angell, Mrs. Blanco White, O.P.E., Miss Vera Brittain, Miss K. D. Courtney, Mrs. Eva M. Hubback, M.A., Miss Marjorie Maxse, Mr. Pethick Lawrence, M.P., Miss Eleanor F. Rathbone, J.P., C.C., Dr. William A. Robson.

ST. HILDA'S COLLEGE is beautifully situated on the river with delightful gardens in which the classes could be held in hot weather, and where there are tennis courts. Lectures and Conferences will be held in the mornings and evenings, the afternoons being left free for boating and other recreations. Expeditions in Oxford and the surrounding country will be organized by a Recreation Committee composed of students of the School.

THE SCHOOL FEES will be according to the following scale:—

Members of Societies affiliated to N.U.S.E.C. over 30 years (on September 4th) £ s. d.
Members of Societies affiliated to N.U.S.E.C. under 30 years (on September 4th) 0 15 0
Non-members, over 30 years (on September 4th) 0 5 0
Non-members, under 30 years (on September 4th) 1 0 0
The charge for full board and lodging at the College will be £3 10s. od., but arrangements can be made for a very limited number of places to be available for a few days only at a slightly higher rate, if special application is made.

REGISTRATION FEE of 10s., which will be deducted from the total fees payable, should be sent with the Form of Application. Copies of these may be obtained from the Secretary, N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

COMING EVENTS.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

JULY 6, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi. Conference on "Some Problems of Government in Relation to Women within the British Empire." Chair: Mrs. Corbett Ashby. Speakers from all parts of the Commonwealth.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Cardiff W.C.A. JUNE 20. Girls' High School, The Parade, Cardiff. 3.30. Annual Meeting. S. Wales Area Group. Speaker: Mrs. Coombe Tennant, J.P. 7.30. Public Meeting. Speaker: Mrs. Corbett Ashby.

Edinburgh W.C.A.

JUNE 23. 2-6 p.m. Palais de Danse, Fountainbridge. Fête, Sale and Dance. To be opened by Miss A. Buchan (O. Douglas).

SIX POINT GROUP.

JUNE 19, 20, 21. 92 Victoria Street, S.W. 1. Annual Hobbies and Handcrafts Exhibition.

TYPEWRITING.

M. McLACHLAN and N. WHITWAM—TYPISTS.—4 Chapel Walk, Manchester. Tel. 1 3402 City.

TO LET AND WANTED.

FURNISHED FLAT to be let, £110 yearly, inclusive; 3 rooms, bath, heater, electric light, gas fires. Also 2 furnished FLATLETS at 25s. each weekly. Suitable for professional women or students.—Apply, Mayman, 168 High Street, Notting Hill Gate, W. (Phone: Park 2943.)

FACING REGENT'S PARK.—Pleasantly furnished BED-SITTINGROOMS; widow's private house, every convenience, breakfast, etc., if required; Tel.: Primrose Hill 4131.—3 Titchfield Terrace, N.W. 8.

HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB.—Paying guests taken. BEDROOM and SITTINGROOM £3 15s., large BED-SITTINGROOM £3 10s., inclusive baths, lighting, heating, service, meals (meat or vegetarian) arranged to suit guests' requirements; all three rooms sunny, overlooking garden adjoining Hampstead Heath.—Apply, Miss Marshall, 2 Linnell Drive, N.W. 11.

Quiet private house overlooking gardens, 3 minutes Gloucester Road Station. Large bed-sitting-rooms or bedroom and attractive sitting-room. Only few people. Service. Meals served in own room. Hot and cold water each room. Inclusive terms for breakfast and dinner daily, all week-end meals, baths, electric light. Opening soon.—Box 1479, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Tufton Street, S.W. 1.

LADY receives PAYING GUESTS, country home, overlooking golf course, delightful surroundings; every comfort, moderate terms; short or long visits.—Miss Knowles, Peppard Common, Oxon.

CAMBRIDGE 5 miles, 1 mile rail and omnibus.—COTTAGE to let, furnished; 2 or 3 sitting, 4 bedrooms, bath (h. and c.), offices, garden, garage next door; £10 10s. monthly.—Daw, 65 Av. Marceau, Paris.

HERTS. "Grassfield," Shenley.—Wanted, 2 or 3 PAYING GUESTS; charming country cottage, beautiful scenery, 15 miles London; indoor sanitation, bath, garden, garage.—Misses Brown.

RINGSLEAD MILL to let, furnished, July-August; 2 miles from Old Hunstanton and sea; 11 rooms, 14 beds, 2 small bathrooms.—Write, Mrs. Francis Cornford, Conduit Head, Madingley Road, Cambridge.

THATCHED BUNGALOW, 5 rooms, bath (h. and c.), w.c., central heating; garage and paddock; between Oxford and Aylesbury (bus route). Low rental for long let.—Apply, H., 406, Fulham Road, London.

LADY receives few PAYING GUESTS in her comfortable private house. Good bus service Tunbridge Wells. Garden, garage, telephone; quiet; attractive surroundings; bracing.—Miss A. Martin-Leake, White House, Mayfield, Sussex.

WANTED, simple modern HOTEL, Bloomsbury or near; fresh and clean, without stuffy carpets or curtains.—Box 1,484, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Tufton Street, S.W. 1.

EMBANKMENT, S.W. 1.—To let (ladies only), second floor room, furnished or unfurnished. Restaurant in house, very moderate tariff; bathrooms every floor; gas fire and boiling-ring (own meter); telephone. Rent, including electric light; unfurnished £34 per annum, furnished £42 per annum; service charge 5s. per week.—90 Claverton Street, Grosvenor Road, S.W. 1. (Tel. Victoria 7336.)

WANTED, small furnished HOUSE, sea or country, for 4 weeks, end of July or 1st August; 3 bedrooms, sitting-room, kitchen, and indoor sanitation.—Box 1,485, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Tufton Street, S.W. 1.

PEMBROKE SQUARE, Kensington.—Comfortable BED-SITTING-ROOM, quiet, sunny; private family; breakfast optional.—Box 1,486, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

PROFESSIONAL.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED. Consult Miss H. M. Baker, 275 High Holborn, W.C. 1. Income Tax Returns, Super Tax Returns, Repayment Claims of all descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 0377.

PUBLIC SPEAKING.—Classes, Lectures, Private Lessons Speech Club.—Miss Lucy Bell, Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C. 1.

JESSIE D. WALLINGTON (Drugless Practitioner) treats all conditions of ill-health by natural methods—spinal therapy, osteopathy, dietetics, etc. Particularly successful with nerve cases. Consultation by appointment.—37 St. George's Road, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W. 1. Telephone, Franklin 6487.

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

HUTTON'S "NEVER-FADE" IRISH LINENS.—Ideal for Summer Dresses, Curtains, etc. Guaranteed absolutely fadeless, 28, rod. per yard (36 in. wide); 71 artistic colours including newest shades. 71 Patterns FREE.—HUTTON'S, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ulster.

REMNANT BUNDLES, WHITE ART LINEN.—Suitable for embroidery, drawn thread work, afternoon tea-cloths, tray-cloths, sideboard covers, etc. 10s. 6d. bundle, postage 6d. Complete Bargain List FREE.—HUTTON'S, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ulster.

SECOND-HAND CLOTHING wanted to buy for cash; costumes, skirts, boots, underclothes, curtains, lounge suits, trousseaus, and children's clothing of every description; parcels sent will be valued and cash sent by return.—Mrs. Russell, 100 Raby Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. (Stamped addressed envelope for reply.)

HARROW-UXBRIDGE LINE.—Small House (cottage type) in sunny open position; large attractive sitting-room, well fitted kitchen, three beds, bath, etc.; suit two ladies; cultivated garden, all in good condition. Freehold, £725.—Box 1480, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Tufton Street, S.W. 1.

EXCELLENT SCOT MOTOR-CYCLE; comfortable side-car, perfect running condition, all accessories; £30.—Butler, Redpits, Marlow.

HOLIDAYS.

YORKS.—Warnford, Thoraby, Aysgarth (560 feet up). BOARD RESIDENCE; indoor sanitation, bath, garden, garage; near moors; daily motor-bus service up and down Wensleydale; from £2 10s.—Miss Smith.

GAUTING, near Munich.—Frau Professor von Druffel receives paying guests. Terms moderate. Near woods and lake. German lessons by arrangement.

HOLIDAY AT FOOT OF MONT BLANC.—Miss H. N. Richard, of "L'Ecole des Petites," Stanmore, Middlesex, has taken a Chateau at St. Gervais les Bains for her pupils, and has a few vacancies for children or adults; lovely surroundings, own orchard and farm; moderate terms for six weeks' holiday. French spoken.—Apply as above.

FRENCH LADY (Rouen) receives English girls; comfortable home; every facility for finishing studies.—Write, Mrs. Chesterton, 28 Warwick Gardens, W. 14.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON AND NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 35 Marsham Street, Westminster. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Expert advice on Openings and Trainings for professional women; interviews 10-1 (except Saturdays) or by appointment.

EDUCATED HOME HELPS BUREAU, 199 Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W. 1, requires and supplies educated women for all domestic work. Holiday engagements. Registration: Employers, 2s. 6d.; workers, 1s. Suiting fee: Employers, 7s. 6d.; workers, 2s. (Victoria 5940.)

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