

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

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NOTES AND NEWS

Women and the French Commerce Chambers.

The Senate has granted women a small concession, having decided that they shall be eligible for election to chambers of commerce. This right is only to be granted to women who can show that they conduct a business or commercial undertaking.

American Woman Nominated to League of Nations.

Miss Grace Abbott, head of the Children's Bureau of the Department of Labour, was recently appointed to serve on the Committee on Traffic in Women and Children of the League of Nations. When questioned as to how America can continue to send representatives, officials of the Government, to any section or committee of the League of Nations, and yet retain her political and official aloofness, Secretary Hughes replied that it was an "unofficial appointment". However, no American woman, as expert and responsible as Miss Grace Abbott, could sit in an international council and have her presence so "unofficial" that it meant nothing to her or to the foreigners with whom she conferred.

Belgium's First Woman Advocate.

A Belgian woman recently appeared for the first time in court as an advocate, although it is nearly a year since the Bill giving women holding the diploma of Doctor of Law the right to exercise the profession of advocate was passed. The whole Bar attended the debut of Mlle. Paule Lamy, who is only 27.

"Annoyed" Man Summoned.

We are glad to see that Mr. R. Green, a magistrate, last week demanded the attendance of a man who, it was said by the police officers, was annoyed by a woman. The man had at the time given his name and address to the police, but had not been able to attend owing to business reasons. Mr. Rhymer, a justice, said that it had been laid down that the person annoyed should be produced; it was not a question of believing or disbelieving anyone, but, as Mr. Green said, "No man is safe if we have the police evidence alone—no councillor, no magistrate, Member of Parliament, or Privy Councillor." The case was adjourned for the attendance of the man. We are glad to see that some magistrates, at any rate, are not taking action on police evidence alone.

Sentences against Property and Person.

In parallel columns of a daily paper stand the two following sentences against (a) property, (b) person. "For converting to his own use, or for the use of other persons, £9,108 entrusted to him by beneficiaries under a will, J. W. Browne was sentenced to *eighteen months' hard labour*. Browne said he had paid £5,000 to the beneficiaries, and the remaining money he honestly intended to repay." "A. L. Bailey was sentenced to *six months* for taking away I. Harwood, 17, against her father's wish. The couple went to London and lived as husband and wife. Bailey said he believed the girl was more than 19. He is married, and has two children. Medical evidence showed that the girl was pregnant and suffering from a disease." And yet in the first case, which is not comparable in the harm done, the sentence is more than three times as severe as in the second case. This is one of those instances where the law needs amending, and women's organizations should see that it is done.

Deserted Wives and the Rent Act.

In a recent case a husband who had deserted his wife gave up possession of their premises, and the landlord refused to take on the wife as a tenant, in spite of the fact that she had frequently paid the rent out of her earnings. The landlord subsequently secured an ejection order against the woman. Women's societies should urge that the Rent Act be amended so that a deserted wife should in these circumstances be given the same protection as a widow under the Rent Act, that is, she should not be liable to be turned out by the landlord.

Women Pleaders in India.

Miss Sudhansa Bala Hazra was accorded special leave last week to appeal against an order of the High Court at Patna rejecting her application for enrolment as a pleader. Miss Hazra applied to the District Judge at Patna for enrolment as a pleader in his court, and her application was forwarded by him to the High Court, which rejected it on the ground that the Indian Legal Practitioners Act XVIII of 1879, and the rules made thereunder applied to men only. She submitted that the High Court in that respect were in error. By the General Clauses Act, 1868, it was provided that "unless there be something repugnant in

the subject or context," words in statutes importing the masculine gender should be taken to include females. This provision was repeated in the General Clauses Act X of 1897. Under these Acts the University of Calcutta had granted degrees to women as well as to men in all the faculties. Miss Hazra herself was, after examination, granted the degree of Bachelor of Law of the Calcutta University. Her application was heard by a bench of the High Court, and it was decided that, notwithstanding the provisions of the General Clauses Acts, 1868 and 1897, a woman although fully qualified to be a pleader, was not entitled to a certificate to practise under Section 7 of the Indian Legal Practitioners Act. Miss Hazra now contends that there was no prohibition in the Hindu and Mohammedan law against women as lawyers, nor did the British legislative authorities ever impose such a prohibition. She is, she also says, entitled to the benefit of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919. We wish Miss Hazra all success in her fight for justice and equality.

Woman Magistrate.

It is not often, after all these months, that one hears of a solicitor complaining that he is handicapped in putting forward the defence to a case by the presence of a woman justice on the Bench. This happened, however, recently at Tottenham, and although the Chairman said he could not see why the presence of a woman should make any difference, the woman magistrate unfortunately left the court. These incidents are unpleasant, of course, but for the common good they should be faced and women should not give in.

Women Magistrates in New Zealand.

New Zealand is not to have women magistrates yet. The Bill passed the House of Representatives twice, but has been thrown out by the Legislative Council. The debate was exactly like every other debate on a similar subject, and the arguments of the "antis" are well known all the world over. Nevertheless the women's organizations are protesting against the insulting tone of the speeches and we hope public opinion will be roused to back them up.

An Election Incident.

A correspondent has sent us a notice of a country political meeting which was held during the election. It was advertised as a meeting for women, and the speakers were to be "Lady _____ and other lady speakers." Our correspondent was, therefore, surprised when there appeared on the platform the Conservative candidate, a man, who gave a long speech, and then left his audience to the "other lady speakers." A not very creditable ruse.

Male Teachers and the N.U.T.

A mass meeting of schoolmasters was held last week in connection with the campaign against the policy of the National Union of Teachers ("Equal pay for equal service for men and women"). Mr. A. N. Pocock, who presided, claimed that the National Union of Teachers did not represent the men teachers, and said that "separate consideration" for men was a solution of the wage problems. Seventy per cent. of members of the National Union of Teachers were women, who claimed equal pay. The men oppose this "because it depressed the men's salaries and tended to eliminate men teachers, depriving boys of the male influence necessary in school life." Mr. W. H. Thoday proposed "that this meeting denies the claim of the N.U.T. that it represents the views of schoolmasters in salary negotiations." "The men were not asked about the cut for superannuation. The women's organization was asked, and they agreed for the men." He feared that the present negotiations would have a similar result, and that they would find next week another "cut" accepted by the N.U.T. The resolution was carried with one dissident.

Married Teachers.

It is possible that the L.C.C. Education Committee will pass a regulation that all women teachers shall resign on marriage, as the question was brought up recently and is now under consideration. Many women are hastening their weddings, as it is believed that the regulation will not be made retrospective. There are at present 3,800 married women teachers in the London Council schools.

Woman A.R.A.

The Royal Academy has at last elected a woman, Mrs. Annie Swynnerton, as Associate. It is an historical election, for Mrs. Swynnerton is the first woman to be elected since Angelica Kaufman and Mary Moser, who were among the original members in 1768.

The Employment of Children Act.

There was an important ruling given recently on an appeal by a newsagent against a fine by local magistrates for an offence under the Employment of Children Act, which consisted of employing boys under 15 years of age for the purpose of selling newspapers. The newsagent said the boys sold the papers when they liked, and simply paid for those they sold, keeping the profit themselves. They received no salary and the case of principal and agent did not exist. The Court came to the conclusion that the magistrates were right in holding that the boys were agents of the appellant, and in that sense employed by him, and the appeal was dismissed. This ruling will affect newsagents all over the country.

A Woman's Allowance.

An ex-Service man who was sued at the Manchester County Court recently for arrears of rent, said his wife had only 35s. a week on which to keep herself and seven children. In answer to the Judge, the man said he kept the other £2 a week he got for himself. Judge Mellor asked him whether he thought that was a fair division, and said that in allowing only 35s. for his wife and seven children and keeping the rest himself, the man was acting very badly. He thought the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children ought to be informed of it, and also the Ministry of Pensions, from whom the defendant was drawing an allowance. These cases are far too frequent, and nothing short of some form of endowment of motherhood will alter things.

Scandal of Refusing Bail.

A case occurred recently where a man and his wife were found not guilty of stealing and receiving a motor-car, and were accordingly discharged. These innocent people had, however, been in custody for over five weeks and Judge Atherley-Jones remarked that a greater scandal one could hardly conceive. One excuse made was that bail was suggested, but the bail was of such a figure that they could not possibly obtain it. In the case of persons such as they, who bore a high character and had been living at their present address for three years, bail might have reasonably been reduced or their own recognizances accepted. Judges have over and over again expressed their opinion as to the desirability of bail being more freely allowed than at present. These two unfortunate people, who had been pronounced innocent by two juries, had been in custody for over a month. Another and worse case was that of a woman who committed suicide in her cell. She was committed for trial on a charge of having set fire to a private house and bail had been twice refused. The woman's solicitor said: "I took her to be a very proud and highly sensitive woman, and I think the refusal of bail disappointed and shocked her a great deal."

Manchester and Out-of-work Children.

Last year an unemployment centre was instituted in Manchester to do something for the boys and girls of 14 to 18 years of age who are out of work, and who frequently are ignorant of any craft. It is a time when regular habits and occupation of some kind are vitally important, and the teaching and recreation at the centre has had a very beneficial result, and the children have been able to qualify for better positions. The centre is worked in close co-operation with the Juvenile Employment Bureau, and as the utmost liberty is given for the boys and girls to interview prospective employers, many satisfactory vacancies have been filled.

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.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

By OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT.

[The views expressed in this column are those of our Parliamentary correspondent, and are not our editorial opinion. Like so many other things in this paper they are expressly controversial, and comment upon them will be welcomed.—Ed.]

The new Parliament is in session, and has been trying to settle down into its place. The spectacle of the settling has not been edifying; indeed, the physical struggle for seats has been altogether so undignified as to give rise to serious reflections upon the possible rearrangement of the seating accommodation in the Chamber. As everyone knows, there are not enough seats to go round—even now that the numbers are reduced to 615—and if all Members were to turn up on any given occasion the squash would be most inconvenient. As a general rule, of course, most Members stay away—if not from the House altogether, at any rate from the debating chamber itself—and so, as a rule there is room enough and to spare. But in this new House, apparently, there are more active working Members than usual, or they are less docile about their seats, and the traditional places and customs no longer fit the new persons and groups. The Front Opposition Bench is a study in discomfort, and behind it sit crowded ranks of Liberal and Labour Members, elbowing each other with scant courtesy. Below the gangway, on the Opposition side, the National Liberals and those Independent ones who have not squeezed in above sit watchfully together. Across the way, below the gangway on the Government side, the competition is fiercest, Die-Hards and Ulstermen competing with outstanding Conservatives, like Mr. Austen Chamberlain, for the coveted corner seats which have always heretofore been the preserve of distinguished personalities. At the back of that block of seats the progressive Conservatives sit—with Sir Frederick Banbury, a most incongruous figure, among them, while in the benches behind the Treasury Bench the regular, steady-going Conservatives are supposed to crowd. It is an interesting House geographically, as well as otherwise, but it has had some trouble in settling in, and undoubtedly the limit of subdivision of parties has been reached. Any more convolutions and the sacred traditions of seating must be violated, and the seats set round in a ring. The shades of our ancestors will do their best to prevent this sacrilege, but they must be getting fairly well used to shocks as it is.

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE: MAY CONGRESS.

Under the chairmanship of its President—Mrs. Chapman Catt, of the U.S.A.—the Board of Officers of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance has been meeting throughout a strenuous week, and has arrived at several interesting decisions. It has been resolved that the next Congress of the Alliance shall be held in Rome next May. The Convention, i.e. the meetings for delegates and the attendant public functions, will last from 14th May till 18th or 19th; but the greater part of the preceding week will be occupied by meetings of a more restricted character—of the Board of Officers, of the International Committee composed of the Board with the addition of the Presidents of all the National Auxiliaries; and of conferences to consider the reports of the committees appointed by the last Congress to thresh out certain important issues, viz. equal pay and the right to work; an equal moral standard; the nationality of married women; and the economic status of wives and mothers and of illegitimate children. Simultaneous conferences on these four difficult subjects will occupy the whole of Saturday, 12th May. The Convention during the following week, besides considering the recommendations of these conferences, will have much important business to transact relating to its own constitution and future policy, including the very important and difficult question of the future relations of the Alliance with another great international body of women, the International Council of Women. There has been a general desire lately for a much clearer understanding and co-operation between these two bodies. They have each their separate functions to perform; the Council appealing to the public-spirited women of all shades of opinion in all countries, while the Alliance has the more restricted duty, first of furthering the political enfranchisement of women in the still unenfranchised countries, and secondly, of helping the advance guard of the women of each country in their movement to secure complete equality of rights and status between the sexes in all departments of life—political, social, and economic. But as one country after another grants the suffrage to its women and surrenders some special citadel of masculine prejudice and privilege, the functions of the two bodies tend to approximate and the possible danger

of an unnecessary duplication of activities increases. There is already so much sympathy and goodwill between them that this danger has not so far been acutely felt and it is hoped that some working arrangement may be arrived at which will make it disappear altogether. Apart from the actual business transacted, there are features about the Congress in Rome which should make it one of extraordinary interest and attraction. The fact that will probably appeal the most to the average delegate and visitor is that the Congress meets in Rome in mid-May. The very words "Rome in May" summon to the mind such visions of beauty and perfume, such appeals to historic and religious sentiment, that some may wonder what President over such a Congress will be able to persuade the delegates to stick to their work; to concentrate their minds on resolutions and constitutional amendments instead of playing truant and dreaming away their time in churches or palace gardens or chestnut woods. Those who have come under the sway of Mrs. Chapman Catt's personality and of her austere yet benign chairmanship, will be able to answer these doubts. To the more serious-minded delegate a special attraction will be found in the peculiar political situation of Italy. Events are moving there with such dramatic rapidity, that it is impossible to foretell quite what that situation will be next spring. At present it is dominated by the amazing figure of Signor Mussolini, the leader of the Fascisti, and at the moment virtual autocrat of Italy. The attitude of Signor Mussolini to the women's movement is ambiguous. Some years ago he pronounced himself in favour of women's suffrage, but his latest utterance on the subject is the one so familiar to the ears of suffragists, that "this is not the time." Let us hope that by next May the time will have arrived, or that at all events the meeting of this international gathering in Rome will help to bring it a little nearer. Italy, the home of Mazzini and Garibaldi, has shown the world the way in other movements towards political and spiritual freedom. May Italy show the way to the other Latin countries by enfranchising its women.

THE PROBLEM OF RENT.

By R. L. REISS.

Every family in framing its domestic budget has to take into account a weekly item for rent and for rates, and employers and trade unions when discussing wage agreements, if they attempt to base wages upon cost of living, have got to decide what shall be allowed for rent and rates.

Generally speaking, before the war, it was fairly easy to arrive at a figure to cover this. The general level of rent and rates in particular districts was something which could be ascertained and was fairly uniform throughout any particular town, urban district, or rural district. With the coming and passing of the war, however, a new set of complications arose. The amount to be paid in rent and rates by anyone who was fortunate enough to have a house built in pre-war days was a very different item from that payable by those who were forced to take one of the new houses. It is true that such houses were in many respects better than the average pre-war house, but in most towns the amount required in rent and rates in respect of them is out of all proportion to the rent demanded for the older houses. The problem of rent, therefore, is one which not merely affects the housing question, but also affects and is affected by the whole question of wages, and, therefore, of family income.

The facts with regard to the matter may be summarized briefly thus:—In the case of houses built before the conclusion of the war, the rent which may now be charged is 40 per cent. higher than the pre-war rent for the same house. To this must be added the rates. Thus, a house which was let at 7s. 6d. inclusive before the war, being made up of, say, 5s. rent and 2s. 6d. rates, would now be let at 7s. in respect of rent, together with whatever may be the rates for the time being in respect of the house. In the case of a house in respect of which the rates were 2s. 6d. before the war, the tenant would now have to pay about 5s. in rates (though this would vary in different towns). Hence, the inclusive rent of the 7s. 6d. pre-war house is now 7s. plus 5s., i.e. 12s. The justification for the tenant paying the addition in rates is a clear one, but the 40 per cent. increase on the net rent is a matter upon which a few words are needed.

The landlord of a house let on a weekly rent is responsible, generally speaking, for repairs and also has the expense of collecting rents, etc. As the cost of repairs and the cost of rent collecting and management has considerably increased, the net amount which would go to the owner after deducting these outgoings in respect of a rent of 7s. now, in most cases is about the same as it was on a rent of 5s. before the war.

Under the Rent Restriction Act this increase of 40 per cent. is allowed, but no more. If there were no restrictions, probably it would be possible, owing to the competition for houses, to increase the rents in respect of some houses, but in the case of the poorest houses it is likely that the owner would not be able to increase the rent, owing to the inability of the tenants to pay more than they are in fact doing. There would, however, be risks if the Act were repealed, and, until sufficient new houses have been built, there is a strong case for continuing the Act and for preventing any further increase from taking place.

With regard to the new houses, the situation is different. Ninety per cent. of the new houses have been built by the Local Authorities with State subsidy. The rents are not based upon the cost of building, or upon the economic rent at all, but are fixed either by agreement between the Local Authority and the State, or else, in the case of dispute, by an independent rent tribunal. The rents are so fixed having regard to the rents of existing pre-war accommodation and to the general conditions in the town. Those responsible for fixing rents have also to take into account any difference in quality in the new houses compared with the old ones.

Broadly speaking, the rents of the new houses have been fixed at some 3s. or 4s. more than the rents of houses of similar accommodation built before the war, though, generally speaking, they are slightly better houses. The result of this, however, is that the poorly paid workers are unable to pay the rent of new houses. Whilst the extra 3s. or 4s. may be fully justified by

improved quality and by the great cost to which the Local Authority and State have been put with regard to the houses, yet the level of wages and the state of employment is such that most of the workers are unable to afford this extra luxury. We shall, therefore, reach a point at which, if new houses are to be built in sufficient quantities to house the workers decently, one of two courses will have to be taken. Either the rents of the houses will have to be brought down to the level of the pre-war houses or else the family income will have to be increased by some means or other so that it is possible for the working class families to take the new houses. In the way of carrying out either proposition there are many difficulties. If the rents of the new houses are reduced, the loss to the State is greater. This involves an extra burden on the taxpayer—a burden which housing reformers say is fully justified and one which it would pay the State to undertake. At the same time, it will create further obstacles in the way of housing progress and from the economic point of view is an unsound way of dealing with the problem of the ultimate resort. Is it possible, therefore, to increase the family income so as to enable higher rents to be paid, and, if so, in what way?

When we come to discuss this question we are at once faced with what has always been a difficulty with regard to housing accommodation. Wages are fixed in trades without regard to the difference in the size of families, and, therefore, the difference as between the workers with regard to their economic position. The worker with a wife and seven small children receives the same wage as the worker who is a bachelor. If the worker's wages are to be fixed on what would be a living wage for a man with a wife and seven small children, it would cast a very big burden upon industry and would enable the bachelor to live in comparative luxury. On the other hand, if the wages are to be fixed on the cost of living of the bachelor, the man who has a large family is in a very parlous condition. A rough and ready basis has been adopted by Trades Boards, although it has been carried out very imperfectly. Wages have been fixed theoretically, at any rate, on the basis of a wage sufficient for a man and wife and three children. It is clear, however, that this represents starvation for the family with seven small children and a slight surplus for a bachelor or childless couple.

Look at the matter from another point of view. The family of nine requires more room than a family of two, and yet, precisely because they are a family of nine they can afford less in rent than the childless couple. As a result, the four-bedroomed houses in a new housing scheme, which are really meant for a large family, can only be afforded by the small family—palpably a ridiculous position. It is sometimes said by housing reformers that the rents should be reduced in such a way as to enable the large family to take the house, and on this argument demands are made for a reduction of three to four shillings in the rent. In reality the labourer or even the skilled worker with seven small children *can afford to pay no rent at all*. We are, therefore, led to the conclusion that some new system of wage remuneration must be devised if the rent question is to be put on to a practicable basis. During the war the wives of soldiers and sailors with families were enabled to draw separation allowances which varied according to the size of the family. Is it possible to fix remuneration in industry in such a way? Clearly it would not be practicable to require employers of labour to pay separation allowances on this basis, as the result would be that men with large families would be unable to get work, whereas there would be a great demand for the labour of bachelors and men without children. A solution has been put forward by the Australian Basic Wage Commission and was embodied in a Bill introduced into the New South Wales legislature. This provided that the minimum wage in all industries should be based upon what would be a living wage for a husband and wife only, but that, in addition, all employers should pay a children's tax depending upon the number of persons they employ, providing in total throughout the country a sufficient amount to pay a children's allowance to all men or women employed in industry in respect of children of school age. With reorganization on this basis it would be possible for the larger families to have the large houses and the smaller families the small houses. The Local Authorities could then obtain better rents, and the whole of housing be put on to a more economic basis.

THE YOUNG GIRL ON THE STREETS.

The problem of the young prostitute does not decrease, and will remain with us so long as we choose to consider the girl of 17 and 18 as being fully responsible for her own morality. The girl who faces economic independence at 14 is too young to know her own mind, and the girl who has had experience of life in the streets at an age when she should have been learning of life by wholesome study is neither child, adolescent, nor mature, but simply abnormal. The recommendation of which we have recently heard so much, to avoid anything in the nature of compulsory control or detention for such a girl, and to rely solely upon an "appeal to reason" or to her "better self", is dangerous when used ambiguously by those who are not experienced in Rescue work and whose principles are mainly applicable to persons who have reached maturity.

Let there be no mistake! The young girl who has been on the streets even for some years is most surely helpable, but, generally speaking, it is as impossible for her to right herself as it is for a lunatic to recover his mind. Mental activity, other than wits sharpened to a certain necessary angle, is usually absent. Spiritual outlook is fogged, and that curious combination of over and under-development from which the juvenile prostitute invariably suffers has made for neurasthenia. It is at this stage that the Rescue worker or Matron is expected to make the appeal to the girl's "free will, conscience, and better self." She will do so, but the exacting and practical nature of that appeal has yet to be realized by some of those who have used the idea glibly. The "free will," to start with, is not there to build upon, nor, alas! is the conscience, for both have been sacrificed. The girl can use a measure of will in response to firm management, patient teaching, or to the influence of a magnetic personality. The will may develop upon new lines and grow in strength, but every experienced woman knows that, at any rate until the girl has passed a certain danger zone, she must cleave to her with might and main, in season and out of it. She will have to fight the distorted and coarsened outlook for many a month, or it may be for many a year, before she can foster the Spiritual one, and before anything reliable in the way of a conscience appears on the scene at all. There are exceptions, of course, but this is the task which has to be achieved in most cases. To the best of us freedom or initiative of conscience has only been gained by discipline and self-sacrifice.

Take the case of the girl who has not yet placed herself under the law, and who has been induced to enter a Home. This first step has usually involved the patient and sometimes long effort on the part of the "Outside worker". Once in the Home, the appeal to her intelligently "better self" will most surely be made and continued, but this aspect of things may even "put her off" at first, unless it is carefully, I might say surreptitiously, made. An appeal to reason at that stage will bear little fruit, although it may seem to be effective at the moment. The power of personality and of personal affection will play a large part in the way of inducement to remain. To some girls (let critics say what they will!) a period of strict discipline and routine has a curiously soothing effect. The Matron will have to wage a long war upon aggravating faults, slovenliness of person and habit, the use of bad language and sometimes fits of hysteria or obstinacy. The girl who has been on the streets is invariably nervous and restless. There are many days when the "better self" is conspicuous by its absence and the "appeal to reason" utterly impossible. The girl may have to be watched, humoured, reprovved, provided for like a fretful child. It is the greatest mistake in the world to suppose (as some critics of Rescue effort seem to suppose) that the "rescue" of a young girl, that is to say the overcoming of immoral tendencies and the turning of her mind into healthy channels, consists of a constant appeal to her *conscious* self at all. It is largely also a matter of tact and management, and sometimes (though she may not know it) even of taking over the will which has become weakened and distorted. To the Rescue worker or the Matron who knows her job this is possible, and is done every day, thanks to untiring devotion and effort. But the point to emphasize is just this—because the true appeal to the spiritual and the reasonable means the going down to the bottom of things, and includes the patient development of the girl's wasted powers—it must be of considerable duration and must involve close personal contact with the subject and in connection with the daily commonplaces of life. (The much-recommended probation system sometimes fails because this kind of intimate supervision cannot be included.) And if in a moment of temper, or for a whim (there are not often other reasons in the modern

Home) the girl may elect to leave *before she is fit for life and work*, the appeal that has been given her may still stand her in good stead, but is only too frequently superceded by old habits; and even if, in the end, conscience or some more material motive induces her to return, much of her benefactors' work may have been undone. As to those who return to the old life, the loss of the individual may not seem a great matter to the theorist, but to the woman who has given herself it is heartbreaking enough—and to her perhaps the truer estimate is given.

Where lies, then, the ceaseless tragedy of the young prostitute in the V.D. ward or in the prison? This girl is often the less willing to enter a Home on her discharge, because she is already suffering from detention which has entailed monotony. Yet that monotony has brought her to a temporary sense of her own peril, and she becomes also temporarily conscious of her own weakness. And those who have the charge of her know it, yet have not the legal right to take the course, which in her heart of hearts the girl herself knows to be the only safe one—that of the right of the disposal of her person for a period following discharge, or in the case of the young girl venereally diseased, of detention until cured. The young prostitute about to terminate a short sentence in prison will often say: "Oh, yes, Miss, I do want to give up the life! I'm fed up with it, and I'd just like to leave it all behind! But its got hold, and I can't any more than a chap can give up the drink!" And one feels the craving for cleanliness as she speaks. The statement as to the difficulty of giving up the life is partly true, but when the visitor probes a little deeper she may find that the obstacle is less insurmountable, given the right kind of help, than she might have supposed. The habit is very hard to overcome, but at the outset there are minor and more childish motives at work. The girl even as old as 24 will usually do much to avoid breaking with already formed associations. She has a morbid horror of untried surroundings and of risking anything for the sake of conviction, though she will do much by impulse. I have known girls cling to the comfortless Common Lodging with breaking hearts, simply because they have formed "friendships," which they know to be bad but which they cannot make up their weary minds to forego. They do not even like the thought of sleeping in a new bed. It is because they are already shipwrecked that they will cling to any spar, and because they are three-parts children.

For what in most cases has been the original cause of the young prostitute's unhappy condition—the prostitute of the poorer class, at any rate? Neither viciousness, evil intent, nor even inherited tendencies. I come across a larger number of girls who have stumbled on to the life on the streets than those who have been brought up to it. In the Common Lodgings, the furnished apartments, the prisons, and the Homes, time and time again I find the girl of decent working parentage, the girl who began life in the country village or town and who has been seduced and brought to a strange town for secrecy and ultimate desertion. Her life has been ruined at the age of 16 or 17, and since she had not the strength of mind or will to save herself then, how shall she have developed it after two or three successive years of mental and moral deterioration? Yet we "appeal" where we should also protect, trust to luck where we should assert authority, and use vague and high-flown terms where we should go down to the commonplace and the commonsense. Where we began badly we go on badly; the girl of 17 or 18, utterly unable to know her own mind, may be mentally deficient, riddled with disease, or may simply have poisoned her own outlook, yet we send her back whence she came—to her own undoing and to the public danger. To expose our young people ruthlessly to moral danger and to talk of making an "appeal to their better selves" at the same time, is sheer tempting of providence.

The present voluntary Homes for girls who have not placed themselves under the law are most valuable institutions, and should remain voluntary, but even then greater control should be possible for a girl under 19. For the young girl who under the present system must do her short sentence in prison or goes for a hasty "cure" to a V.D. Home, all workers remain deeply anxious, and, since there has been nothing to take its place for the girl who has come under the law, it is not surprising that some of us look back upon Clause 3 of the original Government Criminal Law Amendment Bill as being pregnant with possibilities. The hope for the greater reform, the drastic amendment of the Children Act of 1908, appears for the present to be a hope for the Millennium.

M. FRIDA HARTLEY.

REVIEWS.

Women in the Factory. An administrative Adventure, 1893-1921, by Dame Adelaide Anderson, D.B.E., M.A. (John Murray, 7s. 6d.).

Dame Adelaide Anderson's book derives much interest from her wide range of experience and intimate knowledge of industry; and it is also fortunate in that its story opens at a specially interesting period. There are times when human nature seems animated by a more than usually hopeful spirit, when it has courage for the future and dares to believe in ideals and try to realize them. The public health movement, 1833-48, for instance, was a period of "administrative adventure" and constructive daring which offers a fascinating field to the student. The last decade of the century, with a very different atmosphere, had something of the same spirit as those earlier years, something which might be called a mood of affirmation ("Everlasting Yea"), a belief that things can, ought, and should be done, as distinguished from the dreary fatalism of the idea that "economic law" is immutable, or the sentimental Toryism which holds the working classes to be rightfully and permanently the inferiors and dependents of the rich. People in the "nineties" who were grown up but still young, who had previously imbibed social views of the one kind or the other (perhaps both at once), now experienced a movement, a vision, a hope of something better. They began to question (I had not then the privilege of Miss Anderson's acquaintance, but I can guess she questioned) whether industrial workers were really a different order of beings conveniently set apart for hewing coal or working in factories, who were best kept at it strictly, as they were unfortunately also endowed with rather wicked and dangerous tendencies. These unfortunate tendencies, it appeared, made them wish to spend their spare time, when they had any, either in amusing themselves (actually!), or in taking measures of their own invention to improve their own position, instead of placing themselves docilely under "good influences"; i.e. influences which would assimilate their politics to those of their masters.

We began in the "nineties" to have doubts of these comfortable theories of class superiority. Matthew Arnold had told us that the upper class were materialized and the middle class vulgarized, and this sounded quite as bad as the further judgment that the populace were brutalized. Besides . . . and here was where the glimmerings of social compulsion began . . . were not industrial workers after all a vital and fundamental part of society? Was it for people of easier lives and in pleasanter

circumstances to criticize any lack of refined tastes in the other people whose exhausting toil made their own ease and pleasantness possible? We find the long series of women inspectors' reports influenced by the idea, implicit or expressed, not of preaching to industrial workers, but of trying to understand their difficulties, to get into the closest possible touch with the facts, to point out and, where possible, remedy the flagrant anomalies that result from an economic system in which the worker is merely means and not end. Thus the appointment of women inspectors was evidence of a new sense of social solidarity, and of a growing conviction that the hardships suffered by women in the existing industrial order were not inevitable but could be changed, though, of course, it resulted more directly and obviously from the growing recognition not only of the right of women to take part in public work, but of their special, nay unique, fitness for certain kinds of public work.

Dame Anderson does not treat the industrial hardships of women and children as a matter of sentiment. One can gather that she has feelings about them, but these are not obtruded. It is the appalling waste of life and energy, the lack of method, lack of thought, lack of management, that rouse her spirit; the lazy acquiescence in dirt and insanitation, tyranny, and irresponsibility, still characteristic of too many firms, is still intolerable to her after twenty-eight years of habituation. Science has done wonders on the mechanical side of industry, but on the human side, though there is, of course, great improvement in the development of capacity, mental and physical, in the workers themselves, its possibilities are comparatively neglected. Dame Anderson wanted her work to be positive, not merely negative, in character; she notes with gratification that inspectors are, in fact, becoming "less corrective", "more constructive", in their functions. A positive reform constantly urged by women inspectors is the appointment of women supervisors over women workers. Another is the allocation of welfare work as a function of the workers themselves, which evidently has the warm support and approval of the author. Other such hopeful developments can be studied in the volume itself. An administrative anomaly is found in the curious disparity of numbers as between men and women inspectors, the latter forming only about a fifth of the whole. The recent sweeping changes in the organization of the work of the department, which have largely assimilated the work and pay of men and women, can scarcely take effect while this disparity in numbers is maintained. B. L. H.

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE AT THE HAGUE.

MADAM.—The urgent and most pressing matter to be dealt with in the immediate future is the present deplorable economic condition of Europe, with its tragic reaction in this country as shown by the extent of unemployment, trade depression, and general apprehension and uncertainty. The Peace Treaties, imposed on the Vanquished by the Victors after the Great War, have failed. From all the nations of Europe, on every hand, the cry is heard that Europe is on the verge of ruin.

As the Election of 1918 proved a powerful factor in determining the Treaties of the following years, so this present Election may be instrumental in changing for the better the aspect of European affairs. All parties in the State have, during the past few weeks, expressed their support for a League of Nations, but the establishment of a true League of All Nations is impossible unless the Treaties are revised.

Therefore, the *Women's International League*, from its headquarters at Geneva, has issued a call to women of all nations to meet at a *Great Conference at the Hague on 7th, 8th, and 9th December*, to demand a New Peace based on mutual co-operation and understanding.

In addition to representatives of the National Sections of the Women's International League, the Congress will include fraternal delegates from co-operating organizations.

A great task faces women of goodwill who earnestly desire Peace, and we quote with pride the words of Julia Ward Howe, who said in her Peace Appeal in Boston in 1870: "As men have often forsaken the plough and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of Council."

(Signed) H. M. SWANWICK.
MARY CHICK.
MARGARET POLLOCK.
KATE COURTNEY OF PENWITH.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE BILL IN FRANCE.

Owing to a printer's error the number of antagonistic votes in the French Senate on the question of the Woman Suffrage Bill was given as 456. It should have been 156.

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FUTURE PLANS.

After the strenuous work of the last month our Societies will be glad to know that we are not asking for any very active work from them just yet. The Executive Committee, however, has already been considering most carefully what Bills to try to have brought forward next Session. Efforts will certainly be made to induce the Government to introduce the same Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Orders Bill which had been brought in by the last Government, and we hope also to be able to promote the Guardianship, Maintenance, Custody, and Marriage of Infants Bill in the House of Lords in order that a Joint Select Committee of both Houses may be reappointed and continue its work. So much evidence has already been collected by the Committee that from every point of view it would be a great waste of time if no report were produced by the Committee. It is, further, quite certain that the attempt will be made to secure the recognition by Parliament of the admission of Women to Membership to Cambridge University. The analysis of the answers to our questions of the new Members of the House is still being made. Between 800 and 900 replies have been received from candidates. On the results of the analysis will depend to a great extent our chances of success in the next Session.

ELECTION WORK IN THE CONSTITUENCIES.

We estimate that about eighty of our Societies took some active part in the recent Election and we acknowledge gratefully the help and co-operation of other organizations not affiliated to us.

We continue to receive interesting reports from our Societies on their activities during the Election campaign and only wish we had space to publish these fully.

Work for Women Candidates.—The splendid work carried out by our Societies, particularly Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, Birkenhead, Waterloo, by Equal Citizenship Election Committees at Richmond, North Islington, East Surrey, and Dartford, or direct from Headquarters for women candidates will be reported on elsewhere. Over 60 voluntary helpers were enrolled at Headquarters and scattered to different constituencies, according to their preferences, and many others offered help direct to candidates.

Meetings.—Further accounts of meetings have been received from Blackpool, where two mass meetings, addressed by all the candidates,

COMING EVENTS.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB.

DEC. 6. 9 Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W. 1. 8.15 p.m. "The International Court of Justice." Speaker: Mr. Oswald Mosley, M.P. Chair: Mrs. Percy Bigland.

WOMEN'S ENGINEERING SOCIETY.

DEC. 6. 26 George Street, W. 1. 6.15 p.m. "Patent work for Women." Speaker: Ewart S. Andrews, Esq. B.Sc., Eng. Chair: Mrs. Bray.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

DEC. 7. Minerva Cafe, 144 High Holborn, W.C. 7 p.m. "Domestic Drudgery: Women's Failure." Speaker: Miss Helen Fraser.

EDINBURGH W.C.A.

DEC. 6. Royal Society of Arts Hall, 117 George Street. 8 p.m. "What do we get for our Rates?" Speaker: Lady Leslie Mackenzie.

SOUTH DIVISION BRANCH. DEC. 8. Christ Church Hall, Morning-side. 2.45 p.m. "The Woman Citizen and her City's Problems." Speaker: Mrs. William Fyfe.

HUMANITARIAN CONFERENCE.

DEC. 1 and 2. Essex Hall, 2.30 and 7.30. Speakers: Mr. Hamilton Fyfe, Miss Evelyn Sharp, Mrs. Speedwell Massingham, Mr. and Mrs. Baillie-Weaver, Lady Clare Annesley.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

DEC. 5. Annual Meeting, Central Hall, Westminster. 5 p.m.

WOMEN'S GUILD OF EMPIRE.

DEC. 1. Caxton Hall, Westminster, 3 p.m. "Why things are dear." Speaker: Mr. Herbert Williams, N.Sc. Admission free.

WOMEN VOTERS' LEAGUE FOR LICENSING REFORM.

DEC. 4. Torquay Women Citizens' Association. 3 p.m. "A Citizen's Duty regarding National Temperance." Speaker: Miss F. L. Carre.

DEC. 7. Ipswich Women Citizens' Association. 7.30 p.m. "Licensing Reform." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

DEC. 8. Cambridge Women's Co-operative Guild. 7.30 p.m. "Licensing Reform." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

THE LEAGUE OF THE CHURCH MILITANT.

DEC. 4. Public Debate. Caxton Hall, Westminster. 8 p.m. "That it is desirable that women should be called to serve as priests in the Church of God." *Affirmative:* Rev. F. M. Green, B.D. *Negative:* Mr. R. K. Cowie. Chair: Francis J. Seal, Esq., M.A.

and attended by several thousands of people was held; Chester, where an overflow meeting had to be arranged; and Birkenhead, where a very successful meeting was held.

Deputations.—Reports of deputations to candidates have been received from Dumfermline, Oxford, and Rochdale.

SCOTLAND.

The Edinburgh Society for Equal Citizenship not only took an active part in supporting the candidature of Mrs. Alderton, but through its members gave support to Captain Wedgwood Benn and Mr. William Graham, both of whom have a good record on women's questions. It also collected on behalf of the Eastern Area of the Scottish Federation, replies to our questions from all the constituencies in the East and North of Scotland. The Glasgow Society, in spite of a strenuous municipal contest, did valuable election work. It took a prominent part in support of Miss Helen Fraser, and on behalf of the Western Area of the Scottish Federation collected replies to our questions from all the candidates in the West of Scotland.

RECEPTION TO BOARD OF I.W.S.A.

The N.U.S.E.C. and the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, the two National Auxiliaries of the I.W.S.A., gave a joint Reception at the Lyceum Club on Wednesday, 22nd November, to the Board of the I.W.S.A. and the International Council of Women, as well as to women candidates for Parliament.

Miss Rathbone stated that it had been hoped to welcome additional Women Members of Parliament on this occasion and that though disappointed at the results, everyone was rejoiced that Lady Astor and Mrs. Wintringham were safely returned. Short speeches were given by the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., Frau Schreiber-Krieger (Member of German Reichstag), Dr. Ancona (Milan), Dr. Alice Salomon (Berlin), Dr. Aletta Jacobs (Holland), Fru Backer (Norway), Mme. Girardet-Vielle (Switzerland). The gathering closed with a short speech of thanks from Miss Fitzgerald, President of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.

ERRATA.

We regret that in the report of the meeting of Ilkley in last week's issue the only Society referred to was the Ilkley W.C.A. The Ilkley S.E.C. should also have been mentioned as part organizers.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Eccleston Guild House,
Eccleston Square, S.W. 1; Sunday, 3rd December.
3.15. Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Percy Dearmer. 6.30.
A. Maude Royden: "The Unemployed."

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21a). Programme: Wednesday, 22nd November, 7-8.30, "The
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29th November, 7-8.30, "The Great Masters"; singer,
Winifred Clark. Wednesday, 6th December, 7-8.30, "Music
of To-day"; plastic, Annie Beck, Diplôme in Dalcroze
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