

THE  
**WOMAN'S LEADER**

IN POLITICS  
IN THE HOME  
IN INDUSTRY

IN LITERATURE AND ART  
IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND

**THE COMMON CAUSE**

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# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND  
COMMON CAUSE.

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

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## NOTES AND NEWS.

### The American Uncertainty.

Since last week the semi-voting, semi-voteless position of American women has not changed. We learn that the Supreme Court is unlikely to give its decision about the legality of the odd doings in Tennessee in time for the Presidential election, but we do not put any great reliance upon the report. Water flows under even legal bridges in the States, and our Suffragist friends have the example of Niagara to follow. We shall be surprised and disappointed if something definite does not emerge soon. As things stand, women all over the States are technically enfranchised, but may by a decision of the Supreme Court be deprived of the vote in the States which have not given special ratifications of their own. It is said that this decision will not be forthcoming until too late for the Presidential elections, but meanwhile the ratification of any other single State will make the whole matter safe. North Carolina has just deferred consideration of the amendment till January, and is thus out of the running, but there are several other States which might call special sessions, of which perhaps the most likely is Vermont. It is still doubtful whether, under the State laws, some of them will not have to have special sessions in any case, in order to legalise the carrying out of the registration and voting arrangements made necessary by the declaration that the Federal Amendment has passed. In Connecticut such a session has already been summoned for September 14th. In Alabama, Delaware, New Jersey, South Carolina, and Vermont no such action appears to be necessary, since they have no State machinery or funds for the purpose. One way or another, therefore, the Suffragists have plenty of chances of making themselves safe before election day, and we feel not the slightest anxiety as to their safety. Moreover, the triumph of Woman Suffrage is evidently generally expected in the whole country. Registration is proceeding rapidly, and women candidates for all sorts of public offices are coming forward. President Wilson has appointed Miss Mabel Boardman to be one of the three Commissioners who administer the district of Columbia, an appointment corresponding roughly to a combined Chief of Police and Lord Mayor for Washington, the seat of the Federal Government, and there is talk of a woman in the next Cabinet. Our congratulations may have been premature, but are not unjustified.

### The League of Nations.

The programme for the meeting of the League of Nations, which is to open at Geneva on November 15th, includes a number of very important subjects. Decisions are to be made on the admission of States not named in the Annex to the Covenant; a president and vice-presidents are to be elected; the Budget of the League is to be discussed, and a provisional estimate is to be made for the 1921 Budget; the Permanent Court

of International Justice, a permanent health organisation, international communications, transit and waterways, the economic weapon of the League, supervision of traffic in women and children, and the traffic in opium are all to be considered and discussed. Important as all this is, it is still only preliminary business. The world looks for more from the League, for without it the future is dark indeed. We trust and believe that all this heavy agenda will be disposed of quickly, so that the path to the real peace-making of the world may soon be open.

### The Menace of Typhus.

Mr. Balfour in his recent letter has told us that typhus may become an imminent and real danger to this nation. The Lord Mayor of London, the Mayors of the Metropolitan boroughs, and the Chairman of the London County Council are uniting in a common effort to fight the most virulent plague of modern times, and on the success of their efforts may depend the safety of British homes. We ought not to need the flag day which is being organised for October 2nd to rouse our interest in this cause, which is the cause of suffering peoples. All help that can be given should be offered to the Imperial War Relief Fund, Fishmongers' Hall, London Bridge.

### Protection of Emigrants.

The International Labour Office of the League of Nations is organising an International Commission to discuss the protection of worker emigrants. The Washington Labour Conference authorised this Commission, which is to be composed of one-third Government delegates, one-third workers' delegates, and one-third employers' delegates. The presidency of the Commission has been assigned to Great Britain, and the Government has appointed Viscount Cave. A questionnaire has been addressed to the forty-two governments who are members of the League, which will form a valuable source of information and basis for discussion, and the result, it is hoped, will be the harmonising of wages and international co-ordination of legislation. The conditions of emigration are of the greatest importance, and we trust that understanding attention will be paid to the peculiar needs of friendless girls in a foreign country. The International Commission will be very incomplete if it does not include women members.

### The Health Ministry's Report.

The first annual report of the Ministry of Health pays special attention to the costs of medical services, which are increasing enormously. The report shows that the present means of prevention for venereal disease are failing to achieve success; in 1919, 98,000 cases were reported, and of these 82,500 were found

to be suffering from venereal disease, while attendances at the centres numbered 1,000,300 in 1919, as compared with 488,000 in 1918. Even making allowance for the increased willingness on the part of the people to seek treatment, these figures prove that some more adequate means must be taken to prevent the spread of the disease. A little less than a quarter of a million is being spent by the Ministry on the cure of what is, after all, a preventable disease, and the disease shows a steady increase. Either we are going entirely the wrong way to work or else a greater effort is required, but it is obvious that this state of things is extremely unsatisfactory, and must be altered. Tuberculosis is another disease where the state of affairs is not entirely satisfactory, although from the statistics given a fall in numbers has occurred during 1919. The village colony and "after care" schemes are, however, very generally approved. Child welfare work, although costly, is so successful that the expenditure can be regarded with equanimity, for, after all, even from a financial point of view, healthy child-life is the best of our national assets. On the whole, the report is rather discouraging, however. It shows the great need of more research and more care in the public health services, and makes us congratulate ourselves upon the existence of a single Ministry of Health charged with these tasks. If it makes us, at the same time, wish that we had an even better one than that is but natural. No doubt it makes the Ministry itself feel the same.

### School Girls Health.

The report of the London School Medical Service discloses a great improvement in the health of children of school age during the twenty years since medical inspection of schools was first made. Many of us will remember that it was then considered to be an expensive fad. Those who still are under any illusion as to the sheltered and care-free life of middle-class women will notice that secondary school girls, now for the first time inspected for health, show more signs of strain and worry than do their brothers. It is not the working-class girl alone who takes up her responsibilities early and has to make domestic duties the place of games. America, with all its servant troubles, gives its girls their "good time" while they are of an age to enjoy it, frankly recognising that there is no law of nature which confines "chores" to girls and women alone. If we cannot go the whole length we might, at least, copy the States to some extent in this respect. The Boy Scouts do not disdain domestic training, and at their present rate of growth there should soon be a Scout in every British household.

### Good Results of School Feeding.

Dr. George Buchan, the Willesden medical officer of health, has drawn attention, in his annual report, to the good effects of school feeding. He stresses the rapid improvement in physical health which results, and the loss of the apathetic, dreary, interest-lacking expression which we so often see in the faces of children from poverty-stricken homes. Dr. Buchan tells of the far smaller proportion of children suffering from sores among those receiving the varied and abundant food supplied at the Education Committee's centres, and points out that the social effect will be invaluable. We all know that children learn much by example and imitation, and that they are quick to appreciate the difference between the quiet, well-arranged meals at the feeding centre and the hurried, untidy meals of home. Many good habits of self-control, unselfishness, cleanliness, and order can be learnt which can never be taught by harassed mothers of overcrowded homes, and the educational value cannot be over-estimated. Dr. Buchan, in fact, feels that this should be part of every child's training, and not only given to the very poor.

### Women Railway Clerks.

The new rates of pay fixed for women and girl railway clerks include a "cost of living bonus" fixed on the same principle as that adopted for the railwaymen's wage. This bonus amounts to "1s. 6d. for every five points above the standard of 125 per cent. over the figures of 1914." The cost of living index number (which must not be confused with the wholesale prices index number) being now about 256 as against the standard 100 in 1914, each clerk will receive something like nine shillings a week in addition to her nominal wage. This wages agreement affects about ten thousand women and girl clerks, most of whom are paid on a scale rising to a maximum of 60s. at the age of thirty-one (in the case of those doing other than routine work) to 70s. after four years' service. Some few women employed

on important duties have a minimum of 70s., and the limit to their possible earnings is determined by the nature of the work done. All of these in future can regard the increased cost of the necessities of life without apprehension, a position of security attained by very few women in the past, whether living at home or wage-earners. It is this security rather than the actual nine shillings a week that will make the railway clerks envied by other women workers.

### Depression in the Clothing Trade.

Everyone is afraid of the effects a coal strike may have. The apprehension felt by the middle classes is being shown by a decline in buying from retail shops; but, without this, the situation in Yorkshire, where numbers of women are employed in the clothing trades, is depressing. Already hardly any of them are working full time, and if power fails in the factories for lack of fuel, unemployment and distress will be widespread. It is unlikely that all the factories will close at the same time, for some are run on power supplied by the municipality, and large reserve stocks of fuel are being accumulated. The recent unexpected slump in the clothing trade has made things difficult for the employers, who, in many cases, will almost welcome this enforced stoppage of work, for some of them have apparently been keeping their factories open simply in order to keep their staffs together. Meanwhile thousands of women have the nightmare of imminent unemployment hanging over them. We can see no great hope, in the event of a continued trade depression, of security for them in the future.

### The Index Number.

The index number, which indicates the real value of money wages to the consumer, has been calculated and published by the Board of Trade for very many years without anyone outside Government offices and the Fabian Society taking much interest in its fluctuations. Lord Shaw, by a judicious affectation of ignorance at the Dockers' Enquiry, drew the attention of the public to the way in which this figure was arrived at, and dispersed the absurd suspicion which had clung to the phrase "weighted figures." But the controversy still rages as to whether the cost of food alone is a fair basis for calculating the value of money, and the Fabians still maintain that any just reckoning of the increased cost of living should take into account the butter we do not and the sugar we cannot buy. This debate being still unsettled, the question is further complicated by the influence of payments on "sliding scale" arrangements. These wage increases accruing to railway servants and now to Civil Servants, on account of the higher cost of living, must, it is argued, keep up the price of commodities to the disadvantage of workers who are without the benefit of the sliding scale. It is even put forward that those who calculate the figures are unconsciously influenced towards fixing it high by remembering that for every five points it rises they will receive a twenty-sixth part increase on their salaries—a fortnight's pay, in fact. This is rather fantastic, but it is no doubt true that the complaints of large classes of the population and their continual prophecies of yet higher prices do tend to upset the markets and bring their own fulfilment. Foreign sellers will not offer adequate supplies to Great Britain at present prices if they foresee a material rise in prices. And that is just the picture so many Britons force on their attention.

### Family Wages.

A very interesting and important letter from Miss Eleanor Rathbone appeared in *The Times* on Monday, September 13th, on the subject of the adjustment of wages to family needs. All of us who have anything to do with the employment of women, whether by being employed or otherwise, realise keenly that the difficulty of the family wage is one of the great obstacles to equal pay for men and women. It is however not only this: it is an obstacle to justice between man and man, and the plan which Miss Rathbone outlined, a plan which has been successfully adopted in New South Wales, would, if we could only bring it into force, have an immediate effect upon comfort, prices, and contentment in this country. Roughly speaking, the plan is this: to fix the standard living wage on a subsistence basis for a man and his wife: to grade up skilled wages above this at their present levels; to estimate the number of children dependent on the wage-earners in each industry, and to tax all employers in that industry in proportion to the numbers of men they employ, regardless of whether they are married or single, so as to bring in, in all, enough money to pay children's allowances for all the children so dependent. These allowances are

then paid direct to the mother, and justice is done in more ways than one. The cash wages of single men sink, the family wages rise, the employer pays no more than before, but there is no danger of want anywhere, for distribution according to needs has taken place. The plan has much to be said for it, and we trust it will be given the full consideration it deserves.

#### Increased Production.

The Labour Party's Enquiry into the Cost of Living attributes the rise of prices in the main to currency expansion. But it agrees with the orthodox economists in regarding increased production as a remedy for our present discontents. There is, in fact, hardly any dissentient voice on this question. The miners' strike is everywhere commented upon by other workers to the accompaniment of declarations that whatever happens the wage-earning classes must stand together and back each other. Yet so strong is the influence of sex-prejudice in confusing thought that no one sees any inconsistency with these universal agreements in the attitude taken up towards women workers in the skilled or semi-skilled trades. What can more fatally restrict production than that thousands of able-bodied women should be excluded from productive industry and remain idle or be driven into luxury trades? What could more directly give the lie to the solidarity of the working classes than such disputes as are now proceeding in Aberdeen as to whether a certain dovetailing machine used to shape wood for packing cases may or may not be worked by women as well as men. This is the kind of thing that will be incredible to posterity, a working community insisting on its identity of interests, intent on restricting working hours and increasing leisure, continually reproaching employers with their slowness to introduce machinery that shall abolish drudgery, and yet denying the right to work to competent and eager workers because of their sex.

#### Government and Building.

An agreement has been reached between the Government and the Building Resettlement Committee of the Joint Industrial Council for the Building Trade, and the next step is to bring the proposals of the Government before the executives of the Trade Unions. The Committee has agreed that there shall be gradual augmentation of the supply of skilled labour by the admission of adult apprentices up to the age of twenty-six to serve a three years' apprenticeship. As well as new recruits, therefore, a proportion of men will be attracted into the trade who, by reason of their mature age, can, by intensive training, help to relieve the shortage of skilled workers. All men over twenty-three and all ex-service men entering as apprentices are to be paid on a graduated scale, high enough to attract good men without giving them an unfair advantage. The question of a guaranteed wage in bad weather is to be left to the arrangements of individual employers and operatives. The Committee is convinced that once the morale of the worker is improved by the adequate augmentation of labour for housing schemes, and a better spirit is engendered by payment for time lost through stress of weather, a large increase in output will result.

#### Labour and Building.

At Portsmouth last week, the Labour Housing Association called a conference of local authorities, trade unions, and co-operative societies, which was attended by many of the delegates of the Trades Union Congress. They protested against the dilatoriness of the Government in withholding money for carrying on the housing schemes; they condemned the loan system of raising money, and demanded a levy on wealth, to be used for "building substantial and convenient houses for all." It was also proposed that the Government should take steps to "own and control building materials in order to fix maximum prices for the protection of the community." The Government got well buffeted from all sides on the question—and thoroughly deserves it.

#### The Lycée of Mayence.

It is pleasant to learn that a Lycée on the most modern and approved plan has been established at Mayence for the education of young French subjects of both sexes. The officers of *l'Armée du Rhin* are assisting as lecturers and in other ways. We have done much for our part in calling upon civilians to educate the army, but this particular development seems to be altogether French.

## NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

In the last two articles an attempt has been made to estimate the effect on Mr. Lloyd George's fortunes of the mistakes made by his rivals, how they have played into his hands, and how immensely he has been uplifted by their blunders. His own actions and, in particular, his foreign policy, have, of course, contributed greatly to this result, for had he not been successful no number of mistakes could have saved him. Exactly what he has done, where he has succeeded, and where he has failed, where he has shown vision, and where he has yielded to opportunism, will be examined in a minute; but before doing that there is one other political leader to clear out of the way.

The other day Lord Wolmer called on Sir Edward Carson to come forward and head a Tory Party, purged of all Liberal taint. Lord Wolmer is young, but politically he belongs to the oldest of the Old Guard, and it is his opinion which he expresses. This opinion has considerable sway. There is a substantial and serious body of Conservatives who dislike the Coalition and dislike Home Rule with equal ferocity. Could they find a leader, the revolt might take form and substance. On several occasions, notably in the Dyer debate, Sir Edward Carson has voiced their discontents. In doing this he looks to Ireland; he has never hidden his hatred of Home Rule, and his astute and watchful mind knows that in politics, as in war, when things seem worst with you they are also worst with your enemy. Many a victory has been won by putting off the hour of surrender, and he that endures to the end is often saved most unexpectedly. Sir Edward Carson probably still hopes to kill Home Rule, but he is probably not prepared to lead a Tory revolt. He is no longer young; he is the head of militant Ulster; and it is extremely doubtful what support he would get. The Ulster cause is not as popular as it was. The point to bear in mind, however, is that many Conservatives are chafing at the Coalition, and still dream of an unadulterated Conservative Government. Any leader who said he knew the way would be followed even through the wilderness, but Sir Edward Carson has not strengthened his position. A rebellion now would have far less chance of success than a year ago.

During the last year Mr. Lloyd George has been concerned with foreign policy almost entirely. His interventions in domestic affairs have been spasmodic and unhappy. Industrial questions have been mishandled. Ireland has been allowed to get into a tangle which no one can untie. In all these the Prime Minister has little to his credit. But, quite rightly, he has given his energies to one object only, the establishment of peace in Europe. History will recognise more fully than we do the complexity of the task. Amid a welter of confused currents, the Prime Minister has fixed his mind on two main problems around which the lesser ones could be grouped. These are the making of the Peace Treaty possible for Germany, and the coming to terms with Russia.

He probably knew from the first that the Treaty would not work. He had to get the best he could, placed between M. Clemenceau, the implacable, and President Wilson, the impotent. But once having got it he set about persuading France to let Germany get on her feet. Here, of course, he came up against a directly conflicting policy. We want a Treaty which Germany can work; France wants one she cannot. It was only when a clear, practical issue arose, such as coal, that he was able to carry his point. He could then put before France the choice of either taking such coal as Germany could provide, or of getting none unless they sent an army to fetch it. Herein lies the whole controversy. Either Germany works the Treaty, or you invade her every three months to make her do so. Mr. Lloyd George won, but at the cost of the Entente. M. Millerand gave way with sullen reluctance, and the consequence is seen in the French support for Poland and General Wrangel which brought the Supreme Council to its end. But assuredly Mr. Lloyd George was entirely right, and a firmer friendship with France will arise from the ashes of that ill-starred body.

So it was with Vienna also. There we had an extraordinarily difficult question to decide. The anti-Bolshevists, Koltchak and Denikin, had helped us; for how long ought we to help them? Ought we to interfere at all? If we did, what were the limits to our interference? We could not desert our friends. At the same time it was not our business who governed Russia. We all see this now. Mr. Lloyd George saw it before most of us. History will probably say that Prinkipo was right.

## THE COAL STRIKE.

We do not know, as we go to press, whether the threatened coal strike will take place, or whether some other way of solving the present difficulty in that industry will be found. Everything points to a fixed determination on the part of the miners and their leaders, for in spite of the voting of boys, and the considerable anti-strike minorities, we believe that the bulk of the miners are genuinely prepared to back up the policy of the Federation, at any rate as things are now. Against this, of course, there is the equally fixed determination of the Government to prevent a strike, if it is by any means possible; and there is also the powerful and as yet unexercised influence of public opinion which will probably decide the issue. Looking at the points at issue as impartially as we can—as is of course the duty of a paper like *THE WOMAN'S LEADER*—we cannot but be struck by the comparative unimportance of the immediate object of dispute as compared with the disagreements that lie behind it. The miners demand two things, first an increase of wages, and second a reduction in the price of coal to domestic consumers. The first part of the demand is simple and familiar. Industrial strikes for better wages are of common occurrence, and there exists machinery for their settlement which, confusing and roundabout as it is, does generally manage to balance things out. As compared with other classes of manual workers, the miners seem to be well off in money wages. In some districts they earn incomes which professional people fall far short of, and we ourselves know of a fruit farm the whole of whose early peach crop is regularly reserved for the operatives at one South Wales coal field. There is nothing to be either surprised at or shocked in this, for miners and their families can and should enjoy early peaches as well as millionaires and theirs; but it makes the increased wages demand less forcible than it undoubtedly is in some other trades. It must always be remembered, however, that all coal fields are not alike, and that prosperity in South Wales does not necessarily mean prosperity in Durham nor, indeed, does it even mean real prosperity in South Wales, since a standard of living that includes early peaches may still lack the most elementary comfort in housing. From one cause and another, however, it is fairly evident that the miners would not have much chance of popular support for a purely wage increasing strike, and it may be because they know this, or it may be for other reasons, that they have added to it the novel feature of a price reducing object.

It is round this side of the proposed strike that the greatest storm is raging, for price reducing or raising is a matter of the coal industry's policy, and the attempt of the Miners' Federation to control this by a strike is, of course, an attempt to secure control of the industry. It is, in fact, more than this, for while the mines are controlled by the Government as they are to-day, it amounts to an attempt to coerce the mining policy of the Government itself. We hold no brief for that policy in this paper, nor indeed for anybody's policy in any direction save our own; but we cannot but observe with some alarm the spread of movements which find extra-constitutional devices for forcing the hands of the Government of the day first in one direction and then in another. The disposal of the surplus profits of the mines is at present vested in the Treasury. They go straight into the National Exchequer, where, doubtless, they are very badly needed. They go to the relief of taxation (which needs relief indeed), and it is upon this expectation that the Budget was made and passed.

It may in itself be better to relieve taxation by lowering the price of domestic coal, instead of by using that source and relieving something else. We are not prepared to express an opinion, especially as, like everyone else, we long for cheaper coal. But matters would not really be relieved by the cheapening of coal, and an addition to the price of, let us say, bread or tea. It is six of one and half-a-dozen of the other till we can

get more national economy, unless the whole balance of the capitalist state is to be overthrown. This being so, and the miners' leaders being very clear-sighted men, we cannot but suspect that their price-reducing campaign is more even than it seems, and that it is in fact a deliberate attempt first to control and coerce the policy of the Government, and secondly to deal a good hard blow at the capitalistic system.

We repeat that it is not our province to upset or to uphold that system. Some of us, no doubt, believe it to be natural and inevitable, others think it a disease which should be exterminated, and we therefore look with different eyes upon this underlying object of the threatened strike. But upon one thing we think our readers are all agreed, and that is in deploring the consequences that must follow immediately in the train of any really serious stoppage.

Coal is not only the foundation stone of all modern industry and transport, it is also the protection of all Northern peoples against the harsh climates in which they live. There is at present a world shortage of coal of a most serious nature, so serious that people are starving in Vienna, and will die of cold in many parts of Europe this winter. The industries of a quarter of the world are at a standstill, and the economic recovery of France, Belgium, Germany, and Austria depend more absolutely upon coal than upon any other single factor. The coal fields of many regions are divested, and as yet useless. The miners in others are still too exhausted and too miserably underfed to play their full part. The supplies that might come to Europe from other continents cannot be brought for lack of shipping, and oil substitutes are scarce from the same cause. Italy and Greece—to name only two countries—are entirely dependent on sea-borne coal, and when this fails sheer ruin lies before them. And in these circumstances Great Britain is the saviour to whom all turn. The coal fields are uninjured, her miners strong, the coal exists and can be brought into immediate use; and then her miners strike.

It is not too much to say that a prolonged failure of coal supplies here may lead to famine and revolution elsewhere. It will lead not only to suffering and to shivering by our own fire-sides, and to our own works idle and our own wealth diminishing, but to real ruin and real want over great tracts of the earth already too near to despair. And all this will mean untold human suffering and misery, whatever other political or sociological upshot it may ultimately have. We do not know whether the miners know this, but we trust that women do.

People have often talked of the influence of women as if it were a gentle thing. We believe indeed that it is, that they are not very ruthless, at any rate politically, and are more careful of human life and human suffering than about systems of government. We believe that they are less theoretic, more practical, and therefore more humane, and we trust therefore that their influence, for all it is worth, may be found on the side of peace. Some other solution is surely possible than the brute appeal to obstinacy and force, for we are still civilised to-day, whatever the future may have before us.

There are some things, of course, that even a woman will fight for, and fight till she dies. Her children come first among them, and her ideals of right and honour, and in some circumstances her country. But to most women, at any rate, the present miners' dispute stands for none of these, and that is why we think their influence will go towards peace. They will favour safer if slower methods of political change, and they will draw back from what leads towards revolution. If their share in political influence tends in this direction no one need be surprised. Their lives are still closely centred on the kitchen range, and the miners must find another way to convert them to their views than by leaving that range cold and empty.

## BURNING QUESTIONS.

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

### DRINK AND EAST LONDON—BEFORE AND AFTER THE WAR.

By REGINALD KENNEDY-COX, Warden of the Dockland Settlement.

One is continually being asked "What changes do you notice most on returning to East London after the war; have they improved down there?" "Is there any unemployment?" All quite sensible questions, but sometimes a little difficult to answer.

People who work in East London are apt to lose their sense of proportion. We are all much too near to things. The man who lives in a working man's cottage and hears the cries of the children in the streets, not in a remote way, but at his very door, occasionally succumbs to fits of irritation and to waves of depression which his philosophic brother in West London is spared. Besides this drawback, to exist down here for any length of time one must be a tremendous enthusiast, and enthusiasts are not as a rule regarded as being absolutely unprejudiced or impartial judges of serious problems.

Certainly the drink question is one which, at the present day, is completely obscured by violent partisanship; each side has actually had to resort to the employment of professional, high salaried orators to present their case from their own particular partisan point of view.

I believe with all my soul that excessive drinking has led in the past to nearly all the evils which have marred the true happiness of our country. But I also believe that at last the formerly inarticulate voice of our women will tell us quite clearly what the remedy for the drink problem shall be.

The working class mother—that miniature chancellor of the exchequer—that strange little figure so ignored in the past and yet really a sphinx who outlives the politician and reformer—hers shall be the still, small voice which will work the oracle.

Men and women drink in East London for many reasons. Let us take the men first. A man drinks (1) because it has always been the custom, and the British working man is strangely conservative in his domestic habits; (2) because valuable information is nearly always picked up in the local public house—it is there that rumours of jobs can definitely be obtained which mature far more often than dozens of letters from mere labour exchanges; (3) and finally, the public house is the real Englishman's castle; there he enjoys absolute freedom, no domestic worries mar the atmosphere, the crying children and the nagging or querulous wife are absent, and at the same time he is completely at home; his surroundings suit him admirably.

The women drink for different reasons. (1) I have found that in nearly every case a girl has started drinking at the wedding party of one of her relations or friends, the party of course invariably having the local public house as its centre. (It is difficult to entertain in the average working class room 10ft. by 12ft.); (2) she has also found in the past that the continual offerings of drink was the only way in which her numerous admirers could express their devotion. Busy working class mothers don't encourage sentimental pairs to do their love making in the small kitchen, and on rainy evenings the public house used to be the one rendezvous—especially on Saturday nights—where boys and girls could go. (3) Finally, should a girl survive this extraordinarily difficult series of temptations she nearly always succumbs shortly after marriage, when the pains of childbirth for the first time puzzle and terrify the semi-educated, and, on many points, hopelessly ignorant girls. It is then that the "neighbour," that old harpy of the street, comes along with her store of wisdom and suggests drink as a remedy for pain and trouble. The whole business is hideously subtle, and the sight of two or three old hags drawing along a young girl to the public house is repulsive in the extreme.

But, as so often happens, the problem has begun to solve itself, and in an unforeseen way. We hear a lot at the present day about the harm done by the cinema, but very few of its virtues are ever placed before the general public. The one thing

which stands out in my eye in its favour and towers far above all its disadvantages is its marvellous success in sweeping away those old divisions of family disunion.

At last we have found a place of entertainment where, at a very moderate sum, the whole family—father as well as mother—can unite together in enjoying themselves with something which appeals to every single member of the family with the same force. For hours the man can sit in warmth and comfort, his wife beside him, his children round him, so engrossed that he has completely forgotten that he needs any liquid refreshment. At the same time the money which he has expended has been spent on his own kith and kin, instead of being wasted upon that army of casual acquaintances and cadgers who infest the public houses and maintain the ghastly tradition of "drinks all round."

Yes, in East London our cinemas are our greatest and most successful reformers. That is the one great change that I noticed after the war; but there is another war change waiting to be made. Thousands of soldiers have returned from foreign countries where café life has won their hearts—weather has really very little to do with the question. Many cafés abroad, especially in Russia, have no out of door tables at all.

The whole secret of the café failure in England, at any rate amongst working class circles, is that in the rare instances where they have been tried the promoters have always forgotten the one vital factor—music. All classes of Englishmen love music; even the piano organ has its immediate circle of admirers and everyone knows that the cinema at once recognised the need. Look at all the successful enterprises which have promoted real temperance during the last twenty-five years. The Palm Court at the Carlton (that pioneer of temperance amongst the wealthy) with its carefully selected orchestra achieved immediate success. If people didn't wish to eat or drink they smoked and listened to the music.

Look at any of Lyons' "Popular Cafés" (those benefactors of the middle class), packed to suffocation, the music one of the greatest features. And that is what the working man wants. He wants some comfortable place, warm (not freakish), a glass of beer ready if required, or a cup of tea if he should fancy it, the right to smoke when and where he likes, and—music!

It seems so extraordinarily easy to give him these things (my own Settlement in its small way has proved over and over again that these methods are a real success). It is the kind of reform that can be brought about by any ordinary business man, and one not likely to lead to bitter bickerings or fierce contests between paid orators.

Perhaps, some day, someone will try it on a large scale. Englishmen fight stubbornly, if they think they are going to be deprived of their rights, but if they believe that you are merely trying to study their interests, and are really endeavouring to increase their comfort, they can be led like lambs.

This is a mere sketch of two solutions of the great problem; the first, a solution which I believe is automatically and unconsciously taking place; the second, one which I think should be attempted, at any rate, by all those who have the real interests of their country at heart.

When England has solved the drink problem, then England will be a very different place from what she is to-day. Many millions of pounds a year will be added to the public exchequer for productive purposes. Probably half the police force will be able to retire and cultivate their own allotments. Certainly the lunatic asylums and workhouses will, in most cases, be able to close their doors and, judging by the housing shortage, will quickly be snapped up by enterprising individuals and turned into vast cinemas, each—may we hope—with its attendant café.

## SOME THINGS THAT MATTER.

By SIR LEO CHIOZZA MONEY.

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

### OUR POVERTY OF PRODUCTION.

The case against Capitalism is not merely that it produces gross inequalities of income. British poverty is a poverty of production accentuated by the error of distribution. I am not speaking of the effects of the war, but of the normal Britain of 1913. Our poor production is the result of the abuse and frustration of science by commercialism. By the nationalisation of large-scale industry we could enormously increase production while effecting a better distribution of the larger production.

It is a great pity that such a plain issue should be confounded by reference to the differences which necessarily and properly exist amongst those who work towards a better condition of society. Of course Socialists think differently, just as sincere men of similar principles differ on points of important or unimportant detail in every human connection. The conception of the public ownership of the large scale means of production is not affected by such differences or by discussion of whether Nationalisation means a different thing from Socialisation. For my part, I do not recognise that any such difference exists, but it is perfectly true that in the nationalisation or socialisation of different industries different forms have and will be adopted, varying with country, race, the industry itself, and the nature of its advancement.

Thus, if we take the practical work of Socialism in Queensland, under a Socialistic Government, we find that that Government has tackled many different industries in many different ways. What it did for insurance was different from what it did for sugar, and what it did for sugar was different from what it did for meat, and so forth. This is what any man would expect who was not suffering from the tyranny of words. The Queensland Government in describing its own work, says:

"Each (Socialist) undertaking is shaped to fit special circumstances and special requirements. A bold, yet cautious, policy of collective enterprise is being made successful because each problem is approached with an open-minded desire to first ascertain all the surrounding facts. Precisely the same means for increasing efficiency and economy cannot be adopted successfully in any two trades. The principles of Socialism can be applied only according to the individual facts of each industry."

### "WE ARE ALL SOCIALISTS NOWADAYS."

Sir William Harcourt's famous dictum: "We are all Socialists nowadays" was true when spoken and remains true to-day. Mr. Cox himself, unless he really desires to abolish public street lighting, public road maintenance, public law, public currency, a national army, a national navy, and a national air force, etc., is a Socialist, however he may protest in these pages. It will not do, therefore, to say that a man cannot be a Socialist without being an all-round Communist. Mr. Cox is a Communist about the roads, just as I am, but I am a good deal more Socialist than Mr. Cox in respect of industry. Of course it is possible to find people who are more extreme Socialists or Communists than Mr. Cox. It is all a matter of degree. The unfortunate thing for Mr. Cox is that all the Governments of the world practise successfully a great deal of Socialism and not a little Communism, and that he finds himself in the position of endeavouring to sweep back the Socialist tide with a broom. If he will allow me to say so, it is a very capable broom, and its bristles are uncommonly pointed, but the relentless tide sweeps on. I think it a pity to take up the attitude towards Socialism which the dear old Duke of Wellington took up with regard to the franchise (for men) when he saw it as the opening of the gates of destruction.

If, in the name of commonsense, I desire to do what the majority of the nations of the world have done, and to nationalise the British railways, I am not perturbed when Mr. Cox throws at me some newly-formed Communist party. If I desire to see coal, the basis of modern British industry, conserved by the nation instead of wasted by Capitalism (I wonder how many people know that a whole coalfield has gone to waste quite recently?), I am not to be deflected from my path because Mr. Cox produces a gentleman from South Wales who wants to abolish the use of money. Equally, I am not troubled when I am told that Socialisation is beating Nationalisation. I do not mind if it does, because I cannot interpret the word nationalisa-

tion to mean anything but socialisation. Talk about bureaucrats does not trouble me, because the country is now ruled by the bureaucrats of the big joint stock companies and trusts. For example, the greater part of our banking is done by five Trusts, so that British monetary conditions are ruled by States within the State, with their self-appointed officials responsible not to the people but to the Trusts. It is only those who do not know these things or realise their meaning who tremble at the word "official." I want to socialise the Capitalist army of officials and to make them responsible to the men and women of this country, where they are now the publicly irresponsible agents of private interests.

Again, it leaves my withers unwrung if Mr. Cox produces Mr. Philip Snowden to say that shipping cannot be managed by a State Department. As a matter of fact, it was my pleasant duty to share in the work of a Department which did actually manage shipping. Shipping is not a very big business. When war broke out, we had one-half the ships of the world, and yet our ocean-going ships numbered only 3,900 vessels of 1,000 gross tons or over. Indeed it was the small number of the shipping units which made the submarine attack such a terrible danger. At the same time Nationalisation does not necessarily mean that a central department must manage shipping. In Australia and Canada, for example, they have handed their national shippings to the charge of National Trusts responsible to the nation. In each case the result has been a tremendous success, but that does not necessarily mean that no other form of Nationalisation or Socialisation of shipping would be successful.

There is one other word I should like to say. Mr. Cox is good enough to refer to the sincerity of Socialists. Any professional man who publicly embraces Socialism can only do so, of course, at very great cost to himself. It is unnecessary, therefore, to discuss his sincerity.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS.

How dull public meetings are! Even the best ones, with star speakers and interesting subjects are dreadfully full of padding, and it is a perpetual mystery why anyone goes to them. Think of the chairman who drones away for so much too long a time—apologising at such tedious length for coming between the audience and the distinguished speaker! Think of the well-worn phrases that drop out of that distinguished speaker's mouth while he hunts about for something to say: "unaccustomed as I am to public speaking," "the great pleasure that it gives me to be present on this auspicious occasion," "the honour that has been done me in asking me to propose this resolution"; and the meaningless and redundant words with which his observations are peppered. Serious matters become "of great and momentous import" from a public platform, lesser ones "of trifling and negligible weight." People of the most ordinary pretensions become "distinguished" and "famous" and "need no introduction from me to recommend them," and the audience continuously unites in welcoming them. And then the jokes! How familiar and time-honoured they are: the old stories, the expected puns, the feeble local reference greeted with altogether disproportionate ecstacy by a wearied and somnolent audience, and giving the speaker yet another brief pause to hunt for new ideas.

And the votes of thanks, how incredibly empty and boring they are, the audience only partially kept in the hall by an uneasy sense of politeness, and the distinguished speakers fidgetting in their seats and smiling fixed smiles of gratification.

How very dull and stodgy it all is, and how close and stuffy, and yet how frequently repeated. Every night thousands of such meetings are held in all parts of the kingdom: meetings on every conceivable subject—on dumb animals, politics, on ethics, morals or art, on the theatre or Chinese pottery, the habits of savages, or the duties of citizenship. And people go to them all, sitting passively silent while the dullest and stodgiest things are said, dozing off now and again, clapping submissively at the right moments, and then trooping out, bedulled, and relieved with a strong sense of duty done.

Why is it that people go to meetings? Is it because at one in a hundred something really interesting is said? Is it because there is always hope that a new idea may be discovered or a new story heard? Or is it because it is a good, heavy, old English custom that our fathers had before us and our children will have when we are dead?

## WOMAN'S PLACE IS THE HOME.

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

### THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUILDING TRADE.

By B. L. HUTCHINS.

We have lived through a period in which the impulse of destruction has been uppermost. For over four years the Great Powers armed and worked and schemed to beat one another to the ground. And since the great war came to an end the position has not been much better. The nations are still armed almost to the teeth, rumours of wars are circulated, sporadic fighting goes on over a considerable portion of Europe. In the industrial world also prospects are gloomy. The organised forces of Capital and Labour seem to be continually opposed, instead of co-operating for the advantage of the general public, including themselves. One is inclined at times to wonder whether Europe has been seized with a suicidal impulse.

But the instinct of self-preservation is very strong in the human race, and when things seem to be at their very worst sometimes there comes a sudden glimpse of other forces that make for new social life working below the surface. Such an instinct for self-preservation may be seen now at work here and there in the building trades. The point that interests me just now is that the building trades, instead of letting themselves go to rack and ruin, as a great part of Europe has done through war, show signs of evolving a new method—thinking instead of fighting. It is sometimes necessary to think, though it is undoubtedly a nuisance. Our prehistoric ancestor had a very good time running up and down trees, flinging cocoanuts and dodging them, and fighting merrily with the other denizens of the forest. It must have been very airy and exciting. But conditions got more complicated. He discovered that he had to improve his brain and become more complicated himself in response to the complication of the environment. It was a horrid transition, after playing about and getting so strong in the arms, but he somehow realised it had to be done, and somehow managed to do it (more or less). We have got to keep up the family tradition. It may be more exciting to fight without thinking, strike without thinking, abuse Labour without thinking, or even make Peace Treaties without thinking. But we can see the results of that sort of pleasurable excitement all around us wherever we like to look. There is another way.

In the spring and summer of 1914 there was a great deal of industrial unrest. Wages in the building trades had failed to keep pace with the rising cost of living. Prices were rising even then (don't we wish we could go back to the "high" prices of 1914!), and there was much bitter feeling on both sides. Then a storm arose over a question of non-union labour. Two non-union electricians were employed on a new building for a big insurance company. The organised workers refused to work with them, and after some attempts at conciliation and arbitration, which did not give satisfaction, the London Master Builders' Association retaliated with a lock-out of all operatives who refused to sign an undertaking to work with non-union men. The struggle continued through the spring and summer, and the Employers' Federation had even decided on a national lock-out to begin August 15th. The year being 1914 that lock-out did not take place. At the outset of war, at least, industrial strife was stilled.

One of the employers who had been involuntarily drawn into the dispute was led to reflect seriously on the deplorable spectacle that human society presents as long as the attempt is made to settle disputes by force; the appalling wastefulness of it all—waste of time, waste of human energy, waste of helpfulness and goodwill. This employer saw, too, how closely industry and war are connected; the struggle for markets and the desire to appropriate the sources of materials are among the most fruitful causes of war. He saw how futile is the policy of coercion. You cannot force men's minds and convictions. It seemed to him that coercion and autocracy might be replaced by a system of industrial self-government. A demand made by the union in 1916 for increased wages gave him the opportunity of suggesting that they, the trade unionists, should advocate a joint conference. The suggestion met, at first, with a somewhat

mixed reception, but—to cut a long story short—a preliminary meeting of trade unionists was held in October, 1916; subsequently, the employers were approached and their interest won, and in the following years the scheme for a builders' parliament was not only discussed and considered, but became a living fact. Its inaugural meeting was held on May 29th and 30th, at the Central Hall, Westminster.

The root idea of the Council for the Building Trades, as stated in its Constitution, is to secure the largest possible measure of joint action between employers and workpeople for the development of the industry and improvement of conditions. The membership is elected half by the Employers' Association and half by operatives' Trade Unions. The functions of this body are to deal with wages and conditions of work, to consider the risk of unemployment and the best means of avoiding it, and, of course, also the special post-war problem of resettlement and demobilisation. Technical training and boy labour are also considered. In a very interesting interim report presented by a specially appointed committee of the Council, the question of restriction of output is dealt with. The causes were discovered to be fear of unemployment, disinclination of operatives to make unrestricted profits for private employers, lack of interest, owing to non-participation in control, and inefficiency, "both managerial and operative." \* We cannot here go into all the remedies proposed, but it is obvious that these sources of trouble are more likely to be cured by organised co-operation than by the archaic method of a fight between the two parties.

The Council is the normal channel through which the opinions and experience of the building trade will be sought on all questions with which the industry is concerned. The old conception of autocratic government in the factory and workshop, although it lingers on over a great part of the country, is now out of date. It may continue to function, but has no longer much hold over the minds and consciences of men.

Though the Building Council is the most considerable form yet taken by the new spirit in industry, there are scattered efforts and experiments going on which are full of interest, e.g., the Southgate Urban District Council, having advertised for housing tenders, and found the offers prohibitive, decided to buy its own materials and deal with labour itself, of course, on trade union conditions. The result is that houses have been built at a cost considerably less than that estimated by contractors. The workers are contented and work well. The houses have been let to ex-Service men and others. Both in London and Manchester experiments are being made on similar lines. Special success has marked an effort made at Newbury. The scheme here included the feature that employment is arranged for wet days in making concrete partitions, lintels, and posts, and blocks for the inner lining of the hollow walls. In this way a forty-eight hour week can be guaranteed, and the men are working at top speed, the bricklayers laying over 600 bricks a day. The wages are slightly above the local rate, but no bonus on output is given. A saving of £200 per house over the local builders' charges is effected.

These results are hopeful and satisfactory as far as they go, but it is depressing to hear (as reported by the *New Statesman*, July 8th, 1920) that, at a time when houses are so acutely needed, these efforts to increase the supply are being opposed. In one large town the Housing Committee refused the Guild tender, although it was lower by several hundred pounds than that of the private builder. This looks unpleasantly like the pressure of interested persons on the Town Council. We hope our readers will watch the matter in their own boroughs or districts. Women are interested in getting healthy, decent houses, on which the continuance of a healthy, civilised race depends, and should use their influence against spiteful and corrupt dealing in so vital a matter.

\* Industrial Council for the Building Industry. Garton Foundation, pp. 119-20, price 1s. net.

## THE DIFFERENCES IN SCOTTISH AND ENGLISH LAW REGARDING WOMEN.

By EUNICE G. MURRAY.

Scottish law is founded upon Roman law, and until lately it was more equitable and just towards women than was the English law. In regard to the law of divorce this still holds good. In Scotland divorce is on an equal footing for the man or woman who can prove adultery, desertion, or cruelty. The same protection is given to the sexes, the same advantages and the same justice is meted out to both. In Scotland, as in most civilised communities, a child is legitimated by subsequent marriage, no matter how many years have elapsed between the birth of the child and the subsequent marriage. In the Bastardy Bill (1920) for England there is a proposal to do for the English illegitimate child what has long been done for the Scottish child born out of wedlock.

In Scotland, no husband can disinherit either his wife or children, by law a wife can claim one third of his movable estate, and by the latest Act a further benefit is conferred upon a wife. If the husband dies intestate the wife gets the first £500, and if the amount he leaves does not come to £500, then she gets the whole sum of money which he has left.

In the old days the hard facts of life told cruelly upon women. She had no rights of property if she were married, but was herself regarded as the property of her male relations. Her inheritance was not her own, her very earnings were not her own. The father of her children could not only take the children from her when he was alive, but could part her from them when he was dead. The awakening of women has been slow; men made the laws, men administered the laws, but in the hearts of women the spirit of revolt was born, it grew deeper and stronger as years passed. Her voice has been heard and her appeal to men has borne fruit. Slowly but surely the barriers have fallen, and as they fell women advanced and humanity benefited. If we study the laws as they affected women in the past, or as they affect them to-day, we see what a vast transformation has taken place in the last fifty years. Originally the laws of the Common Law in England and Scotland were much the same.

*Married Women.*—The act of marriage vested in the husband two distinct rights over the property of his wife, called in England his marital right and right of management; these in Scotland were called, respectively, his *jus mariti* and right of administration (the latter word being used in England to signify merely his right of administering his wife's movables after her death; he can sell her leaseholds without administration). In virtue of his marital right the husband had ownership of her personal (or movable) property, the whole of the rents and profits of heritage, all property recoverable by legal processes, such as debts, arrears of rent, &c. (called *choses* in action in England), if he actually recovered them in her lifetime, and the rents of her leaseholds; also, if there is a child born capable of inheriting, the husband had, after her death, by the courtesy of England (analogous but not quite similar to the courtesy of Scotland), an estate for the remainder of his life in her freeholds. His rights of management gave him sole control over her freehold and leasehold properties; he could, moreover, sell her leaseholds by act *inter vivos* during her life or after her death, and take the price for himself, but could not dispose of them by will; he had no power of disposing of her freeholds in any way.

In Scotland the *jus mariti* gave to the husband all the movables (or personal property) of his wife, and also all rents of heritage, but nothing that can be called heritable or real by the law of Scotland falls under this. The right of administration (or English right of management) is not a right of property but a right of managing property, and makes the consent of the husband necessary to every act of administration such as suing debtors, drawing rents, &c. Where the *jus mariti* has been barred by contract or otherwise, the husband is still, as head of the house, the manager of his wife's property, and the wife's

only right then is to insist that all her property shall be applied for her own behoof. When the husband's right of administration is excluded, as may be done in Scotland, in spite of some of the older decisions, the wife has a power to contract, and this power in both countries carries with it the capacity to sue and be sued.

Equity both in England and in Scotland has largely modified and abated the severity of the Common Law in regard to married women—in England, by the introduction of the separate estate, and in Scotland by what is practically the same thing, namely, permitting the exclusion of the *jus mariti*. Neither of these, however, enabled her to sue alone, but in England, until 1883, she had to sue by a next friend who might, but need not, be her husband; but the husband, if he were not the next friend, must be joined as defendant. In Scotland, save in exceptional cases, the husband must always concur.

The capacity to sue and to be sued with respect to property belongs to the power of management; this is, as we have seen, distinct from the ownership, and in the case of a woman's property, although by statute or by settlement the ownership may remain with her, the right of management may be vested in her husband. The mutual rights of husband and wife in this respect have been considerably varied by the different Married Women's Property Acts, and a careful attention to the duty of the marriage and of the acquirement of the property is necessary (especially in England) in order to ascertain accurately their respective rights. It is enough to say here that in England, the last Act, that of 1882, gave to a married woman the ownership and also the management of her property, and enabled her to sue and to be sued in contract or in tort (delict) or otherwise as if she were unmarried, and neither her husband nor a next friend need be joined with her either as plaintiff or defendant. But in Scotland the corresponding Act, that of 1881, only abolishes the *jus mariti* as to the marriages within its scope, and leaves the right of administration in the husband exactly as it was (except as to the income of heritage or real property, with regard to which his right of administration is abolished), and therefore his concurrence in any action is still necessary; and even yet a wife in Scotland can only sue without her husband in the exceptional cases above alluded to, and even in these cases the Court usually appoints a curator *ad litem*, answering to the English "next friend" to concur and sue in her name.

The present Rules may be compared thus:—

ENGLAND.	SCOTLAND.
Every married woman has now in her own name the same civil remedies for the protection of her separate property against all persons including her husband, as if such property belonged to her as a <i>jemme sole</i> ; she can therefore sue and be sued in contract or tort; if she is sued in contract the plaintiff need not now show that she had separate property at the date of the contract. She requires no leave and will not have to give security.	"The husband is by Common Law the perpetual curator of the wife. This gives him a right of management over all her property and she cannot sue without his concurrence, nor can she be sued unless he is cited for his interest. "This is the case equally in contract and in delict (tort). "In the exceptional cases the Court will give leave to any person whom she may name to concur with her and to carry on the action in her name."—(MR. BRODIE-INNES.)

In supplement of the above it may be explained that the husband's right of administration is still in existence in Scotland. The husband, as head of the family, enjoys the right to control the management of his wife's estate. In virtue of this right, unless it is renounced or excluded by deed or statute, his consent is required to validate her deeds. The administration must be exercised for the benefit of the wife. In many cases it is now excluded by statute, renounced or dispensed with by the Court. Statutory exclusion is provided—

1. Under certain sections of the Conjugal Rights Act, 1861, when the wife has obtained a Protection Order.

2. Under the Married Women's Property Act, 1877, in the case of wages and earnings of married women.

3. Under the Married Women's Property Act, 1881, in the case of rents and produce of heritable property in Scotland belonging to the wife.

While in England a wife can dispose of the capital of her movable estate as if she were a *femme sole* (Married Women's Property Act, 1882, Section 1 (1)). A Scottish wife without a marriage contract cannot deal with her capital except with her husband's consent. A married woman in Scotland is entitled to sue without her husband's concurrence where his right of administration has been excluded.

The proposed Married Woman's Property Act for Scotland will considerably alter present conditions. After the passing of this Act the property heritable or movable of a married woman shall not be subject to the right of administration of her husband, and that right is hereby wholly abolished, and a married woman shall with regard to her estate have the same powers of disposal as if she were unmarried; and any deed or writing executed by her with reference to her heritable estate in Scotland or to her movable estate, shall be as valid and effectual as if executed by her with the consent of her husband according to the present law and practice.

A husband of full age and subject to no legal incapacity, whose wife is in minority, shall be her curator during her minority, but no longer; but when the husband is in minority at the date of the marriage or subject to some legal incapacity, the wife's father, or other curator if she have any, shall be entitled to continue to act as such until she attains majority or her husband's curatory commences.

A married woman shall be capable of entering into contracts and incurring obligations, and be capable of suing and being sued as if she were not married, and her husband shall not be liable in respect of any contract she may enter into, or obligation she may receive on her own behalf.

A married woman, if living apart from or deserted by her husband, shall, on entering into any contract for the supply of goods or furnishings for herself, or for her children, be deemed to bind her own estate in the same way as if she were unmarried, but without prejudice to the right of the person who supplied such goods or furnishings to recover the price thereof from such husband if he shall be liable therefor in accordance with the present law.

In the event of a husband being unable to maintain himself, his wife, if she have a separate estate or a separate income more than reasonably sufficient for her own maintenance, shall be bound out of such separate estate to provide her husband with such maintenance as he would in similar circumstances be bound to provide for her, or out of such income to contribute such sum or sums towards such maintenance as her husband would in similar circumstances be bound to contribute towards her maintenance.

Donations *inter virum et uxorem* shall be irrevocably the donors. Provided that—

(a) This enactment shall not take effect as regards donations made or granted before the passing of this Act until the expiry of one year from and after that date.

(b) This enactment shall not prejudice the rights of creditors of the donor of any such donation in virtue of the provisions of the Act of Parliament of Scotland, 1621, and

(c) Any donations completed within a year and day before the sequestration of the estates of the donor under the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act, 1913, or any amending statute, shall be recoverable at the instance of the creditors of such donor.

Subject always to the provision of Section 1 of this Act, nothing in this Act contained shall apply to any provision made in favour of or reserved by either spouse by ante-nuptial contract of marriage whether dated before or after the passing of this Act, and all such provisions shall be as valid and irrevocable in all respects as if this Act had not been passed.

This Act shall apply where the husband is domiciled in Scotland, and (1) notwithstanding that the husband shall be domiciled out of Scotland the enactment contained in Section 1 of this Act shall apply with regard to the heritable property in Scotland of his wife, and (2) the enactment contained in Section 5 of this Act shall apply to all estate situated in Scotland and by the law of Scotland heritable as between husband and wife, although the donor of such estate shall be domiciled fourth of Scotland.

## THE POLISH WOMEN'S LEGION.

By PHYLLIS MOTT.

Though the Polish Women's Legion is only a small unit of about 2,000 women, nevertheless it is interesting to find that in a time of stress the women of Poland have united to make an Army of their own which, however small it is, shows that the women are really patriotic and are determined to help fight for their country.

The Polish Women's Legion was first formed when the Poles were attacked in Galicia by the Ukrainians early in 1919. This was the first real effort to organise women for the defence of the country. The organisation was recognised by the War Office, and was subjected to the same military regulations as the Army. Many women distinguished themselves in the defence of Lemberg, and received medals from the War Office both for valour and service. I was fortunate enough to meet the originator of the Legion, a young officer who is considered quite a heroine in Poland. She organised the movement when Lemberg was besieged, and gained special distinction for bravery in the fighting that took place then.

The Poles are an intensely patriotic nation; they have suffered so much from the tyranny and oppression of their neighbours during the last 150 years that they are not going to give up their dearly bought independence without a terrible struggle. And that is why even the women are joining the men in fighting the Bolsheviks.

I was in Warsaw a little while ago, just when the capital began to be in great danger, and I was struck by the number of volunteers joining the Women's Legion. They were mostly young girls about eighteen years old, and were all of them intensely patriotic and very determined not to let the Bolsheviks get to Warsaw.

I paid a special visit to the barracks of the Women's Legion, and was shown round by the Commander. Everything was of the simplest and most primitive. But the organisation was good. The new recruits were sadly lacking in equipment, some were even marching without boots, but it did not seem to worry them. They slept in large dormitories in bunks and had the usual mess. They were particularly fortunate in having a very pleasant recreation hall, which had been presented to them.

The organisation of the Women's Legion is good, all the officers are women, though the recruits are trained by non-commissioned officers of the regular Army. The Legion is divided into various sections, Sanitary, Medical, Transport, and Active Service. Their duties are much the same as our Women's Army, except that they are used at the front for sentry work, such as guarding munition depôts, railway junctions, and similar vital points. They also take an active part in fighting. Important sentry work is often allotted to the Women's Legion, as they have gained the full confidence of the General Staff and are considered more reliable than unpicked men, the only ones that could be spared for light duty.

The rank and file is drawn from all classes, but the greatest proportion were from the working class. Promotion is easy for those who are intelligent and quick. Everyone has to go through the ranks, whatever their social status, but there is no doubt that the educated girl rose to a better rank quicker than the others.

It was interesting to watch the girls drilling, there was such a variety of types. They all took their lessons very seriously, and were really rather quick in picking up new manoeuvres and obeyed the officer's orders sharply. But one could never say they looked smart, only one or two had uniforms, the rest were dressed in any old thing, some had bare feet and some had high-heeled shoes. But what matter, the fighting spirit was there.

During their recreation time the girls sat in groups in the camp ground. I remember being very impressed by a group singing a beautiful old Polish folk song. This expressive chant made one feel the misfortunes of the Polish nation, and made one hope that it would be recompensed for its suffering in the past by a great revival of strength and a happy future.

While the Bolsheviks were invading Poland the Women's Legion was used for defending important points in the line. They have distinguished themselves especially in a counter-offensive in the region of Thorn. This was a critical point, as the Danzig-Warsaw railway was in danger of being cut. A considerable number of the Women's Legion were fighting with the troops, and together they succeeded in checking a superior force of the enemy. This local stand made a great difference to the enemy's offensive, and saved the Polish lines of communication from being cut. However small the Polish Women's Legion may be, it has helped considerably by taking an active part in the defence of its country.

## TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATION ACT.

By L. GARDE BUNYARD.

The Health Visitor stepped off the train and walked quickly up the street. This was her last visit for the day, and she was tired and dreaded it a little.

The last case had been in black despair and his angry questions were still ringing in her ears. "Well, now you've come to have a good look at me, have you, and to ask a lot of private questions, and then what good will it do me? Are you going to give me any nourishment or get me away anywhere? You know you won't! Want to know what caused my illness? Well, hard work and want of food and living in these damned rotten flats, if you want to know. And now that's all I'm going to tell you. If the rates and taxes wasn't so high, keeping the likes of you, there might be a little bit left to help us when we're down on our luck." "You won't take any notice of him, Miss," the wife had said when she went to the door. "He do take it to heart terrible that he's had to stop off work, and what with the baby and the little ones, I can't go out myself." "How do you manage?" the visitor had asked. "I don't know myself, Miss, but do do your best to get him away if you can."

There were so many, and there was so much want and so little help available that it seemed almost wanton to visit and question them, and then to leave only a vague hope behind. This case, though, was a death, and there was only disinfection to arrange for. The question form must be filled up, but widows usually seemed to find a relief to sorrow in pouring out all the details of the last illness.

She stopped at No. 22 and rang. A slatternly woman came up the passage, clutching at her blouse as she opened the door.

"Mrs. Sarson?"

"No, upstairs, two knocks. I'll call her. Mrs. Sarson! The Sanitary."

"Come up, Miss!" called a voice. She climbed the short flight of stairs, noting their cleanliness and the untorn paper on the walls.

"You'll excuse me coming down, but I'm that tired, and have just set down to do a bit of sewing. You know he was buried a Tuesday?"

The visitor sat down. "Yes, I know. I have come to-day to ask about his illness and arrange for disinfection."

"Oh, my dear, don't you say I'm to have my walls and ceiling done, for the landlord 'll half kill me if you do, and they're all beautiful and clean."

Everything was neat and wonderfully clean. The hearth was white and the stove shone. The widow sat by a well-scrubbed table with her work in her hand. She was making a bonnet. It was a grotesque affair—a small circle of crepe surrounded by a jaunty, black ruche. Its maker regarded it with interest. So did the visitor, touched by the pathos of the scene and the thought of that ridiculous fragment perched on the widow's head. She was a fat, shapeless woman, and wore a lightish, full skirt, and a blue jersey. Over the jersey was a sleeveless blouse and a black band was stitched round the arm.

"No, you will not need to have your rooms done up, but I should like to see the bedroom, and we will disinfect the bedding and the room. Was he ill long, and what was his business?"

"Well, my dear, we're in the fish and poultry. Salesman he was, until his cough got too bad, and then the boss put him in the back, cleaning. We can't trace it out nohow. His father died of old age, and his mother—well, 'complication of diseases,' that's what she had."

The visitor made careful notes. She was aware that this case of death was one reflecting credit on any family.

"None of my family ever had anything the matter with them. All out with fish barrers, they was, and you want to be just right to manage that. All the children's strong, too, except that one."

"That one" sat quietly by the fire, a small pale child with dark eyes, and hair tied up with crepe.

"Had the fever, she did. She seemed queer and I took her to the doctor, only he wasn't in; and in the evening we was all sitting round the fire, and dad had his feet in the oven, being one that always suffered from cold feet, and the doctor came in and took her hand. 'Why, mother,' he says, 'she's got the fever, and must be took away to-night.' Dad took it to heart so he started crying, and she cried, and so did I. Always a rare man for his children, he was. Couldn't bear to cross them in anything. Well, she went away for six weeks, but none of the others ever took it, nor anything infective, except the children's complaints, what they're bound to get."

"Did he go away to any hospital or sanatorium?"

"No, he couldn't bear the thought of a hospital. All his idea was to get down into the hop country. You see, that's where he come from. 'Polly,' he says, 'once I gets into the hop country I shall be alright.' What to do I didn't know. We went, but it didn't do no good, and I thanked the Lord when we got back safe. The amount he throwed up at times was something awful; though he'd be quite himself, so to speak, now and again."

"Did he stay at home until he died?"

"Well, the doctor would have him go to the Infirmary; for I had to go out, you see, to get a few coppers, and he couldn't be properly looked after. So he went, but he fretted all the time, and one morning I got a letter saying he was coming out. I wasn't best pleased, but I hadn't the heart to blame the poor feller."

"Did you get any help then?"

"The parish doctor didn't like him leaving like that, for, he said, it was all against his own interests, and so it was. And not a drop of milk or nourishment would he allow him, till one day he came here and I told him what I thought. 'You're a dirty starver,' I says, 'a dirty starver! And that pore feller lying there, and what can I get with only my little bit coming in?' But I will say he spoke quite nice to me."

"Did he have a separate bed when he came back?"

"Yes, Miss; slept in a bed under the window that I made up."

"All the time?"

"Yes, Miss. Well, it's no good telling lies, is it? One night he says: 'Polly, old girl, let me come in your bed, I'm so cold,' and I had to let him. It was not long after that, one morning, just as I was going to work, he called me back and tried to sit up. Then he wanted to say something and he couldn't, but he made a sign like I was one of the best and was gone. Hard, after twenty years, you know. And that very morning an order came for nourishment. When the doctor come I says: 'Take your dirty order back, a lot of good it'll do him now, won't it?'"

"The other children all well?"

"Yes, healthy as can be, all except that one. She's a bit small, but doesn't ail nothing."

"May I see the bedroom now?"

"Oh, yes, you can see it."

As they walked back to the kitchen the health visitor asked:

"Can you manage to keep on here?"

"Yes, my dear, as soon as I have paid off the funeral I shall get along all right. All the others is out to work. They ain't obliged to have it because their dad did, are they?"

"No, not at all. Keep your windows open and get as good food as you can. They need not have it. I can let myself out, so please don't come down to the door."

"Thank you, my dear, then I'll go on with my sewing. I'm just knocking up something a bit tasty to show respect when I go back to work."

## POETRY.

**The Wooden Pegasus.** By Edith Sitwell. (Blackwell, Oxford. 6s. net.)

Miss Sitwell has some very good ideas; the title of her volume of poems is one; that of "Solo for Ear Trumpet" is another. She knows just what she can do, and she does it with infinite care, with a good deal of wit, with a determination to write always unmistakable Edith Sitwellese. She never perhaps could, she certainly never does, write a poem fair in every part, and trust to it being not only a good poem but a characteristic one; she prefers always to write a characteristic poem and trust to it being good. On these ethics, self-imitation, repetition, a limited vocabulary and a pronounced, oblique, not to say squinting, outlook become desirable qualities to a writer. It is not therefore surprising that one is a little dazed after reading a dozen pages of her book.

Very few of these are new to us; they are reprinted from her earlier volumes and from *Wheels*. The poems here printed at the end were written before her style had crystallized; the more charming are derivative. "The Mother" is neither, it is very simple and sincere and moving, and recalls without imitating Richepin's "Il était un pauvre gars." Of those in the later manner "Apricot Jam," "The Satyr in the Periwig," "The Lady with the Sewing Machine," "Small Talk I," and "The Muslin Gown" are among the best. The latter is delightful:—

"With spectacles that flash,  
Striped foolscap hung with gold  
And silver bells that clash,  
(Bright rhetoric and cold),  
In owl-dark garments goes the Rain,  
Dull pedagogue, again,  
And in my orchard wood  
Small song-birds flock and fly,  
Like cherubs brown and good,  
When through the trees go I  
Knee-deep in dark-leaved sorrel,  
Cherries red as bells of coral  
Ring to see me come—  
I with my fruit-dark hair  
As dark as any plum,  
My summer gown as white as air  
And frilled as any quick bird's there,  
But oh, what shall I do?  
Old owl-wing's back from town—  
He's skipping through dark trees: I know  
He hates my summer gown!"

We cannot refrain from noting that despite her care to be herself, Miss Sitwell recalls Walter De la Mare, not only in her nursery rhyme "Old King Ptolemy," which is perhaps inevitable, all nursery rhymes being alike, but also in "Eventail," which ought to be called "Variation on 'When Queen Djenira.'"

E. B. C. J.

## WHEN WE HAVE GRIEVED.

By SUSAN MILES.

When we have grieved and barely known we've grieved:  
When we have looked—to look away again,  
Fear being buried very low,  
Scarcely perceived,  
Though stirring in the depths beneath our pain:  
When pain itself has been  
Something we hardly knew was there at all,  
Though it possessed us:  
—How passionate, strange, keen  
And sudden comes the answer to a call!  
One throws a wordless "tell me," and we tell.  
With aching, burning throat and heaving breast  
And voice that is not ours and yet is ours,  
We tell him what till then we did not know.  
We tell and, telling only, know it true;  
And, having told, find rest  
And feel it well.  
The cool tears come in showers.  
We have become content that it is so.  
And though we weep,  
Our sobbing breaths fall low,  
And soon we sleep.

## ELVERS.

By F. W. HARVEY.

Up the Severn river from Lent to Eastertide,  
Millions and millions of slithery elvers glide.  
Millions, billions, of glassy bright  
Little wormy fish,  
Chewed-string fish,  
Slithery dithery fish,  
In the dead of the night.

Up the gleaming river, miles and miles along,  
Lanterns burn yellow: old joke and song  
Echo as fishermen dip down a slight  
Wide frail net,  
Gauzy white net,  
Strong long net,  
In the water bright.

From the Severn river at daybreak come  
Hundreds of happy fishermen home,  
With bags full of elvers. Perhaps that's why  
We all love Lent,  
Lean, mean Lent,  
Fishy old Lent,  
When the elvers fry.

When elvers fry for breakfast, with egg chopped small,  
And bacon from the side that's hung upon the wall,  
When the dish is on the table, how the children shout,  
"O, what funny fish,  
Wormy squirmy fish,  
Weeny white fish,  
Our mother's dishing out!"

Eels have a flavour (and a baddish one) of oil.  
"When we have shuffled down their mortal coil,  
What dreams may come," what horrible nightmares neigh,  
Gallop or squat,  
Trample or trot,  
Vanishing not  
Till break of day!

"Never start nothing"—says the motto of our pub:  
"It might lead to summat"; that's (as Shakespeare said)  
the rub!  
So I'm not going to tell you, anyway, not yet,  
If the elvers are eels,  
White baby eels,  
Tiny shiny eels,  
Caught with a net.

Or another quite separate wriggly kind of grub,  
For I've seen more lights over that outside a pub  
Than ever you saw at Barton Fair, when Joe,  
The brown gipsy man,  
The tawny gipsy man,  
The tipsy gipsy man,  
Tried to smart up the show.

But anyway, good people, you may search the river over  
Before a breakfast tastier or cheaper you discover  
Than elvers, and if all the year the elver season lasted,  
I wouldn't mind a bit,  
I wouldn't care a bit,  
Not a little tiny bit,  
How long I fasted.

## DRAMA.

## "The Wandering Jew," at the New Theatre.

The Germans call him *der Ewige Jude*, the everlasting Jew, and really the name suits him better. For the most important thing about him is not so much his wandering, though he does wander prodigiously, as the fact that he cannot die. He insulted Christ on the way to Calvary, and as a punishment was condemned to wait on earth till he returned. This is generally taken to mean till the Millennium, and in most versions of the story the Jew still wanders about the earth, and will continue to do so till the Day of Judgement. His last appearance was in 1868 when he visited the Mormons, but one would never be surprised to meet him anywhere, at any moment. There are many versions of the story, however. According to one he became a Christian in the sixteenth century, and was allowed to die at the hands of the Spanish Inquisition as a reward. This is the version adopted by Mr. Temple Thurston in his play.

One calls it a play from habit. But really it belongs to that large class of plays which are not plays, but a set of scenes strung together. It is, of course, difficult to deal with a time of 1,600 odd years in two and a half hours. The author's attempts to give unity to his piece are much like the efforts of the preacher who halts at intervals in his wanderings to repeat the text—or the undergraduate who tries to persuade his tutor that there is some plan in his essay by ending up with the same sentence with which he began. There is, it is true, a certain connection between the first and the last act of this play, but there seems no particular reason why the two middle scenes should be represented from the life of the Wandering Jew in preference to any other of the adventures which must have occurred during the course of his long life. They seem to have no connection with that which precedes or follows, except, of course, that they show the Jew is still alive when in the ordinary course of nature he would have been dead.

They have this merit in common with the rest of the play—they form a very fine spectacle. The play forms a series of excellent tableaux—and with very little re-arrangement would do very well for the cinema stage. The producers are very generous in the matter of new scenes, backgrounds, and dresses, and if only they had a few live animals on the stage could compete with the producers of "Chu Chin Chow" and the "Garden of Allah."

The thread binding the multi-coloured scenes together is, of course, the everlasting Jew—Mr. Matheson Lang. "Ah, Peter, Peter, methinks I see pieces of the broken bottle sticking to thee yet." Remnants of the hero of "Othello" and "The Purple Mask" adhere all too plainly to the flowing garments of the massive Jew. Mr. Matheson Lang is not much like a Jew, but—what is more surprising—neither is Mr. Temple Thurston's Matathias. Only in one act does he display those qualities which we have been taught to regard as typical of his race. In the others—though he changes chameleon-like with the centuries—he is never really Jewish.

He begins—especially in Mr. Matheson Lang's hands—rather like Mr. Matheson Lang's Othello. The Matathias of Jerusalem, at the time of the Crucifixion, is a passionate though rather brutal husband with melodramatic manners. His wife is dying in a beautiful Eastern bedroom (though the actual bed seems to have been bought in Tottenham Court Road) with beautiful Eastern scenery outside. In his agony at her approaching death, and in a desperate attempt to get her cured, he is guilty of the fatal insult which prolongs his life. The wife dies—he attempts to commit suicide over her corpse—in vain. The dagger shivers into three pieces as soon as it touches his heart. As the curtain falls he realises his fate with a groan.

He reappears twelve hundred years later—but how changed. In everything except his faith the Jew has turned Christian. The Crusades are in full swing. An unknown knight appears at the tournament, his visor down, black plumes nodding above his helmet. He overthrows every knight who comes near him,

including the great Du Guesali. He also conquers the princess—and the second time they meet they make an assignation. She learns from one of his countrymen that he is uniformly successful in love as in war. Anyhow, the Princess comes to his tent at midnight—in a scene which is one of the most successful in the play. This is, of course, largely because the part of the heroine is played by Miss Lillah McCarthy. It suits her and the audience excellently. The unknown knight does himself very well. On his wanderings he carries a magnificent silk tent with rugs, cushions, couch, scent, and a beautiful dressing gown. The scene between him and Miss Lillah McCarthy can easily be imagined by those who saw her in a very similar scene in "Judith" last year. The lady does not remove any of her clothes however, and the ending is unexpected. She suddenly realises that her hero is the Wandering Jew and insists on leaving his tent. He refuses to let her go, however. In the midst of a struggle for the door a leper passes outside repeating his melancholy cry "Unclean, unclean." The Jew's arms fall to his sides and he allows the lady to go without more ado. It was clever of the lady to discover the secret—for there was little in this fine son of Mars and Venus which would have led one to suspect that he was an outcast Hebrew.

The racial characteristics developed rapidly in the next two centuries, however. Matathias's next appearance is in Sicily in the thirteenth century. He has given up wandering for the moment (a century or so), and has given up the sword and the pursuit of strange ladies for good. He is now the typical medieval Jew—a member of a small, despised, and vastly wealthy clique. His locked chests are full of gold, silver, jewels, and silks. He has also become a devoted husband again, as in his Jerusalem days. His only links with the past are the sword with which he tried to stab himself in the first century, which he still keeps, and the emerald which the crusading lady gave him in the twelfth century. He also makes constant references to the length of his life, and that for the last 1,300 years he has watched the progress of Christianity. Except for this we should find it difficult to recognise in the wily merchant of Palermo the passionate dashing knight of two centuries ago. His marriage in the thirteenth century ends unhappily, as in the first. His wife falls under the influence of a pure but jealous friar, who persuades her to become a Christian. She passes out of the shop up the steps of the convent on the hill behind, and the Jew is left thinking it over.

He thinks it over for two centuries. His next appearance is in Seville at the time of the Inquisition. Again a complete revolution has taken place in his character. He has entirely given up trade. The love of money has left him—he cares not for women, except in a benevolent way. No one in the town suspects him of being a Jew. He is a doctor of medicine, an angel of mercy to rich and poor alike. Fifteen hundred years of observation of Christianity, and especially the example of one of his wives two centuries ago, have made him a better Christian than the Jesuits of the Inquisition. Indeed, the purity of his life and doctrine is too much for sixteenth century Spain. They tie him to the stake, and he meets his death in a most realistic fire.

This is a very serious play. The doors, as has been announced in the Press beforehand, are closed at the beginning of each act, so that late-comers have to wait until the fall of the curtain before entering. The subjects treated, especially in the first and last acts, are such as could only be treated solemnly or blasphemously. I do not think the play is blasphemous. Yet somehow it is difficult to take this Jew seriously. His melodramatic attitude, his constant and amazing changes of character, his habit of referring to his own experiences during the last eleven and thirteen hundred years, make it difficult. But he provides a good evening's entertainment all the same.

D. H.

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

By M. E. ROACH.

28/12/17.

The A.C. sent for me this morning and told me Miss Logan was returning here and that I am to go back to my last Area next week. I am much relieved. So is the A.C. I expect I shall be sent to open those villas I told you about near my last camp, or to another place that is to be opened shortly near by.

Our party was a tremendous success. I gave permission for paper dresses to be worn over cotton overalls. Each girl had to bring her frock to me to be censored the day before. They were extraordinarily pretty. One was a blue Dutch doll, another a Queen of Hearts, a black and white Folly beautifully made, a red and yellow chrysanthemum. Several who had had no time to make frocks made paper flowers and put them in their hair. I can't tell you how pretty they all looked. I think I have never seen a prettier roomful. When all the guests had arrived eight girls stood round the Christmas tree and sang carols. They all had good voices and the effect was exceedingly pretty.

I have not explained that Miss Moberly and Miss Young of the Y.W.C.A. were responsible for the tree and the decorations of the hut. In fact I have begun at the wrong end. The guests came to tea first in the girls' mess room. Forewoman Hughes had made a most wonderful spread. There were two cakes that I don't think could have been beaten by Bond Street. They had very pretty ornaments, and I had to give each cake a name, and the two who guessed right had the ornaments to keep. After tea we went into the Y.W.C.A., which is just finished, for the dance. Miss Moberly and Miss Young had been working for days to get it all nice. They provided a present for every girl and a packet of cigarettes for each man.

29/12/17.

Before I leave here I ought to tell you something about the work the girls do. Some of them work among the Chinese in the docks. Their work is to check stores as the Chinese unload from vessels and pile up in hangars; then each evening the piles are undone and stuff is placed in hangars across the way ready to go "up the line." It is counted out carefully, enough of everything to serve a division (which is scheduled as a "Section" and no number given on the sheets) for one day. The Chinese pile it up ready and the girl comes round and checks it. Some of the girls are nervous of the Chinese, and then they are no good at all in the docks, as they have to be shepherded from their offices whenever they want to move. It is a real cruelty to send a girl here if she has that unaccountable racial fear which certain people do suffer from. There is one such girl in my sick bay now who is suffering from nothing else, poor child. I am putting through for a transfer for her.

We have a girl from a Yorkshire factory, with a mass of untidy fair hair, who is exceptionally good with Chinks. She rules a gang of twenty-five. They obey her absolutely, and she cuffs them when they bite through the sacks to steal handfuls of sugar. She has picked up enough Chinese to order them to fetch a barrow or anything else she wants. Beyond "Kharkee gurrl no goodee-la. Chink goodee-la," these gentlemen speak no English at all. They like this girl and obey her better than a sergeant. I have asked if she can be promoted to an N.C.O. The O.C. says she certainly ought to be. She is doing the work of one.

I believe it is very important for us to go to the women's places of work and really see after conditions there, and all the officers who showed me over the docks said the same, but in some places rules seem to forbid it. I suppose the idea is that to have some old hen cackling about the offices would be an awful nuisance sometimes. One can see that. But the women have appreciated my going. They say no other Administrator

has done so before, and it does make them feel one cares about their job.

I told the girls at roll call that I had two bits of news for them, one was rather sad, but the other was pleasant. I was going away, which made me feel sorry as I had just begun to know them, but I was glad to say that Miss Logan was returning, which I knew would please them, as they were all so much attached to her and she to them. A murmur of surprise from nearly a hundred mouths, and one elderly woman burst into tears. I said "Good-night" and came away. In a while one of the senior clerks came in to say the others had asked her to come up to tell me they had been too surprised to say anything because they had begun to feel I was settled here for good, and might the girls just came in to see me?

After that for more than an hour they kept coming in in ones or twos to say how sorry they were. They put it awfully nicely too, saying of course they would be glad to have Miss Logan again, but they did wish I could stay too.

They all said that for the first three or four days they felt they would never get used to me, but after that I had done so much that had made them feel I was like a mother more than anyone else they had had.

1/1/18.

Such a topping night!

At 6 p.m. I was nursing a rheumatic headache in a great coat with a V.A.D. in attendance when I was rung up and asked did I know I was expected at an Officers' Mess? I said I could not go out as I had a bad head.

Peace. Then another ring and a frantic cry, "Oh, Roach, do be a sport and come if you can crawl. The A.C. is in bed, the U.A. here is engaged, and you *must* turn up."

I asked what and where it was, and was told it was a sort of social evening and would be over about 11 or 11.30.

I took Giles, the V.A.D., to bring the numbers up. I changed my tunic but didn't bother about my hair, as I thought I could keep my hat on. Giles and I simply sprinted the mile to Queen Mary's Camp, collected Webb, Douche and three officers and two cars, and drove some miles off to the A.S.C. Mess, which lives in a lovely house in a fine old garden. There were twenty-six men and four of us!

They had arranged for a dressing-room for us, and provided even eau de Cologne and face powder! Then it began to dawn on me that my hair must be on show. So I had to do it.

A very fine dinner, and a splendid band. I sat on the Colonel's right in place of the A.C. who couldn't come. Picture me with a rheumatic head drinking soup which was simply sherry with a dash of stock, champagne, port, and finally, at midnight, a glass of punch!

Great distress when it was discovered that I did not dance. But the surplus men danced vigorously with each other, and I talked to the few who couldn't. They were very jolly, some of them only boys. Ever and anon they would take one to visit the dug-out (this took the place of stairs for sitting out), quite a work of art, with forms to sit on, a lighted stove, and a book-case. The A.S.C. can make themselves comfortable.

It was a most perfect night, snow falling at intervals to keep off the Zeps., and a bright moon. A lovely ride home. Two officers saw us safely into camp. They had to hoist Giles up to the top of our fence, as the Forewoman entrusted with the key had gone to sleep. Giles found her clasping the key in her hand, her head on the table, fast asleep. Poor thing, it was a shame to keep her up so late.

(To be continued.)

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## ENGLISH WOMEN AND AMRITSAR.

MADAM,—The letters appearing in your columns on the above topic are one-sided and misleading. There is another side. I have lived for seventeen years in India, in close touch with its people, and know their attitude is not that represented by your correspondents. To blame the people as a whole (316 millions) for the riots in Amritsar, and to declare that the honour and lives of English women are not safe unless a General Dyer, with "Prussian frightfulness," mows down the mob, is to make a bad matter worse, and to inflame racial feeling. The English women in India who have championed General Dyer as their saviour have created a new difficulty for the Government, whose verdict they question. They not only add to the perplexities of those who rule, but have suggested to the minds of their Indian servants, upon whom they are very dependent, that the "Mem-Sahibs" are afraid of them. They have awakened the suspicions of British missionaries whose lives are devoted to the welfare of India, and thus made their work more difficult. So much is this realised that many missionaries have written public disclaimers of sympathy with the champions of General Dyer and of martial law.

In a riot all women are in danger, Indian as well, and in greater numbers than English women. To exploit the idea that the latter alone were in fear of their lives from vagabonds is unworthy. If General Dyer was a saviour, he proved to be a saviour of *all* alike, and English ladies need not pretend to the world that the Indian is everywhere and always a vagabond, from whom they need hourly protection, in the face of the fact that English women have lived for 150 years in the country, scattered and alone, or in handfuls, but always in safety.

F. S. HALLOWES.

MADAM,—General Dyer's critics assume, without as far as I can see any justification, that his actions at Amritsar were influenced by the race of people with which he had to deal.

Those of them who are anxious to foster unrest in India will, of course, continue to make this assumption, but it seems to me a great pity that the real issue should be obscured in this manner. The facts, put briefly, appear to be that a part of the British Empire, for admittedly sufficient reasons, was put under martial law, and the inhabitants warned not to assemble in crowds.

This warning seems to have been understood by the people concerned. In spite of this, however, a large crowd assembled, bringing weapons of all sorts.

I have not the slightest doubt that in these circumstances a man of General Dyer's type would consider himself justified in using the methods he did against a crowd of any nationality and that he would have treated an English revolt in the same manner.

Those of us who, in default of special knowledge, feel that it is best to accept the official view that General Dyer erred on the side of severity ought, I believe, in the interests of the Empire, to refuse to allow this unhappy occasion to be used by separatists as an example of racial hate.

I do not mean to imply that the writers of the letters to THE WOMAN'S LEADER on either side are enemies of the Empire, but I do think that both sides, by adopting a quite unjustified view of General Dyer's motives, are tending to widen the breach between ourselves and our Indian fellow-subjects.

CICELY LEADLEY BROWN.

## SCOTLAND AND PROHIBITION.

MADAM,—With reference to your article on "Scotland and Prohibition" in Notes and News of August 27th, whilst it is no doubt an excellent idea that working people should be given an opportunity of expressing their opinion at the polls in connection with Local Veto, yet they perhaps do not realise that the Scotch Act is quite undemocratic.

No law is democratic—or practical—which permits one section of the community to control the *personal* habits and tastes of another section. Drunken people are a public nuisance and are dealt with by existing laws. Why should the moderate drinker—comprising the bulk of the population—be penalised?

A vote is to be taken to decide whether the licences shall remain the same, be reduced, or be abolished altogether. It is conceivable that the worker might like his present drinking den turned into a café with seats, tables, music, food, and drinks of all kinds, alcoholic and non-alcoholic. Why not ask him? The Act would permit alcoholic beverages to be served in hotels or restaurants with food. How many such houses are there in working-class districts? The very essence of the Act is to deprive Tom, Dick, or Harry of his glass of beer, whilst those in a higher social scale enjoy their liquor unmolested; they can always order in bulk; what poor, or middle-class person can afford to do so?

Let me make it quite clear that I hold no brief for the drunkard; I am glad to see from statistics that drunkenness is steadily decreasing and has been for many years.

Restrictive measures do not further true temperance, but foster drug taking, drinking of deleterious substances such as methylated spirit and wood alcohol; they also bring the law into contempt, as witness the United States and some of our Colonies. I have recently returned from New York, so know whereof I am speaking. The teetotal doctrine is upheld by many worthy people—so-called Christians. It is not a Christian doctrine, but a Mahometan.

Hoping that you will print this letter and that we shall get expressions of opinion from other women on this important subject.

M. M. W.

## GARDENS IN DEVASTATED FRANCE.

MADAM,—This is an appeal to readers who own a garden, who love a garden, or who own or love a child.

In other words, therefore, it is—is it not?—an appeal to every reader. By the authorisation of the Ministère de l'Instruction Publique and under the direction of the French Inspectorate of Education, The League for Little Gardens, known in France as L'Œuvre du Petit Jardin de la France Dévastée, aims primarily at the reconstruction and help of school gardens throughout the devastated areas of France.

We have already appealed, not without success, to many of the schools of Great Britain, asking that schools possessing school gardens will adopt these ruined gardens, and promote not only their recovery from among ruins but their permanent encouragement, with gifts of seeds and fruit-trees in season. Beside this material help and by its means, we want to promote the sympathy and friendliness between French and English children (and their teachers) which is so essential to the future of the Anglo-French alliance.

Beyond this, there are heart-breaking conditions to alleviate in the case of such gardens as those of the Horticultural Societies of France, whose communal plantations of fruit, vegetables and flowers, and the purposes they served, represented some of the best features in the social and economic life of cities.

I do not believe that anyone could remain without being touched (and to the point of helping the effort of our League!) by the sight, for example, of the gas-blasted skeletons which now replace the shady elm-trees in the Horticultural Society's Garden at Verdun, under which busy mothers rested while their young children played; or of the trained fruit-trees of that garden, or a similar one, of the Horticultural Society of Reims, both used for valuable demonstrations to the townsfolk and both now unproductive after five years of war. Nor, worse still, by the sight of the village school-garden, formerly worked by its children with so much benefit in the districts, for instance, of Péronne or of Cambrai, now to be seen with the ruins of the former school building covering the garden ground and the wooden *baraque* school forlornly by its side.

If Le Petit Jardin de la France Dévastée (Œuvre de la Guerre), working as it is on French lines and under an Anglo-French Committee, but *as yet without funds for working expenses*, is to fulfil its aims, it *must* have the money to enable it to do so.

It is the moment at which many readers—and many children—are enjoying their own gardens in the country.

Has not Britain any thank-offering still due which she can make in direct fashion to the country who bore the brunt of the Allies' war, and for whom in consequence devastation and misery are taking the place of a smiling countryside and fruitful garden plots?

Will every reader of THE WOMAN'S LEADER send us *something*—the most possible, little or big—but at least *something*, for a Fund to help us carry on this special piece of reconstruction in the ravaged regions of France—the regions whose people (let it not be forgotten) are being simply heroic in the efforts they are making to help themselves?

Cheques, foreign money orders, &c., should be made payable to Miss Helen Colt, Secrétaire Générale, Le Petit Jardin de la France Dévastée, 135, rue Blomet, Paris (XV<sup>e</sup>).

HELEN COLT.

## THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN.

MADAM,—May I be granted sufficient space to confess that in speaking of the "female diaconate" and the "male diaconate" in the last issue of THE WOMAN'S LEADER, I have, I find, added impetus to the already prevalent loose thinking on this subject. Many speak as if the Lambeth Conference have suggested that a fourth order of the Ministry be created. We should then have, they argue, bishops, priests, deacons, and deaconesses in the Church in a descending order of status.

To save confusion, I think it would have been better to have written of the diaconate, using the word irrespective of sex, and to have spoken of the woman deacon as we now commonly speak of the man deacon.

There are but three orders, and until both men and women who are ordained to the diaconate are granted equal privileges while performing similar duties, we shall still feel there is something lacking.

E. LOUIE ACRES.

## WOMEN J.P.s.

MADAM,—Out of eighty-six new J.P.s. appointed on the recommendation of the Lord Lieutenant of Fife nine are women.

Clayne Anstruther-Gray, Kilmany.  
Dame Helen Hermione Munro Ferguson, Kirkcaldy.  
Mary Bentinck Smith, LL.D., St. Andrews.  
Eliza Watson, Cowdenbeath.  
Elona Beck, Dunfermline.  
Catherine Henrietta Adamina Anstrutha-Duncan, Wormit-on-Tay.  
Agnes Elder, Cupar.  
Dame Harriet Tedley Herkless, St. Andrews.  
Agnes Georgina Weatherly Macintosh, Pittenweem.

It is interesting that this list includes names other than those put forward by the Lord Chancellor's Committee and nominated in the same way as men.

MARY BURY, Edinburgh National Society for Equal Citizenship.



## REPORTS.

## THE SUMMER SCHOOL FROM AN OUTPOST POINT OF VIEW.

The Summer School is now over, and one can draw breath, impossible during those crowded hours of glorious life. An average of five lectures per day, with a demonstration of P.R. thrown in as an extra, does not indicate any tendency towards post-enfranchisement slackness among feminists, even though a Recreation Committee, organised among the students, tempered the wind somewhat. A delightful charabanc excursion to Abingdon, punting on the river, sing-songs at night, and a mock election, with speeches from the candidates and heckling from the audience, relieved the strain of serious work and promoted that incessant racket of chatter which was such a feature of the meeting. There may have been "silence in Heaven" for the space of half-an-hour, but there was never silence in Ruskin College for one half minute from the very dewy morning to the rather late evening.

The college was an ideal meeting place, as Miss Rathbone pointed out in her address of welcome. It is the outcome of an effort of the men and women of the Labour movement to educate themselves for the fit discharge of their duties as citizens. Mrs. Sanderson Furness, wife of the Principal, who was a welcome guest one day, told how it does provide a genuine co-education of working men and women. The Summer School is a recognition on the part of feminist workers that they similarly need education if they are to play their part in the future. The college was generously placed at the disposal of the N.U.S.E.C., and there cannot be too high an appreciation of the efforts of the staff to provide for the comfort of the students.

And how delightful was the meeting with such a cheerful band of fellow workers. Cheerfulness was perhaps the dominant note of the gathering, naturally so, for there was a fair sprinkling of those "under thirty." Four were students from Holloway College, a precedent which might be followed with advantage by other women's colleges. Family groups were there—two daughters with their mother, and another with her father, a commentary on those far-off forgotten prophecies of the red ruin and the breaking up of families sure to follow enfranchisement. Here were mother and daughter and father and daughter, come to study the new problems of the new world and to enjoy that comradeship of men and women which expresses the true spirit of the feminist movement.

The students were cosmopolitan also. Sweden, Japan, Holland, France, America, Australia, Canada, and Ireland, were represented, and all took an active part in the discussions.

Public meetings attracted much interest even though Oxford, in the latter days of summer, is not generally over ready to turn out at night to hear speeches. Men and women were there in equal numbers, especially perhaps for the singularly impressive lecture given by Sir George Paish on the economic position in Europe. Indeed, the subjects during the first week were evidence of the fallacy of another ancient prophecy, that feminists would after enfranchisement endeavour to score off the men. This is only the second Summer School of the N.U.S.E.C., and it was occupied with the earnest study of ways for helping the common cause of men and women. Thus the first week was devoted not to the special programme of the Union as a whole, but to the vital points in it. The course on Problems of Population, with the lecture on Equal Pay for Equal Work, dealt with the most complex problems of our industrial life, and that on Economics of Domestic Life formed an introduction to the study of the League of Nations, the one hope of a distracted world.

Well, it is over, and outpost work must be taken up again. But how good to have met so many fresh young fellow workers who were so cheerfully sure that the work is intensely worth doing! It is hard always to keep that spirit alive, to hold fast to the certainty that in spite of all setbacks and apparent failures there will be success at last, when women will have made good their claim for equal citizenship. That is why outpost workers owe such a debt of gratitude to the Headquarters which organises these meetings, where the word "All's well" can be passed from one to another. If this were the only result of the School, it would be well worth the infinite trouble it must have cost—and then think of the wealth of learning set before the student!

DORA MELONE.

## Obituary.

## DEATH OF MRS. ANNIE C. RAMSAY.

Suffragists will regret to hear of the death on September 14th, 1920, at 4, Wentworth Villas, Plymouth, of Mrs. A. C. Ramsay. She was an energetic worker for the past thirteen years in the Suffrage cause. During the great Suffrage pilgrimage of 1913 she did the feat of walking from Land's End to London, in spite of the fact that she was beginning to suffer from a heart affection which ultimately caused her death. Her first speech was made at Land's End, and her last in the great Hyde Park demonstration in which the pilgrimage culminated. Her joy when the vote was won was great and sincere, and she rejoiced at the portents which show the great part women will play in the nation's councils. During the war, when the work for the vote was suspended, she worked for the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, and through her own unaided regular appeals in the local press raised over £550 for the Women's Imperial Hospital Unit and the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals, beside securing contributions in kind of many thousands of articles for use in hospitals.

She was a member of the Plymouth Branch N.U.W.S.S., and subsequently of the Plymouth Citizens' Association until the time of her death.

Her good influence, kindness of heart, and willingness to help all who required aid will cause a void which will be hard to fill.

## WOMEN'S NATIONAL COMMITTEE

TO SECURE

### STATE PURCHASE & CONTROL OF THE LIQUOR TRADE.

## MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE:—

Lady HENRY SOMERSET, *Chairman.*

Miss LENA ASHWELL, O.B.E.      Mrs. HUDSON LYALL, L.C.C.  
 Viscountess ASTOR, M.P.      Lady ISABEL MARGESSON.  
 Miss THELMA CAZALET.      Miss A. M. MERCER.  
 The LADY EMMOTT.      Lady CYNTHIA MOSLEY.  
 Dame KATHARINE FURSE, G.B.E.      Miss B. PICTON-TURBERVILLE.  
 Mrs. EDWIN GRAY.      Mrs. OLIVER STRACHEY.  
 Lady HOWARD.      Miss ELIZ. H. STURGE.  
 Mrs. H. B. IRVING.      Dr. JANE WALKER.  
 Miss A. M. KINDERSLEY.      Mrs. RUSSELL WALKER.

On Wednesday, September 8th, the Trades Union Congress at Portsmouth carried with an overwhelming majority the following resolution in favour of State Purchase of the Liquor Trade:—

"That this Congress recognising the existence of the social evil and the national waste caused by the excessive consumption of alcoholic liquors, and also the economic exploitation and political corruption associated with the private ownership of the drink industry, affirms its belief in the policy of eliminating private capitalism from the industry, establishing national ownership, and instituting full local control whereby localities shall be entitled to prohibit the sale of liquor within their own boundaries, to reduce the number of licences, and to determine, within the fundamental conditions presented by statute, the manner in which the public places of refreshment and social intercourse in their areas shall be organised and controlled."

The speakers laid special stress on the political power of the brewing industry, pointing out that it was more strongly entrenched than ever before.

It will be seen that the resolution contains a proposal for full powers of Local Option. While the smaller Conference of Labour at Scarborough stood for a measure of Local Option, without indicating how it could come into force, the greater representative body of Trades Unions puts Local Option on a practical footing by recognising that only where the trade has been purchased by the country can such restrictive or veto measures be put into effect in any locality. The Labour Party is, therefore, once more pledged to support the public ownership of the Drink Trade. If any trade at all should pass into the control of the people for the good of the people it is surely this trade of intoxicants.

One looks with some suspicion at the eager efforts of the Trade to come into line with the public outcry for reform. For some months public houses have been displaying tempting notices of sandwiches and cold repasts on their front windows, and now a large brewing firm has set out to build Ideal Public Houses in the provinces. A leading architect, who sent in the prize design, will be employed, and the new houses are designed so as to provide rest and refreshment all day, to both men and women, not merely during the limited hours when alcohol may be sold.

This is excellent on the surface. If, however, one remembers who are the owners, and proprietors, and managers of these ideal refreshment houses it is only natural to conclude that home wares will be pushed, and that the manager's tenure of office will depend on his sales of the special commodity in which his employers are interested.

We must strain every effort to impress on the Government the necessity of withdrawing this dangerous trade from private ownership. The public conscience is easily lulled to rest, and may fail to distinguish between Reformed Houses, introduced for the people's own good, and the elimination of drunkenness by the absence of monetary stimulus in selling drink, and those other Reformed Houses, which are made attractive in order to yet further increase the value of brewery shares and put larger dividends into the pockets of the trade.

Speakers to address women's meetings on State Purchase will be gladly arranged for free of all expense.

Women to the Organising Secretary, Miss M. Cotterell, Women's National Committee to Secure State Purchase and Control of the Liquor Trade, Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

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# NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

## THE SUMMER SCHOOL—RUSKIN COLLEGE, OXFORD.

### REPORT OF LECTURES.

Perhaps the series of lectures which made the widest appeal at the Summer School has been that on the League of Nations, admirably inaugurated by Miss Helen Ward by an account of the Covenant of the League. Miss Ward summed up the position by describing the Covenant as an imperfect instrument in imperfect hands, but claimed that it is susceptible of amendment and that it provides promising material on which to begin the great work of Internationalism. This was followed by a most interesting lecture by Miss Currey, O.B.E., describing what the League had actually accomplished during the eight months of its existence, and some of the tasks which lay before it in the immediate future. She realised that it might seem that the League was working very slowly, but claimed that it was gradually creating an International bias and forming an International habit of thought. Mr. Arnold Foster, who was a member of the Blockade Delegation to the Economic Council, in a third lecture, described the economic weapon at the disposal of the League. He pointed out that economic pressure is no mere humane substitute for war, and that the very fact that it has none of the visible horror and spectacular effect of war, but works silently behind the scenes in the homes of the people, makes it a deadly and dangerous instrument, to be used only in dire necessity by a body which is more thoroughly democratic, representative, and international than the League is at present.

Sir George Paish, in a well-attended public lecture, outlined the reasons for the economic chaos of Europe. He proposed as a solution the issue of League of Nations Bonds, to which each nation should subscribe according to its capacity, and suggested a scale of contributions on this basis. The tone of his lecture was somewhat pessimistic, and he indicated that much would depend on whether the newly-enfranchised women voters could be roused to use sufficient pressure to compel the adoption of vigorous economic measures such as he had outlined.

Miss Rosamond Smith explained the position of women in the League and the reasons which had led to the proposal of a Women's Bureau within the League. She dealt with the objection to this proposal, and urged that pressure should be put on the Government to put women on all Commissions of the League, and to send one woman representative to the first meeting of the Assembly in Geneva this year.

Miss Royds' contribution was a deeply interesting historical sketch of earlier attempts to preserve the peace of the world.

Sir Sydney Olivier, K.C.M.G., in another public lecture, explained provision for the case of mandatories under the League. He said that the promises made to the backward races that they should choose their own mandatories had been broken when the Covenant was actually drafted, and that these races had lost faith in the white man and even in the British. It was impossible for English women to consider the breach of faith that had taken place without humiliation and bitterness.

The course was concluded by a second lecture by Miss Ward, who gave practical suggestions for education and propaganda all over the country.

During both weeks the lectures arranged at six o'clock in the evening attracted a surprising proportion of students who, after a strenuous morning's work, might reasonably have claimed long afternoons on the river. During the first week the lecturer was Mrs. McKillop, on the "Economics of Domestic Life." She dealt with the problem of high prices, its causes and remedies, and described recent endeavours to control prices and to influence or control consumption and the international aspect of the problem. An excellent discussion followed each lecture. The second week at the same hour, the subject was the "Administration of Justice." Sir Sydney Olivier, in a stimulating lecture, discussed the defects of the present penal system. He quoted the words of the Home Secretary that the object of prison is not to reform the prisoner, but to punish him, and discussed the motives underlying our penal system. In conclusion, he outlined the most hopeful directions of reform. Mrs. Ross gave an admirably clear summary of the machinery of the administration of justice, and indicated the chief defects of the police-court system, and suggested lines by which improvement might be effected. Mr. Cecil Leeson was specially interesting on the Probation System, of which he has had personal experience when acting as a Probation Officer in Birmingham.

The course of lectures on the "State and the Citizen" continued throughout the whole fortnight. It is impossible to report this adequately in such a short space. Much interest was aroused by the able lectures by Mr. and Mrs. Simon, of Manchester, on "Recent Municipal Experiments in Housing and Public Health." Mrs. Rackham, J.P., whose presence at the School was welcomed by all, gave two inspiring lectures on "Ideals of Elementary and Adult Education," and Miss Mercier, in a thoughtful lecture, developed the far-reaching possibilities of "Continuation Education" under the Fisher Act. Miss Eckhard treated the question of Infant Welfare Work in an entirely fresh and unexpected way, and aroused great interest by her searching criticisms.

It must not be imagined that though a wide choice of interesting subjects was offered to our students that our own programme, and especially our immediate programme, was neglected. The course of eleven lectures on the "Economic Independence of Women," which extended throughout the whole time, covered all the points on our programme, except the League of Nations, dealt with separately, and the "Equal Franchise and Women in Parliament," which cropped up repeatedly under other headings. This course was the most largely attended, and there can be no doubt that it will result in further study on the questions involved during the winter.

These lectures were supplemented by two public lectures, one (reported

on last week) by Mrs. Stocks on "Equal Pay for Equal Work," and this week by a lecture in the Town Hall on "National Endowment of the Family," by Miss Eleanor Rathbone. On this occasion the chair was taken by Mr. J. L. Stocks, of St. John's College, and a statement was made by Miss Rosamond Smith, explaining the aims and objects of the Union, and the fact that the Council was not unanimous on the subject of the evening's lecture. Miss Rathbone discussed the necessity for a change in the present system of paying for the rearing of future generations out of the wages of industrial fathers, and described the scheme which had been drafted by a Committee of which she was a member, and also the scheme embodied in the New South Wales Maintenance of Children Act. In connection with this course, Mrs. Oliver Strachey was fortunately able to give her lecture on "Women in the Professions," postponed from the first week. She described the position of women in the Civil Service as most unsatisfactory, and stated that intelligent women are beginning to fight shy of the Civil Service. She also gave an account of the means of entry into a great variety of occupations.

To turn to more technical matters, Miss Hartop's excellently planned Speakers' Class was much appreciated, and many of her students took courage to ask questions and join in discussions.

Three lectures, in addition to that generously given by the Proportional Representation Society, dealt with Election Work. Mrs. Oliver Strachey gave a most amusing and suggestive lecture on the Procedure of Parliamentary Elections, and Mrs. Ross, Hon. Secretary of the Women's Local Government Society, gave a lecture on Local Government elections, which was of especial value to many of our students who are about to enter into Municipal contests in November.

Several hours each week were given to the discussion of problems of organisation, and perhaps the most interesting and productive of all our meetings was that devoted to the consideration of the next steps forward with regard to our Parliamentary and local work in connection with our immediate programme for the year.

The last evening of the School, in the regrettable absence of Dr. James Glover, who was detained by illness in Holland, was devoted to a general summing up of the fortnight's proceedings. Short speeches were made by the President and officers on the work that lies before us this winter, and the School was brought to a close by votes of thanks to our Oxford members, particularly Mrs. Stocks and Miss Deneke, who had done so much to ensure the success of the School; to the authorities and staff of Ruskin College for their courtesy and unflinching kindness; to lecturers outside our own circle (responded to by Sir Sydney Olivier, who fortunately was present) who had so generously given us their services; and last, but not least, the Oxford Press for the admirable and full reports which they had given us.

On looking back over the lectures a few distinct impressions emerge—the high quality of the lectures, the good average attendance of students, which ranged from a rare minimum of about forty (usually on days when some "extra" had been tucked in) to seventy or seventy-five; the well-sustained discussions, particularly on matters connected with our own programme; and lastly, the interest shown by the Oxford public even at a time when, as we were told, "everyone was away."

### THE LIGHTER SIDE OF THE SCHOOL.

The first week was so full of life and fun that it seemed impossible that the second week could reach the same standard, especially in view of the departure of the Irish contingent who had added so much to our gaiety, but thanks to the efforts of the Recreation Committee and its hard-worked Secretaries (who, it might be mentioned, were students of Holloway College), there was no lack of pleasure and amusement. St. Giles's Fair, an historic Oxford event, fortunately coincided with our visit, and our younger students at least got a good deal of fun out of it. A delightful informal party was arranged by the students of the School, when Miss Buchanan (Chairman of our Glasgow Society) took the chair, and in a most humorous speech congratulated and thanked the Executive and the Directors for the arrangements of the School. Short addresses were given by Mrs. Gauntlett, Miss Jacobsson, and Mrs. Torry. The students took advantage of this occasion to present Miss Hurlston, the acting housekeeper of Ruskin College with a despatch case, as a small outward expression of their gratitude to her for her thoughtful kindness to all who came in contact with her, whether resident in Ruskin or not.

But perhaps most delightful of all was the garden party given by our Hon. Treasurer, Miss H. C. Deneke, and her sister. After the strenuous labour of the week, it was very refreshing to spend a restful hour in a beautiful garden and listen to Schumann's "Carnaval," so beautifully played and amusingly explained by Miss Margaret Deneke.

### PHOTOGRAPH OF THE SUMMER SCHOOL.

The students of the School were photographed in Worcester Gardens during the second week of the School. Copies of this photograph, which is admitted on all hands to be excellent, may be had from Headquarters, 48, 6d. mounted, 3s. 6d. unmounted—also picture postcards, 6d. each.

### PRESS REPORTS.

Full and excellent reports appeared in the Oxford weekly papers. The *Oxford Chronicle* for September 3rd and September 10th may be had from Headquarters—2d. each (including postage, 3d.).

### PERSONAL.

Many members of our Societies, and certainly all students of the Summer School, will wish to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Stocks on the birth of a little daughter on Sunday, September 12th.

## COMING EVENTS.

### LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

SEPTEMBER 19.  
At Christ Church, Warminster.  
Speaker: Canon Bickersteth Ottley. 11.30 a.m.

SEPTEMBER 20.  
At Headquarters of Peckham Sisterhood.  
Speaker: Mrs. Graham Lacey. Afternoon.  
At Queen's Hall, Queen's Road, Wimbledon.  
Speaker: Canon Bickersteth Ottley. 8 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 21.  
Brentwood Labour Party.  
Speaker: Miss Cryan. Evening.  
At Headquarters of Newcastle Sisterhood.  
Speaker: Lady Lawson-Tancred. Afternoon.  
At Dulwich Grove Congregational Church.  
Speaker: Bertram Morday, M.A. 8 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 22.  
Caerphilly Free Church Council.  
Speaker: Capt. Morgan Thomas, O.B.E.

SEPTEMBER 24.  
At Ilford.  
Speaker: Sir George Paish. 3.30 p.m.  
At Dyke and Normandy Women's Institutes.  
Speaker: Miss Currey, O.B.E.

SEPTEMBER 25.  
At 41, Crest Hill, Highbury.  
Speaker: Miss Currey, O.B.E.

### WOMEN'S NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE STATE PURCHASE AND CONTROL OF THE LIQUOR TRADE.

SEPTEMBER 20.  
At Lecture Hall, Wesleyan Church, Norbury.  
Subject: State Purchase as a Temperance Policy.  
Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell. 3 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 22.  
At Women's League of Union, Oakroom, Kingsway Hall.  
Subject: The State Purchase of the Liquor Trade.  
Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell. 8 p.m.

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

SEPTEMBER 30.  
At "The Holt," Rectory Road, Beckenham.  
The Council and Students of the College At Home.  
"A Pageant of Women's Work," written and acted by the Students, will be performed in the garden. Tea 4.15 p.m. Pageant 5 p.m.  
For invitation card apply (before September 25th) to Miss Walters, W.W.C.A., 26, George Street, Hanover Square, W.1.

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