

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

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Contents :

	PAGE		PAGE
NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER	339	PROBATION WORK	340
THE ELECTION AND AFTER	339	CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS	342

NOTES AND NEWS

Woman Suffrage Bill in France.

The hopes of French women who had counted upon the passing of the Suffrage Bill in the Senate were crushed on Tuesday, when the Senators, by 456 votes to 134, declined to proceed to the consideration of the articles of the Bill. It is understood that the Commission which had been dealing with the subject urged the Senate to refuse to give women the vote.

Adult Suffrage Bill in Ireland.

A draft bill for the establishment of adult suffrage was brought forward by the Minister for Local Government (Mr. Blythe) and discussed last week, in readiness for its immediate enactment when the Constitution receives final ratification. Every citizen of full age, man or woman, will be admitted to the franchise under this bill. By enfranchising for the first time women under thirty years of age it gives the utmost possible weight to a Republican vote, and removes Mr. De Valera's most valid objection to an election. It will be remembered that the Government has pledged itself to submit the settlement to a full plebiscite of the people at the earliest possible moment. This bill is brought forward in pursuance of that pledge.

Mrs. Fawcett's Message to our Readers.

Mrs. Fawcett has sent the following message to our readers:—

"MADAM,—I am sending you a few lines because I am so very anxious that our circle of readers, should not be unduly depressed by the defeat at the polls last Wednesday of all the women candidates but two. These two were in themselves a great encouragement, because they were not merely elected but re-elected. That is to say, where women candidates were well known, where electors had had the greatest experience of them, they were the more successful. The 13,924 votes cast for Lady Astor and the 11,609 cast for Mrs. Wintringham against the very much smaller number cast for their opponents, was the practical reply of the electors who knew the good work of women in Parliament, to those who still doubted it. Again, there were hardly any women candidates last Wednesday who were not making a first appearance in the constituency; an exception to this rule was found in Brentford and Chiswick, which Mrs. Oliver Strachey contested both in 1918 and in 1922. In 1918 she polled only 1,263 votes, in 1922 she polled 7,804. This was not enough by more than 2,000 to win; but if she makes as much progress

when she next appeals to the constituency she ought certainly to carry it. There is another consideration which ought to prevent any real dejection. The great enfranchising Act of 1867 gave household suffrage to men in the boroughs and that of 1884 gave it in the counties. But many years passed before the new electorate produced any visible effect on the type of M.P. sent to Westminster. It was not until Mr. Keir Hardie was elected in 1892 that this took place, and Labour men as such were elected to the House of Commons. We should not therefore be cast down because in the four years during which women have been enfranchised and also relieved of absolute ineligibility, we have been only able to secure the presence of two women in Parliament. We have done immensely better than other newly enfranchised electors under not dissimilar circumstances. We are profoundly sorry that Miss Rathbone, Mrs. Coombe-Tennant, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Miss Margaret Bondfield and others have not been elected; but all things considered, the electorate have not given a cold welcome to women candidates; a fair proportion of them got within a few hundreds of the goal. They may look to reach it next time if they go on educating their constituencies.—MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT."

Over Thirty and Voteless.

One of the daily papers comments as follows on the registration law as it affects women voters: "Three sisters presented themselves to vote. Two only had received polling cards, but being all three joint occupiers of the house in which they lived and being all over thirty they imagined that each would be entitled to vote. The names of two only were on the register, and the third—the eldest sister and, as it happened, the only one of the three keenly interested in politics—was sent voteless away. Because her name was not on the register she could not vote. That was the law. It is also the law that not more than two joint occupiers of any residence can be placed on the register if they use it for residence only. But if they use it as partners for carrying on a business, say dress-making or lodging-house keeping, all are entitled. If three men run a house as a joint residence two only will be entered as joint occupiers, but the third gets a Parliamentary vote if he has lived in the house for the qualifying period. The woman is disadvantaged here merely because she is a woman. In such a case as that of the three sisters the choice of the two to be entered as joint tenants in the absence of direct representations

from them is decided by a queer method. Suppose the names to be Anne Jones, Beatrice Jones, and Catherine Jones. The overseer makes no inquiry about seniority. He takes the names in alphabetical order and gives precedence to Anne and Beatrice, although Catherine may be the oldest. When he has put down two names he stops. The moral is that women voters equally with men should look after the registration of their votes at the time when the registers are being prepared, and see that the overseers' work is done as they would wish it to be done. Faults in the register cannot be put right on polling day. This case of the three sisters also illustrates the need for an early revision of the last Franchise Act. It was not the intention of Parliament to make such distinctions between the registration of men and women as in fact notoriously exist."

Votes Cast for Women, 1918 and 1922.

It is interesting to compare the votes cast for women candidates in this election with the votes cast in the election of 1918. In 1918 seventeen women stood for election, as follows:—

Candidate.	COALITION.	Constituency.	Poll.
Pankhurst, Miss Christabel	SMETHWICK	Smethwick	8,614
Lucas, Mrs.	KENNINGTON	Kennington	3,573
Ashby, Mrs. Corbett.	BIRMINGHAM (Ladywood)	Birmingham (Ladywood)	1,552
Garland, Miss Alison	PORTSMOUTH (S.)	Portsmouth (S.)	4,283
McEwan, Mrs. J.	ENFIELD	Enfield	1,987
Markham, Miss Violet	MANSFIELD	Mansfield	4,000
Despard, Mrs.	BATTERSEA (N.)	Battersea (N.)	5,634
Lawrence, Mrs. Pethick	MANCHESTER (Rusholme)	Manchester (Rusholme)	2,985
Macarthur, Miss Mary	STOURBRIDGE	Stourbridge	7,587
Mackenzie, Hon. Mrs.	WELSH UNIVERSITY	Welsh University	176
Fox, Mrs. Dacre	RICHMOND	Richmond	3,615
How-Martyn, Mrs.	HENDON	Hendon	2,067
Murray, Miss Eunice G.	GLASGOW (Bridgeton)	Glasgow (Bridgeton)	991
Phipps, Miss E.	CHelsea	Chelsea	2,419
Strachey, Mrs. Oliver	CHISWICK	Chiswick	1,263
Carney, Miss W.	BELFAST (Victoria)	Belfast (Victoria)	395
Markiewicz, Countess	DUBLIN (St. Patricks)	Dublin (St. Patricks)	7,835

In the present election the votes cast for women were as follows:—

Candidate.	UNIONIST.	Constituency.	Poll.
Astor, Lady	PLYMOUTH (Sutton)	Plymouth (Sutton)	13,924
Brodrick, Hon. Mrs.	DENBIGH	Denbigh	9,138
Cooper, Lady	WALSALL	Walsall	14,349
Edmondson, Mrs.	GLAMORGAN (Ogmore)	Glamorgan (Ogmore)	6,577
Gwynne-Vaughan, Dame Helen	CAMBERWELL (N.)	Camberwell (N.)	8,066
Fraser, Miss Helen	GLASGOW (Govan)	Glasgow (Govan)	9,336
Grant, Miss Mary	LEEDS (S.E.)	Leeds (S.E.)	9,554
Tennant, Mrs. Coombe	FOREST OF DEAN	Forest of Dean	3,861
Alderton, Mrs. B.	EDINBURGH (S.)	Edinburgh (S.)	7,408
Allen, Commandant M.	WESTMINSTER (St. George's)	Westminster (St. George's)	1,303
Ashby, Mrs. C.	RICHMOND (Surrey)	Richmond (Surrey)	5,765
Barlow, Hon. Lady	DERBY (High Peak)	Derby (High Peak)	5,802
Currie, Lady	WILTS (Devizes)	Wilts (Devizes)	6,576
Emmott, Lady	OLDHAM	Oldham	6,186
Garland, Miss A.	DARTFORD	Dartford	2,175
Gatty, Mrs. Scott	HUNTINGDON	Huntingdon	5,123
Lawson, Lady	BEDFORD	Bedford	2,075
Smith, Mrs. Burnett	GLASGOW (Maryhill)	Glasgow (Maryhill)	5,617
Stewart-Brown, Mrs. E.	LANCS (Waterloo)	Lancs (Waterloo)	6,300
Terrington, Lady	BUCKS (Wycombe)	Bucks (Wycombe)	11,154
Wintringham, Mrs.	LOUTH	Louth	11,609
Barton, Mrs.	BIRMINGHAM (King's Norton)	Birmingham (King's Norton)	7,017
Bentham, Dr. Ethel.	ISLINGTON (E.)	Islington (E.)	5,900
Bondfield, Miss M.	NORTHAMPTON	Northampton	14,498
Gould, Mrs. Ayrton	LAMBETH (N.)	Lambeth (N.)	3,353

Candidate.	CONSTITUENCY.	POLL.
Lawrence, Miss S.	EAST HAM (North)	6,747
Pease, Mrs. M.	SURREY (E.)	3,667
Picton-Turbervill, Miss E.	ISLINGTON (N.)	7,993
Rackham, Mrs. C. D.	CHELMSFORD	3,767
Richardson, Miss M.	ACTON	5,342
Wheeler, Dr. Olive	UNIVERSITY OF WALES	309

Candidate.	CONSTITUENCY.	POLL.
Rathbone, Miss E. F.	LIVERPOOL (East Toxteth)	9,984
Strachey, Mrs. O.	BRENTFORD AND CHISWICK	7,804

Child Assault.

We are glad to note that Justice Roche recently sentenced a man to four years' penal servitude for an offence against a girl under the age of 13. "You and people like you," he said, "must be taught that the crime of which you have been found guilty cannot be tolerated. The law in such cases allows a sentence of penal servitude for life. Though I am not going to send you to penal servitude for life, anything short of penal servitude would be wrong." It is a good thing that some magistrates are beginning to think seriously of what is, in fact, a very serious crime. On the other hand, in the following instance comment is unnecessary, so scandalous is the judge's leniency to the men concerned. Three men were charged with serious offences against a girl under the age of 15, and a fourth with a related offence against the same girl. The three men were Thomas Deadman (32), labourer; William Wilkinson (37), stage manager; and Fred Webster, all committed from Halifax. Deadman had a further charge preferred against him of robbery with violence at Huddersfield on 26th May. On the latter charge he was sent to hard labour for twelve months, and on the former for three months, to run concurrently. Webster and Wilkinson were found "Not guilty" on the ground of ignorance of age, and were discharged. This is very near to the "reasonable cause to believe" defence which, under the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, is disallowed. It does not look as if the judge in question had mastered the new Act.

The Unmarried Mother and her Child.

It is not often that we are provided with an opportunity of seeing how the laws regulating the guardianship of children in this country work. The recent case, where the father of an illegitimate child was charged with abduction is unusual in more than one way; we seldom hear of fathers of illegitimate children being anxious to obtain possession of their offspring—rather the reverse! The case does, however, show that the unmarried mother has the sole guardianship of her child, whereas the married mother has no legal control at all. The sooner this illogical state of affairs is remedied by the Guardianship of Infants Bill the better.

Women and the Law.

Ten women law students were called to the Bar on the 17th. They were (Inner Temple) Miss Theodora Llewellyn-Davies; (Middle Temple) the Misses Helena Florence Normanton, Monica Mary Cobb, Auvergne Doherty, Ethel Bright Ashford, Elsie May Wheeler, Naomi Constance Wallace, Lillian Maud Dawes, Beatrice Honour Davy, and Sybil Campbell. Miss Wallace is a daughter of Mr. George Wallace, K.C., a bencher of Middle Temple. The first woman barrister is Dr. Ivy Williams, who was called by the Inner Temple last May. Four women candidates, Miss Carrie Morrison and Mrs. Crofts, both London women; Miss Sykes, of Huddersfield, who is articulated to her father; and Mrs. Pickup, the wife of a Birmingham solicitor, to whom she is articulated, recently sat for the Law Society's final examination for solicitors.

The Loss of a Woman Councillor.

The Glasgow municipal elections had a regrettable result from the woman's point of view in the defeat in the Anderston Ward of Miss M. A. Snodgrass, after two years of devoted service. Miss Snodgrass since her election applied herself with enthusiasm to the work of the Town Council, of which she was a highly esteemed member, and brought a broad and sympathetic outlook to bear upon the problems of the city's government. The loss of her services at the present time cannot but be regarded as a serious set-back to women's civic interests.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

By OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT.

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

The General Election is over, and the sorting out and settling down has begun. Agitations and excitements in the constituencies are dying away, and the more elaborate and fine-spun agitations and excitements in the Houses of Parliament themselves are beginning; and meantime, the people of this country, and of other countries, wait to see what it is that the democracy of Great Britain has put into power in this year of grace—and of crisis—1922.

While this new Government at Westminster is occupied with the formal business of swearing-in the new Members and electing a Speaker, and deciding who is to sit upon what benches, we may perhaps profitably consider the ordeal they have all gone through. There is much which is instructive (if little which is edifying) in a General Election, and it is impossible for anyone who has watched it at all carefully to resist the impulse to draw morals from it. First of all there is the Party System—with the endless permutations and combinations of argument concerning it. There is the clear tendency of the electorate to adhere to broad and simple lines, and comprehensible labels (even although candidates all say the same things, and the broad lines and the simple labels fail to reflect perceptible differences). Then there is the phenomenon of a "swing to the right" resulting in a huge Conservative preponderance: the split vote controversy, the minority victors, and the unsatisfied longing for really proportional representation. There is the devastating spectacle of Liberal disunion and its consequences, and the astonishing recovery of the "pacifist" champions, all somehow combined with the steady, stolid, antediluvian attitude of the average "man in the street". Each one of these things could give rise to lengthy articles: they do, in fact, enliven or infuriate innumerable breakfast tables. But we will resist the temptations they offer, and leave them all undiscussed in these columns. The woman voter, too, we will leave to her own devices. She is not so mysterious as agents think her, nor so stupid as is believed by candidates' wives. She can look after herself and judge for herself, and need not be regarded as a class apart.

THE ELECTION, AND AFTER.

It is no good disguising the fact that from the point of view of the women's movement the Election has been definitely disappointing. A few bright spots there certainly are—the most outstanding of which, perhaps, is the return to the House of Lady Astor and Mrs. Wintringham. So valuable, however, had been the work performed by these two members, and to such an extent had it been appreciated in their constituencies, that there was never any real fear of their defeat. Of the 31 unsuccessful women candidates, it is noteworthy that large numbers of them have polled very heavily, as, for example Miss Bondfield, Lady Cooper, Lady Terrington, Miss Rathbone, and others. A glance at the list of votes received by women candidates at this Election, compared with the number received by women candidates in the 1918 Election, emphasizes the enormous strides which have been made on the road to the return of more women to Westminster. Moreover, it must never be forgotten that with the exception of one only of the candidates, all the others were fighting constituencies in which they would have had to have won seats for their Party. Women are quite prepared, like men candidates, to earn the privilege of being given safe seats by first accepting the candidature of risky ones. If, however, Party organizations really desire to ensure the return of women candidates, they must do their share in allotting to women seats in constituencies in which there is at any rate a chance of success. No reproaches, therefore, should be levelled at women candidates as long as the desire of Parties to return women can, by this test, be regarded as very lukewarm. We much hope that good opportunities will shortly be found for most of the women candidates to contest seats again at bye-elections. The election experience of most women's organizations and of other organizations desiring to return a special class of candidate, points to the fact that the concentrated effort which can be given most effectively at a bye-election offers most chances of success. In any case, we earnestly

We will only wish there were more of her, beginning at 21, to make our democracy complete.

It is from this British democracy, and the political system by which it now functions, that we really wish to draw our moral this time. It has been working and struggling all these last weeks to get its wishes accomplished, and it is interesting to consider how far it has succeeded, and whether the machinery it has used is well fitted to the ends. In our judgment it has not fully succeeded, and the instrument it has used is not good. In fact, we go so far as to say that the system is becoming almost unworkable, and that the development of modern electioneering is increasingly unfortunate, misleading, and even damning to those who believe in the importance of democratic institutions.

It is true enough that we still worry through, in the traditional British way, to conclusions which work pretty well, and which we take with good temper. We say it is all right, and perhaps we think so, and the votes go this way or that, swayed by obscure and unexpressed political instincts or prejudices or enthusiasms. But every year the elections themselves seem to be more and more detached from the results, and the issues upon which they turn seem to have less and less bearing upon the real issues which are being settled. It may be all right, perhaps, in the end, but it is a disturbing phenomenon, and the signs seem to be that the drift away from realities is steadily increasing. The trouble is, perhaps, the size of the electorate—too large for any hope of personal contact between candidate and voter, too small for the abandonment of the effort to secure it. Or it is, perhaps, the increasing rowdy element, which renders most meetings a mere trial of nerves and vocal organs; or it may be the appalling ease of personal slander, or the increasing difficulty of a well-informed canvass. It may be any or all of these things, or it may lie deeper still. But whatever it is, it is worth careful consideration. For the men and women who are settling in at Westminster this week are undeniably battle worn, exhausted, nervous, and hoarse of throat, with a period of nightmare that is not all political behind them. It cannot be a good preparation for the work they have now to do.

hope that all these women will stand again some time and that many others will come forward.

What of the 613 men members? We are glad to say that many old friends of the women's movement of all Parties have been returned, including: Lord Robert Cecil (Ind. C.), Sir Samuel Hoare (C.), Sir Robert Newman (C.), Mr. Frank Brien (L.), Capt. Bowyer (C.), Mr. George Thorne (L.), Lieut.-Col. Hurst (C.), Mr. Inskip (C.), Mr. Ammon (Lab.), Capt. Wedgwood Benn (L.), Mr. William Graham (Lab.), Sir Arthur Steel Maitland (C.), and many others of the last Government, who showed themselves by their work old and tried friends.

Among new Members we welcome back our old friends Sir John Simon, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, Mr. Philip Snowden, and others, and, as new friends, Mr. J. R. Butler, Member of Cambridge University, one of the protagonists for the Admission of Women to membership of Cambridge University, and Mr. Sidney Webb.

The casualties, however, are heavy. First and foremost, we must place Major Hills, who had just been appointed Financial Secretary to the Treasury. It is hardly necessary in these pages to speak of the work he has done on behalf of Women in the Civil Service, of the Position of the Married Mother, etc., and as Financial Secretary to the Treasury his influence would have been an incalculable help. We much hope that, as some of our contemporaries have indicated, a place may yet be found for Major Hills in the new Government. We also much regret the defeat of Sir Donald Maclean, who has been an unfailing champion of most of our causes. Sir James Grieg, who promoted and has done so much for the Guardianship of Infants' Bill, will be a great loss. We hope also that arrangements will very shortly be made for Lieut.-Colonel Leslie Wilson to re-enter the House.

There is, of course, a certain cause for rejoicing at the casualties which have occurred among our enemies, such as Mr. Macquisten and Major the Hon. Christopher Lowther, notorious for their

obstructionist tactics on the Criminal Law Amendment Bill. In the words of the "Mikado" "they'll none of them be missed!"

It is interesting to note that the N.U.S.E.C., which through its constituent Societies has been putting questions to candidates on the points in its programme, has received a large number of favourable replies from the newly elected Members.

So much for the composition of the newly elected House. We must now ask ourselves what is the outlook from the point of view of our own questions. In all probability that of Equal Franchise must wait awhile, as we are only too sadly aware that this is a subject difficult to raise in a newly elected Parliament. Obviously, a Parliament could not be regarded as in any way representative if there were a large number of new electors in the country who had had no opportunity of electing it. It is equally unlikely that such questions as Equal Pay in the Civil Service and the question of pensions for Civilian Widows will have much chance of a successful solution in a Parliament committed to strict "economy", however ill-judged, and faced

with a period of financial stringency. There seems, however, no reason why Bills which will not cost any money, such as the Guardianship, etc., of Infants' Bill, the Separation and Maintenance Orders Bill, the Admission of Women to Membership of Cambridge University, the Repeal of the Solicitation Laws, etc., should not be carried out, even under a Government which desires tranquillity.

Mr. Bonar Law's letter to the N.U.S.E.C., moreover, indicates great possibilities both with regard to the reinstatement of Women Police in London and to the attainment of equality in the grounds for Divorce.

Most important of all is the fact that practically all the members returned to the House are pledged through their Party to support the League of Nations, which gives us hope that in spite of the war clouds hovering over us at the time of writing, during the life of the next Parliament the spirit of the League may become widespread, so that it becomes in the next few years a really important means of securing international peace.

PROBATION WORK.*

By CHARLES RANKIN.

It is only during the very last decades that the idea has gained ground that crime is often more a disease than a voluntary moral wrong, and that probation periods are the first steps towards crime hospitals. It is now recognized by all enlightened magistrates that crime is not only attributable to the character and disposition of the offender, but also depends on the social conditions under which his childhood has been spent. In the legislation of 1907 the new ideas found expression in the Probation of Offenders Act. The Act is designed to save the offender from loss of liberty, with its attendant sufferings and consequences to himself and his relations, so giving him the opportunity of redeeming his position in perfect freedom. Reformation, rather than punishment, is the dominating feature of the probation officers' treatment of the juvenile and adult. The probationer is often a weakling of little character, and the temptations in his path are many. By the appointment of the probation officer, the Court affords him the support and assistance of which he stands in need, thereby recognizing the fundamental principle that just as criminality is chiefly fostered by association with lawlessness and vice, it may be effectually conquered by the offender being placed in close touch with a real personality, who can wean him from his bad habits. It needs an exceedingly kind person to be a probation officer, but one who can be stern enough to enforce the seriousness of things when necessary. A peculiar combination of qualities they are, but they can be made to blend with most satisfactory results, with a little tact thrown in as a third ingredient. With experience and the exercise of the qualities described, the probation officer becomes a friend of those under his care, and often of the parents as well. Every probation officer should be paid a wage sufficient to enable him to devote his whole time to the work. He should be under the direct control of the magistrates, and where religious or social organizations wish to assist they could be welcomed as volunteers, but should always take their instructions from the paid probation officer, who is the person directly responsible to the Court.

The result of an efficient probation officer's work cannot be measured by statistics alone. Besides the actual person on probation it is possible to reform the whole family.

Economy is fashionable in these days. It always seems to me like lowering a noble cause to introduce the consideration of money, yet I can demonstrate that the Probation Act, the kindest of all our laws, is also the cheapest.

The Prison Commissioners' report shows that the costs of persons committed to our local prisons works out at £1 14s. per head per week; convicts £2 3s. 9d. per head per week; Borstal £2 13s. 9d. per head per week. If sent to a detention prison, £5 13s. 9d. per head per week; reformatory and industrial schools, £1 4s. per head per week. Every child left to grow up a criminal costs the country not less than £300, but the cost does not end there. I do not know whether it is possible to work out what one criminal costs the community. We should have to calculate that the man is not only an expense to the country when he is in prison, but when he comes out he seldom does any honest work.

* Lecture at N.U.S.E.C. Summer School.

Now take the other side; I will use the figures of one Court alone, that of a large city in Yorkshire. During the past thirteen years a little more than 5,000 people have been placed under the supervision of that Court's probation officers. The magistrates will tell you that the salvage is 96 per cent. The officers themselves are more humble and say 90 per cent. are good results. Let us suppose that 250 of the 5,000 had run a career of crime; they would have involved the city and country in an outlay of £75,000. The cost of probation in that city during that period could be easily reckoned as £1 per case, and the total amount saved to the community is just the difference between £5,000 and £75,000. Less than a penny per day for each case is the encouragement (by way of remuneration) given the probation officer, towards saving the hapless, helpless creature from crime, the prison, and the hangman. Again, there are approximately 350 probationers in the city I refer to. These are scattered over an area of many miles. For this exacting work and great responsibility there are but three paid workers, one man and two women. In the same city stands a prison, with a criminal population of 300 (including only nine women), with forty paid officials to care for them. Five women wardresses for nine women. How disproportionate these numbers are; and they could be applied to many other areas throughout the country. It is obvious that even in regions where the probation service has come to be relied upon for the most serious work of dealing with offenders, there are far too few officers. I am not aware that there is anything to match this in other departments of public affairs.

The offender and his future is what the Court should consider. The magistrate should not, as is generally the case now, require to be convinced that an offender should be put on probation; he should require a very good argument why an offender should not be put on probation, because with offenders on probation the Court is in just as good position to deal with the offender at any time during the probationary period as it would be had he never been put on probation, with this added advantage, that through the probation officer the Court is likely to know a good deal more about the offender after probation has been tried than it would have been had it not been tried.

Probation in this country has now got beyond the experimental stage, and experience proves that it is wrong to overburden any officer with too many cases. The number of probationers which an officer should have under his supervision at one time is an important consideration. It depends upon a number of factors. The class of probationers, the distance they live from the probation office, work which the officer may have to perform in addition to supervision, and other circumstances. In general, officers handling children should be given fewer cases to supervise, as in many instances there is more detail work; although many adult cases, particularly those involving domestic relations, require as much attention as children's cases. Another essential factor of any successful probation system is the vigorous enforcement of the conditions of probation. The power of the Court should be invoked for reprimand and for punishment when the welfare of the probationer, as well as the protection of society and the moral effect upon other probationers, demands

this, and magistrates should be willing to hear complaints, and violations should be dealt with promptly. Probation is to some extent a sifting process. Unfitness for probation cannot always be determined at the start. The officer must do his best with the material which he receives from the Court, but as soon as he is firmly convinced of the unfitness (or unwillingness) of the probationer and has proof of that, there should be no hesitancy about returning to the Court.

Coming to actual methods in supervision of cases:—

1. *First Interview.*—As soon as possible after the Court places either a child or an adult on probation, it is important that the probation officer should see the probationers alone and explain carefully the general and special conditions of probation. A probation card should be given to the probationer at this time, which shall state the conditions of probation and serve as a constant reminder of them.

2. *First Visits.*—The next step in supervision should in most cases be a visit to the probationer's home, to be made as soon as possible after probation begins. This should be followed by visits to other places to secure as much additional information as possible, and to get in touch with all who may co-operate.

3. *Plan of Probation.*—The probation officer can then formulate a plan of probation. This should include a plan for supervision and contact with the probationer. Suggestions as to his work, recreation, and mode of life. These are subject to modification as probation progresses.

4. *Home Visits.*—Nowhere does the personality of the probation officer count more than in a home visit; as to the frequency, that again depends on circumstances. When special efforts are being made to reconstruct a home, or when close supervision is desirable, or the probationer is doing badly, then special visits are necessary, and vice versa. Tact as to time and

manner, whether made by day-time or at night, is one of the many things a probation officer must practise.

5. *Reporting.*—The probationer should always be asked to report at some place set apart for the purpose. A successful probation officer knows best how to adapt his interviews to the needs of the probationers. He makes him understand that probation means machinery for giving helpful advice, and for planning and applying the many personal services which the case demands. Stereotyped advice, admonitions, orders or threats usually fail of their objects. Establishing a friendly basis of contact, kindly counsel, and personal service, generally bring results.

Unfortunately, nationally there is no uniformity of method. Each Court has adopted a certain formula of administration, i.e. some Courts have a Probation Committee, who take a co-operative rather than a critical interest in the work; by co-operative I mean they help the probation officers working in their courts with their difficult problems. By critical I mean the reviewing of statistics only, giving words of commendation, or otherwise. In some courts the magistrates' interest begins and ends in making the order. The Home Secretary has recently issued revised rules, in which he suggests the formation of Probation Committees in every court. In conclusion, probation distinguishes between the impostor and the scoundrel on the one hand, and the over-tempted weakling on the other. It helps to find the mental defective, the sick, the poor, and the first offender. It aids in the enforcement of retributive justice. It is a vehicle of restitution. It is the custodian of mercy. It is the up-builder of the wreck of humanity that seems destined for complete destruction.

For a full revised report of this lecture secure Mr. C. Rankin's latest book, entitled "Crime Hospitals." Published at 1s. 6d. by A. H. Stockwell, 29 Ludgate Hill, London.

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THE GENERAL ELECTION.

Reference to the General Election and to the fate of most of the women candidates has been made in another part of the paper, but we wish on this page to offer our warmest congratulations to Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., the only member amongst those of our Executive Committee who were standing who has been successful, and to our Vice-President, Lady Astor. It is difficult, indeed, to express our delight at the return of these two women, though the results in their case were by no means unexpected. We wish also to congratulate the other less fortunate women, members of the Committee, on the large number of votes they have polled. Miss Rathbone and Mrs. Strachey, both of whom had to provide their own organizations in ultra-conservative constituencies, polled 9,984 and 7,804 respectively. Mrs. Corbett Ashby polled 5,765, Miss Helen Fraser polled 9,336, Miss Picton-Turbervill 7,993, which represents double the amount which had been polled by the Labour candidate in her constituency at the last election. Although Miss Picton-Turbervill is just recovering from a serious operation, she was able to attend and speak at every meeting that was arranged for her. The defeat of Major Hills at Durham is a real blow, not only because he has always proved a most steadfast protagonist of the cause, but because his appointment as Financial Secretary to the Treasury would surely have made a very considerable difference to the position of the Women Civil Servants. We can only hope that all these candidates will stand again at the earliest possible opportunity.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

The following reports have been received from Societies of most successful meetings at which the candidates in the respective constituencies attended and answered questions on the N.U.S.E.C. programme.

ABERDEEN W.C.A. held a candidates' meeting, at which two of the candidates for the Aberdeen Divisions attended to give their views on subjects specially affecting women. Miss Burgess, interim President of the Association, took the chair. Many questions were asked, and an excellent report of the meeting was published in the local Press.

BARNESLEY W.C.A.—A well-attended meeting of the members of the Barnesley S.E.C. was held on 3rd November, to which visitors were invited. Both Parliamentary candidates for the constituency were present, and gave their replies to the N.U. questions. Considerable interest was aroused and many copies of the WOMAN'S LEADER were sold.

BURY W.C.A. held a most successful meeting on 9th November, which was addressed by the three candidates for the Bury constituency. The hall, which held over a thousand, was packed, and hundreds were turned away. Mrs. Blincoe, of the Bolton W.C.A. made a most excellent chairman.

CARDIFF W.C.A.—Three most successful meetings have been organized during the election campaign by the Cardiff W.C.A., one in each of the Parliamentary Divisions of the City. In each Division the three Parliamentary candidates for the constituency attended and gave a short speech and answered questions. The meetings were largely attended.

CARLISLE W.C.A. held a meeting for women voters on Tuesday, 7th November, when all three candidates spoke and answered questions put to them by members of the Association on subjects of special interest to women.

COULSDON, KENLEY, PURLEY, SANDERSTEAD, AND WOODCOTE W.C.A. organized two meetings during the election campaign in the constituency,

at each of which one of the candidates attended and was asked to express his views on points in the questionnaire. Reports of their answers were published in the local Press.

READING S.E.C. held a most successful public meeting for women on 13th November. The three Parliamentary candidates for the Division attended and answered questions on subjects of special interest to women. The meeting created great interest in Reading and good reports of the attitude of the candidates on the points of the N.U.S.E.C. programme were given in the local Press.

HOLT W.C.A. held a most successful meeting in the Shire Hall, Holt, on 2nd November; both candidates attended and the meeting was crowded. Very favourable answers were received from Mr. Noel Buxton, the Labour candidate. Captain Crewsdon's answers were also satisfactory, though he made one or two slight qualifications. An excellent Press report was obtained, and it was said to be the most interesting election meeting held in the constituency up to the time of writing this notice.

HULL.—The Hull branches of the N.C.W., the W.C.A., the N.U.S.E.C., and the W.L.G.A., held a large political meeting on the evening of 7th November, to which all the candidates were invited, and at which several of the members of the Society asked questions on matters affecting women and children.

THE LILKLEY W.C.A. held a candidates' meeting on 8th November, which was a great success. The hall, which held about 500 people, was packed to the doors and excellent Press notices were obtained in the *Yorkshire Post* and also in other Yorkshire papers. Satisfactory replies were received on most of the questions from the successful candidate, and much local interest was aroused in the district by the meeting.

KENSINGTON S.E.C. held a public meeting on 7th November, to which the women voters of North Kensington were invited and at which the Parliamentary candidates for that constituency gave short addresses on questions specially affecting women. Miss Evelyn Deakin took the chair, and the meeting was a very successful one.

MAIDENHEAD W.C.A. was successful in arranging a public meeting in the Town Hall during the election campaign, at which the Liberal and Conservative Candidates attended and answered questions put to them by the audience on our Parliamentary questionnaire. The answers received were very unsatisfactory, but much interest was aroused.

THE NOTTINGHAM WOMEN'S SERVICE ASSOCIATION held a most successful and crowded meeting of women voters in one of the public halls of the City last week, at which Mrs. W. E. Dowson, J.P., presided. Seven candidates attended, and gave their views in turn on our special questions. Lord Henry Cavendish Bentinck was accorded a very special welcome. Questions were freely asked, and many copies of the WOMAN'S LEADER were sold and distributed. In addition to this many new members joined the Nottingham Society. The meeting was excellently reported in the local Press.

PRESTON W.C.A. held a public meeting for women voters during the election campaign, when each of the four Parliamentary candidates for the Borough answered questions put forward by the Association. Great interest was shown and satisfactory answers were received.

Meetings were also organized by the Chester, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Farnworth, Hereford, Norwich, Scarborough, and other Societies, and the Federation of Women Civil Servants, but reports of these have not yet reached us.

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS.

DIVORCE LAW REFORM.

MADAM.—In response to your invitation, I beg to offer the following brief sketch of the opinion on marriage and divorce of the party to which I belong, viz. that commonly known as "Anglo-Catholic."

We believe that a marriage between two non-Christians, provided it be outside certain degrees of kinship, and so long as it is entered upon with some recognized sign of intention to make it permanent, is a real marriage. The woman is a wife, the man a husband. But such a marriage though binding, is still not the ideal for mankind, inasmuch as it is subject to sanctions that take little or no account of man's highest instincts. We do not deny the reality of such, we only assert their imperfection.

As Christians we obey the laws of whatever country we are in. Speaking generally, we admit the right of the secular power to declare what is and what is not a marriage, and what shall be the conditions of registration, legitimization, etc., etc. But (also as Christians) we do not cease to desire for mankind the blessings of conversion, of fellowship in the Catholic Church, and participation in the Sacraments, including (for those who are called to it) Holy Marriage.

In non-Christian marriages we observe, and deplore, numerous hardships. For example, a Moslem wife may have three legal partners in her husband, a Burmese husband may see his wife depart without reason given. In some States of the U.S.A. a man may find himself one of a succession of husbands, in Tibet one of a plurality. We do not deny that Christian marriage involves hardships, but we affirm that they are neither so numerous, nor so heavy, as these. Take the case of converts to Christianity in a country where plurality of wives exists. A woman here may find herself forbidden by her religion to live with her husband (he being now restricted to one wife), and yet forbidden by the law of the land to seek another husband. He, having the corresponding burden of being bound by the law of the land to support all his wives, while forbidden by his religion to live with more than one. This, certainly, would be only in the first generation of converts, but no law apparently, either secular or religious, has been evolved which eliminates hardship.

So much for civil marriage. What of that of persons acknowledging themselves to be Christians, and to be bound by the laws of the Catholic Church?

Two Christians taking one another in marriage must do so in the face of the congregation, must receive (if it be physically possible) the blessing of the priest upon their undertaking, and must consent to give themselves either to other, without restriction, save that which mutual and considerate love dictates. They must jointly agree, beforehand, to bear the burdens and endure the hardships, created by marriage, and jointly ask for and expect the special grace that God gives them for the bearing of these, and they must take one another for life, deliberately. This done, we believe that they will receive no other for life, deliberately. This done, we believe that they will receive no other for life, deliberately. This done, we believe that they will receive no other for life, deliberately.

The number of Christians in England is not large. A recent estimate puts those out of touch with any religious body whatever at 75 per cent. of the population. In other countries, however, there are very large numbers. For example, in the last fifty years in India over 7,000,000 persons left their own religion for ours.

It will be admitted that an organization which has branches in every corner of the world would be guilty of hypocrisy if it made a law to be binding for the African and the Pathan, but optional (on grounds of expediency) for the Englishman. It is because the Church—even our branch of the Church—counts so very many more members without than within these islands that its members are bound to disregard local enactments when these come into collision with its own rule.

No branch of the Catholic Church requires a Christian spouse to continue living with one whose temper or behaviour has become unbearable. Divorce is, and always has been, recognized as a sad necessity, at times. What it does require in the partners so separated is a single life. I would emphasize this, as I believe the contrary is commonly believed to be the case. Our law only allows the remarriage of a widow, or a widower, not of a wife or husband. It recognizes the power of any State to declare a couple divorced, but not its power to declare them unmarried, and by consequence "marriageable" in the Christian Church.

The thing in question now is the marriage law for England. Shall we—taking into consideration the high percentage of non-Christians in the country—press for a continuance of our present law, which in many points approximates to the Christian law, but is binding on non-Christians, or for an alteration?

The present law makes full provision for the marriages of non-Christians. Such may take place in synagogues, mosques, registry offices, etc. It may be fairly argued that the same agencies should be available for the union of non-Christians, even if one already has, or both have, a living spouse. As citizens we may attempt to defeat this proposal, or we may be much impressed by its expediency. Whichever we do, however, and whatever the result, the law for us remains.

To the question, which I am sure will be asked: "Do you, as a citizen, intend to enforce upon those who are not Christians, a law which (by your own admission) was only laid upon Christians, and which the persons in question reject?" I can only give a personal answer. It is: "A study of the hardships brought about by marriage legislation in America, Germany, the Ottoman dominions, Japan, etc., has convinced me that laws of a similar nature are best kept away from this country. I pity the English man or woman, earnestly desirous of ending a life of enforced celibacy, but, to me, it seems that the good of any relief given to him by law would be neutralized by evil results. I do not wish to force Christian ideals on anyone who is unwilling to receive them, but I do—merely as a citizen, not necessarily as a Christian—want to continue to the children of this country the advantage of permanent and responsible parenthood."

Apologizing for the length of this letter,

MARGERY SMITH.

STATE PURCHASE AND CARLISLE.

MADAM.—Mrs. Whiton, in your issue of 3rd November, omits a very interesting point. She states that "the reconstruction of the public-house . . . can be achieved as well—if not better—under the present private ownership." I am quite prepared to agree. The Trade has plenty of money; the reconstruction could be carried out on princely lines. Where Mrs. Whiton's reconstruction is lacking is in the motive of the man serving behind the bar. Under State Ownership at Carlisle he has a weekly salary, irrespective of liquor sales, and a commission on the sales of food and non-intoxicants; in the tied-house under the Trade his livelihood and future prospects depend on his success in selling intoxicants. May I quote a story from the Rev. Henry Carter's *Control of the Drink Trade*: "In early days (at Carlisle) the General Manager, who happened to be present in the house, prevented a public-house manager from again serving a customer who had already consumed a fair quantity of liquor. The manager—who was the former licensee—protested that the man 'could carry more liquor without getting into trouble with the police.' The General Manager explained that from the point of view of the Board this idea was totally wrong. At the end of a long argument the ex-licensor exclaimed, 'Of course, I can easily work that way if the Board want it, if you tell me that I'm not to be dismissed for letting down the trade.' As soon as the managers realized that it was not a crime to 'let trade go by,' they readily accepted the rule of the new régime, that sobriety, not turnover was the first concern."

Comment is needless. "Reconstruction" under private management merely refers to the bricks and mortar.

M. COTTERELL,

Organizing Secretary, Women Voters' League for Licensing Reform.

CLASSES IN PRISON.

MADAM.—I have read with great interest Miss Marian Richardson's account given in the *WOMAN'S LEADER* of 20th October of the embroidery and craftwork classes held in Winson Green Prison, Birmingham. The Brabazon Employment Society started work of the same kind in Glasgow Prison in 1901, in Calton Jail, Edinburgh, in 1906, and at Perth Prison in 1913. Since the beginning of this year the work has been extended to Holloway Prison, where two weekly classes are given, one in the Remand Prison and one for the "Juvenile Adults". The Prison Commissioners have given their consent for such classes to be held in the twelve provincial prisons where women are received, and so far the B.E.S. have been successful in starting them at Exeter and Maidstone. It is hoped soon to begin work at Manchester, Liverpool, Newcastle, Cardiff, Portsmouth, and Bristol, which only leaves Durham, Leeds, Winchester, and Norwich unprovided for. No one, I think, can doubt, especially after reading Miss Richardson's account, the utility of such classes. Much more could be attempted if more volunteers could be found to help with the teaching. Mrs. Haynes, Central Secretary B.E.S., 28 Upper Gloucester Place, N.W. 1, will most gladly give any further particulars.

JEAN ALEXANDER,

Hon. Secretary, Holloway Prison Branch, B.E.S.

DR. SOPHIE BRYANT.

Professor Sadler's tribute to Dr. Sophie Bryant at the beautiful memorial service at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields last Saturday was striking in its earnestness and conviction. Claiming for her her place among those wonderful women who were the pioneers in the cause of women's education, he illustrated by Dr. Bryant's own words her view of life, of knowledge, of education, of duty. He spoke of her loss with sadness, but a sadness tinged with triumph in the recognition of her achieved and completed work.

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THE BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

We much regret that Miss Edith Place's name was omitted from our recent list of women Borough Councillors. She was elected as a Municipal Reformer for Chelsea.

Council for the Representation of Women on the League of Nations.

The ANNUAL MEETING will be held in the Caxton Hall, Westminster, Room 1, on Thursday, 30th November, 1922, 11 a.m. to 1 o'clock. To be followed by a

PUBLIC MEETING

in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CAXTON HALL.

On the work of the recent Assembly of the League of Nations, 3 to 4.30 o'clock. Chairman: Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, J.P. Speakers: Mrs. Coombe-Tennant, J.P., British Alternate Delegate to the League of Nations, Mr. Wilson Harris, M.A., Diplomatic Correspondent to the Daily News, and others.

A RECEPTION and TEA at the close of the Meeting will be held in Room 1, 4.30 to 5.30 o'clock. Tickets for Public Meeting and Reception, price 2/6. Tea included. Apply, Miss de Alberti, Hon. Sec., c/o Miss Green, National Council of Women, Parliament Mansions, S.W. 1. Societies invited to affiliate. Individuals, men or women, can become Associates on payment of a yearly subscription of 5s.

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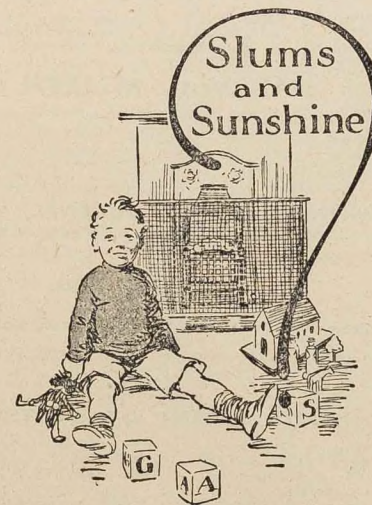
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The lecture contained a wealth of new information on the subject and numerous examples of actual cases which had come within the personal experience of the lecturer.

All who are interested in public hygiene and child welfare should write to the Secretary of the under-mentioned body for a free copy of this lecture.



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COMING EVENTS.

WOMEN'S GUILD OF EMPIRE.

NOV. 27. 8 p.m. Caxton Hall, Westminster. 3 p.m. Mr. Harold Cox will lecture on "The Imperial Aspect of the Population Problem." Admission free.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

NOV. 27. 8 p.m. Dr. Alice Salomon, the well-known pioneer feminist, will speak. All interested are invited.

NOV. 29. International House, 55 Gower Street, W.C.1, 8.15 p.m. "Economics of Internationalism." Speaker: Alderman Emil Davis, L.C.C.

NOV. 30. A Concert, 8.15 p.m. Italian songs and piano solos. Leonard Sickert, Antonia Meek, Signorina Ekéna Formichi.

WOMEN'S ENGINEERING SOCIETY.

NOV. 28. 26 George Street, Hanover Square. 5 p.m. Miss C. S. Bremner will lecture on M. Godin's Co-Partnership Factories at Guise. Chair: Hon. Lady Parsons.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB.

NOV. 22. 9 Grafton Street, Piccadilly. 8.15 p.m. "The Bible as a Book." Speaker: The Very Rev. Joseph Hertz, Ph.D., Heb. Litt.D., Chief Rabbi. Chair: Miss C. Nina Boyle.

SUSSEX PIONEER CLUB.

NOV. 24. Royal Pavilion, Brighton. 5.30 p.m. Mrs. Oliver Strachey will speak on her electoral campaign.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

NOV. 25. Minerva Cafe, 144 High Holborn. 6 p.m. "Women M.P.s in Germany; a German Woman's view of the League of Nations and of what Germany's relations should be with England, America, France, and the rest of Europe", by Frau Schreiberkrieger.

LEAGUE OF THE CHURCH MILITANT.

NOV. 30. Public Meeting, Guildhall, Cambridge, 8.30 p.m. "Women in the Ministry of the Church." Speaker: Miss Maude Royden. Chairman: The Rev. J. F. Bethune-Baker, D.D. Admission 6d., 1s., and 2s. 6d.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

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

WOMEN VOTERS' LEAGUE FOR LICENSING REFORM.

NOV. 28. Aylesbury W.C.A. 7.30 p.m. Lantern Lecture on the Carlisle Experiment. Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

NOV. 30. Maidenhead, Women's Meeting. 3 p.m. "Licensing Reform." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

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PROFESSIONAL.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston Square, S.W.1; Sunday, 26th November, 3.15. Music, Poetry, Lecture, Dr. Percy Dearmer. 6.30. A. Maude Royden.

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