

THE
WOMAN'S LEADER

IN POLITICS IN INDUSTRY IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
IN THE HOME IN LITERATURE AND ART IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND

THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS

The Women's Vote in Canada.

A resolution to deprive unmarried women under thirty of the franchise was introduced into the Senate last week by Senator David, who protested that this class of electors lacked knowledge of public affairs and constituted a menace to the State! We are glad that a majority of the Senators disagreed with him, and the resolution was defeated by 33 votes to 19.

Law of Property Bill.

This large and, to the lay reader, rather incomprehensible Bill, the second reading of which is being taken this week, includes some provisions of special interest to our readers. These propose to make equal as between men and women the laws of intestacy of England and Wales. The chief change in the general law of intestate inheritance is that which proposes to make land descend in the same way as personal property, and incidentally abolishes the law of primogeniture. Where there is no will males are no longer to be preferred to females in the inheritance of land. The practical effect of this change, however, is not so great a revolution as it seems, since it is by will or settlement that so great a part of the land in this country passes to the eldest son, and this although it has also been possible to settle or to will land to descend in the female line. There are two improvements, however, of great practical importance. One of them gives husbands and wives the same right in the property of the other, where no will has been left, instead of, as now, giving to the husband the whole in a case where a wife would duly take part. The other gives to a mother equal rights in inheriting from children with the father, instead of excluding her altogether as may sometimes happen under the present law. While expressing appreciation of the Lord Chancellor's action in bringing forward these improvements on his own initiative, it is well to point out that so long as the great bulk of property is in the hands of men this does not constitute a real equality. In Scotland and many other countries a husband has no right to disinherit his wife, and until in England also some provision is made to give a wife some legal claim on her husband's property, even should he desire to will it away from her, we have not given the real equality which we seek to see established in all spheres of life.

Lady Rhondda's Petition.

As we go to press (Thursday, 18th May), the Committee of Privileges is sitting to reconsider Lady Rhondda's petition. The Lord Chancellor, at whose instigation the matter was referred back to the Committee for reconsideration, is going to attend the Committee, which is sitting in the House of Lords. We hope very much that Lady Rhondda will be successful once more.

Women Judges in Danzig.

The Danzig Diet has passed a Bill by 58 votes to 27, making women eligible as judges on the same terms as men. It is good to be able to report these small steps forward in scattered parts of the world, for in the end the progressive drag the apathetic remainder with them in spite of themselves.

Karachi's Women Councillors.

The Municipality of Karachi (India) has passed, with only one dissentient voice, a resolution admitting women as councillors on the same terms as men, proposed by Mr. Jamshed N. R. Mehta. Bombay is apparently going to follow suit, as there is a new Bill in readiness which proposes to remove the disqualification of sex which prevented women from entering their Corporation. We hope the Bill will pass as easily in Bombay as it did in Karachi.

First English Woman Barrister.

Last week Miss Ivy Williams was called to the Bar, the first Englishwoman to pass a barrier which has been impassable for six hundred years. Seven other women have passed their finals, but Miss Williams, because she won a certificate of honour, had two terms remitted from the three years' course. Mr. H. F. Dickens, K.C., the Common Serjeant, spoke of the great advance since the days when women were regarded as chattels, when they had no property rights but were thought of merely as adjuncts to men. During the war women had by their work swept away a mass of prejudices, and had won their rights. It was true that the law still supposed that wives were coerced by their husbands. He expressed no opinion on the point, but he quoted the dictum of Mr. Bumble that the "law is a ass". Miss Williams, who as senior student replied, said it had been the dream of her life

and her father's dream for her, that she should become a barrister. Now that the dream had come true, she felt dumb-founded. In her case the honour had come rather late in life, and she did not intend to practise. Then she spoke of the women who would follow and would practise at the Bar, and she asked that every help and encouragement should be given them in the difficulties they would have to face.

Women Police Patrols.

Mrs. Wintringham made a last courageous effort to stop the continued disbandment of the Women Police Patrols, and enumerated again all the reasons for retaining them which have been mentioned in questions and protests in the House. Mr. Shortt was far more conciliatory than he has been before, but his effort to be tactful was very obvious, and quite useless after his former attitude. We have not got quite such short memories. He protested against the use of the word "disbandment," and tried to explain that "reduction" of the women police, even "reduction" to zero, meant that they could be restored at the first favourable opportunity. Mr. Shortt evidently did not like the fire of questions to which he was subjected by Capt. Wedgwood Benn, Sir Donald Maclean, and others, and replied curtly to Rear-Admiral Sueter's remark that "zero cannot be restored". He dilated on the dangers of the Metropolis, and said that he had reduced his men police to the utmost limit compatible with safety. The House was then adjourned, it being 11.30 p.m., without the question being put.

Woman Film Censor.

At the next meeting of the British Board of Film Censors, which will shortly be held, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., the president, will propose the appointment of a woman examiner to the Board. We have often demanded this appointment, and we are sure we shall be justified by results. There are at present three men examiners and the examination of films takes place in a little room in Wardour Street. It is not easy work, for sometimes a film is seen through four or five times before a decision is arrived at.

The Day Continuation Schools.

It looks very much as if the London day continuation schools are doomed. The Moderate majority on the L.C.C. are doing their best to kill them, and last week it was decided to ask the Government to release them from the necessity of carrying on the schools in London until the Act is applied throughout the country. The Moderates are supported by a good many poor parents, who think the schools hinder the employment of their children. Indeed, it was by exploiting this belief that many Moderates won their votes. There is another way in which the L.C.C. can kill their schools, and that is by not prosecuting parents who do not send their children. The attendance would fall off rapidly, and the Council would have a case for closing the schools. This is already happening in some parts of London, as the magistrates have postponed dealing with these summonses, and the schools have dwindled rapidly. It is hard on the parents who are keen on education, and doubly hard on the children of parents who don't care.

Women Clerks.

Lieut.-Col. Hurst asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury what are the classes of women clerks where transfer in accordance with the Reorganization Report depends on the existence of vacancies in the new complements; whether, although the number of second division men clerks to be transferred according to the Report is greatly in excess of the number of executive vacancies in the new complements, these officers are being paid at the executive rate and have a claim to all future vacancies until they are absorbed; whether the Government will carry out the intention of the official side of the National Whitley Council in laying down in paragraph 67 that those women clerks not transferred to the executive grade shall be transferred to the lower clerical; and, if so, when is the transfer of women clerks to the executive grade, as distinct from promotion to a higher grade, to take place. Mr. Young replied that the transfer of all officers, and not only of certain grades of women clerks, to a grade higher than that to which they have been assimilated, depends on the existence of vacancies. As regards the second part of the question, second division clerks have, subject to fitness, been assimilated to the junior executive

scale pending their absorption in junior executive or higher clerical posts. Mr. Young replied in the affirmative to the third part of the question, and to the fourth, that the transfer of staff to posts in the reorganized complements, including the transfer of any women clerks to be allotted to executive posts, is now being undertaken in the case of each department at the earliest opportunity.

Women in Government Departments.

A good many other questions on the position of women in Government Departments have been asked recently, and Major Hills wanted to know why other work was found in the Public Trustee Office for the lower clerical men in that department when their own work was redundant owing to reorganization, whereas the lower clerical women, in similar circumstances, were turned out of the Department; and why, in view of the fact that the men and women were working side by side in the same sections, it was not decided to declare the clerks redundant according to the length of their service, and not according to their sex. Mr. Randall suggested that the Public Trustee preferred to have men on his staff rather than women, and that, therefore, the women are treated unfairly. Mr. Young replied that in determining which of the staff of the disbanded section should be retained, all relevant factors, including length of service, were taken into account, but the governing consideration was necessarily whether a suitable post was available for the individual in the remaining sections. Mr. Mosley suggested that in the Ministry of Health women had been transferred to lower grades and asked why the Chancellor's pledge that during the three years before conditions of equal entry are initiated, the position of women shall not be prejudiced, was being broken. Sir Alfred Mond replied that although men and women had been transferred from one branch of the Ministry to another, in no case had they been transferred to a lower grade.

Women Health Visitors.

Mr. Galbraith asked the Minister of Health last week whether he has made any recommendation as to the salaries to be paid by local authorities to women health visitors; and, if so, whether he is satisfied that the salaries paid in accordance with his recommendation are adequate to secure efficient service. Sir Alfred Mond replied that he had not made a general recommendation as to the salaries to be paid to health visitors, but in various particular cases he had taken action to "secure such remuneration as will provide an efficient service". In our opinion it would be a great advantage if a definite minimum salary were recommended. The local authorities sometimes offer scandalously low salaries to women from whom they require a disproportionately high standard of training. In these positions the high standard is essential, but the salary offered should be in proportion.

N.U.S.E.C. Summer School.

We should like to draw attention to the extremely interesting summer school which is being held by the N.U.S.E.C. at St. Hilda's College, Oxford, from 19th August to 2nd September. The lectures and classes will be divided into sections consisting of the programme of the N.U.S.E.C., the League of Nations, Local Government, Parliamentary and Election Work, Family Endowment, and a section specially planned for women magistrates on the administration of justice. In addition to Members of the Executive Committee, the school has been fortunate in securing promises of addresses from T. Mott Osborne, Esq., the well-known penal reformer in the United States, Walter Layton, Esq., on International Finance, Miss Margery Fry, J.P., Miss Ruth Fry, Sir Sidney Olivier, K.C.M.G., Miss Alison Neilans, etc. In view of the fact that most of the reforms for which women are now working involve complicated issues, and need real study, we much hope that the attendance at the school this year will be a record one.

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

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

Contrary to expectation, the debate on the Budget Resolutions was finished late on Monday night, and on Tuesday, 9th May, the House considered various small Bills. Two of these stand out. During the war, when glasses for miners' lamps, which previously had come chiefly from Bohemia, could not be obtained, Mr. McKenna had promised the glass-makers at home that if they would start making them he would prohibit the importation of German or Austrian glasses for two years after the termination of the war. Promises come home to roost, and the House was now asked to honour the bond. The miners' representatives, however, objected vigorously and made a strong case to show that British glasses were unsuitable and dangerous. Whether this is so or not, the case was so obviously one for inquiry that Mr. Bridgeman, the Secretary for Mines, wisely adjourned the debate. It should be said that there is not the slightest intention of breaking the Government's word; but there are more ways than one of keeping it.

The other Bill of importance was the Juries' Bill, in which women are considerably interested, and this passed through all stages without substantial amendment.

On Wednesday, 10th May, Mr. Gwynne obtained leave to move the adjournment of the House to call attention to the British officers kidnapped in Ireland. A bitter debate took place. Mr. Chamberlain, who spoke early, was not at his best, and for a time the Die Hards had matters very much their own way. In the end, however, the feeling that it would be disastrous to wreck the Treaty carried the day. The position is difficult and dangerous; discreditable things are happening in Ireland, and the Free State Government protects neither life nor property. At the same time, if we step in, it means sending an army and it means also the end of the Treaty. The opinion of a large majority of the House is solidly in favour of giving the Free State their chance. At the same time everyone is so profoundly moved by what is happening in Ireland that anything is possible.

Earlier in the evening Sir Hamar Greenwood introduced his Bill for the disbandment and compensation of the Irish Constabulary. The Bill was heavily attacked, and Sir Hamar Greenwood was not convincing. He appears to have lost the authority he once held in the House.

On Thursday, 11th May, Mr. Stanley Baldwin introduced the Board of Trade estimates, and the House indulged in a Free Trade debate. The discussion was too technical to be interesting to the outsider, who finds himself bewildered when responsible people make statements mutually destructive. Mr. Baldwin came well out of the discussion. He is a pleasing speaker, who never overstates his case, and always deals fairly with his critics. The debate was cut short at 8.15 to make way for a strenuous fight between Leeds and Bradford on the one hand, and the rest of Yorkshire on the other. The two cities are seeking, as do so many others, to swallow further portions of the county, and the whole question of the conflicting ideals of local life, city and country, was raised by the debate. The country carried the day both dialectically and actually. It produced the best speakers and the most numerous voters, and in the end the Bill was beaten by a majority of well over 3 to 1.

Friday, 12th May, saw the Labour Party's Prevention of Unemployment Bill. An interesting discussion was carried on in an empty House, and in the end the rejection of the Bill, moved by Sir F. Banbury, was carried by a large majority.

On Wednesday, 10th May, Mrs. Wintringham attacked the Home Secretary for abolishing the Women Police in the Metropolis. The only opportunity for such attack is on the adjournment of the House at 11 o'clock at night, and then under the most favourable conditions only half an hour is allowed, for the House must rise automatically at 11.30. This half hour may be cut into if there is a division at 11.0, a proceeding which takes between ten and fifteen minutes. This was the case on the night in question, and Mrs. Wintringham only had little over a quarter of an hour for her assault. She spoke shortly, but very well. The Home Secretary's reply was contradictory and unconvincing. He is not going to disband, he says, only to reduce. At one time he praised the Women Police, at another he implied that they were useless. More will be heard of the matter, and signs are not lacking that the Government will give way.

[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.]

LEGAL INEQUALITIES BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN.

At the time of writing it is impossible to say whether time will be given for Sir James Greig's motion "To call attention to the inequalities in the law, civil and criminal, as between men and women." Sir James intends, moreover, to call upon the Government to appoint a Commission to inquire into all these inequalities and to report what legislation should be introduced in order to remove them.

It is pretty clear now that the Committee for this purpose referred to by the Prime Minister before Easter as being under consideration is nothing but an airy fancy. If, however, one considers the great number and variety of ways in which women, especially married women, still suffer from the inequalities of the law, the urgent need of such a Commission and of further legislation is clearly apparent. Let us consider where these inequalities lie.

First and foremost, of course, comes the Parliamentary Franchise. This right, which is at the root of all others, is denied to women on the same terms as men, and as our readers will know, the present measure of franchise granted to some in this country has the effect of leaving unfranchised the greater majority of industrially and professionally occupied women, who, in these days of hardship and unemployment are most in need of its protection. It is little to the credit of a democratic country that, with the one exception of Hungary, we should be the only country out of the twenty-five which have given the vote to women, which has admitted women on different terms from men. Not only do we lag behind the rest of Europe and many of our Dominions, but even our own Empire of India is giving us the lead in this question.

With regard to the married women, perhaps the most glaring inequality of all is that by which the married mother, during the life of her husband has no share in the guardianship of her legitimate children. It is to be noted that a mere statement in the law that parents are to have equal duties and rights in connexion with their children is not sufficient unless at the same time some provision is made for ensuring that both parents shall be required to provide for them and that the work of the mother in the home shall be considered in reckoning that provision.

Recent cases in the Courts with regard to the pledging of a husband's credit, and the right to maintenance of a wife, have brought this particular problem prominently before the general public.

In the recent discussions in the Press, however, one of the most important aspects has been overlooked, and that is that in the majority of cases a wife is doing unpaid work in the home and has absolutely no money except such as is allowed her by her husband. If she herself is to be held liable for her own debts, as it is only compatible with her personal dignity that she should be, it would be necessary, where she is conducting the home which is for the mutual benefit of both, that she should be given the legal control of some proportion of her husband's income.

Similarly, it would also be desirable that a wife should be put in a position to be made liable for her own torts, such as libel or injuries caused by careless driving. At present she is when she has separate property, but in this case also, as the great majority of wives are without property over which they have legal control, it is necessary, in order that she may be liable for her own torts, that she should be given the legal control of some proportion of her husband's income.

A Cabinet Committee has been appointed to inquire into the question of the Presumption of Coercion by a husband in respect of certain crimes. Considerable attention has been drawn to this lately, and we may hope that a woman may shortly be recognized as being responsible for her own actions, except in cases in which it is proved that definite coercion has taken place.

The inheritance laws as to land give preference to the husband over the wife and the father over the mother. It is true that the new Law of Property Bill very much improves the existing law in this matter. Here, again, however, the fact is overlooked that under our present system where the great bulk of property is in the hands of men, a law which gives the power to men and women to leave nothing at all to their partner in marriage of necessity works very hard on the woman. This was recognized by the old law which gave to a woman dower in the lands of her husband. England, too, is much less fair to wives than Scotland, and many other continental countries, where a husband is bound to leave his wife either one-third or one-half of his property.

The inequalities in the law with regard to the grounds for divorce and separation are well known. The Separation and Maintenance Orders Bill referred to in our last week's issue will help to remedy these.

Our readers are also familiar with the inequality with regard to nationality, by which a married woman has to take the nationality of her husband. The same applies with regard to domicile—a married woman is bound to take the domicile of her husband, which, like that of his nationality, may be changed without her consent, and her rights of property, inheritance, and divorce thereby changed. The husband, moreover, settles the family home, and has even the right to turn his wife out without giving her any redress.

It is commonly taught, and a number of doctors consider that it is the legal position that a wife cannot consent to have a surgical operation performed on herself. In any case, legislation is necessary to get rid of the present practice, by which her husband's consent is required to make it legal.

Married women had a long struggle before they were allowed to control their own property or earnings, but the present attempts to prevent them deciding how they shall use their own work are quite as serious infringements of the rights of a human being. It is for the married woman herself to decide whether or not she shall earn outside her home. The practical result of the denial of her right to work is in general that she has to take work less well paid elsewhere, and that her home is less well off in consequence of her loss of employment.

THE VOTELESS WOMEN OF SOUTH AFRICA (concluded).

In South Africa, as in other countries, legislation tends to become more and more concerned with matters affecting home and domestic life. The pressure of circumstances, also, is forcing women out into the labour market to compete in factory and office with men; conditions of labour, wages, the education and disposal of their children, are all at the disposition of Parliament, and at any time laws irksome and restricting, if not actually unjust to women, may come into operation.

An instance occurs to me dating from the days before the Union came into being, just after the Boer War. Each of the colonies was struggling to free itself from a load of debt. In the Cape Province Mr. Merriman, the Prime Minister, was taxing everything in the nature of a luxury; cinemas were taxed, tobacco was taxed, imported wines, and other things, but among them the Premier announced with great pride, would be imported infant's foods, because the mothers ought to nurse their babies themselves, and not depend on patent foods. Had the good gentleman consulted the mothers he might have learnt that his measure caused dismay, not to the butterfly woman who refused to allow the claim of her infant to interfere with her social engagements, but the little mother only too anxious to feed her baby, but compelled by circumstances to rely solely upon these patent foods to enable her to do so. After all are not women acknowledged to be the experts in all that concerns children, and is it likely that in matters connected with their welfare the sex which has least to do with them should be the best judges of what they need? Women are finding these things out for themselves, and it is this knowledge which is behind the growing demand for their enfranchisement in South Africa. They are developing a solidarity and sex-consciousness which will become a power in the future. For the sheltered woman sees her sister, in circumstances as comfortable and apparently secure as her own, deprived suddenly by death or misfortune of her security, and forced, all unprepared and unlearned, into the world of competition and struggle. She knows that however safe she may feel at present, the same fate might overtake her, and the difficulties of the other woman become her own. Her daughters, too, enjoy the advantages of comfortable circumstances, but who knows when they may not be driven out, as the other woman's daughters are, to earn a living, and hold their own in a world of competition?

The conditions which govern women's work concern her as vitally as any one else; she cannot afford to ignore them, and so she watches events, and the conviction grows that only a direct voice in the making of the laws that govern her will protect the woman from exploitation, and enable her to secure the best conditions for her children.

What the next step towards securing their enfranchisement will be it is not possible yet to forecast; but that the question

In the case of unmarried parents it is notorious that the responsibility of the father is not sufficiently brought home to him. He should be required to provide for the child in proportion to his means, and should be held responsible if he neglects to provide for it.

In the industrial world we find, as in the Factory Acts, many regulations which, although desirable in themselves—inasmuch as they are applied to women only, add to her many disabilities. Such regulations, when necessary, should be determined by the type of work, and not by the sex of the worker.

With regard to Government employees, it is notorious that they are still paid unequally for the same work.

Finally, another series of laws which apply only to women are the solicitation laws. It is clear that these are not only unfair but are useless for the purposes for which they were intended. All laws which make special regulations for the common prostitute should be abolished.

It is unlikely that we shall find all these inequalities removed for a very long time; many of them will have to be dealt with by separate Bills. At the same time, Parliament has already had before it this session the consideration of passing legislation with regard to Equal Franchise, Equal Guardianship, Separation and Maintenance Orders, Law of Property, etc., etc., but even if women all over the country make it clear that they intend the Government pledge "to remove all existing inequalities in the law as between men and women" to be honoured, it will need a great deal of hard work by women voters before it is carried out.

will not remain where it is, and that the demand will grow until it is met is certain. In a Parliament where farming and commercial interests are overwhelmingly predominant, it is not likely that the claims of women will receive much sympathy, since neither could be sure of making them serve their own ends. Militancy is abhorrent to the South African woman, and if ever resorted to it would be only in response to an intolerable sense of wrong, but it is equally certain that if such a thing happened and women of good standing and irreproachable character set themselves seriously to oppose the administration of laws they have no share in framing, either by active or passive means, they would create a situation of such serious embarrassment to the authorities in view of the ever present native element, that it might be found wiser to meet the women's demand in a just and generous spirit before any such contingency could arise.

At the time of writing this article another factor of the situation seems about to rise: there is a possibility that Rhodesia may join the Union. What effect will this have upon the woman's question? It is not at all likely that Rhodesians will deprive their women of the franchise so lately given, so that if Rhodesia enters it will be with adult European franchise.

Then what will differentiate the Transvaal, Free State, and Natal from Rhodesia, and why should not the women of these provinces enjoy the same right? Supposing this right is admitted, and the franchise given to them because they have the colour bar, is it likely that Cape Province will submit without protest to being excluded? In any case the women cannot be held responsible for the coloured franchise, since they were not consulted in the matter and had no voice, so it does not seem fair to reproach them for it.

One cannot but hope that such a union of forces may become an accomplished thing, not only because Rhodesia is a great and splendid country, but because it must be for the good of South Africa to be governed by one consolidated policy throughout, with their best brains and hearts at work for the good of the whole. The very fact of having granted her women the vote shows that Rhodesia is abreast of the times in her outlook, and if upon this matter why not upon others too? The Rhodesian point of view would be helpful in assisting to solve some of the many problems that are likely to confront South Africa in the next few years, and the manner of dealing with these problems is going to be of such far-reaching importance that one can hardly think the men alone would take the responsibility of dealing with them.

It will be to the advantage of the country and of themselves if they recognize the need for their women's co-operation and good-will, when the responsibility for whatever comes after can rest—where it ought to rest—with the people.

MONICA RETIEF.

THE SERVANT PROBLEM.

At the moment one of the chief topics of conversation is servants, their scarcity and worry. That there must one day ensue a crisis and that one day remedies on a big scale must be not only propounded but also inaugurated is becoming inevitable. That an infinite amount of time is wasted in fruitless discussions is another point.

Before attempting to deal with remedies or future conduct on this subject the principles must be faced, and they must be true principles and apply equally to both the employer and the employed.

Why do we need servants, and on what grounds are we justified in demanding of another human being her time and labour for a monetary wage? Are we incapable of doing it ourselves?

Why do we go out to service, and on what grounds are we justified in demanding monetary wages for work rendered by us?

And the next thing to consider is that of the freedom of the individual. Are we free when we have servants and unrestricted, and are we free as servants and unrestricted?

We all can agree that the servants have a real "case" under this heading, but the employer has also. There is no freedom with unwilling service, ill-performed, higher wages demanded than can be paid, principles of cleanliness and orderliness violated, appearances having to be kept up and rigid rules adhered to for fear "the girl will give notice". It is tyranny. We have a right to conduct our houses according to our ideals and principles, not according to the standards of our employee, but fear rules otherwise; fear, that is one of the chief bogies of domestic service; mutual suspicion, fear and boredom. The girl is bored to death, bored with the dusting, the slops, the petty fussy ways. She has no standard of beauty to support her in cleaning the silver; it is a duty got through from twelve to half-past, sufficiently well not to get a scolding and not so well as it could be done, because that means too much trouble. She has no time to herself when she can distract her mind with outdoor exercise or reading; she has no certainty of not being disturbed, so she dreams of Albert and her hats as she lays the table and so lays it badly.

So much for the resident servant. Her grievances are very well voiced on these themes. One remedy would be this.

Except in particular cases the resident servant could be abolished. Servants' residential clubs or hostels should be started, run by practical women of the type already well versed in this kind of work, the ex-W.A.A.C officers, V.A.D.s, W.R.N.S., etc. These should be set up in every borough, small ones, not too far apart. They should be independent but governed by a code of simple rules drawn up by a committee to which each hostel is answerable.

The girls would pay their expenses to include a cubicle, use of bath and light, a canteen and an entertainment fund. Recreation rooms would be provided and a laundry would be attached to each hostel. No interference would be exercised in the girl's selection or rejection of a situation. As she elected to change her situation, so she could pass to another hostel nearer that place. A regular standard of wages, hours on duty and off duty would be drawn up to be observed by mistress and servant. Girls would be employed at the hostel as cleaners and kitchen-hands, though each girl would be responsible for her own cubicle. Where half-day service only is required special arrangements could be made, also a substitute for half days off and holidays. The mistress would be at perfect liberty to order her house as she pleased. If earlier arrival is needed because of a business train to be caught or later attendance in the evening because of some special arrangement, overtime money must be paid.

There should be intelligent rules for admitting male friends on guest evenings, and with regard to an hour at which all girls must be in at night. These things have to be on a business-like footing. Community life needs organizing to ensure com-

fort for all, but it must be borne in mind that it is a residential club more than an institution for supervising.

Where resident servants are a necessity, as in cases of old age or children, these could be admitted as non-resident members and enjoy the privileges in their off-duty.

There will be infinitely less boredom for both mistress and maid, less friction, more efficiency, for the thing will run upon a system of mutual self-respect and freedom and convenience.

Priceless is the moment to a mistress when she hears the door close for the day behind her servant and the work is left finished, and the room upstairs is not filled by a sulky maid but by the guest she never had space for before. Priceless also is that hour for the servant free from the hot kitchen with the prospect of a pleasant evening of companionship sitting in the armchairs no servant is supposed to need—only to dust—or listening to a concert or lecture, or dancing with Albert. She is tired, but she is self-respecting and her mind has opportunity to be filled with nourishing matter. There, too, she will learn, mixing with her comrades, the principles of life, not just to grab all she can, but to give and take. The moment she is able to abandon the attitude of standing up for her own rights as an individual, she will be able to enter the labour market as a self-respecting professional woman.

M. H. DURST.

GRAMMAR SCHOOLS OF CRIME.*

By EDWARD ATKIN, Barrister-at-Law.

There is no subject on which publicity is more urgently needed than the injury—often irreparable—done to young offenders of both sexes by their association with hardened criminals in gaol workshops. However much the Borstal system may have ameliorated the lot of youths and girls, only a very small proportion of 16-21 year old offenders go there; moreover, the age limit also rules out many hundreds of cases from remedial treatment. Let me give a story told to me in the cells by a victim.

Jim was a bright, intelligent young fellow of 21 years of age, trained to a trade, and with excellent manners and address. Easily led, he had fallen into the company of thieves. Theft and sentence followed, and for six months he was in prison. There he met in the workshop an old hand, whom we will call Paul, and a friendship quickly sprang up between these men.

Paul's term expired before Jim's, and on the date of Jim's release who should welcome him back to liberty at the prison gate but his former prison comrade, Paul, accompanied by an expert trainer of thieves, "Flashy Jack," to whom Paul introduced Jim as a comrade.

"Flashy Jack" is an educated, well-dressed man, commanding considerable financial resources, and wholly devoted to the training of young thieves. It was a cold, raw, morning, and "Flashy Jack" gave a small breakfast party at a restaurant near the prison gate. Coffee, kippers, ham, and eggs, with marmalade, soon made Jim feel comfortable, and the gift of £5 on the spot engaged him as a chauffeur to "Flashy Jack". Thus, within an hour of discharge from prison, Jim was the comrade of one notorious rogue, and actually in the service of another.

It will be said that those who fall must take their chances, that it is impossible to frame rules to meet every class of case, and that there is no perfect system of dealing with prisoners to prevent contamination. My point, in this note, is rather to urge more attention to this question, in the hope of enlisting the force of public opinion in aid of reform, than to write a mere whining complaint.

"Jim" is a type of many hundreds who are sinking deeper and deeper into crime because it is nobody's particular business within the prison walls to keep the older criminals from working alongside those less hardened in crime. No one supposes the Prison Commissioners can be ignorant of these evils, and it is possible that official recommendations have been made repeatedly to keep older criminals of both sexes in establishments entirely distinct from young men and women. But no effective measures have been taken throughout the prison establishments of the United Kingdom to remedy these life-long evils arising from lack of segregation.

* Reprinted, by kind permission, from the *Howard Journal*.

REVIEWS.

A List of Books for Women Citizens. Published for the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship by P. S. King & Son. 1s.

The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship has rendered a valuable service to women all over the country by compiling and publishing a selected catalogue to date (February, 1922) of the contents of the Edward Wright and Cavendish Bentinck Lending Libraries. These libraries are housed at the offices of the N.U.S.E.C. at 62 Oxford Street; their scale of charges is astonishingly moderate; and they offer facilities for local groups of women to obtain book boxes by post. The publication of P. S. King's catalogue thus opens up to women all over the country the possibility of selecting books from a collection which deals exhaustively with feminist subjects, and in addition covers a wide range of economics, administration, and social questions generally. In some respects the catalogue itself shows evidence of hasty compilation. In the section on trade unionism, for instance, *The Restoration of Trade Union Conditions* stands authorless, where it should be attributed to Sidney Webb. But such faults of detail are a small price to pay for prompt publication, and we have nothing but praise to offer for the logical and clear plan of classification according to subject matter adopted by the compilers.

It should be added that the catalogue represents merely a selected list of the contents of these two libraries, i.e. those books and pamphlets which the compilers regard as of use to women citizens in the study of current problems of citizenship. In addition to the books named, visitors to the library will find on its shelves works of fiction and modern drama, and a historical section (containing many rare and even unique books) bearing the history of the women's movement throughout the ages.

M. D. S.

Simple Furnishing and Arrangement. By Helen and John Gloag. Illustrated. Duckworth. 10s. net.

The moral of this sensible and agreeable book seems to be that if we will but restrict ourselves to things that we really use or really like, we may place in the same room furniture of widely varying periods without arousing any sense of discord. Limits, of course, there are, but they are much less tightly drawn than purists would have us believe; and houses furnished according to the precepts of these pages will certainly escape a distressing quality which sometimes pervades scrupulously correct "period" rooms, and which, in human beings, would be called self-consciousness.

Refreshing, too, is the sincerity with which the unacceptability of nearly all old seats is acknowledged. Such candour may well encourage owners of fine old settees, now kept merely for show on account of inhospitable hardness, to consult an upholsterer, cautiously insert springs and horse-hair, adding, perhaps, a feather cushion, and so open a new lease of life to these honourable veterans.

It is sad to find people whose advice is generally so good appearing to countenance such horrors as "carved beds covered in damask" and the conversion of a superfluous writing-table into a dressing-table by having it "covered in damask or brocattelle". Better, surely, the merest deal shelf that could be painted or stained and kept clean.

C. B.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Offices: Evelyn House, 62 Oxford Street, London, W. 1.

Telephone: Museum 6910.

GREAT DEMONSTRATION IN CELEBRATION OF LEAGUE OF NATIONS DAY, HYDE PARK, SATURDAY, 24th JUNE, at 5 p.m.

The attention of our members is called to the above demonstration, at which the N.U.S.E.C. will be arranging its own platform and speakers. It will be remembered that last year one of the most successful platforms at the League of Nations demonstration was our own. Further particulars will be announced later, but in the meantime members are asked to keep this date free.

A great procession will leave the Thames Embankment at 4 p.m., and will march via Whitehall and Constitution Hill to the Park, to which the N.U. will send a section which it is hoped our members will make as large as possible. Our own Suffrage Banners and Flags will be carried.

"THE WOMEN'S VICTORY AND AFTER."

Owing to an arrangement acceded by the publishers we are enabled to offer a limited number of Mrs. Fawcett's book, *The Women's Victory and After*, published at 3s. 6d., at 1s. each for bound copies and 6d. each for those in paper wrappers.

This book, as our members know, constitutes a most valuable record by our late honoured President, of the Women's Suffrage Movement from 1911 to 1918. Each one of our members should not fail to possess it. Although the stock at Headquarters is almost entirely exhausted, the publishing price has proved rather too high for many who would otherwise have liked to own a copy. Individuals wishing to buy at this price are asked to apply without delay to Headquarters.

CONFERENCE OF WEST OF ENGLAND AND SOUTH WALES WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS to be held in the Town Hall Assembly Room, Newport, Mon., Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 24th, 25th, and 26th May.

The Newport W.C.A. is arranging a most important conference of the West of England and South Wales W.C.A.s, at which resolutions will be discussed on the future work of the W.C.A.,

the disbandment of the Metropolitan Women Police Patrols, the need for women councillors, the League of Nations, Parliamentary Bills affecting women and children. Among the speakers will be Miss Macadam, Mrs. Coombe-Tennant, and Professor Barbara Foxley.

KENSINGTON S.E.C.

A very successful drawing-room meeting was held on 6th May at 3 Ladbroke Court, W. 11, by kind invitation of Mrs. Matthews, on the subject of women police. Miss Beaumont took the chair, and Chief Inspector Champneys, of the Women's Auxiliary Service, and Miss Abadam spoke to a large and deeply interested audience, which overflowed into the hall. A resolution calling upon the Government to take no further action with regard to the suppression of the Women Police Patrols until the House of Commons has had an opportunity of expressing its opinion on the occasion of the Home Office vote, was carried unanimously. A large quantity of literature was sold, and four new members joined.

ROTHERHAM W.C.A.

On Tuesday, 2nd May, a meeting was held to consider the Separation and Maintenance Orders Bill, the Guardianship of Infants Bill, and the Children of Unmarried Parents Bill. The meeting was attended by women of other organizations, including the Labour Party, the Co-operative Guild, the British Women's Temperance Association, etc. Resolutions were passed in support of the Bills, and the other organizations were asked to send in resolutions as well. The discussion was led as follows:—

Separation and Maintenance Orders: Miss Coram.
Equal Guardianship: Mrs. MacLagan.
Children of Unmarried Parents: Mrs. Green.

The interest was great, and in the discussion which followed each speech, the members were able to supply illustrations for the needed reforms from their own observation.

THE LATE MRS. ROSA F. E. SWINEY.

We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Swiney, a veteran of the cause for Women's Suffrage, founder and for twenty-three years President of the Cheltenham Women's Suffrage Society. She was an unflinching worker for the suffrage movement, but complained bitterly of the great difficulties which beset the cause, and the "hard and ungenial soil" which had to be tilled. She wrote many books and pamphlets, the majority of which had the emancipation of women, or its part in the scheme of creation, as their topic. Her chief works were *The Awakening of Women*, or *Women's Part in Evolution, Women and the Natural Law*, *The Bar of Isis*, or *the Law of the Mother*, etc. Her intellectual activities, in spite of failing health, were continued to the time of her death, and we are informed that she was engaged upon another book.

NEW PAMPHLET ON EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

A new pamphlet on "Equal Pay for Equal Work" has just been written by Mrs. Stocks, a member of the Executive Committee of the N.U.S.E.C. It is being published, and will be ready for sale this week, price 2d.

EDWARD WRIGHT AND CAVENDISH BENTINCK LIBRARY.

The following are some of the new books which have recently been added to the Library:—

<i>Europe in Convalescence</i>	Alfred Zimmer.
<i>A Revision of the Peace Treaty</i>	Maynard Keynes.
<i>The Hope of Europe</i>	Philip Gibbs.
<i>Under the Searchlight</i>	Violet Douglas-Pennant.
<i>Insurance against Unemployment</i>	J. L. Cohen.

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS.

Vice versa, how can girls be otherwise protected by law if they are the goods of this trade, and of a trade, too, considered absolutely necessary, as well as one in which enormous profits are made?

Therefore, how can Bills protecting girls alone be any good, and are they under these conditions ever going to be passed? Since before 1885 reformers have worked to raise the age of consent to 18, but have had to come down to protecting them adequately under 16 only; and still nothing is being done.

F. K. POWELL.

LABOUR WOMEN.

The National Conference of Labour Women was held at Leamington last week, with Miss Margaret Bondfield in the chair. The conference endorsed proposals for motherhood and child endowment, which will be submitted to the Labour party conference at Edinburgh in June to be embodied in the political programme of the Labour party for the next general election. A report on the subject was discussed, which urged that child maintenance should be made a direct charge upon the national income, and call "for such readjustment of the economic structure as will secure for every mother in her own right an adequate equipment for the service of motherhood." The conference agreed to recommend (1) the universal free education from nursery school to the university, with maintenance allowance; (2) universal free services with regard to health; (3) the extension to all women of the provisions of the Washington Convention on maternity, providing medical and nursing care, together with adequate maintenance six weeks before and six weeks after childbirth; (4) provision of pure milk for expectant and nursing mothers and infants up to five years of age at cost price, or, where desirable, free; (5) school medical service in its most complete form for all children; (6) provision for at least one meal per day during the school terms for all children. There was some discussion on clause 7, which stated that it would be a great national as well as family economy if school clothes and boots were provided for all children, but on a vote it was carried by 203 to 90. Mrs. Stocks moved an amendment declaring that "the principle of payment in kind, though acceptable as an emergency policy, fails to provide a satisfactory basis for the services of motherhood", but after some discussion it was defeated by 206 to 49 votes.

THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS IN SERBIA.

MADAM,—In your issue of 5th May appears a letter from Dr. K. S. Macphail, and I beg the courtesy of your columns for a reply. I would not trouble you with this, were it not that the first paragraph of Dr. Macphail's letter contains such a grave misstatement, that alike in the interests of my Committee and of our subscribers, it is imperative that it should be corrected.

Dr. Macphail says that the Scottish Women's Hospitals have decided not to proceed with help for the Serbs with the funds collected for that purpose. Dr. Macphail is under a misapprehension. As our balance-sheet—published in the *Times*, *Scotsman*, *Glasgow Herald*, *Aberdeen Free Press*, and the *Dundee Advertiser* on 11th April—shows, of the money specially collected for the Serbs, £12,470 12s. 6d. remains in our hands, and is being used exclusively for Serbia and the Serbs, £10,000 having been allocated to the Society of Women Doctors in Belgrade to help them to build a hospital.

The surplus, £28,000 approximately, is the balance of the money subscribed for the general purposes of the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Home and Foreign Service, and the allocation of this sum, as shown in the balance-sheet, is the outcome after long and careful deliberation and investigation on the part of the Committee.

NELLE M. HUNTER,

Chairman, Scottish Women's Hospitals.

TO BE PROTECTED AND FOR SALE.

MADAM,—If a Bill adequately protecting girls under 16 or 18 (the age now is under 16, for the Government in its Bill has left out the necessary extension of time) is ever to become law, how is it to be really effective, let alone just, unless boys under the same age are similarly protected? For girls cannot be moral unless boys of the same ages are protected and therefore moral.

But how can boys be protected by the law, or men be moral, if women, largely young girls, are on sale for immoral purposes everywhere in this world, and consequently like any other article of commerce are advertised in every possible way and pushed for all they are worth?

COMING EVENTS.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

MAY 21. Folkestone Theatre, 3 p.m. Speakers: Rev. W. H. Elliott, Rev. Dr. Carlile.
MAY 24. Chingford Church Schools, King's Road, 11 a.m. Council Schools, New Road, afternoon. Speaker: Mrs. Batten.
MAY 26. Hampstead Town Hall, 8.15 p.m. Speaker: Capt. A. E. W. Thomas, D.S.O., M.C.

N.U.S.E.C.

MAY 22. Hampstead S.E.C., Trinity Presbyterian Church Hall, Rosslyn Hill, 8.15 p.m. "Possible Economic Results of Women entering into Industry on Equal Terms." Speaker: Mr. Marshall Pike. Chair: Miss Beaumont.
MAY 24, 25, 26. Newport (Mon.) W.C.A. Conference of West of England and S. Wales W.C.A., Town Hall. Speakers: Miss Macadam, M.A., Mrs. Coombe-Tennant, J.P., Mayorress of Newport, etc.

MAY 24. Redditch S.E.C., 8 p.m. "Bills before Parliament." Speaker: Miss Beaumont.

FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES.

MAY 24. Annual Meeting, Kingsway Hall, afternoon session. "Bills before Parliament." Speaker: Mrs. Hubback.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

MAY 22. Minerva Cafe, 144 High Holborn, W.C. 1, 6.30 p.m. Discussion on "Should the Daily Press pander to the Public Taste?" Speakers: Miss Edith W. Kirby and Miss Stella Wolfe Murray.

NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR HEALTH, MATERNITY, AND CHILD WELFARE.
Course of Lectures at Carnegie House, 177 Piccadilly, 6-7 p.m. May 22: "Accidents and Minor Ailments." Speaker: Dr. Allan Hamilton.

GUILDHOUSE.

MAY 26. Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, 8 p.m. "What I saw in America." Speaker: Miss Maude Royden. Music: Mr. Martin Shaw.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB.

MAY 24. 9 Grafton Street, Piccadilly, 8.15 p.m. "Municipal Work for Women." Speaker: Mrs. Mustard, Chair: Councillor Mrs. Crawford.

FEMINIST LEAGUE.

MAY 29. Kingsway Hall, 7.45 p.m. Protest meeting against the Suppression of the Women Police. Speakers: Duchess of Hamilton, Bishop of Kensington, Miss Lind-af-Hageby, etc.

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References: The Countess of Mayo; The Countess (Dowager) of Desart; The Viscountess St. Cyres; The Lady Pirie; Claude Montefiore, Esq.; Messrs. Wainwright, Pollock and Co., Solicitors; Messrs. Lewis & Velezias, and many others.
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