

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

Vol. XVII. No. 44. One Penny.

REGISTERED AS
A NEWSPAPER.

Friday, November 27, 1925.

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Annual Subscription for Postal Subscribers: British Isles and
Abroad, 6/6.
Common Cause Publishing Co., 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Queen Alexandra.

In mourning the death of Queen Alexandra the nation records its own personal loss, yet picks no quarrel with Fate. She had finished her course with a completeness which is the privilege of very few. She left no grievances unhealed, no misunderstandings unrighted, no kindly words unsaid, no generous acts withheld. Death came to her in an unusually gentle mood; he found her surrounded by those who loved her and whom she loved; and if we may venture to deduce something from the expressions and habits of her lifetime, we would surmise that she went to meet him in the belief that his destructive power is limited to material things. Nevertheless the nation has lost something which it would gladly have cherished for a few years longer, and its loss has thrown it into a reminiscent mood. How difficult, at times, must have been the long part which she had to play in this adopted country of hers. And—when one comes to visualize its difficulties—with what peculiar grace and dignity she played it!

The Debate on the Two-shift System.

Brief as was the debate on Miss Wilkinson's amendment to the Expiring Laws Bill, whereby she sought on behalf of the Labour Party to prevent the employment of women on the two-shift system, it was, as we suggested last week, better reading for feminists: and a challenge to them to get to work on the tyranny of restrictive legislation based on sex. Not one Member of the House of Commons rose to put the feminist view that women are grown up human beings who should choose for themselves when and how they shall work, and that no real "protection" is afforded by differential legislation in industry. Great play was made of the abomination of women having to get up at five in the morning. We believe that wives of innumerable working men get up at five in the morning—for "love". The two-shift women earn 48 hours' pay for 40 hours' work, which scarcely bears out Miss Wilkinson's suggestion that the two-shift system and the sweating employer are synonymous terms.

Trade Union Opposition.

But the most significant thing was the objection to the existing Act enabling employers and employees to make joint application for an Order allowing the two-shift system on the ground that "it does not definitely state that the consent of the Trade Union has to be obtained. In a trade where the workers are not properly organized the employer can get the workers to agree to almost anything." Headquarters Trade Unions must

be meant, for it is on record that local Trade Unions supported the applications for an Order. It might, we think, be truer to say that in Trade Unions, where women have not the same status as the men, the men can get them to agree to almost anything. But not to everything. Fifteen thousand women, and more, have deliberately chosen to work on the two-shift system, and earn 48 hours' pay for 40 hours' work; and there is detailed evidence in the Factories Report for 1924 that they have not only earned higher pay, but that they have also secured better conditions.

Deputation to the Home Secretary on Street Solicitation.

A short paragraph in last week's WOMAN'S LEADER recorded the reception by the Home Secretary of a large deputation, asking him to appoint a Committee of Inquiry into the working of the Solicitation Laws. The deputation was introduced by Lord Muir Mackenzie, and the speakers were Mr. G. W. Johnson on behalf of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, Mrs. Bramwell Booth for the Salvation Army, the Bishop of Pella representing Roman Catholic Societies, Miss Picton-Turbervill for the Young Women's Christian Association, and Mrs. Bethune-Baker for the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. All the speakers urged the need of abolishing the present discredited laws, and of holding an impartial inquiry as to their working, and as to what should replace them. But there was not unanimity of opinion among the various Societies represented as to what changes were necessary in the existing law. This placed the speakers in a difficult position when pressed by the Home Secretary for their views on this point, and this difficulty was probably the cause of the impression with which many of us came away, that we had never "come to grips" with our subject. The Home Secretary, in his reply, made some specific statements with which the members of the deputation were in entire disagreement. He has, however, very courteously consented to give his personal attention to a memorandum sent to him by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, answering in detail these specific points. In further remarks the Home Secretary seemed to indicate that if he instituted an inquiry he would prefer to appoint a departmental committee to which he could appoint persons of wide and varied and special experience. In our opinion those persons are better qualified to give evidence before an unbiassed body of persons such as might be appointed to serve on a Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament, than to be themselves the Committee of Inquiry.

Miss Wilkinson's Bill on Women Police.

On Tuesday, 8th December, Miss Wilkinson will introduce under the Ten Minutes' Rule, a Bill to amend a Municipal Corporations Act, which imposes on Watch Committees of Borough Councils the duty to appoint a sufficient number of fit men to act as constables, so that it will also impose on Watch Committees the duty of appointing a sufficient number of fit women. The Bill is being limited to the Watch Committees of Borough Councils, firstly because it is generally recognized that the more pressing need is in the crowded areas, and secondly because of the very anomalous position in which the City Councils of Manchester and other cities have been placed owing to the refusal of their Watch Committees to appoint Women Police in defiance of the wishes of the Council. So late in the Session, the Bill is, of course, only being introduced for propaganda purposes, and to test the opinion of the House of Commons. It is, therefore, hoped that Women's Organizations and women everywhere will see to it that the Members of Parliament repre-

sending them are made aware of their earnest desire for the compulsory appointment of women police. We shall be publishing a short article from Miss Wilkinson on the Bill next week.

Criminal Justice Bill—Coercion of Wives.

The Report stage of this important measure was concluded last week. The highly contentious clause dealing with the power of issuing search warrants was withdrawn. An amendment to reject Clause 42, which abolishes the presumption of coercion of a married woman by her husband, but providing that for offences other than treason or murder it should be a good defence for a wife to prove that the offence was committed in the presence of or under the coercion of her husband, was legalized without a division. The main argument of the opposition was the fact that the clause was not in accordance with the report of the Committee recently appointed under Mr. Justice Avory to consider this question. This Committee reported that a married woman should receive exactly the same treatment as any other citizen in this respect, and had the support of women's organizations. The clause in the Bill represents, however, a considerable advance on the present state of the law. We propose in a forthcoming issue to deal more fully with this Bill which, barring accidents, will find its place on the Statute Book before the year is out.

Education and Industry.

A Committee for Scotland has just been appointed by the Secretary for Scotland in consultation with the Minister of Labour to inquire into the public system of education in Scotland in relation to the requirements of trade and industry. Lord Salvesen is the chairman, and Mrs. Charles Douglas of Auchlochan is the only woman member. Our readers will recall the appointment of a similar committee for England and Wales announced in our issue of 23rd October, of which Miss Violet Markham is the only woman member. We are moved to repeat the comment we made on that occasion, that on a committee consisting of seven members, at least one other woman, preferably one with personal experience of the requirements of trade or industry, should have found a place. Officers of Scottish women's organizations will do well to make a note of this Committee. We repeat what we said on the last occasion, that the adequacy or inadequacy of the equipment of boys and girls for their future careers might well form the subject of a useful conference or local inquiry in which working-class parents should be encouraged to take part.

Women at Cambridge University.

The speakers in the Cambridge Senate House during the recent discussions on the proposals of the University Commissioners seem to have agreed to be silent respecting the position of women in the immediate future. Matters therefore remain where they were. In principle the sex barrier has been removed so far as the eligibility of women for University teaching posts (professorships, readerships, etc.) is concerned; and women with the requisite qualifications may become members of Faculties, and some of them may be appointed to serve on Boards of Faculties. To what extent Cambridge University will avail itself in practice of the knowledge and services of women must depend chiefly on the spirit dominating academic society at the time. It cannot always remain so narrow or so monopolistic as it has been of late years. There will come a time of regret, perhaps even of shame. At present Cambridge reformers wait and observe.

A Step Forward.

The proposals of the Government for the overhauling of the Poor Laws have now been issued to the County Councils Association and the Municipal Corporations Association in order that the Ministry of Health may receive expressions of opinion with regard to them. We propose to begin the detailed discussion of the proposals next week, and our readers anxious to refresh their memories of past events will find some suggestions in the review of two recent books which we print to-day under the title "Roadmakers." We have repeatedly reminded our readers that there are good reasons apart from the importance of the subject to the community at large why women should scrutinize the suggested schemes of reform. Now that the publication of concrete proposals has given the necessary fillip to discussion we feel we are amply justified in our promise to give the subject a good deal of attention during the coming winter.

Conference on Social Insurance.

The League of Nations Union has organized a comprehensive Conference on Social Insurance, which is being held at the London School of Economics during the week. On Monday, the morning session was presided over by Sir William Beveridge, and was devoted to consideration of the Contributory Pensions Act, which was advocated by Sir Kingsley Wood, and criticized by Miss Ellen Wilkinson and Mrs. Hubback. In the afternoon, Sir Lynden Macassey, K.C., presided over the meeting which was considering the Unification of Social Insurance. Mr. T. T. Broad, Sir Thomas Neill, and Mr. J. L. Cohen spoke. Mr. Alban Gordon, Dr. Marion Phillips and others were among the speakers on Health Insurance which was dealt with on Tuesday morning. A short account of the Conference and of the later meetings, which include Family Endowment, on which Mr. Brailsford, Mrs. Stocks, and Mr. Cohen will be speaking, will be given next week.

Equality of Opportunities.

At a meeting of the Consultative Committee of Women's Organizations in London last week a protest was made against the small share of higher posts which has been allotted to women by the Minister of Health in connection with the administration of widows' pensions. It was stated that in the super executive grade posts were given to five men and no women; in the higher executive grade to fifteen men and to one woman; in the executive grade to sixty-one men and to one woman; and in the higher clerical grade to ten men and to three women. The reasons alleged by the Ministry for this inequality are that there were fewer women as "ripe" for promotion as the men. We find it difficult to believe that there were not more women from amongst those engaged in administering War Pensions and Health Insurance suitable for the work. If, however, the Ministry's contention is correct the remedy is to be found in seeing that an adequate number of women are borrowed from other departments and put in, if only at the bottom of their respective grades in order to provide the raw material for future promotions.

Women in Italy win Municipal Suffrage.

News has reached us from the talented editor of the *Giornale della Donna*, Signora Benedettini, that the Senate has definitely approved the Suffrage Bill already passed by the Chamber of Deputies, giving to women the right to vote in the municipal elections. This Bill is so restricted in scope and the categories of women are so limited, that we must regard it as a triumph for the principle rather than a practical measure to secure the co-operation of women in municipal affairs. If, however, the elected mayors are to be replaced by nominees of the government, it is perhaps not likely that either men or women voters will exercise much authority. But it is a splendid achievement in the face of particularly grave difficulties, and we enthusiastically congratulate Dr. Margherite Ancona and Signora Benedettini and their loyal colleagues on this first instalment of success. The sex barrier is down and the position is now so obviously illogical that we may rest assured a wider measure will soon be worked for and attained. The Mediterranean, once a black spot on Suffrage maps, now sees the women of Greece, Italy, and Spain called to help in local government. It is only regrettable that so pleasing an improvement in the letter of Mediterranean Representative Democracy should be accompanied by so striking a decline in its spirit as the post-war period has witnessed.

The Society of Women Musicians.

Many women who take up music as a career, or find in it their chief pleasure, are unaware of the existence of the Society of Women Musicians. This Society, whose headquarters are at 74 Grosvenor Street, has been in existence for fourteen years and has now a recognized position in the world of Music, due in the first place to the excellence of its aims and the high standard reached at its discussions and concerts, but also to the pleasant, happy, and intimate atmosphere which has come to be a characteristic of the meetings. At these gatherings new works are performed, young artistes are given a hearing, distinguished guests are entertained and contribute to the entertainment. In addition, the Society offers facilities for hiring (by arrangement) at a nominal rate, the large room and fine Steinway piano to those of its members who wish to give small recitals or pupils' concerts. Its secretary is Miss Rachel Fell, who will be glad to answer any inquiries concerning its work.

DECKS CLEAR FOR ACTION.

On 20th November, the Court of Appeal, the Master of the Rolls and Lord Justices Warrington and Sargant, delivered considered judgments allowing the appeal of the Poole Corporation from the decision of Mr. Justice Romer given in August of this year. Our readers will doubtless remember the jubilation with which we hailed this decision—a decision given in favour of Mrs. Short, a married woman teacher, whose dismissal on the sole ground of marriage was declared to be outside the competence of the Local Authority by whom she was employed. The Poole Corporation "considered the duty of the married woman was primarily to look after her domestic concerns, and they regarded it as impossible for her to do so and to effectively and satisfactorily act as a teacher at the same time." We quote its own original and somewhat illiterate statement. Mr. Justice Romer, however, considered the duty of an Education Authority was primarily to look after its educational concerns, and he regarded it as impossible for it to do so and to effectively and satisfactorily act as supervisor and regulator of its employees' domestic affairs at the same time. In other words, he held that an Education Authority could dismiss a teacher only on "educational grounds."

This decision seems, not unnaturally, to have caused some perturbation among local authorities, the majority of whom were pursuing this inequitable and irrelevant policy with regard to their married women employees. And we do not doubt that the request which the Poole Corporation made to its brother corporations for contributions towards the cost of its judicial appeal found a ready response among such local authorities. Well—they have their reward. Their appeal has been successful. In his summing up, the Master of the Rolls quoted an earlier decision of Lord Sumner: "There are many matters which the Court is indisposed to question, though they are the ultimate judges of what is lawful and what is unlawful in borough councils, they often accept the decision of the local authority simply because they are themselves ill-equipped to weigh the merits of one solution of a practical question against another." Where the exercise of the discretion was challenged, said the Master of the Rolls, "It was for the plaintiff to prove that there was a duty in the Courts to interfere upon the grounds already stated." In his judgment, "no such proof had been established in the present case." The appeal was therefore allowed—with costs.

We are bound for the present to accept this judgment as good law. And indeed, in general, we believe that the interests of active democracy and abundant citizenship are well served by a recognition of the widest possible discretionary powers as the attribute of elected local authority. But if this is the law, then in this case the law allows of a course of action which is most clearly repugnant to the spirit of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act. It allows of a very definite measure of sex discrimination, perpetrated in the name of the public which the local authorities represent. And now that the matter has been removed by this judgment from the circumlocutions of juridical reasoning, we hope that our readers will appreciate to the full the implications of the policy which has once and for all been declared legal.

Men are not dismissed from their posts because they may happen to have acquired sources of pecuniary support which the local authorities in their wisdom regard as adequate. *Women are.* Men are not required to present themselves as necessitous paupers to air their domestic grievances and plead "special circumstances" in support of their right to earn a salary in return for good value given. *Women are.* Men are not regarded as disqualifying themselves by marriage and fatherhood from the business of teaching the young and healing the sick. *Women are.* Men would not for a year, a month, or a minute, tolerate such interference with their personal liberties. *Women . . . No, by the Powers! Women won't, either!*

ROAD MAKERS.¹

Two weeks ago a leading article, in which under the title "The Logic of History" the complete overhauling of an obsolete Poor Law was discussed, referred to the report of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws. The Majority and Minority reports of this Commission form in themselves a library of considerable size dealing with almost every aspect of social and economic problems—sickness, old age, maternity and infancy, casual labour or under-employment and unemployment. No thorough study of the treatment of unemployment or the causes of poverty can indeed be undertaken without their aid. But for those who ask

¹ *Sir Edwin Chadwick*, by Maurice Marston (Leonard Parsons, 7s. 6d.), *The Ministry of Health*, by Sir Arthur Newsholme (Putnam, 5s.).

for a more personal touch we recommend the *Life of Sir Edwin Chadwick*, which has recently been published in the Roadmakers Series. The story of his career from early manhood to old age provides a living piece of social history covering the greater part of the nineteenth century. Chadwick was born in 1800; he died in 1890. While still a young journalist his original treatment of social subjects such as "preventive police" and life assurance attracted the attention of the philosopher Bentham whose literary secretary he became. In 1833, he was appointed one of the three commissioners to whom fell the unenviable task of administering the unpopular "New Poor Law." He was, moreover, a leading spirit in nineteenth century movements for public health, housing, factory legislation, and burial reform, and it was due to him that a Registrar-General was appointed who should be responsible for the registration of births, deaths, and marriages. He held advanced views on education, and it is interesting to hear that he urged better facilities for instruction of men in the fighting services. The chapter of the book which deals with the Poor Law is of special interest to us to-day as we anticipate its extinction. As secretary to the first Poor Law Board, Chadwick faced a problem which could have been performed only by a man who combined administrative ability with a constructive mind and not less important indomitable courage. He was indeed a "road maker," for he blazed the trail which thirty years after his death led to a Ministry of Health.

But the student of the year of grace 1923 must supplement his studies of the Poor Law and its pioneer administrators, and nothing could be better for this purpose than the second volume in the Whitehall series of books on Government departments, *The Ministry of Health*, by Sir Arthur Newsholme. The writer with first-hand knowledge describes the events which led to the establishment of the New Ministry in 1918. He pays high tribute to Chadwick and to John Simon, another "road maker" whose work for public health was far in advance of his time. Here again we turn instinctively to-day to the sections dealing with the Poor Law. Logically, Poor Law reform should have antedated the Ministry of Health Act, and the future transfer of duties from the new department was anticipated. But though the Poor Law Reports were published as long ago as 1909, and the report of the Local Government Board commonly called "the Maclean Report" in 1917, time was not ripe for drastic changes. This book appears at the right moment as it not only lays open before the ordinary citizen the mysteries of a great new department of State, but the writer discusses fully the problem which has at last become practical politics—the complete reconstruction and co-ordination of our national system of social insurance and public assistance. We are glad that he records his emphatic approval of drastic change. Both these two books, one written about a pioneer administrator who did not live to see the harvest of his sowing and the other by a distinguished administrator who is happily still with us should find a place in the library of the woman citizen. E. M.

MRS. BRIAN WILSON.

The death of Mrs. Brian Wilson last Friday afternoon removes one who has of late lived only the life of an invalid, little heard of. But, as Miss Jane Wilson in her young prime, over forty years ago, she was a widely-known, vigorous personality, remarkably independent in mind and character, and endowed with zeal, discretion and ability. She cared about all nursing questions, and had been herself trained in the work. When the late Miss Louisa Twining was bent on reforming nursing in workhouses, Miss Jane Wilson was for two years her hon. assistant secretary, and then succeeded her as hon. secretary to the Workhouse Infirmary Working Association; they worked together for thirteen years.¹ It was Miss Jane Wilson who founded the Midwives' Institute in 1890; she was its president 1894-1911, and then vice-president. She and Miss Rosalind Paget from beginning to end bore the burden of the strenuous twelve years' struggle for the Midwives' Act, passed in 1902—a measure of great sanitary importance. She was then put on the Central Midwives' Board by the Privy Council; she served on it until 1910, when she resigned in protest against there being no one to represent midwives on the Departmental Committee to investigate the midwife question. Miss Wilson was a member of the Local Electors' Association in 1886, and of its successor, the Women's Local Government Society, on the Council of the latter body for four years, and later made an honorary member. She was ever eager and capable in giving practical help to individuals, and her keen perceptions and breadth of interest held out to the end. M. S. K.

¹ See *Recollections of Life and Work*, by Louisa Twining.

"THE OLD ADAM."

Mr. Pn Hrschmyzl, Prime Minister of Paphlagonia, is extraordinarily like and, again, extraordinarily unlike, a British prime minister or a British archbishop. Miss Cicely Hamilton's play, *The Old Adam*, presented by Sir Barry Jackson of the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, at the Kingsway, is extraordinarily like and extraordinarily unlike other plays. Its name and its heroine are the only dull things about it. It is quite unlike the normal play (we hear of the "normal woman" and the "normal child" so we are convinced that there are normal plays). But it is rather like Bernard Shaw at times. Miss Hamilton calls it a "fantastic comedy," and comedy it is in Balzac's sense; a comedy of the weakness and the strength of human nature and of its obstinate questionings. The play is most amusing. Often there was an outburst of laughter, loud and long, from almost the whole audience, sometimes, here or there, in dress circle or pit or stalls, an individual shocked his or her more controlled neighbours by exhibiting an unseemly individualism of mirth, and emitting a sudden and raucous guffaw.

It would be unkind to give away the plot. Suffice it to say that in the pivotal scene an undersized, round-shouldered, be-spectacled clerk-like figure takes unassumingly, but decidedly, the principal seat in General Csztojow's (anglicé, General Cunliffe—all the names are Englished, but in a note at the end, the Paphlagonian equivalents are revealed, and these are so attractive that no apology for using them is needed except to the compositor) room while members of the cabinet stand around like office boys. The clerk-like one is a clever fellow, that is why. He has science, and he has imagination and the gift of acting promptly. The Prime Minister acts in his regard rather like the chorus in a Greek play, only contrariwise; while scientific Mr. Athelstane Lilley (better call him by an English name because, alas, he has just a *soupcçon* of "something not quite English") acts or proposes to act, the prime minister translates the whole position into the finest rhetoric, warranted to catch many votes. Mr. Lilley's invention secures that, by merely pressing a button, the enemy is, quietly and gently, and without the shedding of blood, rendered incapable of carrying out its intention to launch upon Paphlagonia a "great war" with all its modern implications. The prime minister, with a meritorious record of pacific profession to hamper him, had been hard put to it to rhetoricize the Cabinet's decision to pick up the gauntlet thrown at them by bellicose Ruritania, but the moment he takes the new idea he begins to expand like the sun flower before the rising sun (he is curiously like a sunflower as well as a prime minister, and an archbishop and a book maker). He grasps at once, with the acumen that has made him what he is, the full rhetorical possibilities of the new "bloodless" situation, the consequent peace with honour, and the rest of it. We will draw a veil over his childish tears (metaphorically speaking) when the situation makes a volte face, and we will pass on.

Miss Hamilton's own gallant war service has made it easy for her to reproduce the whole war business with a realism which carries us back ten years. Yet, even in the familiar environment of Whitehall in 1914, the fisherman turned admiral, and the little pope of science seem no more surprising than if we had encountered them in a dream.

It is hard to be critical after an evening of delight, but by what impish compulsion has Miss Hamilton supplied only two women in a crowd of men and has made both of them fools? The young lady heroine is a fair imitation of a well meaning, mediocre, useful war girl, but she is a bore. And, by all we hold sacred, why Miss Hildegard Jones, M.D., M.R.C.S.? Why have her physically compelled out of the war office sanctum by the attractive general to the tune of vulgar laughter and applause of the audience? The author of this play knows well how to amuse an audience without this sort of thing. Dr. Jones offers a fully equipped hospital to the authorities, she shows pertinacity and "practicality". So far, good. But she is shown to be an insufferable bore, and a prig, and an egotist, an almost exact replica of the gaunt "unsexed" creatures of the second-rate caricaturist in the early days of the suffrage movement. There may have been women doctors like that in the war, we do not know. One thing we do know: that the heroic and modest and saintlike Dr. Elsie Inglis went to the British War Office with an offer of service, and was told to go home. That memory might have saved us from Dr. Hildegard Jones.

In the last act, Miss Hamilton and Mr. Ayliffe, the producer, and the actors, present a situation impossible to describe, but which will not easily be forgotten by those who see it. The War

Minister has just lost his only son, the war girl's affianced is marching away to death, and there arrives upon this scene, the fanatical half-crazed Roman Catholic Bishop of Stephensbury, who delivers a monologue of denunciation of war, of war makers in general, and above all, of the war minister. As he monologues, up from the window comes the sound of tramping, rhythmic feet, and the dear hackneyed "Tipperary" tune. Then the war minister speaks. He voices the obstinate questionings of the human race. "What," he asks, "is this thing? Why, when modern armaments are no more (for such is the story) when peace propaganda is rife, when dear ones are snatched away, why does the terrible fascination remain? Why, always and always, do the young rush forward for the fight? Is it that death itself the death mystery, has some compelling call, which those who hear, young or old, must answer . . . ?" We may not have rightly understood, but that is what this end of the "comedy" said to us. As the Bishop gives his episcopal blessing to the troops the curtain falls.

We have spoken of the last act as the joint work of all concerned. That is true of the whole play. The two women and the foreign minister had no chance, but the rest of the caste, and the general production and the "scenery" were of the first order. We recommend our readers to remain uninfluenced by the reviews, bad or good, silly or wise, but to go and judge for themselves whether the deep in themselves answers to something deep in this fantastic comedy.

A. H. W.

JANUARY 1st, 1926.

The first number of THE WOMAN'S LEADER in 1926 will take the form of a summary of the woman's year in politics, local government, social work, literature, the Church, the drama, home life, etc. Please send us your order now. Why not sell this New Year's number or even distribute it free at the January meeting of your Society? We will send you 100 copies to any address for 6s. 4d., fifty copies for 3s. 6d., twenty-five for 1s. 10d. If you sell it at a penny you will make some profit for your Society. We want you to help us in other ways. We believe that women citizens need a paper which will keep them up-to-date in current affairs. It must be *cheap*, it must be *short*, it must be *weekly*. We are convinced that women's societies would be more vigorous if their members made it a weekly duty to give a quarter of an hour to reading the paper. Our New Year begins on 29th January, though of course you may subscribe at any time; you probably subscribe yourself already. Will you help to make the paper better known among your friends and in any club or society you are interested in? "It is really what I need," says a busy woman worker. "I couldn't possibly do without it," says a woman in the home. "I use it for my Women Citizens' Study Circle," says a social worker. Send a year's subscription as a Christmas present to a friend who will appreciate it and make it more widely known that it is indispensable to those who wish to follow social and political questions of special concern to women.

QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT.

EQUAL PAY.—Colonel Day asked the Postmaster-General if he will consider setting up a special Committee of Inquiry to deal with the demand of members of the Union of Post Office Workers that the principle of equal pay for men and women should operate in the Civil Service? Mr. R. McNeill, in his reply, stated that the question of the remuneration in the Civil Service as compared with men has already been fully reviewed by the present Government, and the Government is not prepared to set up a special Committee of Inquiry on the subject.

FRANCHISE CONFERENCE.—Major Crawford asked the Prime Minister when the Government Conference on the Franchise will be called together? The Prime Minister: I can make no statement on this subject at present. Major Crawford: May I ask the right hon. gentleman whether he can hold put any hope of making a statement before the end of the year? The Prime Minister: I should think it is extremely doubtful.

NURSING HOMES.—Mr. G. Hurst asked the Minister of Health whether he will now appoint a Committee to inquire into the desirability of legislation for the purpose of registering and supervising nursing homes? Sir K. Wood: In view of the present pressure of work and the difficulty of completing the Inquiry before the end of the Session it is not proposed to proceed with the appointment of a Select Committee this year, but

steps will be taken to set up the Committee at the earliest practicable date in next Session.

CONTRIBUTORY PENSIONS ACT: APPOINTMENTS.—Mr. G. Hurst asked the Minister of Health what is the number of men and women respectively appointed or promoted to posts carrying a salary of £400 or over in connection with the Widows', Orphans' and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act? Sir K. Wood: Three men and three women have, at present, been appointed or promoted to posts with a substantive salary of £400 or over, for work in connexion with the Pensions Act.

MARRIED WOMEN (NATIONALITY LAW).—Major Harvey asked the Home Secretary if he has received from the Dominions any replies to the communications, which he indicated he would send them, on the subject of British women who marry aliens and, if so, what is the nature of such replies? Sir W. Joynson-Hicks: The Governments of the Self-Governing Dominions have been invited to express their views as to the proposal on this subject in the Resolution moved by the hon. and gallant Member on 18th February last. I am informed that no reply has yet been received from any of the Dominions except the Irish Free State. I think it will be better not to make any statement as to the nature of the replies until they are complete. Sir Geoffrey Butler asked the Home Secretary whether the views of the Dominions have now been received on the question of an amendment of the British Nationality Act to provide that a British woman shall not lose her British status by marriage until by the law of her husband's country she has acquired his nationality? Sir W. Joynson-Hicks: I am informed that replies on this question have now been received from the Governments of all the self-governing Dominions with the exception of the Dominion of Canada.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.—Sir W. de Frece asked the Minister of Health whether he proposes to introduce a Bill dealing with smoke abatement; and, if so, whether he can indicate when this will be? Mr. Chamberlain: I hope to introduce a Bill on this subject next Session.

A HANDBOOK FOR THE FURNISHER.

By H. S. ANTHONY.

The woman who buys food or clothes for a household is in nine cases out of ten wise in the art she practises, but the man or woman buying furniture and decorating a new home is usually extremely ignorant. Probably quite two-thirds of the houses in the kingdom have been furnished by young couples who are without the slightest experience or training in that art and may be almost as easily led astray by their good taste in details as by a complete lack of it. To such as these Mrs. Vince's *Furnishing and Decorating Do's and Don'ts*¹ should prove invaluable. Although it only consists of fifty small pages (and is consequently, as the title suggests, often dogmatic in style) it is nevertheless full of practical advice upon essentials. First of all the author stresses a point often forgotten—that a house has to be lived in, not merely looked at, and it is unwise to furnish a room without studying its peculiarities of aspect, proportions, and style. She goes on to give hints on the treatment of spaces and backgrounds, on curtains, carpets, and light-fittings, which are well worth the study of the settled homemaker as well as the prospective furnisher. The chapters on kitchen and nursery show a very practical sympathy and consideration for their inmates. For the nursery, "rather than spend your money on such problematic delights as furniture with hens and sheep in it, get it very strongly and simply made so that it can be used without damage in games."

Our chief criticism is directed towards the central chapter of the book, which deals with furniture. We feel that here the author gives very little practical help, chiefly confining herself to criticism of modern furniture made in imitation of the old styles, and praising that made by Ernest Gimson and his successors. She writes of Gimson: "working entirely unknown to the general public, which was paying extravagant prices for old furniture, or buying cheap imitations of it." We consider that this gives a false idea of the present position. Although the finest old furniture fetches extravagant prices, delightful pieces, well made and useful, can still be found, especially in the country, at prices far lower than would be required to

¹ *Furnishing and Decorating Do's and Don'ts*; by Millicent Vince. (Methuen, 2s. 6d.)

buy the work of Gimson's successors, which is indeed almost prohibitive in price to many of the general public. Moreover, if this beautiful modern hand-made furniture be used at all it should be used for the whole room (if not for the whole house), designed and bought all at once, whereas old pieces, toned by age into a mellow similarity, can be mixed without any feeling of discomfort, which is often a great advantage.

We do not say this with any wish to discourage the fine work of the designers and makers of good modern furniture, and we are glad to be able to point out that in "the best shops" machine-made imitations of old styles are often even more expensive, and far less practical. But we feel that some suggestion of these pro's and cons would not have been misplaced in Mrs. Vince's book, and would have been far better put by her.

In fact our chief criticism is one of omission, and the scope of the book is so restricted that perhaps this is hardly fair. For it is packed with practical usefulness, and even to the busiest woman who is fond of the aspect of her home it is worth the expense of far more time than it takes to read.

WOMEN IN OTHER LANDS.

The November number of the *International Woman Suffrage News* is full of good things. It contains a table of Woman Suffrage which is a résumé of the position of Woman Suffrage all over the world. Great Britain, Hungary, and the Windward Islands (Granada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia), Trinidad and Tonga are the sole countries which give the vote to men at 21 and women at 30. Newfoundland, where women have only recently been enfranchised, gives women the vote at 25 and men at 21. Among other interesting contributions we specially mention one by Mrs. Gauntlett, of Tokyo, Japan, who describes the impressive scenes which took place after the death of Madame Tajima, a much-beloved educationist and social and temperance worker in that country. Though we are naturally concerned with our own circulation, we would like to reiterate our plea for this most useful monthly paper. There are two reasons why British women should support it: first our common cause with women of other nations, and secondly the fact that a British woman, one of ourselves, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, is president of the I.W.S.A. We recommend it not only to feminists but to all those interested in the progress of missionary and social work all over the world.

WINTER SCHOOL FOR HEALTH VISITORS AND SCHOOL NURSES.

The Women Sanitary Inspectors' and Health Visitors' Association (192 Victoria Street, S.W. 1) is holding its fifth Winter School during the coming Christmas holidays in Bedford College. Already over 70 students have been enrolled, and early application is advisable as residential accommodation in the College is limited. The lecturers include Miss Eleanor Rathbone, on "State Insurance as it affects the Family," Sir Henry Gauvain on "Sunlight and Health," Captain Reiss on "The Ideal House," Miss Margaret Macmillan on "The Foundation of Education," Professor Mottram on "Food in Relation to Health," and Dr. Hadfield on "Mental and Moral Training in the Pre-School Period." The syllabus falls into three sections: (1) Health at Home; (2) Health at School; (3) Health at Work and Play; and in addition observation visits will be arranged for students every afternoon, enabling them to visit Infant Welfare Centres, Artificial Sunlight Clinics and schools of such world famous institutions as the Treloar Cripples' Hospital at Alton and the Papworth Tuberculosis Colony in Cambridgeshire. We commend this course especially to all those concerned with the health and welfare of children as well as to voluntary and salaried workers in the cause of maternity and child welfare. The fee for the course, which lasts from Wednesday, 30th December, to Tuesday, 12th January inclusive, is £2 12s. 6d. for non-members of the Association, and £2 2s. for members. Single lectures and observation visits may be taken for 2s. 6d. The fee for residence in Bedford College is £2 16s. per week. Tickets and full particulars may be obtained from Miss Gray, 92 Victoria Street, S.W. 1. It should be noted that Local Authorities may include the expenses of their Health Visitors, and generally speaking of School Nurses, in their accounts in respect of which grants are payable by the Ministry of Health and the Board of Education respectively. The consent of the Minister must first be obtained in each case.

NOTES FROM IRELAND.

THE POWER OF THE VOTE.

On Wednesday, 18th November, the Government of the Irish Free State met with a rather serious rebuff in Dail Eireann. To quote the *Irish Times*, "the Dail, as we think properly, showed its teeth yesterday." The Government, if wise, will take warning from that unfamiliar phenomenon. Under the Civil Service Regulation Act of last year, citizens of both sexes are entitled to compete by examination for Civil Service appointments. The Minister of Finance says the Act has created administrative inconveniences which have made the amending Bill necessary. For instance, the Civil Service wants women typists and shorthand writers, but, under the existing law, cannot prevent successful males from claiming such positions. On the other hand women cannot be debarred from posts in the Customs and Excise which by the nature of their duties demand the faculties of the sterner sex. It seems that the changes proposed by this measure could be so manipulated as to exclude women from higher appointments which the Constitution itself entitles them to fill. Further illuminating comments were made during the debate. One deputy pointed out that about a year ago, the Civil Service Commission attempted to make rules contrary to the Constitution by confining a certain examination to men. When this examination was advertised, a body of women took legal advice, and the advice was that the Commission were wrong. These examinations in the past were open to both sexes, but the Commission for some reason attempted to confine some of them to men only, but after legal advice it was decided they could not do so. The result was the Bill now brought forward."

For further comment, it is only necessary to state that Article III of the Constitution establishes equality of citizenship in the Free State. An attempt on the part of the Government, when the Constitution was under discussion, to substitute the ambiguous phrase "equal political rights" was defeated by the vigilance of the women's organizations. The recent attempt of the Civil Service Commission was also defeated, and the unconstitutional examination had to be cancelled, and another held. The Bill which received its second reading by the slender majority of five in an unusually full House was read for the first time on Friday, 13th November, and the activity of the women's organizations during this interval has led to the fact noted by the *Irish Times* that Dail showed its teeth. Among the speakers who condemned the Bill in the debate were representatives of the Universities, of Labour, and of the primary teachers. The small group of Independents were also represented on the women's side. This is what one may expect when any question involving the equal status of women is under discussion. It is depressing to note that the one woman sitting in Dail spoke and voted for the Bill, but, if tempted to condemn women for this fact, one should remember the immortal saying: "God Almighty made them to match the men." The proposal to carry such a retrograde measure is much to be regretted, but the strength of the opposition is gratifying evidence of that "power of the vote" of which in far off days one heard much.

DORA MELLONE.

THEATRES FOR EVERYBODY.

We referred some weeks ago to the activities of Miss Lena Ashwell's Company and the important missionary work it is doing for the cause of good drama in heathen places. This week a correspondent writes to call our attention to similar efforts which are being made on a smaller scale by the enterprising promoters of the St. Pancras People's Theatre at Tavistock Place, London, W.C. Here, of course, is no question of a theatrical wilderness after the pattern of remoter suburbs. For a brief walk up Tottenham Court Road and a few hundred yards of Charing Cross Road will bring the inhabitants of St. Pancras into the very heart of London's theatre centre. But gallery prices and gallery queues are a stiff barrier for the ordinary tired worker, and it is for such that the St. Pancras People's Theatre caters on Thursdays and Saturdays, with its price list ranging from 2s. 4d. to 6d., and its amateur company of busy people serving the enterprise in their spare time. Given such conditions it is with some surprise that we see recorded upon their season's programme no less than twelve different plays—a play a week from 1st October to 19th December! How do they do it? Indeed, we cannot tell. We only hope that in other places, drearier places than St. Pancras, up and down Great Britain, other people may be doing it too—or that they may be tempted by the example of St. Pancras to try and do it.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MATTERS.

By BERTHA MASON.

There appeared in *The Times* last week a letter from the Chairman of the London Municipal Society and National Union of Ratepayers' Association, in which he gave a review of the results of the recent London Borough Elections. Amongst other things he said: "Of the 52 per cent who failed to record their vote, it can safely be assumed that the vast majority are contented with their lot and have no desire to alter the existing state of things."

If this assumption is correct (we have no means of judging), we say quite frankly that electors who refrain from voting on this score have entirely failed to realize the true meaning of citizenship and the principles which underlie the exercise of the vote. The franchise, as we understand it, is not an instrument given to people to use or not to use as fancy may dictate; the franchise surely is a symbol of citizenship, a trust which carries with it duties and responsibilities. Far more underlies the simple act of marking a ballot paper with a cross than appears on the surface.

It is through the ballot box that public opinion is registered. "I take my opinions to the ballot box," once said a well-known social reformer, and this is often the only way that people have of expressing their opinion.

In this country the responsibilities of government are shared by the people. The great outlines of national legislation and policy are laid down, not in the Cabinet, not in Parliament, but at the polling booths. Parliament rarely if ever legislates in advance of public opinion, and public opinion in regard to the work and election of local authorities, as well as in regard to national affairs, can be expressed through the medium of the ballot box. Those who abstain from voting determine national and municipal policy as truly as those who vote. The responsibility of the franchise cannot be evaded not even by those "who are contented with their lot." As the Rev. H. R. L. Sheppard, writing in the November issue of *St. Martin's Review* on "the moral and spiritual principles which underlie the exercise of the vote," well points out, "division into parties appears inevitable, but there are principles that are broader than any party which claim the support of electors. In all boroughs electors are faced not only with the problem of housing but of health, education, the purity of the district, etc., and with the difficulty of administering the existing Acts of Parliament that affect these and other questions. 'Individually,' he continues, "we all have our share of responsibility. The record of the voting in past elections shows that only a small proportion of those entitled to vote have exercised their right. Apart from the registering of our votes, our goodwill, support, and interest strengthens the hands of those who are willing to place the welfare of their neighbours a long way ahead of party triumphs and who are prompted to stand for election by their desire to give disinterested and devoted service to the interests of their locality." We commend this view of the case to any who refrain from voting because they are contented with their lot.

POOR LAW REFORM.

In his presidential address at the annual meeting of the Association of Poor Law Unions which took place in London last week, the Rev. P. S. G. Probert said: "I believe one of the greatest mistakes which poor law administrators can make at this moment is to assume that the disestablishment of Poor Law Guardians is a foregone conclusion." Proposals regarding alteration had been sent out to certain local authorities, and the very authorities affected had been ignored. Without at this moment expressing any opinion as to the wisdom of such a step we are in a position to say that it is a fact that the Ministry of Health has forwarded to the County Councils' Association and the Municipal Corporations' Associations an outline of its proposals on the subject of Poor Law reform and asking for their views on the proposals submitted. We shall return to this subject on a future occasion.

In our last article we recorded the fact that Miss Eve, who last year served as Mayor for the borough of Stoke Newington, had been returned at the head of the poll in that borough on 2nd November. We now record with great pleasure that on 9th November Miss Eve was unanimously elected an Alderman by the Council.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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Telephone: Victoria 6188.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING, 1925.

The date of the Annual Council Meeting, which will be held at King George's Hall, Caroline Street, Great Russell Street, has been fixed for Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 24th, 25th, 26th, and 27th February.

EQUAL FRANCHISE MEETING.

The mass meeting on Equal Franchise will be held at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Friday, 26th February, at 8 p.m. Among those who have promised to speak are Miss Maude Royden and Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P.

SIX DAYS.

Only six days to finish all preparations for our Sale of Work.
Only six days for all earnest supporters to show their interest by sending in contributions.

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Contributions will be gratefully received at headquarters, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster.

RECEPTION TO THE DUCHESS OF ATHOLL, M.P., AND MISS K. D. COURTNEY.

A very successful reception to the Duchess of Atholl, M.P., and Miss K. D. Courtney was held at the Lyceum Club on 17th November. The room was quite full, and many old friends of the National Union were present, among them Lady Astor, Lady Beilby, and Miss Waterfield. The Duchess of Atholl gave an extremely interesting account of the work of the Sixth Assembly of the League of Nations, and Miss K. D. Courtney spoke on the Assembly from the angle of the onlooker. Lady Berry, M.D., welcomed the guests on behalf of the League of Nations Circle of the Lyceum Club, to whom thanks are due for their kind hospitality. At the last moment Miss Rathbone was unavoidably prevented from being present, and the guests were warmly welcomed by Mrs. Wintringham, who also acted as Chairman for the first part of the proceedings, when her place was taken by Dame Millicent Fawcett, whose presence, as always, was a real joy to all her friends.

INTERNATIONAL WOMAN SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE CONGRESS.

The date of the I.W.S.A. Congress has been postponed for one week, and will start on 30th May, 1926. This postponement is in order to take advantage of the hospitality which has been offered by the Sorbonne for the later date.

NEW LEAFLET.

A new leaflet describing the provisions of the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Act, 1925, by Mrs. Hubback, is now ready, price 1d., and may be had on application to 15 Dean's Yard, S.W.1.

BIRKENHEAD W.C.A.

At a meeting of the Birkenhead and District W.C.A. held at 23 Hamilton Square, Mrs. Stocks addressed the members on "Current Events". This most comprehensive title included: Bills relating to women and children, the Dismissal of Married Women by Education Authorities, Family Endowment, and Women and International Affairs. An interesting discussion afterwards took place, and much appreciation of Mrs. Stocks' interesting address was evinced.

ROTHERHAM W.C.A.

Interesting details of recent legislation concerning women and children with lengthy reference to widows' pensions, were given at a meeting arranged by the Rotherham Women Citizens' Association yesterday, when Mrs. Hubback addressed a gathering of members and friends. Mrs. A. H. Habershon presided. Another point which called for the attention of the speaker was the question of equal franchise. She mentioned that there were 6,000,000 adult women who were without the right to vote, and she pointed out that England in this respect was far behind other countries where women had obtained the franchise.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE GUARDIANSHIP OF INFANTS ACT.

MADAM,—It is always rash to assume to interpret an Act of Parliament before its meaning has been tested in the Courts, therefore I hesitate to suggest that your reply to your Scottish correspondent in the current issue of *THE WOMAN'S LEADER* is incorrect.

Nevertheless I venture to think that you are over-estimating the change which the above Act has made in the legal position of mothers. The new Act does not abrogate the Common Law doctrine that a father is the natural guardian of his children, it only declares that in certain circumstances the doctrine may be modified so as to give the mother the custody of her children.

The circumstances in which such modification can be effected are laid down in Section 1 of the Act, viz., (a) that there are proceedings before the Court, and (b) that the welfare of the children can best be assured by giving the custody to the mother.

Now with regard to (a), it is important to realize that Courts of Summary Jurisdiction (i.e., Police Courts) have not heretofore had any power to grant the custody of a child to a mother except where the husband has been guilty of such conduct as to entitle the wife to live apart from him. By 7 (1) of the new Act magistrates appear to be empowered to entertain applications with regard to the custody of children apart from their jurisdiction in matrimonial cases, but this is only done by reference to the Guardianship of Infants Act, 1886, which has been variously interpreted as giving or not giving jurisdiction to the County Courts in similar cases.

The position is further complicated by the proviso in 7 (3) which gives a Court of Summary Jurisdiction power to refuse an application for custody of a child if the Court thinks such application can be more conveniently dealt with in the High Court. I have no doubt that many Benches will take the view that all applications for custody of children (apart from some matrimonial offence) can be more conveniently dealt with in the High Court as heretofore and will therefore refuse to entertain such applications.

For these reasons, although we may disagree with the Willesden magistrates' refusal to grant a desisting wife a summons to enable her to claim the custody of the child of the marriage, I very much fear that we cannot effectively challenge it.

CICELY LEADLEY-BROWN.

[We quite appreciate the points made in Miss Leadley-Brown's letter, but we still maintain that the Willesden magistrate's answer to the mother's request for a summons: "I am afraid not. The law says the father is the legal parent" was incorrect. It is quite clear that Section 7 (1) of the Guardianship of Infants Act, 1925, enables a Court of Summary Jurisdiction to entertain an application for custody of a child. The magistrate's reply, however, would normally be taken to mean he had not the power to do so. Sub-section 3 referred to by Miss Leadley-Brown enables a magistrate to refuse to entertain such an application, but in doing so he should surely inform the mother of her rights to apply in a High Court, which the Willesden magistrate did not do. It is interesting to note that the intention of the Government in passing Sub-section 3 was to avoid application to the Summary Courts of people well able to afford higher Courts.—Ed.]

MOSUL.

MADAM,—In reply to the letter in your last issue, may I state that I did not advocate immediate British withdrawal from Mosul. But any suggestion that we should remain indefinitely would meet with very strong opposition in this country. Thus the protection we can afford these Christian populations can only be temporary. The only hope of real security for these people lies in an agreement which will create good will between Turkey and the other countries concerned, and for such a solution it is surely essential that Turkey should not be left with the feeling that she is the aggrieved party, compelled to accept a solution she regards as unjust. That way will lead to further murders and reprisals.

May I also state that this is my personal opinion. The Executive and the Council of the Women's International League have not expressed any formal opinion on this matter.

W. G. RINDER.

SIR JOHN FOSTER FRASER

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COMING EVENTS.

CALDECOTT COMMUNITY.

DEC. 5. Annual Meeting at Caldecott House, Goff's Oak, near Cheshunt. Chairman: Percy Alden, Esq.

DEC. 12 and 19. 4.30 p.m. Nativity Play, "The Emperor's Vision," to be given by Children of the Community.

CITY TEMPLE.

NOV. 30. 3.15 p.m. Miss Monica Whately on "Recent Legislation Concerning Women and Children."

COUNCIL FOR THE REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

NOV. 30. Annual Meeting at Women's Service House, 35 Marsham Street, S.W.1. 2.30 p.m., Business Session. 4.15 p.m., Meeting on the Work of the Sixth Assembly of the League of Nations. Speaker: The Duchess of Atholl, M.P. Chairman: Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, J.P., D.Sc. Admission free. Both meetings open to the public.

GUILDHOUSE WOMEN CITIZENS' SOCIETY.

NOV. 30. 3 p.m. The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Annual Meeting. Miss Helen Ward, Lantern Lecture on "Westminster's Beautiful Buildings."

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

NOV. 27. 5 p.m. 35 Marsham Street, S.W.1. Annual Meeting.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE UNMARRIED MOTHER AND HER CHILD.

DEC. 6. 3 p.m. Rhoda Countess of Carlisle's Concert for Homeless Babies, at the Palladium, Argyle Street, Oxford Street, W. Particulars from N.C.U.M.C., Carnegie House, 117 Piccadilly, W.1.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

DEC. 3. 3 p.m. Sale of Work at Church House, Great Smith Street, Westminster. To be opened by Lady Frances Balfour.

Abertillery W.C.A. DEC. 1. 7 p.m. Mrs. F. W. Hubback on "Legislation Concerning Women and Children."

Cardiff W.C.A. DEC. 1. 3 p.m. Meeting of Executive Committee. Mrs. F. W. Hubback on "The Work of the N.U.S.E.C."

Clackmannanshire S.E.C. DEC. 3. Miss Bury on "Equal Franchise."

Hereford W.C.A. NOV. 30. 4 p.m. Mrs. F. W. Hubback on "Widows, Orphans and Old Age Pensions Bill."

Newport and District W.C.A. NOV. 30. 7.30 p.m. Mrs. F. W. Hubback on "Legislation Concerning Women and Children."

SIX POINT GROUP.

NOV. 30. 2.30-7 p.m. 92 Victoria Street, S.W.1. Christmas Sale. To be opened by Mrs. Kendal.

WOMEN'S GUILD OF EMPIRE.

DEC. 2. 7.45 p.m. Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W.1. The Hon. M. A. Pickford on "Laws Affecting the Home and Factory."

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 35 Marsham Street, Westminster. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Information Bureau. Interviews, 10 to 1, except Saturdays. Members' Centre open daily. Restaurant open to 7.30. (Not Saturdays.)

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W.1. Sunday, 29th November: 3.30 Music; Lecture: Mr. Robert Smilie, M.P., on "The Moral Effect of Nationalizing the Mines." 6.30, Maude Royden: "The Beauty of Christ."

C.B.C. Society for Constructive Birth Control and the Free Birth Control Clinic, founded by Dr. Marie Stopes and Councillor H. V. Roe. New address: 108 Whitfield Street, off Tottenham Court Road.

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