

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

Equal Franchise.

Mr. White asked the Prime Minister whether the Government intend during the present session or during the life-time of the present Parliament, to pass a Bill into law granting the franchise to women on equal terms with men. Mr. Lloyd George replied that he did not think it wise to re-open after so short an interval franchise questions which were settled by general agreement in the last Parliament. Mr. White remarked that the Prime Minister obviously did not intend to carry out the pledge made prior to the election of 1918, and that this was another of the broken pledges of the Government.

The Electoral Roll.

We would call our readers' attention to certain facts with regard to the autumn register which were stated in a recent issue of the *Observer*, as follows: "The fact seems to have escaped general notice that the Representation of the People Act which received the Royal Assent on 31st May last, makes various changes in the dates of the several steps to be taken for the registration of voters. The matter is specially important now as the autumn register in course of preparation will come into operation on 15th October next, and remain in force until 15th April next, so that if an appeal is made to the country between these two dates, this new register of names will be that on which the General Election will be held. Under the Reform Act of 1918, the "qualifying period" entitling one to have his or her name placed on this autumn register ended on 15th July, the intervening period of three months between that date and 15th October, when the list comes into operation, being allowed for the various stages of preparation. But in practice it was found that three months were insufficient, and four were invariably allowed by Order in Council. Accordingly the new Act of the current session makes the qualifying period for the autumn register end a month earlier, and leaves the date for coming into force, 15th October, untouched. As the new dates for registration work are important for all seeking to be on the list, they may be set out as thus:—

End of qualifying period	June 15.
Publication of electors' lists	July 15.
Last day for notice of objection	Aug. 4.

Last day for claims	Aug. 10.
Last day for claims as absent voter	" 24.
Publication of list of objections to electors' list	" 16.
Publication of list of claimants	" 16.
Last day for objections to claimants	" 24.
Publication of list of objections to claimants	" 24.
Register comes into force	Oct. 15.

Of course, there are corresponding changes for the spring register, but for the moment it is the autumn register that counts, in view of possibilities in the coming winter and spring. The above changes are for England and Wales alone. For Scotland and Northern Ireland the dates have also been varied, and are slightly different from those here given. In Northern Ireland the new register comes into force on 15th December."

Criminal Law Amendment Bill.

The Committee Stage of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill was finished on Thursday, 20th July, after a somewhat stormy sitting, when the little group of obstructionists maintained opposition to the bitter end. An amendment proposed by Mrs. Wintringham, that the Probation of Offenders Act should apply in cases of young persons under 21 in suitable cases, was lost, in view of the fact that the Probation of Offenders Act cannot be used by Courts other than the Courts of Summary Jurisdiction. The Bill emerged from the Standing Committee virtually unchanged, with its essential principles still intact, and with the addition of a most valuable amendment proposed by Mrs. Wintringham and carried without a division, that the time after which proceedings can be taken in cases of criminal assault shall be extended from six to nine months. As we go to press we learn that the Bill was read a third time. Mr. Macquisten moved an amendment, which was rejected, that the age of consent for males should be the same as for females. Mr. Rawlinson moved the following new clause: "Nothing in this Act shall apply to a case where it is shown that the young person under the age of 16 has been leading the life of a prostitute." Mr. Shortt said that under this Bill they were considering something more than the protection of the pure young girl—they were considering the protection of the bad

girls from themselves, and trying to make something better of them and to prevent others from falling into prostitution. He hoped the House would not weaken this Bill by passing the amendment. They could only stop child prostitution by stopping the *clientele*, and they could only stop the *clientele* by making it so dangerous to go with the child that any man addicted to these things would take care that he confined himself to mature women. The clause was defeated. Sir G. Hamilton proposed the amendment that "in the case of a man of twenty-three years of age, or under the presence of reasonable cause to believe that the girl was over the age of sixteen years shall be a valid defence on the first occasion on which he is charged with an offence under this section." This amendment was carried by ninety-nine votes against sixty-five.

Guardianship of Infants Bill.

The Joint Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament to consider this Bill started hearing evidence on Wednesday, 19th, and has held about half-a-dozen meetings. The Earl of Wemyss is Chairman, and the members include Lord Askwith, who introduced the Bill in the House of Lords, Lord Macdonnell, a Roman Catholic peer, Lord Onslow, of the Ministry of Health, Lord Torrington, the Duke of Northumberland, Sir James Greig, who introduced the Bill into the House of Commons, Mrs. Wintringham, Mr. Cairns, Lieut.-Commander Chilcott, Mr. Hailwood, and Sir Robert Newman. Evidence has been given by the N.U.S.E.C., Sir Chartres Biron, Chief Magistrate at Bow Street, Sir Claude Schuster, Secretary to the Lord Chancellor, representatives of the Ministry of Health, the Joint Advisory Committee of Women's Organizations, the Women's Co-operative Guild, and Mr. Justice Lawrence. The witnesses held very opposite points of view. The women's organizations dwelt for the most part on the need for the Bill from the point of view of the legal status of the mother. The legal experts, on the other hand, confined their criticisms and suggestions to its more technical aspects in the courts. Exceptions were Sir Chartres Biron, who called the Bill a revolutionary measure, stating that "for obvious reasons the father must be the sole authority in the home," and Mr. Justice Lawrence who confessed to being "saturated with the idea that the father is to be the sole legal guardian."

Women Poor Law Inspectors.

Lieut.-Col. Hurst asked Sir Alfred Mond last week whether he had recently advertised for a woman Poor Law inspector to perform responsible duties over a large area at a salary of £200 per annum, rising by annual increments of £10 to £350; whether the salaries of male Poor Law inspectors are about £1,000 and on what grounds he had decided that a woman with the qualifications specified in the advertisement and the same responsible duties should be paid so much less than a man, in view of the pledges given by the Government in the women's civil service debate of last year. The Minister of Health said he had advertised as Lieut.-Col. Hurst stated. The salaries of the male inspectors were £600, rising to £900, and in three cases only to £1,000. The responsibilities and duties of the women inspectors and the male general inspectors were in no way comparable.

Prisons and Borstal Institutions.

In answer to a question of Sir Thomas Bramsdon's, Mr. Shortt said that he would consider whether it would not be advisable, in view of the widespread interest in prison reform, and in the administration of Borstal institutions, to appoint a committee of inquiry, so as to enable experienced workers to come into direct and official contact with the Home Office.

Preventive Imprisonment.

Last week, in binding a man over, the Recorder said: "You have never had a chance before, but as you have gone straight since 1916 I will give you one now. You have been convicted many times. You had a severe sentence when you were 14, and you went on stealing—a natural result of sending children to prison. Four times you were sent to prison under a beneficent Act of Parliament known as the Prevention of Crime Act, under which a person can get six or twelve months' imprisonment because the police think he is going to do something." The modern method is infinitely preferable, and justifies itself by results.

Women Police Commended.

Two members of the Bolton Women Police were warmly commended last week by the local Bench for their part in the arrest of a man guilty of indecent behaviour in Queen's Park. Their suspicions were aroused, and, acting on their information, a sergeant arrested the man. It is precisely for work in parks that we have always advocated the use of women police.

Woman Diplomat.

The daughter of the Bulgarian Minister in London, Mlle. Nadjeda Stancioff, has been appointed First Secretary at the Bulgarian Legation at Washington. She was secretary to the Bulgarian Premier, M. Stambouliski, and went with him to the recent conference at Genoa. She is an excellent linguist and passed her diplomatic examinations at the Sorbonne in Paris.

American Women's Trade Unions.

The eighth biennial convention of the National Women's Trade Union League of America was held at Waukegan, Ill., in June. The affiliated membership of the League is reported to number approximately 600,000. Branches are maintained in twenty cities. In a resolution addressed by the convention to the American Federation of Labour, the Federation was urged to issue local charters to groups of women in trades where an international union (i.e. unions having branches in both Canada and the United States) refuses them admittance. Very few international unions have definitely refused to admit women as members, the chief among them being the barbers' and carpenters' organizations. The resolution adopted by the convention recognized that the American Federation of Labour must respect the autonomy of the international unions, and only asked that a means be found for making a place for women workers in the trade union movement in those few cases where they were at present denied entrance. Resolutions were adopted in favour of the enforcement of prohibition, the provision of insurance against unemployment, the realization of the miners' programme for the nationalization of the coal mines, the establishment of a free federal employment service with a woman as assistant director, and the fixing of a minimum age (16) for the employment of children and young persons, with a corresponding change in the compulsory education law.

Registration of Births.

The Registrar-General announces that, with the consent of the Minister of Health, he has revoked the regulation which has hitherto prohibited the registration of a birth after the lapse of seven years. Application for late registration of birth may, therefore, now be made without any limit of time. The Registrar-General will not, however, be able to authorize registration unless sufficient evidence is produced to satisfy him as to the correctness of the particulars to be registered. The change in no way affects the liability of parents and other qualified informants to register a birth within forty-two days of its occurrence on pain of a penalty of 40s. Application for late registration should in all cases be made to the local Registrar of Births and Deaths. A statutory fee of 10s. is payable.

The Registrar-General's Report.

The eighty-third annual report of the Registrar-General for England and Wales, dealing with the year 1920, has just been published. It was a record year in many respects, the marriage-rate of 20.2 per 1,000 of the population being the highest on record. The birth-rate was 25.5 per 1,000, and the number of births, 957,782, was the largest number known in any year since civil registration began. The infant mortality rate fell to 80 per 1,000, which is a remarkably low rate, and the death-rate of 12.9 per 1,000 was also the lowest on record. The excess of births over deaths, 491,652, in all, was another "record". Boy babies in 1920 numbered 490,970, as against 466,812 girls. The sex ratio is much above its pre-war level, though slightly lower than in 1919.

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.

A CONCESSION TO UNEMPLOYED WOMEN.

This week we have a piece of good news to announce, which is matter for considerable thankfulness. What has happened is that the Government has decided not to close down the domestic training courses for unemployed women, but to go on giving a grant, and on a substantial scale, to eke out the funds of the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment for this purpose.

The history of the granting of this concession is interesting, and significant, and it is worth while to recapitulate it briefly.

During this last winter, as everyone knows, unemployment was rife, as it has been since 1919, and unemployment among women was very serious indeed. The dole system, while it does stave off starvation, has many very grievous drawbacks, and many efforts were made and many abortive plans suggested for replacing doles by relief works. So far as men are concerned, a certain amount of relief work was organized, and is being carried out (though its operations cover only a fraction of the problem); but as regards women no scheme seemed practicable to those in authority. The Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment, and the Training Section of the Ministry of Labour (now extinct), did, however, produce and carry out a practical scheme for six-week domestic training with maintenance, for unemployed women, which took the place of six weeks' dole, and provided the trainee with the necessary knowledge to take up work in an occupation where the demand was still greater than the supply. Part of these courses were financed by the Central Committee's special fund, and a £1 for £2 grant was given by the Government to make it go further, and the success of the experiment has been abundantly demonstrated. By April last, however, the end of the fund began to come in sight, and it was announced that after a fixed date the schools would be closed and no more entrants accepted, and it is this decision which has now been revised owing to the reconsideration of the question by the Cabinet.

The steps which led to the reconsideration are interesting. First of all there came resolutions of a general character upon unemployment, resolutions calling upon the Government to provide relief works for women, and urging the advantages of training during out-of-work periods over the dole system. These resolutions were passed by all kinds of women's societies, and were both the cause and the outcome of their general opinion that the women's side of the unemployment problem must not be neglected. Then, at the end of January, a public conference was called together by the Consultative Committee at which this general feeling was crystalized into definite demands. From this conference a deputation was asked for to the Minister of Labour, but in the then pressure of affairs it was not received.

Time went by, and the end of the training was announced, and the unseen deputation began to agitate once more. A rumour reached their ears that the Cabinet believed the women's societies did not agree about the subject, and that the Minister of Labour was satisfied that no great indignation would be expressed or even felt if the courses closed, and that money could be saved in this direction with impunity. The deputation naturally at once sprang into aggressive life, and on forcible representations from Lady Astor to both the Prime Minister and Dr. Macnamara, the latter agreed to receive it and hear what the women's organizations had to say. Both the women M.P.'s attended it, and they said very forcibly that the schemes must go on, and that they ought to be widely extended to other kinds of workers in other than domestic trades. Of the merits of this case the Ministry of Labour has long been aware. None of the Departments are the enemies of the good work they themselves do, and it is only the exigencies of politics and politicians which at times force them into that position. And in promising to carry to the Cabinet the very emphatic wishes of the deputation, Dr. Macnamara was only doing what his own department itself desired. The Minister of Labour has kept his promise, and the Cabinet reconsidered the position, and has decided to ask Parliament for £50,000 for domestic training. It is estimated that between 5,000 and 7,000 additional women will be trained. Provincial centres will be set up in districts where unemployment is most severe amongst women. So far so good, but we must take to heart the lesson that things do not come unless they are asked, and even shouted, for.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

It has been a dull week in Parliament. The Session is galloping towards its close, and members are thinking of their holidays. Some have gone, others are sitting all ready packed, so to speak, and impatient to be off. And it does not make for a thinking political atmosphere. The Honours debate of Monday, the 17th, was tense and thrilling enough, but it is long past, and the Government weathered the storm with apparent ease.

Tuesday, the 18th, was the Navy Estimates, which led very naturally to the expression of that anxiety about our air defences, which many members have recently been voicing. An important Parliamentary deputation was seen on the 21st, and more will be heard of this question later. On Wednesday, the 19th, the Teachers' Superannuation Bill was considered as amended in Standing Committee, and was read a third time. The Government continues to claim that this Bill is a measure of economy, but it is very odd reasoning. It does, indeed, transfer the burden of teachers' pensions from one pocket to another. But how that can be called national economy it is hard to understand. The Scottish Bill was taken after the English one, and it was duly read a second time. The Milk and Dairies Bill was then read a second time. Three other small Bills were considered, and the House rose at midnight. Thursday, the 20th, was a Supply day, and nothing of interest transpired, and on Friday seven little measures were taken one after another and pushed on a stage upon their way. The only incidents which called for much attention were the personal statement of Sir R. Balfour in answer to Mr. McNeill's attack upon his firm during the Honours debate, and Mr. McNeill's subsequent withdrawal. The real political interest of the week has lain outside Parliament, and has centred in Paris, in Berlin, and in St. James's Palace, where the Council of the League has been in session. Are we, or are we not, upon the verge of a reconsideration of reparations? Is France beginning to see that something must be done? Or are we going to hang on and wait until the German Government falls, and a new revolution has begun to take effect in that country? These are difficult questions, and they are all important. They overshadow everything in reality, and though Members at Westminster are thinking of their holidays, it may not be long before they have to face serious developments again.

The Council meeting of the League of Nations is still in session. In the splendid rooms of the Palace, and amid the hushed bustle of the few privileged journalists who are admitted to the sittings, the members of the Council have deliberated all the week. The mandates have been finally approved, with delay in minor matters; the reports and recommendations have been presented, and the great machine for world adjustment goes on its way. The most dramatic and interesting feature of the session has been the Bulgarian—Roumanian—Greek discussion, which was brought forward by the application of one party that a threat to the peace of its country was being made by the others, and which has led, after considerable mutual adjustment, to an amicable agreement among them all. All this is of first-class importance; and yet reparations still overtops it all; the exchanges are toppling once again, and the peace of the world is still surrounded with dangers. It is a terrible time, for all the apparent recovery of all of us from our war agitation. We have covered up the surface a little, but underneath the fire still burns. And we must not forget that the Europe in which we live is perched upon the side of a great volcano.

M. Viviani's speech at the dinner given in his honour by the League of Nations, was based upon the theme that men had died to bring an end to war; but M. Viviani could not prove that they had not died in vain, and no one can yet prove it. His eloquence is magnificent, but there was so much he did not say! The issue of the moment is in the hands of France; and France has not yet spoken.

[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.]

NEW REGULATIONS FOR PROSTITUTES IN GERMANY.

Although the regulation of prostitutes still exists in Germany, the women who opposed the system for years have begun to introduce practical social measures to modify the evils due to the "Morals-Police", and to prove that it is possible to organize institutions which protect public health and public morals better than the unjust system of regulation. Already in seventy towns the police employ *Fürsorgerinnen*, women officials who look after the *gefährdeten* or fallen women. In some of these cities, e.g. in Hamburg, Dresden, Altona, Stettin, *Pflegeämter* (Welfare and Rescue Centres) have developed out of the *Polizei-Fürsorge*. The difference between these two institutions is as follows: The *Polizei-Fürsorge* acts under the "Morals-Police," and the women arrested in the street are brought to it after being questioned by the police (by men only), and after having been medically examined. In the *Pflegeämter*, on the other hand, the women in question are interviewed by women officials (not the police), who make the necessary investigations. They are also examined by women physicians.

In this way important rights of the "Morals-Police" have been given over to cultured women. Berlin also had a *Fürsorgestelle* under the "Morals-Police," founded and conducted by a private charity organization. Owing to the influence of the woman deputies (*Stadtverordnete*), this *Fürsorgestelle* has been in the hands of the municipal authorities since 1921, who have connected it with the Juvenile Department, to be developed into a municipal *Pflegeamt*. By special arrangement with the "Morals-Police," the following cases have been entrusted to the *Pflegeamt*: (1) The first offenders; (2) all the juveniles; (3) those arrested on charges of *Gewerbeunzucht* (prostitution) or of spreading venereal diseases; (4) all psychopaths.

All the registered prostitutes remain under the control of the "Morals-Police."

The *Pflegeamt* conducted by a specially trained, experienced, and educated woman, with a staff of social workers, takes charge of the women and girls who have been entrusted to it; and tries, by social and economic means, to bring them back to an ordered way of living. Work and decent quarters are provided, and financial assistance is given in cases of great need. In a word, the *Pflegeamt* gives them advice and practical assistance, and exercises a protecting supervision, like a probation officer would do, till the weak and unstable characters are able to stand on their own feet.

If the girls are ill they are placed in a hospital, where they are visited. Practical plans for their future are discussed with them. There is a great need for the erection of *Schutzhäuser* (Homes) where homeless girls, or girls living with their families under unfavourable conditions, can be taken care of. In Berlin there are a number of these homes, but not enough to meet the need. When girls come into conflict with the law they are represented in court by officials of the *Pflegeamt*, who look after their interests and lay the true facts of the case before the judge.

Of course, the officials of the *Pflegeamt* cannot carry on all these varied activities alone. They need the support of charity organizations and voluntary workers. In this way women of all political parties and all denominations are drawn into the work, and this common social activity becomes a means of mutual understanding, and helps to bridge over social differences.

The authorities are also beginning to realize the necessity for this kind of social work. In the new Prussian *Wohlfahrtsministerium* (Ministry of Welfare), started since the revolution, there is a department under a woman *Regierungsrat* (head of a department), especially devoted to these problems. In the budget of the Prussian Parliament for the last two years considerable sums were set aside to extend the *Pflegeämter* and establish them in cities where they did not exist. It is to be hoped, therefore, that this work will soon be as well organized in Prussia as it is in the little state of Mecklenburg, where a net of *Pflegeämter* extends over the country and the cities. There, too, the *Landes-Pflegeamt* (Central State Welfare Department) is under a woman, who, as the representative of the Government, recently took part in the discussion in the Reichstag.

There are still great difficulties to be overcome, especially in Berlin, where the "Morals-Police" are hostile to the *Pflegeämter*. But probably the last hour of the "Morals-Police" has struck. A law to combat venereal disease lies before the Reichstag. This law abolishes regulation and absolutely does away with the principle of a double moral standard. It proposes to safeguard national health and morals; for example, "Persons who are suspected of spreading venereal disease can be forced to undergo a medical examination; they may even be placed in a hospital, when this seems advisable, to prevent the spread of this disease. Persons who are charged with indecency or solicitation are to be heavily punished, as are those who, having contracted a disease, marry or have illicit sexual intercourse." All these decrees apply to both sexes.

There is, unfortunately, in Parliament a comparatively large group who wish to retain "Regulation". We hope, however, through the influence of the women deputies (because the women of all political parties are united in this cause), to pass these measures, and succeed in abolishing "Regulation." Only when "Regulation" is done away with will it be possible to develop all the possibilities of the *Pflegeämter*. As long as "Regulation" exists there are bound to be questions of jurisdiction between the "Morals-Police" and the *Pflegeämter*, and the social activities of the latter are hampered by the interference of the police, who prefer to keep as many women as possible under control. Of course, these police cannot be entirely dispensed with. The *Pflegeamt* needs their services to arrest those persons who are a menace to public health and morals. But this is the only function of the police; after the arrest the *Pflegeamt* and *Gesundheitsamt* (Board of Health) take care of the men and women in the manner already described.

In order to avoid injustice it would be advisable to have women police officials working with the policemen in the streets, but it is feared that this reform will not take place for some time.

The great success of the *Pflegeämter* so far proves that it is possible to save many of these girls and women if they are approached and helped by a tactful and cultured woman at the right moment.

German women have shown by these new measures that they took the right path when, as followers of Mrs. Josephine Butler, they raised the banner of Abolition of Regulation.

MARGARETE FRIEDENTHAL.

MAKE WAR ILLEGAL!

By KATHARINE DEXTER McCORMICK.

The time has surely come for constructive work to be undertaken with a view to securing a lasting peace.

The motherhood of the race, the youth of the world, the thoughtful of both sexes everywhere realize—women with anguish and men with dismay—that rumours of wars, discussions on armaments, international jealousies, secret diplomacy with "future wars" openly stated to be in view, are as rampant as ever they were, in spite of the welter of blood we have so lately passed through.

The civilized world, permeated as never before with its practical politics, demands definite action. Failing this, experience plainly tells us we are in danger of being stampeded into another war, as soon as there is a crop of youthful victims ready for the sacrifice, who will have no *personal* memories of the holocaust of 1914-1919.

It is not the youth of the world that makes war. It is youth that perishes in war. War is definitely wasteful of blood and of treasure. It is not motherhood that makes war. Woman provides the living sinews of war and pays for it with her bone and blood as youth does.

War through custom has become a permanent thing—a custom not contrary to law, established over long periods amongst people and races, in fact, an institution, just as slavery was once an institution, and just as duelling between two persons was once an institution. Slavery is now illegal, and duelling, too. Do we realize that no step has yet been taken to make war illegal?

There is no law nor convention in existence to make war unlawful. So long as it is waged between nations it is perfectly legal, even to the extent of a war of aggression and conquest. Indeed, the power to make war is usually included in the constitution of a nation. Whereas a war of liberation—war undertaken by an oppressed nation to free itself from the grip of its one-time conqueror—is called revolution, and the leaders, if unsuccessful, are liable to be dealt with as traitors, though, possibly, if war be justified at all, it might be the most justifiable of all wars.

Great and mighty money interest was involved when the first step was taken towards abolishing slavery. Divine judgments were freely invoked against the pioneers who ranged themselves in opposition to "the right of every man to wallop his own nigger", and against a man's right to own niggers at all.

High and powerful class "interests" were touched when the privilege right of the "gentleman" to kill another gentleman on a point of honour was attacked. When duelling was made a crime a distinct step towards assuring a higher standard of civilization was taken. Yet it was freely asserted and doubtless honestly believed that "questions of honour" would and could only be settled in the bad old way.

When we face the essential necessity of making war impossible, we are up against "interests" that are well-nigh impregnable, but history has taught us that such strongholds *have* been overthrown.

Let us plough up the old ground that new seed may be sown—seed that will ripen and bear fruit at last.

Disputes are human and humanly speaking, are inevitable. But as disputes between individuals are no longer settled by force but by law, so let it be with nations. What a step forward! The making of war unlawful!

A definite pronouncement; an act that can be universally accepted and upon the ratification of which the energies of all the forces of practical politicians in every civilized country can be concentrated. A real basis towards further effort leading towards permanent peace. This is what we are determined to see accomplished. A simple and feasible plan which is but the codification of international law.

What a testimony to the practical mentality of womankind if her accession to political power should coincide with the taking of the first step towards abolishing war. Let us see to it that no interests, however powerful, side-track us on this vital matter. In international action is the only hope of the world and the only security against future war.

REVISION OF THE MARRIAGE SERVICE.

The National Assembly of the Church of England which met at Westminster at the end of last month has been discussing matters of serious import to churchwomen *qua* women.

The Bishop of Gloucester introduced the report of the prayer-book revision committee, which suggests an alternative for various services and forms now in use. This must not be considered as a final stage of revision. If it were so there would be cause for serious discontent, but it is something achieved that alteration of any kind is considered possible, for to some people anything old is sacrosanct, however outgrown may be its teaching. The report will be discussed further and details considered at the November meeting of the Assembly.

Among other proposed changes the marriage service has come in for revision, one of the most important changes being the restatement of the causes for which marriage was ordained. The second "cause" has been drastically altered, and is not now open to the criticism that the church teaches that marriage obviates all need for self-control or consideration of the one partner for the other. "And obey" still stands, and will no doubt be the centre of hot controversy.

Space forbids entering into full details of the proposed changes, and for those who wish to study the matter closer I suggest a perusal of Report N.A. 60 (S.P.C.K., 1s.). A few more details must be mentioned, however. The second "cause" to which reference has been made now reads: "It (Holy Matrimony) was ordained in order that the natural instincts and affections implanted by God should be hallowed and directed aright; that those who are not called of God to remain unmarried, but by Him are led to this holy estate, should continue therein in pureness of living."

I should have liked to have seen the words of the troth identical for both man and woman. Woman still promises to obey and serve, and the man to honour and worship. This is not satisfactory. Believing marriage to be a sacrament, and being resolutely opposed to that view which regards the wife as subordinate to the husband (and therefore all women as subordinate to all men), I feel it is a tremendous pity that the Church of England should miss the opportunity of witnessing in unequivocal terms to the spiritual equality of the sexes.

The woman is still "given away"! Surely a relic of the days (except perhaps in the case of a minor) when a wife was linked with a man's house and his ox and his ass, as in the twentieth chapter of Exodus.

The prayer for the gift of children is improved in phraseology, while "Who dost appoint that out of man (created after Thine own image and similitude) woman should take her beginning," becomes "Who didst after Thine own image and similitude create man and woman."

The Homily is still to be read when there is no sermon, or another portion of scripture may be substituted. One imagines that as the choice is so wide, the homily will but rarely be used.

In an article on the promise to obey demanded from the female partner in the marriage bond, a recent writer said: "No one to-day supposes that a woman who makes this vow really means to render to her husband such obedience as a servant owes to his master or a child to his parents. An interpretation of the vow consonant with the thought and practice of our age, in harmony with our highest ethical concepts, is permissible to-day, even when such an interpretation does violence to the meaning which it bore when it was first framed. In that sense its continued use need not be a stumbling-block to any." So far, I agree, but at the same time I regret most strongly that mental reservation and subtle interpretation will still be necessary to satisfy the scruples of the conscientious who may still wish to claim the privilege of the sacrament, and who are repelled by the teaching of the service as it at present stands in the prayer-book. And this in a less degree will still be necessary with the alternative service if it goes through in its present form.

The fate of the report is very uncertain. After having been passed or amended by the National Assembly, it will come for final approval before both the Bishops and clergy in Convocation at Canterbury and York. What its final form will be none dare prophesy. Possibly its originators will not recognize it. We shall all watch its progress with interest.

E. LOUIE ACRES.

LEE HOUSE TRAINING CENTRE.

Last September I spent a delightful fortnight at Marwood, near Barnstaple, North Devon, my object being to see something of my friend, who was working at the Lee House Training Centre for Gardening, Poultry-keeping, Dairy Work and Bees, and at the same time to be in a beautiful place and a good centre for cycling and walking. I stayed at a farm about a mile from Lee House, and, of course, the first thing I did on the morning after my arrival was to go and see the place.

Lee House is an old manor house, standing by itself quite in the country. It is most charmingly situated, looking down a peaceful green valley to the sea, which is visible from it on clear days. My first remark to my friend was, "How lucky you are to have your work in such beautiful surroundings!" We went into the house and I was introduced to the Principals, Miss Tabor and Miss Meugens, who gave me a cordial invitation to come in at any time and make myself at home there. The house is simply and comfortably furnished, and is pervaded by a friendly and "homey" atmosphere; the students, whom I met, in land costume, looked well and happy, and even the Sealyham Terrier gave me a welcome. He followed when we went through the yard to look at the horses and some new baby calves. Two bigger dogs joined us there and three kittens, and thus escorted we made our tour of the 4 acres of garden, comprising lawns, and ornamental flower gardens, with roses and herbaceous borders, walled fruit, a field devoted to vegetables, orchards, and a frame yard, and vinery. All the work is done by the students and staff, and considering the short time the place has been in the possession of its present owners, it was in wonderfully good order. Just before my visit the market cart, full of fresh garden produce, butter, cream, eggs, and poultry, had made its first journey, in charge of two girls, to Morthoe and Woolacombe, neighbouring watering-places about 8 or 9 miles away over the hills. The girls came back radiant, they had been well received, and had sold nearly everything, calling from house to house, and enjoying the new experience. These marketing trips have since become a regular part of the work, and now I hear Lee House has set up a Ford motor-van. The packing of both garden and dairy produce is done by the students under skilled supervision, and as each takes her turn in the van she

also gets an insight into the selling. Doubtless motor-driving will soon become a useful accomplishment of the more ambitious students.

In the dairy students learn to milk, make butter, cheeses, and Devonshire cream, and I can testify to their success! The care of the horses and cows and the rearing of calves is part of the curriculum, and a certain amount of land is devoted to arable farming and pasture.

Every branch of poultry-keeping is also taught, including natural and artificial hatching, preparing of birds for market, and even the making of houses and runs. All departments are under able qualified instructors.

The practical work is supplemented by classes and regular hours for study, the students being encouraged to ask questions. Those who wish are trained for the senior and junior R.H.S. examinations. After my first visit I was often in and out of Lee House, and always I found the same friendly, kindly spirit among the Principals, staff, and students. Everybody looked happy. Twice I was there for supper, and I may here incidentally remark that the food is good and generous as needs be for hungry workers.

On one occasion in the evening I was shown that the inmates of Lee House can play as well as work. Some very funny and quite talented acting filled the whole evening. Impromptu entertainments and games after supper are often indulged in, and newcomers, taking part in them, quickly lose their shyness.

It is the aim of the Principals to provide a happy home life for those in their charge, as well as a good grounding in their work. They believe that health is largely a matter of happiness. Outdoor games include tennis and hockey. The surrounding country is particularly lovely, there are breezy downs within easy walking distance, and woods carpeted in spring with primroses and bluebells, immediately adjoin Lee House. There is a wealth of bird life. The sea is only 5 miles away. A cycle brings within easy reach a great many of the most beautiful spots in North Devon. I left Marwood almost wishing I could have my gardening education over again at Lee House.

H. LEESE.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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Telephone: Museum 6910.

THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON GUARDIANSHIP OF INFANTS BILL.

The Joint Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament appointed to report on the Guardianship, Maintenance, Custody, and Marriage of Infants Bill, started its sittings last week in the House of Lords, with the Earl of Wemyss as chairman. The first witness was Sir Chartres Biron, Chief Magistrate, Bow Street, who opposed the Bill as a "revolutionary measure." He was followed by Mrs. Hubback and Miss Chrystal Macmillan, representing the N.U.S.E.C., who, in addition to giving evidence in favour of the Bill, met many of the points raised by the previous witness. The fact that Mrs. Wintringham was unable to attend the second session, owing to the urgent necessity for her presence at the Standing Committee on the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, was a striking practical illustration of the importance of more women in Parliament.

SOUTH WALES BY-ELECTIONS.

Gower Division.—A representative deputation arranged by Miss Auld and introduced by Miss Dillwyn, first President of the Local Suffrage Society, waited upon the candidates at the by-election in the Gower Division, on Tuesday, 18th July (Mr. D. R. Grenfell, Labour, and Mr. Williams, Coalition Liberal). Both candidates answered the Parliamentary questionnaire satisfactorily in every respect, and we look forward to a new friend in the House in the person of Mr. Grenfell, the successful candidate.

Pontypridd.—Work is at present being carried on in connection with the by-election at Pontypridd. Deputations of local representative women have been arranged to the two candidates, Mr. T. A. Lewis, Coalition Liberal, and Mr. Mardy Jones, Labour,

OXFORD SUMMER SCHOOL.

Owing to the large number attending the Magistrates' Conference, the list of residents at St. Hilda's College during the second week is almost complete. Further applications will be dealt with as follows: Those coming for the whole fortnight will be allotted rooms in the College for the first week as long as accommodation permits, and will have the chance of any possible vacancy arising in the second week, strictly in the order of application. A list of hotels, and lodgings, will be sent to those who apply after the College is full. Further particulars as to arrangements will be sent to students later.

AUTUMN WEEK-END SCHOOL.

Scottish Federation, Eastern Area.—This school will be held at Elie, Fife, from 6th to 9th October, where attractive accommodation overlooking the sea has been secured at the Golf Hotel. The lecturers include J. H. Rees, M.A., Mrs. J. T. Hunter, Mrs. More Nisbett (prospective candidate for West Edinburgh), Mrs. Ross, and Mrs. Hubback, representing Headquarters. Further details of the syllabus, etc., will be given, however, later.

NO MORE WAR DEMONSTRATION, HYDE PARK, Saturday, July 29th, 1922.

Particulars with regard to this demonstration were given in the WOMAN'S LEADER last week. The N.U.S.E.C. is giving its name in support of the demonstration, and Miss Pictou-Turbervill will be speaking on behalf of the National Union. It is hoped that as many of our members as possible will make a great effort to join in the processions which leave the Embankment, Brompton Road, Notting Hill, and Regent's Park at 3 p.m., and will be present at the demonstration in Hyde Park at 4.30 p.m.

THE WOMEN'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT SOCIETY.

This society has issued a useful leaflet to electors for the London Borough Councils upon which women serve on equal terms with men, urging the desirability of securing the co-operation of Women Councillors in work which affects health, housing, child-welfare, food-control, early treatment of disease, and other matters of interest and vital importance to the good citizen. Elections will take place in November, and voters should appreciate this responsibility.

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS.

"THE OLD VIC."

MADAM,—It is, of course, with great satisfaction that we have received the news of the generous donation which has been announced. It will, we hope, enable us to purchase the freehold of the southern end of the building, which is now occupied by the Morley College, and make the alterations required by the L.C.C.

But I hope our friends will not think us grasping if I ask them not on this account to cease their efforts to obtain subscriptions for us. We are obliged by our foundation rules to charge our audience as low a price as possible for their seats, and in consequence can draw a comparatively small income from our performances. If it were not for an allowance made us by the City Parochial Foundation we could not exist at all. With its help and by paying low salaries to our staff, we have run a small loss up to this season, when, I believe, we have practically balanced our accounts. This, however, has been effected partly by our having had one or two very successful performances and partly by our having raised the price of our seats, which we were very unwilling to do, and wish as soon as possible to discontinue. I am very anxious to put our affairs on a more satisfactory basis, and to obtain by means of a subscription a small endowment fund. I think that the tributes that the Press has paid us during the last six months justify me in making this claim. It seems to be universally allowed that under the remarkable management of Miss Baylis and the sound, though bold production of Mr. Robert Atkins, we have taken a peculiar position in the theatrical world. Miss Baylis, by the force of her personality, has created an audience that cares for the play, cares for the playing, and cares for the players, too. The West End will not support a Shakespeare theatre; our people will hear him the whole season through, and if anyone wishes to see what sympathy can exist between the audience and the actors, let them come here and witness the welcome given to the actors on their return at the beginning of the season, or the farewell at its ending.

Many persons seem to desire to establish a continuous home for classical and especially Shakespeare drama. This we have practically become, and I am in hopes that the National Shakespeare Memorial Association, to whom we have applied, will recognize our claim for assistance. I desire to obtain a small endowment fund in order that we may continue that work without scanting our staff of their just due on the one hand, or living in constant dread of running into debt on the other.

W. P. HENINGHAM,
Chairman of the Governors.

NO MORE WAR INTERNATIONAL DEMONSTRATIONS.

The London Demonstration will be held in Hyde Park on Saturday, 29th July, at 4.30 p.m. Four large processions will march at 3 p.m. from the Embankment, Brompton Road, Notting Hill, and Regent's Park (or the St. Pancras arches). Trade Unions, with bands and banners; church congregations; children from the Sunday schools, Boys' and Girls' Life Brigades in uniform, and ex-Service men will be among the special contingents.

There will be twelve platforms, and some of the foremost men and women in public life have been invited to speak. Religious leaders, political leaders, labour leaders, leading women, well-known literary figures, and representative ex-Service men will stand side by side and declare unitedly for No More War. An ex-Service man will move the resolution at each platform.

It is proposed that part of the Embankment procession should line up near Westminster and proceed, not up Wellington Street, but Whitehall.

When passing the Cenotaph, without halting the procession, a salutation will be given by the living, who are determined to abolish war for ever, to the fallen, who died in the belief that it was war to end war. This salutation will be given to all the "massed multitudes of silent witnesses to the desolation of war"—of whatever nation; and the other nations, from their demonstration, will send their affirmation to join our "Never Again!"

The object of the demonstration is not to advocate any particular policy, though the speakers will be given full freedom to state their views on these matters. The object is simply to express unitedly the overwhelming determination of the peoples of all lands that there should be No More War. If this cry for peace be raised simultaneously and unmistakably by the peoples of every nation, the effect upon the Governments of the world must be considerable.

The resolution will be as follows: "This mass meeting sends fraternal greetings to the similar gatherings now being held throughout Europe and America,

joins with them in declaring its hatred of war, and pledges itself to co-operate with them in working for conditions which will guarantee that there shall be No More War (a) by perfecting international organization for the removal of the causes of war, the settlement of disputes, and the promotion of international co-operation and (b) by developing an international sense of solidarity which will make war impossible.

This resolution will probably be moved not only at all the British demonstrations, but at the demonstrations throughout Europe and America as well.

CARDIFF W.C.A.

On Wednesday, 19th July, by the kind invitation of the Lady Mayoress, Miss Turnbull, a very enjoyable garden party was held at the Mansion House, Cardiff. The weather was delightful, and no showers fell to spoil the afternoon. A party of girls from Howell's School, Llandaff, by the kind permission of the Headmistress, Miss Trotter, gave a series of charming dances on the lawn. After tea a short meeting took place in the drawing-room, when Mrs. Cecil Brown, in an interesting and witty speech, outlined the aims of the Association, and the Hon. Secretary, Miss Sanders, read a report upon the work done during the past year. A cordial vote of thanks, proposed by Miss Collin (Chairman of the Committee) was given to the Lady Mayoress for her kind hospitality.

COMING EVENTS.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

JULY 29. Hyde Park No More War Demonstration. 4.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Philip Snowden, F. Maddison, Esq., E. Everett Reid, Esq., Canon H. Bickersteth Otley, M.A., W. Llewellyn Williams, Esq.

JULY 30. Cambridge No More War Demonstration. Speaker: Lt.-Col. D. Borden Turner, O.B.E., M.A.

AUG. 6. Crowborough. Open-air. 8.15 p.m. Speaker: Major W. E. Gladstone Murray, M.C., D.F.C.

N.U.S.E.C.

AUG. 19-SEPT. 2. Summer School, St. Hilda's College, Oxford.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

JULY 28: A reception will be held at The International Women's Franchise Club, 9 Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W., to meet the Right Revd. Mgr. Canon Giesswein, D.D., Member of the Hungarian Parliament. Hostess: Miss Kathleen FitzGerald, B.A.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

JULY 12-29. "Daily Express" Woman's Exhibition. Olympia. Table on "What shall she be?" Stand. Subjects:—Vocations not covered by other exhibitors.

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References: The Countess of Mayo; The Countess (Dowager) of Desart; The Viscountess St. Cyres; The Lady Pirrie; Claude Montefiore, Esq.; Messrs. Wainwright, Pollock and Co., Solicitors; Messrs. Lewis & Yglesias, and many others. All communications to be addressed to:—Mrs. Hoster, St. Stephen's Chambers, Telegraph Street, E.C. 2.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

A NEW CAMPAIGN urgently needed to proclaim the strong social, as well as moral reasons for self-control and good citizenship.—Apply for particulars to the Secretary, Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, Orchard House, Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

THE PIONEER CLUB has re-opened at 12 Cavendish Place. Town Members 45s.; Country and Professional Members 44s. Entrance fee in abeyance (*pro. tem.*).

THE GREEN CROSS CLUB FOR BUSINESS GIRLS, 65 and 69 Guildford Street, Russell Square, W.C. 1.—Spacious accommodation for resident and non-resident members; large dining, common, library, and smoking-rooms; excellent meals at moderate prices; hockey, gymnastic classes, dancing, tennis, etc.; annual subscription 41.

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1; Sunday, 30th July, 3-15, Music, Poetry, Lecture. Dr. Percy Dearmer. 6.30, Misrepresentations of Christ. Dr. Dearmer.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY, 55 Berners Street, London, W. 1. Telephone, Museum 4181. Minimum subscription, 1s.; Organ: "Catholic Citizen," 2d. monthly.

ANTI-SLAVERY and ABORIGINES PROTECTION SOCIETY.—Will you help to abolish slavery by joining this Society? Subscription 10s. 6d.—Denison House, 256 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W. 1.

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE, 55 GOWER STREET.—Membership open to men and women; light luncheons, teas, and suppers, 12-7.45; Foreign and English journals; lectures and debates on international subjects; pleasant garden; write for prospectus.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 58 Victoria Street, S.W. 1.—Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Information Department for advice about Women's Work and Training, by letter or interview.

EDUCATIONAL.

KING'S COLLEGE (UNIVERSITY OF LONDON).—COURSES IN THEOLOGY FOR WOMEN. Women are prepared for the following examinations:—B.D. London, the Lambeth Diploma in Theology, the University of London Certificate in Religious Knowledge. Day and evening classes are arranged. A special reduction in fees is made to Church workers. The lectures are open to members of all denominations. For particulars as to fees and courses, application should be made to the Tutor to Women Theological Students, Miss Evelyn Hipsley, S.Th., King's College, Strand, W.C. 2. Next term begins on 4th October.—S. T. Shovelton, M.A., Secretary.

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