

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

THE COMMON CAUSE PUBLISHING CO. LTD., 62, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.1

VOL. XIII. No. 41. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1921.

PRICE 3D.
Registered as a Newspaper.

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NOTES AND NEWS**The Municipal Elections.**

The Municipal Election returns show a slight increase in the number of women councillors, and a decided improvement in interest in those places where Women Citizens' Associations have been at work. The Cambridge Women Citizens' Association had the satisfaction of seeing Mrs. Hartree, their candidate, head the poll in the ward of Cambridge Without. The majority of thirty-one was only a small one, and the poll, in proportion to the total electorate, was heavy. Mrs. Hartree, who stood as an Independent, is known for her valuable public work both in Cambridge and Guildford, and she is Hon. Secretary of the Cambridge Branch of the National Council of Women. The result, therefore, was largely due to the high qualifications of the candidate, and, in the second place, to the combined efforts of many Cambridge residents. By her election the number of women members of the Cambridge Town Council is increased to five, of whom four represent the Women Citizens' Association, the fifth, Mrs. Rackham, being a Labour member. Mrs. Ramsey, a well-known Guardian and former Suffrage "stalwart," stood as a Labour candidate for another ward, but failed by a small majority to secure a seat. She would (under any political label or none) have proved an excellent member of the Council. At Aldeburgh, in Suffolk, the only woman candidate headed the poll in the Borough Council Elections. There were nine nominations for four vacancies. Aldeburgh is a go-ahead town, and was the first to elect a woman Mayor. A brother of Mrs. Garrett Anderson was the second successful candidate, polling only five votes less than Miss Edith Thompson, C.B.E. It was a large poll, and much interest was displayed in the result. At Reading, Mrs. Jenkins, a Labour candidate, defeated the Mayor, and at Exeter Miss Edith Splatt, a well-known local journalist, was returned for Belmont Ward, and Mrs. Walter Browne was returned unopposed for the St. Leonard's Ward. Miss Hickey (Labour) was again returned for the Cleveland Ward, Birkenhead, and Mrs. Dennison (Conservative) and Mrs. Ditham (Labour) were returned for Leeds. Mrs. Mary Bayley of Plymouth, and Miss Fletcher of Liverpool, have retained their seats. Mrs. Blatch was unopposed at Brighton, and in Glasgow Councillor Mrs. Baird Smith was successful, and Councillor Mrs. Mary Bell and Councillor Miss Craig Robertson were returned unopposed, making the total number of five women on the Glasgow Town Council. In Lincoln Councillor Mrs. Howitt was returned for the Witham Ward, and in Stirling Councillor Miss Tasker,

M.B.E., and Councillor Miss Turnbull were re-elected, and Mrs. Hugh Robson, R.R.C., was also returned. We will publish any further results we receive next week.

Mrs. Wintringham.

As we go to press, Mrs. Wintringham is making her first speech in the House. We wish her a great success. Her first question, which she asked last week, proved to all who voted against her because they thought a woman could not be interested in agricultural matters, that they were greatly mistaken. She asked the Minister of Labour whether he could make any statement as to the number of agricultural workers now unemployed, and whether, since this number is likely to increase in view of the Minister of Agriculture's advice to the agricultural industry that live-stock rearing was more important than cereals, the Government intend to make further provision for unemployment in agriculture. Dr. Macnamara said that the proposals of the Government in connection with road and other relief works, land drainage and improvement, afforestation, and light railways, will help to relieve unemployment in agricultural districts.

Women at Washington.

Several women have been appointed to the Advisory Committee of the American delegation to the Disarmament Conference. Mrs. Thomas Winter, President of the National General Federation of Women's Clubs, a very active and influential organisation, is one of them. Mrs. Charles Sumner Bird, of the Massachusetts State Representative Republican Committee, Mrs. Catherine Phillips Edson, a Republican member of the Californian State Representative Committee, and Mrs. Eleanor Franklin Egan, a journalist, are the others. It is encouraging to see American women coming into their own, but it makes us realise all the more how reactionary and unprogressive our own Government is in this matter. We must be quick and push it on.

Glasgow Corporation and the Women.

Since writing on this subject last week we have had further information, which puts a rather different complexion on the case. It seems that an Unemployment Committee had been set up, and the women's deputation had, in the usual way, been asked to meet it. The Council, therefore, decided by a vote that it was unnecessary to receive the women, and Councillor

Kirkwood was defying the Chair in leading in the women's deputation. Two deputations of men on unemployment were also waiting to be received, and received the same answer, so that there was, in this case, no question of men ignoring women, as we were first led to suppose. We are very glad that things are not always so bad as they look.

Understaffed Prisons.

Various questions have been asked in the House recently about the internal management of our prison system, and the answers show that there is a lot of room for improvement. According to Mr. Shortt there are forty-three prisoners under twenty-one at Brixton, and thirty-five at Holloway, and the cells are locked at 4.30 and 4.35 p.m. respectively. The early hours for closing are made necessary by the reduction in the number of hours of duty for the staff. The effect of solitary confinement from 4.30 p.m. until the next morning on young girls and boys, mentally unstable and without resources, is undoubtedly bad, and probably in many cases leaves a permanent and disastrous mark on the character. Some forms of economy and "anti-waste" are cruel and ill-advised, and this is one of them. The staff should be increased, and this inhumane treatment should stop.

The Children Act.

The trial of Harold Jones has once more drawn attention to a point in the Children Act which, in our opinion, calls for alteration. A delinquent must be under the age of sixteen at the time of his trial in order to benefit under the Act. Even if the crime is committed before the child is sixteen, he is liable to the extreme penalty of the law if the trial does not come on until after his sixteenth birthday. The idea of the Children Act, under which no child under sixteen can be sentenced to death, is to protect them from being judged and convicted as if they had reached years of discretion and responsibility. It is obvious that some amendment should be made to protect a child from the consequences of the slow workings of the legal machinery. Our readers will probably remember the case of Fitt, in 1918, who, at the age of fifteen murdered a child of two. By the time the trial came on, Fitt was over sixteen, and was, accordingly, sentenced to death. The sentence was afterwards remitted to one of penal servitude for life. Harold Jones's counsel urged that the case should be taken without delay for the same reason. This is a technical flaw which should be remedied at once.

The Age of Consent.

A very bad case of legal ignorance, or a still worse case of legal callousness, occurred in the inquiry into the case of the girl found dead at Farnham. The police surgeon declared her to have been a "consenting party" to the outrage which caused her death. He must have known, and the magistrate who refused to allow further questioning must have known, that a girl of fourteen cannot legally be a "consenting party." To brand the memory of a murdered child with a stigma of that sort could serve no good purpose even if it were justified. In this case it was wrong in law also, and we are glad that so many newspapers have published the protest of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.

Women Barristers in Ireland.

Two women were called to the Irish Bar by Lord Chief Justice Molony in Dublin last week. They were Miss F. C. Kyle, of Belfast, and Miss A. K. Deverell, of Greystones. Miss Kyle was congratulated by the Lord Chief Justice on being the first lady barrister. We join our voices to his.

A Women's Prison Closed.

The latest women's prison to be closed is in Carlisle, and the women from that district will be sent in future to Newcastle. This action is partly due to economy on the part of the Home Office, partly to the steady diminution in the number of female prisoners. In 1914 the total daily average was 2,375, on October 4th of this year it had fallen to 1,209. There is a falling off, too, in the number of women undergoing penal servitude. These latter are kept in a section of the local prison in Liverpool, and except in London, where all women go to Holloway which is given up entirely to women, a wing of the local prison is set aside for women who are under the supervision of a matron.

Education Report.

The Report of the Board of Education for the year 1919-1920 has recently been published and contains interesting information. The year 1919 was in many ways a year of reconstruction, and the School Medical Service was no exception to the rule.

Towards the end of the year practically all Local Education Authorities had abandoned their war-time restriction on the medical inspection and treatment of school children, and not only had the medical staff been restored to its pre-war strength, but many additions had been made to it, and over 1,800,000 children were medically inspected during the year. The section devoted to secondary schools draws attention to the great waste of public money and educational effort involved in the withdrawal of so many pupils before they reach the age of sixteen. The Board intends to make new regulations making their grant dependent upon the school life of the pupils extending at least to the age of sixteen, except where adequate reasons can, in individual cases, be shown for earlier withdrawal. A reduction in the size of classes has been rendered impracticable by the impossibility of securing an increase of accommodation at all commensurate with the increase in the number of pupils. More or less serious overcrowding has resulted, although the Board urged the acquisition of additional temporary premises as an emergency measure. The state of affairs with regard to adult education is more satisfactory, and there is much evidence of the strength of the demand for advanced education and a promise of further developments.

The Educational Value of Shakespeare.

The High Court has decided that the expenses incurred by the Education Department of the L.C.C. in providing theatrical performances for children in their schools is illegal. The L.C.C. pleaded that the practice of taking children to places of educational value and interest was recognised by the educational code, and therefore the expenditure incurred could not be illegal. Elementary education has never been defined in the educational code, and argument centred round the question of whether these attendances at performances of Shakespeare's plays were "visits during school hours to places of educational value and interest." The Court decided they were not, and unless the L.C.C. is successful in its appeal against the decision, Council children will grow up without seeing Shakespeare acted. Everyone is agreed that this will be an irreparable loss, because, not only do these performances provide a refining and broadening element otherwise lacking in the elementary schools, but they are often the only bright spots in many too drab little lives.

False Economy.

In a circular letter last August the Lunacy Board of Control requested the L.C.C. to deal with no fresh cases beyond a very close estimate of expenditure for the current year. This margin of expenditure is now practically non-existent, and the L.C.C. can only deal with cases of extreme urgency, so that they were quite powerless to act in the case of a girl recently brought up on remand to be dealt with under the Mental Deficiency Act. A medical witness said the only hope for the girl was for her to be cared for in a proper institution, and the probation officer said no ordinary home would take her. Mr. Chapman, the magistrate, said that a dangerous situation was created, and that it was very false economy. We entirely agree.

Women as Church Elders.

The North London Presbytery have decided to admit women to office in the Presbyterian Churches of the Metropolis as elders and deacons. They also admit that no barrier exists in principle to the admission of women to the ministry, although it has been decided to withhold this privilege until the "limitations within which the principle may be applied" have been further examined. This is a distinct advance.

Compulsory Service for Women.

It is reported that a new law is about to be introduced in the Polish Diet with regard to military service. The two years' service is to be retained, and women will have to serve for auxiliary work unless they can obtain exemption on account of their family duties. The principle of compulsory service for all seems to be gaining ground in Eastern Europe, but no country has organised it as well as Bulgaria, which, as our readers will remember, has set even her school children to reconstruct her devastated lands.

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.

THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE.

By PROFESSOR GILBERT MURRAY.

Why is the Washington Conference a landmark in history? Because it shows that the United States, which was the last of the nations to fall ill with war-fever and has consequently been the last to recover, is now definitely convalescent. And that gives the rest of the world a chance.

The Treaty of Versailles itself called attention to "the intolerable burden imposed by armaments upon the already impoverished peoples of the world," and the signatories pledged themselves to consider means of reduction. The Covenant of the League contained an agreement to set up machinery for proceeding to a general and progressive reduction of armaments to the "lowest limit compatible with national safety." The Arms Traffic Convention, accepted by all the Powers, provided that the immense stores of munitions accumulated by the end of the war in most of the belligerent countries should be held under strict control, and not sold indiscriminately for profit.

That was two years ago, when the peoples of Europe, if not quite fit for peace, were at least tired and afraid of war. The fever had left us weak. But America's temperature was still soaring. First the Arms Traffic Convention broke down because America refused to ratify it, and American munitions continued to be sold wherever they could find a good market. Next, when the League of Nations began to front its task and Europe saw for the first time in history the representatives of forty-eight nations working together hard in committee, day in and day out, to find some possible road to general disarmament, they were balked at the start by the opposition of Russia and the United States. Russia was believed to have the largest army in the world; America had announced her intention of building the biggest navy. Consequently, Russia's neighbours were afraid to disarm by land; and the nations who lived by sea-borne food supplies were afraid to disarm by sea.

So things stood for two disastrous years, after the first rejection by the Senate of Mr. Wilson's policy. The people of the United States voted, as all nations do, according to domestic issues and domestic interests, and only those who expected too much of them could blame them. But the rest of the world, ignorant of the internal party dissensions of the United States, saw with amazement that the nation to which it looked for the chief lead towards peace and international reconstruction had for some strange reason become the protagonist of cynical nationalism. America was sick of Europe. She was 100 per cent. American. She would make no relief grants. She would remit no debts. She would accept no duties. She would sell munitions where she liked. She would wreck Wilson's gimcrack League of Nations and stand triumphant without a rival, while Britishers and Huns and Dagoes squealed. Jingoism are much the same all the world over. America was for the moment playing the part of pre-war Imperial Germany.

The difference is that America only goes jingo in fits, as a man of sober habits might go on the spree. She has never been permanently militarist, and I doubt if she knows how to be. All the nations went war-mad towards the end of the war, and America happened to have started last. The elections of 1918 in Great Britain, and of 1919 in France, had their parallel in America, and no one need have been surprised at it. Those elections have done, of course, incalculable harm, and would have done far more but for one saving fact: that the people elected are seldom quite as mad as the electors. As the storms of the post-war elections die down, we find normally that reasonable or semi-reasonable men are in power, somewhat hampered here and there by election promises, but largely able to act in a non-suicidal way. It is the same in all countries. And even the kind of politician who holds it the chief duty of man to abhor Mr. Wilson, or Mr. Asquith, or M. Venizelos, and all their ways, will find that he can express his abhorrence quite satisfactorily without differing from those gentlemen on the points where all sane men happen to agree with them.

So at last, after a terrible and costly period of madness, America is moving back towards the normal American policy. The people of the United States are not militarist; they are not cruel; if they are ambitious, I believe that their ambitions would be satisfied better by leading a peaceful world back towards prosperity than by standing in arms over the wreck of even the nations they happen most to dislike. In the matter of disarmament the United States now stands where Great Britain and most of the nations of Europe have been standing for two years. The nightmare is over; and there is nothing to prevent the peoples of the world from moving together up hill towards sanity, if they wish it.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

The House of Commons is, after all, a very human place. The violent agitation which sprang up last week over the Secret Police Service, the resignation of Sir Basil Thomson, and the attempt to appoint Sir Joseph Byrne in his place, was a thoroughly human exhibition. Members who care little and speak seldom about world-politics and high statesmanship are found to care a great deal about office intrigues; and a degree of excitement arose over the veiled personalities of the debate, which is seldom apparent over matters of greater importance. Not that the question is unimportant. The existence of a domestic secret service is not at all a popular thing, and the Labour Party have very rightly objected to some of the activities of Sir Basil's department for a long time past. During the war, and since the Armistice, its doings have been shrouded with mystery. We know that it watched enemy aliens and suspected spies, and have most of us read enough detective stories to enable us to fill in lucid and probably untrue details for ourselves. But where the department has undoubtedly overstepped itself is in its watch upon political agitators. Most people in this country really do believe in free speech, and have a wide toleration for cranks, "parlour Bolshies," and even for more actively unconventional politicians. Sir Basil Thomson's department tried to keep a finger on all that world, and most people believe it could get on quite safely with its pulse unheld. The Members who made the outcry on Thursday are not of that opinion: they are the ultra-Conservative group who have been drawn close together by their heavy defeat in the Irish debate, and they are attacking the Government on every side at once. As yet they are rather a lonely group, and lack a leader, but there may be more in the ultra-Conservative revolt against the Prime Minister than has yet appeared. For no one knows how much following they have in the country.

Monday's debate on the proposed relief was not very inspiring. This subject is gloomy in itself, and it was not handled in the masterly fashion which alone can make gloomy subjects of interest. Much was said about the proposed seventy-five per cent. wage—seventy-five per cent., that is of the current Trade Union rates—but no Member gave the House a real or reasoned account of the reasons for it, or the objections to it. Sir Alfred Mond said, in effect—and almost in words—"Don't be so silly as to reject it," and the House was not so silly. But they acted with little light or leading.

Among this week's questions there is one of considerable interest dealing with the Civil Service. Is it a fact, the question runs, that in the Post Office certain grades of men have been promised posts of an executive character carrying a maximum salary of £400, that these men were doing, and are still doing, lower clerical work (the appropriate maximum salary for the lower clerical grade being £180), but that they nevertheless rank and are paid as executive officers? And how much is this arrangement costing the Treasury? As I write the answer to this question has not been given. If it is a truthful answer it will reveal what is one of the grave scandals of the Civil Service to-day, and a matter which is equally prejudicing the positions of the ex-Service men, the permanent women, and the temporaries of both sexes. What has happened is this—and it ought to be known. The Civil Service Whitley Council, in one of its phases, made out an Assimilation Agreement as to the terms on which the existing staff would settle down into the new grades. This Agreement provided that all the existing (men) permanent Civil Servants should have a step up—and some grades more than one step. This was done first and then the new grades were considered. They are found not to have high places enough for all these men, and the surplus has to be held redundant on inferior work at the higher pay. Meanwhile, all the women are graded down (to leave room above to work off this redundancy), and all the ex-soldiers and other temporaries are blocked. So serious is the pressure that no examination for women temporaries other than clericals has ever been held, and no permanent women have been graded executive. It is a scandal all round, and deserves attention on economy grounds as well as those of justice, and it will be interesting to see what the Government has to say in the matter.

[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.]

WOMEN AND DISARMAMENT. AMERICA AND LONDON.

There are two ways of approaching political problems, the way of the head and the way of the heart. It is popularly believed that the people who go one way do not go the other, and that politicians must be either hard-headed monsters or soft-hearted sentimentalists. Generally speaking, women are supposed to belong to the latter class, and one of the old pre-suffrage bogeys used to be that they would become sentimental about war and would try to reduce their countries to purely passive and unarmed States. All these generalisations are, of course, ridiculous, but it is very singular to notice that there is after all, a little glimmer of truth underlying them—and also to observe how the change in the world situation has made their truth or falsity supremely important. There are very noticeable signs to-day of the beginnings of an agitation among women on the subject of armaments. If this agitation leads to really effective pressure for immediate limitation the world may indeed be the better for the enfranchisement of women.

In the United States the agitation has more than begun, and is in full swing. It is, of course, true that it is not confined to women, and that all nations and all Governments are gravely concerned about it. But over and above the political and economic aspects there is, undoubtedly, an almost religious appeal, and it is this, which one might call, without disparagement, the sentimental appeal, which is being fostered and spread among American women to-day. It backs up and supplements the more usual political methods, but it is beginning to outrun them, and there is evidence that American politicians from the President downwards are beginning to be seriously alarmed by the zealous support which is arising.

The first sign of this movement was evident last April, when the National League of Women Voters at the Chicago Convention adopted, not only unanimously but with immense enthusiasm, a resolution calling for a reduction of armaments "realising that another war would imperil civilisation itself." This act was one of the causes which forced forward Senator Borah's proposals for naval reduction, and it marked the opening of what is now a positive crusade. By leaps and bounds—as is the energetic transatlantic custom—the movement spread, and to-day it is the most outstanding thing in the country. Not a school, college, church, or club but re-echoes with disarmament, while public meetings are frequent, crowded, and passionate in its support.

The line generally taken by this enthusiastic campaign is the demand for immediate and total disarmament. "Let us disarm by agreement with other nations if we can, but if not let us disarm anyway." "The way to achieve disarmament is to disarm." These are the things they say; and they are saying them very loudly.

No one can quite tell what the effect of this wave of popular enthusiasm is going to be, but President Harding and his Executive Ministers are evidently greatly alarmed by it. On the one hand they fear that if other countries (and particularly Japan) believe that the United States is already as good as disarmed, the Conference will prove abortive and useless. On the other, they know that the most they can get is a good start in the direction of limitation, and they fear that the disappointment and reaction of their own people will be as violent and as flaming as their present hopes. Either way the President stands to lose; and he has been making valiant efforts to persuade the world that the American people really wants the reduction of the Pacific fleet by agreement, and, failing that, the biggest navy afloat.

It is, of course, always true that "the people" does not speak with one voice. There are undoubtedly layers of opinion in the United States whom this moral peace-seeking movement does not touch. There are business men who openly advocate a war "to clear the air," and others whose interests all run with warlike preparations. But in a tug-of-war the others might win, even as they did over the different issue of prohibition. They have with them not only the new world sense which has followed the war, but the old historical "insularity" of the

United States. Those who want America to influence world-politics for high ideals join hands for once with those who want America to leave Europe and the rest of the world severely alone. "What do we want with conquests and foreign possessions? We are a world unto ourselves; let Europe stew in its own juice," say the latter, and they support disarmament as heartily as the idealists themselves. To have absolutely no navy and no army, they argue, would make not only foreign conquests, but also foreign entanglements and complications an impossibility—as, of course, it would. The force of this argument is great in the United States, where the self-protective militarism of Europe has never existed, and it was, indeed, a consideration of this kind which weighed most heavily against the entering by America into the League of Nations. When selfishness and idealism combine, their force is tremendous, and the American total disarmament movement is one of the significant factors in the world to-day.

It is not only in the United States that total and immediate disarmament finds supporters. The International Conference of Working Women at Geneva passed a most emphatic resolution on the subject only last month, and, what is more, dispatched at once from the Conference a delegate to Washington to press their views. The woman chosen was a British woman, Miss Mannicom of the General Workers, and though she is not attached to the official British delegation, she will certainly add new strength to the movement. She will find, at Washington, no British delegate or adviser. There are, however, three official American women advisers, and to them, of course, she will take her mission. In this country no very great movement seems to be on foot for total disarmament, but there is a very strong feeling in favour of limitation, which is growing deeper every day.

On the whole, opinion among women as among men seems to be steady rather than passionate, and to be centred upon getting something actually begun in the right direction. It is, perhaps, natural that the United States should take a more theoretical view of this problem. We, who could hear the guns in Flanders, have at once more detestation and more fear of war. We have faced the possibility both of starvation and of invasion, and we come slowly to the thought of leaving our shores undefended and our merchant shipping unprotected. France, whose knowledge of war is closer still, follows even more slowly, and the rest of Europe, with war still actually at its doors, has hardly moved at all.

Out of these elements, however, the abolition of armaments has got to come, and come quickly, if this twentieth-century civilisation is to be saved at all. Hopes in America may be too high, hopes in France may be too low; but if something does not happen at Washington, and if the great folly of the competitive building of sea monsters goes on its reckless course, the economic breakdown of half the world is inevitable. We cannot bear the burden of modern armaments, nor can we stand the strain of modern war; and any power by which we can attack it, whether it be the power of moral ideals or of self-interest, of financial necessity or of humanitarian feeling, must be brought to bear upon this vitally important subject.

The British people will be celebrating Armistice Day this week. It is an encouraging and a cheering sign that women have chosen to hold their demonstration in support of the limitation of armaments upon this day. The great meeting in Westminster which marks that day will be one of the most representative gatherings of women ever held in London. As this paper goes to press we learn that seventy-four organisations, representing well over three million women are co-operating in it, and that the message of goodwill which is to be sent to the Women's Demonstration in America will bear the signatures of all the leading women's societies in the country. From Primrose League to Co-operative Guild is a long way; but both unite on this subject, and well they may. For with it is bound up the future of the human race.

RAY STRACHEY.

PROBATION.

"Probation"—is there any other word in the English language that can mean so much, or absolutely nothing? There are still thousands of people who have no idea at all what it conveys with relation to the Children's Courts. Others think it is some very casual form of letting the child delinquent off altogether, and, alas! very often it is, because of the inefficiency of the supervision.

In England very little advance has been made with Probation. It seems very difficult to make the public, or the authorities, realise what enormous possibilities there are in a really efficient system of probation. A casual system of probation does almost more harm than none at all. From the very first the probation officer has had to try and do away with the fixed idea in the mind of the child and the parent, that the Probation Order was nothing, and the delinquent was quite free and clear of any more trouble or bother. In this way the magistrate might help a great deal by impressing on the child and parent that it depends on them in the future what happens; more especially the parent, as in nine cases out of ten it is the parent who is at fault, by a careless disregard as to how the child spends its leisure. Children in the East End may be hours and hours out of the home, and the parents have no idea where they are, or how they are occupied. The probation officer can use great influence by pressing home to the parent how very slack their efforts at control are, if they allow their children to be away for hours without supervision of any kind. Probation cannot be done effectually by just treating the child delinquent in the home; the whole family must become the centre of interest if the probation officer is to be a helpful friend. It is so often the father or mother or elder brother or sister that need supervision a great deal more than the child who has got to the Children's Court. In one family, a probation officer got two of the younger boys on probation for thieving. It was found that a lad of eighteen was a confirmed thief. This was known to all the family, as he continually stole from his mother, but he escaped the law, though without doubt he was the cause of the younger brothers' downfall. The probation officer had a great deal to do with the older one, who was in no way "officially" under supervision.

There is a very prevalent idea among magistrates and men probation officers that a woman can have no influence over a boy of fourteen, but this is so absolutely absurd and unproved that it seems useless to labour the point; it is the older boys who become such firm friends, and are the most faithful, keeping up for years with "their lady." The little boys very soon forget, and cannot be influenced in anything like the same way a boy over fourteen can. For the home visiting surely everyone must allow that it is a woman who will be welcomed far more than a man. The mother will talk over the hundred and one domestic difficulties with another woman, and get far more help from one of her own sex than from the keenest scout master or Church Lads' Brigade officer. The whole tendency of modern times is to create all the interests of the children and young people *apart* from the home. A good and effectual probation officer must put the home first of all. Probation done by only reporting at an office, or by correspondence, or attending a club with dozens of others, is useless. These things are quite useful "asides," but the whole hope of a better standard of morals is by concentrating on the home and family.

The very best magistrate can never know as much about probation as the person who does it. It is such a very simple matter making a "Probation Order"; it is a much more difficult and arduous task carrying it out so as to benefit and reform the child. The problems that arise in the home of the delinquent and that have to be met by the officer, would often amaze the magistrate if he had to deal with the case himself, and one ventures to think, he would be only too glad to have a woman to turn to in his difficulties.

A much higher ideal is needed among the professional probation officers, and a wiser and more thorough application of the

principles underlying the great work of probation. Sentimental probation does no good to anyone, either the magistrate, probation officer, or the child; but where it does most harm, is in the neighbourhood. It makes everyone slack, and lowers the standard of right and wrong. A large number of probation cases does not mean efficient supervision; probably a Court with only fifty or sixty cases on "Probation" is doing far better work than one with 250. Every probation officer knows that very often the wrong children get put on probation, and the real culprit gets off. The headmasters of the L.C.C. schools give invaluable help to the probation officers; and the officer can help in an "unofficial way" by keeping an eye on a boy who is inclined to go wrong, and who is brought to her notice.

With regard to voluntary probation officers, they can be of very great help to the official probation officer, but they should be in *close touch with the official and under her supervision.*

It is impossible for the magistrate to control the voluntary probation officers, especially when large numbers of cases are put under voluntary workers. It is essential that the voluntary worker should be responsible to some one in close touch with the magistrate, who should control the work, and be responsible to the magistrate to see it is carried out in an effectual and appropriate manner by personal supervision. A probation officer's duty is first and foremost to the child delinquent; "to advise, assist, and befriend him, and when necessary to endeavour to find him suitable employment," was one of the meagre directions issued to the probation officers after the passing of the Probation of Offenders Act, 1907. It is for the officers to make probation a living, effectual, and efficient reformatory measure. Men and women of imagination, strength of character, and with the power of putting themselves in the position of the child, with all its social disadvantages and bad influences, are required. A weak probation officer only makes probation a farce. The parents or children respect the officer that insists on the conditions of probation being kept, and who have the necessary moral courage to do what seems best or right for the child, not counting the unpleasant cost to himself.

"Probation" is not always pleasant or smooth sailing. It is not work any untrained person can do. It is very interesting, very human, and it teaches the probation officers many a lesson they would never learn without being in close daily touch with the children and families under their care. Imagination, common-sense, humour, and a great deal of give and take, will carry a probation officer through the day's work, and give her many a good friend in the district she works in. Living in the district is not absolutely necessary, but without the slightest doubt it is a very great advantage to the work. To be connected with the schools as a manager, or on care committees, &c., in the actual district the probation work is in, is of enormous help and value. It is also a great advantage in running a club. To have one's own little social club is the very best way of getting real "pals" with the boys. It in no way prevents them belonging to other clubs or Scouts. The great struggle is to get them to join Scouts or Brigades and *stick* to them. They join, attend a few meetings, then find a great difficulty in paying for the necessary uniform, or a friend leaves and so they do. One of the greatest problems of the work among these boys is to get them to stick to anything.

The one thing no pressure is needed for, is the pictures! Now this is a very controversial subject at all meetings of probation officers. Provided they are wholesome, interesting, and more or less moral, many officers prefer to know that at least for one or two evenings the boys are not rushing about the streets getting into mischief. The only thing to do is to get proper and wholesome subjects for the children, and young and old people to see; one hopes those in the trade will see to that in the future, and raise the tone of the Cinema all round. It is sadly needed.

CORVUS REX.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Offices: Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1. Telephone Museum 6910.

HORNSEY BY-ELECTION—DEPUTATION TO CANDIDATES.

The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship organised a Deputation on Thursday, November 3rd, consisting of four representatives of the Local Branch of the National Council of Women, and the following other women's organisations: Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, Federation of Women Civil Servants, London Society for Women's Service, Women's Freedom League, Women's International League. Miss Helen Ward introduced the Deputation.

Dr. Burgin (Independent Liberal), who has included Equal Franchise in his Election Address, was wholly in favour of equality between men and women in every respect. He strongly supported reforms in legislation with regard to the status of mothers and the maintenance of children, as well as legislation protecting the unmarried mother and her child. He also declared himself in favour of equal opportunities and equal pay for men and women in the professions and in industry. Dr. Burgin impressed the Deputation with his knowledge of the questions referred to, and with the strength of his convictions as to the need for reform.

Lord Ednam (Conservative), who has comparatively little knowledge of the questions under discussion, gave the Deputation a friendly reception and satisfactory replies to most of the questions which were put to him. While in favour of Equal Franchise, Lord Ednam cannot, however, see his way to support the Guardianship, Maintenance and Custody of Infants Bill without further consideration.

Both candidates are keen supporters of the League of Nations, and have faith in the possibilities of the Conference on Disarmament about to be held at Washington.

THE CONFERENCE AT WASHINGTON.

Members of our Societies who have not yet sent a post-card to the Prime Minister will have seen that his departure for Washington has been postponed, and that it is not too late to send a message of support and encouragement. This should reach him two days before the time of his departure.

ROTHERHAM W.C.A.

On the evening of Wednesday, October 26th, the above Society had the pleasure of a visit from Miss Hartop, who spoke on "Elections." Her account of the N.U.S.E.C. work in the Louth election, and her talk of what appealed most to women electors, were followed with keen interest. She also gave some useful hints on municipal election work, and urged the members to work for getting some women J.P.s appointed, and some women elected to the Borough Council.

On Thursday afternoon, through the enthusiastic co-operation of Mrs. Kimber, N.U.S.E.C. Local Correspondent, and members of the Whiston Co-operative Guild, Miss Hartop gave a delightful address to the Guild members and friends in the Wesleyan Chapel of the village of Whiston. She took as the title of her address "Good Comrades," and showed how women could not be the really "good comrades" they wished to be until equal franchise and other reforms had come. The tone of Miss Hartop's address and the discussion afterwards was very high, and was very refreshing and stimulating to all present.

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

MADAM.—May I point out to those among your younger members who live in London, that now is the golden moment to join the London Society for Women's Service (2s. 6d. a year only). The agenda of its Annual Meeting on November 22nd, as given in your last week's issue, is of exceptional interest. The resolutions to be discussed and voted upon outline a strong political forward movement during the coming months. Forgive my trespassing upon your space, but as a member of the Society myself, who has for many years taken a special interest in its political side, I cannot but feel anxious that we should have the strongest possible backing among those women under thirty, who are disenfranchised politically, and, still to a great extent, economically.

A. HELEN WARD.

THE WOMEN POLICE MOVEMENT.

MADAM.—May I assist Miss Goldingham in her effort at supplying information on the above subject?

Miss Damer Dawson was one of my recruits for the Women Police Volunteers. When I found I could not give time enough to the work, I asked her to be "Chief," and obtained permission for that purpose from the Women's Freedom League. The uniform for the rank and file was chosen by Miss Dawson and myself, Mrs. Meesom Coates, Mrs. Edith Watson, and Mrs. Strange, in consultation. So were the rank badges; and at that time I stood out resolutely against any eccentricities or too much *panache*.

Mrs. Watson and I parted company with Miss Dawson when I found that two of the recruits, detailed for duty at Grantham, were helping to carry out certain military regulations to which we, as feminists, took strong exception. Up till then there had been no "permission" given by Sir Edward Henry "to form a corps of policewomen and work them in the Metropolitan Area." On the contrary, after several interviews, I gathered from Miss Dawson that there was not the faintest hope of obtaining "official recognition" through him. It is, I believe, a fact, that the Women Police were never in his good graces, and the corps that received his sanction was the Women Patrols.

The corps became the Women Police Service when it broke away from my control, and it was always outside the Metropolitan Area, and not

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

A successful meeting was held in Ashton-under-Lyne on Wednesday, October 16th, to consider the question of the Limitation of Armaments and to give support to the coming Washington Conference. Mrs. Muter Wilson of Manchester, and Miss Hammond of the Stockport Branch of the Women's International League, were the speakers for the evening.

Miss Hammond spoke on the causes of war—the chief cause, she contended, being the fear of poverty and the consequent struggle for foreign markets. When countries could not get those markets by peaceful means they tried to get them by war. Mrs. Muter Wilson spoke of the terrible sufferings of children on whom the consequences of war fell most heavily. The Washington Conference afforded us a great opportunity for encouraging peace, and we must give the British delegates every support possible.

A resolution was passed in support of the objects of the Conference, and copies are to be sent to the Prime Minister and Members of Parliament for the constituencies in the area.

THE LIVERPOOL W.C.A.

The Liverpool Women Citizens' Association had an excellent opportunity during the recent Municipal Elections of demonstrating beyond all doubt the non-party character of the organisation, and the fact that its members are drawn from all parties. Our three women candidates in Liverpool were all members of the Association. Miss Mabel Fletcher, J.P., C.C., who stood for re-election in the Conservative interest, was the Chairman of our Association for the first six years of its existence. Miss Jessie Bevan, who stood as a Liberal for the vacancy created by Mrs. Egerton Stewart Brown's resignation, is our Honorary Treasurer. Mrs. Julia Taylor, a Labour candidate, has been a member for many years, and has proved a valuable link between this Association and the Women's Co-operative Guild.

At our Annual Meeting it was resolved to recommend our members to support and work for one or other of these three candidates. There was an excellent response to the appeal for helpers, and we are satisfied that although only one of the women was returned, this was not owing to any lack of energy or enthusiasm on the part of our members. Miss Mabel Fletcher returned to her seat on the Council with a very substantial majority. Miss Jessie Bevan was defeated by a Conservative candidate by a majority of something over 400. She actually polled more votes than the Liberal candidate when returned at the last Election, and had 1,000 votes more than the Middle Classes Union candidate. Mrs. Taylor, despite the good work of her supporters, was unfortunately not returned.

A Questionnaire on the following subjects was addressed to every candidate:—Equal scholarships; Women Police; no disqualification from posts on the Council on account of sex; more adequate and frequent scavenging; proportional representation. To these questions we received a fairly satisfactory reply from a majority of the candidates, and it was evident that among them there was a very large measure of support for the principle of the employment of women as an integral part of the Police Force. Special emphasis was laid upon this question, for, as previously reported, we are attempting to get into touch with every City Councillor who would give us an opportunity of putting before him the reasons for the very strong feeling that exists among women citizens on this point. We hope by this means to create in time such a determined attitude on the part of the Council that the Watch Committee will be compelled to change its present policy of obstruction.

within it, that its valuable services were officially utilised. The want of official recognition never prevented the corps from carrying on (totally unauthorised) work in London, although the members in uniform were seldom interfered with and often acknowledged by individual policemen. Mrs. Watson wore her uniform at the Old Bailey.

I do not consider that the work of police, male or female, should be rescue work, as appears to be the aim of so many persons interested in the movement. The functions put forward with so much ardour at public meetings belong far more properly to "patrols," or some body entirely different from police. Police have to deal with breaches of the law. It is a thing apart.

What policewomen are required for is not to persuade flighty girls to go to hospitals or homes or to prevent them from going off with young men into dark corners in parks. It is to take complete charge of women and girls when arrested, to have sole control of cells in which women, girls or children are detained, and to take all depositions from female persons in cases involving obscene or indecent conduct. What we want is to get a clear understanding of the meaning of words. Slovenly definitions and confusion of functions surround this question and make it ludicrous in the eyes of real police authorities. We should ask for a Woman Assistant Commissioner in London, and a Woman Superintendent, or Deputy, under each Chief Constable, to recruit and train women as men are recruited and trained. I am entirely opposed to the demand that a corps of volunteers should have a monopoly of supplying "trained" women to a public service. When such demands are put forward, they are certain to be turned down.

C. NINA BOYLE.

£2 FOR £1.

MADAM.—On November 15th a dramatic performance arranged by the Lyceum Club is being given at the Palace Theatre in aid of the International Fellowships Fund of the British Federation of University Women. This Fund is intended to help British graduates to go abroad for study at foreign universities, and to enable foreign graduates to come to the universities of Great Britain. The practical value of such opportunities of enriching educational experience can hardly be over-estimated, but there are at present very few fellowships available to meet the great and increasing demand. British university women are applying in

COMING EVENTS.

INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CLUB.

NOV. 12 (Saturday). 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, 5.30 p.m. Concert arranged by Miss F. Binyon Alexander.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

NOV. 11. Lincoln, evening. Speakers: Rt. Hon. Lord Hugh Cecil, M.P., Rev. S. W. Hughes.

Croydon, North End Hall, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Professor Gilbert Murray.

NOV. 15. Portsmouth, Brotherhood. Speaker: Professor Gilbert Murray.

NOV. 15. Kensington Branch, Town Hall, 8.15 p.m. Speakers: Right Rev. Bishop Gore, D.D., Mrs. Oliver Strachey.

NOV. 15. Manchester Rotary Club, 7 p.m. Speaker: Col. D. Borden Turner.

NOV. 16. Newcastle-on-Tyne, Town Hall. Speaker: Rev. Studdart Kennedy, M.A.

NOV. 19. New Cross, Goldsmiths' College, 11 a.m. Speaker: Frederick Whelen, Esq.

THE LEAGUE OF THE CHURCH MILITANT.

NOV. 13. Public Meeting, St. Augustine's Parish Room, Sheffield, 8 p.m. "The Lambeth Resolutions and the Ministrations of Women in the Church." Speaker: Miss C. Ellis.

NOV. 15. Leicester, 13, Welford Road, 8.30 p.m. "The Ministrations of Women in the Church." Speaker: Miss C. Ellis.

NOV. 17. Edgbaston, Mayfield Club, 60, Harborne Road, 3 p.m. "The Ministrations of Women in the Church." Speaker: Miss C. Ellis.

Harrow, St. George's, Headstone, 3 p.m. Debate: "Women and the Ministry." Miss M. A. Bell and Rev. F. C. Baker.

St. Paul's Church Hall, Onslow Square, S.W., 8.15 p.m. "Lambeth and Women's Work in the Church." Speaker: Mrs. Marston Acres.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

NOV. 19-12. Exhibition, 92, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

NOV. 11. At 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1, 7 p.m. "Women and International Life." Speaker: Miss Pictou-Turberville, O.B.E. Chair: Mrs. Dexter.

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

NOV. 15. Maidenhead, Mothers' Union Meeting, 3 p.m. "State Purchase a Solution of the Drink Problem." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell.

Small Heath, Birmingham, Co-operative Guild, 3.15 p.m. "State Purchase of the Liquor Trade." Speaker: Mrs. Renton.

NOV. 15. Barrow-in-Furness, Co-operative Guild, 8.15 p.m. "State Purchase of the Liquor Trade." Speaker: Mrs. Renton.

Eastbourne, National Council of Women, 8 p.m. "The Future Public House." Speaker: Miss B. Pictou-Turberville.

EDINBURGH S.E.C.

NOV. 17 and 18. Mock Trial. Admission 2s. and 1s.

PIONEER CLUB.

NOV. 15. 8.15 p.m. "The Red Terror and the Vanguard Movement." Lecture and discussion by Rev. R. Courtier-Forster and Mrs. Shelley. Chair: Miss Violet Firth.

LIVERPOOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION FOR PREVENTIVE AND RESCUE WORK, &c.

NOV. 16-17. Conference on Social Purity, in the Royal Institution, Colquitt Street. Subjects: "Probation Work"; "Prostitution"; "Problem of Adolescence"; "The Changing Moral Standard," &c. Speakers: Bishop of Liverpool, Dean of Chester, Miss Rathbone, Mr. J. L. Paton, Mrs. V. M. Crawford, Miss Fletcher, Miss Frida Hartley, &c. For tickets apply Miss Matravets, 15, Prince's Avenue.

ENGLISHWOMAN EXHIBITION.

NOV. 9-19. At the Central Hall, Westminster.

WESTMINSTER COALITION LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

NOV. 11. St. Andrew's Hall, Ashley Place, S.W. 1, 8 p.m. "Socialism and Communism." Speaker: Mr. Marshall J. Pike (of the B.C.U.).

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE.

NOV. 11. At the Caxton Hall, Westminster, at 8.15 p.m. Debate: "That the Interests of True Temperance would not be promoted by Local Option." Speakers: Peter J. Hand, Esq., and T. W. Travis, Esq.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES—Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston-square, S.W. 6.30, Miss Maude Royden. "War and Peace."

THE PIONEER CLUB has re-opened at 12, Cavendish Place. Town members, £5 5s.; Country and Professional members, £4 4s. Entrance fee in abeyance (*pro. tem.*).

THE STATE AND SEXUAL MORALITY, 1s. 9d., post free. Order this constructive Report from Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, Orchard House, Great Smith-street, S.W. 1.

CONSERVATIVE WOMEN'S REFORM ASSOCIATION, 48, Dover-street, W. 1. "Not destroy, but re-form nearer to our heart's desire." Object 3—"To encourage intelligent understanding between all sections of the community."

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