

LILIAN BARKER ON WOMEN JURORS

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

IN POLITICS
IN THE HOME
IN INDUSTRY

IN LITERATURE AND ART
IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND
THE COMMON CAUSE

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

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THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND
COMMON CAUSE.

NOTES AND NEWS

Women in the Civil Service.

There is no end to the troubles of those who put their faith in Acts of Parliament. When the House of Commons passed the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, several innocent persons thought that artificial sex disqualifications would be thereby removed, at any rate in such regions as were directly controlled by the Government. As a matter of fact, however, the passing of this Act was only the signal for the beginning of an unprecedented struggle for the removal of sex disqualifications in the Civil Service, another stage of which was reached last week when the long-awaited regulations concerning women made their appearance. Our readers will remember that, under the Act, equality in the Civil Service could be modified and mitigated only by the Treasury acting on Orders in Council, and that the concession made by Sir Ernest Pollock was that these Orders should be laid before the House. In the summer the Orders appeared, and they said that the Treasury could do as it liked; but after a terrible struggle and months of hard agitation the Government perceived the disingenuousness (not to use a stronger word) of this action, and Mr. Bonar Law promised that this Order should be strictly governed by regulations which would come before the House and could be altered by that body. And now, here they are, and the same old tedious struggle has to be gone through again, but this time at two removes. The first time the Treasury *explicitly* took power to do as it liked, and was defeated. This time it *implicitly* takes the same power, and it must be defeated again.

What is Not in the Regulations.

When we say that by these new regulations the Treasury implicitly takes power to do as it likes we are referring, not to what the regulations say, but to what they do not. It is to be hoped that we are wrong in supposing that these are the only regulations the Treasury intends to place before Parliament, but we fear we are not wrong, since it is our experience that it is very vain to under-estimate the ability of the Treasury as an antagonist. If, then, these regulations are all we are intended to have, and are the only things which Parliament is to have the power of altering, let us first look at them in the light of what they do not say, so as to see what things the Treasury is quietly keeping in its own hands, regardless of Mr. Bonar Law's promises and the plain meaning of the Act. The first striking omission is pay. The Act says that conditions of employment are to be equal unless specified by the Orders, and pay is, of course, one of the chief conditions of employment. The Treasury is keeping quiet about that. We think we can guess why! The second great omission is establishment lists. The Whitley Report recommends separate establishments of men and women, so that they shall compete only with their own kind, and go up different ladders of promotion. This will mean the declaration of separate men's vacancies and women's vacancies, and will obviously fit in very nicely with men's rates of pay and women's rates. This point is as clearly a condition of employment involving sex differentiation as is the other. The Government is, we know, pledged to the Report, but it is, or ought to be, pledged also to the Act. We differ from the Government about the Report, but that is an honest difference. What is not honest is not to have it out. The Government has no right to refuse to bring its opinions on this matter before the House and submit them to debate. Can it be that it is afraid of what the House will say on equal pay and separate establishments?

What Is in the Regulations.

While they neglect these great points the regulations do deal with something! They provide for the method of admitting temporary female Civil Servants and ex-Service women to what are called the new reorganisation grades of the Civil Service, and they lay it down that married women are, as a rule, not to be admitted or employed. With regard to the actual method of admission (which we notice with joy, they no longer care

selection, but now call *competitions*, we have no quarrel at all. It is the same as the reconstruction examination applied to ex-Service men, and is a mixture of written papers and other tests. We see no reason to think it anything but fair and excellent. Our only quarrel was when they proposed to have one test for men and a different one for women. As a temporary measure applied to both sexes the present plan is good, but we still have our quarrel, for we do not see why the same tests, and not approximately the same ones, should be applied to men and women, and the results published in a single list. We see plainly why the Treasury does not want this—and the reasons they do not are the reasons we do! The other point, compulsory retirement on marriage, is, of course, a matter of great importance. We are profoundly convinced that it is wrong, harmful to marriage, wasteful to the public service, and unjust to the individual. It is each woman's own concern, as she alone can judge whether her family life gains or suffers by her outside work. We think, of course, that the heads of Departments should have power to dismiss established persons whose work is so irregular or half-hearted as to damage the Department; but that is a different thing, and we are convinced that this regulation, even if it stands now, will not long survive the entry of modern young women into the Service.

What is the Legal Position?

It is curious how many things the regulations do not say. There is not a word about Writing Assistants, how they are to be recruited, or why men are not to be admitted, not a word of technical women, or shorthand typists. Are we to assume that no appointments of women can be made in these sections, or that, since no special conditions are laid down, they will automatically under the Act be equal? It would make an interesting case for the Law Officers of the Crown to settle. What are we to think about overseas posts? The Act allows them to be reserved to men, but the Treasury has neglected to do so (in public); we assume that young women can sit for the Indian Civil Examinations until something appears. And so about the Departments? Are all of them really intended to admit women quite freely, as the silence of the regulations on this point implies? Can a Department legally refuse to have executive administrative women without specifically taking this by the proper methods laid down in the Act? We wish matters were clear. Perhaps, after all, they may become Regulation after regulation may appear in the next few years and make the legal situation plain—if they do we shall be profoundly thankful. If they do not we shall, of course, demand an explanation from the Leader of the House, upon promise we relied. We do not believe that he intended to us, or will allow that result to come about. But we do wish instead of having to spend our energies in trying to get him to force the Treasury to obey the mechanical provisions of the Act, we might spend them in deciding the real and substantial points about the terms and conditions of women employ the State. The Treasury view, obviously, is that it is for Parliament, and not for Parliament, to decide. We think otherwise—and incidentally, does the Act.

Women Jurors.

An insidious and entirely despicable campaign is being waged in the Press and elsewhere against women jurors, and all we should take up arms in the defence of their rights. The much talk of the "unsavoury" details of cases which no woman should be called upon to hear; there is the deliberate creation of a specialised treatment of women jurors, which has created a precedent, may, who knows, be used in future as an argument against them. It is essential that women should be by their sex; they have, from time immemorial had their affairs discussed by men, and it is only just that their point of view should be considered now. In the recent case the public attention, focussed on the women jurors by

Marshall Hall's "chivalry," made the situation far more difficult for both the women and the men jurors. The only way in which these difficult situations should be treated is to ignore the fact of sex and not to stress it, and to expect everyone to do his duty as a citizen, however unpleasant that duty may be. In this particular instance it was considered essential that certain evidence should be seen by the jurors, but there should be no possibility of an arbitrary decision by the court or counsel as to what evidence should be doled out to the women jurors. It would be quite possible for a convicted person, in such a case, to lodge an appeal on the ground that some of the jury were not in full possession of the facts, and no woman juror should allow herself to be put in this false position. "Unsavoury" cases generally mean that some woman or child has suffered outrage or gross indecency, and what one woman or child has actually suffered, other women, in the interests of justice, should be prepared to hear and form a judgment on, and, so far as is possible, redress or prevent. The presence, too, of women jurors may prevent the inclusion of unnecessary and irrelevant indecencies which counsel occasionally introduce in the hope of prejudicing people against the woman in the case. In every way, therefore, it is essential that women should combat the suggestion that the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act should be applied in some cases and not in others, and that it should be left to the discretion of the judge to exclude women jurors from any special case.

Woman Judge in a Murder Case.

A lot of uncalculated attention is being focussed by the Press on a woman judge at her first murder trial at Cleveland (Ohio). It is not surprising in these days that a woman should have become a judge, nor that she should behave differently to a man in the same circumstances. It is absurd, after the evidence of the last few years of women's cool conduct in all sorts of trying situations, to read that the "spectators eagerly watched Justice Florence Allen, because it was to be her first murder trial," or to detect surprise between the lines of the statement that she summed up in "a cool voice" and "without an instant's hesitation" sentenced the man to lifelong imprisonment. If the judge had been a man at his first murder trial all this would have been taken for granted.

Failure of the Old Judicial System.

A case of shoplifting by an old woman of eighty-one, which was tried at the London Sessions last week, provided a very striking instance of the failure of one aspect of our judicial system, which is, happily, passing away, and which, to-day, is being replaced by wiser methods. This woman was first sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment for stealing silk, in 1861 at the age of twenty, and her life has since been a continual record of crime and imprisonment. This result justifies everything that has been said of the ruinous effect of imprisoning a young first offender, and of the disastrous results of repression and loss of self-respect which such a sentence engenders. No one who advocates such a sentence on the ground that the first offence with which a young person is charged is never the actual first offence, can be satisfied with the result of this long list of convictions and imprisonments which culminates in this latest appearance in the dock. Sir Robert Wallace said the possibility of such a case was a standing disgrace to criminal jurisprudence, and everyone must agree with him. It is a relief to know that the first disastrous sentence would never be passed to-day, but the unhappy victim of the old system can but claim our sympathy and pity.

Women and the Law in Germany.

The new Constitution of Prussia provides that all offices of State shall be open to all subjects, without regard to sex, so long as they qualify for the office in question. The Prussian Minister of Justice has, however, issued a new decree with reference to the admission of women to the higher ranks of the law, and in framing the rules for the law examination, has stated that women cannot be admitted to the examination qualifying for the higher law offices. It is not likely that Prussian women will accept this decree, and, since it has been promulgated on the eve of the elections, they will have an opportunity of expressing their opinion on the subject forcefully, and, we hope, successfully.

Equal Pay for Women Teachers.

It is rumoured that the Bradford Education Authority, having taken counsel's opinion on its obligations under the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, is about to pay its women teachers

equal rates with men if they are doing equal work. If that should prove a fact, we shall have, again, to congratulate Bradford on being abreast of the times, and ahead of her competitors. But there are counsel's opinions and counsel's opinions, and even if there were not, an opinion is not an authorisation. One must hope that wisdom will not eventually be found in a companion saying to the dictum on the employment of married women as teachers, that they are eligible for employment, but that it is not illegal for Education Authorities to exclude them. We shall await more news about equal pay at Bradford with hope, if not with absolute confidence.

Bag Wash.

Readers who remember our recent leading article on the Fulham Municipal Laundry case, will be glad to hear that the electors of Fulham are putting up a stiff fight on behalf of the "woman at home." The following resolutions were carried at an enthusiastic Town's meeting held in the Fulham Town Hall on January 11th:—"This Town's meeting of citizens of Fulham places on record its cordial approval of the action of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough in instituting the Mechanical Washing Service in connection with the Public Washhouses, and protests against the decision given in the High Court restraining the Council from continuing the scheme at present in operation. This meeting also calls upon Parliament to amend the law so as to enable the Council, or any local authority, to carry out such schemes; further requests the assistance of its Parliamentary and County Council representatives, and invites the co-operation of other local authorities to this end. Pending such additional powers being obtained, we urge the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough to explore every conceivable avenue with a view to formulating some scheme which will ensure the largest measure of advantage possible to be derived from the Mechanical Washing Appliances. We recommend (a) That the resolution unanimously adopted at the Town's Meeting be reported to Council and circulated to all local authorities in Greater London, asking for their support, likewise to the Borough representatives in Parliament and on the London County Council. (b) That a Conference be convened of local authorities in Greater London concerned in the Baths and Washhouses Acts, with a view to considering the best steps which might be taken conjointly to secure an amendment of the law to bring the Acts into conformity with present day requirements." We hope and trust that what Fulham thinks to-day, Greater London will think to-morrow.

The Price of Gas.

The rise in the price of gas in North and parts of South London is a serious setback to the prospects of the clean air campaign. Advocates of gas as a clean and convenient fuel are apt to forget that consumers who have installed more or less costly stoves and fittings are without redress if the gas charges are raised to a point beyond their means. To revert to coal fires is an expense that will be faced only if the rise in gas promises to be long continued, and this circumstance gives the companies a crushing advantage. The rise to 87 per cent. over the 1914 rate will take place as quickly as the company can manage it, and for many poor households the change will mean a lowered standard of cleanliness, warmth, and light. The gas company chiefly concerned explains its action as necessitated by the recent slump in coke and gas products, and the expected rise in coal. Claims that look backward or forward as it suits them when estimating costs require very careful scrutiny. It is not unknown to find the rises made twice over, once when the cost of raw material and labour is foreseen, and again when it occurs.

A General Election.

If we are to have a General Election in the late spring on an "economy" Budget of close on a thousand millions, it is time that intending women candidates put their case clearly to the electorate. Women should be very well able to deal with a question which, though often swamped under a deluge of misunderstood statistics, is of the same nature as that to which she addresses herself every week when she starts out for her Saturday's shopping. It is not enough for her, in stretching the contents of her small purse to satisfy a large demand, to decide to avoid expenditure on unnecessary luxury; many things, desirable in themselves, must be sacrificed, or postponed. She knows, too, that the niggard and the spendthrift are each foolish in their own way, and all this hoarded commonsense will be on the side of the candidate who can take a rational line on our pressing economic problems. The by-elections now imminent are being fought on the economy issue, but so far rather as slogans than arguments.

WIVES AND CHILDREN MUST LIVE!

It is evident that unemployment is a malady which cannot be cured by any Holloway's Pill type of remedy, and fair-minded people will hesitate to join in an outcry against the Government because they have failed to find such a remedy. But there are some needs so urgent and so obvious that one might reasonably have expected them to be present to the minds even of Ministers suffering from a severe form of brain fag. It is difficult, therefore, to understand or excuse the failure of the Government to include in their schemes for dealing with unemployment any provision of any kind for the needs of the wives and children of unemployed persons. Judging from the Parliamentary debates at the close of last Session, one would suppose that they had, in fact, quite forgotten the existence of such persons—an oblivion in which the rest of the House seems to have shared. Almost the only reference to wives and children occurred in the speech of Mr. Clynes, when he pointed out that the advice given by the Government to employers to prefer ex-Service men, amounted in effect to advising them to prefer unmarried men, since the proportion of married men with children was naturally higher among the civilians. Nobody, not even from the Labour Party's benches, dealt seriously with the question, "How are the wives and children of the unemployed to live?" The unemployed person is provided for to the extent of 15s. a week for men, and 12s. for women. This is meagre enough, but it is probable that most single men and women can rub along on it for a time. The houses of their friends and relatives are usually open to them to the extent of at least a meal here and there. But it would be unreasonable to expect hospitality to be extended with equal freedom to "the missus and the kids," even if those persons were easier to mobilise than is the case. Does, then, the Government expect a man to keep his wife and children, as well as himself, on 15s. a week? Or is it expected that the wife and children will go to the Poor Law? As to this alternative it should be remembered that the laws governing the action of Boards of Guardians lay it down as a fundamental principle that relief shall not be granted except by offering "the House" to able-bodied men and their dependants. We understand that the Ministry of Health has intimated to Boards of Guardians that, in view of the present emergency, they will not run any risk of being surcharged if they grant outdoor relief to the families of unemployed men. But this very modest measure of encouragement seems hardly calculated to induce bodies so conservative as Boards of Guardians to make any very wide departure from one of their most tenaciously held principles. No doubt there are exceptionally progressive Boards that will do so. But even if these were the rule and not the exception, can the reduction of thousands of respectable families to the status of paupers be regarded as a satisfactory solution? One could imagine what the outcry would have been if the Government had proposed that Unemployment Insurance itself should be administered as a part of, and through the machinery of, the Poor Law. No Government could survive the storm that such a proposal would arouse. But if the Poor Relief is not good enough for the working man, why is it good enough for his wife and children?

It must be admitted that the Government have some excuse for supposing that working men themselves accept the distinction, seeing that they have never, as a class, raised an effective voice or finger to protest against the failure to provide State assistance for their own prospective widows, except

through the medium of the Poor Law. But the case there is somewhat different, as the status of pauper attaches to the widow. In the case of the unemployed man, it is he that will become the pauper, even if the relief be granted on behalf of his wife and children.

According to recently published figures, the number of unemployed men is not far short of half a million, and it is rising steadily. It may reasonably be assumed that not less than forty per cent. of these have wives and dependent children. That would give about two hundred thousand families with no weekly income, except 15s. a week. When these have spent their savings, pawned everything that is pawnable, and exhausted the hospitality of their friends, what is to become of them? Wives and children must live. When Baby Week comes round again, we shall be reminded once more that "The children of a nation are its greatest asset"; that "Motherhood is work of national importance"; that "If we are to be an A1 nation we cannot afford to rear a C3 population." Yet while we make public provision for the able-bodied, we allow the child-bearing woman and the growing child to fend for themselves, just at the time of life when the effect of privation is likely to be most permanently injurious to themselves and to the race.

The obvious way of meeting the immediate need is to provide for the payment of allowances to wives and children in addition to the unemployment pay. The Government cannot refuse this on the ground that it is unworkable, since they did it in the case of the unemployed donation scheme during the year after the Armistice. They cannot refuse on the ground that it would upset the actuarial basis of the Unemployment Act, since they have done that already by permitting benefit to be paid before the qualifying number of weeks have been worked. It is difficult to see on what ground they can refuse, except that they only make concessions to those who threaten to use force if concessions are refused, and from wives and children no such threat is to be feared.

This whole question and its treatment by Parliament may well give women cause for furious thought. Are we satisfied with the position that mothers and children occupy in our economic system as now devised? Must they always be treated as mere economic appendages of the wage-earners, with no right to any share of their own in national wealth? If the work of a mother has an economic value to the nation, why should it have no economic remuneration? Subject, as industry must necessarily be, at least until the millennium comes a little nearer, to cyclical disturbances of trade and to disturbances caused by trade disputes, is it necessary that the full brunt of every such trade storm should blow upon the children? Is it necessary, again—seeing that we profess to have passed from the era of the Old Testament to that of the New—that the industrial sins of the father should always be visited so relentlessly on his children; that every strike or lock-out should be, in effect, a hunger blockade, in which the principal sufferers are the non-combatants?

These are some of the questions which women are asking themselves. Secure, at last, of their political freedom, their minds are turning more and more towards the conception of economic independence. In the next number of THE WOMAN'S LEADER, we propose to discuss some of the experiments that are being made in other countries, and some of the proposals that are afoot in our own, for improving the present method of providing for the needs of wives and children.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

A general election this spring is not taken seriously. If Parliamentary time be reckoned up, it is clear that a House, meeting on February 15th, could by the end of April, have done little but pass necessary finance and the Budget. Reform of the House of Lords, Anti-Dumping, Key Industries, Railways would have to be dropped. There would be time only for one or two quite minor Bills. So a spring election though possible, is unlikely. But it must never be forgotten that Mr. Lloyd George can dissolve when he likes. He will do so when it suits him. And that may be at an unexpected time.

The search for the leader who is to destroy Mr. Lloyd George and gladden the hearts of certain newspapers goes merrily on. The last selection had a short life. Lord Derby is too wise a statesman to lend himself to so dubious an enterprise, and, therefore, the latest myth died as soon as it was born. Lord Derby is only the last of many candidates emanating from the same quarter, and advertised with the same object. Mr. Asquith, Sir Edward Carson, and Lord Robert Cecil have all been heralded in turn. Signs are not wanting that Mr. McKenna will be the next to be boomed. Paragraphs in the Press and recent happenings behind the scenes, point clearly to him. But that level-headed man is unlikely to rise to the fly. He would have to sacrifice his position in the City, which is a great and growing one, and one more suited to his genius than politics.

Looking round the political world, and taking stock of realities, and, be it added, speaking only for the moment (for politics change rapidly), there is only one thinkable alternative to Mr. Lloyd George. That is, a man acceptable to many, especially to the readers of this paper—Lord Grey of Fallodon. He would bring to the task his mighty attributes of character and ability; Liberals, Mr. Asquith included, could serve under him; Lord Robert Cecil and his friends would find no barrier; and it does not require much imagination to conceive even Mr. Clynes and Mr. Thomas joining him. That is a possible combination. It might be a successful one, for it combines everything which Mr. Lloyd George would find it hardest to meet. Whether it is probable is another matter. At the moment, Lord Grey's health, never recovered from the stresses of the war, is one insuperable bar. His known disinclination is another. But health may improve and patriotism may overcome distaste. The event remains a possibility only, but as such it carries weight.

Otherwise, there is no alternative. The Coalition is stronger than ever. This year will, no doubt, test it severely. And recent bye-elections are bad. Hereford shows apathy, Dover hostility. But in Dover the anti-waste candidate got the invaluable advantage of a start, and Hereford can be easily over-estimated. It were better to wait and see what happens in Wales. And in any event a strong Government always loses bye-elections. It will be time to begin thinking when they lose a string of them in succession.

To turn to another subject, it is still uncertain how the Government will be rearranged. It is known that Lord Milner is retiring and that Mr. Winston Churchill is to succeed him. Mr. Long's health is believed to be too insecure to allow him to continue First Lord. That leaves the two important posts of War Office and Admiralty to be filled. The Admiralty is much the more important, for we have to take great decisions, both what our strength shall be, and how it is to be composed. Are we to build against America or not? If we do, are we to build battleships, submarines, or seaplanes? It is an office which calls for the best that we have. Sir Robert Horne would be an acceptable appointment, but he is wanted at the Board of Trade. Lord Lee has many of the qualities, but he is marked out for the War Office. If he goes there, Colonel Amery would probably be Under-Secretary, in charge of military matters in the Commons, and he would do the work well. Sir L. Worthington-Evans has to be found a job, if the Report of the Committee on Ministers' Salaries be acted on; but he is not suited for the Admiralty. It is difficult to see who is. The ideal plan would be for Sir Robert Horne to go there, and be succeeded at the Board of Trade by Sir Philip Lloyd Greame, who has earned promotion even in the short time he has been in office. But we do not live in a world of ideals.

[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.]

NEWS FROM OTHER LANDS.

WHAT BIRMINGHAM IS DOING IN THE TYROL.

Christmas has come and gone in the troubled world of to-day, and it is to be feared that the Children's Feast did not bring much festive joy to the children of the famine-stricken areas on the Continent. In an article by Max Winter in the *Arbeiter Zeitung*, dated December 25th, he writes of the men smoking, women in fur coats, and children—"Prinzenkinder," he calls them—clothed from head to foot in real woollen clothes, who paraded the best streets in Vienna on Christmas Eve; but always they were people from the "Auslands," foreigners, with foreign money, to whom the beautiful things in the shops, which the true Viennese could not buy, were cheap.

He gives some of the prices:—A "luxus" hat for a lady, 2,200 kronen, or one sovereign in English money, but £88 in ordinary Austrian prices; a pair of stockings, 8 Swiss francs, or 6s. 10d. in English money, to the Austrian £31.

But there are not only "foreigners" abroad in Vienna on Christmas Eve; everywhere, like ghosts or shadows, flit the starving Austrians; here an officer, there a University professor, and everywhere the emaciated, numb, unclad children. "Immer wieder Kinder, Kinder; Bettelkinder!"

As one read, one reflected with some small sense of comfort on the work going forward in the Birmingham and District Kinderheim at Innsbruck. There at least there was warmth, there was food; and the Christmas parcels sent out by the Lady Mayoress were bringing smiles of joy to the wan little faces.

In the orthopaedic ward lie twenty-five little children in plaster of Paris, who except for this work would, had they lived, never have walked, but for the rest of their lives must have lain, or sat with their useless, twisted legs doubled up beneath them, or gone on all fours.

The Birmingham ward is full of bad cases, who are being fed up until they too may be strong enough to undergo operation to straighten their terrible deformities. There are many children of three and four who cannot stand. In the Tagesheim there are sixty little ones too young or too weak to go to school. They come at 8.30 a.m. and leave at 4.30 p.m., during which hours they receive three meals, and are kept usefully happy by a fully qualified Austrian Kindergarten mistress and her assistants. These children are clothed by Birmingham. Also, once a week they receive a hot bath, as there is neither soap nor hot water in their own homes.

In addition to this work, clothes for adults and tinned milk are sold at special prices, for where they can pay anything towards the cost of things, this proudest of all races infinitely prefers to.

Perhaps the greatest sufferers are the educated classes, and particularly the aristocrats. In ordinary times their young daughters "come out" at fourteen, and are then taken by their parents to visit the various capitals of Europe, with the result that they are broad-minded and accomplished; it being quite usual for them to be able to discourse fluently on art and literature in eight or eleven different languages. They are now hiding in their country places, dressed in clothes made of dyed bed-clothes, and living on a diet of swedes, lettuce, cabbage, and straw bread. One little baroness lies in the orthopaedic ward of the Birmingham Home, but it is only with great difficulty, and by the exercise of much tact, that this class will accept help.

The city is helping to reinstate the French town of Albert also, and has a Lord Mayor's fund for the relief of the unemployed; but the Lady Mayoress urges the citizens to give all they can spare to help their own unemployed, and something from what they cannot spare for the famine-stricken children. And still "what they cannot spare" comes in.

CAROL RING.

BURNING QUESTIONS.

We call the attention of our readers to the fact that in the topical and controversial matters which we treat under the heading of "Burning Questions" we endeavour to present the principal views on each question held by differing groups of political thinkers. We do not ourselves express an editorial opinion, beyond this, that it is each woman's business first to be well-informed and then to come to her own opinion.

DIVORCE AND RE-MARRIAGE.

BY CECIL CHAPMAN.

It is difficult to say anything new upon a subject which has been so frequently and so recently discussed by the wisest men of our time, but the hour has struck for decision, and, at the risk of tedious repetition, it is necessary to do what is possible to remove ignorance, confusion, and prejudice from the minds of those who have to cast a vote to settle the matter.

The Matrimonial Causes Bill, introduced by Lord Buckmaster and passed by the House of Lords in March, 1920, is the conclusion in legislative form of what was recommended by the overwhelming majority on the Royal Commission of 1911; and it is impossible to exaggerate the immense pains taken in the hearing and sifting of evidence and arguments from all parts of the kingdom and from all classes and creeds before this conclusion was arrived at.

If the recommendations were just and urgent nine years ago, they cannot be less just, and they are necessarily more urgent, to-day. Why then has the measure been delayed, and why does anxiety still exist as to the Bill being converted into an Act? The answer is because the opposition as voiced by the minority on the Commission was entirely ecclesiastical, and pious men, who believe that marriage is a sacrament and therefore irrevocable, have contrived to maintain a feeling in the minds of many voters of both sexes, who are not personally interested in the matter, that there may possibly be something irreligious or sinful in following the dictates of commonsense and justice.

It cannot be too often and too strongly insisted upon that the doctrine of marriage being a sacrament was entirely unknown to the early Fathers, and was disclaimed by the Anglican Church when it permitted divorce with the right of remarriage by private Acts of Parliament in the year 1660, and was entirely removed by the Divorce Act of 1857, which did away with ecclesiastical jurisdiction and permitted divorce for adultery on the part of a wife, and for adultery with cruelty or desertion on the part of a husband. Marriage has been made revocable in England for those who could afford it for 250 years at least, and to speak of its irrevocability as a sacrament in these days is entirely anomalous, irrelevant, and misleading.

The questions for the voter are as clear as possible. Are you in favour of the law being the same for women as for men, and for poor as for rich in this matter? Are you in favour of adultery being the sole cause for revocation of marriage, or do you admit other causes, such as desertion for three years, persistent cruelty, incurable insanity, habitual inebriety, and a death sentence commuted to imprisonment for life, all of which imply that the marriage has already been in fact broken or annulled?

It seems hardly necessary to point out that in all these cases a claim for divorce is entirely optional on the part of the injured party, who would be quite free not to take advantage of the Act.

The answer to these questions becomes clear only when the alternative to revocation is understood. If the marriage is neither revoked nor annulled, there is nothing left to the injured party but what is known as judicial separation, or divorce *a mensâ or thoro* without the power of remarriage. This alternative has been forced upon the country by the ecclesiastical opposition at the time of the Divorce Act, 1857, and since. It is described as follows in the Majority Report in a passage quoted by Lord Chancellor Birkenhead in his famous speech in the House of Lords. "This proceeding, neither dissolving the marriage, nor reconciling the parties, nor yet changing their natures, having at least no direct sanction from Scripture, characterised by Lord Stowell as 'casting them out on the undefined and dangerous characters of a wife without a husband and a husband without a wife'; by Judge Swift (an American Judge) as 'placing them in a situation where there is an irresistible temptation to the commission of adultery unless they possess more frigidity or more virtue than usually falls to the share of

human beings'; by Mr. Bancroft (the historian of the United States) as 'punishing the innocent more than the guilty'; by Macqueen, an English writer, as 'a sort of insult, rather than satisfaction to any man of ordinary feelings and understanding'—is, while destitute of justice, one of the most corrupting devices ever imposed by serious natures on blindness and credulity. It was tolerated only because men believed, as part of their religion, that dissolution would be an offence against God, whence the slope was easy toward any compromise with good sense, and as the fruit of compromise we have this ill-begotten monster of divorce *a mensâ or thoro* made up of pious doctrine and worldly stupidity."

Every magistrate, who has had much experience of administering the Matrimonial Causes Summary Jurisdiction Act, can endorse the overwhelming evidence brought before the Commission, of misery to parents and children, and of the increased immorality and bastardy caused by separations without right of remarriage. The cases brought to my own notice in the course of twenty years have been pitiable beyond description, whether the separations have been due to desertion, cruelty, insanity, or habitual inebriety. It requires no argument to demonstrate that they are wholly inimical to the social and moral well-being of the State, and hideously unjust to the innocent party. Why then do we suffer them to continue? They are not tolerated in Scotland, nor in any other Protestant country in the world. They are, indeed, only tolerated in Roman Catholic countries, and in this country, which has hesitated to do more than compromise with the Roman Catholic doctrine of marriage being irrevocable as a sacrament. To maintain this compromise with all its consequential misery and immorality nothing is offered as a consolation but the possibility of reconciliation by consent, which upon the best available evidence cannot honestly be said to take place in more than about 10 per cent. of the cases dealt with. The rest must be left to their fate, and the interests of the State, as well as the cause of justice must be sacrificed unless the secular, commonsense view of consideration for justice, morality and human happiness is made to prevail by the passing of this Act.

If we are not consoled by the suggestion of reconciliation, perhaps we shall be frightened into supporting this lamentable compromise by fear of the consequences. We are asked to tremble lest England should become like America in the number of divorces and the increased causes for divorce. The answer to this suggestion is to be found in the experience of Scotland, which has permitted divorce for desertion as well as for adultery since the year 1573, without any corresponding increase of divorces by collusion or otherwise, as well as in the experience of other Protestant countries, such as Denmark, Holland, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, and nearly all of our Colonies. I need not enter into details because I think every fair-minded person will agree that in the matter of immorality and illegitimacy these Protestant countries which have permitted revocation of marriage for the causes now suggested compare favourably with such countries as Austria, France, Hungary, Italy, Spain and Portugal, where no right of remarriage after divorce has been permitted, except of late years in France and Italy. Even in reference to America, I feel that I ought not to let the threatening prophecy to pass unchallenged, because Dr. Saleeby, the well-known Eugenicist, who has recently returned from a tour of inspection in that country for the Eugenic Society, reports that in spite of the many divorces, or perhaps as a consequence of the greater freedom to remarry, that country compares most favourably with England in the matter of family life and the health and happiness of the children as well as in the statistics of illegitimacy, which are markedly less than ours in proportion to the population.

The disastrous evils which arise from ill-considered or subsequently ruined marriages are, indeed, so manifest that even

in Roman Catholic countries marriages may be annulled, though never revoked, for a variety of reasons, and notably on account of consanguinity or affinity, which has frequently been stretched to fantastic lengths wherever the interests of the Church or State or sufficiently powerful individuals demanded it. Lecky cites, for example, a case from Coke, "in which a marriage was pronounced null because the husband had stood godfather to the cousin of his wife."

In conclusion I would like to add that every provision of Lord Buckmaster's Bill is made in the interest of the injured party only. If the guilty party consequentially also obtains freedom to remarry, it can only be upon condition that adequate provision to the satisfaction of the Court is made for the injured party and the children. Freedom is granted in the interest of justice and morality, for most compelling causes, but it can never be obtained by an evildoer with impunity.

WITH WOMEN EMIGRANTS TO THE WEST.

BY V. E. SOMERVILLE.

The boat-train steamed out of the station, handkerchiefs fluttered from the windows, and the pathetic little group of relatives on the platform waved, and waved again, until the last coach vanished out of sight. Several carriages in the front part of the train were occupied by a party of women emigrants, distinguished by a small, coloured badge, and accompanied by a conductress wearing a brassard. The majority of the party, which was bound for Canada, consisted of ex-Service women, W.A.A.C.s, V.A.D.s, Land Army, and W.R.A.F.s predominating. A few were going out to join *fiancés* and to marry in Canada, but, for the most part, except for a few nurses and teachers, they were destined for domestic work, and were bound for one of the hostels that are established throughout Canada for the reception and placing of women immigrants. There were several sad stories among the party. Some were war widows, others were girls whose sweethearts had fallen in the war. But the majority were of that fine type of vigorous, adventurous young women, demobilised from the various national corps, and taking advantage of the Government free passages to seek a wider life and greater opportunities than the post-war England of to-day appears to offer her women workers.

It was a rather subdued little party that withdrew from the windows and settled down for the journey, and to the realisation that at last the great adventure had irrevocably begun. Few people who have not themselves ever contemplated emigration, realise how much courage it takes, this complete break with old ties, this abandonment of all the potential help and encouragement of family and friends, this going forth alone to a new and untried life, where nothing but unaided personal grit and character can hope to achieve success. The journey to Liverpool was a somewhat silent one.

The huge liner towered above us, and a sea of faces looked down from the upper decks. Our party was destined for the steerage, and many of us were secretly wondering what depths of discomfort or hardship this might entail. Down, down we went into the bowels of the great ship. Strange odours assailed the nostrils, dense crowds of anxious human beings of varied nationalities and doubtful cleanliness surged to and fro along the whitewashed passages. Shouts and crashes came from the hold where the luggage was being stored. We tripped over countless suitcases, bundles, and coils of rope, and narrowly escaped death down many a precipitous companionway. At last we found ourselves on "Deck F," not far from the hold, and were consigned to our cabins, which occupied a solid block in that part of the ship. A hasty examination of the latter proved our apprehensions to be unfounded. The beds had spring mattresses, sheets, pillows, and blankets, and were, in fact, an agreeable contrast to the army "biscuits" and rough brown blankets that many of us had experienced in war time. Many of the cabins had portholes, too, though owing to the low level of the deck these could not be opened. Two immaculate stewardesses, in spotless white, lent an additional touch of comfort and reassurance to the scene.

On the three days that followed it is unnecessary to dwell. Suffice it to say that a common adversity proved in many cases a bond of union, and a number of firm friendships—and antipathies—dated from this time. This period over, with health regained and sea-legs acquired, most of the party settled down and enjoyed the trip thoroughly, in spite of the perpetual crowds in which one lived and moved. There were over thirteen hundred

passengers in the steerage. Interminable couples patrolled the crowded decks. Concerts, sports, and socials were held. These were patronised and run almost entirely by the English-speaking passengers, British, Canadians, and Americans. The Central and Eastern Europeans, Poles, Slovaks, Greeks, Galicians, Italians—there were large numbers of the latter—kept together on a sheltered part of the lower deck, where, in warm weather, the men lay stretched all day in the sun, and the women, some of them most picturesquely attired in gay shawls, golden earrings, and bangles, sat huddled together, talking seldom, and gazing patiently out to sea. Children of all nationalities were on board in large numbers, and they, at any rate, thoroughly enjoyed every minute of the voyage, their feet and tongues being seldom still.

The art of "wangling," or "scrounging," in which most of the party had graduated in their old days of war service, proved invaluable on board. It is so often just that extra blanket, or second pillow, that cup of tea at unorthodox hours, that extra supply of hot water, that makes the whole difference between comfort and the absence of it. Meals were good and plentiful, though naturally plain, and a good deal of supplementing was done from the ship's canteen. Many of the party had a passion for picnics, in addition to, or instead of, the more conventional meals in the dining saloon. I remember one gruesome repast in particular that took place on an almost deserted deck at 8.30 one chilly evening. The menu consisted of sardines, ginger-beer (drunk from the bottle), hunks of new bread, thickly spread with real butter (generously contributed by a ship's officer), shortbread, biscuits, and chocolate creams. Such a bill of fare was, at any rate, a tribute to the seaworthiness of the diners!

The last three days of the trip were passed in a succession of thrills. The first was the sight of magnificent icebergs, of which we passed through a regular avenue, gleaming in the bright sun. Flocks of sea-birds circled round and perched on them, and it was a most beautiful sight. A school of leaping porpoises and a spouting whale also provided much interest. Then came the supreme thrill of sighting land, the Island of Belle Isle, bleak and desolate, the austere Atlantic outpost of the New World. Next, we entered upon the last stage but one of the voyage, the passing between Labrador and Newfoundland. Endless stretches of grey—white cliffs, palish green herbage, complete absence of trees or houses, here and there an isolated lighthouse, made a grim and romantic approach as unlike as anything could possibly be to the British coasts.

At five o'clock in the afternoon, exactly a week after leaving Liverpool, we reached Quebec, where the third class passengers were due to disembark, the saloon passengers going straight through to Montreal. Excitement was intense. For many hours before we were due to arrive, the decks were strewn with anxious little groups sitting on their bundles; mothers clutching children and belongings with grim tenacity and patience. But there were many formalities to be gone through before the huge crowd of emigrants could be allowed to land. Impatience grew as hours went by, twilight deepened, and still the longed-for permission to land was withheld. Finally, official orders were issued that the third class passengers were not to disembark until seven o'clock the next morning. Disappointment was acute. It was intensely hot, lying as we were, in the shelter of the docks; and nothing but the threat of the deck stewards to turn the ship's hoses on the crowd at length drove the unfortunate passengers to their stifling cabins below.

Long, long before sunrise, when the stars were still reflected in the black waters of the St. Lawrence, everybody in the steerage was up, and waiting to go on deck, which was still being sluiced down by the crew. Later, at 5.30, breakfast followed, and then the groups of the previous day re-formed themselves on deck. At last the eager crowd, encumbered with babies, children, and bundles, streamed off the ship, and were led into a vast shed, of which the whole central space was enclosed with iron bars. When the last immigrant was safely behind the bars, the gates were shut and locked, and uniformed officials patrolled the gangways. We felt like beasts at the Zoo. There we remained, some of us, for the best part of five hours. Some grumbled and cursed, others sang hymns or ragtime, but most people sat gazing silently and stolidly in front of them. Third class immigrants must perforce acquire the philosophy of patience. Our party was almost the last group to be filtered through the little wicket gate, for the last of various medical examinations, and we next ran the gauntlet of religious societies, whose workers pressed tracts and Testaments into our well-filled hands.

Eventually, those of us who were going through to the West, about thirty in number, found ourselves in a reserved coach of

the "tourist" type, though, of course, without curtains or bedding, since, but for the courtesy of the railway company, we were really only entitled to one of the wooden or cane-seated "immigrant" coaches. Ours was leather-cushioned and very comfortable.

To those who have never lived for five days in an American train, particularly as a third class passenger, some account of its details may be of interest. A small kitchen, containing a sink and cooking range, is placed at the end of each coach. An initial supply of coal is generally placed in readiness, but after that one is dependent upon the generosity of the engine-driver, or else upon one's own agility in purloining coal from the tender. Firewood can be collected *en route*. Whenever the train pulled up there was a rush to collect wood. On one occasion a member of our party had a narrow escape from being left in mid-prairie. She had rashly ventured some way in rear of the train, and did not hear the warning cry of "All aboard." Rapidly the great train gathered momentum, whilst the agitated girl, fortunately a hockey player and an athlete, tore madly down the track behind it, cheered on by many voices, and finally swung herself breathlessly on to the steps of the last coach.

In addition to wood-collecting and stoking, the commissariat also occupied much time. Boxes containing bread, butter, and tinned goods were laid in at Quebec or Montreal. Fruit, biscuits, lemonade, &c., were sold on the trains, and eggs could sometimes be bought at wayside stations. Ice-cream cone sellers invaded the train at every stop. Nearly every little station, too, ran its buffet, and if the train were due to stop as much as ten minutes, it was hailed by a white-robed waiter brandishing a dinner bell. A wild stampede of men, women, and children would ensue to the quick lunch counter, where doughnuts and coffee, tea and sandwiches were dispensed with lightning celerity. Altogether, there is little fear of hunger on these immigrant trains, even though no luxurious restaurant cars are carried.

A considerable amount of laundry work was also carried out by our party during the rail journey. Drying was a simple matter in the summer heat. One merely held the article in question out of the window for five to ten minutes, when it became as dry as a bone. Cheery lumber-men waved enthusiastically, and solemn-faced Red Indians gazed curiously at the varied garments that floated from the carriage windows as the immigrant train went by.

When night came on one prepared for bed as much as was possible and expedient in a corridor train with no curtains, and having pulled out the flap that connected each pair of opposite seats and enveloped oneself in a rug, one lay down with one's *vis-à-vis* in the friendly fashion known as "heads and tails." Tickets were invariably checked at two a.m. by a relentless conductor, who placed a heavy hand on one's shoulder and continued to shake vigorously until one reluctantly sat up and groped for the ticket.

So we journeyed for five wonderful days, through the endless lakes of Ontario, the rolling spaces of the prairies, and the wild splendours of the Rockies. Being third class passengers we were not indulged in the refinement of dust screens for the windows, which, although they may keep out some of the dust, successfully exclude most of the air as well. Disregarding dust, and enduring the discomfort of chocolate-hued countenances, we kept our windows wide open, day and night, and revelled in the fresh, scented air of the prairie and mountain. Going from our own into the next coach, where the windows were kept tightly sealed, was an enterprise requiring much courage and smelling salts. As we went on we diminished in number, dropping here and there a member of the party till only the merest handful were left for the last stage to Vancouver. Many, of course, of the original number had left us at Montreal, or branched off to Toronto. Several were destined for prairie homes in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, or Alberta. Others were going to fruit farms on the slopes of the Rockies, and more than one romantic meeting took place at lonely little railroad stations, where tanned and eager young men waited impatiently for the western train. Hurried introductions all round and cordial good wishes would follow, then the great train swung slowly out of the station, leaving, at any rate, two people completely satisfied with each other and the world in general.

On the fifth morning we reached Vancouver, and there on the shores of the Pacific, at the gateway between East and West, the long pilgrimage ended, the last good-byes were said, and the remainder of the party dispersed.

Good luck to them, each and all, in their Western homes!

WOMEN JURORS IN THE DIVORCE COURT.

By LILIAN BARKER, C.B.E.

The attitude of some representatives of the Bar with respect to women sitting on Divorce Court juries, can have no other effect than to rouse the indignation and suspicion of all women who are endeavouring to make the world a better place to live in.

Women who worked for the vote realised to the full that when it was obtained it must bring with it certain distasteful obligations, and sitting on divorce juries is one of them.

Experience gained by doing a great deal of rescue work, and having had an intimate personal knowledge and acquaintance with women in the Lock Hospital, has forced one to the conclusion that the awful state into which women of this type have fallen is due very largely to the fact that, because of a lack of moral courage, the average woman has not faced this as her own personal problem which calls for every effort that can be made.

If only mothers had the courage to teach their children the meaning of life, the "ignorant" people would not be confounded with the innocent, and boys and girls would not go to public schools or be thrust into public life to be taught these things in an improper way, with its consequent effect on their morals.

If Sir Edward Marshall Hall had dealt with the recent divorce case in the same impersonal manner as the judge, no problem or discussion would have arisen. After all, the whole discussion turns on whether, if women jurors are obliged, for the space of two minutes to read one filthy letter, and to give another two to the inspection of an indecent picture, women should be removed from a place where at least a large section of their own community have such sad, but real, knowledge of all the facts that lead up to the bringing of such an action.

It is distressing to think of the perfectly innocent women who have to appear in this Court, with none but men to help them, and none but men to look to; and for the guilty woman to have no other woman there, who would, at any rate, understand her, and give the fullest sympathy.

The advent of women in these Courts must result in a protest at the presence of young boys in attendance on the Press, boys of 14-16 years, now and then running on errands, but the major portion of the time listening to what is, at any rate, unseemly for a young person.

Then, again, surely it can be arranged that the public admitted to these Courts should have some reason other than a desire to revel in filth by which to gain admittance.

It would be interesting to know whether the members of the legal profession who object to women on these juries are identical with those who, for so long, fought against the admission of women to their profession. In any case, their action is similar, and is evidently the beginning of an attempt to get the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act rescinded, and incidentally to jeopardise the position of women in public life.

The war had very great and far-reaching effects on women with respect to their relation to men, for, whereas before that time it was possible that some men might regard women as delicate china—during the war, and after, when men and women alike faced all kinds of problems together, when they worked for the same great end, a spirit of comradeship, a partnership in life problems, and a real desire to help on each other's cause was the result.

This is the attitude which is adopted by most men who realise that if women are to assist them in helping the nation to a cleaner issue, they must have full knowledge, and exercise it. It is only women who prefer to remain ignorant, who prefer to be ornaments rather than helpmates for the men, women who do not consider that other women's problems are their own, and who, because of personal discomfort and possible embarrassment, will not do the little bit they can to clear up one tiny corner of the world which has yet to be purified before we can see life in a fuller and better sense.

FEMALE FREEMASONRY.

By DUDLEY WRIGHT.

The strides which woman is taking into a field supposed to be exclusively and sacredly masculine must really be astounding to that sex. They are so pronounced and persistent that quite recently the question of admitting women into the regular Masonic Lodges of the Grand Orient of Belgium was balloted among the members of the twenty-one lodges in that jurisdiction. Six of the lodges returned a decided majority in favour of the proposal, while in the remaining fifteen the majority against varied only from two to five.

This question of admitting women into the regular ranks, which a few years ago would have been rejected with scorn, is now being generally discussed throughout the whole of Europe, but particularly in France. In that country a number of representatives of the men's lodges are now visiting the Androgyne or Co-Masonic Lodges, in order to see how the proceedings are conducted. Several of the regular lodges have also invited official representatives of these mixed lodges to visit them during the sittings of their lodges and explain the objects and aims of Co-Masonry. There are in full working, at the present moment, no fewer than nearly three hundred of these mixed lodges in France. A new home for the Order has been opened in Paris, a very imposing building at 5, Rue Jules Breton, which contains three Masonic temples, offices for the Grand Master and Grand Secretary, and residential accommodation for a Tyler and other officials.

Quite recently new lodges, admitting both men and women to membership, have been opened at Cambridge (England), Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Uruguay, Chili, Ecuador, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Spain. Many new lodges have also been started in the Argentine Republic, and even in the new Tchecko-Slovak Republic. There are seven in full working order in Holland, and three in the Dutch Indies.

Even so conservative a body as the Masonic Knights Templars have started an auxiliary society, to which women are invited. It is known as the Social Order of the Beauceant, and it is both social and philanthropic. At present its membership is confined exclusively to women, who must be the wives or widows of members of the male order. For some time past it has been working in a quiet, unobtrusive manner, but recently it extended into five of the American States, and inquiries are constantly being received concerning the Order from all parts of the world. The ritual is said to be beautiful, impressive, and helpful in everyday life, its theme being Faith, Loyalty, Love for God, the Order of Knights Templars, and each other. The Order has made such rapid strides of late that arrangements are now being made to hold a Supreme Assembly of the Preceptories and Commanderies at Newton, Kansas, in October of the present year.

THE RAW MATERIAL FOR EDUCATION

INHERITANCE AND EDUCABILITY.

Under the London scheme of education, London is in the fortunate position of being able to go ahead in the development of day continuation schools, and thus to set an example to other local authorities. If success attends the scheme as it will be carried out under the London County Council and the Middlesex Education Authority, outcry against the expense incurred under the Fisher Act will be turned into support of its provisions. Nevertheless, such results as are likely to be attained from prolonged and more varied teaching must largely depend on whether the material itself is capable of such development. On the debatable questions of Inheritance and Educability there was much said at the recent Conference of Educational Associations that was interesting, if not exactly enlightening.

Variability in the capacity shown by children and young people of responding to a system of training, is noticed by every teacher. Just how far the ability to respond is dependent upon external stimulus, and how much upon inherited capacity, is a

moot point. Few teachers are in a position to judge this with accuracy. Eugenics and sociology, psychology and pathology all have something to say on this subject, and they bring home to us the fact that the human child is a make-up of the mental and physical, the material and spiritual, which must be developed as a whole. External influences—the home and its surroundings, habits of the family, and associations into which the child is thrown—will powerfully determine the "bent" of its mind, but the "bent" may be corrected and improved, whereas the child's capacity or incapacity, due to inheritance, can hardly ever be changed. Children who are born and brought up in precisely the same environment will show such marked differences in educability as can only be attributed to their different parentage. Dr. A. F. Tredgold, the author of a valuable treatise on mental deficiency, is of opinion that differences of educability are due to germinal impairment, such as close inter-marrying produces, and contrariwise, if degeneracy is thus brought about, he asks, may not potentially be improved and capacity increased? In other words, might not the stimulus of education and expansion of mind, continued generation after generation, produce increasing capabilities and a finer race? Inheritance of the capacity to acquire and use education does certainly tend to produce an enlargement of capacity. The son of gifted parents should be more receptive than the child of mediocre people. It is the office of education to give the individual the opportunity he needs; but it is not the office of education to force the same course of study upon the child who is incapable of holding it. Much may be done to develop perception, discrimination, and the power to reason and criticise, but to argue that there must be equality of opportunity for all alike, this specialist thinks, is pure nonsense in the absence of equality of ability to respond to the opportunity. What is wanted is not equality of opportunity, but education adapted to individual potentiality. For this, scholastic examinations are not altogether satisfactory tests, and medico-psychological examinations might be far more useful. We have to remember that defective moral character, diminution in mental and moral fibre, loss of pride and conscientiousness in work, and the increasing craving for excitement and amusement, so notable at the present time, may not be attributable only to a faulty educational system, but to degeneracy of the human stock, and this in its turn may be the result of overcrowding, ignorance, and bad habits.

Since education of parents is almost as essential as education of children, if we are to have a nation with an "A 1" population, and if every child has a right to be "well born," such practical talks to mothers and teachers as those which Dr. Eric Pritchard is accustomed to giving are invaluable. He is of opinion that it is almost impossible to state when the education of a young child commences, for impressions of life and thought are recorded in the germ-plasm which, later, will impel towards development along the lines of tradition and experience through some kind of memory retained in the individual cell. Tradition, too, inclines us to follow the same line of development in the nurture of the young child, and in ninety-nine cases out of every hundred the same "orthodox" course of procedure is adopted. The enormously responsible office of watching and guiding the young infant to learn self-control is still left to young and ignorant people, and even mothers, in spite of their generous warning of nine months, seldom prepare themselves for the responsibilities they are called upon to undertake. So much genuine "education" can be given in the very first months of life, when the brain and senses are educated by the effects of gentle stimuli from outside, such as sound and light; limbs and muscles are stimulated to exercise; and the control of the functions of respiration, of circulation, and to some extent of digestion, can be taught. These are not automatic as we generally suppose, but are capable of development or repression according as they are "educated." All young children when born breathe badly, and must be trained in breathing through the nose from the very first day. While Nature has taken elaborate precautions to protect the digestive system of a young infant by supplying it with regulated food, the circulatory system is placed almost entirely under self-control. Mothers and nurses are the first educators, and educability in later life depends to a very great extent upon the way the raw material is handled at the start. Teachers may be called upon to straighten out many a crooked and perverted "bent," but what they cannot do is to eradicate defects that are either inborn or embedded-in. Educability is determined before ever the teacher obtains control of the child. Parents ought to see to it that at least they give the teachers a fighting chance, for the most elaborate and expensive school system will not make up for what is inherently defective.

L. H. YATES.

REVIEWS.

INTERNATIONALISM.

The League of Nations Starts. An Outline by its Organisers. (Macmillan & Co. 10s. 6d.)

The first completed year of work for the League of Nations has been marked by a number of references to it in pulpit and Press, by several notable gatherings, and by the issue of a number of special pamphlets, and at least one book, the one that bears the above title. This work is strongly to be recommended to those who carp at the League for what it has failed to do, and for what, as they consider, is the small sum-total of its actual achievements. Such critics utterly fail to realise that the League is not some new cure-all for international ills, with some magic method of bringing order out of chaos, and of abolishing wars and their effects. They fail to understand that the League has come into shape and form because it has gradually been shaping and forming for hundreds of years, with a rapid quickening of the pace during the last few decades, springing into the front line in the last two. The movement towards world-federation has been steadily making itself first desirable and then imperative; to quote from one of the contributors:—"From the moment when facilities of communication allowed men to meet together more easily, co-operation and collaboration have, in one degree or another, appeared in every field of human activity. The result has been an interchange of ideas, of plans, and of achievements, which have gone far towards creating a 'universal mentality.' The League of Nations was the logical and inevitable outcome of these developments . . . and, as such, deserves the very special attention of all who are concerned to give to the political, social, and economic structure of the world some organic form, which may secure to the human race, as a whole, a full and harmonious development of its illimitable possibilities. . . ." This contributor mentions some of the most interesting of recent world alliances, beginning with the Uniformity of Maritime Signals Union, in 1857, and ending with Aerial Navigation, in 1919. Labour has found international expression essential, and has its international federations, while the insertion of certain clauses in the Treaty of Versailles formed a veritable Labour Charter. There are many other types of international association, for research, Red Cross, and voluntary work, almost all of which have survived the test of war. The Union of International Associations placed its services at the disposal of the League of Nations from the moment the latter came into being, and the relations thus established "completely conform to the spirit which inspired Article 24 of the Covenant."

Another very illuminating chapter in this volume describes the inter-allied machinery that was set up during the war, the splendid functioning of which, towards the end, did much to reduce Germany to despair. The transference of some of that machinery to reconstruction for peace has made possible some of the biggest achievements of the League of Nations in its first year's working. It is interesting, too, to find that the real character of the League as an advisory and administrative body acting for the good of all nations is so clearly recognised that several countries have already established official services for the League of Nations, which is a practical acknowledgment that they cannot carry on national affairs uninfluenced by the League. It is an acknowledgment, too, of the League as a great moral power above all nations, safeguarding the rights and interests of them all. Two other very informing chapters in this book relate to direct and indirect international administration under the League, which give insight into matters that will present many difficulties, and which, unless administered with the wisest impartiality, would lead to endless disputes and complications. Anyone who still holds the opinion that the League of Nations is merely a high ideal, but utterly impractical, should turn the pages of this volume; he will find that hardly a single condition necessary or desirable for international co-operation has been left out of the scheme for its effective working. And no one, having read the book, will be able to say that the League has not started well.

L. H. Y.

The Workers' International. By R. W. Postgate. (Swarthmore International Handbooks Series. 2s. 6d.)

Mr. Postgate's history of the three proletarian organisations may be recommended as a useful handbook to those of us who are disposed to understand the controversy which is at present raging in Socialistic circles between the supporters of the Second and Third Internationals. What is the Third International? How does it differ from the Second? These are questions which Mr. Postgate helps us to answer; and how many of us could answer them for ourselves?

In one respect, however, Mr. Postgate is disappointing. At least two-thirds of his book is concerned with the life and death of the First International; it tells us of Marx and Bakunin and their tireless quarrels; it contains some very shrewd judgments of the former; it is, in fact, history, minutely and brilliantly told. When we come to the period of the Second and Third Internationals, however, we are conscious that Mr. Postgate has ceased to be a historian, and has become an exceedingly biased partisan. We are not, of course, like him, in possession of all the facts, but we cannot bring ourselves to believe that the Second International is the entirely futile thing which Mr. Postgate describes. Moreover, we believe that there is something to be said for the view that the Third International is not so much an International as an autocratic society for imposing the national institutions of Soviet Russia upon lesser civilisations whose intellectual development render them, as yet, unfit to bear the full light. Finally, and here we are as much in possession of the facts as Mr. Postgate, we consider that his references to the attitude of Labour on the outbreak of war shows a very real want of human understanding. The breakdown of the Second International appears to him as a betrayal, and, indeed, something of a mystery—but that is because the rest of life is, to him, so magnificently simple.

M. D. S.

The New Swedish Marriage Law. By Fru Elizabeth Nilsson. **The Necessity for an Equal Moral Standard.**

The Nationality of Married Women. (Published by the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. Price 6d. each.)

Three valuable pamphlets have just been published on subjects which aroused much discussion at Geneva. One contains the new Swedish Marriage Law, the most modern effort at adjusting the rights and duties involved in marriage fairly between the husband and the wife. The Scandinavians are our kin, and any standard of morals they attain should be possible and congenial to us. If, therefore, we find the courts can, in cases of divorce or separation, give the custody of the children to either party, or that mothers have equal rights over the children with the fathers, it should encourage us in our work.

The principle is accepted that the wife's work in the home composes her share in the support of the family. The system of a joint estate, in which husband and wife still each administer the estate they brought into the marriage, but of which they must give an account to the other, seems admirable.

The pamphlet also contains in French an account of the new Italian law on marriage, the entrance of women into professions, and the civil status of women, by Dr. Margherita Ancona. It is interesting to compare the advances in a Latin country with those in a Scandinavian. All professions are now open to them, and the authority of the husband is no longer necessary before a married woman may buy or sell, and women may now be appointed to many public posts, though with important and numerous exceptions.

Pamphlet two gives the latest Swedish law on venereal disease, which is the most advanced law dealing with a universal and difficult problem, and all persons interested in an equal moral standard should read it. It offers a complete proof of the inadequacy of regulation as a health measure.

The third pamphlet deals with the nationality of married women, and gives the Canadian law of 1919, by which a woman may retain her nationality after marriage with an alien, and also a very able summary by Dr. Suzanne Grinberg, of the bills introduced in the Chamber of Deputies dealing with this subject.

AT THE PICTURES.

By ROSE MACAULAY.

An afternoon at the Pictures is the most varied form of entertainment imaginable. Every need (excepting only one, which shall be specified hereafter) of our so complex nature is catered for. Do you crave for romance? Here is the moving tale of "The Rosary" (not Mrs. Barclay's, but that other, similar in name and spirit, but dealing with different circumstances, people, and places) unfolded before you. Do you want to laugh? Here are mothers-in-law falling through ceilings, policemen chasing tramps, elephants chasing policemen. . . . Sensation? Watch "The Death Mask: Episodes in the Career of the Black Mask Gang." Instruction in natural history and the ways of man and beast? Here you are. "The locomotion of the cobra is one of the most beautiful of natural phenomena. . . ." "The Spanish bull-fight is one of the most barbarous of sports. . . ." "The descendants of the once warlike tribe of the Maoris in New Zealand adhere closely to the manners and costume of their ancestors. . . ." "The terrier is still the favourite-pet of the British dog-lover. . . ." "Sinn Fein suspects are firmly dealt with by the police. . . ." Finally, do you demand good literature in tabloid form, illustrated? Here is Conrad's "Victory," and an excellent production, too, captioned with remarks alternately in film language and in pure Conrad. The trio of villains are really admirably represented; particularly the bland Mr. Jones and the crafty Ricardo leave nothing to be desired. Alma is made, of course, into a vulgar minx, with frizzed hair—but who knows but that she was such? Anyhow, the film world has, it seems, no other conception of the attractive young female (it does not attempt to keep up with modern fashions in hair-dressing), and we must accept film heroines as the strange beings they are, even as we accept the moustaches of the bad young man, though, nowadays, the bad, no more than the good, wear these appendages, which have come to be the almost exclusive adornment of our manual labourers and our Trade Union leaders. But in filmland they go with the shifty eye and sullen scowl of the villain of the piece. In "The Rosary" the wicked Philip (moustached), the virtuous Paul (shaved), and the buxom and befrizzed Venetia are excellent specimens of villain, hero, and heroine. From an obnoxious little girl with artificial curls, Venetia turns ("And so the years pass on" on the screen has warned us of the change) into a young lady, "in the full blush of womanhood," and a very mature womanhood at that, but, for some strange reason known only to film actors, her frizzed hair is still worn down her back. Philip, meanwhile, has grown from a bad little boy into a worse man of about thirty-five, with thinning hair and a moustache, and Paul, who used, as a little boy, to be Philip's age, into a handsome and good young man of about twenty-four. Presumably Philip's fearful life has aged him. I was pleasantly surprised about the story of this play. I had understood that it ended tragically, with Venetia, believing Paul to have perished in the wars, having irrevocably vowed herself to the religious life just before Paul's return, so that she is subsequently torn between him and her vows, and the vows have it. But in this version Paul is in time; the profession service is going on, but has not yet reached its irrevocable conclusion when Paul bursts in, and all is well. "I like them to end well," remarked a young lady behind me. So do I. And, in point of fact, as far as my experience has gone, they always do. The movies have it over life every time. And to end well in filmland means that lovers end in each others' arms, and quite right, too. Even "Victory" ends well in this sense, though the tipping of the attractive Mr. Jones into the fire by his revengeful servant leaves one sad at heart that such a fate should befall so bland and pleasant a villain. One would have preferred to see Alma in the fire—but it was not to be. And here is my one complaint against the Pictures. There is one craving they never satisfy—the craving of human nature (or can it only be of my nature?) to see the hero and heroine in some predicament from which they not only cannot (that is common enough), but actually do not, emerge.

"You must now go into the park, Noel, where death lurks, sullen and hideous," one noble-hearted man says to another. "If you shouldn't return, be sure I will avenge your death." Noel goes, finding his comfort less in this promise than in the sure and certain knowledge, gleaned from much experience, and shared by us who watch him, that he will return. And he always does. So does she. There is no killing these people. If ever I write a film scenario, there will be.

DRAMA.

"The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory" by Hamilton Fyfe.

As the second production of their season the Play Actors gave, at the Comedy Theatre, a play by Mr. Hamilton Fyfe, a play so full of morals that he calls it a Morality in Three Scenes, and not a play. The morals, as far as I have been able to identify them, are firstly: the only kingdom, power, and glory of any worth is the kingdom, the power, and the glory of Love; secondly, that rulers of States, whether kings or presidents, are ordinary, even commonplace, beings, endowed with a full share of the meaner emotions; thirdly, that war is generally the result of unjustified suspicion following on unreasoning fear; fourthly, well . . . I think that is quite enough for one critic to have dug out. However, in spite of this burden of morality, Mr. Fyfe has succeeded in making it light and amusing.

The author inevitably invites the condemnation of the critics who disapprove of his point of view, which is far from respectful to the good old institutions of War and Monarchy. But I am not inclined to cavil at his standpoint; a playwright is entitled to any opinion he likes, provided he succeeds in dramatising his material. Nevertheless, though accepting his view, I think he has failed to do justice to his theme, because he has not brought any credible human beings onto the stage; the characters are merely ridiculous caricatures—which is a far too easy simplification of method.

There is no doubt about it, we move in high circles; and the names alone of these straw-stuffed dummies will give an idea of the measure of reality attained.

In the first scene there is a gathering of crowned heads in the capital of Iluria, rather marred by the unfortunate necessity of having to shoot some of the rabble at the palace gates. This rabble had taken exception to the visit of the tyrannical Sigismund. The second scene, ten years later, is concerned with high diplomacy, which culminates in the outbreak of war. The last scene, twenty years after the second, sums up on the unsatisfactory nature of war, and on the general uselessness of rulers. Incidentally, the seeds for further wars are sown, although, by this time, Iluria is a Republic; the form of government makes little or no difference.

The most important characters are not of royal blood. Count Sicairie is, at the beginning, Foreign Minister of Necogdaria, and, later, the head of the Government of that country. Baron Unthank, splendid name, is a Finmarkian ambassador, at first to the Court of Iluria, and later to the Court of Necogdaria. These two, though personal friends, are the diplomatic protagonists in the struggle. In the war, Finmark apparently fights Necogdaria, Iluria, and Wengeland; Selsen remains neutral at a price—taking a share in the booty. The diplomatists appear only in the first and second scenes, but Walter and Brack, Ilurians both of them, are in all three. In the first, Walter is a dapper colonel, and Brack an uncouth Labour spokesman, who is incensed against Sigismund of Selsen. In the second, Walter is a fire-eating general, and War Minister of Iluria; Brack is the Ilurian Naval Minister. In the last scene, Walter is a field-marshal, the victorious leader of the war, but now fallen into a gibbering dotage—which struck me as a very proper fate for so typical a stage general. Brack has become the first President of Iluria; he has lost his Lancashire accent of his early days, but has acquired the manners and spiritual outlook of an obsequious butler. He toadies to any royalties that come his way, and he fawns for a coveted decoration from the now aged tyrant, Sigismund of Selsen.

None of these four important personages was human; they lived only in the theatre. It is true that they were entertaining, specially the diplomatists, Sicairie and Unthank; they were all that Mr. Le Queux has taught us that diplomatists should be. Sicairie, in the crisis before the war, was masterly—and considerate, too; he telephoned home: "Sophie, tell your mother to go to bed; I shall be late to-night. No, she is not to worry. I hope for the best." Unthank is bearded, impassive, and guttural; above emotion I should have thought him, but there is just one tear when he says good-bye to his old friend, Sicairie, after finding that war cannot be avoided. In the acting the outstanding feature was Mr. Halliwell Hobbes, as Sicairie. In the production there was an effective imaginative touch in the arrangement of the table light in the second scene.

R. A. A.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WOMEN JURORS.

MADAM.—In view of the interest displayed in the Press during the last few weeks on the subject of the new women jurors, we desire to call the attention of your readers to the principle incorporated in the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, under which the duty of women to serve on juries has been established. This principle is, in spite of certain curious contradictions in the terms of the Act, a simple and a great principle, namely that men and women have equal responsibilities and equal rights as citizens. We believe that if this principle were borne in mind more consistently by those who busy themselves with regard to the question of women jurors, they would worry less about what sort of case is or is not suitable for a woman to be concerned in as juror.

The keenest discussion lately has arisen with regard to Divorce cases and cases of assault, &c., against small girls. In considering whether women jurors should or should not be forced to hear evidence on these subjects, it appears to have been completely forgotten by those who object to the presence of women jurors that the evidence in such cases—unpleasant though it is bound to be—relates necessarily to difficulties and disputes in which *women and children* have been involved, or to offences committed against *women and children*. It is in precisely such cases that the need for women as jurors is greatest. The absurdity, if not the injustice to the parties concerned in these cases, of excluding one sex, as such, from the jury, would perhaps be more apparent if it had anywhere been suggested that the jury should consist of women only.

The only women who would wish to shirk their duties in such cases, therefore, are those who prefer to remain blind to the difficulties and sufferings of their less fortunate sisters.

To sum up, all cases with a few inevitable exceptions are best tried by juries composed of both men and women. Both are human beings, and the interests of both are affected by all cases in the Courts.

EVA M. HUBBACK,
(Parliamentary Secretary, N.U.S.E.C.)

MADAM.—Parliament is to be asked, says one of the dailies, to reconsider the decision *re* women serving on juries.

There could not surely be a more convincing proof of the need for women on juries than the case of Allen *v.* Allen, which has just been before the Divorce Court. The wife's counsel put in a picture presumably to help his client's case, and it was described by him to be too revolting for any woman to see. Yet a wife had to see it as it was sent to her by her husband.

If there is to be any clear understanding by Jurymen of the cases they are hearing, then certainly they must be prepared to examine every scrap of evidence no matter how distasteful, and it is just because it was so distasteful in this particular case that it was the more necessary for them to see the picture.

The ignorance of women of the more sordid and revolting aspects of life is not calculated to fit them for grappling with the gravest social problems.

That there is much that is revolting and disgusting in the marriage of ill-assorted couples is known to everyone who has studied the history of, and conditions in, marriage, and it is certain that no man should succeed in a suit for divorce where it can be shown that he has in any way conducted to his wife's misconduct. It is well known to many students of this question that there are large numbers of vicious men who deliberately set themselves to initiate young wives into practices which make sexual intercourse more attractive to them, but a hell upon earth to tortured wives.

It is to be hoped that a strong stand will be made by women that they shall be made acquainted with all the facts and the details of cases dealing with rape, incest, and wilful perversion of a wife.

Mr. Justice Horridge, in the case referred to, said that he thought that without seeing "the terrible thing" as Sir Edward Marshall Hall, the wife's counsel, called it, the jury could not properly gauge the relationship between the husband and wife.

Women Jurors must stay and bravely do their duty, no matter how unpleasant. Whatever service can be rendered to the State, in this connection by men, can be equally rendered by women, and nowhere are they more needed than in the Divorce Courts of the Country.

Until women are fully acquainted with the laws, and how they operate, we shall get no adequate reform of our penal system, nor the Marriage and Divorce Laws.

M. L. SEATON-SIEDEMAN,
Secretary, The Divorce Law Reform Union.

MADAM.—May I ask for space to urge upon the women readers of your paper who are qualified for jury service not to seek to evade this opportunity for fulfilling an important public duty? Women householders and women tenants of flats rated on their own valuation are eligible. Cases affecting women, young girls, and children, are common, and ought to be dealt with by men and women together. In the absence of women jurors, very young children may not receive from the law the protection which is their right, and women who evade their duty in this matter are making themselves responsible for such injustice. When a woman receives a summons to serve on a jury, it is her duty to attend, even at sacrifice of valuable time. The generous welcome extended by the Lord Chief Justice of Ireland in a recent speech to the women who undertake this onerous and necessary duty should be an encouragement to all who have the privilege of rendering such service.

ANNA M. HASLAM, President Irish Women Citizens' and Local Government Association, Dublin.

THE DEFECTS OF THE POOR LAW ADMINISTRATION.

MADAM.—Mr. C. M. Lloyd says that the Law confines the Guardians to dealing with persons who have reached a state of destitution. He is wrong if he uses the word "destitution" in its ordinary sense—to be entirely without possessions; but the word as used for Poor Law purposes has quite a different meaning. Defective—yes, even cruel—administration often arises because many Guardians do not know this, and administer the Poor Law as though it was only for those who are "destitute" in its ordinary sense. Thus they turn the "Poor Law" into a "Destitute Law." Let me give a very recent example of this mischievous mistake, and show how it was remedied: The wife of a man, whose income after payment of rent was about 25s. a week, was very ill, and the Poor Law doctor recommended the workhouse infirmary. The Guardians refused, on the ground that she was not destitute. A vigorous welfare worker had the following statement taken from an excellent book, "The Law Relating to the Relief of the Poor" (published by the Poor Law Publications Department, 27, Furnival-street, E.C.), printed and sent round to each individual Guardian:—

DEFINITION OF "DESTITUTION."

The expression "Destitution" has never been defined by Statute. A Statutory definition must be rigid in its application. The wisdom of leaving the expression "Destitution" undefined by Statute and Regulation is self-evident. When Mr. Adrian (late Legal Adviser to the Local Government Board) was before the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and Relief of Distress (1905-9) as a witness he was questioned on the term "destitution," and stated as follows:—

"Destitution, when used to describe the condition of a person as a subject for relief, implies that he is, for the time being, without material resources— (1) directly available, and (2) appropriate for satisfying his physical needs— (a) whether actually existing, or (b) likely to arise immediately. By physical needs in this definition are meant such needs as must be satisfied—(1) in order to maintain life, or (2) in order to obviate, mitigate, or remove causes endangering life, or likely to endanger life or impair health or bodily fitness for self-support."

In this connection the circular letter, issued by the Local Government Board, on the 18th March, 1910, on the Administration of Outdoor Relief, states:—

"The Guardians are entrusted with the task of deciding upon the evidence before them whether a particular person whose case is under consideration is or is not destitute; and in determining this question they have to remember that a person may be destitute in respect of the want of some particular necessity of life without being destitute in all respects as, for instance, a person who is not destitute in the sense that he is entirely devoid of the means of subsistence, may yet be destitute in that he is unable to provide for himself the particular form of medical attendance or treatment of which he is in urgent need."

I may add that Mr. Adrian's statement was adopted in the Majority Report, and the Majority Commissioners advised that in future the word "necessitous" should be used instead of "destitute." Unfortunately, the "L. G. B." did not adopt the suggestion. I much hope that the Ministry of Health did. Meanwhile, the law relating to the relief of the poor is out of print. May I advise any of your readers who are either Guardians or interested in "the poor and needy," or care to keep alive the fundamental right of man, woman and child, to carefully preserve this issue of THE WOMAN'S LEADER? If all Guardians equally understood the law such difficulty would be removed.

J. THEODORE DODD.

TRIAL MARRIAGES.

MADAM.—The letter by Mary M. Rowntree in last week's Leader raises an interesting point. Are we to remain silent on subjects that are being discussed amongst the young people of to-day, because we are distressed that the question should have arisen? Many readers will share Mrs. Rowntree's feelings on the subject of trial marriages; but when she describes them as "disgusting," and says that to a Christian they are revolting, I, as a fellow Christian, fear she is harming her own cause. The weakness of the Churches and of many Christians is that they so often flatly refuse to face facts they don't like; the consequence being that often when they speak it is to no effect.

Now amongst the younger generation the idea of trial marriages is being discussed. It is really no use for Christians and "pure-minded and good women" to blind themselves to that fact. Trial marriages have been advocated by those who, though we believe them to be fundamentally unsound in their thinking, cannot be ignored. If the Christian attempts to meet their arguments by abuse she weakens her influence in the generation she wishes to help, and may in a subtle way, herself, do more harm than even those who advocate trial marriages.

So these questions must be faced and thought out. Personally, I am grateful to Miss March for the lucid way she revealed the practical difficulties that trial marriages inevitably involve. If I have to find fault with the articles it is on the ground that the writer seems to ignore the fact that men and women are spiritual beings. We are living in tragic days, tragedy all round, in physical, mental, and spiritual life. Due, I am convinced, to the fact that modern civilisation is built upon a system that has ignored the spiritual nature of man. If man be a spiritual being he will be subject ultimately and powerfully to the laws of the spiritual world.

Though I regret that this aspect of the question was not touched upon, I welcome the courageous manner with which other sides of the question were dealt in the articles, and would beg all those who are inclined to be shocked at questions which in these days must be frankly faced, to remember that evils are more easily met and overcome when they are dragged out into the light of day and fearlessly met.

EDITH PICTON-TURBIEVILLE.

MADAM.—I trust you will allow me to add a few words in emphatic support of the letter from Mary M. Rowntree protesting against the publication of the articles on "Trial Marriages" that have recently disgraced

the pages of THE WOMAN'S LEADER. Whilst exonerating the writer from any personal approval of the disgusting suggestion that men and women should enter into such temporary unions, and also acknowledging it to be the duty of the Editor to treat with impartiality the differing views of contributors, I hold that there are limits beyond which even decency, let alone high moral principles, demand that such retrograding, degrading ideas should not be aired in a paper taking to itself the responsible name of THE WOMAN'S LEADER.

Though with infinite sympathy for unhappily married persons I would remind them that by bearing with courage and dignity the life-long sorrow they have brought upon themselves they do something towards maintaining the purity of domestic life—the foundation of true national strength.

S. E. S. MAIR, LL.D.

MADAM.—I am very glad to see in your issue of this week a protest by Mary M. Rowntree against the article on "Trial Marriages," and wish to support her view, as I consider that with no "essential preliminaries" would "Trial Marriages" be a "social privilege," nor should such a view be written of with tolerance, much less advocated, in a paper which claims to set high ideals before women. I have appreciated the informing articles on many subjects, but do not like the kind of plays sometimes noticed, and think it is a pity they should be thus advertised.

MARIAN TREGELLES.

MADAM.—I feel that I must protest against the publication in THE WOMAN'S LEADER of articles sent as those on "Trial Marriages," and say that I agree in every particular with the protest in last week's issue. Indeed, I am surprised to find there is only one protest against such pernicious, and unmoral suggestions which will make it impossible for decent people to subscribe to a paper allowing such views of marriage to be printed.

ALICE LANE.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED HUSBAND'S BROTHER.

MADAM.—As one taking some little interest in the welfare of my fellow men I was very glad to see the article on this subject in your last issue.

I endorse all the writer says on the question, and can bear him out regarding the anomaly in our law forcing sufferers into exile or cohabitation. Sufferers having no particular ties in a place have removed to a distant part of the country, where they are not known, and made a false declaration to the Registrar regarding their relationship and gone through a form of marriage.

Is it consistent, fair, or humane, that a considerable number of our fellow countrymen and women, out of deference to the theological prejudice of a few, should be denied the right to that human happiness accorded in 1907 to a certain section of the community which, from 1835 till that year, was penalized under the same harsh law?

Apart from the sentimental reasons for marriage with a deceased husband's brother there is also the economic aspect of the question, in that the figure 5,000 mentioned in the article, is probably very much higher, as the number of men and women involved and assuming that 90 per cent. of the women who suffer under the present anomaly in the law are war widows in receipt of State pensions, then the removal of the inequality in the marriage law would relieve the State of these pensions. This would effect a saving of roughly £180,000,000 per annum made up as follows: 90 per cent. of 2,500 women affected gives the figures 2,250, and we can assume their average pension to be £80, so that 2,250 x £80 = £180,000 per annum.

The Government, by introducing and passing the necessary legislation, would further recognise the equality of the sexes, would bring happiness to thousands of war widows and their children, and at the same time effect an economy, without reducing employment, showing the country that it had a real desire to reduce expenditure.

This being very much a woman's question, and as they have now got the vote, let them use it in demanding equality and justice in this matter.

"A SUPPORTER."

THE CRUCIFIXION OF WOMAN.

MADAM.—Throughout the Great War Great Britain boasted she was the friend of the oppressed and the greatest champion of freedom the world had ever seen. Yet she was then, and is still now, nothing but a trafficker in women. As an example, a confidential Army Order of the 9th Corps, dated February 20th, 1919, "for the information of all ranks," was issued to troops in the Rhine district giving a "List of Licensed Houses in Cologne," including four which were "opening on March 1st" and five "Reserved for Officers only." In other words, houses have been secured, brothel-keepers have been licensed, and women and young girls have been, and are still being, forced into these houses for these brothel-keepers to make their living and their fortunes out of. What greater oppression can there be than this, or what greater wickedness?

In this country, too, criminal and indecent assaults upon women and children, brothel-keeping and procurement of women for brothels, forcible abductions, &c., are crimes. Moreover, if these things are not crimes, what are crimes? Yet in Germany and France these things are quite right if they are done in the interests of the official brothel! And the highly respectable Coalition Government, and British authorities also, consider these crimes justifiable; for the official brothel, in other words, the official selling of women for immoral purposes, is a splendid means for combating venereal diseases! For in the official, otherwise regulated, brothel the women and girls are prisoners, and so the official doctor can regularly make his outrageous examinations upon them; and as soon as ever he finds them infected with venereal disease can have them sent to prison hospitals to be patched up or got rid of. Also, the police *des mœurs* can bring back the women should they escape, put them into prison, help to procure fresh recruits, &c.

However, if these brothels are to be, as far as possible, a success in combating venereal disease in the British Army by directly inciting the immorality which is the cause of venereal disease, young and attractive girls must be procured to prevent the counter attractions of the private brothel and the free women outside; also, the girls must be innocent, or

at least beginners in the trade. And to-day, owing to Great Britain's noble fight for freedom, there are on the Continent numbers of women and girls for whom no inquiries will ever be made in this world.

In accepting the franchise, do the women of this country realise they must also accept its responsibilities? What, then, are they going to do for the women, of whatever nationality they may be, who are now being crucified in the British and German licensed brothels of Cologne?
F. K. POWELL.

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN.

MADAM.—Sir William Robertson's pronouncement in the "Times" leading article of January 22nd on Women in Government Offices has been very ably answered by Miss Eleanor Rathbone's letter, which appeared in the "Times" of January 25th and your own issue of January 28th. May I, however, add the following comments to hers? The problem of the moment is how to reconcile two claims or rights—those of the men who fought in the war to employment under the State and those of the women whom the "Times" itself admits, are working to earn their daily bread, and not to amass pocket money. The three following points seem to me worthy of consideration:—

1. Many of the women gaining their livelihood in Government offices are doing so in direct consequence of the war, which has deprived them of the husband or father on whom, as breadwinner, they formerly depended, and whose death has left them without adequate means of support. May it not be said that their claim, as representatives of these fallen soldiers, is as strong as that of the returned ex-Service man?

2. Women employed in the higher grades of departmental work during a term of years have, in a number of instances, acquired knowledge and experience which make them valuable to the State. Can this special capacity for public service be wisely scrapped?

3. The "Times" appears to indicate domestic service as the natural refuge of the dispossessed woman worker. How does this suggestion meet the case of the women in Government offices, especially of those in the higher grades already alluded to? I have in mind a typical case—that of a lady, formerly joint-principal of a flourishing girls' school, established in the capital of one of our Allies, who has been completely ruined by the war. Her high educational qualifications, coupled with special facility in modern languages, have obtained for her a position in one of the older departments, where for several years she has been doing responsible work. Is it seriously proposed that she should in future resign herself to seek her livelihood as a housemaid, or even as a housekeeper? I cannot believe it. That would be, indeed, to initiate a new form of that national waste which we all deplore.

MARION FITZGERALD.

REGISTER OF COTTAGE NURSES.

MADAM.—Concerning the proposed Register of Cottage Nurses, and the quarter from which emanated the proposal for the formation of same, the following paragraph, which appears in the annual report of the Scottish Nurses' Association, will be enlightening to all who take an interest in nursing affairs. This report, speaking of the benefit—or otherwise—of admitting the Press to the council meetings, gives the following illustration:—

"Our friends on the English Council have been working themselves into a panic over an outside suggestion for the formation of a supplementary register of Cottage Nurses, which they have attributed to the Scottish Council. It was neither made nor endorsed by the Scottish Council.

"It was a suggestion made to the chairman, who, with due courtesy to the person who made it, communicated it to his Council, who in turn asked the opinion of the English Council. The facts were simple; they were recorded in the official *procès*; but when the facts came before the English Council, in the presence of the Press, much ornamentation was added."

I should like once more to emphasise that criticism of Draft Rules which are not yet issued to the public, can lead to serious misunderstanding and a vast amount of unnecessary trouble.

CHRISTIAN H. MCARA,
Member, Royal British Nurses' Association.

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH AND IN SOCIAL WORK.

MADAM.—THE WOMAN'S LEADER appeals to and is read by many women who are interested in social and religious work among women and girls, but I venture to think it would have a wider circulation among such workers if it touched upon and reported work done by different religious associations. The suffrage movement in the past owed much of its inspiration to members belonging to the different Church Leagues that stood for the emancipation of women, and, surely to-day, we feel that the citizenship of women is built up on a spiritual foundation, and that that foundation must not be lost sight of. You have the Woman in the Home, Professions, Literature and Art. Why not in Church and Social Work?

SIDNEY M. KNIGHT,
President, Mothers' Union for the Tunstall R.D. Manchester Diocese.

OURSELVES.

In our issue of January 14th we announced that an anonymous friend had offered us five prizes, to be given in five different fortnights, to the readers who secure the largest number of direct subscribers. The first of these was awarded last week. To the reader who has secured the largest number by the first post on Tuesday, February 8th, will be awarded "The Story of a Pioneer" (being the autobiography of Anna Howard Shaw). At present, two readers take the lead with the same number of recruits; we hope that a yet larger number may be secured by some other enthusiastic reader before next Tuesday.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING.

The Annual Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8th, Wednesday, March 9th, and Thursday, March 10th, 1921, at King George's Hall London Central Y.M.C.A. Tottenham Court Road, W.1.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA.

The Preliminary Agenda for the Council Meeting will be in the hands of Secretaries of our Societies on February 7th. It is hoped that all Societies, including those recently affiliated, will study this Agenda very carefully and send to Headquarters any amendments which may be suggested.

HOSPITALITY AND PROXIES.

Applications for hospitality in London during the meetings, or for proxies, should be made as early as possible and addressed to Miss Beaumont, at Headquarters.

PUBLIC DEBATES.

Thursday, February 10th, at 8.30 p.m., at the Women's Institute, 92, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

Subject:—"That Equal Pay for Equal Work between men and women is not practicable unless preceded by some scheme of National Family Endowment."

Proposer: Miss Eleanor F. Rathbone, J.P., C.C., M.A.
Opposer: Miss E. E. Froude, Sec. National Union of Women Teachers.

Wednesday, February 23rd, at 8.30 p.m., at the same place.
Subject:—"That National Family Endowment is desirable in the interests of the Family."

Proposer: Mrs. Stocks, B.Sc.
Opposer: Miss Helen Fraser. Tickets, 2s. 6d. and 1s.

HELP FOR HEADQUARTERS:

LEGACY TO THE N.U.S.E.C.

The Union has received a generous legacy of £3,000 from the estate of the late Miss Theodora Powell. All who have experienced the increasing difficulty of raising voluntary funds for any other object except the immediate relief of poverty, can imagine what respite from immediate anxiety this legacy brings to those responsible for the financial affairs of the Union. The Finance Committee are considering how it may best be used, either in respect to capital or income, so as to promote the work of the Union, and to encourage rather than check the generosity of others. The Council will receive a report on the subject in March.

NEWPORT (MON.) W.C.A.

A second generous donation of £4 has been received from the Newport Women Citizens' Association.

THEODORA WILDE POWELL.

(We are indebted to Miss Eleanor Powell for the following notes of the life of her sister.)

Theodora Wilde Powell was born in 1871. She was educated chiefly at home, but was, for a time, at Somerville College, Oxford, though her health prevented her from taking any complete course of study. For about a year she was a student at the Horticultural College, Swanley, and always retained her interest in the College. She loved the country and disliked London life. Most of her life was spent at Guildford and Godalming; at both these places she identified herself with local activities, and gave a good deal of her time to the work of the Guildford Charity Organisation Society, and the Godalming Women's Local Government Society. At different times she acted as Secretary of the South African Colonisation Society, and an organisation connected with women in agriculture. In her later years the suffrage question absorbed a great deal of her attention and

sympathy, and she worked and spoke for that cause. The last two years of her life were saddened by the death of two sisters, and she herself died in June, 1920, after a short illness. She had friends to whom she was devoted and was deeply attached to her dogs. Nothing aroused her indignation so much as cruelty to dumb animals, and she was always ready to help those who were working for their protection.

Letters filed at Headquarters show that Miss Powell gave secretarial help at the National Union office at a time of pressure and testify to her deep interest in the objects of the Union.

WOMEN'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS.

Our Societies which are interesting themselves in the work of Local Government will welcome the issue of the first number of a monthly news sheet, published by the Women's Local Government Society, 19, Tothill Street, Westminster, S.W. 1. (Price 2½d., post free. The January number contains a useful article on Housing, by Lady Buckmaster.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

BRISTOL S.E.C.

A public meeting was held in the Folk House, Bristol, on January 11th, when Mrs. Christie, National Organiser of the Co-operative Party, spoke on the "Case for Equal Franchise." The chair was taken at 7.30 by the Rev. G. F. Beckh, M.A., Ph.D. Mrs. Christie, in the course of an eloquent address, said that from her experience in canvassing at elections, what she had discovered was that a woman of 35, 40, or 50, the woman who had the vote, was very set in her ideas; but it was very different with the younger women, who often said to her that it was strange that though they were considered old enough to choose a husband, bring children into the world, and have charge of a home, they were not supposed to have enough commonsense to choose their own political representative.

WINCHESTER W.C.A.

The following extract from an account of a mock trial, which has been sent us from *The Hampshire Chronicle*, may suggest a means of combining amusement and instruction for members of our Societies:—

"WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.—A meeting, organised by the Winchester Women Citizens' Association, was held in Holy Trinity Hall, on Wednesday evening. The hall was arranged as a Court of Law, and a trial was held exactly on the lines of a case in *Nisi Prius*. Jurors were called from the body of the hall, and ordered into the box by the Bailiff (Miss Young), and the judge took his seat, accompanied by the High Sheriff (Miss H. Bailey). One of the audience, who was privileged to be present, finds it difficult to express the excellent manner in which the whole of the trial was carried out. From the Judge (Councillor Miss Firmstone) and the learned Counsel (Miss Douglas and Councillor Miss B. Du Boulay) down to the witnesses and the wardress (Mrs. Flight), each part was taken and carried through with wonderful ability; and the audience was again and again called to order by the Clerk of the Court (Miss Du-Boulay) for unseemly laughter.

HARROGATE S.E.C.

The Harrogate Branch held its second public meeting this winter on January 18th, when Miss Eleanor Rathbone gave an address on "Wages According to Family Needs." After Miss Rathbone's speech, a number of questions were asked, and some objections brought forward. The subject was new to the Society, and Miss Rathbone's address was listened to with the greatest interest.

COMING EVENTS.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

The following meetings on League of Nations subjects will be held:—

- FEBRUARY 4.**
At Dunstable. Speaker: J. F. Green, Esq., M.P. Evening.
At Sandersonfoot. Speaker: W. L. Williams, Esq. 7.30 p.m.
- FEBRUARY 6.**
At Epsom, Y.M.C.A. Queen Mary's Convalescent Centre, Woodcote Park. Speaker: Canon Bickersteth Otley. 5 p.m.
- FEBRUARY 7.**
At Kentish Town, Secondary School, Highgate Road. Speaker: Frederick Whelen, Esq. 2.45 p.m.
At Chesterhouse Mission, 40, Tabard Street, Southwark. Speaker: Miss Gotch. 2.30 p.m.
At Spalding, Corn Exchange. Speaker: E. Everitt Reid, Esq. 7 p.m.
- FEBRUARY 8.**
At Bromley. Speaker: Miss M. Currey, O.B.E. 3 p.m.
At Gosport, Town Hall. Speaker: Mr. Silas Hocking. Evening.
- FEBRUARY 9.**
At Gillingham, Town Hall. Speaker: J. H. Clynes, Esq. 3 p.m.
- FEBRUARY 10.**
At Addiscombe, Croydon, Clyde Road Hall. Speaker: Frederick Whelen, Esq. 8 p.m.
- FEBRUARY 11.**
At Crawley, Council School Hall. Speaker: Canon Bickersteth Otley. 8 p.m.
- WOMEN'S NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE STATE PURCHASE AND CONTROL OF THE LIQUOR TRADE.**
FEBRUARY 8.
At Bristol, Women's Section Labour Party. Speaker: Mrs. Renton. Subject: "State Purchase of the Liquor Trade." 3 p.m.
- FEBRUARY 9.**
At Bristol, Independent Labour Party Women's Section. Speaker: Mrs. Renton. Subject: "State Purchase of the Liquor Trade." 3 p.m.
- FEBRUARY 10.**
At Portishead, Women Citizens' Association. Speaker: Mrs. Renton. Subject: "State Purchase the Way to Local Option." 3 p.m.
- FEBRUARY 11.**
At St. Saviour's, Wood Green Mothers' Union. Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell. Subject: "State Purchase the Solution of the Drink Problem." 3 p.m.
- WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.**
FEBRUARY 7.
At the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn. The Fourth Lecture on the "Progress and Freedom of Women," entitled "The Position of Women in the Middle Ages." Speaker: "Miss Helena Normanton, B.A."
- FEBRUARY 9.**
Subject: "Is it Possible to Abolish War?"
Speaker: Mrs. E. M. N. Clark.
- KENSINGTON SOCIETY FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.**
FEBRUARY 5.
The Annual Meeting will be held at 15, Upper Phillimore Gardens. Business Meeting (for members only), at 2.30 p.m. Open Meeting, at 3 p.m. Chairman: Miss Helen Fraser. Speakers: Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., and Miss Rosamond Smith. Subject: "Is Equal Pay for Equal Work Practically Possible without Endowment of Motherhood?"
- THE PADDINGTON WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.**
FEBRUARY 8.
A Public Meeting will be held in the Town Hall, Paddington Green, at 8 p.m. Subject: "Women as Justices of the Peace, and Women Jurors." Speakers: Mrs. Nevinson, J.P., Mrs. Ross, M.A.
- BRIGHTON AND HOVE UNION FOR WOMEN'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.**
FEBRUARY 7.
At Y.M.C.A. Hall, 55, Old Steine, Brighton. Discussion of Council Agenda and Appointment of Delegates. (Members only.) 5.30 p.m.
- THE EFFICIENCY CLUB.**
FEBRUARY 7.
At the Caxton Hall, Westminster. Debate on the Nationalisation of Coal Mines. Proposer: Miss Madeline Symons. Opposer: Miss Millicent Weekes.
- COLLEGE OF NURSING (BIRMINGHAM THREE COUNTIES CENTRE).**
FEBRUARY 8.
In the Lecture Theatre of the General Hospital, Birmingham. Subject: "The Organisation of the Middle and Professional Classes." Speaker: W. Benwell, Esq. 5.30 p.m.
- Y.W.C.A. (SOCIAL AND LEGISLATION DEPARTMENT).**
FEBRUARY 7.
Lectures on Industrial Law, at Morley Hall, 28, George Street, Hanover Square. Subject: "The Law Relating to Factories and Workshops." Speaker: Miss Squire, O.B.E.
- GUILD OF EDUCATION AS NATIONAL SERVICE.**
FEBRUARY 9.
At Halsey Training College, 11, Tavistock Square, W.C.1. Subject: "The Value of the Voluntary Element in Social Work." Speaker: Miss Edith Neville (Warden, Mary Ward Settlement).

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ENSINGTON TOWN HALL.—Fellowship Services. 6.30, Miss Maude Royden. "Suffering in the World of Nature."

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9, Grafton-street, Piccadilly, W.1.—Subscription: London Members, £2 2s., Country Members, 5s. (Irish, Scottish, and Foreign Members, 10s. 6d.) per annum. Entrance fee, 1 guinea. Excellent catering; Luncheons and Dinners à la Carte. **Bedroom accommodation**.—All particulars, Secretary. Tel.: Mayfair 3932.

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