

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

The Sixth Assembly.

The Assembly of the League was opened on Monday by M. Painlevé, as President of the Council. His speech was broadcast and, though heard imperfectly, reached in this way a wide international audience outside the limits of the Hall of Assembly. Senator Dandurand of Canada was elected President. This appointment will do much to stimulate interest in the League in our great Dominions. Personal impressions of the opening of the Assembly, and the subsequent meetings will appear in THE WOMAN'S LEADER each week, while it is in session, from the pen of our contributor, Mrs. Innes.

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

The autumnal weather makes it fitting, perhaps, that the Summer School should have drawn to its close. "Summer" indeed hardly seems the proper title for the gatherings clustered round the roaring fires of St. Hilda's last week. Cold weather is perhaps conducive to mental alertness, and helps to account for the exceptional interest aroused by many of the lecturers during the second week. One course of four lectures, in which Professor Carr-Saunders and Mrs. Stocks dealt with the wider aspects of the problem of population, and Dr. Marie Stopes and Dr. Pulteney with the narrower application of Birth Control (Dr. Stopes, need it be said?, in favour and Dr. Pulteney against), gave rise to very spirited discussions. Three lectures on three successive nights from Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, Mr. Hubert Henderson (editor of the *Nation*), and Mr. Brailsford, each on the ideals of his or her own party, gave to many the opportunity of seeing, for the first time, the reverse side of their usual pictures, and were distinctly illuminating. These were introduced by a lecture by Professor Stocks on the place of party in a democracy. Captain Reiss championed the causes both of the "Carlisle Experiment" of disinterested management and of Housing; Mrs. Hubback lectured on the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Bill; Mr. J. L. Cohen had prepared a paper on Social Insurance, and Mr. Smith lectured on Lunacy Reform. Two conferences, one on Equal Franchise and one for members of the N.U.S.E.C., were held during the week. The frivolous side of the School has not been neglected. A mock trial, in which the Treasurer of the N.U.S.E.C. was prosecuted for organizing a raffle on behalf of its funds, was tried by a bench of real live magistrates, even if certain apocryphal features were to be noted in the bearing of the Clerk of the Court, Miss Helen Ward. The last night of the School was enlivened by

charades of a somewhat domestic character and a farewell gathering. In another column we give an impression of the magistrates' section, and as we propose to print most of the papers in full, beginning next week with the paper read at the School by Miss FitzGerald, on "Smoke Abatement," no further report is necessary.

Cause and Effect.

Rock Ferry has once again been the scene of a grim tragedy. It concerns the affairs of the Vaughan family—a father, mother, and six children, these last ranging from 12 years to 5 months, and including a little girl of 3, who had fits, "was not a normal child," and could not walk. The Vaughan family inhabited two rooms. Mr. Vaughan was a railway checker on the L.M.S.Ry. It was subsequently stated that his wages enabled him to give his wife 37s. a week for household expenses, leaving 15s. or 16s. for himself. Exactly a fortnight ago Mrs. Vaughan was arrested for stealing a suit of clothes. She was released on bail, and when her husband returned in the afternoon from work there were some hard words over this deplorable affair. An hour later he went out and remained out for the rest of the evening. During that time and in the intervals of getting six children to bed—one of them a helpless invalid, one of 18 months, and one of 5 months—Mrs. Vaughan doubtless had time in which to meditate upon the events of the afternoon and the probable events of the morrow. The effect of her meditation was that when Mr. Vaughan returned at 10 p.m. and renewed the interrupted altercation Mrs. Vaughan expressed the opinion that life under such conditions was not worth living, and that she did not propose to continue the effort of living it—an opinion, it appears, which she had expressed on other occasions. Upon this note the labours of the day ended. Early on the following morning, and without waking Mr. Vaughan, she arose, dressed the six children, put the three who were unable to walk into a perambulator, left her two-roomed residence of evil memory, and conducted its six youthful residents out over the mud flats of the River Mersey. This involved some going backwards and forwards, as it was not easy to move so large and helpless a contingent in a single body. However, having assembled them all at a point where the water became deep and the tide swift, she pushed them into the water, subsequently plunging in herself. At this point Maisie, aged 12, John Arthur, aged 8, and Elizabeth, aged 6, who not having been engaged like their mother in the business of life for 35 years, were less conscious of its burdens, resisted violently, and managed to extricate themselves from the water. Mrs. Vaughan, however, was able to add to her earlier social qualification of "thief" the further qualifications of "suicide" and "wilful murderess." Bessie, aged 5 months, Nellie, aged 18 months, and the sub-normal Elsie subsequently shared with her the glory of a well-attended funeral at the expense of a sympathetic local football club, the dignity of which was somewhat marred by violent and riotous demonstrations of hostility towards Mr. Vaughan who, it was felt, had not been over-generous regarding the proportion of his wage allotted to household expenditure. Meanwhile, in an imaginative moment we visualize the disembodied Mrs. Vaughan coming up for judgment in a higher court than the one which would have dealt with her had she survived to answer to her fellow citizens for the stolen suit of clothes: a court in which crime is more elastically defined and evidence more exhaustively considered. We choose to believe that its verdict is: "Neither do I condemn thee." Upon the possibility of a wider indictment drawn against some person or persons indirectly concerned we prefer not to speculate.

Positive and Preventive Checks.

In the course of the discussion on Birth Control, which occupied a morning's deliberation at the N.U.S.E.C. Summer School, Dr. Isabel Pulteney, who expounded the anti-Birth Control case, made an astonishing statement. She said, if our memory serves, that she had never been appealed to by a mother for help in the avoidance of an unwanted child. This statement is indeed so astonishing that we fear we may have stupidly misunderstood its author. Nevertheless we left the meeting with the impression that in Dr. Pulteney's view the reluctant mother of a redundant family is a bit of a myth—at any rate a dubious foundation for sentimental exaggerations. It is possible, however, that our astonishment is misplaced. After all, one does not ask bread of a person whose pocket is patently bulging with stones. All the same we venture to record the fact that her experience is wholly dissimilar to our own and to that of a large number of medical practitioners and social workers with whom we have exchanged reminiscences. She added, further, that the problem of excessive or congested population could not have any serious bearing upon the justification of birth control, since so many virgin spaces of the earth's surface still remained available for cultivation and human sustenance. It is interesting to speculate upon the social and economic process by which their existence might have been rapidly utilized to relieve congestion in the two rooms formerly occupied by the Vaughan family. Interesting—but wholly futile in view of the cruder method of relief achieved by the short-sighted and impatient Mrs. Vaughan. But there remain other women similarly situated. And we would remind those whose minds revolt against the existence of "positive checks" such as the one described in the foregoing note, yet condemn "preventive checks" such as the one advocated by the N.U.S.E.C., that the problem is a very urgent one, whatever Dr. Pulteney's personal experience may be.

Extended Benefit—Equality for Married Women.

New regulations have recently come into force in connexion with Extended Benefit (that is, benefit which can be granted after ordinary benefit is exhausted) to unemployed insured persons. Hitherto it has been granted to such persons who proved that they were genuinely seeking work but unable to obtain it, without having regard to their circumstances. Under the new regulations it is no longer a right, and all the circumstances of applicants must be taken into account. Discretionary powers are given to committees to refuse it where applicants have relatives to whom they can reasonably look for support. Coming within these discretionary powers are *married women* living with husbands who are in a position to support them, and *MARRIED MEN* living with wives who are in a position to support them. Equality for some women at last! But why recognize the equal right of a wife to provide for her husband, and vice versa, and at the same time refuse to recognize the equal right with her husband as the parent of her child? By all means let us have equality, but let it be real equality and not little crumbs here and there. The woman pays every time.

Women in Council.

From 19th to 25th September the annual meeting and conference of the National Council of Women will be held in Birmingham. This yearly gathering has an interest peculiarly its own as it brings together representatives of the many types of women's organizations which are to be found among its affiliated societies. Among interesting features this year we specially note the reports of the great International Council of Women in Washington in May, a public meeting on Education from the international point of view and a public debate on the subject of Family Allowances.

The Recent Poole Decision.

We see in *The Times* that the Poole Borough Council decided recently by a substantial majority to enter an appeal against the High Court decision that their dismissal of Mrs. Short from the post of assistant mistress in one of their elementary schools on the grounds of marriage was invalid. It is understood, however, that the appeal depends on the support received from other education authorities in the country.

Making Life Endurable.

In 1884 the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children adopted as its goal: "The endurable life for

children." In its report for the past year, which has just been published, it records a definite approach to that goal—a modest goal indeed, for who is so lost to the spirit of expectation that he asks of life no more than that it shall be "endurable"? However, it must be admitted that the reach of the N.S.P.C.C. still exceeds its grasp; which is as it should be. But things are getting better. Neglect of and cruelty to children are becoming perceptibly less. Last year saw 38,559 cases reported: 871 less than during the previous year. Of these, 882 cases were taken into court, and this number again shows a significant decrease. All but 23 of them resulted in a conviction. On the other hand, the number of cases in which parents themselves approach the society with requests for advice has increased. During the past year 3,325 such requests are recorded, most of them occasioned by physical defects on the part of the children. But lest it should be supposed that the evil of child neglect and cruelty can be left to look after itself, the report contains particulars of a number of hair-raising and heart-rending cases, among them a case of cruelty reported from Warrington, which was the subject of comment in these columns a few months ago. Our special interest was stimulated by the relative lightness of the sentence, six months for both parents, as compared with certain contemporary punishments meted out to persons who had offended against the inviolable rights of inanimate property.

Temperance Reform.

We print next week an article contributed by Lady Frances Balfour on the Liquor (Popular Control) Bill, which we believe will clear the ideas of many of our readers on the proposals of the Bill popularly known as "the Bishop of Oxford's Bill." The WOMAN'S LEADER has no definite policy of temperance reform, but its columns are open so far as its limited space permits to the advocates of different schools of honest constructive reform. The Bill referred to is supported by almost all schools of thought on temperance questions, even, we understand, by some of those who hope for a total or a modified form of prohibition ultimately; and, without expressing any editorial opinion, it appears to us an excellent basis of discussion and education of public opinion.

The Woman's Press.

We welcomed some time ago a paper edited by and for Egyptian women, and now we hear that a weekly paper entitled *The Women's Voice* will appear in Turkey, in order to deal with women's interests. In an early issue a portrait of Mrs. Corbett Ashby and a letter from Miss Maude Royden appeared. We offer our new contemporary our very warm wishes for its success.

The Cast in the Eye of the Law.

An interesting article by Miss Evelyn Sharp, which appeared in the *Manchester Guardian* in connexion with the recent instruction of the Home Secretary as to matrons in police stations, recalls the days of the Militant Suffrage agitation. Miss Sharp describes her own unhappy experiences in a police cell in 1913, and reminds us that one of the administrative reforms urged by the "Suffragettes" related to this very point. As she says, those who are unfortunate enough to be detained at police stations have even a greater claim to consideration than the occupants of prisons, about whom we have heard so much recently, for they are still innocent in the eye of the law. But, as she says, there is unfortunately so often "a cast in that eye."

Crosby Hall.

It is hoped that the new residential wing at the North Corner of Crosby Hall, Chelsea, will be begun shortly. The new wing will conform to the style of the Hall, and will contain dining rooms, common rooms, library, and forty bedrooms for university women graduates from different parts of the Empire who are carrying on post-graduate work in London. Ultimately it is hoped to accommodate 200 women students. The existence of such a centre will make a special appeal to all of our readers who are interested in the work of the British Commonwealth League. Many women from the universities of the overseas Dominions and from other countries are living isolated lives in scattered lodgings, with little opportunity of contact with each other or with British students. Crosby Hall will not only be a hall of residence, but it will serve as an invaluable meeting-place of university women from the British possessions.

MORALS AT SINGAPORE.

The Straits Settlements Government, faced with the problem of the serious amount of venereal disease in the Colony, proposed to meet it by the reintroduction of a system of State-regulated vice, which was abolished in that Colony nearly forty years ago. The Colonial Secretary referred the draft Ordinance to the Advisory Committee on Social Hygiene, a body composed of representatives of the Colonial Office, War Office, Admiralty, Home Office, and Ministry of Health, together with Lady Astor, M.P., and Mr. J. H. Harris (late M.P. for North Hackney), and representatives of the British Social Hygiene Council, and of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene. That Committee has unanimously condemned the proposal, and recommended instead other plans, generally on the lines of what is attempted in this country.¹ "The distinction between East and West has," says the Committee, "been urged as a reason for the continuance in the East of a system which has been found unsatisfactory in the West; but . . . the failure of such systems in Europe is explained on medical principles, which are equally valid in any part of the world." Those medical principles are so cogently and concisely set forth by the Committee that it is well to quote them in full:—

"Experience in different countries has shown conclusively that the periodical examination of prostitutes is ineffective from the medical point of view for the following reasons:— (a) it cannot be carried out with sufficient thoroughness; (b) even if the examination were most thorough no prostitute can ever be safely declared free from gonorrhoea; (c) syphilis if definitely cured can be reacquired; if only rendered non-infective it is not possible to say when or whether infectivity may return; (d) if the woman is absolutely healthy at the examination she may be infected shortly after and may infect many others before she can be detected; (e) even if not diseased herself she may be the carrier of contagion from one man to another; (f) wherever prostitutes are known to be subject to compulsory periodic examination there results in men a false sense of security which tends to encourage promiscuity and to spread disease."

On the medical side, therefore, the Committee condemns any special treatment of prostitutes, but recommends the preparation and development of a scheme, whereby free facilities for diagnosis

and treatment should be made available for the whole population. We hope that such a scheme will be founded on a purely voluntary basis, as in this country, and will not include any of the compulsory methods adopted in the legislation of some of the Dominions.

On the moral and social side the Committee is bold enough to envisage the gradual formation of a healthy public opinion at Singapore which will help to carry social and economic reforms. Here again the difference between East and West may not be so great as is generally supposed. According to the view of the Secretary for Chinese Affairs, "The standard of morality in China is probably just as high as in Europe, but the disproportion between the sexes here, the fact that the Colony is the meeting-place of persons from all over the world, many of them with a low standard of morals, and the relaxation of the paternal influence, which is so important in China, when the emigrant leaves his village and his home, have all combined to foster immorality in Singapore." The disproportion between the sexes amongst the large Chinese immigrant population is a special feature at Singapore, and the Committee strongly urges the Government to do all that is possible to encourage the immigration of Chinese families, instead of only men. For this purpose it is suggested that improved housing accommodation seems required. Further recommendations are made for providing educational and recreational facilities, and for the extension of the powers of the Chinese protectorate so as to cover all immigrant and employed women and girls, independently of any question of commercial prostitution, including women of other races besides the Chinese. The Committee recommends the immediate suppression of brothels used by Europeans, and the suppression at the earliest practicable date of those used by Chinese. And not the least important recommendation is that the Government should appoint a mixed Commission of Europeans, Chinese, and Malays to inquire into the social and economic conditions of the poorer classes in Singapore. Medical and moral principles are the same there as here, but the Committee rightly recognizes, that those principles can only be wisely applied and worked out in detail with the help of local knowledge and the backing of local public opinion. G. W. J.

AGNES GARRETT: PIONEER OF WOMEN HOUSE DECORATORS.

By MILLICENT VINCE.

This year Miss Agnes Garrett kept her eightieth birthday. It is just twenty years since she retired, just fifty years since she began her work. It is many years now since the second and third generation, her professional "children" and "grandchildren" began to practice, and were it not that marriage has taken a heavy toll of her own pupils and her pupils' pupils, the fourth generation also would long since have been at work.

It was about 1870 that Miss Garrett, with her cousin, Miss Rhoda Garrett, determined to find a new profession for women in the decoration of houses. In that year Miss Garrett's sister, Dr. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, had taken her medical degree. Their adventure was as novel, though not as difficult, as hers. They had not to force their way into a medical school, but still they had to find men to train them.

Their first attempt was unfortunate. An architect took them as his pupils, accepted their fees—and taught them nothing. They left him, after rather a hectic time, and went to Mr. J. M. Brydon, who was the architect in later years of the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, the London School of Medicine for Women, the Municipal Building and the Art Gallery at Bath, and the offices of the Local Government Board and Education Office in Whitehall. Shortly before, after working for some years as an architect, he had started a decorating and furnishing business. There they began their training, and found in Mr. Brydon a real teacher and friend, ready to help them in every way, and to let them see and study all the details of his work. They worked in his office, they travelled about the country studying and making drawings of the interiors of old houses, and in 1875 they started in practice as the first women house-decorators.

But they only worked together for seven years. In 1882 Miss Rhoda Garrett died, leaving behind, with those who knew

her, the memory of a strangely enchanting and beautiful character. Dame Ethel Smyth described her—she had suffered much—as "a dark cloud with a burning heart—something that smoulders in repose and bursts into flame at a touch." And she has described the two as she knew them together.

"The beauty of the relation between the cousins and of that home life in Gower Street, remains with us who knew them as certain musical phrases haunt the melomaniac, and but for Agnes, who stood as far as possible between her and the slings and arrows which are the reward of pioneers, no doubt Rhoda's life would have spent itself earlier."

So, after seven years, Miss Garrett was left to go on with the work alone.

It was a very interesting time for two women to start such work. William Morris's great decorating firm had been founded fifteen years before, with the aim of freeing decoration from the merely mechanical and commercial influences, and of making it once more a fine art. Morris's ideas were spreading, the work of the firm was growing. But two women decorators, starting at this time, had something perhaps even more difficult to do. They had to convince the public not only that decoration was a fine art, but that, in their *womanly* hands it could be a business and a sound business, as well.

It is increasingly hard for us to realize now just what the atmosphere was in which Miss Garrett began her work, even where there was no active hostility to professional women. I think you find it in a book on house-decoration written by a woman and published more than ten years after Miss Garrett had started. After describing it as a profession for "any lady who possesses a quick eye and a certain amount of taste," she went on to say what a fine profession it was also for "any gentleman possessed of the same qualifications, for he could see to estimates for painting, repairing, etc., and could act as a buffer between the purchaser and the workman," things which "no lady can do, because of the necessary fighting powers and technical knowledge."

¹ First Report of the Advisory Committee on Social Hygiene. (H.M. Stationery Office, price 3d.)

Comic as this is to us now, it seems ten times more comic if you know Miss Garrett. With her shrewdness and humour, her grasp of all the details of her work, both as an art and as a business, her tact in dealing with people, both clients and workmen, her quick eye for, and her destructive criticism of all slovenliness and bad work, she was the last woman in the world to need "any gentleman" to act as a "buffer" for her.

From the beginning she worked well with men. She did the interior decoration of a number of Mr. Brydon's buildings (after some years as a decorator, he had returned to architecture), among them the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital and the residential chambers for ladies in Chenies Street and at York Chambers. She worked with Mr. Norman Shaw in the same sort of partnership.

Both her clients and her workmen became her friends. She owes her life-long friendships with Sir Hubert and Lady Maud Parry and with Lord and Lady Kelvin to the fact that she had decorated their houses. And as for her workmen, when I was her pupil during the last three years before she retired, a second generation of men had already grown up to work for her, the sons of the first. It used to be said of one of her carpenters that he had served his apprenticeship in his pram when bringing his father's dinner.

The secret of it was that she was very exacting and very generous—generous in all her dealings, and exacting in this, that in everything concerning her work she would have nothing from herself, or anyone working for her, except the best. She had the respect of her men because she knew every detail of their work. She had their affection because in any trouble or difficulty she was always ready to help them. And now, twenty years since she retired, those who remain of her old workmen are still her friends.

She had, too, that great gift of filling others with her enthusiasm for good work. Her praise was rare, but how well worth having it was! I remember how, as a pupil, I would willingly have sat up all night to get a design right that I was doing for her.

In writing of a pioneer like Miss Garrett, one almost inevitably thinks first and most of the character and spirit; but to do that is unfair to her work. In those thirty years she left the beautiful stamp of her art on the interiors of scores of houses in London and elsewhere. In it all you feel her gift for design and construction. No one could have been more skilful in that work of altering and re-arranging the interior construction of houses which forms a very considerable part of a house-decorator's work; but her most beautiful work was, I think, in her panelled rooms. When you look at one of her rooms—its mantelpiece, its cupboards, its panelling, and its mouldings—you see at once how a room should be, and can be, a single work of art; and then, when you live in it, you discover that each thing within that work of art has been made also to serve exactly its own purpose and use.

A decorator's work, like an architect's, is unsigned, but I should always know a Garrett room as soon as I went into it. And where she decorated with paint and paper, it was only the materials which were less permanent. People have come to me whose houses she had decorated twenty years before, and asked only that they should be decorated again in the same way!

That may seem strange in these days, when the fashion in decorating changes each year, and last year's fashion is as dead as last year's leaves. But Miss Garrett owed none of her success to following the fashion. It may seem strange also, in these days when "colour-scheme" is the popular phrase in decoration, to have spoken only of design. But design was the foundation of all Miss Garrett's work, as it must be of all good work. It was the foundation of the rigorous three years' training which she had herself, and which she has passed on to her pupils.

In one way Miss Garrett was before her time. She had retired some years before the first of the architectural schools was opened to women. In architecture her gifts would have found their fullest opportunity. But I think we may be glad that she was a decorator, for she opened to women a profession in which it is much more rare to find good work and trained artists. There are still far too many who think of it in the same terms as that writer of forty years ago—an easy opportunity for "any lady who possesses a quick eye and a certain amount of taste." Miss Garrett never looked at it in that way. She never tried to make it easy for herself or others. To her it was an exacting profession, all the more exacting since it was both an art and a business, which no one should practice unless she was thoroughly trained, and to which no one should give less than her best.

We are very fortunate that such a high standard was set from the beginning, and that the pioneer was so rare and strong a character, and so true an artist.

CHEAP HOLIDAYS ABROAD.

By H. S. ANTHONY.

There are wonderful holidays to be had in England—at farmhouses in the lakes, cottages in Cornwall—where cream, scenery, and morning cock-crow may be enjoyed at a moderate expense. Nevertheless, there is a Call of the Continent, which everyone knows who has so much as crossed the Channel by the boat to Boulogne, which brings you back again in the evening (perhaps the cheapest of all holidays abroad.) All one's wits are sharpened by being in a strange country: eyes gloat on every detail of daily life fashioned with a difference; ears are assailed by strange noises, and the human voice shows itself capable of rare modifications and modulations which are a pleasure, or at worst a puzzle, to discriminate. Smells of an amazing variety present themselves and become an important factor in life.

Before 1914 Continental travel was something of a luxury, but since 1919 it has become a habit with many who are not wealthy. They were lured abroad by the depreciated exchanges of Austria and Germany, and later Italy and France. The state of the exchange is still an important factor in bringing down the cost of a Continental holiday, but the traveller should beware of placing too much reliance on it. If you love the Alps, it will avail you little to make for Chamounix or the Italian Dolomites: costs will rise as you approach the Swiss frontier, and you will be charged almost if not quite as much as if you were over it.

But, in general, the cost of food and accommodation does not rise in proportion to the fall of the exchange, and small inns and hotels may still be found in France, Belgium, Austria, and particularly in Italy, which provide comfortable quarters at very low cost.

The holiday-maker who carries all his own luggage cuts down his expenses considerably, and saves not only tips but time and temper. A rucksack and suitcase (light when empty, and preferably therefore not leathern) should easily hold three weeks' summer equipment. (The writer has spent that period with rucksack only, though, after encountering a snow-storm was extremely reduced for some hours.) If van-luggage be taken it should be registered through to its final destination, kept in view at the frontiers, and insured.

It is, of course, the railway fare which makes a Continental holiday comparatively expensive. The traveller who plans more than a simple return journey should consult an expert on how to keep this charge as low as possible. The facilities offered vary in different countries. The holiday-maker who wants to follow the impulse of the moment in Switzerland or Italy can nevertheless save money by booking a return to the French frontier. If he knows the extent of his future movements approximately, he may also buy a "circular ticket" for the further country. By so doing he will save considerably, because he will pay by a graduated tariff, in which the cost per kilometre is in indirect ratio to the total distance: if he bought tickets locally as he wanted them the payment would of course increase in direct ratio to the total distance. In Spain a "kilometric ticket" enables the holder to travel over a certain number of kilometres (on any line he may choose) at a reduced rate.

A disadvantage of these systems is that they tie the tourist to travel by one class (probably second), whereas it may be pleasant or profitable to mind and pocket to take short journeys third. A transfer to a superior class can nearly always be effected by extra payment to the guard, and is often advisable on the Channel crossing.

I once travelled quite successfully to France and back with a passport completely out of date, but this is not to be advised, if only for one's own peace of mind—for one probably finds out the omission when abroad, and doubts if one will be turned back at Calais or Dover on the return. Lack of endorsements or visas might be equally fatal to a holiday according to plan.

But when once you are there (wherever it is), out of the train, out of the station, out of that delicious bath! Then you are a new man or woman; your conversation acquires a Gallic excitement; you criticize your surroundings in your native tongue, which you imagine your neighbours do not understand. Perhaps you also criticize them. A teetotaller, you sip wine as you sit by a little table in the middle of the pavement—though it is bitter, unpalatable, and much stronger than English beer. Or perhaps you take to beer itself, and drink it at concerts. Anyway, "what does it matter what we do here, where nobody knows us?" as the ladies of Cranford used to say.

UNEMPLOYMENT.¹

Mr. Keynes has written an indictment of official monetary policy, to which he ascribes in a large degree the intensification and persistence of our recent unemployment percentage, which is likely to have considerable influence on public opinion. His thesis is, for the general reader, a difficult one. But it is so admirably expounded, so close of argument, so economical of words, so vivid of phraseology, that those who come to the matter with open or unfurnished minds are likely to end with the firm conviction that the present Government made a deplorable blunder when it embarked on the operation of screwing up the foreign exchange value of the pound sterling as a preliminary to the re-adoption of a gold standard.

In broad outline, his argument is as follows: As a result of our gold standard policy "the value of sterling money abroad has been raised by 10 per cent." Consequently our export industries (coal prominent among them) must face a general lowering of prices in order to maintain their footing in the competitive markets of the world. This must in turn involve a general lowering of money wages—a movement which is in process of being carried through by the mechanism of intensified unemployment. On paper, and according to the classical theories of economic science, a rise in the exchange such as we have just described, entails an automatic readjustment in the cost of living—operating through a stimulus of import and a check to export, entailing a movement of gold away from the country of high exchange, and a consequent ultimate fall in that country's cost of living to meet a corresponding rise in external price levels. When this movement is complete the worker finds himself about where he was before; money wages and prices having fallen, world prices having risen, real wages and employment remaining unchanged. But what does this "long run" process involve in terms of day to day human experience? It involves something of what has already been indicated: intense pressure on wages, combined with unemployment in the export industries, which is only compensated by a general lowering of the cost of living when a similar movement has spread painfully, and with infinite industrial friction, to the non-export and sheltered industries, bringing down their prices to the same lower level. Meanwhile, in Mr. Keynes' view, the Bank of England is itself holding up the operation of such a readjustment by its refusal to face an effective drain of gold—relying instead on the methods of American borrowing, and indirect credit restriction for the maintenance of the exchange position. What then can we do about it? Best of all, Mr. Keynes considers, would be the reversal of Mr. Churchill's economic policy. But this he rules out of consideration as a policy open here and now to the present Government. There are, however, two practical methods of alleviation. The Bank of England might amend its ways, and by allowing gold to leave the country, affect price levels elsewhere, thus bringing them into closer relation with our own. But this would not carry us all the way. At the same time the Government might honestly face up to the industrial reactions of its monetary policy and try to effect in collaboration with the Trade Unions, a uniform reduction of money wages which shall involve some direct relation to an accompanying and interlocked fall in the cost of living. These suggestions, Mr. Keynes considers, might "mitigate the harsh consequences of a mistake; but they cannot undo the mistake."

It is a powerful indictment, and a nasty one for Mr. Churchill. One word in extenuation of that gentleman's offence. Surely it is not even primarily the economic consequence of Mr. Churchill, but in as great a degree of Mr. Baldwin, and Mr. Chamberlain, and even Mr. Snowden? Meanwhile there are, it seems to us, other "economic consequences of Mr. Churchill" which should merit inclusion under so comprehensive a title. But psychologically the title is well chosen. Mr. Keynes was right about the "Economic Consequences of the Peace." His new version of the phrase subconsciously suggests to the mind of the reader that Mr. Keynes may be right again.

As for Mr. Wells' *Inwardness of Unemployment*—twelve beautifully printed pages in a cover suggestive of some slim volume of modern verse—it is such nonsense that it must be a joke. But it is an expensive and elaborate joke, nor do we consider that unemployment is a tasteful subject to joke about. We are not amused. M. D. S.

¹ *The Economic Consequences of Mr. Churchill.* By J. M. Keynes. (The Hogarth Press, 1s.)

The Inwardness of Unemployment. By Gabriel Wells. (Elkin Mathews, Ltd., 1s.)

But supposing somebody does! It is extraordinary what a small number of one's acquaintances one would wish to meet on the ideal holiday abroad. Of course at Deauville, with a supply of bathing dresses—but that does not fall under our title.

Nevertheless one should not make a fetish of avoiding "the beaten track," but discriminate. Find out by whom the tracks are beaten (sports lovers or fashion fiends, gamblers, art lovers, artists, or Americans), and by what (feet, hooves, motor-cars). Go out of season if you can (but ask first why there is a season. It may or may not affect your plans).

Above all, come back again and taste once more the Englishness of England—cliffs, fields, hedges, tea, eggs and bacon.

MEDIAEVAL FRANCE.¹

By I. B. O'MALLEY.

The re-discovery of the Middle Ages had almost as enchanting an effect on thinkers of the nineteenth century as the re-discovery of Classical Greece had on those of the fifteenth. There has been a reaction since. The age of faith has been decried as merely an age of magic and chivalry has appeared to some as a peculiarly hideous form of class feeling. In spite of the grain of truth contained in these accusations, and it is really a very small grain, the glamour persists for most of us. A very little study of the France of St. Louis or the Italy of St. Francis and Dante, is enough to give one a perpetual nostalgia for the realms thus opened to the imagination. For this reason such a book as Miss Joan Evans' is sure to find eager readers. It will not disappoint them for it is written in a careful and scholarly way, and the illustrations from photographs are not only attractive in themselves, but very carefully selected to enforce the argument of the text.

In spite of St. Francis and Dante, it was in France that mediaeval civilization found its most characteristic expression. There North and South met, Roman and Celt and Norsemen mingled their blood, and the wild, deep, dreamy mysticism of the North men was caught and crystallized by the spirit of order and form which came from Rome. As Miss Evans has pointed out, the followers of the Romantic revival fell into a strange mistake when they thought of the Middle Ages as a time of unrestrained naturalism as compared with the form and symmetry of classical art. On the contrary, there never was a time when the passion for order had so strong a hold upon the human mind. But it was not a mechanical order that the builders and doctors of the Middle Ages sought; rather it was a pattern inherent in the universe among created beings. Thinking of some of the greatest modern French pictures, one is tempted to think that the search for this pattern is a constant characteristic of French art. Perhaps it is really a characteristic of all great art. At any rate, it is peculiarly visible in the mediaeval French cathedrals which were the outcome of the meeting between South and North. The architecture which we call Gothic was known in the Middle Ages as "le style français" (Gothic was a term of opprobrium invented during the Renaissance), and had its birth place in the Isle de France, Picardy, and Champagne. It is a whole system of philosophy and view of life expressed in stone. That view of life is as symmetrical and as ordered as any that was ever held. But the symmetrical forms are as varied and individual as human nature and, though governed by numbers, they are charged with an infinite significance.

The attitude about life and the mental and spiritual qualities which found their most perfect expression in the architecture of mediaeval France, also informed her theology, her philosophy, and her system of education. In the University of Paris students pursued studies ordered in a strict and perfect system, and through them aimed at attaining the utmost heights and depths of possible human knowledge. All this is well set forth in Miss Evans' book, and she describes the life of ordinary people of all classes with much pleasant detail. Till the Black Death and the English Wars, mediaeval France was fairly prosperous, and from the chaos into which she was thrown in the fourteenth century she arose with the help of the genius for reconstruction which is so characteristic of her people in every age.

¹ *Life in Mediaeval France.* By Joan Evans, B.Litt., sometime Librarian of St. Hugh's College, Oxford. (Oxford University Press, 15s. net.)

THE SUMMER SCHOOL OF THE N.U.S.E.C.

A brief impression of the Summer School at Oxford from one who was present at it for three days may be interesting to women magistrates and especially to those who were not fortunate enough to be there. The lectures for magistrates were all given in the first week, and it was therefore natural that women magistrates should have been at the fore at the inaugural meeting. The addresses on this first evening were given by two women Justices—Miss Rathbone and Miss Margery Fry. The latter gave expression to what many were already feeling—that a School for magistrates ought properly to be for men as well as for women, but that until such a school could be organized by men and women we were deeply grateful to the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship for stepping into the breach and arranging such an excellent School. Miss Fry also spoke of the interest in their fellow humans and their observation of them which was natural in women, and how frequently this quality was called into play when dealing with a fellow creature in the dock before the Bench.

It was remarkable to see so many women justices, drawn from all parts of the country, eager to exchange experiences and to learn all they could from the lecturers. Many of those present had been on the first list in 1920; others had only served a few months. Some again were accustomed to the Bench of a great city, with its own special problems; others to a remote rural Bench, meeting perhaps only once in a fortnight or a month. This divergence made it difficult for all to find in the fixed programme of lectures exactly all they wanted; some of the subjects seemed remote from the ordinary day to day activities of the County Bench. But this difficulty was largely overcome by the meetings for magistrates held in the afternoons, when problems brought forward at the moment could be informally discussed. The desire of magistrates to learn was also shown by the number of inquiries made as to the Magistrates' Association, and no doubt many of those present will become members.

If a criticism of the first three days may be permitted, it is that the lectures followed too closely upon one another, and the time for discussion was too short. The result was that the discussions had to be held later in the day, and the programme became rather full. Perhaps, however, those who organized the School could hardly have foreseen such a desire on the part of the students to question the lecturers and to exchange their own ideas with other people's. This desire was obvious even when the subject was one of somewhat specialized interest. Perhaps under this category would come the Solicitation Laws and the methods adopted in New York of dealing with the social evil. It is only magistrates in large cities who have many cases of solicitation before them, and happily the New York methods do not immediately concern us. But it is right that we should be warned against any attempt on the part of our authorities to imitate that procedure in any way. Many magistrates must have felt too that the mental examination of criminals was not yet a practical proposition for them. They know too well the difficulties in many places of securing the services of an expert psychologist even if they could persuade their fellow magistrates of the need for such an examination. At the same time, the School was intensely interested in the long morning and part of an afternoon which was given to the Classification and Psychology of Criminals.

Other lecturers dealt with more familiar subjects. The law relating to Separation and Maintenance Orders has recently been improved, largely through the efforts of the N.U.S.E.C., and magistrates will appreciate this as they find it not quite so difficult to administer in the future as it has been in the past. Probation is a subject always to the fore where magistrates are gathered together, and it has now a special interest in view of the Criminal Justice Bill, on which a lecture was given. Again, every magistrate must be familiar with the difficulties of the poor defendant or poor litigant unable to pay for legal aid. The lecture on this subject gave rise to a prolonged discussion. Some recommendations on the subject were afterwards drawn up, and will be placed in due course before the Departmental Committee at present inquiring on the subject.

In conclusion, the Summer School offered, amid the delightful surroundings of an enlarged and beautified St. Hilda's, unique opportunities for renewing old suffrage friendships as well as for forming new ones among the stalwarts of to-day.

C. D. RACKHAM.

FRENCH VIEWS ON WAR ORIGIN AND GERMAN GUILT.

Women's International League, 55 Gower Street, W.C. 1.

The "Appeal to Conscience" published in the French Press at the end of July over the signatures of distinguished French generals, economists, scientists, and writers, including MM. Henri Fabre, François Delaisis, and Charles Gide, is one of many evidences of the change in French opinion in the last two years. The publicity which the appeal obtained is as surprising as some of the signatures, when it is realized that its object is the revision of Articles 227, 230, and 231 of the Treaty of Versailles, which deal with war guilt and sanctions. The signatories hold that the question as to who was responsible for the war can only be settled when the archives of all the nations are thrown open and the case is brought before the World Court at the Hague. "Article 231 (war guilt)," the appeal states, "was only extorted from Germany by violence, and the threat of recontaining the war until the ruin was complete. Can we justify this proceeding, after declaring that we fought for right against might? The time for summary justice without the right of appeal is past. It is as bad to condemn a people to dishonour as to condemn an individual to death without hearing all the parties concerned." There is no security for the future unless material disarmament is preceded by the moral disarmament which alone makes it possible. The article on war guilt ought to be modified, and those on sanctions should be repealed. This would not affect the payment of reparations, the necessity for which has always been recognized by Germany. "We have come to the cross roads, and a choice must be made. On the one side are all the evils of war, perpetuated by the spirit of revenge, on the other reconciliation and productive work." In conclusion all those who love justice and truth, all those who desire a peaceful future for their children, are urged to support this appeal.

THE TRACK OF WAR.

From a new quarter of the globe reports reach us of the need for the immediate relief of refugees driven from their homes by warlike operations, and of persons deprived of their normal occupations by the same cause. This time it is Tangier, situated in the north-western corner of Morocco, among the warring factions of French, Spanish, and Rifian forces, which is occupying the attention of the League of Nations Union and the Friends' Council for International Service. They want £1,000 to spend between now and Christmas, and they appear to want it quickly. If hostilities continue they will, of course, want more. We are well aware that for one section of the community to engage in the business of relief while another section continues actively to engage in the business of destruction is an arrangement reminiscent of the task attempted by Penelope in the absence of Ulysses. But there it is—the last decade has accustomed us to this particular combination of human activity, and we hasten to commend the efforts of the above-mentioned organizations to the attention of our readers.

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SUMMER SCHOOL.

The Summer School is over, but already plans have been made for a series of week-end Summer Schools next year. An account of its last week is given in another column. We would like here most warmly to thank all the lecturers, some of whom were old friends and some new, for having so generously given us their time, in many cases snatching days out of their hard earned holidays. Many of the students who were not previously members have joined either their local Societies, or Headquarters, or have promised to become local correspondents. We should welcome suggestions, before memories grow too dim, of ways in which, on another occasion, a school might be improved.

PRESS AND PHOTOGRAPHS.

We have been asked to state that the *Oxford Times* has offered to replace those copies of their *Country* edition sold by mistake for their *Town* edition of August 28th, containing a report of the first week of the School. Further reports have appeared in their subsequent numbers and can be obtained from Headquarters. Photographs of the School during both the first week and second week can be obtained from Headquarters, price 3s. 6d. Post cards 6d. each.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Re THE EXTENSION OF THE ELIZABETH GARRETT ANDERSON HOSPITAL.

MADAM.—The Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital was founded in 1866 in order that working women who wished to consult a member of their own sex might obtain medical treatment.

The numbers attending the Hospital increased yearly, and in 1890 the present building was erected and contained forty-two beds. Since that time the hospital has been gradually extended until at the present time seventy-five beds are available, and still the list of waiting patients grows. In 1913 this difficulty was to a great extent overcome by the opening of the "Rosa Morrison" Home of Recovery at Barnet, which provided eighteen more beds for patients who were sufficiently convalescent to be transferred there. The average length of time the patients were in hospital was shortened, and consequently a considerably larger number could be admitted during the year.

Since 1913 the number of new Out-patients has increased from 7,598 to 10,447 in 1924, and the number of those waiting for admission to the wards has risen to 300. A freehold site has been acquired, partly by the generosity of friends and partly by purchase, but a large sum of money, £75,000 is necessary to carry out the extension and improvements required. These include, in addition to the provision of beds, three operating theatres with sterilization plant, enlargement of the Pathological and X-ray departments and the Nurses' Home.

It is the duty of the Board of Management of any hospital to provide efficient treatment under modern conditions for the patients in that hospital. It is of especial importance for the cause of women in Medicine that the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital should make the most efficient provision possible for its patients.

Money in sums large or small is greatly needed. A scheme whereby any friend of the Hospital or of women's work can by personal service help to obtain the sum necessary for extension is described in the advertisement columns. In order to make the scheme a success a very large number of individuals must co-operate in carrying it through, and readers of your journal could very materially assist by taking part. Offers to participate, stating the number of workers who can be enlisted, will be most gratefully received at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital.

LOUISA ALDRICH-BLAKE.

The Woman Engineer

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Full Report of Wembley Conference on Women in Science, Industry and Commerce

This issue contains Speeches by I.R.H. the Duchess of York, the Viscountess Astor, M.P., the Viscountess Rhondda, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, Miss Margaret Bondfield, Dame Millicent Fawcett, Miss V. Hazlitt, M.A., and other prominent women in these fields of activities.

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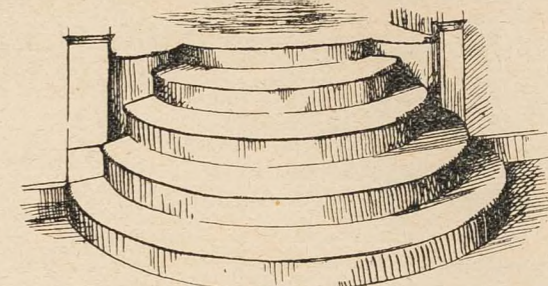
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Application for forms, stating the number of workers you can enlist, should be forwarded to the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, Euston Road, N.W. 1, marked "Five Steps" Scheme.

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