

THE
WOMAN'S LEADER

IN POLITICS IN INDUSTRY IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
IN THE HOME IN LITERATURE AND ART IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND

THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS

Equal Franchise.

Last week in the House the Equal Franchise Bill introduced under the ten minutes' rule by Lord Robert Cecil, won a sweeping victory. The House divided on the motion that leave be given to introduce the Bill, which was carried by 208 votes to 60. The Bill was then read a first time; the backers are Major Hills, Sir Donald Maclean, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Mrs. Wintringham, Lady Astor, Mr. Aneurin Williams, and Lord Robert Cecil. All the members of the Government abstained from voting and all the Independent Liberals and Labour members present voted for the Bill. Colonel Archer-Shee did his best to oppose the Bill, but the logic of Lord Robert Cecil's argument was too strong for him, and he had to fall back on the old, time-worn arguments which, as Lord Robert said, had been relegated to homes of progress represented by the City of London and the Scottish Universities! We have by no means yet won the battle, but the result of this first encounter is distinctly encouraging. Every M.P. ought now to press the Government for time to go on with this Bill.

Women and the Russian Famine.

Last week a deputation representing eighteen women's organizations left a petition at Downing Street calling on the Government to give national aid to the Russian famine area. Miss Eleanor Rathbone, of the N.U.S.E.C., Mrs. G. H. White, Federation of Women Civil Servants, Miss Evelyn Sharp, just returned from Russia, and Miss Catherine E. Marshall, Women's International League, were members of the deputation. Many vain attempts have been made to see Mr. Lloyd George personally, and finally a letter was sent to Sir Robert Horne. "Women feel deeply," the letter said, "that our national honour is involved in not refusing to respond to the appeals of Dr. Nansen and the relief workers who are toiling so nobly with such terribly inadequate equipment to meet the demands made upon them." The women's organizations have been receiving messages of support from Labour organizations all over the country, and especially in the North, urging them to make this question the chief election-issue and offering money and work for the purpose.

A Disgrace to England.

In spite of the country's obvious desire to come to the aid of Russia, the Government has refused to find the comparatively

small sum which is needed to save millions of men, women, and children from dying of starvation. It is monstrous that in spite of all the public pressure, the deputations from women's organizations, the letters to members, the hundred and one signs the House has received that the people of the country passionately wish to help Russia, the Government should have the power to brand this nation with a mark which, through all the ages, cannot be washed out. We have been, till now, the leader of the world in national acts of charity. We are so no longer, and we have failed Europe in the hour of her greatest trial. There is no comfort to be gained from the fact that Mr. Chamberlain in his announcement was shamefaced. The Government is afraid of its wealthy tax-shirkers and its excuses for this act are only what were to be expected. The "trustees of the nation's honour" have placed us in a position of unbearable humiliation.

Unemployed Women.

A conference of unemployed women was held in London last week, and the four hundred women present included representatives from the Lancashire weavers, the Cradley Heath chain workers, the Nottingham lace workers, the Staffordshire pottery workers, Women clerks and secretaries, Civil Service women, etc. Resolutions were passed deploring the Government's failure to provide work or training for unemployed women, and calling upon the Government to "cease the wasteful policy of substituting for the competent labour of experienced women the untrained labour of ex-Service men". During the afternoon a deputation waited on Dr. Macnamara, and the women, untrained in public speaking and inexperienced in stating their case, had such pitiful tales to tell that they could not fail to make an impression. Dr. Macnamara's answer was unsatisfactory, for his promise of "sympathetic consideration" will come to nothing. He spoke of gratitude to women for what they did during the war, but felt they should stand down now and give the ex-Service man a chance. He promised to bring all the points raised to the attention of the Prime Minister, but said there was no hope of an increase being made in the unemployment benefit paid to women. The conference was bitterly disappointed at Dr. Macnamara's reply. For three years they have been putting this matter before the Government, and time after time they have received similar answers. They are now resolved to

go back to their branches and get them to bring the matter before Members of Parliament. They will not rest now until they obtain satisfaction—or the Government falls.

State Regulation in France.

Dr. Faivre made a statement recently before the Société d'Hygiène Publique on the steps to be taken to combat venereal disease. It is proposed to increase the number of dispensaries under the direction of specialists, of which there are now about 172. The education of the public is to be undertaken by means of tracts and meetings. But, in order to diminish the risk which young men run, Dr. Faivre said that prostitution must be "most severely regulated, and inspection must be thoroughly organized by an adequate staff of well-paid competent doctors". Prophylactic packets were also recommended. We hope French women will organize and protest most vigorously against State regulation and inspection. They will have all the moral force of British women behind them in their fight against this degradingly unequal treatment.

"P.R."

In the House last week Mr. Chamberlain stated that the Government have not discussed the subject of proportional representation or alternative vote, and that Sir Alfred Mond has not been asked to investigate the subject, nor did the Government recognize the necessity for some electoral reform. This is a Unionist victory, which, in view of our raised hopes, is extremely disappointing. Mr. Chamberlain's statement allayed the anxiety of his adherents, but correspondingly depressed the supporters of Proportional Representation.

Inadequate Nursing Staffs.

Readers who were interested in our account of the understaffing at Norwich Workhouse Infirmary will be indignant at the turn things have taken. Dr. Barclay, the Medical Officer in charge of the man who died shortly after an operation, expressed the opinion at the inquest that the cause of death was not shock, but probably loss of cardiac control. He considered the patient should not have been left for an hour and a half after the operation, but said that this attendance was impossible owing to the inadequate number of nurses, with which opinion the Coroner agreed. The House Committee have now drawn up, and presented to the Board of Guardians, a report on the matter. They express themselves satisfied that the nursing staff is sufficient. (There were one sister and two probationers to 124 patients.) They censured the sister for leaving the patient within an hour of the operation, and recommended the Board to suspend Dr. Barclay immediately for the unexpired term of his service, and to rescind the resolution of 21st December, 1921, allowing him six weeks' leave with full pay, and a grant of £50 towards removal expenses. Dr. Barclay has resigned his appointment, at the request of the Board. The Committee in their report expressed the opinion that his statements as to the shortage of nurses were prompted by a desire to discredit the Guardians' administration of the infirmary before leaving their service. We hope that questions will be asked in the House which will force the Minister of Health to hold an inquiry into the administration of the Norwich Infirmary, so that other Guardians may, if necessary, profit by this example.

The Reception of the Swedish Women M.P.'s.

The first five women members of the Swedish Riksdag have now taken their seats, one in the Upper House, four in the Second Chamber. Very little notice was taken in the President's address or in the speech from the Throne. The King began his speech with "Swedish men and women, chosen representatives of the Swedish nation", instead of the old-fashioned and more euphonious "Good gentlemen and Swedish men". With reference to the women, he merely said that Swedish women had shared in the elections in full and equal citizenship, side by side with Swedish men, and that all must therefore regard themselves as representing more than ever before the whole nation. In the First Chamber the President, Count Hugo Hamilton, greeted the women's representative as follows: "This Riksdag is remarkable in that a woman takes her place among us for the first time. I bid her welcome, and hope that her work may be satisfactory to her and advantageous to us. I hope she will not take it amiss if, at least as long as she remains the only member of her sex, I use the old form of address, 'Gentlemen'". The whole assembly burst into laughter. It was hardly chivalrous to greet the first elected woman representative with a witticism which called forth roars of laughter. His famous grandfather Erik

Gustav Geyer would have greeted women's entrance into political life with words which would have evoked reflection rather than mirth. The President of the Second Chamber, the Social Democrat Victor Larson, began with: "Ladies and Gentlemen" and was rather warmer in his greeting, but he, no more than the others, had anything special to say to women. It is still the case that men in general do not in the least understand that women's points of view and women's interests may be of advantage to public life. They think that they have managed the world exceedingly well and would prefer to continue to do so without women's intervention. No one supposes that five women can work miracles among four hundred men, but Swedish women believe that they can do much good. The future will show.

The Cambridgeshire County Council Elections.

In Cambridgeshire the results of the County Council elections were disappointing. Mrs. Dimsdale, who has done most valuable work in the county, especially on behalf of the Tuberculosis Colony at Papworth, and who has taken an energetic and practical part in promoting rural housing, was unfortunately defeated for the Histon division, though not by a very large majority. The Cambridge and District Women's Citizens' Association supported a new candidate, Mrs. Eaden, who stood for the Great Shelford division in the place vacated by the death of her husband. She, too, was unfortunately not successful. Mrs. Assheton, who, like Mrs. Dimsdale, has already been a member of the Council, was re-elected for the Grantchester division. Mrs. Mellish Clark and Mrs. Anderson Scott, who represent borough divisions on the Council, were returned without a contest. Miss Constance Cochrane, who has been a courageous exponent of the grievances of the rural population, retains her seat for Gamlingay. But no new woman councillor has been elected, and one of the best members has, at least temporarily, been lost.

The International Council of Women.

The International Council of Women is holding its meeting at The Hague in May. The British representatives will be Lady Cowan, Mrs. Kitson Clark, Lady Salvessen, Mrs. Oliver Strachey, Mrs. Edwin Gray, Mrs. Allan H. Bright, the Hon. Mrs. Franklin, and Miss Cecil Matheson.

Girton College.

In accordance with the wish of the late Miss Emily Davies, LL.D., Miss Margaret Llewelyn Davies has given a sum of £1,000 to found an entrance scholarship tenable at Girton College. It will be called the Emily Davies Scholarship, and will be tenable for three years. The first award will be made on the results of the examinations to be held at the College this month.

Belgian Women Lawyers.

The Belgian Senate last week passed the Bill allowing women possessing a doctor's diploma in law to practise as lawyers, but the authority of the husband is still necessary.

Ourselves.

The sympathetic interest taken in this paper by its readers is one of those encouraging things which makes a hard task light. We acknowledge this week five more very welcome gifts, and also the very helpful friendly criticisms which emerged at the discussion at the N.U.S.E.C. Council meeting. The directors are now considering an important development suggested at that meeting, and hope to be in a position to make an interesting announcement before long.

TENTH LIST.		£	s.	d.
Previously acknowledged		572	11	2
Anon		1	0	0
Barnsley S.E.C.		1	1	0
Mrs. Marshall (Cheltenham)		1	1	0
Miss Beaumont			10	0
Mrs. Hart		1	0	0
		£577	3	2

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

A SINGLE ESTABLISHMENT LIST.

Last week Mr. Hilton Young, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, announced in the House, and amplified in a letter to Major Hills and Lord Robert Cecil, that the Government were at long last prepared to accept responsibility for the resolution they adopted on August 5th, 1921, and to move towards carrying out the principles for the conduct of the Civil Service then laid down by the House. Mr. Hilton Young did not put the matter in these terms. "The Government," he said, "has decided to give immediate consideration to the question of instituting common seniority lists for men and women, and it is proposed to move for the appointment of a committee or committees, on which the various grades would be duly represented, to examine and report on the detailed application of their general principle." We will not quarrel over phraseology; the important thing is that the principle is conceded, and that the carrying out is to begin at once.

The conceding of a principle, however, is not the end of the struggle, as everyone who has ever had any dealings with any Government will realize. The best principles in the world can be so carried out as to be entirely stultified, and we must be unendingly watchful in this important and difficult and complex business. Above all we must secure three things; first, that the committees are charged only with the methods of carrying out the policy, and not with recommending whether the policy shall be adopted; second, that they contain a strong outside element not prejudiced by the vested interests of the present male staff; and third, that the re-grading arrangements now in draft be held up and not sanctioned until these common seniority list proposals can be compared with them. Everyone knows that the present plans grade all the women down in the most astonishing manner. If that is put through first, and then the women and men are listed together, serious injustice will be done. Women with long service will find themselves junior to men who are doing the work they have been supervising for ten years past, and it will take a generation to move out of the inferiority in which the women are put. These things the Treasury, if it is fair-minded, will concede to us. And then the fun, so to speak, will begin!

The Civil Service is in some ways the finest and in other ways the most odious of the great professions. At the present moment it is riddled with more complexities and confusions than ever before in its history. During the war it went through a mushroom-like expansion, both of functions and of personnel; since 1918 it has been the sport or victim of many experiments. It has had first to swallow and then to disgorge the complicated legislation passed and cancelled by this Government, and has had to bow to attacks upon itself from all quarters and to make great efforts to absorb ex-service men (in which direction it has achieved marvels at a heavy cost). It has had to weed out its thousands of temporary staff, male and female, and pare and prune off its war excrescences. It has had to face the persistent pressure of women demanding their equal chance, and to cope with the steady resistance within itself to any sort of change. And, more far-reaching perhaps than any of them, it has had to adapt itself to the amazing growth of the Trade Union spirit among its personnel. This development has led to the establishment not only of the National Whitley Council for the whole Civil Service, but to innumerable departmental and sub-departmental Whitleys as well, not to mention special committees like the Assimilation Committee, the Reorganization Committee, and so forth. And with this machinery, whose cross-currents and ramifications are bewildering in the extreme—the whole service is being remodelled and recast upon a "new and improved" system.

The muddle and the pull of interests resulting from all this is almost inconceivable. It is no wonder that the Treasury hates the thought of setting up a new set of "committee or committees" to deal with the problem of the single establishment list!

However, we need not waste our pity upon the Civil Service. Like all the rest of us, they have got to do their job, even when it is distasteful, complicated, and intricate. And their job is to carry out in and through the public service the policy decisions of His Majesty's Government. On August 5th last the decision to put women upon an exactly equal footing within the Civil Service was taken (for the fourth time). It is time the thing was done.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

The political crisis changes from day to day, and even from hour to hour. Somehow, however, it seems to change in a circle, and we find ourselves this week just where we were last week, namely, with the opinion that the Prime Minister is not going to resign at the end of his Welsh holiday. The reasons influencing this opinion to-day are four in number, and the greatest of them is that he is obviously very anxious to carry through the Genoa Conference, which is to be on April 10th. The second is the report that he would not carry all the Coalition-Liberal ministers with him, notably not Mr. Winston Churchill. The third is the plain fact that there is no organization behind him, since the Coalition-Liberals in the country are rejoining the Independent Liberal camp in shoals; and the fourth, most important or least important, according to one's view of Lloyd George's character, is that the psychological moment has passed.

The event of the week, of course, has been the resignation of Mr. Montagu, and his subsequent attack upon the Government as a whole and Lord Curzon in particular. In the House of Commons he is as unpopular as a man can well be, and resentment has centred round the curious little point that his explanation was offered to his constituents and not to the House of Commons. It is probably true that his resignation, or rather dismissal, is not due to the publication of the famous telegram. His head has long been asked for by the Die Hards, and his place is wanted for a Conservative. Moreover, the Government, it is rumoured, wants to show the firm hand somewhere, if only to prove that what is granted to Ireland will not necessarily be conceded everywhere. Egypt, for which the firm hand was intended, has somehow slipped out of its clutch, owing to the forcible gentleness of General Allenby, and India remains to be made an example. It may be a terrible one.

The reaction of all this upon the home crisis seems likely to be a reshuffle and a new front page to the Government prospectus. Lord Derby is mentioned for office, but it is the Foreign Office he wants; and nothing would be surprising in the way of a readjustment, especially as there will be the position of Viceroy to fill before many days have passed.

The Parliamentary week has been marked by the final passage of the Irish Free State Bill. In its last stages Mr. Boyd Carpenter made an eloquent, if futile, attack upon it, and its last majority was 295 to 52, a figure which very truly reflects the state of opinion both in the House and in the country. Mr. Churchill comes out of these debates with an enhanced reputation, and this is satisfactory both for him and for the House. To those who had to sit through the miserable, dreary days of the 1920 Bill, when any trumpery explanation offered by any third-rate hanger-on was considered good enough fare for the House by the Government, the spectacle of a star shining in all its brilliancy for their benefit is comforting. The dignity of the House, of Ireland, and of the Bill is enhanced, and the Government did well in this instance not to lie back upon the secure majority this measure commands.

Of other events this week, Lord Robert Cecil's Franchise Bill is easily the most interesting to the readers of this paper. Its large majority is no guarantee that the Bill will go further; but in the present uncertainties it always might. No effort should be spared to urge the Government to grant time for its further stages. Discussions on the Middle East and on the Anglo-Persian Oil Company occupied the other days, and the question of famine relief has been very urgently pressed. It is to be debated in the House on the day this paper appears. The women police question, upon which numerous questions have so far extracted only unsatisfactory answers, is under discussion as we go to press. Two new women candidates have been adopted, Miss Helen Fraser (Coalition Liberal) for Govan, and Lady Lawson (Independent Liberal) for Bedford. The Labour Party and the Conservatives are somewhat behindhand in this matter at the moment.

[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.]

CONTINUATION SCHOOLS.

Whatever the fate may be of continuation schools in this country in the near future, we must not stop working for ideals worth aiming at. Foremost among these is the adequate mental and moral equipment of the masses. Coming from a country (Switzerland) where continuation schools in the bigger towns have long been obligatory, and have done much good in raising the general ability of the working man, I thought I might be useful in adding some particulars about them to the article which appeared recently in this paper.

There are three kinds of Swiss continuation schools: (1) The evening classes with free choice of subjects; (2) the craft or trade schools, obligatory throughout the country; (3) the commercial continuation school which was originally a private enterprise of the commercial societies, but which now receives grants from the State as well as from the towns. Where the commercial continuation schools do not exist the commercial apprentices are bound to attend the craft schools.

The most important of the three are the obligatory craft or trade schools, with which in every big town a school of arts and crafts is connected. Apprentices are all boys and girls between the end of the fourteenth year (when they can leave school) and the eighteenth. The duration of the apprenticeship is from two to three years, generally three, during which the apprentice is obliged to attend lessons of 50 minutes each from four to seven times a week, and each employer is obliged to let the apprentice go to at least four classes in working hours. Instruction is free, but the materials used have to be paid for; there are, however, grants for poor pupils. The subjects to be studied are arranged and prescribed for each trade, and the pupil has no freedom of choice. The syllabus for the craft schools contains schemes for all imaginable trades, those showing the highest numbers of attendance are: Boys: bakers, confectioners, cooks, druggists, dyers, dentist's assistants, electricians, furriers, joiners, machinists, metal-workers, mechanics, plumbers, shoemakers, tailors, waiters. Girls: dressmakers, embroiderers, hair-dressers, laundry workers, milliners, tailoresses, shop assistants, upholstresses. Odd cases are specially dealt with, and there is a special section for the lower grade post, telegraph, and telephone employees.

The following are some examples of schemes now working. The whole duration of the apprenticeship is divided into four or six half-years. A cook in his or her first half-year has (1) one and a half-hour's general instruction in the subject; hygiene, buying of food, its composition, nutritive value, digestibility and preservation, theory of cooking; (2) one hour's arithmetic; (3) two hours' French; (4) one hour's second language. A woman hairdresser in her third half-year has: (1) two and a half hour's hair work, i.e. instruction in all modern apparatus for the care of the hair, theatre postiches; (2) two hours' hygiene. A baker, in his fourth half-year, has: (1) one hour's general instruction in his subject, the making and handling of paste by hand and by machine, the different ovens, the baking process, the influence of steam, the making of all kinds of bread and pastry; (2) one half-hour's book-keeping; (3) one hour's civic instruction. An upholstress in her fourth half-year has (1) three hours' subject drawing, sketching of curtains and decorations, the use and draping of all kinds of material; (2) two hours' book-keeping.

The commercial continuation schools demand a yearly fee of about £3, besides the payment for materials used in the classes. They only admit commercial apprentices (shop-assistants) and employees. Their schemes are less varied, and last three years. Here is a pupil's time-table for the third half-year: One lesson (fifty minutes) free composition in the mother-tongue, one lesson second language, one lesson third arithmetic course, one lesson book-keeping. In the fifth half-year of the same scheme arithmetic is replaced by commercial law, and free composition by commercial correspondence.

The evening classes, or free continuation schools, admit any pupil after the age of 15, but are meant for and mostly attended by adults over 18. Younger pupils may not take more than a certain amount of subjects, in order to ensure their not being overworked. The courses comprise arithmetic, algebra, book-keeping, chemistry, civic instruction, drill, gymnastics, drawing and art classes, economics, geography, history, house-wifery, languages, physics, and shorthand. With these free continuation schools there is a chance of having a keen and progressive nation, and following as they do immediately after the elementary schools they facilitate the difficult step from childhood into manhood and womanhood. ANNE BAUR-CORRADI.

EQUAL CITIZENSHIP IN THEORY AND PRACTICE.

The Annual Council meetings of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship took place this year at a time when things which specially concern women were actually happening in Parliament. This led to an unusual stir and activity which made the Council much more interesting than last year, when the doors of the House of Commons were closed to visitors. During the first two days a great deal of work was rapidly accomplished without much debate. Five women who have given valuable service to the National Union were added to the list of vice-presidents: Miss Margaret Ashton, Mrs. Auerbach, Miss I. O. Ford, Miss Maude Royden, and Mrs. Wintringham, M.P.; and Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., and Major Hills were added to the Executive Committee. Resolutions were carried on Equal Franchise, the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, Women in the House of Lords, the Reduction of Armaments, Women Police, the Russian famine, the Equal Guardianship of Children, Equal Pay and Opportunities, Training of Unemployed Women, Employment of Married Women, Women Medical Students, and other matters connected with legislation promoted by the N.U.S.E.C. The speaking was of a high order, and an unknown visitor was overheard comparing the speaking of the conference with that at the House of Commons, greatly to the disparagement of the Mother of Parliaments!

On the third day, the atmosphere changed perceptibly. The debate on Family Endowment was listened to with intense interest, and it was clear that the division of opinion would be a narrow one. Mrs. Stocks gave a really brilliant exposition of the tactical case for some form of family allowances, and Miss Reynard spoke ably on the other side. The net result, however, of a really exciting debate was that the attitude of the Union towards this controversial question remained unchanged. That is to say, the Council reaffirmed by a large majority the resolution passed last year calling upon the Government to appoint a Royal Commission to investigate the provision for maternity and childhood and recommending the Executive Committee and Societies to continue to investigate and study the subject. The Council, however, rejected by a majority of eight votes a resolution to the effect that it would welcome experiments in family allowances applied to those sections of the community ripest for such experiments.

PAST AND PRESENT COUNCILS.

It is impossible for those who attended pre-war Councils regularly not to make comparisons between the past and present. Pre-war Councils were far larger in numbers and displayed the determination and enthusiasm engendered by injustice. They were, moreover, marked by a unity and a concentration of aim upon a single object, though differences of opinion as to method were often acute; some of us even in the midst of our enthusiasm were in those past days overcome by a sense of unreality; we stood like a besieging army outside a city which showed no signs of surrender. Great affairs were transacted within the city, but we had no direct influence on them. Now our Councils are councils of enfranchised citizens actually affected by our deliberations and activities a variety of issues of great and immediate practical importance, not merely to our own status and well-being, but to the well-being of the whole community. Thus, while the Council was in session, decisions were being arrived at as to the attitude of the Government towards the unspeakable tragedy of Russia, or to come nearer home, the future of the movement for women police, with its far-reaching reactions upon an equal moral standard for men and women.

Resolutions were passed at the Council, but that was not all. Delegates now are not only voters, but they represent large numbers of women voters from constituencies all over Great Britain, and as such claimed and exercised their right to put their views before their representatives in the House. Both evenings saw groups of delegates interviewing their members in the lobby of the House, and on Thursday evening a committee-room at the House was crowded by delegates at an informal conference suggested by Lady Astor to meet members of Parliament. It was, indeed, a fortunate coincidence that Lord Robert Cecil introduced the Women's Franchise Bill, drafted by the N.U.S.E.C. during the Council, and when the Parliamentary Secretary returned from the House on Wednesday afternoon hot from the debate with the good news of a large majority in favour of the Bill, the Council immediately sent a telegram of congratulation to Lord Robert.

SOME NOVELS.

The Life and Death of Harriett Freen. By May Sinclair. Collins. 6s.

The Haunting. By C. A. Dawson Scott. Heinemann. 7s. 6d.

A Soul's Comedy. By George Stevenson. Lane. 7s. 6d.

Search. By Margaret Larmine Rivers. Chatto and Windus. 7s. 6d.

The Kingdom round the Corner. By Coningsby Dawson. Lane. 7s. 6d.

Greensea Island. By Victor Bridges. Mills & Boon. 7s. 6d.

The most important novel that has appeared recently is May Sinclair's *The Life and Death of Harriett Freen*. It is a brilliantly compressed study of a life full of repressions, and reminds one of Browning's terrible lines:—

"Some with lives that came to nothing, some with deeds as well undone;
Death stepped tacitly and took them where they never see the sun."

Each one of the carefully selected incidents in Harriett's life is true to nature, those of us who have lived to middle age could parallel most of them from our own experience, each of them is brilliantly presented; the whole picture is vivid, concentrated, luminously clear, a *tour de force*, if not a masterpiece; and yet Harriett does not live and the book leaves us with a protest in our minds if not on our lips. Life is not really like this, it does not look like this to most of us; it may to a psycho-analyst, but only to one who is suffering from severe repressions. One can enjoy and be amused by this extraordinarily clever book, but it does not carry conviction.

There are three or four other psychological or would-be psychological novels before us, none of which are entirely convincing, enthrallingly interesting, or profoundly stimulating in their conclusions about life. *The Haunting* is a dreary and sordid tale of family jealousy and morbid obsessions in a Cornish environment. *A Soul's Comedy* is a story about an English parson who verted to Rome; all one can say about it is that it is not so good either in literature or propaganda as the works of the late Mr. Robert Hugh Benson. *Search* is a tangled tale of marriage, love, and the reverse; it is difficult to tell whether the

What became of Mr. Desmond. By C. Nina Boyle. Allen & Unwin. 7s. 6d.

The Secret Adversary. By Agatha Christie. Lane. 7s. 6d.

The Council of Seven. By J. C. Snaith. Collins. 7s. 6d.

The Lunatic at Large Again. By J. Storer Clouston. Nash. 7s. 6d.

The Moon Rock. By Arthur J. Rees. Lane. 8s. 6d.

Martin Pippin in the Apple Orchard. By Eleanor Farjeon. Collins. 7s. 6d.

extraordinarily involved manner in which it is related is the result of an effort after originality, of an imitation of Mr. Conrad, or merely of want of skill. In any case, it is not to be commended, and if, as we conjecture, the author is young, we hope she will correct herself in her next book. *The Kingdom Round the Corner* is a story of sex-relations after the war. It is unpleasantly unreal.

It is a relief to turn to stories which do not set out to analyse or instruct, but merely to thrill or amuse. Some of those before us are, however, a little disappointing in the light of what their authors have given us before. *What became of Mr. Desmond* is not nearly so good as *Out of the Frying Pan*, and *Green Sea Island* is a mere caricature of *The Man from Nowhere* and *Mr. Lyndon at Liberty*. *The Secret Adversary* is an absurd but extremely readable story of Bolshevik murderers Government officials, police, and young adventurers pursuing each other through modern London. *The Council of Seven* deals with the future, the nefarious world-power of the capitalist Press, and the equally nefarious assassins who circumvent it. Here, also, some clever, virtuous, good-looking young lovers are involved in the toils, and everybody chases everybody else round and round. But the wildest and most exhilarating racing and chasing is given us by Mr. Storer Clouston's delightful lunatic, who has luckily managed to escape again. This is the best piece of pure fooling, and *The Moon Rock* is the best serious detective story amongst those that have reached us.

In conclusion attention must be drawn to a perfectly delightful book of grown-up fairy tales, *Martin Pippin in the Apple Orchard*, by Eleanor Farjeon.

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS.

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ACT.

MADAM,—My attention has been called to a paragraph in your issue of January 27th, 1922, which states that I proposed an amendment to the above Bill to wreck it. My amendment was some days upon the paper, and I must assume it was duly considered by the promoters of the Bill. They must have instructed Dr. Farquharson, M.P., who moved the Bill how to act. For he at once accepted my amendment and confirmed my statements as to the legal need of adding its provisions to our criminal code. The Bill then became an agreed upon Bill, including my amendment. It was the subsequent action of the House of Lords in deleting my amendment which lost the Bill. I don't wish to say anything harsh, for I am sure you mean to be fair. But if you could tell me who inspired or had an interest to inspire the Lords to wreck the Bill, I would be much interested, and my suspicions might be confirmed. There is another error in your paragraph. The age of consent is now sixteen, not less than that age, as you indicate. May I assure you that there is urgent need for the overhaul of the code in the direction of an equal moral standard for both sexes, and it is a little unfortunate that a conscientious believer therein as I am should be misrepresented in facts. All moral legislation may cause blackmail, but that must be risked.

F. A. MACQUISTEN.

THE AWAKENING OF THE SERB WOMAN.

MADAM,—In your issue of March 3rd, in an article on "The Awakening of the Serb Woman", E. Chivers Davies says: "There is also a great longing among Serbian girls to train as hospital nurses, and there are plenty of the right type of would-be probationers... who are eager to enter a training school staffed by English sisters. No happier war memorial to women of the nursing service could be instituted than the establishment of such a training school in a country where it is infinitely needed." It would appear that the writer of the article is unaware that such a training school has been in existence in Belgrade for a year. Ten Serb girls are in residence in a hostel, under the supervision of an English sister; the course of training is arranged to occupy two years; lectures on nursing, sick-room cookery, etc., are given by a trained British nurse; the medical and surgical lectures are given by Serb doctors; the practical training is given in the wards of the Anglo-Serb Children's Hospital in Vishegradski Ulica, Belgrade, which was instituted by Dr. Katherine Macphail shortly after the armistice, and carried on by her since, in the face of great difficulties. The hospital is staffed by a resident British doctor, trained British nurses, and Serb probationers (some of these latter Vienna trained); the visiting physician and visiting surgeon are Serbs. The hospital is

directly responsible to the Yugo-Slav Government—which is deeply appreciative of Dr. Macphail's work.

The training school for nurses is carried on most enthusiastically, and is supported financially by an American Methodist organization, whose representative was impressed by the possibility of utilizing Dr. Macphail's hospital as a training centre.

For the upkeep of the hospital itself Dr. Macphail has to rely chiefly on voluntary help from those interested in helping the Serbs.

AGNES PICKEN SALMON.

THE BOARD OF CONTROL AND CONTROL OF THE BORDERLAND.

MADAM,—Dr. Helen Boyle, in her reply to my article, "The Board of Control and the Control of the Borderland" boldly asserts that the so-called "voluntary" patients in mental hospitals "can leave the institution if they so desire". May I draw her attention to the following extract from a letter appearing in a recent issue of the British Medical Journal, from the pen of Dr. Octavia Lewin, a letter, by the by, which I did not see until my own article was published. "The atmosphere and traditions of an asylum cannot be wiped out by merely calling the patient a voluntary boarder and the group of buildings a mental hospital. The voluntary boarder would still be held in the meshes of the lunacy administration. Any desire to leave the institution is likely to be met with certification, which often occurs under present conditions. The word 'voluntary' becomes meaningless. The medical superintendent can always take it upon himself to say that the patient is not fit to go out. We do not wish to perpetuate the system which has worked so disastrously with our soldiers."

A leading article in another issue of the same periodical informs us that the class of patients now considered suitable for treatment at such places includes "juvenile and many adult delinquents, alcoholics and drug-takers, nervous and difficult children, the sensitive and the misunderstood, inadequate personalities, cranks, misfits, etc." It seems an alarmingly wide classification; one is reminded of the doctor in Bernard Shaw's play, who confesses that, after considering in his own mind which of his patients would really be better dead, he finally came to the conclusion that they would all be much better dead.

And if, as Dr. Boyle appears to imply, the certified patient is so grateful for being "taken care of" and feels such a sense of protection in the "locked doors" which enclose him amongst a few hundred lunatics with no other society whatever, then why is there supposed to be any special virtue in a voluntary system? It is true that "not all homes are com-

fortable", but, be it ever so humble, I think that most of us would agree that it was pleasanter to live at home than to live in a lunatic asylum. If we are of a different opinion, however, it is easy to describe oneself as "a sensitive or misunderstood" person (say, just after receipt of income tax form No. 9,348,236,750), and make the experiment in person.

THE WRITER OF THE ARTICLE.

THE BIRMINGHAM SETTLEMENT.

MADAM,—We have just now vacancies for two or three residents and our Committee believe that there may be among your readers women who would be glad to hear something of the opportunities for service and training offered by the Birmingham Settlement.

The Settlement was founded over twenty years ago in one of the poorest districts of the city as a centre for resident and non-resident workers. There are rooms for sixteen residents, some of whom are professional women who give their spare time to the Settlement, others students working for the Social Study Diploma of the University of Birmingham, and others, again, voluntary workers, who give their whole time to the needs of the neighbourhood.

To the people of the district the Settlement is a place where they can come for help in their difficulties, and where their children find recreation and occupation when school or work is over. The Settlement has a provident society of about six hundred members, a weekly mothers' meeting attended by nearly two hundred, and clubs, reading hours, and play hours for boys and girls of varying ages. There is a branch office of the Citizens' Society which investigates and records all applications for help, and a committee for the aftercare of children leaving school.

A copy of the annual report with particulars of fees and other details will gladly be sent by the Warden to anyone interested. Inquiries will be welcomed from those who could give three months' service or more, or from intending students.

KATHERINE C. DEWAR,
Warden.

COMMITTEE FOR THE MORAL WELFARE OF CHILDREN IN ISLINGTON AND FINSBURY

A quite remarkable performance of dancing children will be given at the Northampton Institute, St. John Street, E.C.1, on Wednesday, 22nd March, at 7.30. The children performing come from one of the poorest schools in London, and it is quite extraordinary to see what the teacher has been able to get from this material in school hours.

All teachers, club leaders, and those interested in the welfare of children, should make a point of seeing the performance. The funds of

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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Telephone: Museum 6910.

ANNUAL COUNCIL, 1922.

An account of the Council appears elsewhere and urgency resolutions are printed below. A complete list will be circulated to societies at an early date. All the present members of the Executive, including Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., and Miss Verrall, co-opted members, were elected, and Major Hills was elected to fill the regretted vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Ring. Members of our societies will be glad to hear that the immediate programme for the coming year remains the same, though the wording was slightly amended to bring it more into line with actual facts. Not the least interesting feature of the Council was the amount of strenuous parliamentary work carried on during the week. An important deputation of Conservative members of the Council on the Russian famine was organized on Wednesday and at an informal meeting held in the drawing-room at the close of the Council a strong resolution was carried unanimously regretting the decision of the Government.

The reception at Bedford College was attended by many delegates and outside friends. Speeches were given by Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., Lady Rhondda, Miss Margaret Bondfield, and ten women prospective candidates for Parliament. Over 190 guests came to the luncheon, when Mrs. Wintringham, our chief guest, in a delightful speech, thanked the N.U.S.E.C. for its help at Louth. Our other guests were Mr. Arthur Henderson, M.P., Mr. Clarke Hall, J.P., Sir Robert Newman, M.P., and Lady Astor, M.P., without whom no N.U. function would be complete.

Notwithstanding the strenuous events of the week, there was a large attendance at the Officers' Conference on Friday morning.

Equal Franchise.

We feel it a matter of congratulation that the division on the Women's Franchise Bill introduced by Lord Robert Cecil on Wednesday, 8th March, resulted in a 3 to 1 majority in favour of the Bill. In proposing this reform we have frequently been met with the objection that the House of Commons would not accept it. In our further efforts in inducing the Government to adopt the Bill and to pass it through its further stages, we have now

the entertainment are to be devoted to Children's Welfare work. Tickets, at 6d., 1s., 2s. 6d., and 5s., can be obtained from Miss Purves, 10 Wells Street, Gray's Inn Road, W.C.1.

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH.

The last word that could be used to describe the League of the Church Militant meeting on 3rd March at St. John's Institute, Tufton Street, was "dull". That was exactly what it was not, although there had been a disappointment in the speakers, for Lady Barrett, owing to a professional engagement and Professor Louise McLroy on account of the illness of her mother, necessitating a hurried journey to Scotland, were unable to be present. Miss Maude Royden, a host in herself, kept her audience in a ripple of laughter at the strange inconsistencies in the present position of women in the Church. She dealt with central and fundamental principles, while the other speaker, Mrs. St. Clair Stobart, dwelt more on particular arguments and individual instances. Each speech in this way proved complementary to the other. At the members' meeting held previous to this public meeting, the business of the League of the Church Militant was conducted. The annual report speaks of a year's active effort carried out under financial strain.

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References: The Countess of Mayo; The Countess (Dowager) of Desart; The Viscountess St. Cyres; The Lady Pirrie; Claude Montefiore, Esq.; Messrs. Wainwright, Pollock and Co., Solicitors; Messrs. Lewis & Yglesias, and many others.
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indubitable evidence that the House would, on the contrary, sincerely welcome it. We feel that the work which has been done by our societies in the constituencies has very materially contributed to the result. The 208 Members who went in to the Ayes lobby would surely not have done so in such numbers had not real pressure been brought to bear by their own constituents. The efforts of our societies must not, however, now be relaxed, as the real fight has still to come. The more resolutions that can be obtained from various organizations asking the Government to see that Equal Franchise is placed on the Statute Book before the dissolution, the more quickly will we reach our end.

Russian Famine Relief.

During the last week, in spite of the absorption of officers and members at the Council, great efforts have been made to try to induce the Government to give adequate money credits in relief of the Russian famine. All Members of Parliament have been circularized and a considerable amount of personal lobbying done by delegates. The announcement on Thursday, 9th March, that the Government was not going to do anything in this way, was received with indignation and disappointment, and a resolution was passed by the Council. (See below.) There is still some hope that the Government may be induced to rescind its decision, but it will only do so if considerable pressure can be brought to bear by the constituencies. It is hoped that societies all over the country will follow up the Council's lead, and send resolutions to their Members of Parliament and to the Leader of the House of Commons.

Metropolitan Police Women Patrols.

Considerable interest has also been taken during the week in the proposed disbandment of the above Force. On this matter, also, an urgency resolution was passed by the Council, Members of Parliament were circularized, and a large number of Members were lobbied by the delegates. A great effort is to be made in the House to raise the question once more. Again our societies are asked to help by sending in resolutions of protest to their Members of Parliament, the Leader of the House, and to the Home Secretary.

The following urgency resolutions were passed at the Annual Council meetings:—

EQUAL FRANCHISE.

"That the N.U.S.E.C. in Annual Council assembled condemns the action of the Government in definitely repudiating its pledge at the last general election 'to remove all existing inequalities in the law as between men and women' by announcing through the Prime Minister in the House of Commons that they were not going to introduce legislation to give the vote to women on the same terms as men. The Union appreciates the action of the Labour Party in placing equal suffrage in its programme, and in requesting its candidates to declare their support in their election addresses, and urges the other parties to adopt a similar policy. It urges the members of all parties to give such support to the Equal Suffrage Bill to be introduced in the House of Commons this week by Lord Robert Cecil, that the Government will be compelled to adopt it and pass it through all its stages before the dissolution so that this glaring inequality in the election law which debars from the franchise the great majority of industrial and professional women, who have special need of the protection of the vote, as well as many widows and mothers of young families, and so bring this country into line with the twenty-five other countries which have already given equal suffrage to women."

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

"That the National Union in Annual Council assembled welcomes the introduction by the Government of a Bill to amend the Criminal Law Amendment Acts, 1885, to 1912, but notes with disappointment the omission of a clause extending the time in which a prosecution for criminal assault can be begun. The Council calls upon the Government to take all necessary steps without delay to ensure that the Bill passes all its stages and becomes law this session."

WOMEN IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

"That the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship in Annual Council assembled thanks Lady Rhondda for securing from the Committee of Privileges of the House of Lords the statement of its legal opinion that women Peersesses in their own right are entitled to receive summonses to sit in the House of Lords, and congratulates her on this victory. The Council considers that this decision is not only valuable in giving women an opportunity of sharing in the legislative work of the House of Lords, but that its indirect results as setting up a precedent in the interpretation of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act will have an incalculable effect on the position of women in this country, and that its moral effect will help the women's movement throughout the world."

NATIONAL EXPENDITURE.

"That this Council, standing as it does for the limitation of armaments, welcomes the recommendations in the report of the Committee on National Expenditure (Geddes report) dealing with the reduction in the expenditure on the fighting services."

"That this Council, holding that in the interests of efficiency and economy alike a higher rather than a lower standard of education is desirable, is of the opinion that monetary saving should be effected by improved administration rather than by depriving the people of the already too limited facilities for education."

WOMEN POLICE.

"That this Council records its determined opposition to the recommendation of the Geddes Committee to disband the Metropolitan Police Women Patrols on the grounds that their powers are limited and their utility for police work therefore negligible. The Council urges that the Metropolitan Policewomen shall be retained, and reiterates the demand that they be given the power of arrest."

RUSSIAN FAMINE.

"That this Council, realizing the dire needs of the inhabitants of the Volga Valley in the terrible calamity that has overtaken them, and having satisfied themselves that the help given will, administered under British supervision, reach the sufferers, and further recognizing that voluntary help, so essential to immediate needs, must necessarily be inadequate, and that the famine is a menace to the economic stability of Europe, urge the Government to take the lead in granting credits for famine relief in Russia without delay."

PUBLIC CONFERENCE ON PREVENTION OF VENEREAL DISEASE, 10th March.

Miss Rathbone presided over a crowded meeting, and the speakers were Lady Barrett, M.D. (Medical Women's Federation), Dr. Wansey Bayly, M.R.C.S. (S.P.V.D.), E. B. Turner, Esq., F.R.C.S. (N.C.C.V.D.), Miss Neilans (A.S.M.H.), and Mrs. Bethune-Baker (N.U.S.E.C.).

The pros and cons of prophylaxis were discussed, but although no resolution was taken, the feeling of the meeting obviously was that the only adequate prevention of venereal disease was an improved moral standard, and a better educated democracy.



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COMING EVENTS.

LEEDS S.E.C.

MAR. 17. Powolny's Rooms, Bond Street, Leeds. Complimentary dinner to Dame Adelaide Anderson, D.B.E.

BRITISH DOMINIONS WOMEN CITIZENS' UNION.

MAR. 20. Monthly dinner at International Women's Franchise Club, 9 Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W., 6.30 p.m. Followed by a discussion on "A White Australia." Opener: Miss Persie Campbell, M.A. Tickets 3s. 6d.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB.

MAR. 22. 9 Grafton Street, Piccadilly, 8.15 p.m. "The Basis of Sex-Equality (Co-Education)." Speaker: Mr. Edward Cecil. Chair: Mrs. T. Dexter.

THE THEOSOPHICAL ORDER OF SERVICE.

MAR. 22. At 3 Upper Woburn Place, W.C. 1., 8.30 p.m. "Cinema Reform." Speaker: Miss Enid Lorimer. Chair: Mrs. Williams.

PIONEER CLUB.

MAR. 21. 12 Cavendish Place, W. 1., 8.15 p.m. "Women in the Legal Profession." Speaker: Miss Sybil Campbell. Chair: Miss C. Haslett.

MAR. 23. 5 p.m. Psychology class: "How the Personality is built up."

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

MAR. 20. 144 High Holborn, W.C. 1., 6.30 p.m. "The Interests of Women Electors." Speaker: Mr. E. Leslie Burgin, LL.D.

L'INSTITUT FRANCAIS.

MAR. 17. 3 Cromwell Gardens, 9 p.m. "An old French Conception of the League of Nations." Speaker: M. Collinet. Chair: Sir Frederick Pollock, K.C.

HERTFORD W.C.A.

MAR. 17. 3 p.m. "The League and the Future." Speaker: Miss Helen Ward.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION (Kensington Branch).

MAR. 20. Kensington Town Hall, 8.15 p.m. Mr. Leo Maxse will attack and Professor Gilbert Murray will uphold the thesis that: "The Covenant of the League of Nations will ultimately preserve the Peace of the World." Chair: Rt. Hon. Lord Phillimore.

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

MAR. 20. Kingston, Eden Street Chapel, 3 p.m. "State Purchase: A Solution of the Drink Problem." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell.

MAR. 21. Lewisham Women's Municipal Society, 8 p.m. Debate on Drink Question. Speakers: Miss M. Cotterell, State Purchase; Mr. G. B. Wilson, Prohibition.

MAR. 22. Waltham Abbey Co-operative Guild, 3 p.m. "Public Ownership of Drink Trade." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell.

MAR. 23. Hatfield Co-operative Guild, 3 p.m. "Public Ownership of Drink Trade." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell.

MEDICAL, Etc.

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FURNISHED FLAT, St. John's Wood; three rooms, kitchen, bath; £2 week if lady may reserve fourth room for herself; telephone; reverser.—"K." Box 887, WOMAN'S LEADER, 62 Oxford Street, W. 1.

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FURNISHED COTTAGE in Herts hamlet to let for 3 months from 15th April; five small rooms, three beds, outside sanitation; 27 miles from London, 7 miles from station; real country; 25s. per week.—Box 888, WOMAN'S LEADER, 62 Oxford Street, W. 1.

WANTED, UNFURNISHED FLAT; 2 bed (or one very large), 1 sitting-room, kitchen, and bathroom; reasonable rent; Baker Street district preferred; phone if possible.—Box 889, WOMAN'S LEADER, 62 Oxford Street, W. 1.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston Square, S.W. Sunday, 19th March, 6.30, Miss Maude Royden. "Our Responsibilities: VI, Our Industrial System."

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

PREVENTION OF VENEREAL DISEASE. The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene relies solely on moral and non-compulsory methods, and is prepared to defend this position as being the most practically effective one. Donations urgently needed for propaganda.—A. M. and S. H., Orchard House, Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

CONSERVATIVE WOMEN'S REFORM ASSOCIATION, 48 Dover Street, W. 1. 28th March, at 3 p.m., Mr. J. A. Spender on "The Washington Conference." Apply, Secretary.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 58 Victoria Street, S.W. 1. Expert advice and information on training and openings. Funds needed.

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CONFERENCE, on "The Ideals of Christianity and Trade Unionism", High Ashurst, Dorking, 31st March to 3rd April. For further particulars, apply to Miss Phillips, Industrial Law Bureau, Y.W.C.A., 22 George Street, Hanover Square, W. 1.

"THE PASSING OF THE POOR" by M. E. Blyth (M.E.B.), S.P.C.K., 3s. 6d. Prospective Poor Law Guardians will find useful information in this little book.

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