

# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

## AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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### NOTES AND NEWS.

#### Armies in Retreat.

On Tuesday morning, in a setting of great dignity and pomp, the Locarno Treaties were signed in the Reception Hall of the British Foreign Office. As we go to press, diplomatic festivities connected with that memorable signing are still in train. It would be a superficial optimism which measured the significance of a diplomatic act by the glitter and conviviality of its scenic background. And yet we believe that this is the first European treaty signed for many a long year which bears no coerced reluctant signature; and that is something worth celebrating. Meanwhile, below and beyond the sound of applauding crowds and interchanged diplomatic courtesies, we seem to hear in imagination another sound: the heavy rhythmic tramp of marching armies: our own men in retreat from Cologne. Is this the true *leit motif* of the harmonious symphony now being played out in London, the melody which will broaden and deepen and fade as the last armed man leaves the last "occupied area"? Or is it perhaps only the prelude to a greater marching of armies in retreat not merely from frontiers and "occupations," but from the faith and hope and aspiration of mankind?

#### Overboard with the Women and Children.

We deal elsewhere in our issue with the general problem of administrative economy, and indeed the past week has provided a rich piece of material for dissertation on the subject. The new system of grants which the Board of Education explained in a circular issued to Local Authorities on 26th November, fills us with alarm. And we have reason to believe that this alarm is shared by an active social reform minority in the Conservative Party. *The Observer* suggests that the interests of education have counted for less than the importunities of the Treasury. Even *The Times* hopes that Lord Eustace Percy may be able "to dispel the undoubted anxiety" to which the circular has given rise. We hope so too. The main feature of the circular is of course a general scaling down of national grants to local authorities. In this connection a "block grant" is to be substituted for the prevailing system of percentage grants proportioned to actual local expenditure. This "block grant"

will total 99 per cent. of the existing grant, *minus 30s. for every school child under 5*. We leave it to education authorities to criticise a change which will bear very hardly upon those of them who have been pursuing an advanced educational policy, and who contemplate progressively increasing expenditure. There is, however, an aspect of the change with which we are sensible of a peculiar and immediate concern: the discouragement from school attendance of the "under fives." Is it possible that those who are responsible for the Board of Education's policy in this respect are unaware of the effect which such discouragement must have upon the lives of little children whose only playground is the street, whose only nursery is the kitchen living-room, and perhaps sleeping room of an overcrowded working-class home? Is it possible that they are unaware of the added burden that such administrative economy must impose upon that most grievously over-burdened member of our community: the working-class mother? They can hardly be so ignorant—and yet we are tempted to hope that they are. In the first place because ignorance is remediable. In the second place because it is a less grievous fault than discerning callousness.

#### What the Teachers think.

Meanwhile the National Union of Teachers has issued to the Press a wholly unequivocal statement of opinion concerning the new financial proposals. It regards them as "altogether retrogressive." The decrease of 30s. a head on each child under five will, it contends, "have the general effect of compelling local authorities to refuse admission to children below that age, penalizing those progressive authorities who have been convinced of the social, medical, and educational desirability of providing for these children."

#### Women in the Irish Free State.

Some weeks ago the Irish Free State provided us with a matter of interest and a cause for congratulation by its general adoption of the principle of Family Endowment. Now, once again, it provides us with the former if not the latter, by the current controversy concerning the position of women within its ranks. A bill, amending Civil Service regulations in such wise as to exclude women from certain posts and men from others, has provoked vigorous opposition in the Dail. Both Mr. Johnson, of Labour fame, and Sir J. Craig, member for Trinity College, were vigorous champions, last week, of the cause of sex-equality. It was absurd, said Sir J. Craig, to allow women to take advantage of the higher branches of education and not admit them to the higher branches of the Civil Service. In reply, the Finance Minister protested the incapacity of women to act as Customs patrols along the border, and the corresponding incapacity of men to act as efficient shorthand writers and typists. In elaborating this last proposition, however, the Minister displayed his operative motive with very commendable honesty. If men enter these last occupations in large numbers, he said, they may come to predominate in the service, marry and rear families, and require increased salaries. Concerning the outcome of the discussion we have not yet been informed. We are left, however, with the suspicion that here is either a very strong argument in favour of "equal pay for equal work" or a curious confession of the inability of the Irish Free State Government to administer a system of Family Endowment on equitable and public-spirited lines.

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**What Irish Women think.**

Meanwhile the Irish Women themselves are not taking the affair with equanimity. The *Irish Independent* of 24th November contains a vigorous letter signed by M. T. Hayden and Ethel Macnaughten on behalf of the Irish Women Citizens' and Local Government Associations protesting against the introduction of a Bill to legalize sex discrimination in the Civil Service. In the course of it they raise interesting doubts concerning the actual legality of the Bill itself. "When the Bill was introduced" they write, "we took the opinion of a senior counsel of eminence, and were advised that if an Act were passed in the terms of the proposed Bill, it would be unconstitutional."

**The Teaching of Local Government.**

In his article on "Local Authority Areas" published as an appendix to the Urban Report of the Liberal Land Committee, Mr. E. D. Simon makes a strong plea for the better diffusion of information concerning the mechanism of local government. He points out that in the U.S.A. local government has long been recognized as a serious branch of study, with its own professors and its own literature. In England, he asserts, it is ignored by the Universities. We would point out that there is at least one very notable exception to this general criticism. At the London School of Economics (University of London) local government has for many years been treated exhaustively and effectively by Professor Graham Wallas and Professor Lees Smith, as an essential part of the larger problem of public administration which is recognized as an honours subject for the B.Sc. (Econ.) degree. In the main, however, Mr. E. D. Simon's indictment is true. Our Universities have not yet wholly awakened to the educational requirements of "Our Social Heritage." It is to be hoped that the new demands which Social Training courses are making upon their teaching staffs will hasten the development which Mr. Simon desires.

**Social Insurance.**

The conference on Social Insurance, whose earlier sessions at the London School of Economics were reported in our issue of last week held its concluding discussions on 25th and 26th November. On the earlier day, Unemployment Insurance and International Aspects of Social Insurance were deliberated. Speaking of the former, Mr. J. G. F. Price, principal assistant secretary to the Minister of Labour, claimed for the British system greater completeness than prevails in any other country. The last session was devoted to Family Income Insurance. In this connection it was somewhat regrettable that what should have been a specialized discussion of Sir William Beveridge and Mr. Cohen's plea for the achievement of "Family Endowment" by an extension of national insurance, resolved itself into a general discussion of the pros and cons of Family Endowment. The fact is that the whole subject is so new that a sectional discussion of one aspect of it is hardly to be expected from any but an expert audience. Perhaps the four speakers, Mrs. Stocks, Mr. Brailsford, Mrs. Drake, and Mr. Hubert Phillips, were to blame for a diversity of side-tracks. Be that as it may—the discussion as a whole was from the point of view of social insurance the least helpful in the four days' conference.

**"Go Home and do the Washing!"**

The Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories for 1924-5 contains the following paragraph contributed by Mrs. Bridge, First Aid Inspector: "The number of ambulance rooms really badly kept were comparatively few, and in those cases I found that the man in charge was responsible for the cleaning; a woman was not employed to do this work. On the other hand, in two of the best kept ambulance rooms, a member of the V.A.D. who was in charge did the cleaning of the room and, at the same time, attended to between four and five hundred cases a week. In my opinion, however well trained a man may be in ambulance work, he is not by nature fitted to do what is essentially a woman's work—cleaning." A correspondent of ours, commenting on this surprising passage, attributes to its author a somewhat restricted personal experience. She can never, our correspondent suggests, have visited a battleship, a barracks, or a naval college; nor can she be familiar with the East—Burma for instance—where men clean beautifully. But there is more in question than mere ignorance. The theory that men are incapable of cleaning up the mess they make as they go about their work is certainly a convenient one for them. We understand and sympathize with their motive in propagating it. Indeed, we have ourselves been guilty at times of fostering,

from the same motive, an analogous belief that we are incapable of lubricating the more obscure parts of our motor-car—a very filthy job, and one which involves entangling the hair of the head with viscous black oil. Nevertheless the belief expressed by Mrs. Bridge is really not one which women should encourage. Men can clean as well as women if they give their minds to it. The fact that they do not do so, is a reflexion of the servile readiness with which generations of women have consented to do their dirty work for them.

**The Nationality of Married Women.**

We read in *The Times* on Tuesday that the Home Secretary has replied to a question from Mr. Wardlaw Milne relating to the position of the Government with regard to the nationality of British women who marry aliens in the following terms: "The Government has been in communication with the Dominions and the views of some of them have not yet been ascertained. When the replies are complete, the different proposals for the alteration of the law will be fully considered with a view to any decision which may be thought necessary." This question appears to have become a sort of ball game between the Dominions and the Home Government played with remarkably slow deliberation. Perhaps some day a goal may be scored.

**Smokeless Houses.**

The Leeds experiment of building houses fitted only with gas or electricity for all heating and lighting purposes will be watched with great interest. We understand that a concession of one open fire for the living room is to be made, and if the scheme is to be popular we think this a wise move. Plans are in the course of preparation for about a hundred houses, and these are to be scattered over the different Corporation housing areas of the city with a view to comparison with houses of the more ordinary type. We invite from our readers any local information they can send with regard to smoke abatement schemes in the towns in which they live.

**Miss Picton-Turbervill's Candidature.**

We are glad to hear that Miss Picton-Turbervill has been adopted as Labour Candidate for the Wrekin Division of Shropshire. The seat is at present held by a Unionist, but had been held by Labour for some Parliaments previously. We are glad that the Wrekin Labour Party has offered to a woman a seat in which prospects are so hopeful, and offer Miss Picton-Turbervill our best wishes for her success.

**International Woman Suffrage Alliance.**

We learn that as a result of the meeting of the I.W.S.A. Board in Paris, it has been found necessary to postpone the date of the opening of the International Congress to 30th May. This change, the headquarters secretary writes, "has been made to avoid the Whitsuntide holiday, and to permit us to accept the very kind offer to make use of the halls of the Sorbonne for the Congress." The I.W.S.A. is most heartily to be congratulated on having secured so historic and dignified a habitation for its deliberations. We hope next week to publish an article by its President, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, on its hopes and prospects for the coming congress.

**A Correction—The Two-shift System.**

We regret that in the note on the debate on the Two-Shift System in our last issue a printer's error appears: the word "better" reading for feminists, was substituted for our "bitter." We apologize for the error and hope that the next debate which takes place on the subject will prove "better" reading for feminists.

**Bournville—an Acknowledgement.**

This year, as last, we have received from Messrs. Cadbury, regular advertisers in our columns, a generous gift of chocolate. We take this opportunity of returning thanks. We like this chocolate apart from its intrinsic merits, because we are familiar with the clean and pleasant conditions under which it is manufactured. And we like to be in the position (for howsoever short a period) to offer hospitable refreshment to friends, subscribers, and contributors who visit our office.

*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.

**PENNY WISE AND POUND FOOLISH.**

Speaking to Conservative women recently, the Home Secretary gave a serious warning as to the need of national and personal economy. A writer in the *Observer* suggests that his instance of a possible measure of saving in education was surely unfortunate in a gathering composed of women. If the Home Secretary in recommending personal retrenchment in the home had suggested that the best place to begin was with the children he would have been howled down. Any mother, any parent worthy of the name, would sacrifice every other possible superfluity before the chances of the child were interfered with. Is the situation so different when we consider children collectively rather than individually? We know that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is on the look-out for possibilities of drastic cuts in expenditure. He has hinted to Chambers of Commerce that higher taxation will be necessary if the warnings of economy be disregarded. The axe has once again been lifted in the air and a circular issued recently by Lord Eustace Percy raises forebodings that it may fall first on that scapegoat of the public services—education.

The annual expenditure of this country on education is about 81½ million pounds including elementary, secondary and technical education as well as grants to universities and to research. This seems an immense sum to those of us who are not accustomed to deal in large figures, but it dwindles when we compare it with the national drink bill after the deduction of the proportion payable in taxation, which is 172½ millions. It is for the community to say whether it is satisfied with the amount and the results of its expenditure. A book called *A School for John and Mary* was widely read and discussed a short time ago; it gave the experiences of a mother from Canada who, accustomed to well-equipped State schools, sent her two children to a Council school in London. We do not profess to know whether her revelations are exaggerated or not, but it happened curiously enough that this week, after reading this book and with our minds dwelling on the proposed cuts in education, some startling facts as to existing school accommodation in a large town were brought to our attention. We are not at liberty to divulge these facts and we hope they represent an abnormal and entirely temporary state of affairs. Nevertheless we should like to throw out one or two questions to our better informed readers. Are the conditions under which the greater number of the children of the nation are receiving education satisfactory? Welfare in factories has rightly attracted a great deal of attention. It covers the provision of suitable indoor offices and lavatory accommodation, hanging space for outdoor garments and other arrangements

**THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.****FROM A CORRESPONDENT.**

With the passing of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act and the theoretical opening to women of all posts in the Home Civil Service, it was confidently expected that women officials would find one of their widest opportunities of service to the community in that great Department which deals so intimately with the domestic concerns of the nation and, almost to a greater extent even than the Board of Education, with the future of the nation's children. We refer, of course, to the Ministry of Health, which keeps, or should keep, a watchful eye on the interests of all Insured Women, on the Tuberculosis Schemes set up by local authorities by which so much is done for tubercular children, on Housing, that all-important and most domestic of questions, on the Registration of Nurses, one of the largest and most vital body of women workers, on Infectious Diseases and their Notification, on Food Adulteration and all it means to the housewife, on Slum Clearance, on Poor Law Relief and on the conduct of our great infirmaries, or institutions as they prefer to be called, on Venereal Disease, and on many other matters which so intimately concern women as wives and mothers that it is really astonishing that public opinion has so long acquiesced in the reservation to men of all the most important posts in this Department.

The position of women is worse in the Ministry of Health than in any other Government Department other than those where women have been recently introduced. In the Ministry of Labour we have a Woman Assistant Secretary, Women Divisional Inspectors in the Trade Board Division, Women Chief Officers in the Unemployment Insurance Department, and so on. In the Board of Education we have had a Woman Assistant Secretary and we have one Super Executive Woman, though outside the inspectorate women are only employed in one branch. In the Scottish Board of Health there is a Woman

essential for hygiene and decency, health, comfort and cleanliness. What is the customary provision for teachers and children in such matters? We fear that some at least of our schools have still a very rudimentary standard of such forms of "welfare".

We do not claim that all expenditure on educational administration is necessarily wise and economical; we have no objection to economy campaigns which take the form of a sympathetic and understanding scrutiny of expenditure. The axe does not scrutinize; it falls on the meekest victim. But it is difficult to see where genuine economies can be effected; by far the largest proportion of the money expended goes in salaries and no reader of this paper will object to the adequate remuneration of teachers. It seems to us astonishing how much is accomplished with the small remaining fraction which is devoted to all other forms of outlay. It is unthinkable that this amount should be curtailed. Let us economize by all means, and it is not difficult to make practical suggestions for national retrenchment. We have only to turn to our wasteful system of public assistance where, as we shall see in our articles on the reform of the Poor Law, competing authorities maintained at vast expense dispense incredibly large sums in tinkering at social conditions which in the interests of true national economy should not be permitted to exist.

The direct moral of this article is, of course, "Hands off Education." But we cannot refrain from pointing to an indirect moral. Women are, we believe, by nature and custom economical creatures, accustomed to make the best of things, to get full value for their money. We do not claim that they can do everything better than, or even as well as men, but we are convinced that they are better at details of administration. We have known instances where women on public bodies saved the ratepayers large and quite unnecessary outlay by common sense and attention to details which had escaped the notice of those unaccustomed to work on a small scale. We firmly believe that many more women in Parliament, many more women on local authorities, on hospital boards and other bodies responsible for the spending of large sums of money would make for economy. We referred in a recent issue to the remarkable reduction of expenditure in a French business firm brought about by a young woman who got her chance and took it. But how few women get the chance in public administration. Women are good spenders, and it is not mere rhetoric to say that good spending is as essential in the State as in the home, and is in the long run the best form of national thrift.

Commissioner, and there are two Women Commissioners at the National Savings Department. But at the Ministry of Health, employing over 1,000 women, in spite of the fact that women were established in the Insurance Commission on its inception in 1912, that they were taken over with the rest of the staff from the old Local Government Board in 1919, that they have exactly the same experience in their work as their male colleagues, there is only one super executive post filled by a woman, and that is in an Accounting branch, and there is one woman head of a branch, viz., the branch dealing with Maternity and Child Welfare. There is no woman at all in any responsible position dealing with policy on any of the matters mentioned at the beginning of this article. There is no Woman Assistant Secretary, and the Controllers and Deputy Controllers of the Insurance Department and the branch dealing with Widows' Pensions are both men. There are no Women General Inspectors in the Poor Law Department and no woman is eligible to be a Divisional Inspector in the Insurance Branch.

The position of women in this Ministry is little short of a scandal. No higher woman is allowed to deputize for her male chief in his absence, but another male officer, frequently her junior, is brought into the branch if necessary rather than allow a woman to have a trial on higher work.

The attention of the present Minister of Health was drawn to this matter early this year in connection with the staffing of the branch which was to deal with Widows' Pensions. The Minister was asked to ensure that an equal number of higher posts would be reserved for women as for men on this work which it is so eminently desirable for women to deal with. So far, one definite appointment has been made, that of a male Deputy Controller, but of the higher officers on loan, both from outside and from other branches of the Ministry, to organize



the work, there are five super executive men and no women, and fifteen higher executive men to three women, and no woman has taken part in the conferences at Whitehall as to the interpretation of the Act or the initial organization necessary to carry it out.

When the final appointments come to be made, what chance have the women of getting their share? We know that all women's organizations are fully alive to this great need, and we would urge them to redouble their efforts and see that some measure of justice is done.

### THE FACTS ABOUT THE TWO-SHIFT SYSTEM.

By ELIZABETH ABBOTT.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER has already referred in its editorial columns to the recent discussion in Parliament of the employment of women on the two-shift system, and the attempt to ban it. But without a rather more detailed knowledge of what the two-shift system means, how it came into being, and how it has worked, it might be a little difficult for some readers to realize how unjustifiable was the attack made on it.

Before the war, women, not men, were prevented from working on the shift system. During the war this prohibition was suspended. The experience then gained proved that the employment of women on short shifts of not more than eight hours each was better not only for production, but also for the personal well-being of the workers. None the less there was a determined effort after the War to reimpose the ban. The upshot was the appointment in 1920 of a Departmental Committee. This Committee held fourteen sittings and heard 129 witnesses on both sides of the question: Trade Unions, representatives of employers, three Joint Industrial Councils, medical men, social workers. After an exhaustive inquiry the Committee decided unanimously for a trial of the two-shift system—and it was agreed that it should be continued experimentally until December, 1925. It is now in force till the end of 1926.

That, however, does not mean that any employer may use the two-shift system for his women workers whenever it seems convenient. In each case a special Order has to be obtained from the Secretary of State. Such an Order is only granted on the joint application of the employer and the majority of the work-people concerned, and subject to such conditions as are considered necessary for safeguarding the interests and welfare of the employees. The Order authorizes the employment of women between the hours of six in the morning and ten at night (Saturdays 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.) in shifts averaging for each shift not more than eight hours per day.

A very close watch has been kept on the working of the system, and a detailed record of the facts concerning it (not opinions or inferences) will be found in the Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for 1924 (Cmd. 2,437, March, 1925). Those facts may be summarized as follows:—

1. There has been meticulous care in the granting of Orders. Before an Order is forwarded to the Home Secretary an Inspector visits the factory and assures himself that the workers are genuinely desirous of working on the shift system. (In one instance where there was some doubt, the Home Office insisted on a fresh ballot. The result was in favour.) After an Order is granted Inspectors keep a close check on its working.
2. The firm is instructed as to necessary improvements in welfare conditions. If workers live far from the factory, pressure is brought to bear on the firm to organize suitable means of transport. If approaches to the factory are lonely, arrangements are made for groups of women and girls to come together. In the case of young girls welfare workers are appointed. Special conditions may be attached to any Order granted.
3. 15,609 women have been employed on the shift system since January, 1921.
4. They receive in general 48 hours' pay for 40 hours' work.
5. In some places where the system has been in use for years the workers are enthusiastically in favour of it and dislike the idea of a return to ordinary day-work. Complaints of fatigue and dislike of the system are rare. In factories where both day and shift work are carried on the day workers frequently ask to be put on the shift system; but shift workers do not ask to be transferred to day work.
6. The incapacity of certain departments in a mixed factory where women are employed on day work to keep pace with the linked processes in men's departments often constitutes a handicap on women's employment. This handicap is removed by the adoption of the two-shift system for women.
7. Welfare conditions have been well observed, and by means of them the standard of comfort in a number of factories has been sensibly raised. In some of the works where there is a continuous use of the Order the improvement has amounted to a complete change in the workers' surroundings, and has been accompanied by increased readiness to comply faithfully with the general requirements of the Factory Acts.
8. There is no evidence, medical or general, that the system has an injurious effect upon health. No complaints of physical disturbance

due to changing habits of the day's routine have been made, nor has undue fatigue or any adverse effect been observed.

9. Very few Orders, comparatively, are in force. (No wonder when there is so much difficulty in obtaining them and so many "extras" to be attended to once they are obtained.) But the system has undoubtedly been the means of meeting special emergencies; has been a substitute for overtime—to which it is infinitely preferable—and has, in a number of trades and districts been a relief, if a modest one, to unemployment.

Local branches of Trade Unions have supported applications for Orders to allow of the two-shift system. It is clear that the real opposition in 1925, as in 1920, comes from the headquarters of Trade Unions. We wish we could believe that their motives were entirely unmixed, and rose from an universal softness of heart alone. But in so far as Trade Unions have denied apprenticeship and full membership to women, closed the finer and better paid sections of their trades to women, and demanded equal pay guarantees for women dilutees during the war in order to preserve their own standards of pay, it may be that their view on this question too is not without bias.

In any case it is deplorable that the strength of Trade Unionism should be used further to limit the already very limited freedom of women in industry, instead of towards equal opportunity and equally good conditions for both sexes. It has been their boast that they do seek for equal conditions, and march towards them by securing the first instalments "behind the women's petticoats." In that event it would seem that what they really want is temporary good conditions for women—to be supplanted as soon as may be by total prohibition. It is the more deplorable in this particular instance since it is by the adoption and adaptation of the shift system in industry generally that we may best hope to secure decent leisure for both men and women workers.

### THE WOMAN'S YEAR.

We want to remind you again of the special New Year's Day number which will contain a summary of the Woman's Year in politics, local government, social work, literature, the Church, the drama, the home. Will you send copies to your friends or distribute them at January meetings of women's societies to which you may belong? Orders should be sent as soon as possible. We will send you 100 copies for 6s. 4d.; 50 copies for 3s. 6d.; 25 for 1s. 10d. Special terms will be given for advertisements in this number if application be made early. We venture to suggest that to circulate our New Year Number will serve two ends. It will give in convenient and readable form a survey of women's work which cannot fail to be valuable to women voters and it will, we believe, help us to secure new subscribers. Please send a few shillings in this way and order copies as soon as possible.

### FORGOTTEN PIONEER NURSES.

The trained nurse of to-day with her easier hours, better pay, and her status assured by State Registration is reaping the harvest sown by the early pioneers, many of whom struggled through an incomplete training, worked for a mere pittance for many years, and now find themselves forgotten and in abject poverty. To help them a fund has been started called the Nurses' Fund for Nurses, which aims at raising sufficient to allow these older ones to spend their declining years with at least enough to eat and a roof over their heads. Some of the cases are pitiful—all are elderly or in poor health; many have only disablement benefit of 7s. 6d. a week, or the old age pension of 10s. They spent their lives in the service of the sick, and surely the community will repay them by caring for their old age. Help is urgently wanted immediately, and if enough money can be collected it is hoped to buy one or two houses where some of them could have a room at a nominal rent without any fear of the workhouse. The address of the fund, which is managed by a representative committee of nurses, is: c/o *The Nursing Times*, St. Martin's Street, London, W.C. 2, where contributions will be gratefully received. We earnestly commend this appeal to the ready generosity of our readers. It is tragic to think that such servants of the public should lack not only the comforts of old age but the bare necessities of existence.

### WIDOWS' PENSIONS OVERSEAS.

A Press cable of 27th November reports that in New South Wales the Legislative Assembly have passed without division a Government Bill for the provision of Widows' Pensions, at the rate of £1 a week for widows with children, and 10s. a week for all children under 14.

### "CLOUD CUCKOO LAND."

In *Cloud Cuckoo Land* Mrs. Mitchison gives an extraordinarily vivid picture of Greece in the fifth century before Christ. The impression that her book leaves on the mind of the reader is like that of some intense and startling dream: one of those dreams that are full of beauty, but have a lurking horror behind. The smell of the hot turf on the island in which the story begins, the look of the Athenian landscape, all white and violet and gold, the feeling of the cold wind from the mountains above Sparta, remain with one as if one had actually felt and seen. Nor is this all: in the course of the dream one has identified oneself with each of the chief characters in turn, so that one knows what it felt like to love Athens, to have one's child exposed, or to be a slave in Sparta.

This book has a special interest for many readers of the WOMAN'S LEADER, because it will help them to realize what an ordinary woman's life was like in Greece more than two thousand years ago. For the reader who holds the Christian Faith it has yet another interest. Mrs. Mitchison has, I believe, shown more clearly than anyone has ever done before how enchanting beauty (of the mind as well as of the senses) dwelt side by side with devilish cruelty in Hellenic civilization. One is led to the reflection that this was perhaps the highest development of human life that was possible without Christ. In some ways it seems more alien than the life of comparatively "dark ages", in which the religion of love has been preached, even if not understood. What we look to, and seek for, is a civilization in which the love of divine beauty and compassion for all creatures will go hand in hand. Till we have that, human nature as we know it will not have reached its full development.

I. B. O. M.

### "THE GENTLE ART OF COOKERY."

The authors of this most excellent cookery book explain that it is not intended to be an elementary handbook on cookery. Do not, therefore, give it to Mrs. Jones, who "dees" for you, to make a tomato sauce for your humble cutlet, for the recipes do not state for how many people the dish is intended, and she would begin, "Take one and a half pounds of tomatoes, etc.," and find herself with a sea of very good sauce and a very little island of cutlet.

It is a book for the mistress of the house, or the experienced cook with a flair for experiment, who caters for those who do not want their stomachs to be filled but to be amused. And amused they would be with such dishes as: Mushrooms and Oysters, Eastern Kebabs (such a good way of using up cold mutton, but the book does not tell you that), and Diable Bleu.

The authors say it is not possible to give a recipe for an omelette, it can only be done by practical demonstration; true, perhaps, but the tip of putting a spoonful of cold water to the eggs after they have been beaten for an instant might help many a cook to make a successful omelette. The elaborate ritual of keeping a pan especially for omelettes (which must never be washed but wrapped up in paper as some cooks state) is quite unnecessary. A perfect omelette can be made in quite an ordinary frying pan. And—children! listen! There is a whole chapter on things you can make yourselves (if you can get cook to let you), a Gingerbread House which can be lighted with a night-light, Eggs in Overcoats, and Chocolate Fudge! Delicious!

The classification is new: the recipes are arranged under their principal ingredient, and economical housewives will shop first and buy what is most plentiful and cheap on the day and arrange the menu afterwards. There are also directions as to where to buy specialities and the best brands. It is an excellent Christmas present for a housewife—which would be remembered throughout the year with gratitude.

E. F. N.

### "THE PRACTICAL COOK."

This is the book to give the mother of a hungry family. The recipes are practical, and for the most part economical. One chapter is excellent: "What to do when things go wrong," and should be a very present help in time of trouble to many an inexperienced cook. The remedies are most ingenious. In only one case does the author give up hope, and that is when you whip cream too much and even then comes the practical suggestion: "Whip it a little more and it will turn into butter."

E. F. N.

- <sup>1</sup> *Cloud Cuckoo Land*. By Naomi Mitchison (Jonathan Cape, 7s. 6d.).  
<sup>2</sup> *The Gentle Art of Cookery*, by Mrs. C. F. Leyel and Miss Olga Hartley (Chatto & Windus, 7s. 6d.).  
<sup>3</sup> *The Practical Cook*, by Lillian Whitting (Methuen, 2s. 6d.).

### HOW THE LEAGUE STOPS LITTLE WARS.

By E. D. AUGER.

The way in which the League of Nations stopped the latest little war in the Balkans between Greece and Bulgaria is an excellent example of how the machinery of the League works when the peace of Europe is threatened. The trouble first began on Monday, 19th October, by a quarrel between the Greek and Bulgarian guards in a desolate part of the Macedonian frontier. Each side said the other began it. The Bulgarian Government declared that their soldiers were peacefully washing their clothes in a stream when they were attacked by the Greeks. On the other hand, the Greek Government declared that the first shot was fired by the Bulgarians. But, however that may be, it is not disputed that firing went on for some days during which Greek soldiers marched into Bulgarian territory and shelled the town of Petrich. This was followed up by a note from Greece to Bulgaria demanding, within forty-eight hours, an apology, an indemnity, and the punishment of the Bulgarian soldiers who were concerned in the affray.

It was at this point that Bulgaria appealed to the League of Nations. As Member-States of the League, both Greece and Bulgaria had, of course, undertaken not to "resort to war" without previously submitting a dispute to either arbitration or inquiry by the League Council. The Bulgarian telegram asking the League to intervene was received at Geneva at 6 a.m. on 23rd October. The Secretary-General, Sir Eric Drummond, immediately phoned to Paris to the Acting President of the Council, M. Briand, and before twelve o'clock on the same morning telegrams were dispatched to the various members of the League Council calling a meeting in Paris on 26th October.

The Council lost no time in making it clear that it was determined the fighting was to cease immediately. It called upon the two Governments to order their troops to withdraw behind their own frontiers within sixty hours and to inform the Council within twenty-four hours that such orders had been issued. The Council also decided to send at once three military attaches—British, French, and Italian—to the scene of the dispute to watch developments.

From that time events moved smoothly and without a hitch. The Council met daily, and the messages received from the Allied officers reported that the withdrawal of the troops was being carried out in the right spirit. At this juncture the Council appointed a Commission of five, under the presidency of Sir Horace Rumbold, the British Ambassador at Madrid, to go to the Balkans to inquire into the cause of the trouble and to make suggestions for measures which would be likely to prevent similar incidents in the future.

When the final meeting of the Council was held on Friday, 30th October, reports were read from the three attaches that both the Bulgarian and the Greek troops had been withdrawn well within the time limit set by the Council. So that, thanks to the League of Nations, the last little war in the Balkans lasted less than ten days.

The speed at which the Council worked in this dispute is an adequate answer to those critics who believed that the League could not move quickly enough to deal with a sudden crisis. A significant fact deserving emphasis is that although the Greco-Bulgarian dispute was not one of first-class importance, the Foreign Ministers of Great Britain and France did not hesitate to leave their own work to go to Paris to obey the League's call. If once it becomes the recognized practice that any dispute in Europe means that, through the League, the Foreign Ministers of France, Britain, and no doubt Germany when she joins the League, will at once take action, hot-headed nations will think twice before they break the peace.

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### COUNCIL FOR REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The annual meeting was held on Monday, 30th November, at Women's Service House, Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, President of the Council, in the chair.

The balance sheet and annual report were presented by Miss de Alberti, outstanding items in the latter being the nomination by the Council of Miss Eleanor Rathbone as Assessor to the Child Welfare Commission, and her subsequent election, and the election of the Duchess of Atholl, M.P., as British Substitute Delegate to the Assembly of the League, with the interesting remarks of Monsieur Montigny, French delegate on the Fifth Committee, who said: "I feel it my duty to express to her Grace the Duchess of Atholl our gratitude for the very able manner in which she presided over the work of the Sub-Committee. It is due to her firm yet enlightened leadership that this difficult question has been solved. After our experience of the eminent services rendered to the Fifth Committee by the Duchess of Atholl, I should like to say, if the head of my delegation will allow me, that I think those delegations which do not as yet include women delegates are depriving themselves of a vast wealth of understanding and sympathy."

The honorary officers were re-elected with the addition of Mrs. Dexter, Mrs. Hoster, and Mrs. Halley Bacon, who were elected to fill vacancies on the Executive Committee. Resolutions were passed dealing with the desire of the Council for a fully accredited British woman delegate to the Assembly and for women technical advisors to the British Delegation; with equal representation of the sexes on any Sub-Committees of the Health Committee of the League and with the desirability of making full use of the services of women experts by the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation; and with the duty of Governments to include women in delegations to the International Labour Office.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby reported that the name of Miss C. Macmillan had been put forward to serve on the Sub-Committee of the League of Nations International Law Commission. The Duchess of Atholl, M.P., then addressed the meeting on the work of the Sixth Assembly of the League, and Mr. John Harris spoke on the Slavery Commission. F. M. B.

### THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

The London Society for Women's Service held their annual meeting on Friday, 27th November, at 35-37 Marsham Street, S.W. 1.

The Committee for the year was elected, namely: Acting President, Miss B. A. Clough; Hon. Treasurer, The Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves; Miss Noeline Baker, Miss Clegg, The Lady Emmott, Mrs. Arnold Glover, Mrs. Kinnell, Miss I. B. O'Malley, Mrs. Ivan Sanderson, Lady Sprigge, Mrs. Oliver Strachey, Miss Helen Ward.

The Report of the work of the Society for the past year was read, and the following resolutions were passed:—

1. "That this meeting of the London Society for Women's Service tender their loyal and respectful sympathy to His Majesty the King, and all the members of the Royal Family in the great loss sustained in the death of Her Majesty, Queen Alexandra."
2. "That the Society do not at present declare either for or against Family Endowment."
3. "That the London Society for Women's Service in Annual Meeting assembled calls upon the Government to set up at the earliest possible moment the Conference already promised by the Prime Minister for 1926, to consider the question of such reform of the Franchise as shall secure equal voting rights for men and women, in order that the necessary legislation may be enacted without delay. While expressing no opinion as to the ideal minimum age for qualification the meeting deprecates any attempt to link up the question of equal franchise with controversial changes in the existing voters' register."
4. "The meeting further urges that peers in their own right should be accorded a seat in the House of Lords equally with peers."
5. "That the London Society for Women's Service in Annual Meeting assembled calls upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer at once to appoint a Parliamentary Committee to review the question of equal pay for equal work within the Civil Service in accordance with the resolution of the House of Commons of 5th August, 1921."
6. "That the London Society for Women's Service in Annual Meeting assembled urges upon the Government the importance of appointing an adequate number of women to responsible posts in the Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Branch of the Ministry of Health."
7. "That in view of the fact that the work of this Society is now national in scope, and with a view to its still wider expansion, the name be henceforth 'The Society for Women's Service' (Rule I, being altered accordingly); and that it no longer be regarded as the London Branch

of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship but as an independent Society working in co-operation on points of common agreement; and that the affiliation arrangements be altered accordingly and the Society for Women's Service be henceforth affiliated in the same manner as the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene and other independent national Societies."

This last resolution was amended to leave out the words: "The name be henceforth 'The Society for Women's Service' (Rule I being altered accordingly), and that"—and to insert the word "London" before the words "Society for Women's Service" in the latter part of the resolution, and the resolution then passed as amended. The name of the Society therefore remains The London Society for Women's Service.

An emergency resolution was passed sending the good wishes of the Society to Major Hills.

### NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: Miss ELEANOR RATHBONE, C.C., J.P. Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. SODDY. Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HUBBACK.

Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1. Telephone: Victoria 6188.

### COUNCIL MEETING, 24th to 27th FEBRUARY, 1926.

#### COUNCIL EVENTS.

A Mass Meeting on Equal Franchise will be held at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Friday, 26th February, at 8 p.m. Speakers will include Miss Maude Royden and Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P.

A Public Luncheon will be held on Thursday or Friday, 25th or 26th February, to which distinguished authors, dramatists, etc., who have rendered signal service to the National Union, are being asked to speak. Each year an increased number of societies have invited their Members of Parliament to attend this Luncheon. We hope very much that this pleasant and easy way of keeping Members of Parliament in touch with our work will be adopted by all our societies represented.

A Reception to delegates to the Council will be held on Wednesday evening, 24th February, of which further particulars will be announced later.

#### RAILWAY FACILITIES.

We very much hope that your Committee will be able to make an early decision as to its representation at the Council, so that we shall be able to apply to the Railway Companies for the issue of tickets at the reduced rate (one and a third of the usual return fare). To do this we must have an assurance that 200 delegates will be travelling to the Conference from stations beyond a certain radius (i.e., that of a 9d. single fare). Vouchers will be issued for travelling to London on Tuesday, 23rd February, and from London on Monday, 1st March, or any time between these two dates. The reduction in fares is, of course, of greater importance to the more distant Societies, but it is only by the co-operation of Societies near London that the requisite numbers can be obtained.

#### APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY SECRETARY.

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee it was decided to ask Lady Balfour of Burleigh to become Honorary Secretary pro tem. until the Council Meeting. Lady Balfour has consented to act in this capacity. Societies will remember that Lady Balfour was elected on the Executive Committee at the last Council Meeting and is President of the Kensington S.E.C. and Vice-President of the London Federation of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

#### ROYAL COMMISSION ON LUNACY AND MENTAL DISORDER.

The following is a recommendation which is being sent in to the Royal Commission on Lunacy and Mental Disorder:—

#### STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE ON LUNACY REFORM.

The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship is a non-party women's organisation, with affiliated societies all over the country, whose object is to work "To obtain all such reforms as are necessary to secure a real equality of liberties, status and opportunities between men and women."

The N.U.S.E.C. is of opinion that the part played by women in the administration of the Lunacy Laws and of Mental Hospitals is too small, in view of the very large number of certified women

under the Board of Control. They especially wish to urge the following points:—

#### 1. That More Women should be Appointed on the Board of Control.

The proportion of two to eleven which obtains at present is, we feel, inadequate. There would be no difficulty in finding women suitable for the work.

#### 2. The Appointment of Women Doctors in Public Mental Hospitals with Women Patients.

We understand that in a very large number of these hospitals no women doctors are in attendance. Many women prefer being seen by a member of their own sex, and in a number of cases we understand that for medical reasons it is desirable that women should be attended by women.

#### 3. The Appointment of Women on the Visiting Committees of Public Mental Hospitals.

There are a very large number of these Committees of Local Authorities on which no women have been appointed. This is, no doubt, accounted for by the fact that the Local Authorities concerned have few or no women members. We urge, therefore, that it should be made a Statutory Regulation that not less than two women should be co-opted on to these Committees in the same way as they are co-opted on to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committees and the Committee for the Care of the Mentally Defective of Local Governing Bodies. The importance of having women visitors for Institutions, whether occupied by men or women patients, appears to us to be so obvious that it hardly needs stating. We feel sure that the public would feel far greater confidence in the usefulness of Visiting Committees, both from the point of view of the welfare of the patients and of the efficiency of the administration if in every case women were represented on the committees.

We wish emphatically to urge, therefore, the importance of allowing women to play a part throughout the administration of the Lunacy Laws, in view of the fact that the majority of patients, attendants and nurses are women.

#### MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Members of our Societies are reminded that this Bill will be brought in by Miss Wilkinson on Tuesday, 8th December, under the Ten Minutes Rule, at 3.30 p.m. Those who can be present at the House to lobby Members of Parliament and to listen to Miss Wilkinson are urged to do so. Please communicate with headquarters if this is possible.

#### NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

##### CARDIFF W.C.A.

On Friday, 27th November, Councillor Barbara Foxley, M.A., gave a most interesting lecture on "Geneva and the First International Child Welfare Conference." Miss Foxley spoke from first-hand knowledge, for she was a member of the Conference held at Geneva last September, and her audience listened with keen appreciation to all that she had to tell about the discussions and decisions of that historic gathering.

##### CHESTER W.C.A.

The Chester Women Citizens' Association held their annual dinner at the Grosvenor Hotel on Monday, 23rd November; a large number assembled to meet Miss Helen Fraser, who was the guest of honour; the Mayoress presided. An interesting speech was delivered by Councillor Phyllis Brown, J.P., who stated that the Association stood to remove political inequalities between man and woman; for her own part she thought that to raise the voting age would be beginning at the wrong end. If they wanted to improve the status of the elector, they should give boys and girls a better education before they went out into the world as wage-earners. Miss Helen Fraser, in a telling and impressive speech, mentioned that this was the second Government to take women into the Ministry: one distinct and real triumph was their success in getting through the Guardianship of Infants Act, which became law on 1st October. Another triumph they had gained was the opening of the Civil Service to women.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

##### THE CHINESE COMMISSION ON CUSTOMS.

MADAM.—The paragraph in your issue of 20th November contributed by the Women's International League shows some want of appreciation of the actual state of affairs in China.

In the first place there is no central government with which any revision of treaties can be made which would be binding upon the country in general. Revision means primarily withdrawal of the capitulations under which foreigners are judged in their own courts. Do those who desire revision realize that in many parts it would mean handing over our countrymen and others, perhaps for some merely technical faults, to the possibility, or probability, of torture and summary execution?

Autonomy in fiscal matters would mean that in many provinces beyond the influence of Peking the customs would be seized by the dominant military party and would only serve to increase the misery of the country.

Antipathy to Great Britain is due to causes over which our Government has no control. To give way upon points which would not be to the real advantage of China might be an easy way to gain some passing popularity, but to wait until the time is really ripe for these changes would be the better part of real friendship.

A. M. HUBBARD.

#### MARRIED TEACHERS.

MADAM,—The only valid objection to keeping women teachers on when they marry is that, on an average, women for the first few years after marriage suffer sufficiently in health to impair their efficiency. No doubt if a public authority were as free as a private employer, the reasonable course would be to let them stay on until this happened. But this is not the case. It is a most difficult thing to get rid of a teacher for inefficiency, because it is very hard to prove it. Under these circumstances I think it is for the general good of the schools that women should vacate their situations on marriage.

It is not a fair comparison to make between men and women in these particular circumstances. Men's efficiency is not impaired, if anything it is increased, by marriage, as a man is more settled and is better fed and cared for when he is married.

I agree that the reasons so often given for this rule, that a married woman is in no need of wages and that she should clear the way for single women, are quite inadmissible. But very often a wrong reason is given for a sensible action.

Feminists should remember that local authorities are elected by as many women as men, and if their action did not commend itself to the women electors they would feel it at election time.

I believe the reason I have given above is the one that appeals to most people.

In other professions it is occasionally made a condition of employment for men that they should not marry. The Roman Church exacts this condition for the whole of its clergy. Many men employed in tropical countries are not allowed to marry.

MAUD SELBORNE.

#### DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON CHILD ASSAULT.

MADAM,—May I call your attention to a reply in the House of Commons on 26th November which Lady Astor received from the Home Secretary concerning the Report of the Departmental Committee on Child Assault. After asking when the Report would be published, she asked if the Home Secretary could give any assurance that the evidence will be published. The reply was that the evidence would not be published partly for reasons of economy, and partly because some of the evidence had only been given on condition that it was regarded as private. May I point out that this secrecy and non-publication of evidence given before Departmental Committees almost completely nullifies any value which the appointment of a Departmental Committee may have. It is of no value to social workers for people to speak freely before a Departmental Committee if we are never to know what they have said. It is also rather difficult to understand why it is necessary to withhold evidence given before such a Committee from those who are interested in having all the facts. It is, of course, obvious that in some cases it may be desirable to refrain from publishing the names of persons and places, but if the substance of the evidence is important in deciding the Committee of Inquiry as to what they will recommend in their Report, surely it is essential that the societies interested in these affairs should, at any rate, have some knowledge as to what that evidence was. If it is not possible to publish it in full, a summary of the confidential evidence should be published and all the rest of the evidence should be published in full.

One of the arguments in favour of not relegating these inquiries to Departmental Committees is that such evidence has to be published by the Stationery Office and the price of it is likely to be very high (e.g. *Evidence on Export of Horses*, price 30s.), whereas the same amount of evidence published as a record of a Committee appointed by Parliament is generally priced at something under 5s.

I am sure we are all grateful to Lady Astor for raising this point in Parliament, but the answer must necessarily limit our enthusiasm for Departmental Committees!

ALISON NEILANS.

### SIR JOHN FOSTER FRASER

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### THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN JOURNALISTS.

PRESIDENT: VISCOUNTESS BURNHAM.

Founded for the Association of Women engaged in Journalism in the British Empire and abroad, *The Woman Journalist*, the organ of the Society, is published every alternate month. Supplied free to members, it is an invaluable guide to current journalism. Members of the Society are privileged to receive free medical advice, free legal advice, and the Honorary Ophthalmic Surgeon is always available by appointment. A Benevolent Fund, administered without publicity, is another advantage to members.

The Subscription for membership is One Guinea for London and Half a Guinea for Country.

Application for membership should be made to Sentinel House, W.C. 1.



## COMING EVENTS.

## ACTRESSES' FRANCHISE LEAGUE.

DEC. 15. 3-6 p.m. The Dansant, at Hyde Park Hotel, in aid of Extension of Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital. Particulars from Miss Adeline Bourne, 146 Harley Street, W. 1.

## CALDECOTT COMMUNITY.

DEC. 12 and 19. 4.30 p.m. Nativity Play, "The Emperor's Vision," to be given by Children of the Community, at Caldecott House, Goff's Oak, near Cheshunt.

## GUILDHOUSE WOMEN CITIZENS' SOCIETY.

DEC. 14. 3 p.m. The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. A Representative of the Westminster Housing Association on "Westminster's Ugly Buildings."

## LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

DEC. 4. 5 p.m. 35 Marsham Street, Westminster. Mrs. Hodson, F.J.S., on "Hereditry: In Current Political Problems."

## NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE UNMARRIED MOTHER AND HER CHILD.

DEC. 6. 3 p.m. Rhoda Countess of Carlisle's Concert for Homeless Babies, at the Palladium, Argyle Street, Oxford Street, W. Particulars from N.C.U.M.C., Carnegie House, 117 Piccadilly, W. 1.

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Aberdeen W.C.A. DEC. 15. 7.30 p.m. West End Café, 154a Union Street. Miss Eleanor Rathbone on "Family Endowment." Chair: Mrs. Traill.

Dundee W.C.A. 8 p.m. Miss Eleanor Rathbone on "The Work of the League of Nations for Child Welfare." Chair: Mrs. David Johnston.

Dunfermline S.E.C. DEC. 11. 7.30 p.m. Masonic Hall, New Row. Miss Eleanor Rathbone on "A Living Wage and Family Allowances."

Edinburgh W.C.A. DEC. 10. 8 p.m. Public Meeting, Gartshore Hall, 116 George Street. Mrs. Garden Blackie, M.B., Ch.B., on "China of To-day." Chair: The Rev. R. H. Strachan, D.D.

DEC. 11. 3.30 p.m. Drawing-room Meeting at 5 Royal Terrace (by kind permission of Mrs. Hannay, O.B.E., J.P.). Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., on "Family Allowances and the Need for a Living Wage." Chair: Professor F. G. Baily, F.R.S.E.

Gillingham W.C.A. DEC. 8. 7.30 p.m. Miss Eleanor Rathbone on "Family Endowment."

Kensington W.C.A. and S.E.C. DEC. 8. 3 p.m. Kensington Town Hall (Small Hall). Professor Gilbert Murray on "The Pact of Locarno." Chair: Mr. Archibald J. Allen.

Lewisham W.C.A. DEC. 4. 3 p.m. Courthill Road Hall. Mrs. Corbett Ashby on "Women's Work in Many Lands."

Petersfield S.E.C. DEC. 8. Miss Monica Whately on "Equal Franchise."

Purley W.C.A. DEC. 7. Miss Eleanor Rathbone on "Family Endowment."

Reigate and Redhill W.C.A. DEC. 8. Round Table Conference on "Bills of Special Interest to Women." Miss Beaumont presiding.

St. Andrews W.C.A. DEC. 14. 5 p.m. United College Hall. Miss Eleanor Rathbone on "The Work of the League of Nations on Child Welfare." Chair: Professor Turnbull.

## ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

DEC. 7. 6.30 p.m. Convent of Mercy, Hazelwood Crescent, W. 10. Mrs. Lieving on "Widows' Pensions."

DEC. 9. 3 p.m. St. Patrick's Club Room, Soho. Mrs. Lieving on "Widows' Pensions."

## SIX POINT GROUP.

DEC. 14. 5 p.m. 92 Victoria Street, S.W. 1. Viscount Astor on "The Liquor Control Bill." Chair: Dr. Jane Walker.

## SOCIETY FOR CONSTRUCTIVE BIRTH CONTROL AND RACIAL PROGRESS.

DEC. 10. 8 p.m. Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, W.C. Madame André Rieder on "Population Problems in the Near East." Chair: Dr. Marie Stopes.

## WOMEN'S GUILD OF EMPIRE.

DEC. 9. 7.45 p.m. Caxton Hall, Westminster. Miss Gwen Owen on "Co-partnership in Industry."

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BED-SITTINGROOMS, with breakfast. Gentlewomen (professional, business, students), permanent or temporary. Gas fires, meters, e.l. Quiet, select.—10 Endsleigh Street, Tavistock Square, W.C. 1.

BUSINESS woman, with small, comfortably furnished HOUSE near Tooting Broadway, would like another to share; terms moderate; references exchanged.—Apply, Box 1,202, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

COMFORTABLE HOUSE, near Berkhamsted and Ashridge, to let Dec., Jan., Feb.; very moderate rent to careful tenant; 8 bed, 3 sittingrooms (or part house); central heating, e.l., telephone.—Box 1,205, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

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WANTED, UNFURNISHED HOUSE or FLAT (lift); Westminster, or easy reach Law Courts; studio, dining-room, 4 bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen; rent up to £200 incl. taxes.—Apply, Box 1,210, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

LABOUR-SAVING COUNTRY COTTAGE to let for three or four months from 8th January. Three bedrooms, gas-fires, bathroom, geyser, etc. Suit two ladies. Nominal rent to careful tenants. Seven minutes from station and 2 hour by train from Liverpool Street.—Apply, Box 1,211, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

## PROFESSIONAL.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED. Consult Miss H. M. Baker, 275 High Holborn, W.C. 1. Income Tax Returns, Super Tax Returns, Repayment: Claims of all descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 377.

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## FOR SALE AND WANTED.

IRISH LINEN SERVIETTES, good reliable quality, in assorted designs, and highly recommended, size 22ins., 12s. 6d. per doz. Also special odd lot of tossed and soiled cotton serviettes for everyday use. Assorted sizes and designs, 7s. 9d. per dozen. Write for Complete Xmas Bargain List To-day.—HUTTON'S, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ulster.

SECOND-HAND CLOTHING wanted to buy for cash; costumes, skirts, boots, underclothes, curtains, lounge suits, trousers, and children's clothing of every description; parcels sent will be valued and cash sent by return.—Mrs. Russell, 100 Raby Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. (Stamped addressed envelope for reply.)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

WILL ANYONE LEND A SMALL CAR? Urgently needed for N.U.S.E.C. Organiser undertaking work on the programme of the Union.—Apply, 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 35 Marsham Street, Westminster. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Information Bureau. Interviews, 10 to 1, except Saturdays. Members' Centre open daily. Restaurant open to 7.30. (Not Saturdays.)

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 6th December: 3.30, Music; Lecture: Sir Leonard Rogers. 6.30, Mrs. Binns.

C.B.C. Society for Constructive Birth Control and Racial Progress, and the Free Clinic originally founded by Dr. Marie Stopes and Mr. H. V. Roe in Holloway. New central address: 108 Whitfield Street, Tottenham Court Road, London, W. 1. Social workers anxious for local instruction, but without funds for independent Clinics, can obtain the services of a C.B.C. certificated Nurse for one day weekly or monthly from above.

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EDUCATED HOME HELPS BUREAU, Philbeach Hall, Philbeach Gardens, Earls Court, requires and supplies educated women for all branches of domestic work. Registration: Employers 2s. 6d., Workers 1s. Suits, 7s. 6d. and 2s.

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