

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

Mysore and Women's Suffrage.

The Mysore Legislative Council has unanimously voted in favour of Women's Franchise. A motion was proposed on 10th April by Mr. Venkatesa Aiyar that "the Council recommends to the Government that the disability of sex be removed from the franchises of the Representative Assembly, the Legislative Council, and the Local Government bodies." The same property qualifications will apply to women as to men. Mysore is a progressive native State, with advanced ideas on education. The campaign for Women Suffrage in the State only began a year ago, under the auspices of the Women's Indian Association. A few months ago the Representative Assembly rejected the proposal for Women's Franchise by a small majority, but now that the Legislative Council, which is the superior body, has supported it, there is no doubt that the Representative Assembly will pass it next session.

Inequalities in the Civil and Criminal Law between Men and Women.

In answer to a question on the above subject from Sir James Greig on 6th April, the Prime Minister replied as follows: "The Lord Chancellor is considering the appointment of a committee to inquire into these matters and to report to him on the whole subject." Some days before this the Lord Chancellor had announced in the House of Lords his intention of appointing a Committee of legal experts to consider the doctrine of the Criminal Law with reference to the presumption of coercion of married women. The appointment of this committee has now been announced, but in spite of efforts which have been made by women's organizations, both to extend its terms of reference, and to secure the appointment of women on the committee, has been set up with its original restricted scope, and with no women. We should like to know whether the committee referred to in the Prime Minister's answer to Sir James Greig on 6th April was this Lord Chancellor's Committee, or whether the Government still have in mind the appointment of a further committee. We are inclined to suspect that there is to be only one, and that the reference to a further committee is a "terminological inexactitude." We understand, at the time of going to press, that Sir James Greig is making further efforts to elucidate the exact position. It is most important that the wider committee should be established. Not only has the necessity for an inquiry of this kind been realized

by all interested in the legal status of women, but quite recently, owing partly to the Peel case, and partly to the several cases which have been before the Courts dealing with the debts of married women, it has become obvious to the general public.

The Cambridge Imbrolio.

Equality of tests and tasks, inequality of rewards and privileges—such remains the offer which certain Cambridge men would like to make to women. In the course of the present term these men may take a further step into the tangle of brushwood which they have themselves planted. Nor does it greatly matter, since Parliament must soon rescue them from the result of their own mistakes. The latest proposal is to anticipate the day when women may be offered "titular degrees" by permitting Cambridge women medical students to present themselves for the Third M.B. examination, which will shortly be held, in order that they may qualify for the honour of the "title" of the degree of M.B. The explanation offered by the Special Board of Medicine for bringing forward this proposal is that if the Senate's vote of last October is carried into legislative effect and if the Statute, now before the King in Council, passes and titular degrees for women become a reality, the women who are now in the later stages of their medical training at Cambridge might not be able to get a titular degree if they wanted one. It is therefore recommended by the Medical Board that students of Girton and Newnham Colleges be admitted to the ensuing Third Examination for Medical and Surgical degrees on the same terms as men; likewise (and this is perhaps reason for haste) that the women pay the same fees as men; but that the degrees will be merely titular and will not make women members of the University. When the Grace for carrying out these proposals comes before the Senate, it will probably go through. Friends of the women's cause (of whom there are many on this very Board) will be glad to see women admitted to this examination, and enemies will hope that women may be sidetracked along the lines of the preposterous titular degree. Although the proposals were brought forward last Tuesday for a preliminary discussion, no great interest has been shown in the scheme so far. It is felt that the present state of things is transient and unreal, and the University—though many of its members shout vehemently to the contrary—is waiting for Parliament to correct its follies.

Women Medical Students.

Last week in the House Mr. T. Griffiths asked whether, in view of the London Hospital's decision to exclude women students altogether, the Government proposes to intervene in any way in the case of grant-aided hospitals, so that "those who accept public money do not discriminate against one section of the public which contributes the money." Sir Alfred Mond's reply was evasive and unsatisfactory. "The question of the admission of students to University institutions," he said, "is essentially for the discretion of the University authorities, with whose autonomy the Government desire to interfere as little as possible. The Government have no information indicating that the facilities for university education in medicine of qualified women are inadequate. The London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine, which is also grant-aided, is wholly confined to women."

Nationality Law.

In reply to a question by Sir Robert Chadwick in the House last week, Mr. Shortt stated that the concurrence of all the self-governing Dominions in the proposed amendments of the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act, 1914, had now been obtained. These amendments will provide for the acquisition of British nationality by children born of British subjects abroad, and will do away with the great injustice inflicted on British subjects. There has been a great delay in setting this matter right, but Mr. Shortt promises that steps will be taken immediately with a view to the introduction of the necessary legislation.

Maintenance Orders and Imprisonment.

In reply to a question of Mr. Rendal's in the House last week, it was stated that in 1920 2,920 men were imprisoned for failing to pay maintenance, under magistrates' orders, to wives. The Maintenance Orders Bill proposes that imprisonment shall not necessarily wipe out the debt. Many men are continuously in and out of prison for the same reason, but under present conditions the wife and children are none the better for that.

Women Teachers' War Service.

Mrs. Wintringham asked Mr. Fisher last week whether Circulars 1227 and 1244, though specifying only men teachers, are intended to include women teachers; and if the Board of Education, while prepared to recognize for the calculation of grant additional expenditure incurred by local education authorities who desire to treat periods of war service with the Forces as qualifying men assistant teachers for increments on the appropriate scales, is prepared to recognize that the war service of women teachers be also treated as teaching service for salary purposes in the same way that the war services of men are recognized in these circulars. Mr. Fisher's curt negative must not end the matter, and we hope other Members will support Mrs. Wintringham in her endeavours to secure equality for women teachers.

Married Women Teachers.

Once more we have to record a case of foolish economy. Ashton Borough Education Committee has recommended notice being given to all married women teachers in their schools, and also the reduction of their staffs by raising the number of scholars to thirty-six per teacher. There are forty women teachers with husbands living, for it is not proposed to give notice to teachers who are widows. In these efforts to economize it is always the women and children who are the first to suffer, and the evil results of these "economies" are incalculable.

Landlords and the Babies.

Sir Robert Clough drew the attention of the Minister of Health last week to the growing frequency of notices that houses and rooms will not be let to tenants with children, or with the possibility of having children, and asked whether it would be possible to introduce legislation on the subject to make it illegal to withhold accommodation on such grounds. Sir Alfred Mond replied that he did not think it would be practicable to deal with the matter by legislation. Something, however, should be done, though it is not very clear what means can be taken to compel selfish landlords not to act anti-socially. From California comes a report of the ideal landlord, who refuses to let his houses at

all to unmarried people, and who reduces his rents to married couples with more than one child by 5s. per week per child, while for every child born in houses owned by him the parents receive a month's rent!

The Juries Bill.

In Committee last week Mr. C. Percy moved an amendment enabling women to get exemption from serving on juries if within twenty-four hours of receiving a summons they notified in writing that they did not desire to serve. Mr. Shortt said that the amendment would expand a small measure intended to effect economies into one of vast importance. He did not disagree with the amendment, but it would open up a subject with so many sides that it would probably be impossible to get for local authorities this year, the relief which they were trying by this Bill to effect. We are glad that the amendment was withdrawn, for we do not want or support preferential legislation for women. Another amendment suggested the exemption of nuns or other women living in a religious congregation, but Mr. Shortt was unable to accept the amendment, and pointed out that the Sheriff had full power to give exemption on receiving a request from the Superior of a Convent. No one would suggest that a young nun should be summoned to serve on juries.

More Women J.P.s.

The list of new Norwich magistrates gives the names of six women justices. Up till now in Norwich and other East Anglian areas there have only been isolated and individual appointments of women justices. Mrs. Stuart was the first, and until to-day, only woman on the Norwich bench, and her death very shortly after her appointment deprived the city of any working experience of woman magistracy. The new list will suffice to provide one woman J.P. for every rota. We are no longer at the stage of the exceptional individual appointment, but have reached the stage of the systematic staffing of the local bench with women magistrates. The names of the new women J.P.s are Mrs. E. M. Beck, Mrs. K. A. Blake, Miss C. M. E. Calver, Miss M. Clarkson, Mrs. E. Palmer, and Miss M. Willis.

Woman Churchwarden.

Lady Cooper, wife of the late Sir E. Cooper, Lord Mayor of London in 1920, has been elected churchwarden at St. Michael's, Cornhill. It is believed that this is the first instance of a woman churchwarden being elected in the City of London.

Miss Picton-Turbervill.

Miss Picton-Turbervill has been invited by the N.C.W. of Holland to preach on Sunday, 14th March, at a service held in the Reformed Church at the Hague in connexion with the meeting of the International Council of Women. She has recently received the Bishop of London's recognition certificate for evangelistic work.

Pundita Ramabai.

Pundita Ramabai, who has just died at the age of 64, was well known an account of her efforts to improve the condition of her Indian fellow countrywomen. Her early education was far in advance of other Indian girls of her time, for her father was an advanced thinker, and taught her for many years himself. While she was still young her parents adopted the life of the pilgrim, and in wandering through the country the girl learnt to write and speak several dialects. After her parents' death she continued to travel with her brother, speaking everywhere on the education of women. She subsequently married, and after the death of her husband, Pundita came to England, embraced Christianity, and studied for a time at Cheltenham College. She afterwards went to America where she developed a plan for educating Hindu girls, especially child widows, and after her return to India she opened a home in Bombay for high caste widows, where the girls are taught a trade or profession in order to emancipate themselves.

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

THE SEPARATION AND MAINTENANCE ORDERS BILL.

We have often referred to the need for drastic changes with regard to Separation and Maintenance Orders in the Police Courts. We therefore welcome very warmly the Separation and Maintenance Orders Bill, which has been promoted by the N.U.S.E.C., and will be coming up for its second reading in the House of Commons on 26th May, introduced by Sir Robert Newman (C.U.), and backed by Members of all parties, including Lady Astor, Mrs. Wintringham, and Mr. Arthur Henderson.

The Bill will introduce real reforms and remove very many great hardships and injustices. Consider the present law! It is not only unjust as between men and women, but also as between rich and poor. A man or woman who is well off can obtain either a judicial separation in the Divorce Court for such causes as adultery, desertion, etc., or a separation by deed, drawn up by a solicitor, but those who cannot afford the expense of either of these forms of procedure, must, in order to obtain a Separation or Maintenance Order, apply to a Police Court. A man, however grossly his wife may neglect him, his children, and his home, can only obtain a Separation Order if she is an habitual drunkard. A woman can, on the other hand, obtain a Separation and Maintenance Order if her husband has either deserted her, failed to maintain her or her children, if he has treated her with persistent cruelty, or if he is an habitual drunkard.

Under the new Bill, husband and wife will be able to obtain a Separation Order on practically the same grounds, that is to say, the grounds on which a woman can now obtain a Separation Order, and, in addition, that the defendant has treated the children with cruelty, or is suffering from venereal disease in a communicable form.

A further vital change in the law has been effected as follows: At present a wife can only apply for a Separation Order on the grounds of cruelty or failure to maintain, if she has first left her husband. Where, however, as in so many cases, she has no money and no friends, she cannot go away and take her children, and many a woman whose circumstances are such that she should apply for a Separation Order is now debarred from doing so. Under this Bill this condition is removed; moreover, a Maintenance Order may be granted whether the parties are living together or separately. This will mean that homes, in which the trouble is failure to maintain on the part of the father, will not, as now, necessarily be broken up, and the moral effects of such a law will be incalculable.

It is important to notice that this Bill has been altered somewhat from its first draft, and that adultery is no longer to be one of the grounds on which a Separation and Maintenance Order can be obtained by husband or wife. Although the Bill is considerably weaker without this addition, it will have more chance of becoming law, as there is reason to believe that this provision would have met with opposition from the Government.

Other provisions of the Bill have been included in order to improve the facilities for the enforcement of the payment of Orders. It is only too well known that, under the present law, Maintenance Orders are often ineffective, inasmuch as they are not paid.

It is sometimes argued that it is undesirable to extend in any way the grounds on which a Separation Order may be given, from the point of view that if the marriage contract is to be terminated at all, it is better that the Divorce Law should be reformed. The promoters of this Bill, however, feel that the question of Divorce and the question of Separation should be considered each on its own merits. Not only does the present Divorce Law make no provision for relief on the grounds specified above, but even if it were reformed along these lines there would always be certain classes of the community who would not wish to avail themselves of it, and who are yet in urgent need of relief.

The need for this Bill, though very real indeed, is not obvious to the ordinary happily married citizen, whether man or woman, and there is a danger, therefore, that the support it arouses in the country will not be as widespread as that aroused by Bills of a more universal type, such as the Guardianship of Infants Bill, the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, etc. We, therefore, wish to appeal to all our readers to study this question and to come out in support of the Bill.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

The excitement of the introduction of the Budget was followed by a quiet week.

On Tuesday, 2nd May, the usual discussion was taken on the Budget Resolutions and the debate ranged over a wide field. From that, and from opinions of Members expressed, in the Lobby, it is clear that the more the Budget is looked at the more it is liked. It was thought at first that Sir Robert Horne had cut his figures too close, and that he never expected to get even the small surplus allowed for. But now opinion has swung round to the opposite point. A conviction is growing that there is more in the Budget than appears, and it is believed that the Chancellor has both under-estimated revenue and over-estimated expenditure. If this is the case, many things may result; and, incidentally, it may mean that the election is deferred till next year.

The discussion was continued on Wednesday, 3rd May, and Monday and Tuesday, 8th and 9th May. On the evening of 3rd May Mr. W. Smith introduced a motion calling for the amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act, in view of increasing the payments, and this, after a somewhat desultory discussion, was carried without a division. It must not be assumed, however, that legislation will result; for Governments are getting increasingly reluctant to attach importance to private Members' Resolutions; still the motion is an indication.

On Thursday, 4th May, Mr. Kellaway introduced the Post Office estimates. He spoke clearly and well, and had a good House. It must be pointed out, however, that a Postmaster-General stands in a favoured position, for he is the Chancellor of his own Exchequer. If the Treasury tell him that he must not expect any subsidy from the taxes, all he has to do is to turn round and charge the public more, and therefore they pay whatever happens, either through taxes or through postal charges. But it would not be fair to Mr. Kellaway to leave the matter there, for undoubtedly the Post Office have put their house in order, and are doing the nation's work at less cost than they were. The actual reforms have nearly all been foreshadowed in the Budget, but still the Postmaster-General had some interesting matter in his speech, notably on the increased use of wireless. The debate, as usual, was discursive. Mr. Ammon made a sensible speech, as was to be expected from one of his experience, but nothing else calls for notice.

On Friday, 5th May, Col. Archer-Shee introduced a Bill, which can hardly be taken seriously, for amending our electoral law, and Members showed their opinion by absenting themselves, so that the House was counted out early in the afternoon. On Monday, 8th May, as has been said, the Budget debate was renewed, and continued on Tuesday, 9th May.

Genoa goes from bad to worse. The heroic figure of the Prime Minister, fighting against immense odds, captures the imagination of even his enemies, except the hostile Press; but it begins to be clear that no settlement can be expected. It is doubtful whether France wants one. It is certain that Russia does, but more than doubtful whether she will pay the price. Assuming that the Prime Minister comes from Genoa with nothing in his pocket, many things may happen, and prophecy is difficult. Two points, however, are fairly clear. There will be no break with France, however much we may disapprove of what she is doing; and possibly some rearrangement of the Government will become necessary. It will be difficult to see how matters can go on exactly as they are. The General Election, however, is no nearer. It is worth pointing out, by the way, that THE WOMAN'S LEADER is the only paper which did not prophesy an election in February, and almost the only one which did not follow that up by prophesying for June. This by the way. At the moment it is not believed that the election will be early, and already the talk is of next year.

[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.]

THE VOTELESS WOMEN OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Enfranchised women in other parts of the world are asking why the Union of South Africa, in many respects one of the most progressive of the British dominions, does not grant her feminine population the status of responsible citizenship.

Are South African men more egotistical than other men? Can it be possible that they still cling to the idea that wisdom and good judgment are the attributes of the male sex alone? Or are South African women less capable than other women of taking an intelligent interest in matters which affect their country, and casting a vote for the member or party most likely to work for its welfare? Or is this attitude due to apathy engendered by a warm climate, and sapping the energy of individuals and nations who succumb to its encroachments?

None of these surmises really account for this attitude, which is due rather to circumstances outside the experience of other countries, and perplexing for that reason.

Roman Dutch law, by which the Union is governed, has never impressed upon women a sense of inferiority or disability, as has been done in some parts of the world. The marriage laws, for instance, provide that where an ante-nuptial contract is made, definite provision shall be made for the wife, and any inheritance which may be hers is secured to her and her heirs, and is not in any circumstances at the disposal of the husband unless ceded to him by his wife. As in the days just prior to marriage, a man is usually willing and even anxious to demonstrate his concern for the welfare of his future partner, some settlement is always made—the furniture and insurance policy on the man's life for instance—and no matter what circumstances follow, this remains secured for the woman. Cases have been known where a man engaged in speculation, or in fear of bankruptcy, has made substantial settlements on his wife, and in the ruin which followed his creditors have not been able to touch the wife's portion.

Where no such settlement is made the parties are married in Community of Property, that is, each has an equal share in the joint estate. A will must be made jointly otherwise it is invalid, and the estate is regarded as intestate and administered accordingly, one-half going to the surviving spouse, the other to the next-of-kin of the deceased. It is not possible for a man to leave his property to strangers and ignore the claims of his wife and children, nor can he bequeath it to his son or sons and disinherit his daughters. An objection to this rule has sometimes been made in that, where the children are numerous, it means that the farm must be sold to pay out the claims, whereas if it could have been left to the eldest son or sons it might have been kept in the family. On the other hand, why should one be provided for while the rest must fend for themselves? It is quite possible for other sufficient provision to be made for the widow and younger children, but none may suffer that one may gain.

In matrimonial disputes, also, the law acts with impartiality. No distinction is drawn between offences by the man or by the woman. The custody of the minor children is given to the innocent party, with reasonable access allowed to the other parent. And not only the law, but the judges who administer it, show an appreciation of the woman's position, and a freedom from sex bias, which has prevented the fostering of any sense of injustice. This is one reason for the complacency of South African women; in the mass they do not feel that they are discriminated against or unfairly treated because they are women. True, Olive Schreiner wrote: "To be born a woman is to be born branded," but I had it from her own lips that the disability she inveighed against most bitterly was the lack of educational facilities for the women of her time, as well as the restrictions placed by convention upon their movements, and time and progress have removed these in South Africa as elsewhere. In all young countries, where men and women have faced dangers and difficulties and hardships together in such recent times, the bonds of comradeship are more keenly felt than in countries where centuries of civilization have obliterated the memories of struggles faced together, when the woman, by reason of her sex, had the most to endure. Men cannot but appreciate the home-makers in lonely places, who, far from medical aid or neighbours, bear and rear children, and, with only unskilled native help, perform their domestic duties, as well very often as those of a working partner on the farm.

It has been asserted that as soon as South African women ask for the vote it will be given to them. The question naturally

arises, has such a demand been made, and how was it met? From time to time petitions have been presented to whatever Government was in power, asking for the enfranchisement of women, but, though treated courteously, the usual objection was made, that only a small minority of women desired the change, and as soon as a considerable demand could be shown it would be given. Now, in a country of vast spaces and long distances, where travelling is neither easy nor cheap, canvassing is almost impossible outside the towns. Nevertheless, the suffrage societies set themselves to the task of securing a monster petition, representing the four provinces of the Union. The success of this undertaking far surpassed their expectations. All over the country women came forward readily to sign, and it exceeded any petition previously presented in South Africa. The occasion of its presentation marked an epoch in the country's history. General Smuts had replied to a request that he should receive a deputation of ladies to present their petition, that he would meet them at the steps of the House. On the appointed day a howling south-easter rolled its "cloth" over Table Mountain, and a message arrived to the women assembling in the Cathedral Hall that one of the Council Chambers would be placed at their disposal, and the Premier would listen to their speeches and receive the petitions there. Headed by the Defence Force Band (which with good-humoured irony struck up "Pack up your troubles in your old kit-bag"!) the women marched in orderly manner the short distance from the Hall to the House of Assembly. The route was lined by curious spectators, and Members and their friends crowded the windows of the House. Three hundred European women, representing all classes, and most of the larger towns in the four provinces, composed the deputation. Each province presented its signatures separately, one woman introducing and another speaking to the petition; these eight women were each prominent in public life, and known throughout the Union; their speeches were concise, practical, and witty. In replying the Premier congratulated the women on the demonstration they had made, declared himself in sympathy with their aims, but told them the majority of his colleagues were opposed to the measure, and unless the women could convince them he was powerless to introduce a Government Bill. He promised, however, to provide facilities for a private Member's Bill.

Suffragists in England will recognize a curious similarity in the treatment accorded to this movement in both lands. Human nature is much the same all over the world, and as long as women will be satisfied with polite speeches (which cost nothing, and mean as much as they cost), they will receive nothing else.

The South African Party, of which General Smuts is the leader, is composed of the former Unionist Party, combined with the moderate section of the Dutch, and by this amalgamation obtaining a majority large enough to form a stable government. It believes in maintaining the link with Great Britain, and remaining a self-governing dominion within the Empire. The Nationalist Party, under General Hertzog, is the largest in the country, and consists almost entirely of Dutch farmers; their creed is "South Africa over all", and they would like to sever the connecting link with England and declare themselves a separate nation, with the Dutch language and ideas dominating, and a republican form of government. The Labour Party, which is the smallest in the House, is the only one which would be prepared to make woman suffrage a plank in their platform; it stands for labour interests and a democratic and moderately socialistic ideal.

Each of these parties has a woman's section, which works devotedly for the return of husbands or sons or the men these wish to see returned. The attitude of these women to the question of their own enfranchisement is interesting, for so earnestly convinced is each party with its adherents that it only has the true interests of the country at heart, the women will sacrifice their own cause lest an access of power to one of the rival parties should jeopardise their own party. Thus the Unionist-South African Party woman fears the influx of a number of women imbued with a fierce desire to break with England even at the cost of civil war, and rather than precipitate such a catastrophe she will forgo her claim. The Nationalist woman fears the better organization of her South African Party sisters; she has also a deep distrust of modernism, and believes in accomplishing her objects by surreptitious rather than direct methods. The Labour

woman alone, backed by the men of her party, is a whole-hearted suffragist. The crux of the whole matter lies, however, in the vexed colour question, the cause of so much heart-burning and anxiety throughout the sub-continent.

In Cape Province any male possessing the necessary property qualification is entitled to vote; in the three other provinces the right is restricted to European men only. This concession by the old Cape Parliament, long before Union, is regarded as a very grave blunder by the Transvaal, Free State, and Natal, who are jealously fearful of any extension of the principle into their territory. In Rhodesia, outside the Union, women have got the vote, but it is pointed out that there is no native or coloured franchise there. When prejudice holds sway reason is in abeyance. Each of the three provinces have affirmed their intention of breaking the Union rather than follow the Cape's example, yet they fear that a time will come when the coloured franchise will be extended, and if the women as well as the men can vote the white population will be outnumbered. It is not so much an objection to the women—most people admit that it is no worse to have coloured women electors than it is to have coloured men; some would prefer the latter because they think on the whole women are more docile and peaceable than men—it is simply the fear of numbers.

WHERE "LATCH-KEY LADIES" LIVE.

By Mrs. C. S. PEEL, O.B.E.

The clever title of Miss M. Grant's clever novel describes in three words what has come to be a large class in London and other cities. The entry of women into the professional and business world has resulted in a steadily growing demand for accommodation such as educated women of refined tastes require at a price which they can afford to pay. Inquiry shows that the supply of such accommodation is insufficient to meet the demand, and for that reason readers of this article should not waste time and money in making personal application to secretaries of hostels and clubs, but should first write (enclosing a stamped and addressed envelope for reply) in order to ascertain if there is any likelihood of a room or rooms being available.

A popular club for daughters of professional men, working or training for their living, is the Cecilia Club, 8 Southwick Street, Marble Arch, W. 1. The premises comprise bedrooms, drawing, reading, writing, dining, and ironing rooms, and the annual subscription is £1 for non-resident members and an entrance fee of 5s. for resident members. Accommodation with partial board, that is, breakfast and dinner each day and four meals on Sundays, costs from 26s. to 35s. per week; while non-residents pay 1s. for Sunday supper, 1s. 6d. for dinner, and 6d. for tea. Visitors may be invited provided due notice is given. The club is primarily intended for girls at the outset of their career, and resident members are seldom admitted after the age of 25. The rules are reasonable and framed for the benefit of all concerned.

In the S.W. district is the Students' Hall of Residence (107 and 109 Belgrave Road, and 5 St. George's Square). This Students' Hall is run in connexion with the well-known Secretarial Training Offices of Mrs. Hoster, and the accommodation is reserved for gentlemen studying in London, other than music students. Here, again, the rules are not unreasonably restrictive. The fees vary (for partial board) from 37s. 6d. to 3½ guineas per week, according to whether the inmates require cubicles, double, or single rooms. Two breakfasts are served, at 7.45 and at 8.30, and a light luncheon if required in addition to dinner and the usual full board on Sunday.

A residential club in the W.C. district is the Cartwright Gardens Club (22 Cartwright Gardens, Tavistock Square, W.C.). Here cubicles or rooms may be obtained. The cost of a cubicle and the usual partial board is 24s. per week. The subscription is one guinea per year, and there are dining and silence rooms, a smoking lounge, and a large recreation-room, where dances and other festivities often take place. Sitting-rooms may be hired, and there is special accommodation for laundering—an important matter in these days of high prices.

One, if not the largest, scheme for providing housing accommodation for educated women is that of the Ladies' National Clubs, Ltd., registered office, 104A Knightsbridge, S.W. 1. This association has houses in all parts of London, some very

Why should these provinces be afraid of the coloured franchise if they are determined never to grant it? Do they know that as civilization advances nothing can keep natives and coloured folk from progressing with the times, and as they become better educated and more prosperous their demand for a direct voice in the government of themselves must grow irresistible? If this is the case it is difficult to see how the enfranchisement of women is going to effect the ultimate issue one way or the other. The coloured males would outnumber the European males, but less of the former would possess property and education, which are necessary for voting. Women are more rarely property owners, and the coloured more seldom than the white, so that it is extremely improbable that either would be in an ascendancy at the polls. The only education necessary at present is that the elector should be able to sign his name, and it is an easy matter for a dusky gentleman, of no literary accomplishments whatever, to get an obliging friend to coach him in the art of making the letters which spell his name for the purpose of voting. Would it not be possible, and to the advantage of the country, to raise the educational qualification so that only people who had reached a certain standard of civilization, of whatever sex or colour, should share in the government of the country?

(To be continued.)

large, others smaller, and, in consequence, conditions and prices vary. There is an entrance fee of a guinea and a subscription of a guinea per annum, and married or single gentlewomen are accepted as tenants.

The houses are divided into flatlets of one room, with gas-fire, ring, and slot meter. These unfurnished rooms are let by the quarter, and the rents vary from 12s. 6d. to 63s. weekly, being paid quarterly and in advance. Rates include rates, electric light, baths, and use of public rooms, latch-key, papers, box-room space, and, if required, separate larder. Meals may be served in the restaurant or in the flatlet, but a fixed minimum sum per week per person must be guaranteed. Approximate prices and times of meals are: Breakfast, 8 to 9 a.m., 1s. 6d.; lunch, 1 to 2 p.m., 1s. 6d.; tea, 4 to 5.30 p.m., 1s.; dinner, 7 to 8 p.m., 2s. 6d. These may vary slightly in different branches, and 6d. extra per meal will be charged for men except for teas. Personal domestic service is optional, and can be obtained by the hour or week at prevailing market rates. Guest rooms are set apart for members' friends and non-resident members; prices per night, from 4s. to 6s., include bath, light, and attendance. All clubs are on view daily from 11 to 1 o'clock, and from 2 to 4 on Saturdays.

Amongst the London club houses are: *41, 43, 45, and 47 Barkston Gardens, S.W. 5; 30, 31, and 20 Philbeach Gardens, S.W. 5; *6 Inverness Terrace, W. 2; *122 Westbourne Terrace, W. 2; *18 to 22 Craven Hill, W. 2; *15 and 16 Vicarage Gate, W. 8. There are also seaside and country houses including the *Country Club, "Burvale," Hershams, Walton-on-Thames.

Amongst many other hostels and clubs are Brabazon House, Moreton Street, Belgrave Road, S.W. 1; Bedford House, York Place, Baker Street, W. 1; Helena Residential Clubs, Ltd. (Secretary: Miss Ireland, M.B.E.), 81 Lancaster Gate, W. 2; the Marlborough Hostel for Girls, 33 Endsleigh Street, W.C. 1; and the Warwick Club, 21 St. George's Square, S.W. 1.

The idea that girls and women must be chaperoned and controlled is evidently dying out, for the rules made are generally merely such as are made necessary by limitation of price and of service, and for the convenience of the community; nevertheless there is generally a friendly atmosphere, and a young and inexperienced girl living in a club or hostel may always obtain protection and advice should she require it. Thus housed, she need not suffer from the loneliness which is a real source of unhappiness, and in some cases of temptation, to a girl in solitary lodgings, cut off from home and friends.

"Latch-key ladies" are, as a rule, industrious, sensible people, doing good work in the world, and a credit to their sex, and as such deserve every effort which can be made to house them in comfort.

* Available for married couples.

COMING EVENTS (Continued).

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

MAY 16. Chadwell Heath Women's Co-operative Guild, 2.30 p.m. "Public Ownership of the Liquor Trade." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

MAY 17. Deal Women's Co-operative Guild, 3 p.m. "Public Ownership of the Liquor Trade." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

MAY 18. Upper Holloway Baptist Church, 7.30 p.m. "A new solution of the Drink Problem." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

N.U.S.E.C.

MAY 12. Kensington S.E.C., Town Hall, Kensington, 5 p.m. Conference on Separation and Maintenance Orders Bill. Speaker: Mrs. Hubback. Chair: Mrs. Hudson Lyall, C.B.E., L.C.C., J.P.

MAY 13. Oxford S.E.C. "Bills before Parliament affecting Women and Children." Speaker: Mrs. Hubback.

MAY 18. Petersfield Women's Institute, 3.15 p.m. "How to use the vote." Speaker: Miss Macadam. 7 p.m., "Election Policy." Speaker: Miss Macadam.

GUILDHOUSE.

MAY 26. Guildhouse, Ecclestone Square, 8 p.m. "What I saw in America." Speaker: Miss Maude Royden. Music: Mr. Martin Shaw.

MEDICAL, Etc.

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HOSTEL FOR VISITORS AND WORKERS; terms from 4s. 6d. per night, or 18s. 6d. per week, room and breakfast.—Mrs. K. Wilkinson, 59 Albany Street, Regent's Park, N.W. 1.

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FURNISHED FLAT TO LET, in Ladies' Chambers, Bloomsbury, for June or longer.—Apply, Box 904, WOMAN'S LEADER, 62 Oxford Street, W. 1.

WELL-FURNISHED FLAT TO LET, from 9th May to 30th September, at Great James Street, Bedford Row, W.C. 1; 1 sitting, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, bath, electric light; three guineas weekly.—Apply, Miss Burnham, 17 Camden House Road, W. 8.

WELL-FURNISHED FLAT, three rooms, garden, bath (h. and c.); 48s. weekly.—Hogg, 3 Milton Park, Highgate, 3 to 8 p.m.

COMFORTABLE FURNISHED upper FLAT, for one gentleman or two friends, in private house of doctor's widow; sitting-room, bedroom, kitchenette; redecorated; electric light, gas cooker, fires, slot meter, sink, bath, geyser; superior quiet road, West Kensington, very open, near Queen's Club; tube, trains, buses, two minutes.—Box 903, WOMAN'S LEADER, 62 Oxford Street, W. 1.

WELL-FURNISHED FLAT TO LET, six months or longer; three rooms, gas cooker, self-contained; £2 10s. weekly.—"M. P.", 27 Warwick Chambers, Patern Street, Kensington, W. 8.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY, 55 Berners Street, London, W. 1. Telephone, Museum 4181. Minimum subscription, 1s.; Organ: "Catholic Citizen," 2d. monthly.

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