

THE  
**WOMAN'S LEADER**

IN POLITICS  
IN THE HOME  
IN INDUSTRY

IN LITERATURE AND ART  
IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND  
**THE COMMON CAUSE**

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*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.

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# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND  
COMMON CAUSE.

## NOTES AND NEWS

### Traffic in Women and Girls.

The League of Nations has sent to all Governments a questionnaire as to the measures already taken or projected to combat the traffic in women and children. This is preliminary to the international conference which the Council of the League is to convene before the autumn. The document inquires whether the procuring of women or of girls under age, whether with or without their consent, is a criminal offence in a given country, and whether such acts are punishable if committed abroad. This, one must hope, foreshadows international legislation dealing with procurers who recruit in one country women for immoral traffic under another flag. A further series of questions relates to measures of protection for girls and women emigrating, or delayed at or returned from their destination after emigration, and to the watching of railway stations and ports. The section dealing with colonies and dependencies asks for information as to alleged procuring of girls of native races by their own countrywomen at the instance of Europeans. In all cases, colonial and otherwise, the questionnaire asks not only for the laws which find a place on the statute book, but for details of prosecutions as an index of the stringency with which they are administered. The question of immoral traffic in children, under the name of barter, pawning, or adoption in certain colonies is also raised. It is beset with difficulties, since in backward Eastern countries without a poor-law adoption for industrial purposes, it is sometimes the only alternative to total destitution of young orphan children. The dangers of the custom need no emphasising, nor, while our own land offers so little protection to the child with regard to adoption, can we afford to take a superior tone in this matter. No doubt the questionnaire will disclose astonishing and appalling lacunae in the protective law and administration of all countries, but it must be admitted that something can be accomplished even by taking the law of the most backward country and rendering it effective by international co-operation.

### International Conferences.

The first international conferences on the White Slave Traffic and the protection of women and girls were the result of the effort of Alexander Coote, inspired by the words of Josephine Butler. Nothing seemed more improbable in 1898 than international co-operation in this field, but the fifth and last international conference held under his auspices in 1913, was attended by Government as well as unofficial representatives of every European nation, except those at war, and of Australia, U.S.A., Canada, South Africa, the Argentine, Egypt, and China. It lasted nearly three days, and debate centred largely on the question of State control of vice. It was remarkable that no delegate from any country upheld that expedient as tending to reduce immorality, or even to check disease. The conference was especially interesting to the social observer owing to the attitude of some of the best of the Government representatives, prominent among whom was the late Commissioner Bullock. Experience had convinced these men that the problem, so far as it related to commercialised vice, was an economic one. The trafficker makes huge profits, he is extremely ingenious and resourceful in evading legislation intended to protect his victims, and, consequently, no law is likely to be permanently effective in restraining him. All protective laws are weapons efficacious for the moment, to be amended and adapted as the criminal perfects his counter-activities. The Congress was the place where these patient, disillusioned, indomitable men chose their weapons from among those the enthusiasts brought together. Under the auspices of the League of Nations the campaign will lose nothing of that moral ardour which, from the first, has been its motive power.

### The Primate's Attitude to the Divorce Bill.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has made a public statement as to his attitude to Lord Gorell's Matrimonial Causes Bill. He acknowledges that the chief grievance against our present marriage laws is twofold—(1) that we have one law for the rich and another for the poor; and (2) that we draw a cruel inequality between the man and woman as regards obtaining release. He is prepared to remove both these grievances, and for that reason he supported the recommendations of the Minority Report. Lord Gorell's Bill deals with these grievances and gives effect to other recommendations of the Minority of the Royal Commission as regards defining the grounds on which nullity could be declared. The Archbishop, however, makes it clear that if the Bill is amended to introduce new causes for divorce—desertion, insanity, drunkenness, &c., it will forfeit the support of the Church. Declarations of nullity, he says, must not be confused with divorce; the former have always been possible, and if they are properly prescribed and limited they do not contravene Church order. The Primate refers to "the ease and almost levity with which separation orders have been obtainable," and he looks with favour on the new Bill because it reforms the system by requiring greater caution in the giving of a separation order, and in securing for it a temporary character only.

### Women in Sweated Trades.

The women net repairers at Yarmouth are being threatened with a drastic cutting of wages, and although they are protesting strongly and are urging the Minister of Labour to give them the protection of a Trade Board, the boat owners seem to be determined to carry out their threat. These women, technically known as "beatsters," have been receiving, under an award of the Industrial Court, a wage of 8½d. an hour, or 27s. 7½d. per week. The present reduction will give them 20s. a week plus 1s. for every completed net, and, although a Trade Board exists for the rope, twine, and net trade, the shipowners have consistently and successfully prevented the inclusion of the "beatsters" within this Board. One can hardly hope that the protests of these women will be successful, when one realises that new Trade Boards that were promised as long ago as January, 1919, have not yet been set up. The Minister of Labour recently stated that only those for which orders have already been issued would be established, and the already too small staff of investigators is being reduced. Investigations into trades in which Boards have not yet been set up show a deplorable state of affairs. Instances have sometimes been found of wages at the rate of 2d. per hour, and 3½d. is comparatively frequent. At present prices this is sweating of the worst description, and yet the haunting dread of unemployment makes these unfortunate women afraid to complain and ready to accept the miserable pittance which may be all that stands between them and utter destitution. To compare their powerlessness with the strength of the miners gives food for thought.

### Police Widows' Pensions.

The inequalities of the Police Pensions Bill, which were freely criticised on Monday in the House of Commons, affect the widows of constables as well as retired members of the police force. According to the Bill as drafted, the widow of a man who retired after 1914 with thirty years' service, would receive an annual pension of £30, while one whose husband retired before that date would be entitled to nothing at all. This is the more unjust because the police, now well paid, received until recently a quite inadequate wage, out of which they could not be expected to save—some county policemen, eight or nine years ago, getting

round about a pound a week. Mr. Neville Chamberlain asked that a police officer's widow should be entitled to claim a gratuity instead of the pension to which she is entitled. It is obvious that to a woman of advanced age and very precarious health, a lump sum equivalent to even three or four years' pension represents independence for life, while £30 a year will keep her out of the workhouse infirmary without providing any tolerable substitute.

### Meals for Mothers.

We congratulate the Labour members of the Glasgow Town Council, who have been the means of carrying through an important decision which would otherwise have been shelved. The Health Committee sent in a unanimous recommendation to the effect that meals should be provided, in cases of necessity, for nursing and expectant mothers and for young children. But for the firm action of the Labour members, the opposition on the Council would have succeeded in their refusal to discuss the subject; public opinion, however, was so strongly in support of the Labour attitude that the opposition was eventually withdrawn, and the Council has adopted the resolution. In these anxious days we hope that Glasgow's example will be followed in as many other places as possible.

### C3.

Sir Kingsley Wood has been slaying the slain by proving that we are not a C3 nation. No one really thought we were, though some reformers used the phrase as a bug-bear to alarm the careless. The phrase arose from some comment on recruiting figures; these, of course, excluded women altogether, and the health and physique of Englishwomen of almost all classes has been on the up-grade for two generations. They also excluded several millions of able-bodied men already in the army and navy. Still, the headline served its purpose and may yet ginger up Ministries of health and their publics. Women will await with interest the words and deeds of Sir Alfred Mond as Health Minister; he must not think that if he does better than Dr. Addison we shall be satisfied. It will not strain his powers to promise rather less and do rather more.

### Women Masons.

At the recent quarterly meeting of the United Grand Lodge of Freemasons the question of the admission of women to freemasonry was discussed. Several lodges are in existence where women, as well as men, are initiated and permitted to become members. The Grand Lodge of England regards these lodges as rebels and refused to consider a petition asking for recognition; in fact it was further announced that disciplinary powers would be continually exercised towards any member working under the English jurisdiction who violated his obligation by being present at, or assisting in, assemblies professing to be Masonic which were attended by women. There is an unwonted resemblance between the Bishops and the Grand Masters on this point!

### Wives on the Bench.

Once again sex discrimination has been exercised in the case of a woman justice, and in this case, as in so many others, it was absolutely indefensible. A woman Justice of the Peace was required to retire from a Bench of magistrates before which her husband was appearing as solicitor, and although, in the past, comments have been passed on the appearance of men-counsel and solicitors before their relations on the Bench, there is no excuse for sex discrimination in this matter. If the fact of relationship between a lawyer and a magistrate is to result in the withdrawal of the magistrate from the Court, a definite direction should be issued by the Lord Chancellor, applying equally to both sexes. It is obvious that a justice would, as a matter of principle, withdraw from a Court before which a conflict of interest might arise, but in this case there was no such principle involved, and the occasion adds one more to the long list of cases of unfair discrimination against women in the exercise of their new duties.

### Mrs. Simpson.

It was once a favourite gibe that man and wife were one person and that that person was the husband. The clerk to the Plymouth Justices is still of that opinion. A Mr. Simpson was president of the local Temperance Association, and the Associa-

tion was opposing the grant of a certain public house licence. The clerk could not distinguish between Mr. Simpson, President, and Mrs. Simpson, J.P., and challenged the latter at licensing sessions because of her husband's opinions. If this is upheld women justices must be selected less for their qualifications than because they have husbands without opinions. If it is upheld Mrs. Simpson might adopt the theory that she and her husband share all offices and honours by claiming to preside over his Association. This principle might carry us far. Think, for instance, of Mrs. Asquith.

### Croydon Schools.

The Croydon school teachers' strike for the application of the Burnham "No. 4" scale to their salaries is still proceeding. In at least one school work was carried on on Monday without any adult instructor, at another the headmaster was carrying on without assistance. In these circumstances the discipline maintained by the scholars themselves has been surprisingly good. Their behaviour is the highest tribute to the efficiency of the absent staff, but it will be a heavy time for the head teachers. A meeting of them was called by the Education Committee to discuss means of carrying on the schools pending a settlement, and we imagine that they had a good deal to say, if, indeed, poor things, they had any energy left to say it!

### The Ministry of Women.

The Committee of the League of the Church Militant has decided to promote a Memorial in support of the Lambeth Resolutions on the Ministrations of women in the Church. All Communicant members of the Church of England who are in sympathy with the Lambeth proposals are asked to assist in every way possible in making this memorial known. It runs as follows: "We, the undersigned, communicant members of the Church of England, affirm and assert the principles of the Catholic Church as to the fundamental equality of all baptised persons, and we entirely repudiate the assertion that any Christian soul is considered on grounds of sex incapable of receiving any Christian gift or grace. We strongly urge that the Lambeth Conference Resolutions on the Ministrations of Women in the Church shall be put into practice forthwith without limitation or hindrance." Forms for signature will be sent to clergy and laity if they will apply for them to the L.C.M. Office, Church House, Westminster, S.W. 1.

### Income Tax Reform.

The Income Tax Reform League issues in its Report some useful comments on the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Income Tax. Mr. Bonar Law announced last spring a Bill intended to give effect to the findings of the Commission, and it is said that the new Chancellor is on the point of drafting it. Let us hope he will not forget that married women are separate entities from their husbands. The Income Tax being now the chief source of revenue, any variations in its incidence have the most far-reaching effect, not only upon Exchequer receipts, but on national and international trade. To blunder about Income Tax is to jeopardise national prosperity. The existence of a League of experts able to criticise adequately any projected reform or innovation is of the first importance. The relative importance of direct and indirect taxation at the present day suggests that the well-known "slogan" may be reversed, and that orators may clamour for "No representation without taxation" at some future general election.

### Election of Guardians.

The Local Government Elections have provided some lamentable instances of neglect by citizens, both male and female, of one of their plain duties. Hackney has held an election to fill a vacancy on its Board of Guardians, and out of a total of 10,465 electors only 98 went to the poll. It is idle to ask for increased local control while this state of things continues. Districts which display such cynical indifference to important matters concerning their own citizens deserve to have their affairs mismanaged, and will probably get their deserts. All districts, fortunately, are not equally careless. Miss E. M. Hoole was head of the poll at the Sutton Urban Council election. The support given to her was a tribute to her good work as vice-chair of the Council; this year she will be chairman. At Ilford, two Liberal women have been returned for the District Council, which has hitherto consisted of men only.

## THE COAL CRISIS.

It is impossible, writing as we do, on the eve of the decision of the Triple Alliance, to speak of the prospects of the coal crisis. The rights and wrongs of the dispute are in any case of that class of subjects upon which uninstructed criticism is of no value. We do not attempt, therefore, to recapitulate the mine workers' or the mine owners' cases. Neither seems to be quite clear cut, and both seem to have elements of justice and elements of folly. It is not our business in these pages to weigh up the proportions in which justice and folly are mixed, and we hold no brief for either side.

We do, however, hold a brief for women, and it is for this reason that we are very deeply concerned in some aspects of the present strike. We do not mean that women are more concerned than men in a shortage of coal, an increase of unemployment, or a reduction of wage standards. It would be as foolish to maintain that because women burn coal in their kitchen ranges, therefore they are more concerned in the coal supply than in, let us say, the state of the currency. Both problems are national and international, and far transcend domestic inconveniences. But, nevertheless, we do believe that there is an aspect of this strike which is specially important to women, and that is its solution.

This strike, like the other recent disputes in which the Triple Alliance has been directly or indirectly involved, carries with it the possibility of a general stoppage of essential services. We trust that this is not a very probable event, but it is undoubtedly a possible one, and it is foolish to ignore the chance of what might be so momentous a matter. A successful strike of the Triple Alliance would mean the very rapid breakdown of the food arrangements of all great towns, and that would lead to rioting. What would follow next we do not attempt to prophesy. Rioting would be a more serious matter in a post-war world which is almost callous to bloodshed than it would have been before 1914. And rioting leading on to fighting, and so, perhaps, to widespread civil disorder, would be a matter of very particular interest to women. It is from this point of view that we say that the solution of this strike is of special importance, because if it is not solved the consequences will be so grave.

At the time when women were given votes, there were many who said that the new electorate was going to be a "stabilising conservative influence." We do not know about the conservative, in the party sense. There are some things in which all women are hot and eager for change, and some women who are hot and eager for all changes. Women may or may not be conservative voters, but as for stability, we think women undoubtedly do desire it. Women, when they want change, want it to come peaceably. They are not anxious for cataclysms and disturbances: they like things to be fairly steady, and they are suspicious of all methods of violence and force. Their violence—which is real enough—and their impetuosity, seldom require physical expression, and their natural wish is for the preservation of the order of their homes and the lives of their fellow creatures. We say all this, not as meaning that women alone possess these feelings, but only that they possess them more acutely and more universally than men. They are, as it were, fundamental non-combatants, and as such they could be, perhaps, in a real sense, a "stabilising influence" in any State in which they had the power. But the question which confronts us to-day in the face of this already gigantic strike or lock-out, is whether, voters though they are, women have any power at all in the matter. Do they, in fact, exert any influence, stabilising or other, upon the course of these events, and does their dread of rioting and disturbance count one way or the other? We cannot escape the conclusion that the answer to these questions is in the negative. Women have not the chance of influencing the course of these affairs. They are mostly outside the business and the T. U. worlds which conduct them, and their new influence in political matters does them, in this case, no good.

It is impossible to watch the tendencies of modern industrial disputes without noticing that they are daily swinging more and more away from the control of Parliament, and that each one slips further from the effective control of even that last democratic safeguard, public opinion. The present dispute is a good instance; it is one upon the rights of which the general public

has taken little thought; it is conducted in the recklessly wholesale and logical fashion which the British public dislikes, and, so far as can be seen at the moment of writing, it is going to be enlarged or settled by decisions and considerations with which the industrial non-combatant will have very little to do.

In the days when the settlement of strikes involved only local interests, this procedure was normal and doubtless well justified. There is a reasonableness about the statement that a matter should be settled by the people concerned which commends itself to everyone. But the strikes of to-day, carrying with them, as they inevitably do, the hint of a complete social upheaval, no longer concern the capitalists and the Trade Unions alone. The decision to allow the mines to be flooded, for example, concerns every user of coal in the Kingdom. It is not merely another weapon in the fight: it is a matter of public policy, and we cannot but feel that there is something wrong with the method of our industrial machinery when these things can be settled and carried out by one section of the community alone.

It may be old-fashioned of us to say it, but it certainly seems, when we look at the latent disturbances concealed in modern strikes, that there is something wrong with the practice of government by sections. We cannot help feeling that an effective control of Parliament would be better for the community as a whole, and we are thankful to see that there are members in all parts of the House who share this view. Control of industrial matters by politicians has its own difficulties, of which ignorance is the first and greatest. We admit that much can be said against it, but we think, on the whole, that it involves fewer dangers than those which arise from the converse process of control of politics by industry. After all, if we are to set about having a great social upheaval, let us do it because most of us want it, and not because the miners want uniform payments or the railwaymen think the hour has struck. And let women have their say about it, and their chance to "stabilise" if they can.

Revolution, even if it is no more than unsuccessful rioting, is a serious matter, and it is a dangerous thing that the power to send it abroad in the land should be in the hands of any one section of the community. In the long run, most of us believe, the good sense of the British people pulls us through. Good sense, like error, is not confined to workmen or to employers. It has always solved the difficulties before, and we pass on from crisis to crisis in the comfortable faith that it will do so every time. But we must not forget that good sense, however sensible or good, cannot stand long against a real breakdown of transport and food supplies. A general stoppage is as serious a danger to the population as a foreign invasion; and yet it seems that the public, in which all the women of the country are included, is at present powerless in connection with it, and it is a most disquieting state of affairs.

All we can say is that somehow, and before it is too late, we must devise a means by which the general feeling of the country can be made rapidly effective in such important matters. The ordinary channels through which public opinion works may at any moment prove to have been too slow and too remote. Sharp and decided action on either side may precipitate confusion, if not this time, then on another occasion. And confusion breeds confusion worse confounded.

Something better, therefore, must be found, and we believe that the method indicated by the Covenant of the League of Nations would prove as useful here as we trust it will be in international disputes. Let us insist on the fullest publicity, and on a compulsory delay in every case where a stoppage is threatened by either side. Let Parliament enforce the delay, and then, perhaps, the non-combatant public will have a chance. At the moment, the proposal of Mr. Bigland, that control should be reimposed for two months, during which time a settlement of the wage difficulties should be discussed, comes nearest to this method. We trust that there is hope in it for this present trouble, and we believe that such a period of waiting will give time for the forces of public criticism to come into play. And, if we get through this time, we must see to it that before another such danger comes upon us, some sensible and effective democratic machinery of conciliation may be set on foot.

## NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

The Coal Strike has come at a bad time, for there were signs that industry was recovering. The general opinion is pessimistic.

The Ministerial changes announced on Saturday, no less than twenty-two in number, amount to the formation of a new Government. No such general reassignment has ever happened before. The result is greatly to strengthen the Treasury Bench, for Mr. Lloyd George has got rid of one or two notoriously weak members, and, what is more important, he has secured new men who have other qualifications beyond that of attachment to himself. Mr. Illingworth leaves. He was not a success as Postmaster-General, neither effective in the House, nor, one imagines, skilful in the rule of his office. His departure provokes interesting reflections on the place of business men in politics. Neither of the two of whom most were expected, Lord Ashfield (formerly Sir Albert Stanley) and Mr. Illingworth, have realised expectations. Both came to Parliament with high reputations, yet neither did all that was hoped. This is no reflection on their business efficiency, which is unquestioned in both cases. The reason of their comparative failure lies in the fact that politics is a profession like business, and just as difficult a one into the bargain. In it, as in business, the professional beats the amateur, not occasionally, but always, and your skilled business man is usually a political amateur. It is a somewhat strange thought that the expression, "professional politician," is used as a term of abuse; it should be a high compliment.

Another Minister who has retired is Dr. Addison. He leaves the troubled waters of the Ministry of Health for the uneventful ease of the Ministry without Portfolio: an office which, after the rearrangement last year, carries no salary. He is earnest and well meaning, but neither in house-building nor in health has he been successful. The appointment of Sir Alfred Mond to succeed him is received with unexpected approval. Sir Alfred Mond has never played for popularity in the House; but his ability has been fully recognised by an assembly which is quick in distinguishing the real from the sham. He brings to his new work a hard and clear cut brain, and, above all, a capacity for action and decision which the housing problem has woefully lacked. Sir Alfred Mond is in turn succeeded by Lord Crawford, who, as First Commissioner of Works, and in charge of our national collections, probably has obtained the office which he would have chosen above all others.

Sir Robert Horne becomes Chancellor of the Exchequer. A lucky man, this clever Scotch lawyer, who becomes Chancellor after little more than two years in Parliament. One's mind naturally runs back to the career of the younger Pitt. He will do well, without a doubt, for he has character as well as brains. However, had the choice been left to the House, it would have fallen on Mr. Stanley Baldwin, who has a great hold over its affection and esteem, and is a born financier, of the type of the late Lord Goschen. Mr. Baldwin, however, goes to the Board of Trade, and should do well there.

The most surprising appointment is that of Mr. McCurdy as Chief Liberal Coalition Whip. He has had no experience of the work, and he has yet to show that his abilities, which are undoubted, be in the direction of handling men. True, he is accompanied by Col. Leslie Wilson, who is to be Chief Unionist Whip, a post for which he appears well suited. But it is a big change. It is difficult to imagine the Whips Office without Lord Edmund Talbot at the head of it, so wisely and so well has he done his work. There is no more popular member of the House. Lord Edmund Talbot's post is particularly difficult to fill. He had charge of the business of the House, and it was largely owing to his skill and experience that Mr. Bonar Law was able to achieve the success he did. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, new to the leadership, will miss so reliable a support.

The appointments to the lesser posts are nearly all good. Sir Robert Sanders has earned the promotion he obtains in being

made Under-Secretary for War, and so has Colonel George Stanley, who is the new Financial Secretary of the War Office. Sir Archibald Williamson, by the way, who resigns that post through ill-health, will be missed, for he was capable and courteous. Sir Philip Lloyd Greame becomes Director of Overseas Trade, a quick rise, but fully justified. The two fresh men, also, who get office, Commander Hilton Young as Financial Secretary to the Treasury, and Mr. Edward Wood as Under-Secretary for the Colonies, are the best that could be imagined. Lastly, Lord Edmund Talbot is to be Viceroy of Ireland. A Roman Catholic, member of a famous house, trusted and popular, his appointment gives a real gleam of hope in the ominous situation of Ireland.

[The views expressed in this column are those of our Parliamentary correspondent, and are not our editorial opinion. Like so many other things in this paper they are expressly controversial, and comment upon them will be welcomed.—Ed.]

## NEWS FROM OTHER LANDS.

### THE PLIGHT OF RUSSIA'S CHILDREN.

By DR. L. HADEN GUEST, M.C., L.C.C.

The recent report sent to this country from Soviet Russia by Mr. A. Watts, the representative of the Friends in Moscow, reveals a state of affairs rivalling, if not excelling in misery, that of Vienna and Budapest in 1919. The official report of the Moscow Sub-Department for the Protection of Motherhood and Infants, and the report of the Supply Department of the People's Commissariat of Public Instruction, detail not only the work done, but the terrible conditions which have to be fought against. At the conclusion of the Supply Department's report there are given extracts from thirty reports from Russian provinces dealing with the condition of children. Only three out of the thirty are satisfactory. The rest of the provinces, from Archangel in the North to the Bashkir Republic in the South, report starvation, misery, and deprivation. Archangel reports "unable to give the food supplies for children's playgrounds"; Briansk: "Children's nourishment in the Colonies is critical"; Vitebsk: "All this time Polotsk was in the war area. Whole workers' families died in great numbers from starvation, especially children." Vladimir province says: "To make practical the additional feeding of children at the present time is impossible in view of the fact that they have not bread or other food." Viatka: "Such conditions (i.e., of deprivation) led to the children stealing." Kaluga: "In the past the children of Children's Houses starved." Moscow province: "Children's nourishment is not at all sufficient." Novgorod: "The children in Children's Houses are starving."

And so the reports go on; such epithets as "critical," "very bad," and "deplorable," express the general view.

The condition with regard to boots and clothing is the same. If the most optimistic calculations are fulfilled, only one in twenty children can be supplied with boots. Out of over 200,000,000 arshines of manufactured goods required, only 23,310,000 arshines could be supplied, and the goods were not evenly distributed, for fifteen provinces had received no manufactured goods at all up to October, 1920.

The grim reflection of these facts is seen in the statistics of birth-rate in Moscow, which is reported as 21,930 for 1918, and only 13,516 for 1919, while for seven months of 1920 it is only 7,309. From a calculation of mortality statistics from ten provinces in Central Russia, which show an ever diminishing birth-rate since 1914, it is shown that in 1928 the number of children entering schools at eight years of age (age of entrance to first-grade schools) will be less than half those entering in 1920, even if all children now under one year live to eight years. It is thus clear that we are in sight of a calamity of tremendous extent, which nothing can relieve except an increase of food pro-

duction in Russia, and the opening up of trade and other relations with the whole of the rest of Europe.

The Bolshevik plans for education are now widely known, and they are certainly trying to put them into effect. But evidently the supply of food and clothing has broken down, and it seems possible that a gallant experiment in education, stretching across the continents of Europe and Asia, may be shipwrecked because of this breakdown. It should be realised that the attempt of the Bolsheviks to set up effective elementary, secondary, and University education in Russia amidst the ruins of the fallen Czaristic régime, and with all the turmoil of war against interventionists, and civil war within her own borders, shows not only great courage, but points to the only effective escape of Russia from her present impasse, and represents all the liberal idealism of the revolutionary movement. To aid the children of Russia is thus not only a work of life-saving, it is a work of life-building. The Friends' representative has already distributed a considerable amount of relief to Day Nurseries and other educational institutions in Moscow and outside. But more, much more, is required. And relief is particularly useful in Russia now because the Bolsheviks have adopted the wise plan of erecting "model" institutions of the new types of educational institutions they wish to assist, and it is to these "model" institutions that relief can go in the first instance. Mr. Watts speaks very highly of them, and he considers they

might have much to teach Western Europe if developed. But the development of education depends upon food. After bread, education is as vitally necessary in Russia as in every other country. The underfed child in England cannot benefit from education until he is fed. The underfed or starving child in Russia is in the same plight.

The improvement of the food situation inside Russia probably depends on a modification of the Bolshevik agricultural policy, the frank recognition of the peasant proprietor psychology of the peasant, and the encouragement of private trading. The attempt to continue present methods is doomed to failure.

But an essential part needs to be played by the opening up of trade with the rest of the world, which can supply Russia with the manufactures she needs for the use of the peasants, which will get to them either through the medium of the bureaucratic State machinery—slow, cumbrous, and corrupt—or by the quicker methods of private trade. The *via media* could perhaps be found in reviving the old co-operative movement on a voluntary and independent basis.

Meanwhile, private assistance, given through relief agencies, can help the most crying need, explore the ground, and point the way for further effective assistance. Much of great potential strength and beauty will be lost to the world if we let the Russian educational experiment go down into the depths of starvation and of freezing cold.

## A REPLY TO SIR ERNEST WILD.

By VISCOUNTESS ASTOR.

It was very illuminating to read the article contributed by Sir Ernest Wild to THE WOMAN'S LEADER on the subject of women and jury service. The learned member complained that he had been misrepresented; that what women were attacking was an alleged "anti-feminism" on his part which did not exist. I do not think there could have been a clearer or better illustration of what we are up against than the very article in which Sir Ernest Wild defends himself. It exhibits to perfection the type of mind which has all along resisted women's claims to be treated as equal human beings.

In the first place, the writer refers to the fact that "there are very many women who loathe the idea of jury service." So far as I know, there are a great many men who also have a strong dislike to jury service. But I cannot see any more reason why a woman who dislikes jury service should be exempted from it on that ground than that a man should be so exempted. You might as well say that though men and women both object to paying 6s. in the £ income tax, women alone should be exempted from that unpleasant duty to the State. The suggestion is really a veiled insult to the public spirit of women. There has never been any suggestion that men should be asked if they would rather avoid jury service. As long as the duty is a new duty, it will naturally be a trial to women who shrink from public service, whose lot has fallen in quieter lines. But there is every reason to be proud of the plucky way in which these very women—I know of many of them—have put aside their reluctance, and have come forward to take up what they know to be their duty.

The other argument, in fact, the fundamental argument—on which Sir Ernest Wild bases his solicitude for the "weaker sex," is that cases are liable to come up before a jury which are "unpleasant," and which no "nice-minded" woman would care to hear or determine. The only reply to that is that many of these cases concern nice-minded women who have had to endure these "unpleasantnesses," and to suffer from the particular kinds of cruelty which, in Sir Ernest Wild's opinion, nice-minded women ought not to know about. It is the ignorance of so many nice-minded women of the very existence of these unpleasant facts which has helped to keep in existence for so long

a double standard of morality. I am perfectly convinced that until women share responsibility on the bench, at the bar, on the jury, we shall not get the new point of view that is needed on these matters of morality. For that reason the growing habit of challenging women jurors on the ground of their sex in all cases involving an offence affecting a man and a woman, or in cases of assaults on children, is one to be resisted by all the combined forces of the women's organisations.

In attacking the position taken up by Sir Ernest Wild, I do not wish to give the impression that the issue is a direct one between men and women. There are men who have worked as hard as any woman for just laws for women and an equal moral standard. Unfortunately there are women who still expect one standard of their daughters and are content with a different one from their sons. But for all right thinking women there is only one standard of morals and one standard of public service.

This is not the only exceptional treatment which this supporter of women would have given them on judicial questions. I have a vivid recollection of the attempt made by this champion of the weak, whether women or children, to prevent women having an equal opportunity of dealing with children's cases. Let anyone look up Sir Ernest Wild's attitude in Parliament on the Juvenile Courts Bill. There was no question there of horrid details shocking nice-minded women. Yet Sir Ernest Wild was as keen in that case to keep women off the seats of justice as he is now. Attendance on a jury is a form of national service disliked by many men as well as by many women. But in the wider interest of the community men are not given the option of declining to serve on questions affecting their sex or the opposite sex. I know this service must be unpleasant—even revolting—to many women. But I hope that in the interest of public morality and in the interest of many women and children who now often suffer because of the exceptional outlook on sex questions of exceptional men, they (as well as ordinary men) will insist on equal service on juries by women. So we may gradually approach that single standard of morality which so many now see as a possible development for the future protection of young and old of both sexes.

## BURNING QUESTIONS.

In reopening the discussion on marriage and sex relations in our controversial columns, we wish to emphasise the fact that we are not preaching any modernist doctrine or upholding any revolutionary point of view. Our object is to offer a platform for frank discussion of different aspects of this very complex subject. It is one of the utmost importance to men and women alike, and the interchange of serious thought upon it is too often avoided or repressed. The world's attitude towards sex relations is wrong. The double standard of morality and the calm acceptance of prostitution which have hitherto prevailed are proof that something is wrong. However difficult it may be, plain speaking and free discussion should be encouraged, and we hope that our readers, even when they disagree with the articles we print, will think that we are right to discuss these matters.

### DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE.

Now that a new Divorce Bill is before Parliament it is most desirable that we should all come to some definite conclusion in our own minds as to what we really believe on this important question: is divorce, in any form, right or wrong? There are some who hold that it is altogether wrong—by which I mean contrary to the law of God—and consequently not permissible in any case. There are others who, considering marriage to be simply a human institution, believe, naturally, that it may be regulated or entirely dissolved by an Act of Parliament. Between these two extremes, however, it would appear that the great majority of the people of this country are very much divided and confused in opinion; inclined on the whole, perhaps, to think that divorce is a bad thing, and yet that somehow or other it must be allowed sometimes. The great majority also continue to prefer to be married with some religious ceremony, and such persons take a solemn vow to be faithful to each other till death. Surely it would be more reasonable to seek for means to enforce the keeping of such vows rather than for facilities for breaking them. Perjury in a Law Court can be heavily punished: is there any good reason why perjury in a church should be condoned?

The view of marriage as simply a human institution has already been put before the readers of THE WOMAN'S LEADER in an article by Mr. Cecil Chapman in the issue for February 4th. To-day, I want to put some of the arguments on the opposite side. They are scarcely likely to affect persons who hold frankly pagan ideas as to life and its responsibilities; but as ours is still professedly a Christian country, and as the great mass of people still believe in Christ, at least in so far as they acknowledge Him as a great teacher and guide, they can scarcely refuse to consider His right to lay down a marriage law. It is evident that He did so, and that it exceeded in strictness anything that had gone before. So strict was it that His own followers were so astonished when they heard it that they exclaimed that it would be better not to marry at all. They were accustomed to the Jewish law, which, though strict, still permitted divorce in certain cases; but Christ's words laid down a general law without exception. The apparent exception—"Save for the cause of fornication"—can only, as we see plainly from the context, refer to separation, not to a divorce with permission to remarry. That Christians from the very beginning accepted the words as meaning that marriage was indissoluble, we can see plainly from St. Paul's epistles. It is sometimes argued that the Catholic Church sets itself against divorce because it holds marriage to be a sacrament, and that therefore Protestant Christians are free to hold different views altogether. This argument does not hold good, however, because, even if marriage were not a sacrament, we should be equally bound by Christ's law to regard it as indissoluble. As regards its sacramental character, which is, of course, a doctrine accepted by the Catholic Church from the beginning, Mr. Cecil Chapman, in his article of February 4th, made a curious mistake. He said, "It cannot be too often or too strongly insisted upon that the doctrine of marriage being a sacrament, was entirely unknown to the early Fathers." This statement is so startling that I trust I may be allowed to give a few quotations from the writings of some of those early Fathers:—

1. *Pope Innocent I.* (A.D. 402-407, Epistle IX. ad Probus).—"That is a marriage which from the beginning is established by Divine Grace."

2. *St. Ignatius* (A.D. 107, ad Polycarp, Epistle V.).—"It is fitting, therefore, that those who are to be married should do so with the sanction of the Bishop, so that their marriage may be according to the Lord and not according to men." (This shows that not a mere civil contract is required, but a sacred one under the authority of the Church and sanctified by God.)

3. *Tertullian* (A.D. 200, ad Ux. 1, ch. 7 and 9) and *St. Ambrose* (Epistle XIX.) both teach that marriage is a sacred thing, to be consecrated by the blessing of the Church, and Tertullian shows that it is connected with Grace.

4. *St. Augustine* (de bone Conjugii, ch. 25, N. 32) uses the actual word Sacrament.

I think the force of these quotations will be seen more clearly (especially in their use of the word "Grace") if it is borne in mind that the definition of a sacrament is given in the Catholic catechism in these words: "A sacrament is an outward sign of inward grace, ordained by Jesus Christ, by which grace is given to our souls." And the same catechism in teaching of marriage says, "Matrimony is the sacrament which sanctifies the contract of a Christian marriage, and gives a special grace to those who receive it worthily," this special grace being intended to enable the married persons to "bear the difficulties of their state, to love and be faithful to one another, and to bring up their children in the fear of God." From this it will be seen that the doctrine of the Church at the present day is essentially the same as that of the early Fathers.

Continuing his attack, Mr. Chapman tells us that marriages in Catholic countries may be annulled on account of consanguinity or affinity, which is, of course, perfectly true, but he adds that this "has frequently been stretched to fantastic lengths." He gives no instances of this, unless we may take one, the authority for which he gives in these words: "Lecky, for instance, cites a case from Coke. . . ." Surely it would have been advisable to have given a reference to the exact part of Lecky's works where we might find the statement? But with regard to the charge itself, it would, as a matter of fact, be impossible for this to be done, because all the impediments to a valid marriage are clearly and definitely laid down by the Canon Law and cannot be stretched at the will or desire of those who have to administer that law.

Another argument that is often heard, and that is made use of in Mr. Chapman's article, is that immorality is as great, or greater, in countries that have no divorce law than in those that have one. "Immorality" is a vague word, and the only way in which this charge can be supported is by quoting statistics of illegitimate births. This argument is, however, a very unreliable one, first because the worst kinds of immorality are not those which result in the birth of children, and secondly because the marriage laws, social conditions, and temperaments of the people all differ so widely in different countries that no comparison between them can be a just one. The only way in which we can judge at all fairly is by comparing the statistics of illegitimacy between Catholics and Protestants inhabiting the same country. If the country is one in which there is a divorce law, we shall find the Protestants able to avail themselves of that law and the Catholics forbidden to do so, while the other conditions would be practically the same. Comparing, then, the Catholic portions of Prussia with the Protestant portions, we find that in the ten years from 1886 to 1896 the rate of illegitimacy in the latter was from two to three times as high as in the former. In 1896 the rate in the Catholic provinces of North Brabant and Lemberg, in Holland, was 2.8 and 2.20 respectively, whilst for the whole country it was 3. During the ten years from 1886 to 1896 the Catholic cantons of Switzerland had a rate of 3 per cent., while the rate for the entire country was 4.72. In Ireland (where there is no divorce law) in 1880 the Protestant County Down had ten times as many illegitimate births as the equally populous Catholic County Mayo. In 1894, illegitimate births were twice as high in the dominantly Protestant Belfast as in the dominantly Catholic Dublin.

I began this article with the religious objections to divorce, because, if those are accepted there can be no room for further argument; but from a purely social standpoint many good reasons can be brought against it. Admitting frankly the great amount of suffering that must always arise from ill-assorted marriages, we may at the same time deny that cheaper and easier divorce will prove the real remedy, and also claim that the rights of the children should have the first consideration in any contract of marriage. We have had before now several testimonies from America as to the harm caused by their easy divorce system, and the latest one is so much in support of the

rights of the children and the injury inflicted on them by their parents' divorce, that I am glad to be able to quote it here as it is given in *The Universe* for March 4th. The Governor of Washington State has given vent to the following:—

"It is a lamentable fact, obvious to those who have enquired into the past life of the girls and boys in the training schools, that the present condition of far too many of these young people is the direct result of a broken family life made by easy divorce and its associated evils. Surely parents owe to society the proper care and training of their children in a decent family life. Surely children are entitled to a home with parental care and love bestowed by those responsible for their existence. Society should not look with calmness upon the easy way in which men and women throw off their marriage relations under the too-ready sanction of public officials. The problems of marriage, family life, and divorce need the careful attention of the legislature. As important steps in the solution of the problem I recommend that the divorce laws be made more stringent, that the grounds for which divorce may be granted be restricted, and that collusion be an absolute bar to divorce."

This cry from America for restrictions comes in ironical contrast to ours for greater facilities! The new Divorce Bill introduced by Lord Gorell is undoubtedly in some points an improvement on the present one. It aims at establishing equality between the sexes, and to make the law procedure less expensive, thus removing indefensible sex and class privileges. There is, however, a great danger that the Buckmaster group may succeed in getting amendments passed which will make

## WOMEN'S CLUBS IN CALIFORNIA.

In putting a few notes together for the purposes of this article, I must beg my readers to understand that I do not profess to know or give a comprehensive account, but merely my own experience and impressions during my nine months visit to San Diego in Southern California.

The Women's Clubs are more in the nature of what we should call associations than clubs, they exist primarily for special objects, and are composed of fellow-workers; nevertheless these clubs have a social side, frankly expressed, in lunches, dinners, picnics, and at most of these gatherings part of the time is devoted to business; it is this corporate and responsible attention to practical business which makes the clubs powerful.

My best illustration is to speak of my own club, for I still have the honour to belong to it. To be eligible you had to be an active business worker; it was composed of doctors, health workers, Press women, stenographers, notaries, librarians, women at the head of departments in large businesses, and owners of businesses, theatres, &c. There are clubs of this description all over the States, some large and wealthy with premises of their own, all keen and practical.

I was also invited to address and attend meetings of the Press Women's Club in Los Angeles, the Women's City Club in the same town, the Civic Centre in San Diego, and Women's Clubs in one or two other places. I was much struck by the fact that the clubs took an active and practical interest in the politics of the State. When the women of California were first granted the full Suffrage in 1911, there were already numbers of women's clubs and associations; the members of these, rejoicing in their new-found right, immediately set to work to frame Bills and to press for amendments of existing laws with such ardour and in such numbers that the State legislators were overwhelmed with despair, and saw confusion worse confounded. One of these distracted legislators pointed out to some leading women that this method tended to choke all progress, and he uttered two pregnant words, "Organise, ladies, organise." The ladies retired thoughtfully, and applied themselves with courage to the task, and in a few years it was accomplished. The clubs are now all federated, a powerful and representative body of women, with a Council which has a very able "Parliamentary Committee." The clubs still form and initiate Bills, these Bills go to their own headquarters, are compared, amalgamated, or redrafted, with the consent of the clubs concerned, then twelve Bills or amendments are sent out on a tour of approval to the clubs; three only have to be selected, by ballot. The chosen three then go up through the special Committee to the State Legislature with full pressure.

Now, to return to the club I know best. We used to meet at lunch once a week, and there was always some special item of interest, speeches on business points, or local municipal affairs, explanations of new or little known industries, accounts of any special work being done in the city, or the need for some new utility service was discussed.

the Gorell Bill as objectionable as was Lord Buckmaster's, and in any case it is evident that divorce will, by becoming easier and cheaper, also become more frequent. The true interest of the State lies in making divorce, if not impossible (as it ought to be in any Christian country) at least more difficult. The conviction of those who enter into marriage that they do so for life is the strongest factor in leading them to observe its obligations, to make sacrifices for each other, and for the children. It is to the interest of the State to strengthen the sense of responsibility amongst the people, and where obligations have been solemnly entered into, to enforce the keeping of them. Will married people be more, or less, likely to put up with troubles or annoyances caused by each other if they know that by living apart for a few years they can claim a divorce giving them entire freedom from each other? If each party marries again, is there any reason to suppose that the new adventure will be any more successful than the old? The bad things that wrecked the first home may be equally present in the next—bad temper, selfishness, jealousy. The one sure remedy for the evils of unhappy marriages is to promote and strengthen a deeper sense of the mutual duty of life-long faithfulness. It has been well said that "Fidelity to the spoken word is the bond of human society."

ISABEL WILLIS.

The Women's Civic Centre was another active body of women. They led the way in the matter of Social Reform, bringing pressure to bear on the Local Authority, and having themselves a semi-official position, doing specially good work in conjunction with the State workers in Public Health, Schools, and Juvenile Courts.

I did not get as far as San Francisco, though I was pressed to go there; the difference between North and South California is great, I understand. I did not come across any mixed clubs, and that, I consider, is a weakness, for it tends to accentuate sex antagonism. It is not really very easy to generalise, but it struck me that though there is a frank freedom between men and women and good companionship, in public work they hold apart more than we do. There is also a totally different view of public work—in San Diego the Councillors are paid workers, and there are very few; they are not put forward by groups of citizens, as our candidates are, but practically run themselves; women are not keen on being councillors, and even when one was elected in Los Angeles, she was unseated at the next election.

I think one of the dangers of the methods of the Women's Clubs is that women are satisfied to continue as *women* and do things through their clubs and not as *citizens*, realising that the good of the community is equal for men and women; and I think, too, that the general sense of civic responsibility is not so conspicuous there in either men or women as it is here; it is generally understood that public work is left to "politicians," and is not honorary. Conditions vary very much in every city, and I am only speaking of what I saw in San Diego.

The following little conversation with a friend may illustrate the different point of view:—My friend remarked that English men seemed very lazy. I asked, with some amusement, what had led her to this conclusion. "Well," she replied, "our men go on working; even when they have made money they continue to work, yours do not." I pointed out that there was a difference of opinion as to life interests; our men certainly worked and made money, but generally considered it as a means to an end, and often when an Englishman retired he worked harder than ever, only then in the direction of his taste either for the good of his borough, town, or village, or he devoted himself to some art, or sport, or to country life, but nearly always with some honorary link with the lives of those about him. A little meditation, and my friend remarked, "I cannot imagine our men doing that." I said the women did the same, when home ties began to relax.

I cannot end without saying how much I enjoyed the weekly lunches at my club; there was such freshness and "pep" in the women, such generous welcome to newcomers; any woman coming to the city to start work was nearly always brought to the club, and asked to tell the members of her work; she might join or not as she liked. There was always a very fine spirit of loyalty to each other. The Clubs keep in touch with each other by means of Conferences to which delegates are sent, and also by means of a magazine called "The Federation."

EDITH PLACE.

## GARDENING IN THE SMALL COUNTRY HOME GARDEN.

By VISCOUNTESS WOLSELEY.

In looking across the stretch of years since 1914, it seems a very long time ago that we, in our gardens, aimed at having all those extravagancies such as the ornamental pot gardens, the peached alleys, the raised terraces, the hidden, sunk gardens, and the ornate water gardens with their sculptured fountain bases.

Fortunate are those who possessed these before the war, for they have a background ready made and need only struggle now with the upkeep. Yet this upkeep part of our gardening is the difficulty that all have to face at the moment. It matters not whether you visit a twelve-acre garden, where the staff was formerly twenty men and several boys, or whether it is the single-handed gardener place, you will find in each that the working arrangements are different to what they were. Labour is too dear for most of us, and so we all reduce the number of workers.

We know that before the war the men were so paid that they could, but few of them, put by sufficiently to help their children to start in life, and so we are silent when garden labour is spoken of. We just employ if we can, and if it is beyond our means to afford £110 per annum to a gardener, well, we do as much work as we can ourselves.

The large places, now reduced to a staff of twelve men, can manage well enough. They grumble, it is true, and lawns or the grass beside the paths is mown with a scythe instead of with a mowing machine, perhaps the distant shrubbery walks are somewhat neglected, but the general impression is satisfactory; it is only more like a dream garden, for it has less of the extravagant orderliness of former days.

But it is the one acre garden that we are dealing with, the former home of the one man gardener, who had the occasional help of the boy when the latter was not filling coal scuttles or dancing attendance upon the maids.

Here it is that the owners now have to do most of the work themselves, and lucky are they if, before the war, they committed no follies in regard to over-elaborating the design or giving extra work where it was not essential. If they did come back from their foreign travels with fanciful notions of setting out a miniature parterre of rose beds, and in the centre of each group they had the idea of standing a handsome terra cotta orange pot, they have quickly had to give up all thought of planting things in their treasured pottery vases, for this would add to garden labour.

Then, too, instead of having many annuals or brightly bedded-out flower arrangements, they now must needs content themselves with the perennial and long suffering herbaceous border. A few well chosen groups of tea roses, needing attention but once or twice a year, are what they seek to have in place of contrasting violas or sweet smelling mignonette or gay calceolarias.

It is the permanent planting, and not the annual shifting and arrangement that is, in 1921, the order of the day.

Not long ago, I visited a small garden in a country town, surrounding one of those charming, little, old-fashioned houses that our ancestors moved to in winter time, when, country roads being rough and dangerous, they sought the amusement of small dances and friendly little parties in order to break the rather monotonous existence of their daughters.

In pre-war days this garden would have been worked by a strong man giving his whole time to it. Now, the lady of the house undertakes the greater part of the work, with the occasional reinforcement of a jobbing gardener to do the heavy digging for her.

A small forecourt, with a paved walk dividing two square plots of well kept turf, leads to the entrance. This is simple enough to manage, and being well proportioned, it needs no dressing up or ornament. The garden door, issuing from the living room, takes us to the part of the garden which lies remote from the neighbours' houses, walled in and hidden by well-grown trees. Amongst them, a handsome tulip tree gives forth in summer that gentle rustling sound when the breeze touches the leaves, which is such a soothing accompaniment to the life

within a garden. The ground rises gently at the back of the house, and again we are led by a narrow, paved walk to a flight of steps, two clipped yew trees acting as sentinels at the summit.

Again the paved walk inclines upwards until another flight of steps is reached, and here again two massive yews form the frame to a picture which always reminds me of Marcus Stone's backgrounds. The narrow walk continues to the end of the garden, bordered upon either side by wide herbaceous borders, to where a white seat invites the visitor to rest. It will be noticed that so far the upkeep of this garden does not call for great exertion because, the walk being paved, there is no weeding or rolling to be done, and beyond clipping the yew trees and mowing the narrow strip of grass that lies upon either side, all the attention of the owner can be concentrated upon the herbaceous borders beyond.

These, arranged in a good colour scheme, require forking over and manuring in the autumn, but being rather densely planted, it is unnecessary to put annuals or bedding plants in them. This, in itself, saves labour. Alongside one of these is the long, narrow-shaped bowling alley, with its raised grass bank and terrace at the far end, where another circular-shaped seat enables us to look back towards the house, lying below in its quiet corner near the tulip trees and the clipped yews.

To me the beauty of this little garden rests in its long, rather narrow lines, suited only, of course, to those who can resign the necessity of having a wide grass plot for tennis. The bowling green, however, does admirably for croquet, and its size, for mowing, is well within the strength of the lady of the house. We have now seen the main part of the flower garden, for only one other long and still narrower bed lies upon the other side of the turf space. This is suited to primulas, irises, or the dwarf kinds of herbaceous plants, which are all, I may state, intermingled with early spring things such as myosotis and yellow allyssum. At no season do they lack colour, and there is always green foliage of some kind to look for as we pace the flagged walk in winter.

The kitchen garden forms two separate plots upon either side of the pleasure garden, and intermingled there we find fruit and vegetables.

I have sought, in the above description, to give suggestions for the simplification of flower garden work, which is to be found in paved walks, long, straight lines, and the avoidance of small geometric beds, which add to edging work and planting as well as the permanently planted flower border, full of perennials that need far less attention than annuals or bedding plants.

In large gardens the work of the vegetable garden can be greatly reduced by working the ground by means of a horse or pony miniature plough, but this, of course, is not feasible in a confined space. I dwell upon it, however, because it is in private gardens a comparatively new idea, long ago, however, employed by the market gardener. It is bound to bring with it a new style of design for the large garden of the future, one where ample space at the end of the furrow is left for turning the plough.

What I have endeavoured to show, in a brief space, is that for the next few years, whilst the labour problem means a serious outlay to many, we have to temporarily set aside those elaborate garden schemes, those fanciful and delightful ideas that we had once hoped to weave into the home garden. In my book called "Gardens," recently published by Mr. Arnold, I have endeavoured to show that although the elaborate garden design of the past is for the time being at a standstill, there are many simple devices that we can now introduce which will save labour and yet give pleasure, until such time as the wage question has settled itself. Then we shall, let us hope, be able once again to give more rein to the imagination, freer scope to our fancies, and, having learnt our lesson of moderation, we shall combine simple lines with some of those lighter, playful fancies that are momentarily not within the reach of a reduced garden staff.

## THE DIARY OF A WOMAN IN THE HOME.\*

These last days have been so full of emergencies, public and private, that it has not seemed possible to write. The public emergency is overwhelming, it grows day by day and week by week, like an enormous cloud shutting out the April sky. Now a coal strike has been added to it. That brings the miseries that are desolating a large part of the world, and one of the British Isles, a little nearer to our own English homes, and at the same time makes the outlook a little blacker for all the rest. It is impossible to be cheerful, and it seems almost more difficult to be courageous than during the war. Then at least we most of us felt that we were joining with a great number of other human beings to struggle through and overcome something bad, on the other side of which we should find something better for all mankind. Now we have got through and there is nothing better there, no Promised Land, not even a reconstructed Europe, only a wilderness of scarcity and strife, misery and hatred. The League of Nations is like a chain of blue mountains on the horizon, but those hills are far away and almost as hard to get to as the Earthly Paradise.

Meanwhile, private emergencies throng in, and sometimes prevent one from thinking of the larger peril. Almost everybody I know seems to be ill at the moment. The children are well, however, and in the absence, in hospital, of our poor little maid, they are quite enjoying being housemaids. Ellie is a very efficient one for her size, methodical and deft with her hands. Bridget, with a carpet-sweeper is rather a Juggernaut, advancing on one suddenly from unexpected quarters and with terrific violence. I thought she wanted some further outlet for her energies this afternoon, so I took her up to the common, where she enjoyed a ride on a donkey which proceeded with funeral slowness and yet seemed nearly to be shaking her off all the time. It is a curious form of amusement, but one which never seems to pall. Ellie, meanwhile, had a fairy kingdom in the garden, assisted, of course, by "the Kat"—who has got over his own illness and ceased to wear the flannel bandage which, with his fur sticking out above it, made him look as if he had one of those high collars with ruffs at the top that used at one time to be the fashion.

My most peaceful moments have been while I was reading "The Chaplet of Pearls" to Ellie. We find it even more thrilling than "The Dove in the Eagle's Nest," which we read just before it. The more I read Charlotte Yonge the more I wonder that her genius has not been more fully recognised. She is often spoken of with tolerance, or contempt as a writer for girls or an exponent of High Church views. I have never seen her acclaimed as what I believe she was, a great realist and a great exponent of Christianity. To turn to her characters after those of an ordinary novel is like turning from puppets to real people. To know them is to enlarge one's circle of intimate friends and to add something definite and permanent to one's interest in life. A whole phase of our national existence is, moreover, reflected and preserved in her works as nowhere else. Of course, this does not apply to her historical novels, which are, however, often liked by those who are not genuine Yonge-ites at all, and who quite fail to appreciate "The Daisy Chain" or "The Pillars of the House." The accusation sometimes brought against them, that the heroes are High Anglican curates dressed up in armour or in slashed hose and ruffs, has a certain superficial appearance of justice. It certainly seems remarkable that the knight in the Army of the Black Prince, the German fifteenth century baron, and the French Huguenot nobleman, all con-

trive to have the views of the Oxford Movement—at least, it might seem remarkable if the whole thing were not made so entirely credible by explanation of their family circumstances, and, above all, by the description of the people themselves. When one knows them well one is inclined to think, as I suppose Miss Yonge did herself, that certain people in each generation of Christians may have approached Christianity from just that particular angle, and that it may then have had like results in all their lives. For it is only in their religious belief that her heroes and heroines resemble each other, in all other respects each is quite as different from all the others as anyone of our friends is from all the rest. Each is an individual human being. "Yes," detractors will perhaps say, "but a nineteenth-century human being, an English Victorian human being, unlike the age in which he is supposed to live." It may be so, but my own opinion is that human nature does not change so very much fundamentally, and that the only things that do thus change it are great beliefs which mould it into a rough resemblance to their pattern. If this is so, little Duke Richard of Normandy, in the tenth century may easily have been more like a modern English child, brought up according to an inherited Christian pattern, not only than a little Greek of the age of Pericles, but than a little Turk of to-day. And, personally, I am sure he was!

It is great fun reading Miss Yonge's books aloud to Ellie, for, as is always the case with one's favourite author, I know them almost too well to read them over to myself, except just occasionally, and in these days one wants books that will act as an anodyne. Hugh de Selincourt's "Women and Children," which has come to me from Mudie's, is decidedly *not* the right sort of thing to read. It is full of sentimental unreality, and the women friends in it talk to each other in a kind of baby language which makes one feel quite ill. I always thought Meredith's fine description of the friendship between Diana and Emma, in "Diana of the Crossways," a good deal spoilt by the ridiculous dialogue between them, and the over-doing of pet names. It sometimes seems as if men novelists could not refrain from putting their own sentimentality into their women characters; but why should they suppose that women are *never* natural with each other, and that the more intimate they are the more affected they become?

A much better book to read now is Ethel Smyth's "Streaks of Life," which has just come. I do not know whether Miss Smyth's portraits of people are always quite true; I think from the description in her "Impressions," of one person, whom I also knew, that they are *not*, but they are extraordinarily vivid and convincing. So far, in this book, I have only had time to read her "Two glimpses of Queen Victoria," which are a kind of foretaste of the entertainment we all expect in reading Mr. Lytton Strachey's coming book. How wonderful the "dear Queen" was, and what a "Legend" she created! It survived till the beginning of the war. I can remember, in August, 1914, a fellow-worker of mine telling me that she had grown irritated with the calm placidity of her home, and especially of her mother, and had tried to communicate some of her own excitement. "Do you realise," she said at last, "that the Germans may invade England any day now?" "Oh, no, my dear," replied her mother, "I am sure they have far too much good feeling, besides, they know quite well that dear Queen Victoria would *never* have allowed it." Alas! how many things that Queen Victoria would "never have allowed" have happened since then, and how the golden security of the Victorian home has been destroyed!

That brings me back to the present troubles, and I had better go and see whether Bridget, as a "great surprise" for me, has put herself to bed.

MARGARET CLARE.

\*It has been found necessary to interrupt the Diary for the next two or three weeks, but it will be resumed at the earliest opportunity.

## REVIEWS.

**Poems.** By Lady Gerald Wellesley. (John Murray. 5s.)

If these poems appeared in one volume under the names of two separate authors, I should flatter myself that I could distinguish which came from one hand and which from the other. As it is, I can but attribute to the one author a dual manner—the common factor between her two manners being a certain spacious disregard of the ordinary rules of punctuation. That, however, is by the way. The interesting thing is the two manners; what I may call the wholesome manner and the macabre manner. Of the two, I am sure that the former is preferable.

"This springing youth shall be straight orchises,  
Flecking the fields with purple, these poor eyes  
Baffled and blind shall be great blooming trees,  
These sudden joys, these wayward ecstasies,  
This aspiration and this will that yields  
Tall, yellow irises in river fields.  
Rich things shall breed from moods made sure and sane:  
This good strong animal life shall be gold grain."

That is good philosophy and good poetry. There is another poem, to England, which is most sober and sincere; and another, called "Children." Then we get a reversion to cemeteries and mad-houses, a reversion which I am tempted to call a lapse. Yet even here, on this ground, which has been recently so often traversed, there is a redeeming flame of scorn and of truthfulness, also a sense of wonderment that is clearly genuine; a hatred of hypocrisy allied to a quite naïve delight in legitimate fairy-tale. It is perhaps inevitable that a spirit so readily allured by the magical and the fantastic, should find its pleasure not only in "this good strong animal life," but also in the darker underworlds of "Atlantis" and "The Vaults of the Cappuccini." The impulse that prompts is, certainly, irresistible. But the quest after the fantastic, which inspires one-half of this poet's work, is a quest, after all, insufficient to sustain alone the beat of poetry; it is a toy diverting enough so far as it goes, and so long as it is kept in its place as a toy, not allowed to usurp the functions of the sterner stuff with which it should be backed. Fortunately, Lady Wellesley evidently has large reserves of this sterner stuff. She has not only the fantastic and rather morbid spirit, but also the spirit of enquiry after truth wherever she may hope most satisfyingly to find it; and this is the structure, I think, which she is ornamenting with the resources of a Gothic rather than a classical imagination. I should be curious to see what her fluency and humour would produce were they turned in the direction of the prose essay or short story? I fancy that in the latter especially she might discover a profitable field.

V. SACKVILLE-WEST.

**Limehouse, and Other Poems.** By Helen Mitcham. (Erskine Macdonald. 5s.)

This is a book of graceful, conventionally "poetical" verses, in which Limehouse does not obtrude after the first three poems, and is only then presented by such phrases as "haunts of sin," "a haggard woman." The writer, despite references to her "pagan worship," is of a religious temperament; we say this because of the general tone of the pieces, not because the longer, the more ambitious ones, deal with Cain, Abel, Delilah, and a leper; and because this temperament, often expressed in smooth and pleasant-sounding lines, will charm those who like mild, unoriginal fare.

**The Great Kinship.** An Anthology of Humanitarian Poetry. Edited by Bertram Lloyd. (Allen & Unwin. 8s. 6d. net.)

Mr. Lloyd's anthology begins with Andrew Marvell and ends with Francis Brett Young. Most of the poems in it are rather dull, though every now and then one comes to a page where "humanitarianism" does not preclude inspiration, such as p. 10, where Blake's "Auguries of Innocence" is printed. The terms of reference are stretched to include Meredith's "My heart shot into the breast of the bird," and Swinburne's "Seamew," which are both far more about the poets than about the birds, but we do not carp at that, rather, on the contrary. Mr. Lloyd is further to be thanked for having included a charming translation of Francis James's too-little-known poem about donkeys; we deeply regret that he did not find place for at least the best of Baudelaire's marvellous lyrical studies of cats; most readers would, for that, gladly have forgone de Vigny's "Wolf." Another surprise was the discovery (a joyful one) of

de la Mare's "Nicholas Nye," but not of the more appropriate "Tit for Tat" by the same poet.

The book will make a good solid Christmas present; and a marker should be inserted at Ralph Hodgson's—

"'Twould ring the bells of Heaven,  
The wildest peal for years,  
If Parson lost his senses  
And people came to theirs,  
And he and they together  
Kneelt down with angry prayers  
For tamed and shabby tigers,  
And dancing dogs and bears,  
And wretched, blind pit-ponies  
And little hunted hares."

E. B. C. J.

**Forms of Oratorical Expression, and how Delivered.** Logic and Eloquence. Illustrated. By J. N. Ruffin. (Simpkin, Marshall & Co. 12s. 6d.)

This book astounds one by the mass of information carefully collected. Mr. Ruffin has written it in commemoration of the hundredth year of Anglo-American friendship, the friendship of the two greatest democracies. Demosthenes guided a small city State, Lloyd George speaks to an empire, and Harding to a continent, and their words are sent to the ends of the world. Page after page contains painstaking examples illustrating the theories accepted by all the great orators, and the arrangement is delightful. The forms of oratorical expression are arranged alphabetically, and examples of the use of each are given with an apt caution against tendency to abuse. Pitt, Fox, and Gladstone, and the finest U.S.A. orators are marshalled to show us allegory and antithesis, emphasis and emipologue, ethos and pathos, rhythm and peroration. Of the Earl of Chatham we learn: "He rushed at once upon his subject," and we can hardly believe he was fifty before fame came to him. Sheridan would write and rewrite his speeches. Fox was perhaps most to be envied, for we hear he was heedless of method, having a complete command of good words (page 192). Alas! we are not all so fortunate, but there should be no lack of oratory in the future if we believe his biographer, Mr. Fell, that his talent was due to the fact that he was encouraged to deliver his sentiments with freedom on all subjects *from his earliest youth!* and we learn his headmaster at Eton attended carefully to the rhetorical training of his boys who had boroughs waiting for them when they came of age, and one hundred and fifty years ago dramatic education was an important part of the education of the public schools of England. It will be a real danger for a self-governing people if the growth of scientific knowledge is accompanied by diminished powers of expression in our leaders. Spurgeon's sermons are quoted to drive home the fact that a speech fails unless it can induce the hearers to act as well as understand and will. The list of cautions is delightful:—

"Do not use too many adjectives and adverbs."  
"Digression should be short and return to the subject be soon."  
"Deep tones for deep feelings."  
"If the parenthesis be long it causes obscurity."  
"All discourses delivered to large audiences should be deliberate; good speakers do not pronounce above three syllables in a second!"

Mr. Ruffin's book can hardly be read straight through; it is rather an admirable reference and a collection of dramatic speeches in the greatest moral crises of nations, to which the would-be orator will turn again and again.

M. CORBETT ASHBY.

**A Brief Explanation of Psycho-Analysis.** By Ennis Richmond. (Women's Printing Society. Price 6d.)

In the space of a newspaper column, Mrs. Richmond has given a very lucid explanation of the theory of the unconscious mind. She points out that psycho-analysis is not solely or mainly concerned with sex, that "the psycho-analytical study, if there be such, that stops at sex, or even starts with sex, loses its highest opportunities." This qualifying sentence sets aside as relatively unimportant or ineffective a great part of the work of Freud and his followers, and renders unnecessary any elaborate explanation of the vocabulary used by him and his disciples, thus leaving space for an appeal to parents and educationists to recognise the value of psycho-analysis, a science yet in its infancy and full of promise, as well as of dangers. To Mrs. Richmond the unconscious does not present itself as an enemy to be circumvented, but as a storehouse of memories and powers capable of both good and evil uses, and to be feared only by those who deny its existence or suppress its manifestations.

DRAMA.

The Shaw Season at the Everyman, Hampstead.

Shaw has become, for the time at least, as much an institution at Hampstead as Shakespeare at the Old Vic. And a very good institution too.

The Triple Bill, which comes to an end this week, is not one of the most satisfactory ventures of the season. For an evening's entertainment one Shaw is better than three Shaws. Mr. Shaw's evolutions in making a play are so simple and so little varied that though quite amusing and not too conspicuous if spread over a three-act play, they become a little tedious if repeated three times. The evolutions are, of course, the somersault and the sermon.

One can keep one's head if the somersault is performed slowly, once in an evening. But when it is done three times in succession, one feels at first giddy, then slightly sick. This is what happens in the Triple Bill. The first play shows a man who, instead of being furious at his wife's receiving passionate and compromising love poems from another man, is delighted. The second shows a Shakespeare whose chief pride is that his father was an Alderman at Stratford, and an Elizabeth who likes to think that she rules not by right of birth or brains, but of beauty. The third shows a man who is generally considered a bad character, who longs to be a bad character, but is shown up as a kind-hearted generous fellow.

Added to the somersault, in two of these plays there is the equally familiar sermon. "The Dark Lady" ends with a very Shavian and rather irritating sermon on the necessity for a national theatre, and "Blanco Posnet" with a very curious lecture on morality. "How he lied to her husband" contains no sermon, and is, to my mind, though not for that reason alone, the best of these three plays. It is a light, witty, and characteristically crisp little piece. Especially attractive is the husband, whose approach in the evening is heralded by the sound of his tapping the new barometer, and whose pride is that his wife is the "smartest woman in the smartest set in South Kensington." He was admirably acted by Mr. Felix Aylmer, who made him exquisitely funny. The wife and the lover had more difficult parts, and were not so successful. Miss Eve Cameron took her part too seriously, and so lost all the whimsicality from her distress. Mr. Harold Scott, on the other hand, did not take his seriously enough, and turned the crisp little comedy into a screaming farce. The only consolation was that the audience screamed sympathetically.

They were also amused at "The Dark Lady," and roared with laughter every time that Mr. Douglas Jeffries, Miss Margaret Carter, or Miss Muriel Pratt made some quotation from Shakespeare. They were even more amused every time that Mr. Nicholas Hannen pulled out his note book and wrote it down.

But, of course, the chief feature of the evening's entertainment was "The showing up of Blanco Posnet," which, like the wine in the parable, was kept till the last. It did not turn out to be the best wine, however. Twelve years ago the Censor did Mr. Shaw a very good turn. He refused to license "The showing up of Blanco Posnet." The reason was that the hero, "with the fire of incipient delirium tremens in his eye, shakes his fist at the ceiling and complains of the Creator in words more colloquial," but no stronger than those of Job which are read in Church. Mr. Shaw, of course, made the most of this opportunity to force public attention on his play. It gained all the glamour peculiar to forbidden fruit. It is true that he honestly warned us that "this little play is really a religious tract in dramatic form." But in spite of the evidence of the text before us, we did not really believe him, and felt that if only it could be put on the stage it would make a very daring and sparkling performance. Unfortunately, it does not. It is now all too clear that it is a religious tract, and not a very good one at that. Shaw has merely tried to make morality more popular than the popular preachers have done.

D. E.

CORRESPONDENCE.

NATIONAL FAMILY ENDOWMENT.

MADAM,—Mrs. Stocks may be right in saying that there is a "national income," but this fact is not of much practical use to us, since not only is there a wide difference of opinion as to the size of the "national income," but it is subject to a constant change. If we knew what it had been last year we could not predict that it would remain the same for another twelve months. As used at the Council Meeting by supporters of National Family Endowment I thought the phrase was decidedly misleading. It conveyed the idea of a vast pool of £ s. d., out of which some wiser ideals are, unhappily, receiving less than their share, and of which it is comparatively simple to rearrange the distribution. Under some of the many forms of Socialism it is possible that there would be such a pool—only I venture to think that it would be a very small one. In other words, the speakers adumbrated the existence of a Socialist system which is, as a matter of fact, not yet in existence. If it were it is easy to see that weekly payments to mothers and children by the State would be a very convenient way of dealing with the problem. Once pre-suppose a system of State Socialism and everything falls into its place, including the statements that children are an asset to the State, and that the mothers are doing work for the State in bringing up the children—and so forth.

But the national income is not yet pooled, and except for persons in the employment of the Government and Civil Service, wages are paid out of the profits of business firms, or the incomes from investments of individual employers. It is quite possible to argue that the amount available for the payment of wages in any particular industry is strictly limited. Indeed, the cry is being loudly raised on all sides at the present moment. If that argument had been brought forward at the Council it would have been far more relevant to present conditions than any attempt to compute, and draw deductions from, the amount of the "national income."

But it is really wise to lay too much stress even on the limitations of the profits of industry, or on the present abnormal conditions? The profits of any business depend largely on human ingenuity, on good management, and other factors. Nothing makes employers so ready to content themselves with a low standard of management, &c., than a supply of cheap labour. While ready to acknowledge that there must be some limit to the amount which can be made out of any particular industry, I find it a policy of despair to say that there is no way of providing a decent living for the wives and children of the wage-earners, except by State interference. Of course, we cannot expect a high degree of prosperity for anyone until the bankrupt world has become solvent. Another thing is that while I recognise that it is perfectly legitimate for those who believe in a complete revolution in the form of government to work for it by making people dissatisfied with present conditions, and unwilling to do the best they can in their daily avocations—yet it is certain that this does not make for prosperity. The house will not become more comfortable while the foundations are being tampered with.

ROSAMOND SMITH.

ANOTHER PROTESTANT POINT OF VIEW.

MADAM,—As an Ulsterwoman permit me to comment on the article in your number, March 18th, on Ireland. I am an Irishwoman living in that part of Ireland called Ulster. I am a Christian belonging to that body of Christians called Church of Ireland. I disagree with the statement made by "Ulster Woman" that the issue in Ireland is more religious than political." She says "every Irishwoman knows this," but one can only assume from her statement that she knows nothing of Ireland outside Ulster, where alone in Ireland religious differences are emphasised and exploited for political purposes by the political and so-called religious leaders. I think if Ireland were united politically there would be no religious question at all. There would, at least, be as little as in Canada. My experience of Southern Unionists is that they are much less afraid of a Roman majority than the Unionists in Belfast, and are much more tolerant in their attitude towards Roman Catholics. They have learnt to accept the fact that they are a minority in Ireland, just as Roman Catholics are a minority in England. She states that no Roman Catholic would vote for a Protestant candidate in an election. How, then, does she account for the Protestant members of Urban and Rural District Councils and County Councils outside the six Ulster counties?

Her reference to the oaths of the Sinn Fein Party would be more convincing if she were to quote them. The promises of De Valera and Griffiths would be at least as reliable as those of any other statesmen; even their worst enemies have not denied that they are honourable and disinterested men.

As to the unsupported statement that the people of Ulster pay about two-thirds of the taxes in Ireland, if she will take the trouble to consult the Report on the Trade in Imports and Exports at Irish Ports in 1919, she will find that the value of agricultural exports from the Southern provinces very considerably exceeds the value of manufactured goods from Ulster. As a matter of fact, the province of Leinster pays on a higher average assessment of income-tax than Ulster, even if Donegal is excluded. The trade in fowl, eggs, feathers, from all Ireland, brings in a bigger revenue than all the shipyards in Ulster put together.

As to the alleged refusal of the Extreme Party to accept Dominion Home Rule, or even give it a trial, would she state when and by whom this offer was made?

I have stated the above facts by way of answer to the arguments used by "Ulster Woman" in her article. To come to the general question: England versus Ireland. Close historical study has convinced me that, on the principles professed by the English themselves, Ireland is fully justified in demanding independence—as justified as the Americans in 1768, or the Bohemians and Poles to-day. I cannot see how any man who fought in the last war for the rights of small nations and to crush militarism, can justify English proceedings in Ireland to-day. Also, I think that Irish Unionists have pursued a selfish policy in Ireland; I can find no case where they have advocated a generous policy towards Nationalists. Their one cry has been "Coerce" from Cromwell to Lloyd George. They do not desire tolerance from Nationalists. As to Sinn Fein militarism, I abhor violence by any man in any cause. But I say that no reform has ever been conceded, no injustice ever repealed, except

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

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE:—

- Miss LENA ASHWELL, O.B.E. Miss A. M. KINDERSLEY. Viscountess ASTOR, M.P. Mrs. HUDSON LYALL, L.C.C. Miss THELMA CAZALET. Lady ISABEL MARGESSON. The LADY EMMOTT. Miss A. M. MERCER. Dame KATHARINE FURSE, G.B.E. Lady CYNTHIA MOSLEY. Mrs. EDWIN GRAY. Miss B. PICTON-TURBERVILL. Lady HOWARD. Mrs. OLIVER STRACHEY. Mrs. H. B. IRVING. Mrs. RUSSELL WALKER.

- The Meetings addressed during March are as under:— March 1st—Walthamstow. Women's Co-operative Guild. Miss M. Cotterell. March 2nd—Edmonton. Women's Section Labour Party. Miss F. L. Carre. Greenwich. Women's Section Labour Party. Miss Cotterell. March 3rd—Bromley. National Council of Women. Miss Cotterell. March 7th—Burdett Road Congregational Church. Miss Cotterell. March 8th—Liverpool. Women's Co-operative Guild. Mrs. Boyd Dawson. Rainham. Public Meeting. Miss F. L. Carre. Barking. Women's Section Labour Party. Miss Cotterell. March 9th—Belvedere. Women's Co-operative Guild. Miss Carre. March 10th—Penmaenmawr. N.U.S.E.C. Mrs. Boyd Dawson. (Debate with Mrs. Shilston Watkins.) Rugby. Women Citizens' Association. Miss Carre. Enfield. Women's Co-operative Guild. Miss Cotterell. March 11th—Liverpool. Mothers' Union Workers' Meeting. Mrs. Boyd Dawson. March 14th—Brighton. Society for Equal Citizenship. Miss Cotterell. (Debate with Mrs. G. B. Wilson.) March 15th—Hove. Women's Co-operative Guild. Miss Cotterell. Kettering. Women Citizens' Association. Miss Carre. March 16th—Kidderminster. Women Citizens' Association. Miss Carre. (Debate with Mrs. Carol Ring. Uxbridge. Women's Section Labour Party. Miss Cotterell. March 17th—Bath. Women Citizens' Association. Miss F. L. Carre. Brentford Women's Adult School. Miss M. Cotterell. March 18th—Poole. National Council of Women. Miss Carre. (Debate with Mrs. Charles Courtenay.) March 21st—Grays. Women's Co-operative Guild. Miss Cotterell. Shoreditch. Women's Co-operative Guild. Miss Cotterell. March 30th—Balham and Tooting. Women's Section Labour Party. Miss Cotterell.

This Committee has suffered a very severe blow in the death of its Chairman, Lady Henry Somerset. Her name has stood for the very highest ideals in the world of Temperance Reform, and her life, her health, and her money have been devoted to putting those ideals into practice. Her devotion to the Temperance cause made her ready to adopt State Purchase, because she saw in it the readiest way of getting rid of the barrier to reform—the Trade. More logical and with clearer sight than the extremists with whom she had long worked for Local Option, Lady Henry Somerset felt that the very first step was to clear the political field of the powerful vested interest. As long as that remained, no bill for Local Option, no adequate Government control or restriction could be carried into effect. She saw that for some time to come the use of intoxicants would remain in this country, and that the foremost thought of a true Temperance worker should be to render the sale of intoxicants as little harmful as possible. If the stimulus of private trading competition were removed, if counter-attractions were provided in the public-house, if the public-house itself were made a respectable café, with alcohol only a part of its stock-in-trade, then the temptation to excessive drinking was practically removed. Those who worked with her and felt her inspiration will be still further spurred to aid in bringing about this reform which was so dear to her heart.

For literature and speakers for meetings, &c., apply Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E., Organising Secretary, Women's National Committee, Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

DOMESTIC SERVICE.

MADAM,—Your correspondence concerning domestic service interests me very much because I happen to know both sides of the question very well indeed. All my natural tastes are artistic and studious, but life compelled me, from the age of fifteen, to do a great deal of domestic work at home, and later on to employ from two to six servants on my own account. As I believe in the joy of living, I accepted the inevitable work and got all the fun I could out of things, with the result that I cannot remember ever finding any kind of domestic work dull, although I must confess I preferred spending hours and days alone in a library: also, I had no trouble with my servants except that occasionally I was taken in by a "thorough bad lot" who took advantage of the trust placed in her. Experience in social work taught me the importance of the homes of the nation and the far-reaching influence of mothers and sisters—not to mention nurses and cooks!—consequently, when, in 1915, I was "not wanted," on account of my age (52), to take the place of a man, I quietly walked into a registry office and entered my name as willing to go out as a working cook-general, and was engaged at once. To cut a long story short I continued the work for five years (although at the end of the first I had my choice of matronships, &c.), and, frankly, if I were a girl to-day, I should certainly choose to be a domestic servant, not because I think the conditions at present are so charming, but because I believe domestic service might offer, in the future, the most advantageous career for an intelligent girl. I only wish I were twenty and I'd show what might be done—alas! I am nearer sixty!

May I whisper a secret to you? Train the mistresses spiritually, and the training of domestic servants will be easily solved. The greatest Teacher the world has ever known said, "I am among you as One that serveth," and washed His disciples' feet. To quote a modern writer: "There are some men and some women who would have good and faithful servants in Springatam, and others who could not keep a cook in Paradise. We have no desire to enter the arena of flying adjectives and bitter adverbs of the servant question. As in religion and politics, it is, far oftener than is admitted, a matter of temperament rather than anything else. This explanation is not generally welcomed, because few people are willing to damn their failures and themselves by accepting a simple explanation of what they deem to be a complicated problem."

There is one amusing point that may interest your readers who are suffering from the scarcity of resident servants: a domestic servant living in has no vote, however intelligent, well-educated, &c., she may be, whereas a charwoman, however illiterate and ignorant, has one!

What is really wanted is some young woman to do for domestic service what Florence Nightingale did for sick nursing.

ANN POPE.

Contributions should be addressed to the Editor, who, however, accepts no responsibility for unsolicited matter. MSS. not used will be returned if accompanied by a stamped envelope.

Correspondence should reach the Editor not later than the first post on Monday. The Editor's decision is final.

OURSELVES.

It gives us great pleasure to publish this week a list of donations and guarantees which includes several substantial sums, and also to record that the number of our direct subscribers is steadily increasing. We have been able to reduce the cost of production slightly, and are feeling almost hopeful; but, of course, we still need actual cash in hand to carry on until our hopes have become realities. One of our hopes is that this week's good list will be rivalled by another even better!

There are a number of ways of giving us money, and all are equally welcome. The cash can take the form of guarantees, to be called up within the year if we have need of them, or of outright donations, or of shares held in the name of the donor, or of shares to be added to the block of shares now held by the National Union. With regard to this last method, we should be glad to hear from those who promised money at the Council meeting, whether they want to hold their shares themselves or to give them to the N.U. We are assuming that they are to be N.U. shares, but any donor who wants to keep them has only to let us know. Some day they may be valuable property! Our hopes are high.

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount (£ s. d.). Includes entries for Miss Clough (494 17 0), Dame Lees (50 0 0), Miss Lees (25 0 0), Mrs. Bright (25 0 0), Mrs. George Cadbury (25 0 0), Mrs. Hubback (50 0 0), Mrs. Russell Burdon (2 2 0), Mrs. Burnham (1 0 0), Miss Evelyn Lampont (1 0 0), Miss Garrick (25 0 0), Mrs. Farnup (5 0 0), and a total of 700 4 0.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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Telephone: Museum 6910.

OBJECTS

The object of the N.U.S.E.C. is to work for such reforms as are necessary to secure a real equality of liberties, status, and opportunities between men and women.

Any Society may be accepted by the N.U.S.E.C. that is willing to include the object of the Union within its objects, and to pay an affiliation fee, varying from five shillings to two guineas, according to membership.

The privileges of affiliated Societies include:—

1. That of helping to decide the policy of the Union, which is also that of THE WOMAN'S LEADER, at the Annual Council meeting.

2. Free use of the Information Bureau; use of the Library at reduced charges; admission of members of affiliated Societies to the Summer School at reduced charges.

3. The receipt of our monthly circular letter, including Parliamentary suggestions for the month.

Privileges 2 and 3 are extended also to individual subscribers of one guinea or more per annum to Headquarters.

PERSONAL

The following letter has been received from Mrs. Fawcett in answer to a telegram sent at the time of the Council Meeting, containing the greetings of the Council and the announcement that a sum of £220 11s. 6d. had been collected for THE WOMAN'S LEADER:—

"Your wonderful telegram with its marvellous news of another generous gift from Suffrage friends quite takes my breath away; I shall await your letter with impatience, but I know it will take nearly a fortnight to reach me!

"In the meantime please offer my most sincere and heartfelt thanks to all kind, generous donors of this wonderful gift.

"We have been having a time of intense interest, and we both feel we would not have missed this journey and all it means for anything else that could have been done for us."

The following letter from Lady Astor will interest our members:—

Dear Miss Macadam, Many thanks for your letter telling me of my election as a Vice-President of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. It is a great pleasure to me to be actively connected in this way with an organisation which has done so much to win the vote for women and to help them to use it effectively when won.

It is a great pleasure to me also to know that I have the support of your Council, and of your membership throughout the country, in the not always easy job of being the first woman in the house of Commons.—Yours sincerely,

(Signed) NANCY ASTOR.

Miss Beaumont, who has been in close touch with our work at Headquarters during the winter will be in the North for two months, and has kindly consented to speak for any Societies who may wish to have speakers on the work of the National Union. She is willing to speak on our Programme, the work at Headquarters, the Council Meeting, Women Jurors and Magistrates, and other subjects. Her address is Hatfield Hall, Wakefield.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION PILGRIMAGE.

The League of Nations Union has asked that any action to be taken by our Societies to help the Pilgrimage should be sent to Mrs. Arthur Croxton, M.B.E., League of Nations Union, 16, Grosvenor Crescent. Instructions as to badges can be obtained from the League of Nations Union, and the Pilgrimage Committee will be very glad of assistance in getting them made.

THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN.

The English Church Union is organising a protest against the Ministry of Women, to be signed by women communicants of the Church of England, in the following terms:—

"We, the undersigned, women communicants of the Church of England, in accord with the fact that no part of the Catholic Church has recognised women as being capable of receiving the grace of Holy Order, desire to protest against the suggestion that they are capable of receiving that grace, and deprecate the endeavour that is being made to ignore this fact, and to allow women to preach or minister publicly in churches to other than to women and children only."

The League of the Church Militant, one of the affiliated societies of the National Union, having been asked to promote a memorial in support of the Lambeth Resolutions on the Ministrations of Women in the Church, invites all communicant members of the Church of England who are in sympathy with the Lambeth proposals to assist in every way possible in making this Memorial known. It runs as follows:—

"We, the undersigned, communicant members of the Church of England affirm and assert the principles of the Catholic Church as to the fundamental equality of all baptised persons, and we entirely repudiate the assertion that any Christian soul is considered on grounds of sex incapable of receiving any Christian gift or grace.

"We strongly urge that the Lambeth Conference Resolutions on the Ministrations of Women in the Church shall be put into practice forthwith without limitation or hindrance."

Copies of this Memorial will be sent in the next circular from Headquarters, and further copies can be obtained from the Secretary, League of the Church Militant, Church House, Westminster.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

ROCHDALE W.C.A.

On February 12th a debate was held at the Rochdale W.C.A. on the State Purchase of the Liquor Traffic. Mrs. Boyd Dawson moved the following resolution, which was opposed by Mrs. Shilston-Watkins, LL.A., and lost by a large majority:—

"That the State purchase and management of the liquor trade is the best solution of the drink problem."

Mrs. Stocks spoke to a small but enthusiastic meeting on "The Economic Position of Women," on Friday, March 18th.

A group of women from the Ashton, Bolton, and Rochdale W.C.A.'s, and the Nelson Co-operative Guild, attended a week-end school on "Economic subjects," on March 19th and 20th, at a Guest House near Burnley. Mrs. Stocks gave four lectures on the Industrial Revolution, the Theory of Wages, Equal Pay, and the Endowment of Motherhood. The discussions which arose from the lectures were not very controversial, except in the case of Family Endowment. A keen minority were of the opinion that the payment of motherhood would hamper women in their demands for equal entry into and opportunities in the trades and professions, and would tend to keep all work in the home, instead of encouraging communal experiments. It is intended to run week-end schools in the north-western district later in the year. The method is excellent for studying a group of allied subjects and can be done very inexpensively.

COMING EVENTS.

INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CLUB.

APRIL 13. 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W. Speaker: Miss Cicely Hamilton. Subject: "The Influence of the Modern Stage." Chair: Miss Nina Boyle. 8.15 p.m.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

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

APRIL 8. At Plymouth, Guildhall. Speaker: Rt. Hon. J. R. Clynes, M.P. 8 p.m. At Swindon, Baths Hall. Speakers: Rt. Hon. Lord Robert Cecil, K.C., M.P., Capt. Reginald Berkeley. 7.30 p.m.

APRIL 9. At Croydon, Ruskin House. Speaker: J. R. Clynes, Esq., M.P. 7.30 p.m.

APRIL 11. At Lancaster, Ashton Hall. Speaker: Lt.-Gen. Sir Hubert de la Poer Gough, G.C.M.G. 7.30 p.m.

APRIL 12. At Streatham, Congregational Hall. Speaker: Capt. Reginald Berkeley. 8 p.m. At Crowborough, Waterloo Ht. Speaker: Sir George Paish. 7 p.m.

APRIL 13. At Finsbury Park, New Court Congregational Church. Speaker: Sir George Paish. 7.30 p.m.

APRIL 15. At Portsmouth, Town Hall. Speakers: Rt. Hon. Lord R. Cecil, K.C., M.P., Miss M. Currey, O.B.E. 7.30 p.m. At Portsmouth, Rotary Club. Speaker: Rt. Hon. Lord R. Cecil, K.C., M.P. 1.30 p.m.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

APRIL 13. At the Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn. Speaker: Mr. Frederick Temple, F.R.G.S. Subject: "Democratic Finance or Banking Combine versus the People." Chair: Dr. Elizabeth Knight. 3 p.m.

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

APRIL 10. At Lighthouse P.S.A. Society, Walthamstow. Subject: "State Purchase of the Liquor Trade." Speaker: Miss F. L. Carre. 3 p.m.

APRIL 11. At Mixed Adult School, Chiswick. Subject: "State Purchase of the Liquor Trade." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell. 8 p.m.

APRIL 12. At Loughton, Women's Co-operative Guild. Subject: "State Purchase of the Liquor Trade." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell. 2.45 p.m.

APRIL 13. At Barking, Women's Co-operative Guild. Subject: "The Carlisle Experiment." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell. 3 p.m.

APRIL 11. At Staines, Mothers' Union Meeting. Subject: "State Purchase of the Liquor Trade." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell. 3 p.m.

THE WORKERS OF SERBIA.

APRIL 19. The Second Reunion will be held at the Wharnciffe Rooms, at 7.30 p.m. Col. Sir Courland Thomson, K.B.E., C.B., Commissioner British Red Cross, Malta, &c., has kindly consented to take the chair. Tickets, 2s. each. Dancing 9.30 p.m.

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THE PIONEER CLUB for Professional and Business Women will be re-opened at 12, Cavendish Place, W., by Viscountess Astor, M.P., on April 14th. Annual subscription, £4 4s. No Entrance Fee (pro. tem.).

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