

THE  
**WOMAN'S LEADER**

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

AND  
**THE COMMON CAUSE**

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**NOTES AND NEWS**

**Poincaré and Women's Votes.**

Speaking last week at a meeting of the League for the Rights of Women, M. Poincaré declared himself in favour of giving women the vote. This is a hopeful sign and shows which way the wind is blowing.

**Women and International Police.**

A deputation left London for Paris last week to interview M. Léon Bourgeois, Chairman of the Council of the League of Nations, and to urge on him and the Council the necessity of forming an international police force as a first step towards the eventual military disarmament of the members of the League. Mrs. Wareing, of Rochdale, and Mrs. Dunsford, a member of the Women's Committee of the League of Nations Union were members of the deputation, and a French woman joined the party in Paris. Other members included Mr. G. N. Barnes, M.P., Mr. C. W. Bowerman, M.P. (representing the Trades Union Congress), Mr. T. Kennedy (representing the Parliamentary Labour Party, in place of Mr. Clynes), and Mr. F. H. Head, ex-warden of the Browning Settlement in London.

**Abolition of the Ministry of Social Welfare in Jugoslavia.**

By an Order in Council the Jugoslavian Government has decided, for reasons of economy, to abolish the Ministry of Social Welfare, and to have the functions and powers of that Ministry divided among the other Government departments. The Federation of Trade Unions in Slovenia has protested by telegraph against this proposal, and has, furthermore, submitted the following written protest to the Central Government at Belgrade. "On behalf of the affiliated workers' organisations of the Central Unions of Slovenia, the Executive of the Trade Unions of Slovenia enters a most emphatic protest against the proposal to abolish the Ministry of Social Welfare. The Ministry of Social Welfare is the only institution which aims at promoting, on autonomous lines, the interests and affairs of the working class at the present critical juncture, when at every moment the very existence of the non-propertied classes of society is endangered. Furthermore, this Ministry is of considerable importance for the protection of the workers, as well as for public health and social legislation, all of which is still in

a very backward stage, and which, especially in view of the present situation, is in urgent need of development and completion. The working classes regard the proposed abolition of this Ministry as a violent attack upon their own civil and constitutional rights; they therefore call upon the Central Government to withdraw this proposal." It is not only our own Government which takes false steps to promote economy.

**P.R. in Local Elections in America.**

Cleveland, Ohio, one of the six largest cities in the U.S.A., has adopted by plebiscite a new constitution, in which the City Council is to be elected by proportional representation. The system to be used is the single transferable vote already well known in this country in a variety of connections. This is a big step forward for the cause of P.R. in America. The movement has been making steady progress among municipalities, and has been adopted in a number of cities of lesser size. But the adoption in a city of 800,000 inhabitants brings it into the limelight, and a successful application in Cleveland must give the lead to many other cities. In the United States, cities have much freer powers of self-government than in the United Kingdom, and the attempt to introduce P.R. in our municipalities must await the passing of the Local Elections (P.R.) Bill. Some forty municipalities, of which Leeds is the largest, have expressed their approval of the Bill. Were the Bill (which is optional) passed into law, practical applications of P.R. in the municipal field would quickly follow. A strong endeavour will be made to carry the Bill into law in the next Parliamentary session.

**Illiterate Children in the U.S.A.**

The report of the National Child Labour Committee of the United States shows that of 19,540 children between the ages of fourteen and sixteen who applied for work permits, only a quarter could sign their names legibly. At fourteen children are supposed to have reached the eighth grade, but actually only about one in twenty-four do reach it, and amongst negro children only one in thirty. America's problems are intensely difficult, and the problem of the education of immigrant children of diverse nationalities and tongues is not one of the easiest.

**Domestic Servants' Charter in Germany.**

A Bill concerning the labour conditions of domestic servants has been submitted to the German Federal Economic Council and will be discussed shortly by the Socio-Political Commission of the Council. The Bill comprises forty-six clauses which regulate generally the rights and obligations of domestic servants. It provides for the introduction of a system of identity cards for servants, regulates the conditions of employment of charwomen, &c., and finally contains provisions for inspection, and penalties in case of infringement of the law. The Bill prohibits the employment of children under fourteen years of age as domestic servants. The Central Federal authorities may prescribe that the contract of employment shall be in writing. Persons employed in hospitals and sanatoria do not come within the scope of the Bill. Wages must be paid at least once a month, except in towns with more than 5,000 inhabitants, in which case the period may be extended to three months. Domestic servants are not obliged to undertake the permanent care of invalids unless this is expressly stipulated in the agreement. They may refuse to undertake the temporary care of invalids if their own health is likely to be impaired thereby. The Bill does not fix a limit for the hours of actual work, but it limits the number of hours on duty to thirteen consecutive hours a day, subject to the proviso, however, that the worker shall be entirely free from 3 p.m. on one day every week, and on two Sundays within every period of four weeks. Domestic servants are to be entitled to at least a week's holiday after nine months' service. The work of charwomen and similar workers is regulated differently. According to the Bill, this category includes all persons engaged solely on domestic work, but not forming part of the household itself. The hours of work of this class of workers must not exceed fifty-six a week. Hours of work are to be distributed by agreement between the parties, but must be so arranged that the worker has normally ten consecutive hours of rest per day, and, in the case of workers under eighteen years of age, eleven hours a day. Children below fourteen must not be employed for more than three hours a day, and not before 7 a.m. or after 7 p.m., nor before school hours. The employment of children under twelve years of age is prohibited. In case of infringement of the provisions of the Bill, employers are liable to fines not exceeding 3,000 marks, and to imprisonment for not more than six months, while domestic servants are liable to a fine of 150 marks.

**The Willesden Experiment.**

The Willesden Urban District Council is setting up a local medical service at the expense of the ratepayers, and the scheme is being carried out by whole-time medical officers. The scale of charges has been published, and is as follows:—2s. 6d. (registration fee) per annum.—For all mothers and children under five years resident in Willesden, and for children attending Willesden public elementary schools, out-patient medical and dental care, including specialist consultations, prescriptions, home nursing, and the benefit of the dental, eye, throat, nose, and ear, mothers', babies' and other clinics. 2s. 6d.—Spectacles. 1s.—Repairs to spectacles. At cost price.—Artificial teeth and surgical instruments. £2.—Midwifery case at the municipal hospital [i.e., the infectious diseases hospital, which is now used for non-infectious cases as well as for infectious ones]. 7s. 6d.—Operative treatment of tonsils and adenoids. 3s. a day.—Diseases of women. 1s. 6d. a day.—Diseases of children up to school-leaving age. In the case of patients whose circumstances are below the Council's scale the whole of these charges, except the registration fee, may be remitted. The chief flaw in this scheme is the taking of maternity cases into a fever hospital, which is a very dangerous proceeding.

**A Woman Engineer.**

Miss V. A. Drummond, who has just finished her five years' apprenticeship at the Caledon Shipbuilding and Engineering Company, is the first woman to be admitted to the Institute of Marine Engineers. She has been elected a Graduate of the Institute, and is now a fully-qualified journeyman, and the first woman in this country to serve a full apprenticeship. We congratulate Miss Drummond and wish her every success.

**Settlement Overseas.**

Ex-Service women who served in the Q.M.A.A.S., the Q.A.I.M.N.S. and its Reserve, the Women's Legion, the Women's Forage Corps, and other organisations, who contemplate the possibility of settling overseas, should apply under the

Government scheme for free passages. All applications for forms should be made on or before December 31st, and no applications will be considered which are not completed and countersigned by the proper authority on or before January 14th.

**Ex-Service Women in the British Legion.**

Why do ex-Service men refuse full membership to British ex-Service women while admitting naturalised non-combatant men who have served seven days in an Allied Force? An ex-Service woman may, along with relatives of ex-Service men, come in by a back door to a Women's Auxiliary Service, but as she is not classified as an ordinary member, she is not entitled to vote, or hold office, or be a member of any Council or Committee of the Legion. At the first Conference of the Legion a resolution was passed demanding from the Government "the removal of female labour in all Government Departments, same to be replaced by ex-Service men as far as possible." The ex-Service woman without votes or representation in the Legion, and outnumbered in the Women's Auxiliary Section by the women relatives of ex-Service men, has no chance. Even the Section itself was organised, and its constitution designed, by the men, entirely from the point of view of their own dependants. Meanwhile, ex-Service men in the Branches beg the local ex-Service women to come in as Auxiliary or Honorary members in order that the interests of ex-Service men may be advanced. And the ex-Service women are, naturally, hesitating. Possibly they do not realise that any Branch has the right, under Rules 7 and 13, to propose an amendment to the Legion's constitution. Notice of such amendments has to be given in writing to the General Secretary of the Legion three months before the date of the Conference, and the second annual Conference will take place at Whitsuntide, 1922. Perhaps ex-Service women, by joining Branches as auxiliary members, might be able to do better work for their women comrades than by remaining aloof until they are invited in by the front door.

**Ourselves.**

Two weeks ago we had to appeal to our readers for help: to-day we have the happier task of thanking some of them for timely gifts, and for their messages of encouragement. There are many readers who absolutely cannot spare us money, and they are getting new subscribers; there are others who have sent us the wherewithal to carry on for a time. We have not had as much as we want yet (will the time ever come when any good cause has?) and we must earnestly beg for more: but we are really encouraged, and are determined to stick it out somehow. We would remind everyone that ready money is the most useful gift, and new subscribers and small advertisements come next, and the transfer of subscriptions to the direct list next. Every little helps. The following sums have been received in answer to our appeal.

	FIRST LIST.	£	s.	d.
Mrs. Pollock	...	1	1	0
Miss Barker	...	1	5	0
Mrs. Hopkins	...	2	6	
Miss S. R. Courtauld	...	10	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. Pilcher	...	5	0	0
M. E. K.	...	5	0	
Miss Sylvia Lodge	...	2	6	
Miss Fairbridge	...	5	0	
Miss Graham	...	5	0	
Mrs. Gandell	...	5	0	0
Mrs. Robinson	...	1	0	0
Miss Fulford	...	10	0	0
Miss Hannah Cohen	...	7	6	
Miss Lucas	...	10	6	
Miss Philippa Fawcett (2nd donation)	...	5	0	0
Mrs. Richardson	...	2	6	
		£40	6	6

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

**THE GUARDIANSHIP, MAINTENANCE, AND CUSTODY OF INFANTS BILL.**

Many of our readers have followed the fate of this Bill, all with interest, some with hope, and some, those most nearly affected, almost with despair. The need for this Bill—which, as our readers know, has the support of members of all political parties and creeds, which passed through its second reading without a division, and through its committee stage in one morning, and which was started by the Government at the end of the session—is becoming more urgent every day.

Only last week in our columns we quoted the case of a mother who was told by a magistrate that the father was the legal parent and custodian of their child, and that she could not claim it.

Another story reaches us from Ireland of a husband who took a little girl of three and a-half away from her mother, and would not disclose her whereabouts.

Examples such as these can be multiplied *ad infinitum*, and constitute yet another of the ways in which a married woman is penalised in comparison with the unmarried.

The placing of the mother on an equality with the father as regards the guardianship and custody of her own child, whether during her lifetime or as regards the right to appoint guardians after her death, important as it is, constitutes, however, only one part of this very comprehensive Bill. The law with regard to the maintenance of children, whether by their father or their mother, is at present most defective. Neither parent is required by law to support the children, except at a standard which just saves them from being prosecuted for neglect, and prevents the Poor Law authorities from taking the child and proceeding against the parents for the expense of maintaining it in the workhouse.

It is also true that, when pushed to desperation, a poor woman can—if she has anywhere to go, and if she has any money in hand, which, by the nature of the case, she very rarely has—apply for a separation and maintenance order. This, however, involves breaking up the home, and is, in many cases, ineffective, as the machinery for enforcing the payment of these maintenance orders is so defective that a very large number of them remain unpaid. Imprisonment cancels the debt, and many men find it more convenient to go to prison for a month than to support a family for a term of years!

In this Bill both parents are made liable for the maintenance of their children according to their means, whether they are living together or separately.

It is no good passing laws without providing the machinery for enforcing them. This Bill proposes that imprisonment shall no longer cancel the debt, and that in the event of a person against whom the order is made refusing to pay, a portion of his wages or property shall be paid into Court for the children.

Lastly, it proposes that cases under this Bill can be brought before a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, instead of only before the High and County Courts, thereby throwing the facilities given in the Bill open to the poor as well as to the rich.

It is sometimes said that the Bill would not work because in cases of dispute the judge or magistrate would have no principle by which to guide his decision. In cases of dispute between business partners who are equal in status, however, the judge has to be guided by the facts of each case. So in guardianship cases the judge will have to take the welfare of the child as the ultimate deciding factor. Equal guardianship laws are working well in some of our colonies and in America.

What is to be the next step as regards this Bill? Women's organisations are in general agreement on this point. They can no longer trust this important Bill to the slender chances of survival offered to a private member's Bill. The Government must take it up as a Government measure, and see that it passes through all its stages in the Houses of Parliament next session. Public opinion behind the Bill is remarkably strong, and this fact has been made clear to the Government on many occasions. Only last week, a deputation to the Government Whips, representing over thirty women's organisations, led by the N.U.S.E.C., put in their plea that the Bill should be made a Government measure. The deputation was sympathetically received, but no definite answer was given.

The adoption of this Bill would show to women voters that the Government do intend, in one respect at least, "to remove existing inequalities in the law as between men and women," and that without having to spend a single penny of public money. Every opportunity should be taken, therefore, between now and February, to impress the Powers that Be that this Bill must become law in 1922.

**NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.**

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

At the time of writing the news from Ireland seems to be too good to be true. That a solution should have been found which is acceptable to the North and the South, as well as to the Cabinet of the United Kingdom; that it includes allegiance to the Crown and yet satisfies Irish "self-determination"; that, in short, the terrible danger and disgrace of an Irish war is averted—all this, if it is really the case, is a most marvellous mercy. Perhaps another breakdown is ahead: perhaps the hopes entertained to-night will not be realised. But, at any rate, we have, if only for one moment, seen the clouds break, and we know that agreement is a possibility. There have been times when it has seemed as if the Irish did not want peace and as if they actually preferred war and their grievances; but once the basis is agreed everything else can be forgotten.

Even his enemies must admit that, throughout this affair, the Prime Minister has been very wonderful. One may, indeed, if one wishes to find things against him, look back at his attempts at coercion and the horrors of last year. But Mr. Lloyd George is a man of many changes: and when he is on the path of conciliation he has marvellous gifts. This settlement is not, of course, his affair alone. Both Mr. Chamberlain and Lord Birkenhead deserve the very highest credit, and perhaps more still should be given to the Press. The self-restraint and genuine helpfulness displayed almost everywhere is a thing hitherto unknown. Long may it continue.

All other events fade into insignificance before this news, if, indeed, it be true news. But before it appeared there was great excitement over the coming report of the Geddes Economy Axe Committee, and its rumoured onslaught on the Board of Education in particular. Whitehall has been trembling in its shoes.

There are many signs that the financial crisis is as acute as ever, in spite of the half-hearted attempts in some quarters to announce a revival of trade. The state of Germany and Austria is serious in the extreme, and the question of the reparation payments now shortly due is exercising the City in its political conscience. We hear so much about national insolvency that we have almost ceased to believe in it. But everyone knows that something more than a Geddes Axe is needed to make our ends meet.

The news from Washington has been meagre and unsatisfying this week. No doubt the dramatic opening of the Conference pitched our hopes too high; but at this present moment it seems to be too inactive, and the fear that it will lead to nothing much has crept into our hearts. We must push the fear out again, for we cannot have the hope of some real disarmament taken from us; but fears have a nasty way of lingering in the back of one's mind. If, however, the Anglo-Japanese Treaty is superseded by a real working alliance of Japan and the United States with ourselves, we can begin to breathe freely again. On that basis disarmament in the Pacific can go merrily on; and the faster the better.

To turn from international matters to purely domestic politics, and the machinery of them at that, the last week has seen a great revival of constituency activity. Members have almost all been at work in their own places, meeting their constituents and keeping an eye on General Election chances. Everyone is trying new things, and among them two experiments of which I have heard seem both valuable in themselves and of particular interest to the readers of this paper.

In Plymouth, so I learn, a sort of advisory consultative committee of women's societies has come into existence, not on any party basis, but, without prejudice to elections, to keep the members and the politically active women in touch with each other. I should have said this was the result of having women in Parliament, but that in Chelsea very much the same movement is on foot. There Sir Samuel Hoare met representatives of about twelve local women's organisations, and went with them through an exhaustive list of matters of social reform. The women questioned him closely, and with expert knowledge, and he so far met with their approval that at the end they passed a unanimous vote expressing their "general satisfaction" with his answers, without pledging him to support all their views, or themselves to support all his. This sort of thing is educational, both to M.P.s and to women constituents. It ought to be done in every seat where the member is really trying to represent the voters.

[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.]

## DENMARK AND THE UNMARRIED MOTHER.

The Scandinavian countries have always been distinguished for the courageous manner in which they have faced certain social problems which we, in England, long held impossible of public discussion, even of solution. The war has forced us into a more honest and less ostrich-like attitude, and the question of the unmarried mother, one of the most important of social problems, bound up as it is with the future citizens of our country, can no more be shelved or ignored. During a recent visit to Denmark I was privileged to observe the benevolent workings of the State in so far as the hospital treatment of these cases was concerned, and an inspection of the magnificent Rigs Hospital (State hospital) revealed many enlightened features.

It must be noted first, that in Denmark, comparatively few married women enter the lying-in wards of the Rigs Hospital. The majority have their babies in their own homes, or, if they are of the wealthier classes, in one of the many excellent private clinics (nursing homes as we should call them in England); entering the hospital only in case of danger. Thus, for the most part, the lying-in wards are occupied by the unmarried mothers of the country.

The maternity block of this splendid State hospital in Copenhagen serves also as the principal training school for Danish midwives. On the ground floor are reception wards, a theatre, and the quarters of the head midwife; while above are the maternity wards. This block is entirely separate from the rest of the hospital, and is entered by a special door.

Cases are sent up from the streets by the city police, who notify the hospital by telephone. All cases are admitted as "number So-and-So," and the patient's name is only entered on the hospital registers in case of death.

This merciful system ensures to the girl who has made the first false step a chance of preserving some element of self-respect, and of repairing her fault. There is no revelation of identity, and the fear that her shame is revealed to the world is removed from the girl who is anxious to make a fresh start.

On admission into the hospital, the patient is received into one of the series of separate wards on the ground floor of the block. Here the child is born, and remains with its mother under observation for a period of three hours. At the expiration of that time, if all is well, mother and baby are taken up to the general maternity wards. But no case is ever admitted direct from the streets to the maternity wards, and all babies are born in the observation block.

When the mother is better she is carefully examined by the doctors, and, if approved of, she then serves as wet-nurse to the more serious cases in the infants' section of the children's pavilion. While thus acting as nurse to her own baby and two or more of the sick children, she is fed and housed at the expense of the State, for nine months or as long as her duties continue. Thus the most difficult months, when she would otherwise have to endeavour to earn her living encumbered with a helpless child are tidied over, and at the same time she is enabled to recover her self-respect and to perform a really valuable service to the hospital. Moreover, the unfortunate child whom she has brought into the world is not handicapped from the outset of its career by a bad start. Of course, there are many of these mothers who are unfitted for various reasons to assume the duties of wet-nurse; but here, too, the Danish State hospital system is merciful. If a maternity patient of this class is weakly, and does not get back her strength readily after her baby is born; or if she has no home to go to, then she may stop on at the hospital for several months, living in special quarters at the top of the maternity block with her child; earning her keep by the performance of light duties, but without that stigma which invariably rests on a similar class of patient in our English workhouse infirmaries.

Such generous and enlightened treatment is, of course, only possible in a State institution; it would, alas, be utterly impossible in our own over-burdened hospitals with their increasingly heavy financial difficulties and long waiting list of patients. English nurses and sisters will often lament the unavoidable haste with which cases must be hurried out of the wards before they are really convalescent; but there is, unfortunately, no help for it under our present system. Urgent cases must have priority of treatment, and when beds are so badly needed and economy in food is a vital necessity if the hospital is to keep its head above water at all, it is obvious that no maternity ward could afford to maintain mother and baby one day after it was really necessary. Yet the fact remains that the "workhouse

baby," poor little unfortunate, has a certain stigma attached to it which does not apply to its more unhappy brother (even though the case of the mothers may have been precisely similar), born in the shelter of a hospital ward. When the day comes, as it inevitably will, that the hospitals of our country are State supported, we may be able to emulate the more enlightened policy of this little Scandinavian country; but until then we can only regret the pressure of circumstances which thrust a mother and her child into the cold world at a time when the woman is scarcely able to cope with her new responsibilities, penalising the chances of the child and requiring from the mother an almost impossible standard of virtue in the face of obvious temptations.

It is perfectly true that many excellent institutions exist which do admirable work for the unmarried mother in her time of need; but it also cannot be denied that the penalty which must be paid for that help is in many cases the subtle branding as "unfortunate"; the moral effect of which, upon a certain type of girl, is nothing short of disastrous; and the robust commonsense of the Danish system appears to strike a happier note.

The day is gone by, one hopes for ever, when the weight of public censure rests exclusively upon the woman for the crime of bringing a human creature into the world without making any provision for its future—a crime be it noted which many worthy people have committed in common with those whom they unite in terming "unfortunate"; and the future will see the question of the unmarried mother solved in a manner more worthy of our century. Meanwhile, I offer this slight sketch of the methods already in practice in Denmark as not altogether unworthy of consideration.

E. C. DAVIES.

## THE FASCINATION OF FLEET STREET.

"One green field is like another," said the Doctor, "let us go for a walk down Fleet Street."

That was a hundred and fifty years ago, in the days of Sheridan and Fox, of Boswell and Burke, and of the worthy Doctor himself. Times have changed: green fields are no longer scorned, and the wig and cane of the Fleet Street wanderer have changed into the trilby and walking-stick. But the journalist spoke then for the journalists of the future, and the fascination of Fleet Street is just as real to-day as in the days of the Mitre and the Cheshire Cheese. But there is one difference. The way down Fleet Street has been until quite recently the way down Grub Street—the way that led to garrets and semi-starvation, to disillusionment, and often to despair. Men and women who wished to write were told that there was only one school, that of experience; and because some who went through this school bore fruit a hundredfold, men forgot that greater number who failed and fell by the wayside. The trouble lay in the tremendous difference between the wish to write, even the ability to write, and writing as a livelihood. The young journalist found himself hampered not by want of ideas, but by lack of practice in expressing these ideas and in finding suitable papers for his articles. He was hampered also by lack of specialised knowledge in any one branch of journalism; so he wandered from politics to motor routes, from motor routes to spiritualism, before he found out that his forte lay in dramatic criticism. Such was the former novice in journalism, who jumped straight from the caterpillar stage of school to that of the full-formed moth, and in his first flight burnt his wings.

Two years ago, however, a body of men discovered that a wise caterpillar does not become a moth until it has passed through the chrysalis stage of preparation. Doctors, lawyers, and professors, they discovered, had all followed its good example; journalists, too, they decided, should have the chance of a University training. So in October, 1919, London University started the first academic school of journalism that Europe has known. Sir Sidney Lee, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and founder of the school, was elected chairman, and there was a large committee of prominent journalists and members of the University. This committee realised how broad a field the word journalism covers, so the work for this diploma makes ample allowance for the tastes of the individual. English composition is, of course, compulsory, and so are two of the three general knowledge subjects: the principles of criticism, the general history of science, and the history of political ideas. Besides these, there are eight groups out of which the student may choose any two which appeal to him. The subjects are

varied, and include modern languages, economics, philosophy and psychology, English literature, history, and political science. Besides these University courses, various well-known journalists give informal addresses to the students. These addresses form one of the most valuable parts of the training, for they not only bring the student into direct contact with those whose names are bywords in his future profession, but also these men can tell them exactly what their papers expect and want from contributors. This, it cannot be too much emphasised, is one of the most important things for the embry-journalist to learn. The University, realising how much readable matter is daily rejected because it does not fit in with the tone or politics of the paper, makes a special study of this, and all articles and essays written during the course are supposed to have some special paper in view.

The course lasts for two years, and at the end of the second an examination is held in English composition and the various subjects that have been studied. Students who have already graduated may, however, take the diploma after one year's work. Over a hundred students joined the course when it began in October, 1919. Of these the greater number were ex-Service men who were given University grants by the Government. The course was open equally to women and men, but as it was little advertised only eleven women joined the first year. The second year, however, the new students were chiefly women. During the two years it has been amusing to see how many found that the wish and ability to write do not always go together; so some have gone farming, some have taken up drawing, and others have been called to the Bar. For the necessity of writing one or two articles every week is a good preparation for the future; then the student who thus discovers that the pen is not his best weapon in life has still the experience of college life at the back of him, instead of the sterner experiences of returned manuscripts and rejected offers of work. Journalist students may be attached to whichever of the five big London

colleges they prefer—University, King's, Bedford, East London, and the School of Economics. They are registered as ordinary students, and so have opportunities for joining the different college games and societies. They are different from other students, however, in that they can attend lectures at any of the other colleges, instead of being limited to their own. The journalist students have their own association to help those who have taken the course to get posts, and to band past and present journalist students together. During the first year they also ran a magazine, but with the present cost of printing this proved too expensive an undertaking. Some time, when things are less dear, it is hoped that this paper will be revived, for the experience gained by editing and managing it balanced any tendency that the course may have at present to be merely academic. It is difficult to say whether this tendency is a drawback to the course or not; for as the test of the cake is in the eating, so the test of the course lies in the efficiency of the twenty-nine students who gained the diploma this year, and of those who will gain it in the future.

With regard to any training, the question naturally occurs, "What good will it do me? Shall I be guaranteed a post?" To answer the second question first. There is no actual guarantee with the diploma that on emerging from the chrysalis stage you will find your sugar (and whatever else moths live on) ready provided for you; but during the two years your wings have had time to develop in the right direction, so that they will be strong enough to carry you wherever you wish to go. In other words, the journalist who has studied at the University has got at his back a good general education, with expert tuition in the subjects he is interested in, with practice in writing and also with the advice of the journalists he has met on his way. The diploma does not throw open wide the doors that flank the Doctor's favourite walk, but it provides an efficient handle by which they may be entered.

P. GIBBONS.

## TEACHING "MOTHERCRAFT."

Watching a class of little girls giving a demonstration of the way they had been taught to wash and dress and feed a baby, and listening to the delighted remarks of the audience which accepted everything without a criticism or a question, one felt rather despairing of any lasting result from such teaching unless something more were added to it. Mothers are made, not born, and the necessary knowledge does not come to them by instinct at the time they become mothers; and the outlines they have followed as children in a class with a washable doll want very considerable expansion before these lessons can be of use in the handling of a live infant. Perhaps my judgment was a little warped by jealousy. I have seen the excellent care and training given to East-end mothers in a centre where the teaching has been fully appreciated, and have mourned the mistake made in limiting it (as in the case of the little girls) to "thus far and no farther"—limiting it to a parrot-like imitation of a lesson without drawing out thought and individual action. In this East-end centre our babies were a joy to behold—so plump and clean and well grown, but a year or two later, when the baby had become a toddler and another arrival was claiming first care, what a difference! "Mothercraft" training stops short at the baby; it takes no account at all of the little child, and this, to me, is the grave defect of these lessons. They are good as far as they go, but they do not go nearly far enough to fulfil their chief aim, which is the saving of child-life and the laying of the foundation of a good, healthy constitution.

Nature herself has taken very wide precautions for the safeguarding of the first year of life, especially in the matter of feeding, and it is in the second year that infant mortality is greatest, if accidents before birth and at birth are eliminated. So many of our fine babies down East came back some twelve months later as puny, sickly, rickety little mortals, that to me no "Mothercraft" teaching is sufficient that leaves out of account the period which is the child's real introduction to life, one that is doubly full of perils. Because a child has a few teeth and can stand on its own feet, it is no reason why it should have to fight for its existence, suffering indescribable aches and pains from shocks outside its system and penalties inside.

In a series of Mothercraft Lessons for teaching to girls in the elder classes at school—not the juniors—which it has been my privilege to prepare, I have laid much more stress on the need for quiet and rest and protection during this second year than during the first. The awakening faculties are either stimulated or irritated, either hurried or retarded, according as they are left unshielded or are protected. Sight and sound, light and dark, silence and noise, heat and cold, pleasure or pain, are profoundly influencing the day-by-day progress of the little child even as they did with the younger infant, but in the second year self-assertiveness does not make the same appeal to others for their gentleness.

It is in the second year that there is so much conflict between the asserting self-will of the child and the correcting will of others. Good habits of body have to be learnt, and in order that they may be formed there is every whit as much need for keeping time by the clock in feeding and resting as there was in the first year. In the poor home, with another younger infant claiming attention, training by habit becomes largely a matter of punishment, and late enough in the day it has become recognised that since at five years old the child is already formed, or deformed, for life, the Nursery School that will cover the period from two to five years will be a national asset. That so many children have survived the perils, inner and outer, that surround the first two or three years of existence is largely due to the ready adaptability which Nature provides. The child of the streets, for instance, has a perfectly wonderful way of avoiding accidents and of protecting itself from injury, of getting happiness out of apparent misery, and of becoming hardy under unhealthy conditions; nevertheless, for the one that survives, numbers go to the wall.

Doctors tell us that the majority of infants at birth are equipped both for life and health, whatever the conditions into which they enter; and as before said, Nature has taken a firm hand in saying how the young infant shall be reared and fed.

It is left for human brains and energy to carry on what has been so well started, and this is, we maintain, the more important half of the teaching of Mothercraft, and the part that is usually left untaught. This ought we to do and not leave the other undone.

L. H. Y.

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**WOMEN VOTERS' MEETING IN SOUTHWARK.**

Crossway Hall was well filled at the meeting organised by the N.U.S.E.C. and the London Society for Women's Service, by men as well as women voters. On the whole, all three candidates secured a fair hearing, though there was a Communist element present which broke out from time to time. The most interesting features of the meeting were the readiness with which women fired questions at the candidates, and the loud applause given by all present, men as well as women, to favourable statements on such subjects as Equal Franchise, Equal Pay for Equal Work, &c. The three candidates gave perfectly satisfactory replies to all our questions, except that Mr. Boot was against a League of Nations as at present constituted. Mr. Jacobsen reminded the audience that as a former member of the House of Commons he had been a friend of the Women's Movement before it became popular. Miss Deverill, organiser for the London Society, and Miss Beaumont, have done excellent work in connection with this election in Southwark.

**"THE WOMAN'S LEADER."**

We wish to call special attention to the appeal made by THE WOMAN'S LEADER for funds. THE WOMAN'S LEADER is no longer our official organ; some of our Societies do not always approve of everything which it contains; but it stands boldly for the reforms for which we are pledged to work, and we wish its Editorial Board to feel that it has behind it the goodwill and practical support of progressive women all over the country. Recent visits throughout the country have proved how much its weekly advent is valued by many outside our own immediate circles. Many who regret the reduction in size necessitated by lack of funds tell us that its Notes and News and Parliamentary information alone would justify its existence. It is up to the women of the country to show that they can unite in support of a paper which has a definite policy on which the majority of women are united, and we are convinced that there will be an immediate response to the present appeal.

**WOMEN CANDIDATES FOR PARLIAMENT.**

We are very glad to learn that Mrs. Coombe Tennant has been asked to stand as Coalition Liberal candidate for the Forest of Dean division. Mrs. Coombe Tennant is a former member of the Executive, and, like Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., has very special claims to our support.

**CORRESPONDENCE.**

**WOMEN AND WAR.**

MADAM.—When I read Miss O'Malley's delightful definition of a true conversion to pacifism I wondered if by any chance she had read that wonderful little book "Letters from John Chinaman," published in 1901. She will appreciate the sentence in it quoted from Sir Robert Hart's account of the Chinese—"They believe in right so firmly that they scorn to think it requires to be supported or enforced by might."

Those beautiful words have haunted me all through the war; they run continually in my mind, for that faith is my religion. I should be so grateful if some really religious-minded person, which I know I am not, would explain to me why they think their religion so feeble that it needs guns to back it up. No one has ever made it clear to me yet. When I have suggested that if we hadn't fought and if the Germans had landed here, if we had given them tea and toast and a nice time they couldn't possibly have fought us, especially if we had told them we believed what the Chinese believed, they either become very angry with me or regard me with cold contempt. They refuse to argue with me, and I am very much hurt.

However, I have now found an argument which so far seems to have made some slight impression. I have reminded them that killing is dreadfully old-fashioned and out of date. It began with Cain and Abel, and it has got us "no forrader," as we say in the North. We are just where Cain was, only worse. I find many people dislike to be thought old-fashioned more than to be told they are wicked. It offends them more. Wickedness may be interesting, but old-fashionedness is not. To my belief no audience has ever contradicted that statement yet. The Communists in Vienna at whose meeting I spoke really agreed with me apparently.

ISABELLA O. FORD.

**MATERNITY PROTECTION FOR WOMEN FARM WORKERS.**

MADAM.—In the "Notes and News" of a recent WOMAN'S LEADER, there appears a quotation from Mrs. Gertrud Hanna's speech at the International Labour Conference, which seems to call for comment. She dwells on the dangers of agricultural work to the health of child-bearing women, and we shall probably all agree with her view that no woman works—in agriculture—for her own pleasure before and after child-birth, but that those who continue hard work at this time are driven by dire necessity. What I consider contentious, and indeed a *non sequitur*, is the last sentence quoted: "Governments must therefore take steps to prohibit women from working under these conditions." No; give them suitable conditions and means for resting, and let their own good sense judge of what is best for their health and that of their children.

F. DE G. MERRIFIELD.

[We much regret that many letters have been unavoidably held over till next week.—ED., "W. L."]

**SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE WOMAN'S LEADER when ordering goods.**

Mrs. Burnett Smith (Annie Swan), who is President of the Hertford W.C.A., affiliated to the N.U.S.E.C., has been asked to stand for Hillhead division of Glasgow.

We hope shortly to announce a complete list of the names of the Women Candidates on whose behalf the N.U.S.E.C. intends to organise active work between now and the General Election.

**A JOYFUL WEEK.**

Last week was distinguished by several delightful features. We received news of three new affiliated societies, Lewisham, Largs, and Hemsworth, and of one new Local Correspondent. On Saturday morning a cheque for £200 arrived from Miss Sarah Clegg. This generous gift is most opportune, as we have great opportunities for work and are only handicapped by lack of funds.

**NEWPORT W.C.A.**

A public meeting was held by the Newport Association at the Temperance Hall, Newport, on Wednesday, November 30th, under the Chairmanship of T. Morris Prosser, Esq. The speakers were: Mr. Charles Edwards, M.P. for the Bedwelty division, and Mrs. Coombe Tennant, J.P., and the subject was "Women in Parliament." Mr. Edwards spoke of the large part women were taking in public life and amused the audience by his personal views of our two women M.P.s. Mrs. Coombe Tennant, in a speech that entirely won over the meeting, called the women to leave their sheltered homes and enter the arena of politics. She said that Parliament should be the mirror of the whole nation, but that it would never be so as long as the vast majority of the members of the House of Commons were men. Both speakers had a cordial reception, and a vote of thanks was proposed by T. Baker Jones, Esq., and seconded by Mrs. Jens Muller, M.B.E.

**HEMSWORTH W.C.A.**

We are delighted to welcome the newly formed Hemsworth W.C.A. as one of our affiliated societies. The first meeting, which was held recently, was addressed by Miss Hartop, who, in an able speech, outlined the aims and objects of a Women Citizens' Association. A resolution to form an association affiliated to the N.U.S.E.C. was passed unanimously and the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Salisbury; Hon. Secretary, Mrs. P. Franks; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. M. Foulkes.

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**MUSIC** reviewed by Christopher St. John.

**SHORT STORIES** have appeared by Rabindranath Tagore, Elizabeth Robins, Laurence Housman, Louis Golding, Margaret Cole, Barry Pain, Alec Waugh, etc.

**SPECIAL ARTICLES** have been contributed by

Clemence Dane	Prof. J. A. Thomson
Bernard Shaw	Cicely Hamilton
Robert Lynd	G. D. H. Cole
Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher	Stephen Gwynn
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W. L.

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

The year 1921 has seen two Licensing Bills before the House. The Trade Bill, introduced in the spring by Colonel Gretton, was too palpably the child of its parent to receive the support of the House, and it was found advisable to have it withdrawn. The Licensing Act (No. 2), which was hurried through Parliament at the end of a long and difficult session, was the unsatisfactory outcome of an unsatisfactory compromise. Government, pressed on all sides for a settlement of after-war Licensing conditions, and for the withdrawal of the Liquor Control Board, no doubt felt that this Act would satisfy the public for some time to come. They reckoned without the women electorate. The Women's State Purchase Committee, having for its purpose post-war reconstructive work, loses no opportunity of calling attention to the merely temporary character of the new Act. The Act is merely a palliative—it does not go to the root of the problem at all. It must be realised by all who give serious attention to our social questions that our whole Licensing system is out of date. It is an anomaly in this coming new age. It is an inheritance from the past, and the time has come to reconsider the whole question from a broad view point. For how can this country enter into competition—whether industrial, moral, or social—with other countries which are not shackled and hampered in their progress as we are by a powerful organisation whose interest is in direct antagonism to the best interests of the nation?

It takes no "teetotal fanatics" to realise that the pushing of sales of intoxicants and the low standard of the present-day public-house and its inherent and inevitable evils are extremely bad for the nation. There is no need, however, to rush to the extreme of demanding the total abolition of sales of alcohol and the closing of the public-houses. Outside the ranks of extremists these proposals are either resented as an unwarrantable interference with the right to choose one's own diet or are considered merely farcical, while to those who know the conditions of the lower working-class life it is manifestly impossible to close the public-house until something else is provided to take its place.

The pros and cons of Prohibition, however, are merely matter for the platform. Public demand alone will prohibit the sale of intoxicants, and it is many years before the majority in this slow-moving country will have reached that decision.

Meantime the valuable lessons of the war-time liquor regulations are waiting to be put into practice. The Government has again and again definitely pledged itself to introduce permanent legislation to embody these lessons, and it is the paramount duty of women to keep this promise before them. Removal of private interest is the only solution of our drink problem. The Liquor Control Board regulations went as far as they could to tie the hands of the vendors of intoxicants for profit making. But when even the Control Board regulations, as in Carlisle, failed to tie a firm enough knot—the hands were made to give up their prized possession into safer custody. Until the manufacture and sale of intoxicants is under disinterested ownership, so long shall we be a C.3 nation.

For literature on State Purchase and speakers for meetings, apply Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E., Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

**COMING EVENTS.**

**LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.**

DEC. 12. St. Annes-on-Sea, Ashton Pavilion, 8 p.m. Speaker: Rev. Joseph Hocking.  
DEC. 13. Guildford, Guildhall Holy Trinity Parish Hall, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Frederick Whelen, Esq.  
DEC. 14. Leytonstone Congregational Church, 8 p.m. Speaker: Rt. Hon. G. N. Barnes, M.P.  
DEC. 15. Northampton. Speaker: Frederick Whelen, Esq.

**N.U.S.E.C.**

DEC. 12. Ashton-under-Tyne. "Limitation of Armaments." Speaker: Mrs. Walter Layton.  
DEC. 14. Reading. "Programme of the N.U.S.E.C." Speaker: Miss Macadam.  
DEC. 15. Tunbridge Wells. "Programme of the N.U.S.E.C." Speaker: Miss Macadam.

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

DEC. 14. Hampstead Women's Co-operative Guild, 3 p.m. "Public Ownership of the Liquor Trade." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell.  
Teddington Adult School, 8 p.m. "The Case for State Purchase."  
DEC. 15. Hampstead Women Liberals' Association, 3 p.m. "The Case for State Purchase." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell.

**PIONEER CLUB.**

DEC. 13. 12, Cavendish Place, W. 1, 8.15 p.m. "The Work of the Six Point Group." Speaker: Miss Cicely Hamilton. Chair: Miss McMillan.

**WESTMINSTER COALITION LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.**

DEC. 12. At St. Andrew's Hall, Ashley Place, S.W. 1, 8 p.m. "Capitalism." Speaker: Mr. Marshall J. Pike (of the B.C.U.).

**INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CLUB.**

DEC. 14. 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, 8.15 p.m. Subject: "The Mandate for Palestine." Speaker: Miss Frances E. Newton, F.R.G.S., A.R.C.I. Chairman: Mrs. Fawcett, L.L.D.

**SHEFFIELD PLAYERS' SOCIETY.**

DEC. 16 & 17. "Rich Martha," new four act play by Bertha N. Graham, at the Church House, Sheffield. Dec. 16, 8 p.m.; Dec. 17, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

**CIVIC EDUCATION LEAGUE.**

DEC. 15. Leplay House, 65, Belgrave Road, S.W. 1, 8.15 p.m. "Light against Death." Speaker: Dr. Saleeby. Chair: Dr. Gladys Miall Smith.

**SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES.**

DEC. 21. The Bantu Tribes of East Africa (The Washambala). 12 o'clock. Lecturer: Miss Alice Werner.

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