

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

THE COMMON CAUSE PUBLISHING CO. LTD., 62, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.1

Vol. XIII. No. 43.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1921.

PRICE 3D.

Registered as a Newspaper.

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NOTES AND NEWS

The Municipal Elections.

Several more names of successful women candidates can now be added to our two previous lists. The following have been elected:—Acton, Mrs. Barnes (Ind.), Mrs. Forrester (Lab.), Miss Mountford (M.C.U.), Miss Smee (Ind.); Bangor, Miss Selina Williams (Ind.); Bath, Mrs. Latter-Parsons (Ind.); Bexhill, Mrs. Sansom (Ind.); Birmingham, Miss Bartleet (U.), Mrs. George Cadbury (Lib.), Mrs. A. M. Howes (Lab.); Bradford, Mrs. K. Sykes (Lab.); Bristol, Miss E. H. Smith, J.P. (U., unopposed); Croydon, Miss Musselwhite (Ind.); Droitwich, Mrs. Blake (Ind.); Eastbourne, Miss Dorothy Chamberlain (Ind.), Miss Alice Hudson (Ind., unopposed); Gateshead, Mrs. Gunn (Lab.); Ipswich, Mrs. Fletcher (Ind.), Mrs. May (Ind.); Malmesbury, Mrs. Tinley (Ind.); Middlesbrough, Mrs. Guthrie; Nottingham, Mrs. Shepperd (Ind.); Salisbury, The Hon. Lady Hulse (Ind.); Stockton, Mrs. Close (Lab.); Swindon, Mrs. George (C. Lib.); Thetford, Mrs. Bidwell (Ind.); Warrington, Mrs. Broadbent, J.P. (C.); West Hartlepool, Miss Vitty (Ind. Lib.); Wolverhampton, Mrs. Sproson (Lab.); Worthing, Mrs. Greenfield (Ind.), Dr. Florence Smedley (Ind.).

A Woman M.P. in Norway.

Norway is following close on the heels of Sweden, and has elected its first woman Member of Parliament, Miss Karine Platou. She has had a certain amount of experience in Parliamentary work, since she was previously elected as an "alternate member," and her excellent record in the Storting has probably been the cause of her election as a full member. We congratulate her very heartily, and are glad that a Norwegian woman has at last gained a Parliamentary seat. The franchise was granted to the women of Norway as long ago as 1907, but Norway is the last of all the Scandinavian countries to elect a woman Member of Parliament.

Indian Women and the Law.

Miss Sudhansu Lala Hazra, B.A., B.L., has recently applied at the Patna High Court to be enrolled as a pleader to practise in the District Court of Bankipur. There is no legal disqualification in India for women pleaders, and Miss Cornelia Sorabji, who passed her law examinations long ago, and who has been appointed adviser to the Chancery Courts in Bengal,

has also applied to the Court to be allowed to practise. Miss Engineer of Bombay and Miss Bannerji of Bengal have also passed the law examinations, so that Indian women are by no means behindhand in taking up law.

A Dispensary for Indian Women and Children in Fiji.

Dr. Mildred Staley, medical adviser for Indian women and children in Fiji, has sent us the following news:—"On the 24th of July, in Suva, a dispensary for Indian women and children was opened by Mrs. McOwan, wife of the acting Colonial Secretary, in the presence of Mr. McOwan, Dr. and Mrs. Hunt, Dr. and Mrs. Strathairn, Dr. Mildred Staley, members of the Hospital Staff, and a large gathering of Indians. The well-known Indian store-keeper, Deoki, placed a building at the disposal of the Government, who have leased it from Deoki for a season. The building has been equipped and fitted out suitably, and contains a roomy waiting-room, operating-room, and dispensary. The dispensary will be in charge of Dr. Mildred Staley, who will visit it on certain days, having associated with her there a certificated Indian nurse—Mrs. I. Perashad, wife of an Indian missionary, who is a fully trained dispenser, nurse, anaesthetist and midwife. This first purely Indian dispensary for women and children will prove of great value to the Indian community in Suva." Dr. Mildred Staley adds that since the opening of the dispensary it has been well patronised by the Indians, and that she and Mrs. Perashad are kept very busy. For this dispensary the Government accepted Dr. Staley's ideas and estimate for the choice, adaptation, and furnishing of the building. The leading Indians (150) of the community were invited to the opening ceremony.

Irish Women Patrols.

Women's organisations in Ireland steadily continue their work, even under present conditions. The Irish Women Patrols at their recent annual meeting decided to undertake another branch of work. Early in the present year, the Irish Girls' Protection Crusade decided to dissolve. The Patrols were organised for the preservation of young girls and the prevention of openly displayed vice in the Dublin streets at night, and they now felt it their duty to extend the scope of their own Society to include the work at the railway stations and boats. The veteran President of the Society, Mrs. Haslam, was one of the first to see the need

for extension and reorganisation, thus giving fresh evidence of that unabated energy and power of initiative which led her in 1867 to sign the first petition for woman suffrage. The efficiency of the Patrols has often been commended, both by the heads of the Dublin Metropolitan Police and by others familiar with street conditions in the city. This was a matter of especial difficulty while the curfew was in force, owing to the imperfect lighting. At Kingstown Pier, during the period of congested cross-channel traffic, the Patrols induced the officials to give preference to young girls travelling alone, and to women with infants in arms, and for those actually left behind they found lodgings for the night in safe quarters. They co-operated with the Children's Care Committee in the organisation of a cheap train to bring the children from the city slums to the Merrion sands, an effort rendered necessary by the abolition of half fares. The existence of the women police in the city is due to the Patrols by whom they were trained. Some time ago an attempt to have some Patrols paid, as was done in London, elicited the fact that in London a special police fund was available, provided for by a grant which did not apply to Ireland. Efforts were made to have the grant extended to Ireland, but without success. Under the new scheme, whole-time day work will be involved. Pending a permanent arrangement, the consideration of which it seemed better to defer during the present condition of unrest and uncertainty, it was decided that as a temporary plan the services of two or three paid workers should be obtained, and that they should meet the more important trains and boats. An appeal is being made for funds, and there is every hope that a sufficient response will be forthcoming.

Maternity Protection for Women Farm Workers.

Mrs. Gertrud Hanna, the German Workers' representative at the International Labour Conference, who is also a member of the Prussian Parliament, speaking on the need of international measures of maternity protection for women working in agriculture, said:—"A Convention already exists on behalf of women engaged in industry. I think that agricultural work is of a far harder nature, and is far more likely to do harm to women. It may harm them even for life. It tends to prevent the healthiness of the race, and it further tends to make families and children unhappy; for we workers know only too well how the happy life of a family and the development of the children are seriously prejudiced by the sickness of the mother of the family. In Germany every year 50,000 women suffer from serious illness as the result of childbirth. These statistics are given us by our insurance societies. Had we statistics of countries where there is not such an extensive provision for insurance, I tremble to think of the results we should find. It is quite probable that there are many countries in which women are even worse off in this respect than they are in Germany. It is beyond doubt that no woman works for her own pleasure before and after childbirth. She merely works because of the dire necessity of gaining her livelihood. Governments must therefore take steps to prohibit women from working under these conditions."

Girls in Borstal Institutions.

In the Prison Commissioners' Report of the working of Borstal Institutions, recently issued, it appears that thirty-three girls were placed in irons or handcuffs, and seventy-four suffered solitary confinement out of a total of 269. The average age of girls sentenced to Borstal detention during the year ending March 31st, 1921, was eighteen years five months. It is time the public paid more attention to Government publications, and women, with their new duties and privileges, are now under an obligation to find out what goes on behind prison doors. Irons or handcuffs for girls of eighteen is a scandal which should be inquired into without delay.

Sir Ernest Wild and Women Jurors.

It seems that even Sir Ernest Wild is being converted, and is gradually renouncing his reactionary ways. Still, in view of the motion recently tabled in the House of Commons on the subject of women jurors, his speech at Whipps Cross Infirmary is not altogether convincing. He said that women were not sentimentalists, and were much harder than men; they were not morally soft because they were concentrated upon their duty. Women on juries, he said, were very much more difficult to convince than men, especially when one had a bad case. He found that women paid even more attention to the case than men, and, although the discussions were not heard, from their demeanour he gathered that they paid considerable attention to their duties and were a great assistance to men in arriving at the

truth. He added that it was quite unfair and unjust that any walk in life should be closed to women, and he was one of those who believed in giving equal economic opportunities to women! This sort of speech from this sort of man confirms the impression that a General Election is at hand.

Shakespeare for School Children.

It is a pleasure to learn that in spite of the fiasco of the L.C.C. scheme for presenting Shakespearian plays to school children, some at least of them will have an opportunity of hearing and seeing Shakespeare acted. The Chiswick Education Committee announce a series of monthly matinées at the Chiswick Empire. A small charge is to be made for seats, whereby the scheme differs from that of the L.C.C., but the price of 8d., at which the bulk of the seats will be sold, is apparently well within the children's means, since 1,800 of the 2,000 seats were occupied by children at a recent performance of "The Merchant of Venice." We hope the Chiswick Education Committee's courage and perseverance will be rewarded by the unqualified success of the undertaking.

Homes for Women Workers.

The Women's Pioneer Housing Co. opened last week its first block of self-contained flats, and the ceremony was attended by many who know the urgency of the housing problem for single women. The Company proposes to carry out as many different schemes as its capital will allow, and its prospective tenants desire. The first building is one of those big, useless mansions which are so inconvenient as a single house, but which has been purchased by the Company, converted into six separate flats, now let to women workers at moderate rents. Every reader of this paper knows the reality of the need for small, convenient, and inexpensive flats or sets of unfurnished rooms for professional women. They are terribly difficult to find in all large towns to-day, and this Public Utility Company, in attempting to meet that need, is doing a very useful work. Unlike many other useful schemes it is commercially sound, and offers a safe 6 per cent. investment to all who like killing two birds with one stone. All particulars are to be had from the Secretary, Miss Browning, 92, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

The Professional Classes Aid Council.

The Professional Classes Aid Council is the offspring of the Professional Classes War Relief Council, since the influence of the war on the professions is far from being at an end, and the need for assistance continues, and may continue for years. During the six and a half years of the parent organisation's existence 12,000 applications were investigated and dealt with. A Maternity Home was started, educational assistance was given, clothing was collected and distributed, and the New Poor, that most difficult class to help, were aided in a thousand and one ways. Now the function of the new Council has been widened to include applicants whose distress is due to causes other than the war, and more money is needed to enable it to cope with the work. In the national interest alone, it is essential that the professional men and women whom the war has hit hard should be put on their feet again, and the record of this Council for sound work is above all praise. They give help in the way it should be given, and at that critical moment when only little is needed to stave off disaster. An enormous percentage of the families helped have become self-supporting again, and that is the best recommendation both to donors and to applicants that any relief agency can offer.

Women Economists.

Miss W. A. Elkin and Miss E. Van Dorp are to divide the Evans Prize of £100, offered through the Cobden Club, for the best essay on "The Wisdom or Unwisdom of Restrictions on the Exportation and Importation of Gold." There were eighteen competitors. Miss Elkin was a student at Newnham, and took a first-class in both parts of the Economic Tripos. Miss Van Dorp is a Doctor of Law and a lecturer at the University of Utrecht.

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.

OURSELVES.

It is with reluctance that we devote the space of our leading article to ourselves. Nothing but the pressure of necessity drives us to it; but no other course seems to be open to us but to appeal once more to our readers for their help.

As everyone knows, times are hard. Newspapers and publishing companies feel it no less than individuals, and in the case of THE WOMAN'S LEADER the pinch comes in the matter of advertisements, as every reader can see for himself. Firms have no money to spare to advertise with, and newspapers with few advertisements are hard put to it to carry on. In spite of the hard times, we have not lost our readers; our circulation, indeed, shows a slow but steady increase, and we feel that this is matter for real satisfaction. But for all that, we cannot keep going unless we get more help.

The Directors have been, and still are, very seriously concerned about the future of the paper. At one time we were within a short distance of closing down altogether, for the Directors did not see how it could be carried on. So much evidence, however, came in, of the practical value of the paper in many parts of the kingdom (and, indeed, also in other countries) that the Directors decided to go on in faith, trusting to the readers of the paper to see it through its troubles. Before making a general appeal, they approached some of those who had been especially generous in helping them before, and to-day we are in the happy position of announcing that the estimated expenses for the year 1922 are guaranteed all but £50. The existence of this security is a very great comfort, but it is contingent upon the raising of enough money between now and the New Year to carry us on till then without incurring debts. We cannot take the money so generously given for next year to pay the arrears of this; nor can we continue uninterrupted publication during November and December without some further help.

We must therefore ask our readers for donations, large or small. We will give the particulars of our financial position to any of those donors who want to see them. We do not publish them here for obvious reasons, the figures of circulation and revenue being the concern of the Common Cause Publishing Co. and being about to be submitted to their annual meeting. But this much we can say, that we urgently need £250, and could do with a great deal more.

In these days it is more than ever necessary to justify the expenditure of any considerable sum of money. If this paper of ours were an ordinary commercial proposition it would be unjustifiable to run it at a loss, even if there were a good chance of success in the long run. But it is not an ordinary commercial proposition. It is, we believe, a real help to a very large number of scattered women who are doing public work of various kinds throughout the country. It tries to give not only amusement to its readers, but such facts and news of the general woman's movement as they cannot get elsewhere. It provides, moreover, subject matter for a much wider publicity for the objects and causes for which it stands, because it gives suggestions to many women for public speeches, lectures, and articles in the general Press. We believe it is really an indispensable thing at the moment, and that it is worth the very considerable effort required to keep it going.

Will every reader who has found the paper useful to her send us on some help? That is the sort of money we can ask for with a clear conscience, and we ask for it now. One other form of help we want, and that is more circulation. THE WOMAN'S LEADER is a very suitable Christmas present to give to many people—and we should be very glad of orders to that effect. Readers should remember that under modern conditions of trade, direct subscribers are more satisfactory than people who take the paper through trade channels. This used not to be so, but it is so now, and as subscriptions expire we should be glad of transfers to our office. When this is inconvenient to readers, of course, it is not necessary, but it saves us a halfpenny a week on each one.

These are sordid matters, but our cause is not sordid and our aims are honest. We beg our readers to help us if they value the work we are trying, all too imperfectly, to carry forward.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

Although Parliament is not in session, much is happening in the political world. The Unionist Conference at Liverpool last week was an event of outstanding importance; and if those who hoped for a split-up of the Coalition were disappointed, those whose eyes are fixed on an Irish settlement were correspondingly encouraged. Mr. Austen Chamberlain made what is undoubtedly the best speech of his life, and he has gained enormously in position thereby. If public men would but realise it, everyone applauds an honest acknowledgment of past mistakes, and nothing would be so welcome as an end of those tiresome attempts to prove their own consistency with which so many Cabinet and ex-Cabinet Ministers bore us.

The Unionist Conference was remarkable from another point of view also, namely, the reception it gave to the three resolutions on "women's questions" brought before it by Lady Selborne and Lady Astor. Whatever good or evil there may be in the Unionist Party, no one can dispute the proposition that it is there that political prejudices die hardest.

On each of the three resolutions—Criminal Law Amendment, Equal Guardianship, and Women in Parliament—prejudice has been and still is very active. But the power of the vote has evidently been active too, and all three resolutions were carried by large majorities.

A great deal of the credit of this belongs to Lady Astor for the perfectly fearless campaign she conducts within her own party. She brings down upon her own head much covert disapproval, and she is in some ways so unorthodox a Conservative as to be very strenuously attacked. But there is no loyalty so admirable as the loyalty which fears not to speak out; and among the many who admire her courage there are some who realise that she is a good party asset, not in spite, but because of her sincerity.

Next week the Independent Liberals are to meet in Annual Conference: it will be interesting and instructive to compare the two gatherings.

Party politics, however, hardly seem to be of the same significance as usual. The proceedings of the Washington Conference are vital, and the hopes they have raised are tremendous. The speech of M. Briand, if it has not helped matters forward, has at least brought out one striking fact, namely, the folly of excluding Germany from the nations which confer upon the future of the world. So long as the victors confer apart, suspicions must continue to live; and so long as suspicions remain, military disarmament on any effective scale is going to be impossible. But for all that the Washington Conference may have great results in naval matters, and it may set a precedent which will prove of the utmost importance. The prompt action of our own Government in stopping the building of the big ships is variously regarded. Some say that in doing it so precipitately, before America stops, and before any possible alternative schemes for finding work for the men thus deprived of it can be announced, the Admiralty is trying to stir up unpopularity against the measure. Others again say that the limitation of capital ships is not real disarmament at all: that all experts know them to be useless as weapons of war, and that to scrap them is a mere matter of militarist policy, so that we may get ready some more effective weapon against our enemies. But these are carping and suspicious views. We need not believe them. Politics may be full of twisted ways, and politicians up to endless tricks, and yet sometimes they move straight forward; and we must believe that they are doing so in the matter of the Washington Conference, for if they are not we are doomed.

While these things go on, the world remains torn and distracted with unsettled disputes. One very serious event of the week has been the breakdown of the negotiations with Adly Pasha, and the return of the Egyptian delegates to Cairo. Another has been the meeting of the Council of the League of Nations to deal with the Albanian situation. Another still is the amazing internal situation in Germany consequent upon the collapse of the mark. The world is in a bad state, and whether there is anything to be found at Westminster, or anywhere else, which can cure it, who is to say?

[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.]

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES—THE JUVENILE SECTION.

SHOULD THEY BE ABOLISHED?

In view of suggestions recently brought forward in connection with Employment Exchanges, some remarks from one who for some months this year had an opportunity of seeing something of the work from the inside may be helpful to those who know nothing of them from that aspect. It should, however, be understood at the outset that these notes do not aspire to be in any way comprehensive, but rather to take the form of a series of impressions received while engaged in routine work. The remarks made will apply to the Juvenile Section in general, and, in particular, to the Boys' Department of a particular Exchange in East London.

This year, owing to the abnormal state of the labour market, and the great extent of the payment of Unemployment Benefit, there is a danger that the primary object of the Exchanges may be lost sight of. The object is to make labour more fluid, and this, in so far as they are used by employers, they certainly do. In the Exchange specially referred to, the usual type of boy was unskilled—he wanted a job as barrow-boy, van-boy, porter, &c. The district is also the centre of a particular trade for which a considerable amount of skill is necessary. In both these cases in more normal times the boys would have been largely absorbed locally.

On the other hand, there would be a considerable number of boys of a different type, e.g., a "smart" office-boy ripe for the City, or a page-boy with aspirations pointing "up West." In these cases it is the duty of the "counter-clerk" to ascertain from other Exchanges what vacancies there are, and to give the boys the option of applying for them. Such vacancies as there are left over at the end of the day are circulated by post from the principal Exchanges, while more urgent vacancies are dealt with by telephone.

The Ministry of Labour, through the Juvenile Advisory Committee, keeps in touch with the social work done in the districts served by the Exchanges. The constitution of the Committee is such that all recognised activities dealing with the welfare of the juvenile worker should be represented. This all makes for satisfactory work. Close contact is kept with the After Care and general Children's Care Work of the L.C.C. A representative of the Ministry is supposed to attend, in an advisory capacity, conferences which take place when a particular batch of children are about to leave school. In this the Ministry is run close by the Skilled Employment Committee—a voluntary body doing excellent work in most districts. In fairness to the Exchanges it should be said that they are frequently expected to deal with what is left over by the Skilled Employment Committee, also with such failures as turn up after a considerable time has elapsed.

There is a recognised system of canvassing employers for orders from the Exchanges—a very effective method when undertaken by the right person.

Recently, special "School Officers" have been appointed to deal entirely with children in Continuation Schools. Earlier in the year it appeared that the status of these officers was not very clearly defined, but this may no longer be the case. They have an office away from the Exchanges, working directly under the Ministry, but necessarily reporting to the Secretary of the J.A.C. There are several advantages gained by making it unnecessary for the younger boys to associate with older ones visiting the Exchanges. School Officers do their own canvassing.

So much for the outline of the work; but it is useful to draw attention to weaknesses in actual experience. One drawback and one which is of the utmost importance, is that *employers do not use the Exchanges sufficiently*. Prejudice, no doubt, accounts for much, but undoubtedly the Ministry is to blame in its choice of staff.

From the point of view of the employer, success in "placings" depends entirely upon the intelligence of the counter-clerk. A good counter-clerk has many difficulties to contend with, and he (or she) does not by any means deserve all the criticism which he receives. Small employers frequently send orders through the post which are vague and convey no particular meaning as to their exact requirements. With no information as to the work, age, experience, wages, &c., of the worker desired, a method of trial and error has to be adopted until satisfaction is obtained. Needless to say, this is the type of employer who is most frequent in making complaints. A Sherlock Holmes is what they really demand of the Ministry, but there are not sufficient clerks gifted in this way to go round.

All such criticisms and complaints are not by any means without justification. It frequently happens that the counter-clerk knows nothing of the conditions in the district, the employers, or the jobs, and is not in a position, through this lack of knowledge, to choose a suitable type of boy or girl. Plenty of information about the children is available to the clerk who has time to read it, but it cannot be emphasised too strongly how necessary it is to know thoroughly the district which the Exchange has primarily to serve, if satisfaction is to be given to employer or worker. This is not sufficiently provided for by the Ministry.

For the counter-clerk (or any other) there is no recognised system of training, and they must at their best waste valuable time in floundering. The J.A.C. Secretary has not usually sufficient staff at his (or her) disposal to do this as things are at present, as there is a constant supply of routine clerical work which must be kept up to date. It should be noted that this does not apply to School Officers as far as the writer's observation goes, as they have received a definite course of instruction from the Ministry for their work.

The "applicant" also suffers from the want of knowledge of the counter-clerk, and the London boy or girl is usually well aware of this, for there is little that escapes their notice. Angry parents also frequently visit the Exchange and give vent to remarks which are often unreasonable and unjust, but a really conscientious clerk must occasionally have the uncomfortable feeling that some of the criticism is very much to the point. A J.A.C. Secretary who is keen on placing the children well can do much to remedy this, but such points should not be left to chance by a responsible Head Office.

The position of Secretary (J.A.C.) is usually filled by a thoroughly experienced and well-chosen person, though in many cases he is wanting in that wider knowledge which tends to give breadth of view. To an onlooker, some of the difficulties he has to contend with appear to be unnecessary.

To give a few examples, he is expected to take such staff as is sent to him by the Head Office, and to make the best of them, though he naturally has some voice in the distribution of the work. Another difficulty is the constant uncertainty as to the number of staff. In times like the present, when new regulations appear with alarming rapidity, the staff has to cope with a rush of work. The method adopted appears to be to allow the Secretary to appeal for more staff several times before any notice is taken. There is, therefore, a necessary adjustment and re-adjustment of work not always helpful to its efficient carrying out. Also, staff may be reduced as the result of political agitation, even if there is ample work for them to do, while one gets the impression—not altogether unjustly perhaps—that the same staff with less work to do would be allowed to kick their heels in comfort if the said agitation were absent. "The Ministry," said an irate person not long ago, "is always playing up to the mob, and they haven't sufficient sense to see that the mob doesn't know it."

If, in such cases as this, the Secretary is obliged to curtail activities on the social side, he (or she) is allowed to stand the criticism locally, and (as the present writer has personal proof) at the central office of other bodies in touch with the work.

As remarked above, the position of the Exchanges this year has been particularly difficult, so much attention having been taken up with the payment of unemployment benefit. This part of the work has been, in the main, efficiently done, and should the Exchange be abolished, some other body must necessarily be found to deal with it. Such advantages, or disadvantages, as may accrue to the payment of benefit, has little to do with the means used for the purpose; it is a deeper question involving wider issues in morals and economics. These effects may be well observed in the Exchanges by anyone who is interested.

On the whole, one is led to the conclusion that the present is scarcely the time for getting rid of the Exchanges, especially if it means that some other cumbersome machinery will be set up under another name. What might be done is to employ a more efficient type of clerk, and to give them an opportunity to do satisfactory work. At present the Ministry undertakes to employ ex-Service men, and those chosen are frequently not of a suitable type.

In normal times it is unlikely that a person who has obtained the right sort of experience and training at their own expense would be attracted by the salary which is offered, especially in the case of women. The examination system need not affect this,

as work which should properly demand intelligent application is frequently done by Grade III. "temporary, casual" clerks. These are not necessarily desirous of becoming permanent civil servants. Excepting in unusual circumstances, women are not now employed in Boys' Departments. Many people with long experience in connection with the work consider that this is a mistake.

Undoubtedly there is something wrong with the Exchanges, or employers who, in desperation, used them during the war, would not have dropped them immediately afterwards. *At present the question seems to be as to whether the work of the Juvenile Section would be more efficiently done if carried out by the Education Authorities.* This will be a more important question if compulsory Continued Education is extended with regard to age rather than being cut down as it is at present. Therefore, in the meantime it would be useful to know if the

CHORUS GIRLS.

Half the world knows little how the other half lives, and the following lines are an attempt to depict the life of the chorus girl by one who knows it, to a certain extent, from behind the scenes.

In the Victorian age an untrained woman, obliged to earn her living, became a governess or companion. It is significant that the Private Governesses' Union has now been wound up, and its surplus funds allocated to a hospital for the future advantage of its former members.

Nowadays a girl who finds herself without training—due to her parents' lack of foresight or antediluvian ideas—if she be young and attractive enough will often become a chorus girl. No training is necessary save that given at rehearsals, and if she be at all personable and smart, a girl will shape quickly.

At times the work is overcrowded, but there are others, for instance, during pantomime season, when chorus girls are far to seek and in demand. Youth, good looks, a voice and aptitude for dancing are great advantages, but sometimes an elderly "girl," with no looks to boast of, can "make up" sufficiently to pass muster behind the footlights of a suburban or touring company, but this does not mean that she will be welcome in a metropolitan "show," which reminds one of the classic war-tale of the young man, accosted by a severe looking matron, who asked him why he was not with H.M. Forces.

"For the same reason that you are not in the Hippodrome Beauty Chorus, old dear!" was the reply, "totally unfit!"

The minimum wage of the chorus lady is £3 a week, but I have known cases when 6s. a week of this has been deducted as commission from the agent who was in direct collusion with the manager, leaving £2 14s. for clothes, food, lodging, luggage, tips to porters, dresser, &c.

The life is one that would not be acceptable to many girls. Late hours are kept, so late rising is the rule in the untidy theatrical lodgings, crowded out with knick-knacks, photos of "pros," paper flowers, and other dust-traps. The rooms are generally crowded. In one place I know of, the landlady and her husband slept in the combined bathroom and lavatory, and the child in the kitchen.

Spare time may be taken up in making finery and elaborate underclothing. If there be no rehearsal or matinée in the afternoon, a busman's holiday is usually taken in attending a cinema or other show, followed by tea at a café accompanied by a young man, then the evening is devoted to work, when most of us have finished with our daily avocations. Late hours, foul atmosphere, draughty wings, excitement, and continual "make up" do not conduce to health, and a chorus girl ages early.

Most girls enjoy the actual work, the lights, music, and movement, the sense of being in the public eye, and, above all, the camaraderie, for as a rule the girls are very kind and generous to one another—"matey" as it has been expressed, and the company is often like a happy family calling each other by their Christian or nicknames.

Theatre girls are very superstitious; it is a terrible thing to break a mirror, wear green, and, worst of all, to whistle in the dressing-room. If the last is done unwittingly the tour will end almost at once, so they say.

The dressing-rooms are often appalling, and the girls have to dress in crowded, ill-lighted, ill-ventilated rooms, with insufficient sanitary arrangements and no privacy. Making up, dressing, and changing is a big business, and is usually accompanied by smoking and drinking, girls being expected to treat each other by turns. The dresser is commissioned to fetch wine or spirits of poor grade. The intervals between two "houses" never give time to go home, so wise girls will bring sandwiches

Ministry could pull up by introducing some sort of training for counter-clerks and canvassers and not leaving it to the chance enthusiasm of the J.A.C. Secretary. The standard at present varies very much from one Exchange to another.

At the risk of repetition, it may, with no great amount of injustice, be remarked that the type of clerk now sent to the unfortunate secretary is not one which will profit by the training in a short space of time, so that firstly such conditions should be offered as will attract suitable men and women to the work.

The work of the counter-clerk is rich with interest, and is a valuable and practical way of doing social service while engaged in earning a living. To an intelligent woman there is little satisfaction to be found in it at present, as the standard expected is not sufficiently high; the occasional scare caused by the visit of an inspector does not stand in good stead for real interest and a sense of duty.

T. C. C.

to eat, otherwise they will have to tip the dresser to fetch them snacks at exorbitant prices. For a refined girl the dressing-room atmosphere is very trying, and her only plan will be to let the tales and the language she hears slip from her like water off a duck's back; she must have some good motive to enable her to "stick it"—a living to get, a dependant to help, an understudy part to obtain. But if some of the girls swear and use coarse language, it must be remembered their bark is worse than their bite, and though their sexual morality is not always above reproach, meaner faults and shabby behaviour are conspicuous by their absence.

In one company a girl with great self-respect was laughed at as a freak—she happened to be a practising Roman Catholic—but after a time she lived down the laughter and was liked and respected by the girls. A strict religion like Catholicism is a great help to living a good life on the stage, and organisations like the Catholic Stage Guild and the Actors' Church Union need every support. Framed notices are put up at the stage door with the addresses of the clergy and the hours of services, and many a parochial visit is paid and greatly appreciated.

After work is over the temptations are great—young bloods send round their cards asking girls to supper, and there is no harm in this to a strong-minded girl with her career to make and reputation to keep, but to the weak who live from day to day it is a danger, for the youths who frequent stage doors are not always respecters of womanhood. Then there is sometimes danger from the manager and other male members of the company; a girl should make her attitude clear on these matters from the beginning.

What are the inducements, besides keeping a roof over one's head, to continue this life?

First, the glamour of the stage, then the chance of "making good" and getting a part; there have been many cases of chorus girls suddenly called upon to take the part of leading lady and succeeding. Lastly, there is marriage—many a man who would not marry a servant will marry a chorus girl.

Chorus girls will exist as long as there is a demand for revue, pantomime, and musical comedy. What can we do to help them? They need educational opportunities, a proper living wage, and decent conditions of work, and these we should insist on obtaining for them.

All should be advised to belong to the Variety Artists' Federation or the Actors' Association, and to boycott work under undesirable profiteering employers.

The tone of a company is important, and can often be improved out of recognition by two or three spirits with personality and strength of character.

Then the railways must cater more satisfactorily for the touring companies, the cold, dirty Sunday trains which wait about in sidings and are the last considered, must give place to quick comfortable ones.

Theatrical landladies should be inspected and registered, and organised so that on arrival it may not be necessary to trail about with luggage trying to find "digs" late at night in an undesirable quarter of the town.

A great deal may be done by public interest and opinion. These girls are catering for the public amusement, and the public owes it to them to be interested in them.

Women, particularly, should exert themselves and start theatrical girls' clubs or hostels in every big provincial town following the lead given by Mrs. Compton in the Metropolis in her excellent work in Greek Street.

MARGUERITE FEDDEN.

DAYS ON MEDICAL DUTY IN EASTERN EUROPE (continued.)

By DR. E. MARIAN LAYMAN.

To return to sunny little Pazar. In our Sreski Hospital I found three mangled gendarmes, brought a long distance to a place without splints, without adequate instruments, to worry through if they could after a hopeless futile scrap with an unknown force of comitadji somewhere in the wilds. That, at least, is how the tragedy appears to me, but I speak without knowledge. These fine young fellows had been desperately injured by bullets at short range. One died in spite of all we could do. One made an excellent recovery, the loudest in complaints of me for several days; the third, a merry fellow of twenty-three, giggled and joked on the slightest encouragement, and I couldn't be surprised at his refusing firmly, with laughter, sound surgical procedures on his smashed leg. I talked in English to Sister over him, indicating what I desired to do under ether. How was it that our peasant lad caught me up smiling and positively refused operative interference? He mended, of course (he had a Serbian constitution), and we loved him. But I should hate to meet him walking now.

I visited, with Sister's chaperonage, several ladies in harems in the town, smoked, drank their excellent coffee, and extracted teeth. I have seldom, even in casualty departments at home, met such iron courage as they exhibited on the dentist's divan. We discussed Soloun, Stamboul, and the progress towards women's freedom in that hub of the universe. They were charming, those wives, aunts, cousins, daughters and sisters. A courteous young head of the family once gave up his important business in Skoplje for a fortnight, to stay in Pazar and wash out the infant's eyes by day and night. There were a score of women in his house: but no, even Madame in powder and kohl, could not summon up

courage to treat baby when he cried. So Monsieur, the author of the trouble, accepted his part, and did it with devotion.

One came to like many Turks, both fair and dark, though depressed to the end by the veils and conventional timidity of their ladies. "What exactly do you mean by a *Turk*?" I was asked, on my return. I know not. They must be of many races. And as for the *Tzigane* one meets all over Serbia, ethnologically I am as puzzled as ever. These pleasing brownish folk are reckoned Moslems. But no gipsy woman in Serbia goes veiled or lives huddled in seclusion. Serbs treat the *Tzigane* with good-humoured contempt (accepted with unruffled amiability), and engage them, as we do, in groups of four or more to make music at a moment's notice for the national dance. One meets them, invariably smiling, at all times and in all places, performing on home-made stringed or wind instruments. I remember a family party, babies and bigger babies included, waiting with all their possessions for the train at 5 a.m. Down they sat (on a shunt line), deposited their goods and their huge supply of bread for the day. Elders promptly started in, not on refreshment, no, on a concerted piece, which I enjoyed so much that I was as startled as they when a monster engine, a savage barbaric model, shrieked and advanced to within three yards of the concert party. They removed themselves calmly, and I heard them all day on the journey.

I left Pazar, and even the day's run across that magical mountain pass could not make me altogether glad to go. Nothing ever happens, there, 'tis true. Yet Pazar has its charm.

THE END.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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DEPUTATIONS ON GUARDIANSHIP, MAINTENANCE, AND CUSTODY OF INFANTS BILL AND ELIGIBILITY OF WOMEN FOR THE HOUSE OF LORDS

The N.U.S.E.C. organised two deputations which were held on Tuesday, November 22nd, to the Coalition Whips at 12, Downing Street. The following Organisations sent representatives:—

(a) GUARDIANSHIP, MAINTENANCE, AND CUSTODY OF INFANTS BILL.

Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, Women's Co-operative Guild, Fabian Society, L.C.C. Women Teachers' Union, National Council of Women (Birmingham), National Union of Teachers, National Women Citizens' Association, Professional Union of Trained Nurses, Six Point Group, Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations, State Children's Association, Union of Jewish Women, Women's Freedom League, Women's Auxiliary Service, Women's Local Government Society, Women's National Liberal Federation, Women's Political and Industrial League, Women's Village Councils, Young Women's Christian Association, National Council of Women, National Union of Women Teachers, Women Sanitary Inspectors and Health Visitors' Association, Federation of Women Civil Servants, National Union of Trained Nurses, British Federation of University Women, Social Institutes Union.

(b) ELIGIBILITY OF WOMEN FOR THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, Fabian Society, L.C.C. Women Teachers' Union, National Union of Teachers, National Women Citizens' Association, Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations, Union of Jewish Women, Women's Auxiliary Service, Women's Freedom League, Women's Local Government Society, Women's National Liberal Federation, Women's Political and Industrial League, Young Women's Christian Association, Professional Union of Trained Nurses, National Council of Women, Conservative Women's Reform Association, Social Institutes Union, Women Sanitary Inspectors and Health Visitors' Association, Federation of Women Civil Servants, National Union of Women Teachers.

An account of the Deputations will be published in next week's issue.

BY-ELECTION IN SOUTH-EAST SOUTHWARK.

Both Candidates have replied to the list of Questions to Parliamentary Candidates sent them by the N.U.S.E.C. Mr. Jacobsen's reply is that he is in complete agreement with all the questions, and Mr. Naylor is in favour of all except No. 8, relating to Jury Service; he agrees with equal service for men and women, subject to the release of the latter in certain circumstances. He is open to conviction on questions 11 and 12, relating to the Taxation of Incomes of Married Persons and Proportional Representation respectively.

BOLTON W.C.A.

We congratulate Bolton W.C.A. on the wonderful success achieved by them in returning Mrs. Agnew as the first Bolton Woman Town Councillor. She was returned as a non-party Women Citizens' candidate. On fourteen other occasions in the last three years women have stood for the Bolton Town Council without success, and this time all the forces of the Liberals and Conservatives were united in favour of the Coalition candidate. The W.C.A. worked hard and Mrs. Agnew was returned with a majority of 183.

GLASGOW S.E.C.

CATHICART CONSTITUENCY.

The Annual Meeting of Cathcart Constituency was held on Monday, October 17th, in the Dixon Hall, Langside, Mrs. Tom Paisley presiding. The report and financial statement for the past year were submitted by Councillor Mrs. Mary Bell, Hon. Secretary for the constituency, and adopted unanimously. Dr. Jane Suttie spoke on "Women's Divided Interests," a subject requiring much careful consideration. There was a good attendance of the members of the constituency.

HILLHEAD CONSTITUENCY.

The Annual Meeting of Hillhead Constituency was held on Wednesday, November 2nd, in the Burgh Hall, Hillhead, with Mrs. Edmund Toms in the chair. The report and financial statement for last year, as submitted by the Hon. Secretary, Miss Findlay, were adopted. After a resolution re the Guardianship, Maintenance, and Custody of Infants Bill had been moved by Miss Story and carried unanimously, Mr. R. F. W. R. Nelson, M.P. (Motherwell), spoke on "Labour After the War." His address aroused the interest of the meeting, and questions and discussion followed. The vote of thanks to Mr. Nelson, which Mrs. John Edwards moved, was heartily accorded.

The third of the six "At Homes" arranged this winter for the members and friends of the Society was held in the Central Halls, Bath Street, at 3 p.m., on the 17th inst. As the six items on the National Union programme are being spoken on in rotation at these "At Homes," the subject of this third meeting was the "Equal Moral Standard." Miss Lyall (Almoner of the Glasgow Maternity Hospital) was the speaker, and dealt with the awful results of the present unequal moral standard, as come in contact with in connection with her work. Mrs. James Taylor (Vice-Chairman of the Glasgow Society) was in the chair, and spoke on the unequal bearing of the present laws, in their practical application to men and women. The interest aroused, it is hoped, will be of use when an opportunity occurs to have the present laws amended.

NEWPORT W.C.A.

There was a large attendance at a Conference of Women on Moral Questions and the Social Evil convened by the Association at the Town Hall Assembly Room, on the afternoon of Friday, November 11th. Miss Weaver, Organising Secretary for preventive and rescue work in the diocese of Llandaff, and Mrs. Young, Chief Officer, Bristol Patrol, were the speakers, each of them illustrating from their respective spheres of work moral problems of the time and outlining remedies. Mrs. Young proposed, and Mrs. R. S. Ford seconded, the following resolution:—"That this meeting of women expresses indignation and regret at the wrecking of the Bishop of London's Criminal Law Amendment Bill, which has received practically the universal approval of the women of the country, and of the principal organisations for philanthropic and social work, and urges the Government most strongly to introduce a similar measure, and to pass it into law next session." Among other speakers was the new Mayoress, Mrs. Charles, who has accepted the office of President of the Association. The Conference was held under the chairmanship of Mrs. D. H. Griffiths.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WOMEN AND WAR.

MADAM,—Miss O'Malley's letter raises a point of the greatest practical interest, involving also, as she points out, our whole conception of "pacifism." I agree with her that "a true conversion to pacifism only takes place when people have come to feel that the things they hold dearer than life cannot be defended by doing violence on their behalf." (May I thank her for so just and understanding a statement of our position?) I am also forced to agree that there are very few such pacifists, and that I have met many who borrowed that name, though they were as ready to hang a capitalist as they were reluctant to hang the Kaiser.

The crux of the matter, however, is with the true pacifist, who really disbelieves in hanging anyone, and, speaking from this point of view, I urge that the difficulty—in practice and even very largely in theory—would disappear if we realised that far too much emphasis has been laid on the negative side of our creed. We continually divide the sheep from the goats on the question of "not making war." We would rather place our emphasis on "making peace." We have joined issue at the wrong place.

People often express irritation at the insistence of pacifists on the logic of their position, affirming that "life is not governed by logic," and thereby irritating in their turn those of us who believe that logic is really inescapable. But I submit that what has been wrong with our pacifist logic is not that it was too logical, but that it was too superficial. At first sight, it does seem that the final line of division *must* be between those who, in the last resort, will fight, and those who will not. But this division does not go deep enough. It leaves on one side—among the pacifists—people who are narrow, intolerant, bitter, contemptuous, and provocative: it leaves on the other—among the militarists—people who are generous, broad-minded, humble, sympathetic, self-forgetful. I think there is no pacifist who will not admit this. But then what becomes of our logic?

Let us re-state our position and find a new test for the sheep and the goats! Let us realise that peace-making is a positive business, and logic affirms that all *peace-makers* are truly and finally opposed to all *war-makers*. Those who seek to destroy the roots and abolish the causes of war are brothers; those who seek to understand the minds of other nations, to foresee dangers, to provide remedies; those who will gladly and wholeheartedly work with *anyone* who has these aims before them also.

I believe that peace will be established far more by those who work for it, whether by feeding the starving nations, or providing them with credits, establishing a League of Nations or calling a Conference on the Pacific problem and the limitation of armaments, promoting democratic government and showing the interdependence of peoples; than by the negative refusal to fight.

Naturally I believe that such a refusal should go along with the rest, and I honour above all that little handful of men whose "conscientious objection" to war was of a piece with their whole lives: but it is on the positive rather than the negative side of pacifism that our emphasis should rest.

A. MAUDE ROYDEN.

THE WOMEN POLICE MOVEMENT.

MADAM,—Miss Nina Boyle's letter on the Women Police Movement, published in the issue of the *WOMAN'S LEADER* of November 11th, calls for further information, which I will do my best to supply.

I will give the story of how Miss Damer Dawson came to be associated with Miss Nina Boyle on the question of Women Police in her own words. She says—alluding to her Belgian Refugee work:—

"It was this work which first proved the necessity of a body of trained and uniformed women working at the stations and in other thoroughfares at that time, and I decided to form a corps of voluntary women police. I mentioned my idea to Miss Constance Maud, who said it would be a great pity if I started a corps of women police by myself, when Miss Nina Boyle of the Women's Freedom League was about to do the same thing. I wrote to Miss Nina Boyle and went to see her at the Women's Freedom League, Adelphi, Strand. It was agreed that we should amalgamate, and we said we would both collect a few members who were willing to enter. As she was Secretary of the Women's Freedom League, Miss Nina Boyle asked me if I would undertake to be Chief Officer of the Women Police Corps, as I could give my whole time to it."

At this date the present Commandant of the Women's Auxiliary Service had not met Miss Damer Dawson though she was acquainted with both Miss Nina Boyle and Miss Constance Maud. When the war was only a few days old, Miss Allen while visiting Miss Constance Maud asked her whether she knew of any work going to be started in connection with the war that would be of any use to women, and it is significant that Miss Constance Maud immediately said: "The one whom you need to get into touch with is Miss Damer Dawson—a great worker in humanitarian causes—who has lately taken up the subject of women police." She therefore put Miss Allen in touch with Miss Damer Dawson as being the principal figure concerned with the Women Police Movement in September, 1914.

If I may recall my own experience as to how I came to help with the Movement, it was as follows:—

In reading the "Vote" I, for the first time, learned that the Women's Freedom League, through its members, was proposing to start a few voluntary workers for attendance in Police Courts, &c., and though realising that the question of women police was one I should prefer to help beyond any other, I refrained from associating myself with the proposals written of in the "Vote," because I felt very strongly that such work could not possibly be successfully controlled by any Suffrage Society, and that a reform such as Women Police must be distinct and separate from any other association of ideas. However, in October, 1914, Miss Allen in visiting me gave new information to the effect that Miss Damer Dawson was the principal figure, and that the work would in time become free of any political organisation. On meeting Miss Damer Dawson, I instantly decided to help her in any way possible.

With regard to uniform, the original design which Miss Damer Dawson was responsible for, and which gained the approval of her then

colleagues, is still in our possession, and her statement that it was the very design she presented to Sir Edward Henry, gaining his approval, together with permission to work in the Metropolitan Area, is not doubted by anyone qualified to form an opinion.

It goes without saying that work of a police nature could not possibly have been inaugurated in the Metropolitan Area without the express encouragement and help of the Commissioner of Police.

Miss Nina Boyle states that it was always outside the Metropolitan Area and not within it that the valuable services of the Women Police Service were officially utilised. This is not quite correct, in so far as the Ministry of Munitions and the Royal Ordnance Department of the War Office employed some two hundred women or more within the Metropolitan Area, and entrusted the Women Police Service as sole agents to supply their needs in this respect.

The charge brought by Miss Nina Boyle as to the duty performed at Grantham in opposition to feminist principles needs particular elucidation. The facts are as follows:—

The two women detailed for duty at Grantham, viz., Miss M. S. Allen, O.B.E. (present Commandant), and Miss E. F. Harburn, M.B.E. (now Inspector), were required to carry out an Order in Council regulating the hours at which women were permitted to frequent the streets. They were able, through their observation as to the carrying out of the Order, to present such evidence of its futility and unfairness as to cause its immediate withdrawal by the Civil and Military Authorities.

Miss Damer Dawson clearly understood this point, viz., that one cannot, at the same time, reform the law and help to administer it, and as Miss Nina Boyle states, this was the point which caused their severance and which resulted in the organisation of the Women Police Service early in February, 1915.

In conclusion, Miss Nina Boyle declares herself to be in opposition to the demand that a group of volunteers should have a monopoly of supplying "trained" women to a public service. We have to remember that the Women Police Movement is only some seven years old, and that it was the Women Police Service, now known as the Women's Auxiliary Service, which was commissioned to train and supply the thousand women required by the Government. They were the sole agents for this purpose, and it logically follows that they have a unique experience which belongs to no other organisation.

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(This Society has no paid officials.)

COMING EVENTS.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

NOV. 25. Croydon, North End Hall, 8 p.m. Speaker: Rt. Hon. Lord Robert Cecil, K.C., M.P.

NOV. 28. Willesden, Presbyterian Church Lecture Hall, 8 p.m. Speaker: Oswald Mosley, Esq., M.P.

NOV. 30. Ashton-under-Lyne, Town Hall. Speakers: Rt. Hon. Lord Hugh Cecil, M.P., Sir Walter de Frece.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

NOV. 25. At the Working Men's College, Crowndale Road, N.W., 7.30 p.m. Protest meeting against the dismissal of Dr. Miall Smith on account of her marriage. Speakers: Prof. Louise McIlroy, M.D., D.Sc., Prof. Winifred Cullis, D.B.E., D.Sc., Helena Normanton, B.A., Miss Agnes Dawson, Mr. E. Leslie Burgin, LL.D. Chair: Mrs. Mustard.

NOV. 30 & DEC. 1. Green, White and Gold Fair, at the Caxton Hall, Westminster. Opened on Wednesday, 5 p.m., by Miss Gertrude Kingston; Thursday, 3 p.m., by Dr. Gladys Miall Smith. Mrs. Despard in the chair.

BRITISH FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN.

NOV. 29. A dinner will be held at the Plane Tree Restaurant, Great Russell Street, W.C.1, at which Miss Eileen Power, M.A., F.R.Hist.S., will be the principal guest.

EDINBURGH W.C.A.

NOV. 25. Morningside Parish Church Hall, Newbattle Terrace, 8 p.m. Mock Trial. Chair: C. D. Murray, Esq., K.C., M.P. Tickets, 1s., 2s., and 3s. Lady Yester's Parish Church Hall, Infirmary Street, 8 p.m. Public meeting. "League of Nations." Mrs. Hannay, O.B.E., J.P. Chair: Prof. Kemp Smith, M.A., D.Phil.

ARTS LEAGUE OF SERVICE.

DEC. 1. At Mortimer Hall, Mortimer Street, W.1, 5.30 p.m. "The Relation of Art to Life." Speaker: Miss Margaret Bulley. Chair: Mr. Eric Maclagan.

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

COMING EVENTS (Continued)

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

NOV. 28. At Hanley, Women's Co-operative Guild, 7.30 p.m. "Public Ownership of the Liquor Trade." Speaker: Mrs. Renton.

NOV. 29. At Silverdale, Women's Co-operative Guild, 7.30 p.m. "Public Ownership of the Liquor Trade." Speaker: Mrs. Renton.

NOV. 30. At Wolverhampton, National Council of Women, 3.30 p.m. Debate: State Purchase v. Local Option. Speaker for State Purchase: Mrs. Renton.

At Catford, Adult School, 3 p.m. "The Case for State Purchase." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell.

DEC. 1. At Enfield, Women's Co-operative Guild, 3 p.m. "A New Solution of the Drink Problem." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

DEC. 8 & 9. At 56, Victoria Street, S.W.1. Christmas Sale. 2-7 p.m.

NEWPORT W.C.A.

NOV. 30. Temperance Hall, Public Meeting. "Women in Parliament." Speakers: Mrs. Coombe Tennant, J.P., Mr. Charles Edwards, M.P. Chair: Mr. T. Morris Prosser.

LEEDS S.E.C.

DEC. 5. At Home, Brandean, Buckingham Road, Headingley, 7.30. Music. Dramatic Sketches.

N.U.S.E.C.

NOV. 27. Coventry, Empire Theatre. Speaker: Miss Ward.

Welwyn, Garden City Institute. "National Family Endowment." Speaker: Mrs. Hubback.

NOV. 28. Camberley. "Louth By-Election." Speaker: Mrs. Elborough.

MEDICAL, Etc.

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WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE (Kensington Branch).
DEC. 2. At The Venture, 138, Portobello Road, W.11, 8.15 p.m. Public meeting in support of the Washington Conference. Speakers: Mrs. H. M. Swanwick, M.A., Mr. E. M. H. Lloyd, and the Hon. Margaret Buckmaster. Chair: Councillor W. J. Jarrett.

PIONEER CLUB.

NOV. 29. 8.15 p.m. "Should Autobiographies be Written?" Debate opened by Miss Edith Hammond. Chair: Miss Molly Power.

WESTMINSTER COALITION LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

NOV. 28. At St. Andrew's Hall, Ashley Place, S.W.1, 8 p.m. "Democracy in Industry." Speaker: Mr. Marshall J. Pike (of the B.C.U.).

LEAGUE OF THE CHURCH MILITANT.

NOV. 26. Hove, Ralli Hall, 3 p.m. "Women and the Ministry." Speaker: Miss C. Ellis.

NOV. 27. Roedean School. Speaker: Miss C. Ellis.

ROYAL BRITISH NURSES' ASSOCIATION CLUB.

NOV. 26. At 194, Queen's Gate, 3 p.m. Miss Christie, of Cowden Castle, Perthshire, will lecture on Russian Central Asia. Chair: Sir James Crichton Browne.

INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CLUB.

NOV. 30. 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, 8.15 p.m. Subject: "Woman's New Horizon." Speaker: Miss Adeline Bourne. Chairman: Miss Winifred Mayo.

THE FAMILY ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE.

DEC. 1. Rotherham, Women Citizens' Association. Speaker: Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., C.C., M.A.

West Bermondsey, Labour Party (Women's Section), 57, Upper Grange Road, Bermondsey, 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Barbara Drake.

TO GENTLEWOMEN.—Courses in PRACTICAL Gardening, Poultry Management, Dairy Work. Beautiful old Manor House and grounds N. Devon. Expert Teachers.—Apply Principal, Lee House Training Centre, Marwood, Barnstaple.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston-square, S.W. 6.30, Miss Maude Royden. "The God Without Us."

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

THE STATE AND SEXUAL MORALITY, 1s. 9d., post free. Order this constructive Report from Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, Orchard House, Great Smith-street, S.W.1.

CONSERVATIVE WOMEN'S REFORM ASSOCIATION, 48, Dover-street, W.1. Annual Ball, Hyde Park Hotel, November 30th. Full particulars from the Secretary.

AT CHRISTMAS.—Civic Study Tour in Paris. Organised by the Civic Education League. Making a survey of social conditions, Parliamentary and Municipal buildings, conditions of industry, art institutions, &c.; also the environs of Paris. Leaving London December 27th, for 14 days.—For full particulars write Miss Margaret Tatton, Civic Education League, 65, Belgrave-road, S.W.1.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE. 58, Victoria Street, S.W.1. Vic. 9542. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. CHRISTMAS SALE, 56, Victoria Street, December, 8th and 9th. 2-7 p.m.

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GOOD BED-SITTING-ROOM, kitchen, &c., self-contained; private house, Kensington, S.W.; 25s.; gas and electric light; gentlewoman only.—Box 862, WOMAN'S LEADER, 62, Oxford-street, W.1.

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