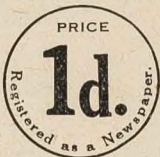


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NOTES AND NEWS

The Prime Minister and Women's Questions.

We are glad to be able to remind our readers that Mr. Baldwin, when Financial Secretary to the Treasury, was of considerable assistance with regard to the question of the status of Women Civil Servants, as he clearly realized the implication of the various resolutions that had been passed in Parliament, and honestly intended that they should be given effect to. At the same time, with respect to the other reforms for which the WOMAN'S LEADER stands, much hard work on the part of women's organizations will have to be done to bring about his conversion. With regard to Woman's Suffrage, for example, he voted against every Bill since 1909 onwards until the Representation of the People Act. Since that time he has consistently opposed the extension of the franchise to women on the same terms as men. In the 1918 election he gave unsatisfactory replies to the questionnaire presented by the Malvern branch of the N.U.S.E.C., and during the last election he did not reply at all. It is to be hoped that as Prime Minister he will shortly appreciate the pressure of public opinion behind these reforms on the part of women citizens.

The Shelving of a Problem.

At its meeting last Monday, the Stepney Borough Council passed a resolution instructing its officers and servants not to advocate or give information on the subject of birth-control. A month earlier the Council had referred this question to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee which reported on the authority of the Town Clerk that "any action taken on the lines indicated would be illegal, as being contrary to public policy, and, moreover, *ultra vires*, and that the Medical Officer of Health had informed them that the Ministry of Health was against proposals of that nature." The committee had, however, referred the matter to a sub-committee of lady members for further consideration. It was in consideration of this report that the Council took the above mentioned decision.

A Plea for Discussion.

In view of the pronouncements of its Town Clerk and M.O.H., it is difficult to see how the Stepney Borough Council could have come to any other decision. The responsibility rests with the Ministry of Health. But we should like to know the grounds on which the Ministry of Health justifies its opposition

to such activities on the part of local authorities, for we feel that in adopting such an attitude it is taking sides on a vital and highly controversial issue without any reference to the movement of public opinion on the subject. Its only excuse for such a policy is the fact that on this subject public opinion is singularly ill-informed and corroded with the vague prejudice which accompanies a mixture of strong feeling and inadequate knowledge. It is no part of our present policy to advocate birth-control; it is, however, part of our policy to advocate a frank and scientific discussion of birth-control. And we would remind those of our readers who are inclined to deprecate such an attitude that the question is already being widely discussed, and that the alternative before this country is not *discussion or no discussion*, but *sane and well-informed discussion or hole and corner discussion*.

Adoption of Children No. 2 Bill.

Before the recess the second Private Member's Bill on this subject was introduced by Mr. Hurst (U.), which provides for the many regulations with regard to the adoption of children. No adoption will be valid until it has been sanctioned by a Judge of the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice or a Judge of County Courts. Unless also the judge, in his absolute discretion, shall in any special circumstances think fit to make an exception, no person shall be allowed to adopt a child less than twenty years younger than himself or herself, and no person shall be accepted as an adopter who is under thirty years of age. Other provisions are that all applications for the sanction of an adoption, and all subsequent applications therewith, shall be heard in camera, and that it shall not be lawful for a child adopted under the measure to inter-marry with its adoptive parent until the relationship created has been abrogated under another section of the Bill.

Births and Marriages.

At the end of last week the Registrar-General published his statistical review of England and Wales for 1921 (Tables, Part II, civil, price.5s.). It contains some remarkably interesting figures. For example, the birth-rate for the year under review stood at 22.4 per 1,000 persons living. This is the lowest on record with the exception of the war years between 1915 and 1919. This figure makes an interesting comparison with the rate for the decade 1871-80 of 35.4. This was the decade during which the birth-rate touched the highest level recorded since the institution

of civil registration in 1837. Marriages, on the other hand, showed no corresponding diminution. During 1921 320,852 marriages were recorded, i.e. 59,130 less than the record attained in the preceding year. This gives us a marriage-rate for 1921 of 16.9 persons married per 1,000 living. Thus we find an unusually high marriage-rate coinciding with an unusually low birth-rate. And it is all the more interesting to note that the low birth-rate of 1921 follows the record marriage-rate of 1920. More interesting still, from the sociological point of view, will be the similar report for 1922, when the effects of the great economic depression will have had time to reflect themselves more fully in the birth and marriage-rates.

Other People's Troubles.

Our contemporary, *The Times*, announces that on and after 4th June its price will be 2d. daily, instead of 1½d. as heretofore. In explanation of this announcement, it tells us that its most recent reduction in price was taken, at the beginning of 1922, "rather in the hope that prices would come down than because

they had actually done so." It is, however, obliged to add regretfully that "after more than a year's experience it has become quite clear that under present conditions three-halfpence is not an economic price . . . the general costs of newspaper production are, for the most part, still at the highest point reached after the war." Of this last fact, we ourselves are only too well aware; and we venture to call our readers' attention to the experiences of *The Times* because in so doing we are calling attention to our own. It has long been clear to us that under present conditions 1d. is not an economic price. Nevertheless, we intend to allow our great contemporary to climb down first.

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 MINERS' WAGE.

As we go to press delegates are assembling at Blackpool for a national conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain. These delegates will represent a million wage-earners and perhaps something more than three million dependent wives and children; and the main purpose of their meeting is to decide whether to end, amend, or tolerate the existing wage agreement, under the terms of which miners' wages throughout the United Kingdom are at present determined. It is a tremendous decision; one which in the event of the first alternative being selected may involve this country in a coal-mining strike comparable in its extent to the great lock-out of 1921. The agreement in question is the agreement whose reluctant acceptance by the miners brought that long and desperate conflict to an end. It is, in its main lines, a profit-sharing agreement—the most comprehensive experiment in profit-sharing that has ever materialized in this country, and perhaps in any other. But it is not the profit sharing aspect of it that the miners at the moment find intolerable. It is the fact that the minimum wage, the "subsistence wage," for which the agreement provides as one of the standing charges on the industry, is shown by experience to be not a subsistence wage at all, but one which embodies a far more inadequate standard of life than the standard against which the miners were beginning to agitate in 1914.

During the last two years or so we have grown accustomed to the idea that coal-mining is no longer a well-paid occupation. We have almost come to accept the view that it is a grossly sweated occupation. And the extent to which this is the case was amply demonstrated by a set of wage statistics submitted by the mine owners to Mr. Bonar Law exactly three months ago. In quoting them we would remind our readers that the men's representatives refused to admit their validity on the ground that they gave an unduly favourable view of the miner's position. The owners declared that of the adult workers employed in the coalfields of Great Britain 9 per cent. were earning between 30s. and 40s., 47 per cent. between 40s. and 60s., 34 per cent. between 60s. and 90s., and 9 per cent. 90s. and upwards. And this brings us to the fact on which we base our assertion that coal-mining is at present a sweated industry. According to these figures, admittedly a conservative estimate of the wage depression, 56 per cent. of the adult workers were earning less than 60s. per week at a time when the minimum wage calculated by Mr. Rowntree as sufficient for the bare physical needs of a five-member family would have totalled at current prices something over 62s. 10d. per week.

Now the obvious reply to such a statement is that the majority of these men who are earning less than 60s. per week do not represent five-member families. Even if these lower grades of the mining industry were typical of industry as a whole, more than 50 per cent. of them would be unbundled with dependent children. But they are not typical; for presumably in the lower grades of the industry the proportion of unmarried or childless men will fall short of the general average.

All this we are willing to admit. Nevertheless, when we have admitted it, the unchallengeable fact remains that in the mining industry, calculating on wage statistics submitted by the employers, and challenged as unduly favourable by the men,

more than 56 per cent. of the adult workers are receiving less than a bare subsistence minimum family wage, and that, consequently, among those 56 per cent. any families of three, or more than three, children that there may happen to be are going short. The only possible reply, therefore, to the discontent of the miners with the existing provisions for a so-called "subsistence wage" is not that they already have an adequate wage, but that they are getting as much as the industry will bear. Whether or no this is an adequate reply we will not presume to decide. An attempt to do so would land us inevitably in the vexed question of nationalization; for the obvious retort to such a statement would be that the industry is at present inefficiently organized. Nor do we stand alone in abstaining from a discussion of this issue. The miners' leaders themselves are clearly of opinion that nationalization is not practical politics under the present Government, and are concentrating attention on the problem of how to secure a more adequate minimum under the existing régime of private ownership and control. South Wales, Durham, and Scotland are apparently prepared to terminate the agreement entirely and face the probability of a stoppage. Mr. Hodges, on the other hand, considers that nothing is to be gained from a new war in the industrial world—that the matter can best be fought out in Parliament by an attempt to secure such an amendment of the existing Coal Mines Minimum Wage Act as shall assure to miners a "living wage . . . consistent with the cost of living."

We believe, however, that such an attempt is doomed to failure so long as it involves the conception that every adult worker represents a five-member family—no more and no less. We do not mean that it is permanently impracticable; it is conceivable that under conditions widely different from the present the coal industry might bear a universal minimum of 62s. 10d. or so per week, and, indeed, it would have to bear something more if its minimum were to be sufficient for the considerable minority of families whose membership exceeds a wife and three dependent children. But if in the immediate future and under existing management it is to pay "a living wage," which shall be in very truth a living wage for the persons who have actually to live on it, those responsible for the conduct of the coal industry have got to hammer out some kind of administrative machinery by which it will be possible to pay a really adequate family wage to a man who has a family without it being necessary to pay a precisely identical minimum to a man who hasn't. Only in this way can any adequate provision of the necessities of life become a first charge on the industry. Fortunately, the adoption of such machinery would not in our case be a leap in the dark; that leap has already been made both in France and Germany—those two ill-assorted partners in a pioneer economic experiment. We believe, therefore, that the solution of the problem which the Blackpool delegates are called upon to face lies along the lines of a universal minimum wage, based upon the needs of a single man and wife, supplemented by children's allowances distributed from a central national pool contributed on a basis of tonnage output, precisely as the existing miners' welfare fund is contributed by a universal levy of 1d. per ton of coal produced.

IMPRESSIONS OF AMERICA.

By Mrs. OLIVER STRACHEY.

Interesting and refreshing as it is to travel abroad, it is undoubtedly very nice to come home again; and to find myself writing an article for the WOMAN'S LEADER is a very familiar sensation.

It is difficult to attempt to give impressions of America in a few sentences, and writing a book about them was one of the things I promised my American friends I would not do when I got home. Nevertheless, some of the impressions are so strong that the temptation to mention them is very great.

The first and greatest impression is the size of the country; not only its physical geographical size, but also the immense magnitude of the problems involved and the populations to be dealt with. The Women's Societies in the United States have to deal not only with central government but with each of the State Legislatures separately. They have, for example, a great divergence of marriage and divorce laws in different States, and the same variation extends to almost all the measures in which women are particularly interested. The work of Feminist Societies is, therefore, much more complicated than it is here, and it is possible to try experiments in one part of the country and watch their results before extending them all over the continent.

I was much struck, in whatever part of the States I visited, with the similarity of the spirit in which politically minded women were approaching their problems. Except for technical differences and for that slightly different speech which prevails in the United States, I could have thought myself attending Annual Conferences of the N.U.S.E.C. when I attended the Conferences over there. There was the same emphasis on the need for the education of the woman voter, the same determination to wake up the average woman citizen to her civic responsibilities, and the same intention to secure full citizenship and equality before the law. The employment problem, of course, is in a different position in America and in a much more satisfactory one than prevails here. At this moment there seems to be no unemployment in the States, and, consequently, the prejudice against women in professional work hardly shows itself at all. Married women have got as much right as anyone else to earn their living, and I found, in fact, that the great majority of the women workers with whom I came in contact were married.

In politics, however, I thought our English position was a little more satisfactory than the American one. The women political leaders seem to me to be less in contact with the actual Government, and the rank and file to be less closely tied up with the Party machinery. Elections, of course, are very different in America, and the fact that they are held at regular intervals alone is much to account for many of the differences. On the whole, however, my conclusion was that the position of the women's movement is much the same in both countries.

In regard to Peace, there is no manner of doubt that the women of America and the women of Great Britain think alike, and, if only we can keep the League flag flying and make the League in practice what we intend it to be, I feel confident that the American women will help to push their country in after the next Presidential Election in 1924.

JANE ADDAMS.

By Mrs. S. A. BARNETT, C.B.E.

I have often tried to analyse what makes people of all sorts and conditions agree to call Miss Jane Addams a "great woman." I have known her for forty-six years, and have seen her in Chicago carving forcibly and rapidly at the head of the table around which sat the forty residents of Hull House. I have heard her as she faced a great audience electrically charged with war fever and pleaded for peace. I have tended her as she lay in bed when, as our guest at Clifton, she was exhausted with rapid travelling to obtain her coveted interview with Tolstoi. I have watched her as she played the courteous sightseer and tried to understand and be interested in vast machinery as explained to her by the factory owner. I have listened as in conference she acted as Chairman to earnest men and women from all parts of the United States who had met to discuss knotty practical

questions affecting the lowest stratum of imported foreigners, their sufferings and their sins. I have tried to teach her to bicycle and heard her merrily laugh, as we all did, when the iron pony threw her off. I have heard her speak many times to audiences of all sizes and standards of education, sometimes splendidly, and sometimes inadequately, because neglectful of preparation; and I have to confess that none of these things does she do better than any other woman whose powers and inclinations have led her to enter the public service.

Why, then, do all who know her agree that she is a "great woman?" An opinion I echo with emphasis.

I might reply by saying: "It is her personality," but that answer does not take the real student of character below the surface of words. Perhaps a review of the facts of Jane Addams' life may help towards a reply.

She was born some sixty years ago, the child of a well-to-do miller, and was reared with the refined, restrictive simplicity then prevailing in many New England homes. In 1887 she visited Toynbee Hall, then starred in American Baedekers as a "place of interest." The following year she came again when both Canon Barnett and I gave time to reply to her probing and practical inquiries about the motive of the Settlement, the spiritual "pulse of the machine," and its financial responsibilities. In 1880 she founded Hull House in the lowest, dirtiest, and noisiest quarter of Chicago, and that was the first of the 480 Settlements of which the United States is rightly proud. As they increased they federated with interlocking force, and in 1920 appointed me as their first President, an honour offered and accepted as America's gift to England, not as to one old lady.

Miss Jane Addams' book, *Twenty years in Hull House*, tells a wonderful tale as she gathered groups of workers and erected numerous buildings to try and cope with the problems incidental to the rapid growth of an enormous city, and the exhaustless emigrant stream of poor and ignorant people of many nationalities, influenced by no higher hope than to get on, i.e. become richer.

Through all the vicissitudes of the development of a large organization, below the uncounted disturbances consequent on the plan being eagerly copied to fit different conditions, the parent of the movement maintained as a bed-rock principle her passion for peace. Peace between the sexes, various classes, age and youth, black and white, employer and employed, rich and poor, ignorant and cultivated—a passion that was later to be transferred to the arena of world politics.

During the war Miss Addams telephoned to me from Tilbury that she had arrived in England, and as we sat *tête-à-tête* in my workroom, her listener was exalted with admiring hope and humbled with shame and ineptitude as she told of her visits to all the neutral countries and to some of the belligerents to beg them in the name of humanity and its progress to stay the cruel war.

During this visit she described to a packed meeting the tale of her failure, and later returned to America to represent to the Governing powers the facts as she had seen them.

Last Boxing Day, 26th December, 1922, after many telegrams, she reached me at the Hampstead Garden Suburb, coming direct from the International Women's Peace Conference, and flushed with hope told her friends, the Press, and the public of her Chairmanship of the twenty-three nations who had sent women to combine to strive for universal peace.

A week or two later she left London to journey round the world, and her three letters to me from Egypt, India, and Burmah, all unconsciously display her passion for peace, her non-acceptance of the usual standards of national welfare, her championship of the oppressed or handicapped, and her unchanging capacity for friendship—"for you, dear friend, hold my heart in the hollow of your hand now as ever heretofore."

Are these the qualities which make her a "great woman?" Yes! and something more, which it is hard to define. It is not religion in the usual acceptance of the word. It is not philanthropy, nor pity, nor hatred of sin, nor sorrow for the sinner. All these may be part of the prescription of her vast womanhood, but the fount of the stream of her gracious virtue is an unquestioning, unobscured, certainty of good, in God, in man, in individuals, in crowds, in the past, in the future, and her work resolves itself into efforts to reveal to humanity the good outside and within itself. Full of conviction, she convinces others. Are we not justified when we call her a "great woman?" The One mankind recognizes as the Greatest on earth convinced men of righteousness and thereby of sin.

THE TRADE BOARDS BILL.

The scope of the Trade Board problem is evident from the fact that the pre-war Boards covered about half a million workpeople, this number being increased to three millions in 1919 and 1920. There are two million more in trades for which Trade Boards are in contemplation, and there are yet another two million under Joint Industrial Councils who are pressing to be allowed to exercise Trade Board powers. We are, therefore, not considering a few exceptional cases of peculiarly sweated labour, but the method of wage control in trades embodying a third of the wage-earning population whose remuneration, for one reason or another, is not satisfactorily determined by normal methods.

There are many matters, both in the Cave Report and in the present Bill, on which there is agreement. There the chief points at issue are those set out by Miss Symons. In the first place objection is taken to the clause which makes it necessary to show the wages are unduly low or that organization is defective before a trade can be scheduled. But it is obviously not the intention to apply the Act where collective bargaining functions adequately, nor is it necessary to apply the system where wages are satisfactorily determined by competition. The definition proposed is not really likely to limit the scope of the Trade Board system, for the representative of the Minister of Labour informed the Cave Committee in evidence that the trades covered by the Act of 1918 could probably all have been brought within the definition in the Act of 1909. It is, of course, not necessary to prove that average wages are unduly low; it is sufficient to show that unduly low wages are, in fact, being paid. There is even less to be said for the objection to a public inquiry before a Trade Board is instituted. The setting up of a Board and the fixing of wages by it creates a new criminal offence, to which hundreds of thousands of employers may become liable. In recent years the final fixing of the rates has often been the first intimation that employers have had that a new obligation has been imposed upon them, and there is reason to think that even to-day there are employers, liable to pay Trade Board rates, who are quite ignorant of the fact. A public inquiry does not necessarily mean that low-paid workers should voluntarily come forward and give evidence. The first Trade Board was set up through information collected both by private and by official inquiries, which were published and laid before various public committees. If the investigating authority is given proper power to call for information a public inquiry should be efficient and more satisfactory than the private inquiries of the inspectors of the Ministry of Labour.

The second criticism is very much more important. The Cave Committee has proposed that the full powers of the Board, with arbitration by the appointed members, should only be exercised in the case of the lowest paid general body of workers, and that higher rates of wages should only be imposed if fixed by agreement between the parties. They, moreover, proposed that only the former rates should be enforceable by criminal prosecution, and that the latter should be endorsable only as a civil right. This distinction raises an important question in the theory of the functions of the State. The suggestion being that it is an offence against the community to pay wages which threaten the standard of living, health, and efficiency of the wage-earning classes; but that when it comes to assisting workpeople to enforce the observance of agreements as to rates of wages in general, the most that the State can properly do is to recognize a civil right claim to the wage in question. But, apart from political theory, the scheme has a practical aspect, for it is deliberately designed to magnify the importance of employers' and of workers' organizations and to encourage their development by throwing upon them greater responsibility. If the Cave Committee scheme can be made to function properly it will gradually introduce throughout these industries an effective system of collective bargaining which will be much more elastic than the present method, and will be able to extend to cover many questions such as conditions of labour, hours, and other problems raised by various industries or branches of industries.

The Cave Committee was, however, clear that if these powers were exercised and optional rates fixed the task of enforcement could not be left only to the workpeople. They, therefore, recommended that the Ministry of Labour inspector, who will in any case be examining the books to see if the minimum wage is being paid, should be authorized to sue the employer on behalf of individual workpeople in respect of agreed rates. The Government have, however, omitted this provision from its Bill. It is vital that it should be restored, for without it the plan of the Committee would undoubtedly break down. The

individual in badly organized trades cannot stand up to his or her employer in the courts, and in the absence of enforcement by a Government official such wages would not, in fact, be fixed.

The Trade Boards Bill thus raises very big questions as to the sphere of the State in regard to wages and as to the form and method in which we may best stimulate backward industrial organizations. It is significant, though Miss Symons omits to mention the fact, that the Cave Committee Report was signed without qualification of any kind, not only by Dame Anderson, who has a very wide experience in women's industrial questions, but also by the three trade union representatives on the Committee, all of whom have had a very wide experience in industrial negotiation and of building up trade union organizations. The present Bill will quite properly be opposed in so far as it fails to carry out the Cave Committee's recommendation. But a general opposition to the Bill would indicate a failure to appreciate the very far-reaching possibility in industrial structure of the plan which the Cave Committee has proposed.

THE ROME CONGRESS.

The ninth Congress of the International Alliance of Women is now over, and delegates are once more scattering to all quarters of the globe. The principal diet of the last two days was a kind of resurrection-pie, composed of the unfinished fragments of business from previous days; but it yielded several incidents of considerable interest. One of these illustrated as tending difficulty attending International gatherings—the difficulty of conveying exactly the same meaning in several different languages. A hot dispute arose over a resolution presented by the Committee on the Equal Moral Standard, and relating to the question of legislative *versus* voluntary methods of prevention of venereal disease. It was difficult for anyone not on the Committee to understand exactly what had happened, but apparently a resolution declaring that the Congress believed that reliance must be placed "avant tout" on voluntary action, had been translated with the word "principally." This was challenged, and after some discussion it was decided that as time did not allow a full reconsideration of the whole question, the resolution be laid on the table—in effect considered as if it had not been passed. Most of the discussion appeared to turn on verbal points, but the real issue of opinion that lay behind was clearly that whereas the British and Australian delegates were wholly opposed to compulsion in any form, the Americans were not prepared to go so far, but wished for experimental and carefully watched legislative measures.

A prolonged discussion took place upon a draft scheme which had been worked out with much care previous to the Congress by a Joint Committee of the Alliance and the International Council of Women for the purpose of promoting closer relations between the two bodies. The Congress showed itself nervously afraid of anything which might conceivably be thought to point towards an amalgamation of the two or the subordination of the Alliance, and many delegates scented subordination in the proposal that the Council be described under the new scheme as the *International Council of Women with which is associated the I.W.S.A.*, while the I.W.S.A. be described as *in association with the International Council of Women*. The scheme proposed was, in fact, only a very loose form of co-operation, consisting mainly in cross-representation on the larger governing bodies of the two organizations. It was further proposed that the Council should cease to publish its own *Bulletin*, and should print its news in *Jus Suffragii*, which could henceforth bear the title of the *International Women's News*, the control of the paper remaining in the hands of the I.W.S.A. Finally, by a very small majority, the whole scheme was rejected and the sole form of co-operation approved was the admission by each body of three representatives of the other as voting delegates at its Triennial or Quadriennial Conventions. Many delegates struggling to hear the speeches must have agreed with the President's sage remark that an unnecessary fuss had been made over a very simple proposal.

A number of miscellaneous resolutions were reserved for the last day. One of these deplored the exclusion of girls from certain examinations in Egypt, which was reported by one of the Egyptian delegates who was an Inspector of Schools. Owing to the peculiar position of Italy and the great importance attached to the Italian women to the avoidance of anything that might conceivably injure the cause of woman's suffrage in their country, it was impossible to discuss outspokenly, as many delegates would have wished, questions relating to peace and international relations. A unanimous resolution on the League of Nations and

THE LAW AT WORK.

PROBATION IN RECENT REPORTS.

A satisfactory feature in the recent Report on the Children's Branch of the Home Office is that its chapter on Probation contains a promise for the future of annual reports and fuller statistics. It has long been a cause of regret that the available figures on this important subject were annually absorbed by the Home Office with no visible result. The information which we may look for in the future will do more than give a general indication of the amount of success which can be reasonably expected from Probation as a way of dealing with crime over the whole country; it will enable individual Courts to see whether their own results are up to standard and so give them warning when, from insufficient staff, inadequate periods of supervision, or the use of the method in unsuitable cases, they would do well to reorganize the system in their district.

On two points the Report gives useful warnings. There is no doubt that most Probation statistics would show rather less good results if they took account of periods after the expiration of the order, and that the records of the reappearance of Probationers in Court ought to be kept over a number of years. Though one, or even more, lapses do not necessarily mean the failure of a case, no statistics which fail to notice them can be considered as complete.

Again, a most needful caution is conveyed in the following subsection:—

Cases have come to the knowledge of the Home Office in which probationers have been sent under probation orders to penitentiaries and other homes not liable to inspection, where the conditions were anything but satisfactory, and the probationer is to all intents and purposes under detention by an order of Court. In some cases the probationers so dealt with are juveniles who could more properly have been committed to a certified school with all the safeguards, including inspection, that are provided by the Children Act. It may be very useful to send a probationer away from his surroundings for a short time and require him to live in a Home, but Magistrates should ascertain by personal investigation the character of the places to which he is sent and the conditions under which he is living.

The Report repeats the evidence, now fairly familiar to those who are in touch with the subject, as to the extraordinarily "spotty" nature of our Probation system, worked to the full in some districts, in others apparently unknown. It usefully assembles a number of representative facts which prove this, and reiterates the demands from prison officials for a wider use of the method in place of imprisonment. On this question it is worth while to note that where probation is really efficient it is not by any means regarded as a "soft option" by the young offender, who frequently expresses preference for a short period of imprisonment and "getting it done with" to a longer one of supervision and "chivying."

The unequal application of the system receives a striking illustration from another recent Government publication, the *Criminal Statistics* (lately issued) for 1921.

The vast majority of the Probation Orders made in that year, 9,752 out of a total of 10,293, were dealt with by Courts of Summary Jurisdiction, and their localities cannot be traced in the tables. But the figures for the Higher Courts are interesting. Whilst there were 23 Assize Court cases, 493 persons were placed on Probation by County, Liberty, City and Borough Sessions. Their distribution may be summarized as follows:—

County.	Total persons tried.	Placed on Probation with Order.
London	1,270	356
Five Counties of Essex, Kent, Lancashire, Middlesex, Stafford	1,396	87
	2,666	443
Remaining Courts of Quarter Sessions in England and Wales.	2,533	50
	5,199	493

That is to say, nearly nine-tenths of these orders were made in Courts dealing with not much more than half the cases, in London and 5 counties only.

The unsatisfactory state of affairs revealed by all these calculations calls for a more drastic remedy than has yet been devised. The Home Office report announces the appointment of the Advisory Committee which was the outcome of the Departmental Committee's deliberations, gives an imposing list of its members, and records the results of its eight months' work:—

They have held two meetings, and among other matters they have had under consideration the question of amending the rules made by the Secretary of State, under the Probation of Offenders' Act, 1907.

the necessity of securing the adhesion to it of all countries was, however, passed, and the Congress further relieved its feelings by passing a lengthy, but inevitably vague, resolution "affirming it to be the duty of women of all nations to work for friendly international relations; to demand the substitution of judicial methods for those of force, and to promote the conception of human solidarity as superior to that of racial, class, or national solidarity."

A resolution, which was carried unanimously, the delegates standing in silence, paid honour to those of all nations who had fallen in the war for the cause which they believed to be right. This resolution was substituted for the tribute which it is customary for Congresses meeting in Rome to pay to the grave of the Unknown Soldier.

Whatever their views about the women's movement, the Italian authorities certainly accorded the Congress a splendid welcome. The reception given by the municipality of Rome took place in the Capitol—the Lord Mayor receiving the guests in the great hall of the Horatii and Curatii, from whence they passed to the various resplendent rooms full of marvels of sculpture and tapestry, surely the most magnificent setting in which a gathering of feminists has ever found itself. Next morning very early the delegates were collected at the Congress Hall for the processional march along the Via Nazionale to the Palazzo Ghigi. It was said to be the first procession of women ever held in Italy, but the Italian populace, with their usual beautiful manners, received it with respectful interest. The President and Board of Officers, including those retiring as well as those newly elected, preceded by the yellow and white banner of the Alliance, led the procession, and after them came women members of Parliament of all nations. These two contingents were received by Mussolini, who repeated to them the assurance he had given the opening day that the Fascisti Government would enfranchise women by degrees, beginning if not this year next year. Then the rest of the procession filed past, each national contingent being presented separately. As the English deputation passed he remarked: "Quelle grande deputation."

So far as can be judged from the Press and from Italian friends, the effect of the Congress on Italian public opinion has been most satisfactory. The attendance at the public meetings grew steadily, the two best being that addressed by women M.P.s from six different countries, and that of the closing evening, when representatives of every continent, including the nations of China, Japan, India, Egypt, South Africa, Brazil. The audience was specially delighted with the charming and youthful delegate from Japan, who appeared in native costume. It had a familiar but slightly archaic sound to be told that the Italians were impressed by the moderation and logic as well as the "dignified and lady-like" demeanour of the speakers. In spite of many striking instances to the contrary which Italy possesses in its own country-women, the advanced woman is still expected to be of repellent aspect and strident voice.

The description of this memorable gathering cannot be ended without allusion to two really fine addresses to the Congress by the retiring President—the first carefully prepared and distributed in several languages, a real effort of oratory; the second an informal and impromptu farewell message to those who were to carry on the fight after all, in which she warned us of the dangers of being too afraid to give offence and too anxious to placate everybody even at the expense of principle.

No one can mistake the real enthusiasm which the Congress showed for the personality of the woman who has led them so long and faithfully, and it is good to think that she will still be closely associated with the inner working of the Alliance.

Space does not allow more than a few words of description of several personal incidents. The British delegation presented the new President, "one of themselves," with roses as an expression of appreciation and congratulation, and took part in the demonstration when the retiring President was smothered with flowers. It also took the opportunity of presenting its warm thanks, accompanied by tributes of roses, to the President of the Italian Committee of Management, Signora Schiavoni Bosio, on whom much of the responsibility of the local arrangements had fallen, and to Dr. Ancona, the able and courteous Italian member of the Board. A wreath of flowers in the name of the British delegation was placed on the grave of the Unknown Soldier.

So we all separated with invitations to meet again in three years' time in Paris, Athens, or Jerusalem! Which will it be—the Mecca of the body, the mind, or the spirit?

The names of the new Board of Officers will be given next week.

COMING EVENTS.

GUILDHOUSE WOMEN CITIZENS SOCIETY.

JUNE 11. Berwick Street, Gillingham Street, Victoria. 3 p.m. The Life and Poetry of Percy Bysshe Shelley. Mrs. Percy Deamer. (Registration of plants for the Flower Show, 2.30 to 6.30 p.m.)

ASSOCIATION OF HEAD MISTRESSES.

JUNE 22-23. Annual Conference. Newnham College, Cambridge. Chair: Miss Fanner, M.A. (President).

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION SOCIETY.

MAY 9, and Successive Wednesdays. School of Economics. 5 p.m. Course of Lectures on "Methods of Election." Ticket for the course 20s. Lecturer: Mr. J. H. Humphreys (Sec. P.R. Society). Forms of application from P.R. Society, 62 Victoria Street, or School of Economics.

N.U.S.E.C.

JUNE 4. 8 p.m. 2 Fulham Park Road (by kind invitation of Mrs. Layton). Miss Rosamond Smith, L.C.C., will speak on "The Need for Women on Borough Councils."

PARENTS' NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL UNION.

JUNE 6. Big School, Westminster School. 5.30 p.m. Annual General Meeting.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

JUNE 1. Richmond.

JUNE 2. Dulwich.

JUNE 3. Crouch Hill, Camberley, and New Malden.

JUNE 4. Foxlease, Kensington, and Leytonstone.

JUNE 5. Westminster and Tottenham.

JUNE 7. Ipswich and Bedford College, London.

JUNE 8. Leeds.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB.

JUNE 6. 8.15 p.m. "The Present-Day Woman." Miss Mary Grant.

TYPEWRITING AND PRINTING.

M. McLACHLAN and N. WHITWHAM—TYPISTS.—4 Chapel Walks, Manchester. Tel.: 3402 City.

EXPERT TYPEWRITING and Visiting Secretarial Work; meetings reported verbatim; Stencilling, etc.; Ladies trained as Secretaries, Journalists, and Short Story Writers.—The Misses Neal & Tucker, 52 Bedford St., Strand, W.C. 2.

TEMPLAR PRINTING WORKS, BIRMINGHAM.

SPECIALISTS IN WORK FOR NATIONAL SOCIETIES.

ENQUIRIES SOLICITED.

WHERE TO LIVE.

THE GREEN-CROSS CLUB FOR BUSINESS GIRLS, 68 and 69 Guildford Street, Russell Square, W.C. 1.—Spacious accommodation for resident and non-resident members; large dining, common, library, and smoking-rooms; excellent meals at moderate prices; hockey, gymnastic classes, dancing, tennis, etc.; annual subscription £1.

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

LADIES' RESIDENTIAL CLUB offers single bedrooms to residents between the ages of 18 and 40. Frequent vacancies for visitors also. Excellent catering, unlimited hot water. Airy sitting-room. Only 2 min. from Tube and Underground. Rooms with partial board, 33s. to 38s. weekly.—Apply, 15 Trebovir Road, Earls Court.

FOR LADIES (students and others), accommodation with partial board; lounge; gas fires; single rooms from £2 2s., double from 30s.—19 Endsleigh Street, Bloomsbury, W.C. 1.

LADIES' RESIDENTIAL CLUB, 15 Kensington Park Gardens, Notting Hill Gate. Furnished rooms, partial board, gas fires.—Misses FitzSimon and Scott.

HIGHEST PART OF HAMPSTEAD.—Large airy bed-sitting-room; lovely view; 25s. weekly.—Box 994, WOMAN'S LEADER, 62 Oxford Street, W. 1.

FOR REST AND HOLIDAYS.

LOW GREEN HOUSE, Thoraby, Aysgarth, Yorks.—Paying guests received; good centre for walks, charabanc to Hawes.—Particulars from Miss Smith.

SUFFOLK (Constable country).—Guest house in delightful country for professional women needing complete holiday. Eight miles from station, but good bus connection; moderate terms.—Mrs. Haydon, Hedingham, Stoke-by-Nayland.

NORTH DEVON.—Homely comfortable country Cottage; guests 2 gns, weekly for short term, 37s. for long; buses to all parts; bracing.—Box 999, WOMAN'S LEADER, 62 Oxford Street, W. 1.

HASLEMERE NURSING HOME for Temporary and Permanent Patients. Fully trained staff, including masseuse. 3½ acres charming grounds. 4 to 12 guineas.—Matron, Courtsfold, Haslemere.

YORKSHIRE MOORS.—Grove House, Levisham Station, to let furnished, end of June or all September. Six bedrooms, bath, garden, pinewood.—Terms, Wilkinson, 10 Museum Street, York.

NEW THOUGHT GUEST HOUSE, Cranmoor, Highcliffe-on-Sea, Hants. Fine old residence, 13 acres. Hinton Admiral Station. Tennis, golf, concerts.—For terms apply Proprietor.

£100.—FREEHOLD LAND AND HUT for holidays, 17 miles London, 4½ from rail; or would let. Also caravans.—Diogenes, "Aonia", Sunningvale, Cudham.

PROFESSIONAL.

"MORE MONEY TO SPEND" (Income Tax Recovery and Adjustment).—Send postcard for particulars and scale of charges to the Women Taxpayers' Agency, Hamden House, 84 Kingsway, W.C. 2. Phone, Central 6049. Estab'd 1908.

HEAD-READING for fetes, etc.—"D" (of the Institute of Applied Psychology), Consulting Dietist, "Aonia", Sunningvale, Cudham.

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

DOUBLE DAMASK TABLECLOTHS.—Fine quality, of real Irish linen, double damask tablecloths in handsome centre designs. Size 1½ by 1½ yards, 21s. 9d. each; 2 x 2 yards, 25s. 6d. each; 2 x 2½ yards, 31s. 10d. each; 2½ x 2½ yards, 35s. 6d. each; 2 x 3 yards, 38s. 3d. each. These lovely damask tablecloths will wear for a lifetime and always retain their snowy-silky sheen. They are 10s. to 15s. below to-day's shop prices. Write for Bargain List—TO-DAY.—HUTTON'S 41 Main Street, Larne, Ireland.

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

UNCRUSHABLE DRESS LINEN for Spring and Summer wear, all pure linen, dyed perfectly fast colours in Sky, Azuline, Sapphire, Butcher, Marine, Navy, Shell Pink, Rose Pink, Coral, Old Rose, Tangerine, White, Ivory, Cream, Lemon, Gold, Orange, Flame, Biscuit, Beige, Rust, Brick, Cerise, Cherry, Tabac, Tan, Nut Brown, Coffee, Nigger, Jade, Emerald, Reseda, Myrtle, Grey, Mole, Helio, Lavender, Fuchsia, Pansy, and Black. 36 inches wide, 3s. 6d. per yard. To-day's value, 5s. 6d. per yard. These lovely dress linens will be very largely worn this year. Patterns Free. For all orders under 20s. add 6d. for postage.—Hutton's, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ireland.

DRESS.

KNITTED CORSETS.—Avoid chills, no pressure. List free.—Knitted Corset Co., Nottingham.

THE HAT DOCTOR, 3a Little Sussex Place, Hyde Park Square, W. 2, cleans, reblocks and copies hats at lowest possible price. Renovates furs. Covers satin or canvas shoes or thin leathers with brocade or velvet. Materials and post, 12s. 6d.; toe-caps, 8s. 6d.; your own materials, work and post, 8s. 6d., in three days.

HOUSING, GARDENING, Etc.

PRACTICAL TRAINING FOR LADIES in Gardening (all branches), Dairy and Poultry Management. Expert Teachers. Lovely old manor house and grounds. Home life. Hockey.—Apply, Principals, Lee House, Marwood, Barnstaple, N. DEVON.

PUPIL WANTED on Ladies' Small Poultry and Dairy Farm, 2 guineas weekly.—Miss Walker, Horeham Road, E. Sussex.

PUBLIC SPEAKING.

PUBLIC SPEAKING TAUGHT BY POST.—The Postal Course of 12 Progressive Lessons, prepared by Miss Marion McCarthy (sister of the talented actress, Miss Lillah McCarthy) will teach you how to speak clearly and convincingly.—Write for particulars, 16 Hallam Street, Portland Place, London, W. 1.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ANN POPE will be at the office of THE WOMAN'S LEADER on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays from 2 to 5, and will be pleased to give advice or information on household matters free to subscribers, beginning 16th April. An Employment Agency for "House Assistants" is also being organized, and all letters should in future be addressed: Miss Ann Pope, "House Assistants' Centre," THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 62 Oxford Street, W. 1. The fees for letters by post are still 1s. (2 questions); recipes from 2d. each. The Employment fees will be 1s. registration in every case; 2s. to be paid by assistants on engagement, and 5s. by employers. All letters must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope and the proper fees.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, 9 Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W. 1.—Subscription: London Members, £2 2s.; Country Members, £1 5s. (Irish, Scottish, and Foreign Members, 10s. 6d.) per annum. Entrance fee, one guinea. Excellent catering; Luncheons and Dinners a la Carte. All particulars, Secretary, Tel.: Mayfair 3932.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.—Secretary, Miss Philippa Strachey. For information about employment and vocational training, write or call. Interviews 10-11 (Saturdays excepted), 58 Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

THE PIONEER CLUB has reopened at 12 Cavendish Place. Town Members £5 5s.; Country and Professional Members £4 4s. Entrance fee in abeyance (pro tem.).

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1: Sunday, 3rd June, 3.15, Music, Poetry, Lecture, Dr. Dearmer. 6.30, Maude Royden.

ALLEVIATE LONELINESS by forming Congenial Friendships, home or abroad.—For particulars write, Secretary, U.C.C., 16 L, Cambridge Street, S.W. 1.

JOIN INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CLUB, 55 Gower Street, W.C. 1. Subscription, 7s. 6d. per annum. Dainty Luncheons and Teas in the Cafeteria. Thursday, 7th June, 8.15 p.m., Mr. Hamilton Fyfe, "The Manufacture of Public Opinion by the Press."

MISS FRIDA HARTLEY is still in South Africa, but can attend to correspondence, which will be forwarded to her.

ANN POPE'S EMPLOYMENT OFFICE.

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62 Oxford Street, London, W. 1. Hours: Mon., Tues., Frid., 2 to 5 p.m.

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