

*Not to be taken away.*

# The Common Cause

The Organ of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

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## Notes and News.

### Monsieur Poincare and the Scottish Women's Hospitals.

It is a satisfaction to note that the President of the French Republic, in his recent visit to this country, paid a warm tribute to the value of the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service, especially the hospital at Royaumont. Referring to this in his Rectorial address to the University of Glasgow, the President said: "I especially admired in the hospital of Royaumont the services directed by a woman surgeon of great worth, Miss Frances Ivens. More than 7,000 wounded Frenchmen have been cared for in this one establishment, and during the offensives of the Somme, of the Chemin des Dames, of Malmaison, and of Montdidier, the Scottish doctors and nurses toiled with a deep feeling of admiration and sacrifice, to which to-day I rejoice to pay before a Scottish audience a solemn homage." It will be remembered that the French Army decorated Dr. Ivens and several of her fellow-workers with the *Croix de Guerre avec palmes*. The President was probably unaware that the Scottish Women's Hospitals formed the chief war work of the N.U.W.S.S., but though they were started by Doctor Elsie Inglis and the Scottish Federation of the Union, they were by no means exclusively Scottish in their personnel or in their appeal. He would probably have mentioned this if he had known it, for he is very sympathetic to our cause, and when a deputation of Women Suffragists of the Allied Nations waited on him in February of this year, he told them that he thought women's suffrage was certain to be granted before long both in France and Italy. His prophecy about Italy may be quickly fulfilled, but the stage still waits for France. The republics of France and Switzerland still remain among the most backward States of the world as regards the enfranchisement of women.

### The Unemployment Donation.

The civilian dole is to cease, and the unemployment donation for ex-Service men and women to continue till March 31st, 1920, during which time a maximum of nine weeks' donation may be drawn. The rate is to be 20s. for men and 15s. for women without supplementary allowances. At present only thirty thousand civilian women are drawing pay; the civilian men

receiving donation are more than three times as numerous. This is a remarkable fact, when one considers that the discharges from Government employ are in the vast majority those of women, and that the Pre-War Practices Act debars women from entering very many employments which are short of labour. The demand for men's labour is enormous and apparently insatiable, that for women's is restricted and soon satisfied by the women thrown out of employment by the return to peace conditions and the release of men from the Services. It is obvious that thousands of unemployed women have not been receiving the dole. Many refused to claim it while they had any savings left, and have now lost their opportunity. Many were put off by delay and even obstruction at the Labour Exchanges, and for them redress will come too late. Not only girls from Government factories and Government offices, but those dispensed with by banks and omnibus companies will in a week be unemployed and without resource. They no longer belong to the unions of the employment they have left, and their chances of new work may be very remote. This is a deplorable state of things. It is intolerable that young women who have supported themselves until their posts are taken from them to be given to men should be in no better position than the few idlers who claimed the donation a year ago and have not troubled to find work since. In this connection we welcome the concession made by the Government on the Industrial Courts Bill, which gives to a new arbitration and enquiry court powers to advise in trade disputes. Last week the proposal that the courts should include women was rejected, their appointment or non-appointment being left to the decision of the Minister of Labour. This was manifestly unfair in view of the disputes certain to arise on the interpretation of the Pre-War Practices Act, and after its disappearance. Though we cannot anticipate that women will form more than a small minority of any court it is to be observed that minority reports of courts of enquiry will be duly laid before Parliament.

### Women on the University Commission.

We are glad to see that Miss Emily Penrose, O.B.E., Principal of Somerville College, Oxford, and Miss B. A. Clough, Vice-Principal of Newnham College, Cambridge, have been appointed as members of the Commission to consider applications made by the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge for financial assistance from the State, and to enquire into the financial resources, administration, and government of the two Universities. The appointment of this Commission was announced by Mr. Fisher on November 9th, in reply to a deputation from the Labour Party. It is understood to be a preliminary to a system of State grants accompanied by some measure of State control under which, however, the autonomy of the Universities will be preserved. Preliminary grants of £30,000 each have been made to Oxford and Cambridge. Miss Penrose and Miss Clough are not only distinguished in the educational world, but both are taking a leading part in the struggle for equal opportunities for women. Miss Clough is a member of the Executive Committee of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, and is also on that of the London Society for Women's Service, for which she has done much valuable work. Miss Penrose took a leading part in the deputation to the Lord Chancellor and Mr. Bonar Law on the Civil Service Clause of the Sex Disqualification Bill last August. She has very strong views on the need for giving women equal opportunities in the Civil Service, and on the occasion of the deputation she told the two Ministers very plainly, and with obvious effect, that in the present conditions it would be difficult to secure any large number of really first-rate women for this form of service to the State. Miss Penrose and Miss Clough are both taking an active interest in the question of the admission of women to the degrees and other privileges of their respective Universities.

### Scottish Borough Elections.

Comparatively few women offered themselves for election to the Scottish Borough Councils. Complete lists of those returned have not yet reached us, and it is impossible to collect the names from Scots papers which frequently give women's names preceded by initials without any indication as to sex. At Edinburgh, Mrs. Millar, the first woman to be elected, has been joined by Mrs. Euphemia Somerville, who obtained the enormous majority of 1,155 in the Merchiston Ward. Mrs. Somerville was nominated by the Women Citizens' Association, but following the usual practice in Scotland did not stand as candidate for any political party. Labour candidates stood on a party platform, and in Edinburgh their two women candidates had no success, though the Ward for which they offered themselves has, like the Merchiston Ward, a very large preponderance of women voters. Miss Frances Warrack was returned unopposed for St. Andrews. In Glasgow no woman went to the poll. At Stirling Miss Tasker and Miss Catherine Turnbull were successful. Mrs. McNab, O.B.E., stood, and was, we believe, elected, but the Scots Press is of a divided mind as to her success, and we have no local information. Mrs. Lappin was elected for Clydebank, Miss Frew (Lab.) for Dunfermline, Miss Sharp for Haddington, Miss McKenzie for Arbroath, and Miss Macdonald was returned unopposed for Melrose. The contest at Turriff, where Mrs. Logan was one of the successful candidates, was a very animated one, but in many towns the women voters were nearly as apathetic as the men, though it is fair to say that the inclement weather made a heavy poll impossible. The Parish Council elections, which were held at the same time, gave women more adequate representation than the Borough elections. But even here the number of women was too small, especially as the party divisions which make women's candidature so difficult in England are to a large extent ignored in Scotland. One would have anticipated that the housing problem, which is even more pressing in Scotland than south of the Tweed, would have stimulated women's interest in these particular elections upon which so much depends.

### Additional Women Councillors.

Miss Ruby Albery's name should be added to the Marylebone councillors, for though she failed in one ward she was elected for Church Street. We hear from Plymouth that Miss Clara H. Damond was elected a councillor after a three-cornered contest, and that the Plymouth Citizens' Association is now preparing to contest another vacancy in the near future. Mrs. Turner was returned for Folkestone.

### Women on Watch Committees.

The list of towns which have women members on their Watch Committees is only a short one; but to it Cambridge may now be added. On the occasion of the first meeting of the new Council, Mrs. Stevenson, an Independent member of the Council, was elected to serve on the Watch Committee, and Alderman Pollock expressed the view that there ought to be not less than two women upon this Committee. The Cambridge Women Citizens' Association and the Cambridge Council of Women had previously sent resolutions to the Town Council on this subject, and great satisfaction is felt at so good a beginning having been made.

### The "Oxford Magazine" on Degrees for Women.

The *Oxford Magazine* of November 14th, examines the question of the admission of women to degrees and other University privileges. It says: "Now that all legal obstacles . . . are, as it seems, finally removed, it is time that some attention was directed to the issue itself. It is an issue long since settled in civilised Europe outside Oxford and Cambridge. Everywhere degrees at least are open to women on the same terms as to men. And since the form of self-government practised in Oxford and Cambridge is unique, the burning question of 'privileges' hardly arises outside these two Universities. But even this question has taken on rather a different look since the recent admission of women (under severe restrictions, it is true, as to age) to the privileges of citizenship. To us it appears incredible that there should be any serious doubt as to the result of a vote either in Congregation or in Convocation on the question of admission to degrees. Our women students have for so many years performed with credit the exercises required for our degrees, without receiving the magic letters, that a continued refusal to grant them these would appear now to be an act of the stupidest discourtesy. We do not know how far Council's proposals are likely to go; but it seems evident that if the Arts degrees are opened, nearly all of the other degrees must be opened with them, though Divinity is of course at present neces-

sarily excluded. We were glad to see from the papers circulated by Council a week or two ago that women students were to be matriculated, and not put off, as has often been suggested, with an inferior substitute for matriculation, and that this provision is to be included in the preamble of the Statute."

### The Draft Statute of 1917.

The *Magazine* goes on to consider the Draft Statute approved by the Hebdomadal Council in 1917. This draft has not yet been published to the University, but it was summarised in the *Gazette* of October 22nd. Commenting on it, the *Magazine* says: "It appears that where the privileges of men students cannot be simply extended to women students (as in the case of colleges, halls, and lodging-houses) the proposals are based on the nearest male analogy. In regard to most of these points little or no controversy is likely to be aroused. It is where the treatment of women students is peculiar that dispute will be hottest. Under this head we notice two main points: first, that the Delegacy for Women Students is perpetuated, and, secondly, that women are expressly excluded from membership of Congregation or Convocation, Faculties or Boards of Faculties, as well as from serving as examiners in any University examination. The latter provision asserts a very comprehensive disability, which, if the Statute became law, would soon be felt as an intolerable grievance by the women teachers. They teach now for examinations over which they have no control, and they fit their own lectures into a system which they are powerless to influence. But then they are not now recognised as members of the University; and, when they and their pupils suffer from these exclusions, that fact provides a simple and intelligible answer to any complaint they might feel inclined to make. It is easy to see that there may be difficulties in the other course, and that degrees alone are worth having; it is also well known that Lord Curzon's *Memorandum* of 1909 contemplated precisely similar restrictions. But things have changed in the last ten years, and we think that Council would be well advised to put forward, in the first instance at least, a simpler and more logical proposal. As to the other peculiarity mentioned, the continuance of the Delegacy of Women Students, we should prefer to wait to see the Statute before expressing a definite opinion. But we should at least like to see a change of name. Or would Council be prepared to complete its work by creating a Delegacy for Men Students also?"

### Hopes for the New Proposals.

So much for the proposals of 1917. We think that most of our readers will agree with the *Oxford Magazine* about them. But we must not too hastily assume that the new proposals will be the same. It is not only in the last ten years that things have changed; even in the last two, a good deal of water has flowed under Magdalen Bridge, and Isis and Cherwell have reflected, and perhaps reflected on, things very strange to them. The composition of the Hebdomadal Council itself has changed a good deal, and the position of women has changed still more. We eagerly await the publication of the new proposals. Meanwhile, it is a good omen that the *Oxford Magazine* should take such a firm and enlightened line.

### Women's Enthusiasm at Plymouth.

The Guildhall at Plymouth was the scene of unparalleled enthusiasm when Lady Astor addressed her final meeting on the eve of the poll. The meeting, which was for women only, was the largest women's gathering ever held in Plymouth. The hall was packed, and in addition to the four thousand who, it was estimated, were present, there was an equally large number who could not get inside. The crowd was so great that the chairman, Dr. Mabel Ramsay, only obtained admission by telling them that the meeting could not start until she got in. Lady Astor held a preliminary meeting outside, and long after the real meeting had begun, the square remained filled with women. It is encouraging that only a year after receiving the vote, women should show such magnificent support of a woman candidate, and one who, if elected, promises to make a progressive and hard-working Member of Parliament. Mrs. Lloyd George, who was Lady Astor's principal speaker at this meeting, said that she thought it was of the utmost importance that women should have a share in shaping the laws; she appealed to the electors to give Lady Astor such a majority that it would encourage others of her experience to fight the woman's battle in the House of Commons.

### "You Know I Will."

The Plymouth Citizens' Association addressed seven questions relating to existing inequalities between men and women to the three candidates. Lady Astor wrote in reply:—"I am

cordially in favour of the removal of anomalies which still exist by law or custom as between the sexes. I favour the abolition of sex disabilities of every kind as far as possible. From this standpoint, if returned to Parliament, I shall examine and decide my attitude towards the legislative programme." To this satisfactory answer she added an informal note, "Yes! you know I will." There is no doubt that Lady Astor is a sincere feminist, and we rejoice that her chances of success are so good. Mr. Foot's answer, with slight qualifications, was favourable. Mr. Gay, the Labour nominee, who is looked on as a formidable candidate, made no reply. Owing to the large number of absent voters, the poll will not be declared until November 28th, but it is to be hoped that Plymouth has taken for itself the great honour of electing the first woman M.P.

### Women Settlers in the Dominions.

During the war, many women who were living a life of interest and excitement—whatever its hardships—spoke lightly of emigration in the peace days to come. Never, they declared, could they return to the humdrum round again. Now the time of transition is upon us—war-work for the most part has come to an end, and women whose employment has been taken from them are at the turning of the ways. It is to meet this situation that one finds the Society for Settlement of British Women Overseas, which insists above all that women going to the Dominions should have a thorough knowledge of the conditions existing there. Speaking at Bedford College last week, at a meeting organised by this Society, Miss Gladys Pott, Government Commissioner recently returned from Canada, told of the urgent need for women in the new country. She said that a large majority of the failures among women emigrants came from withholding the truth—a girl who looked on her surroundings with disappointment and anger naturally could not put her best into her work. It is difficult for women over here to picture the conditions of this vast country, which though 3,000 miles across has a population only slightly greater than London—it is difficult for them to realise the loneliness, and the climate, which for half the year renders out-door work impossible. In this country of endless possibilities and very limited labour, the work of every human being assumes an individual importance. Miss Pott said that from every settler Canada wanted a contribution to her further development—it was impossible to pay someone else to do the work; people had to do their own jobs or they remained undone. And for women, their "job" is, of course, very largely domestic work.

### In the Golden West.

Every woman going to Canada from this country must regard household duties as an essential part of her life, and those seeking a different kind of employment are advised by Miss Pott to take posts as domestic workers while looking round, "except," she added, "those extraordinary women who think domestic work beneath them." We agree with Miss Pott in regretting the strange circumstance which has made the important household duties a low grade of work, but we feel, nevertheless, that many women who would regard no honourable service as "beneath them," would not care to adopt domestic duties as their life work, simply because they do not like it, and have abilities in other directions. Some would doubtless say that these are not the women for Canada, yet one knows of cases where two or three women have joined together, with a little capital, a little experience, and a great deal of courage, energy, and confidence, and have made good in the far West at fruit-farming or some similar venture—one being in charge of the house and the others carrying on the outdoor work and the business side. Though one feels the absolute necessity for women going so far from home being in full possession of the facts, one yet feels that there must be a mean somewhere between the picture of the domestic drudge and the dream of the cinema goer of a life spent dashing bare-backed across the prairie attired as a cow-girl. There is something in this far-away life—in the beautiful country of which Canada is so justly proud, in the freedom and vast spaces, which makes a sure appeal to the adventurous spirit of youth, and as long as the appeal is based on truth and not on romance, we cannot see any harm in allowing its influence to be felt.

### Openings in South Africa.

For the educated woman settler who wishes to follow a profession, it would appear that of the Dominions, South Africa offers the best prospects. In Australia and New Zealand, as in Canada, the great demand is for domestic workers, but in South Africa all rough and heavy work is done by the natives. At the meeting at Bedford College, Miss Columbine, headmistress of a school in Natal, said that in the teaching profession there was

not an opening—there was a yawning gulf; she said that teachers in South Africa (and Miss Pott made the same point in reference to Canada) were a tremendous influence in the moral, ethical, and intellectual progress of the country. There is a deplorable shortage of medical women in South Africa, but nurses are not so much needed—for these there are more openings in Canada. On the land, the native element again undertakes all the heavy work, and it would not be possible for a woman to "follow the plough," because it would lower the status of the white woman in the eyes of the natives. Flower-growing, fruit-farming, or poultry-farming, are, however, possible and profitable occupations. A girl wishing to take up this life would be advised to get an introduction to a farmer in the line she wishes to take up (the Society for Settlement of British Women Overseas would help her in this) and board at a farm for a time while learning her business and studying local conditions. Miss Columbine said that in public work there were openings for women, especially in the Department of Agriculture.

### The National Association of Landwomen.

The Women's Land Army, formed to meet a war emergency, has been disbanded, but many women will continue to work on the land from choice or from patriotism, and these will welcome the establishment of the National Association of Landwomen, which will have a county basis, but will admit landwomen from overseas and also women engaged only partially in agriculture or horticulture. The war has caused a great change in opinion about the production of food, and women especially feel that home production is a necessity for the stability of the nation, and that the production as well as the preparation of food is in some sense a peculiarly feminine task. The superior cheapness of foreign-grown edibles is a thing of the past, and scientific opinion has set so strongly in the direction of recommending freshly gathered vegetable produce, especially for growing children, that many mothers have the feeling that "the best that can be bought with money" is not good enough for their families. We hope that town-bred women will keep up their war-time practice of doing seasonal agricultural work, and the Association of Landwomen can ensure the provision of decent accommodation for those who thus come to the aid of the farmer. We trust that the large scheme of planting adopted by Lord Lovat's Committee on Forestry will employ some at least of the women who formed the Women's Forestry Service. Professor Stebbing and other authorities of almost equal eminence have demonstrated the suitability of women for carrying out afforestation schemes; there is no class of men who have a vested interest in what is virtually a new industry in Great Britain; and the extravagance of relying upon untrained male labour was proved once and for all by the fate of many of the shelter-belts of trees planted in the West of Ireland under the auspices of the Congested Districts Board.

### Indian Women and the Franchise.

We understand that the Joint Committee on the India Bill will recommend to Parliament that the question of women's enfranchisement shall be relegated to the reconstituted legislatures in each province. As these bodies will have large elective majorities, the decision will give the new Indian constituencies the deciding voice, province by province. As the Suffragist Indian women maintain that their own countrymen support them in their claim, and as they have already adduced much evidence that this is so, they will doubtless welcome the recommendation. We hope, however, that they will not rest content without receiving some declaration of opinion from the British House of Commons, which is still the body mainly responsible for the government of India. We feel strongly that the Imperial body which now represents British women as well as British men, should not entirely shelve the responsibility of this great question of citizenship.

### The Douglas-Pennant Inquiry.

After an immense waste of public time and money, and of good space in the Press, the Douglas-Pennant enquiry was brought to an end last week. The Select Committee of the House of Lords has not yet issued its Report, and we reserve our comments until it has done so. In the meantime we are glad that the Committee has not waited till it had the Report ready to exonerate those who had been most affected by the wide sweep of Miss Douglas-Pennant's accusations. Everyone will be glad that the scandalous charges against Miss Glubb have been publicly declared to be untrue, and that it has been made plain that there was no evidence for the truth of this or other accusations of immorality so freely brought forward in this deplorable affair.

## EDUCATED WOMEN.

"THE unemployed" in the days before the war used to mean exclusively the out-of-work manual worker. To-day, however, the phrase includes many thousands of others, and in the case of women it probably includes more than half the educated girls of the country and practically all those women over forty who have to depend upon their own efforts for their living. Never in all the history of employment has the distress among professional classes been so great; never have their incomes gone so short a distance towards meeting their necessities, and never, in consequence, have so many of their grown-up daughters been obliged to fend for themselves.

The persistent level of high prices, which forces so many educated women into the labour market to-day, coincides with the months above all others when their path is likely to be most hopelessly blocked, the months of the present winter that lies before us, and the result in unhappiness, discouragement, and even physical want is difficult to estimate.

The prospects of the unemployed educated woman of to-day are very black. The Civil Service is disgorging its temporary women and showing the greatest reluctance to absorb any permanent ones. The banks and commercial houses are turning them out from all but purely "donkey work" posts; the factories as they discharge their women are also dispensing with welfare work, and all the temporary war occupations are at an end. Officers, from the Auxiliary Forces, V.A.D.'s, and workers and organisers for the innumerable and indispensable war charities are to-day without occupation, and there seems but little possibility of resettling them in any reasonably short period of time. The ordinary settled professions into which such women went are, with the one exception of the teaching profession, already well supplied. Dispensers, chemists, doctors, midwives, sanitary inspectors, health visitors, political organisers, private secretaries—all these taken together afford opportunity for but a few hundred of women, and the problem now is a problem of thousands. The nursing profession, indeed, can take more workers, as can that of teaching; but these two, besides requiring long and specialised training, are as yet so badly paid as to be but little attractive. Both indeed are improving, in status, in hours of labour, and in pay; but there is room for more improvement still. And outside these two—both of which undoubtedly require individual gifts that by no means all women possess—there seems no obvious place for these workers to occupy, and the problem of what they are to do is a serious one.

There are three new fields undoubtedly opening before educated women to-day, but not one of them is immediate. They are the law, the civil service and business. In each of them there will be good openings and many openings in ten years' time, perhaps less; but to-day there is nothing. And it is only by extreme good luck and the utmost perseverance that jobs can be secured to-day.

Now what is to be done in this crisis? What can these women with their gifts unused and their work unwanted do to get their living? It is difficult to say. What they ought to be able to do is quite clear, but the means are lacking. They ought to train to perfect themselves for better work. They ought to use this interval of dislocation to make ready for opportunity when it comes their way. But they lack the means to do it.

Some people say that to give women elaborate training is a waste of effort and is economically as well as humanly unsound, because of their liability to marriage. This used to be urged against their higher education, until the view that married women needed trained minds and mental resources gained supremacy. No one now disputes the fact that ordinary education is no more wasted upon a girl than upon a boy; but the battle is with us still and has been shifted on to the question of technical education and specialised trainings. Again and again parents, employers, and public men express the view that it is "unsound" to spend time and energy and money upon providing expert training for girls, and persistent and more popular efforts are made to substitute training in cooking and the care of children and the domesticities for all other forms of vocational teaching for girls. The other day we visited a factory in the North of England where continuation classes for the young workers were being set on foot. The boys were learning carpentry, mathematical drawing, algebra and physics. The girls were learning nothing, "because," as the welfare worker explained to us, "they never find time to attend to setting the girls' schoolrooms on foot, and they don't think it's very important." When it did come, however, it was to be the teaching of cooking and sewing, "though the girls would be much keener on woodwork than the boys are, because it would be more of a change for them."

Now all this may be in accordance with common sense and economy as the public believes. But it is not in complete accord-

ance with human nature. There is something in us that revolts against too utilitarian a view, and that clings to the search for such useless things as abstract truth, and the study of a dead language. And in the same way, obeying the same impulse, the women whose lives are most tangled in soap-suds and dirty clothes often have a longing for literature and the clear-cut complexities of abstract mathematics. All this has but a remote bearing upon the question of what technical training women should receive, but it has this much connection that the same impulse which drives human beings to seek for what has no utility, will often give rise in women (as in men) to a high degree of energy in pursuit of that career which presents the worst obstacles and difficulties. And this perverse impulse is as healthy and should, perhaps, be as carefully cherished as is our love of abstractions, save indeed that in cherishing it we destroy it!

However that may be, it remains undeniably true that girls are often bored to extinction by a domestic training and excited to the most persistent efforts by a technical one. We have known women who have cherished the hope of medical work through years of adversity, keeping their firm intention through terms of servitude as long as those of Jacob; and we have known others who have dreamt of the land through years of domestic service and have come into the full exercise of their power only by the miraculous upheavals of the war. And to limit and restrict girls in the development of natural gifts as genuine as these is surely also economically "unsound." You may waste training, perhaps, on a woman who does not ultimately turn it to account, but that waste is of a different and less wasteful kind than if you waste a woman, for lack of training, upon work which she is unfitted to do. In the one case you waste teaching, and perhaps money; in the other you waste human life, and you lose productive power—wasting energy and money both, or destroying human happiness and satisfaction into the bargain.

We are urging, then, that women should receive to the full technical and specialised training, regardless of the fact that they may marry and never use it. We may seem to have based our argument too much upon female perversities, and too little upon common sense; but we would bring forward one last and eminently practical argument to justify our claim.

Let us suppose that women do receive, as a matter of ordinary routine, whatever technical training their natural gifts require. Let us admit that the world goes on as it is at present, and that married women are always required to do their own domestic work, whatever their capabilities for it may be. Let us, then, admit that a large proportion of the women trained as lawyers, journalists, business women, doctors, administrators, preachers, engineers, architects, inspectors, teachers, writers or artists break off their careers before they have gone very far, and slip out of the struggle for success half way. Are we then to say that the training of all these women is wasted, and that the money and time spent upon it was "unsoundly" spent? We emphatically answer No. For why need these women waste their knowledge when married? We do not argue here that they should go on with their work; we are only considering those who decide not to do so; why should these women waste their experience? Is there not an immensely important field open to them where every scrap of training, technical or other, that they may have had can be turned to account? Is there not a work waiting, close at their doors, which is crying out for educated people with experience of life and special knowledge of all these professional subjects? We refer, of course, to the field of local government. Here educated married women are badly needed; here their talents, however diverse, can be utilised, and here, indeed, we see a justification for whatever training they may have had and whatever experience they may have acquired during their single working life.

We come back, therefore, to the problem of the unemployed educated woman with the conviction that to train her for specialised technical work is not "unsound" but a good national investment. If we do it now, during these difficult months, we have the additional advantage of removing her from the labour market during the most unsettled period, and during the time when the ex-officers are rightly claiming precedence in their return. We can bring, therefore, every argument to support women in seeking immediate training now, as thorough and as long continued as possible, so as to prepare for future usefulness. Unfortunately we can bring nothing but arguments; and the women we refer to lack, not reasons, but means; not the will, but the way. We earnestly hope that they will find it, and in this connection we commend our readers to such schemes of loan scholarships and maintenance grants as are set forth by the London Society for Women's Service in another column.

## Women in the Civil Service.

SOME COMMENTS ON THE SEX DISQUALIFICATION (REMOVAL) BILL.

BY RUTH YOUNG.

Joint-Founder, Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries.

I suppose that the average Man in the Street, if he were asked what "sex disqualifications" have been removed by the Bill which has passed its third reading in the House of Commons and has made its way, shorn of all aristocratic sentimentality through the Lords, would answer: "Why everything, of course—except the right of a born Peeress to sit and vote in the House of Lords."

But such is not the case. Personally, I consider it doubtful whether this Bill, under its ugly little title, was (or was intended to be) anything more than a window-dressing affair, to help to put out of the minds of the women voters the Labour Party's "Sex Emancipation Bill," which was stopped short, after passing so triumphantly through the House of Commons. The Solicitor-General himself appears to have stated this to be the case in somewhat veiled terms. In commending the Bill to the House for its third reading, he described it as "a Bill which I hope has removed, as far as possible, all the bars which previously existed and which it is desired to remove, and which has now freed women from the disqualifications on account of sex to the fullest extent it was the intention of the Committee to do." (The italics are mine.)

What disqualifications does this Bill remove? It gives a woman, unmarried or married, the duty (within certain limits) of sitting on a jury. It opens the Civil Service to women in all branches (with certain limitations). It saves the Universities which do not admit women to membership, the trouble and expense of establishing by Act of Parliament their right so to do. It makes it possible for women to become solicitors.

As a member of a trade union, I am, professionally, more interested in the clause of the Bill which deals with the employment of women in the Civil Service than in any other part of the measure.

In 1913 the Royal Commission on the Civil Service was sitting, and it will be remembered that the various women's societies busied themselves in bringing argument and evidence before the Commission to show that the position of women in the Civil Service was unsatisfactory as regarded the women themselves and the Nation at large. I remember, after some useful evidence had been offered, that one of the Commissioners said, as he bade the witness good-bye: "We shall have to come to you for advice on careers for our sons." But we women in those days had no idea of the tragic career which would claim so many of the nation's sons, and of the need which would so soon be created for the employment of women in large numbers in Government offices. The Report of the Royal Commission, Majority Report and Minority Report (the latter containing strong recommendations regarding women's position in the Civil Service) was published. Then the war came.

The war caused wide-spread unemployment among women clerks and much poverty, from August, 1914, until March in the following year. I remember addressing a letter to the responsible official of one of the Government departments, drawing attention to the fact that women clerks were in dire need of employment, and that I had heard that the staffs of Government departments were over-worked. An unofficial reply reached me, worded sympathetically, but holding out no hope of employment for the women on whose behalf I had written. One reason given being that the work was of a highly confidential nature. Such an answer would be impossible now. The manner in which women have carried on their work in public offices during the war has shown that they can be trusted. A perusal of the debates in the House of Commons on the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill will bring to light no suggestion that women cannot be trusted—their trustworthiness is not questioned. We can congratulate ourselves, speaking secretarially, that we are all "Cæsar's Wives." Even the Gladstone Report did not question our honour and honesty.

Sir E. Pollock, in the debates on the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill, quoted the Gladstone Report more than once. If he studied the penny press (or even the correspondence columns of the *Times*), the Solicitor-General would have been aware (as he evidently was not) that the Gladstone Report to women is more infuriating than a red rag to a bull! However, before the Bill left the House of Commons, Sir E. Pollock became aware that in the minds of women voters there is a distinct prejudice against the recommendations of the

Gladstone Report, and on October 28th he went to some pains to explain that he had quoted the Report, not on account of its recommendations, but in order to show "that the employment of women was in a fluid state."

For this reason, apparently, the employment of women, both in the Home and in the Overseas and Foreign Civil Service, must be regulated by Order in Council. Indeed, I understand that the Solicitor-General hopes, by Order in Council, to widen (if not to advance) the sphere of the employment of women. He said: "There must be some latitude to the Government in this matter of employment, whether in the interests of the women and in consequence of the experimental stage at which the employment of women now rests. There must be some latitude and some conditions must be imposed, and that applies to the Home Civil Service as well as to the Foreign Civil Service. I want to have the power to differentiate somewhat in favour of women in order to give them a better and more equal opportunity than they have at the present time."

To this benevolent speech, Major Hills, who, on behalf of Lord Robert Cecil, was in charge of the amendments to the Bill on which various women's societies had agreed, replied uncompromisingly: "Women do not want any sort of protection; they ask for no special privileges. . . . Their demand is for a free field. If it should happen that free competition hurts women, they have said over and over again that they will suffer that hurt, and do not want these special privileges and special examinations and special terms differentiating them from men."

Every woman who takes a real interest in the conduct of national affairs and in the welfare of her sex, should study *Hansard* for October 27th and 28th. Major Hills assured the House of Commons that the Government's amendment would mean "that all the higher-paid posts in the Civil Service will continue to be reserved to men." He pointed out that it is the privilege of men who pass the examinations and win the top places in the list to choose which branch of the service they will go into. He told the Solicitor-General that "in his interest to protect the interests of women he was going to exclude them from the right to choose the Treasury and from the right to go into the Foreign Office." And he reminded the House that a woman for some time acted as Governor of Baghdad in war time—a woman who, later on, ran the risk of entering the Foreign Office!

As to the Treasury, as a trade unionist concerned with the bettering of women's clerical employment, I cannot imagine a Government Department where a wise and high-principled woman would be more in place. On behalf of my Union, in the early summer I had the privilege of introducing a deputation of clerks to the Treasury officials, and I could not help feeling that the Treasury ought to have amongst its highest officials a woman with a real knowledge of women's economic problems, and with the power of a responsible official to take action. True, a responsible woman official from the Ministry of Labour was present, but she appeared to be concerned with employment problems as such rather than with rates of remuneration.

I am amazed at what appears to me the short-sightedness shown in restricting the sphere of women in the Overseas Civil Service—for it is too much to hope that all responsible officials in the future will agree with Sir E. Pollock's views on latitude! which, by the way, are not embodied in the Bill, and legally carry the weight of a pious opinion only. The House of Commons heard apparently without surprise of the woman who governed Baghdad. Possibly the members had heard of Mary Slessor and of Mary Kingsley. Probably they are aware that in India the education of women has become a vital question. Perhaps on account of the restrictions which religious custom places on the women of India, Sir E. Pollock will secure by Order in Council wise latitude in the employment of women in the Indian Civil Service. We must wait and watch. It must be remembered that education alters the status of the class or sex educated, and alteration of the status of a sex renders necessary the making of laws or at least the adjustment of laws which exist with regard to that sex. There should be great scope for women in Indian affairs.

Frankly, I am disappointed in the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill, and I agree with Mr. Lynn that it was "discreditable to the House of Parliament that it should spend a whole afternoon in dealing with a Bill which could have been brought in in one clause and one sentence."

Still, I have no intention of despising even a crumb of equality, and I would urge the women's societies to continue the good work they have done in securing not inconsiderable amendments to this Bill as it was first drafted, by keeping a close watch on the Orders in Council which are to regulate the

employment of women in the Civil Service, Home and Overseas. Their employment will, I venture to predict, remain in a "fluid state" until some short Act of Parliament stabilises their activities in the same way that men's activities are stabilised. It is a duty to be thankful for all mercies, small and great; and the fact that the recommendations of the Gladstone Report have been announced to be practically dead is indeed matter for gratitude.

## The Place and Prospects of Women in Horticulture. II.

By A. S. GALT,

Lecturer and Organiser in Horticulture, the University of Leeds.

Come we now to the consideration of the second phase of the subject. Is it desirable that the woman gardener find a place in the reconstructed system of sociology now slowly and painfully—very painfully—taking shape?

At first sight it seems that the position bristles with difficulties. Something has already been said of competition—fair and unfair—and the effect that it has had and may have upon the gardening labour market. If women generally take up horticulture as a career will not competition by that very fact be intensified? Will there not be still fewer places for men to occupy? Will there not be still fewer homes established, and will not the homes already in being be imperilled by the increased precariousness of the employment of the male bread-winner?

All these questions are serious and clamant. They must be met and answered satisfactorily, or point (2) must be given against the woman. For whatever woman does she may not with impunity do anything that will imperil her vital functions as the mother and guardian of the race. To that I must hold with fervour.

On the other side woman has decided that she is going to have a greater share in the world's affairs, and, if I am correct in my judgment, she has decided too that for good or ill the old order of "the sheltered life" and the male bread-winner has gone. Herein I think that she is wrong, and that Nature will ultimately make her pay the penalty. With all seriousness I am forced to make the charge against many women that they are mainly concerned to make the change, and are not greatly concerned as to what the suffering is to be or who are to be the sufferers. They forget, these thoughtless ones, that the delving and spinning relationships of the sexes, the fight outside the home and the fight within it, have been the slow growth of the centuries, and that we cannot change it, even if we would, instantaneously.

The sociological side of the problem of the woman gardener is pretty obviously only a portion of the much larger problem of the competition between male and female labour, to which problem only the common sense and continued tolerance of both parties can find a solution. And the full solution is not likely speedily to be found; it must be evolved, and the process will be slow.

Meanwhile, owing to the awful toll of war upon the manhood of the nation, there are some 2,000,000 women in these islands of ours who cannot expect to find life partners, and of these 2,000,000 "unattached" women many must work for a living or starve. The facts so far look ugly enough. Almost they seem to suggest that we have reached an *impasse*, as we shall have done unless we can discover other factors which may go to modify the effects of the first.

Fortunately for our country in general, and its women in particular, there are these modifying factors, and it is rather interesting to note in passing that they have been created by the same World War which has so largely been responsible for the creation of that large army of 2,000,000 women.

Prior to 1914 we had become an industrial people, and our country the workshop of the world. Agriculture had fallen upon parlous days. It was just alive and that was all. We were quite content to have our factories and to let the production of our food be looked after by others—by whom mattered not as long as we got the food regularly and cheaply. British horticulture appeared to be flourishing—in a way. Often one heard the boast that British-grown fruit, and British-grown vegetables, and the masterpieces of British florists were the best in the world. They were, and still are. But we have to remember that practically all these wonderful things were the production of the private garden, grown for the owner by his paid servants and not available for the general public. Even the many nursery and seed-growing establishments depended for their existence upon the private garden. British horticulture was the private garden, and in saying this I do not forget that large and flourishing market gardens had sprung into being

in the neighbourhood of our large towns and cities and at convenient railway centres. Yet it was the private garden that mattered, and it was run in the interests of the owner and not primarily or even mainly for food production.

Then came the five years of war—and a great change, which is even now only beginning to be felt. There were many drones in the hive prior to 1914. Perhaps there are still too many left. But the nation is at last beginning to realise several things, which may be set out thus:—

- (1) We must grow more of our own food, and the utility garden must take precedence of the ornamental pleasance.
- (2) We must increase the number of our food gardens, even although it be at the expense of the farm; in other words, "extensive" will have to yield pride of place to "intensive" culture, and the spade supersede the plough.
- (3) We must be a nation of workers. There is work—gardening work—for all. We must all work if we are to live and pay our way, for no one country can stand alone.

Already we see the signs of the coming of the New Age. Already "the sun is gilding the mountain-tops." If other evidence were lacking, the breaking-up of large estates and the clamour for small holdings would supply all that is needed. These are national expressions of the nation's need—a little inarticulate as yet perhaps, but terrible in their increasing volume and persistence.

The would-be gardening woman is thus seen to be only acting in unison with her fellows. She may appear to be leading the cry of work for women; she is really following in the chorus. We must have the woman worker. We want the woman gardener, and I have no hesitation thus far in saying that as far as we have gone points (1) and (2) must be answered in woman's favour. The woman who, by force of circumstances, cannot marry and share the work of continuing the race may still find honourable and useful work in helping to produce the food supplies which we need in largely increased quantities. In doing this she may be entering into competition with man, but our need is great and our wants are many. I repeat that there is work for all.

Finally, we come to the third item on our preliminary count. Does horticulture offer a career to women? Surely there is only one answer here—the affirmative. Gardening is a hard and exacting occupation, and it is not the lucrative one that some folk imagine it to be, but it is not, I think, really more exacting than type-writing, and spinning, and weaving, and office and factory work generally. Certainly it is more healthful, and a thousand times more interesting. To work in the fresh air is something; to have to do with living instead of dead things is far more. Even the constant struggle to protect one's crops from the vagaries of climate and the too insistent attentions of insect and fungoid pests has its compensations, given, of course, that the cultivator has an intelligent interest in his or her work, and sufficient training in principles to stimulate and sustain that interest.

My own experience is that women students of gardening at training centres may be divided into four classes.

Firstly, there are those students who wish to fit themselves for posts of trust in private establishments, botanic gardens, nurseries, and market gardens. Here we may note that the demand for adequately trained women has so far been greater than the supply.

Secondly, there are the students who wish ultimately to go into business for themselves—a laudable ambition, be it said, and one that is likely to become increasingly popular. It is always good to be one's own master or mistress.

Thirdly, there are the students who wish to take up as a career the teaching of gardening in schools or training colleges. This is comparatively a new development, and one which is almost certain to gain a good many recruits in the near future, although the demand is limited. Frankly, in my opinion, the work that falls to the lot of the ordinary County Horticultural Instructor is too hard and exacting for women. To address mixed audiences in country and industrial districts is always an ordeal, and so far I have not yet seen the woman horticulturist whom I should expect to come well out of it. It is man's work.

Fourthly, there are the students—the real *amateurs*—who only take up gardening for the love of the thing, to enable them to make good use of the garden at home. Personally, I believe that this is a most useful development. Even if these women marry, nothing is lost, for they simply change the parental home for the husbandly one. Many a woman has had, in the past, to eke out the scanty income of her husband by sales of honey, eggs,

and poultry, and garden produce, and any training that will enable her to gain a whole or partial living out of country pursuits is a thing greatly to be desired. The Rural School for Girls, recently established at Alverley Hall, Doncaster, by the Education Committee of the West Riding of Yorkshire, has already had a number of students of this type. Often they are girls of gentle up-bringing, and it is most encouraging to watch the intelligence and interest they bring to bear upon their work.

Again, some of these girls may elect to emigrate. Even if they do they take the knowledge with them, and Colonial homes may gain what British homes may lose. "Can do is easy carried about," as my ancestors north of the Tweed like to put it.

I have purposely avoided extended reference to the salaries or wages which may be obtained by women gardeners who come into the first group of students. The wages of male gardeners have for long been ridiculously low, and although they have risen very considerably of late they are still unsatisfactory, and one hears many grumbings that the gardener is paid less than the cowman, or the carter, whose minimum wages are fixed by statute. Here is another way in which woman may help the man. Let her go to work to raise the status and wages of the gardener with the same persistence that she showed, say, in obtaining the right to vote, and I venture to prophesy that she will achieve a similar success.

"And then! Oh, then! we shall appreciate the glory of the garden."

Even the mere man will thank her and be more content to take her for a comrade and a fellow "craftsman," instead of regarding her as an intruder and a potential enemy.

## The Old Age Pension Report.

By VIRGINIA M. CRAWFORD  
(Borough Councillor).

By women, even more than by men, the long-expected Report of the Departmental Committee on Old Age Pensions, just issued, will be found well worthy of study. For septuagenarian women pensioners number no less than 597,264, whereas the male pensioners total only 322,924 (March, 1919). Moreover, as we shall be able to show, women, in some respects, undoubtedly suffer more than men from the admitted inadequacy of our existing pension system. With these facts in our minds it is worth noting that on a committee of eighteen the Government considered it sufficient to appoint two women Commissioners only, Miss Cecile Matheson and Mrs. Baker. Possibly this disproportion may account for one of the most disappointing features of the Report.

It will be remembered that the Committee was appointed in April last to enquire into the hard case of the Old Age Pensioner for whom admittedly a war bonus of 2s. 6d. per week was a very inadequate set-off for the universal rise in prices. The enquiry has clearly covered a large field that included our Dominions, and a great number of witnesses were examined. The conclusions arrived at are given to us in a Report, a Minority Report, and a series of individual "reservations." Thus no absolute unanimity has been arrived at, but happily even those points on which all the Commissioners are agreed mark a considerable step forward in solving the problem.

Briefly all the Commissioners recommend:

1. That pensions should be increased to 10s. a week.
2. That the present means limit must be either abolished or greatly modified.
3. That aliens should become eligible for pensions ten years after naturalisation if resident twenty years in the United Kingdom, and—a very important concession—that British-born wives and widows of aliens should be eligible on the ordinary conditions.
4. That disqualifications through imprisonment or "failure to work" should be abolished, but should remain in force for "habitual drunkards."
5. That Poor-law relief shall not be a disqualification in future.

As regards the 10s. a week pension, it must be frankly stated that this fails to maintain even the pre-war standard, for cost of living has more than doubled, and the pensioner has no margin of small luxuries on which he can economise. Nevertheless, neither the Majority nor the Minority Report is prepared to go further, though one Commissioner, Lt-Col. Raw, recommends 12s. 6d., and an important group of three, consisting of Mrs. Baker, Mr. Devlin, M.P., and Mr. Stephen Walsh, M.P., make a very strong appeal for an immediate increase of pensions to 15s., believing that "less than £1 a week would not really meet the needs of the case."

The Majority Report is much more thorough when it comes

to the difficult problem of "means," i.e., of the level of income below which a pension can be claimed. Admittedly the present scale is far too low; admittedly also the inquisitorial methods and many small injustices that the system involves excite widespread murmuring. The Committee, indeed, is so impressed with the practical impossibility of devising any fair scheme of selection, that it even rejects the income-tax level, and pleads boldly for universal pensions at seventy, at a cost to the nation, it should be added, of £41,000,000 per annum. It is against this universal pension that the Minority Report, signed by seven Commissioners, protests; it holds that a means limit must be fixed and can be fairly imposed, and it proposes instead pensions at practically double the present scale of means at a total cost of £32,000,000 per annum.

Neither Report recommends the lowering of the pensionable age below seventy, and this, in the eyes of many, constitutes the gravest blot upon them. For it is notorious that tens of thousands of old people are quite incapable of supporting themselves up to the age of seventy, and that at present they have no resources save inadequate savings, private charity, or the hated Poor-law. It is true that a fairly liberal scale of Out-relief, where this is granted, can tide over the years between sixty and seventy, but as every Poor-law guardian knows, in hundreds of cases old people are compelled through want to come into the workhouse long before they are seventy, often losing their little homes and so forfeiting all chance of an Old Age pension later on. Moreover, we are all looking forward to the abolition of the Poor-law which renders an alternative scheme of relief yet more imperative. Urgent as the matter is for old men, it is yet far more so for women. Hardly any women, and above all, hardly any widows, with no permanent trade of their own, can possibly keep themselves up to seventy, whether as servants or factory workers, or even as seamstresses and charwomen. Very few indeed are eligible for invalidity pensions. All this is fully recognised in the Report. We read there that "such provision (as there is) is wholly inadequate. . . . There must be a large mass of invalidity, especially among women in the years immediately preceding the pension age, for which at present no satisfactory provision is made." It goes on to say that the facts "disclose a state of things which cannot be left as it is. There is a real problem, and we feel bound to add that unless it can be met in connection with National Insurance and met adequately, particularly in the case of women, which seems to us the most pressing, some development of the pension system or some substantial reduction in the pension age will become imperative." Yet no recommendation follows beyond that of a further "investigation"!

The three Commissioners who plead for pension of 15s. are far less pusillanimous. "We feel strongly," they write, "that the qualifying age should be reduced to sixty-five." They point out that "only a negligible proportion of women are insured after sixty years, and there is no likelihood of the Insurance Act being amended so as to include a larger number of them." Moreover, they tell us that a lowering of the age limit was urged by a large number of the authorities consulted, and they repeat emphatically that they can see no other way of dealing with this admitted evil. Most women, we fancy, will agree with them that it is far more urgent to lower the age to 65 than to make pension universal: to do both would undoubtedly be an extremely expensive measure.

Another weak spot in the Report is that there is no reference whatever to the crying need for homes for such Old Age pensioners as are too feeble to live alone. There might be either State alm-houses or municipal old age homes, but emphatically the accommodation should not be on the basis of the present workhouses, and should carry with it no pauper taint. As it is many pensioners end their days in the workhouse through their inability to look after themselves, and one of the main objects of Old Age pensions is thus defeated. It is imperative to close the workhouses and provide elsewhere for our feeble and invalid pensioners. But the Report is regrettably vague in its references to "institutional" treatment.

Even as regards the good points in this Report our hopes must not be raised too high. The Government is not pledged to accept all, or indeed any, of the recommendations. Experience leads us to anticipate a very considerable watering-down of the strength of the proposals before they receive official backing. Moreover, there is the all-important question of cost to which, very properly, the Commission only paid a secondary attention. None the less, the publication of the Report, as we began by saying, marks a real step in advance. We now at least have tangible proposals officially put forward for discussion, and women will surely be keen in ventilating the grievances for which no solution is being proposed.

## The Ethics of George Eliot.

By RHODA POWER.

Readers of George Eliot are apt to seek through her novels, in vain, for some little indication which will show the evolution of her religious opinions and social ethics. She does not give her readers any sign of her own mental struggles, yet all her work suggests a deep veneration for religion in its many aspects. She must have thought long and deeply about its various phases for she delineates with such precision the subtle shades of doctrine in the Church, defines so exactly the theological positions of Tryan and Dinah and the sensible matter-of-fact morality of Mr. Irwine. Yet her actual religious thought is difficult to define.

She has a wonderful sympathy for the different types of humanity, and this gives her the faculty of putting herself into the position of the holders of all creeds. The simple beliefs of Dolly Winthrop, half-pagan, yet wholly reverent, the passionate fervour of the Wesleyan woman-preacher, the aspirations of the modern St. Theresa, and the colourless faith of Amos Barton, are all understood and revered by her. It is this apparent impartiality that makes it difficult for us to analyse her religious feeling. There is something so impersonal about the religious atmosphere of her work that we can come to no actual conclusion about her creed. She does not pose as a Christian, for her temperament would not allow her to invest her spiritual capital in a name. In spite of this, however, we find in her novels the highest types of Christian character and the purest exposition of Christian ideals. It is not the essence of Christianity that she rejects, but only the questionable form.

Since her faith in supernatural authorities fails, she finds herself urged from within to vindicate the truth and validity of spiritual laws on their own account, so that although her writings betray no definite religious opinions they give a minute description of her code of ethics.

Her philosophy is the reverse of fatalistic. She believes in the freedom and responsibility of the individual will and holds that we, and not the force of circumstances, fashion our lives, so that if we fail in our moral duty retribution will follow. The moral law is impartial. In life there is an unyielding connection between cause and effect, and the nature of human experience is irreparable. "Duty," then, forms the basis of George Eliot's ethical doctrine, and with her the word has a very wide meaning, signifying not only duty to ourselves, but the carrying out of mutual obligations in private and in public at the risk of personal discomfort.

She herself was essentially public-spirited, yet she lived in an age when women played but a small part in public affairs. Her works show a knowledge of subjects which, at that time, were thought to be beyond feminine comprehension. She holds and expresses opinions on matters which should have shocked the modest Victorian woman, and she shows herself keenly sympathetic to the political ideals of the masses during the reform upheaval. A lack of sympathy with, or an indifference to, the questions of the day would have been a violation of her ethical code, and yet, at the same time, her moral teaching shows that she has an affectionate understanding of the past, and a tolerance of those limited natures which cannot keep pace with new ideas. "Mine," she says (and we imagine her smiling), "I fear, is not a well-regulated mind. It has an occasional tenderness for old abuses. It lingers with a certain fondness over the days of nasal clerks and top-booted parsons, and has a sigh for the departed shades of vulgar errors."

"Vulgar errors" are the mistakes common to the ordinary individual and it is in dealing with the ordinary individual that George Eliot is at her happiest. She would have us understand that our lot is cast, for the most part, among people who may not appear interesting, but who are, nevertheless, important, and that we must tolerate, pity, and love those among whom our life is passed. They may be stupid and commonplace, but it is our duty to admire their movements of goodness, to have patience with their faults, and to cherish all possible hopes for them. If we ignore their existence simply because we find them dull, we deliberately set aside our moral duty, which, humble though it may sometimes seem, is the one consecrating principle of human life.

Insignificant people and obscure deeds can have an immense influence for good or evil. George Eliot realises this and treats the incidents and emotions of ordinary life in such a manner as to

lay stress on the importance of every-day action. Her very human interpretation of duty exacts a sympathy with the lives of real men and women and practical good-doing to the point of uttermost self-renunciation. By the law of self-sacrifice the individual is merged into the universal and it is only in the birth of selflessness that we find our true life. Obedience to the divine will, or, in simpler words, the carrying out of our duty, seeks no reward. It is that simple fidelity of which Seneca speaks when he says: "We become happy by not needing happiness." It is that selflessness which Antipater of Tyrius describes when he urges us to "obey that law of nature which makes our interest the universal, and the universal our own," and which St. Paul impresses upon us in the phrase: "We are one body—members one of another." The law itself is beyond our personal control, but its expression lies in our human relations and duties.

In this interpretation of duty the dignity of labour plays an important part. "It's a fine thing," says Caleb Garth, "to come to a man when he's seen into the nature of business: to have the chance of getting a bit of the country into good fettle and putting men into the right way with their farming and getting a bit of good contriving and solid building done—that *those who are living and those who come after will be the better for.*" Here, again, we have the sublime faith that duty is the guiding light of man's life, and that happiness is found in self-sacrifice for the good of others.

Throughout her novels George Eliot lays stress on the fact that self-pleasing leads to debasement. We trace this idea in the career of Tito and Mrs. Transome. We watch its influence over pretty, frail little Hetty Sorrel, and the weak, though not unattractive Arthur Donnithorne. By neglecting the doctrine of self-renunciation, and by giving their own happiness the foremost place in their lives, they deliberately fall away from the path of moral safety. The lives of Maggie and Tom Tulliver express the same great principle. With George Eliot moral safety lies in confronting and dealing with the facts of life, and moral danger in heedlessly ignoring or wilfully neglecting them. The unflinching utterance of "Romola," "Adam Bede," and "Daniel Deronda," is that the only greatness of humanity lies in the pursuit of the highest truth, excluding every meaner aim, irrespective of every issue, and that apart from the profession of any special creed, the expression of a law higher than the seeking of our own pleasure is life's best and noblest fulfilment.

George Eliot's ethical doctrine combines the Buddhist theory of the universality of the individual with the Hebrew teaching, which finds the Lofty One in the humble soul, and with the Christian gospel, which brings comfort to the spirit that hungers and thirsts after righteousness. "There is in man a higher than love of happiness: he can do without happiness and instead thereof find blessedness."

## Those Upsetty Women.

By DORA MELLONE.

The Housing Committee of the City Council, "somewhere in Ireland," sat round the table in the luxuriously carpeted room, some leaning back in the well-cushioned chairs. No woman was among the number, for, to quote the Chairman, when pressed to co-opt women, "there was a great deal of public money entrusted to that Committee." Still, the gentlemen were not happy. It was possible to keep women out of the Committee, and also possible to give the most meagre information as to proceedings, but, with the fateful fifteenth of January so near, and women voters in greater numbers than ever before, it was not possible to refuse a deputation from every organisation of working women in the city.

And the thing had been managed so well up to this! The proceedings of the Committee were private, and the reports to the monthly meetings of the Council could easily be hurried through, without anybody discovering what had been done. Why, only two months ago the report occupied just ten minutes, thanks to the hour spent over the far more exciting question of an increase of salary. But a glance at the gallery showed that women were present. You are never safe, even at a Council meeting held at twelve in the day, there may be some of these interfering, officious women, whose activities were so eloquently deplored by the Chairman of the Housing Committee. Still, things might have gone off comfortably, but for one hitch.

The Committee desired above all things to obtain official permission to relax the regulations of the L.G.B. It was absurd

## The Pension.

that local authorities, who alone could understand local needs, should be tied up by rigid officialism on such points as the utilisation of slob land or the reservation of sufficient open spaces in the city for playgrounds. Why, look at the strong local feeling. There was that Labour deputation (men) who pressed for the use of the eight hundred Army huts lying idle only three miles away. How well that deputation had been managed, and how helpful was the chance remark of one member that what they wanted was "a roof over their heads, not bath rooms and gardens." That remark, properly emphasised, would be of great service. True the Labour organisation had afterwards disavowed this statement, at the instance of these women again, but there had been an interval of a month, during which much had been made of "the desire of the working man to be near his work."

The L.G.B. enquiry had also gone off well. It had been stated that seven hundred and ninety-six applicants, registering in the City Hall, did not want gardens or allotments or bath rooms, but houses of the type already existing, pleasant little kitchen houses with two bedrooms, built in rows, so much warmer than those absurd officially planned semi-detached "villas"! But the Council meeting after the enquiry was not encouraging. There were women again in the galleries, in greater strength than ever, and mostly working women. Who had been upsetting these people, bringing them out at such an hour in the day when they should have been quietly looking after their domestic duties?

And look at the bad effect on the Council! Instead of a quiet ten minutes spent on the report of the Committee, it occupied an hour and twenty minutes, and, worst of all, there were actually Councillors who referred to the effect on health of inadequate sleeping accommodation and damp walls, and who asked why no women were on the Committee, thus diverting attention from the only issue which really mattered, the cost of the official houses. This had been carefully gone into by the highly respected firms who tendered, and it only worked out at £300 per house more than the figure given publicly by a local architect, instigated doubtless by "those upsetty women," who so often hamper the actions of public-spirited bodies. But time was on the side of the Housing Committee. They had sat incessantly since February, but so great had been the task that in spite of their utmost efforts no scheme was ready to put before the Council at the meeting held twelve days before the date when such schemes must be in the hands of the L.G.B. It was disturbing that women should be at this meeting in such numbers, but surely in twelve days not much harm could be done.

Alas for a well-intentioned and hard-working Committee! On that meeting followed an outburst of letters in the Press (astonishing how many are ready nowadays to rush into print). Then came letters from Labour organisations, men this time, demanding a public meeting. Worst of all, these women had found out there was a special meeting of the Committee itself, and somehow or other, at twelve hours' notice, had got this deputation together, and really, with January so near, it would not do to refuse the women's organisations. So here they were, asking such annoying questions, heckling the Committee as to provision of schools for the fifteen thousand children for whom there was not even standing room, if all the vacant ground in the city were built on. It was no use telling them this was the business of the School Attendance Committee. Then they worried over the kind of soil, and actually to get anything done at all, the Committee was driven to pledge itself not to build on slob land.

Still, there are ways of managing, and perhaps that can be got over in the future, and waste of valuable building sites avoided, if the Committee has quiet for its work. These women do stick to their point in such a tiresome way and refuse to be dragged into an admission that houses at over ten shillings a week cannot be let, so different from that other deputation, which had been quite easily side-tracked. They even asked what exactly were the questions to which the helpful answers about gardens, &c., were said to have been given, and forced the admission that the wording had been "do you want a house in the country." Again, there were those troublesome figures as to cost of sanatoria, and probable need of increase, if the housing were carried on in the old economical way.

But there are no women in the L.G.B. Housing Department, and the much-tried Committee reflected with satisfaction when the deputation had taken its leave that the final decision rested with that august body.

DORA MELLONE.

"You wait until I get my Old Age Pension, like Auntie, and then I'll buy you a crêpe de chine blouse like this for yourself, Josie." "My! Wouldn't Josie look fine in one of these 'ere blouses," commented Mrs. Francis to her sister Ellen, as her daughter Josie hurried off to the wholesale house with a consignment of blouses at which she and her mother had been working early and late for the last six weeks.

The old lady took up the delicate blouse on which she had been working and held it out for her sister to look at, but Mrs. Smith was a partial dependant and could not allow herself the supreme pleasure of longing for anything.

Mrs. Francis, with her daughter and widowed sister, Mrs. Smith, lived together in three rooms which they shared for sleeping, living, and working. Mrs. Smith had obtained her Old Age Pension years before, and, since the death of her husband, her sister and niece had given her a home in return for services which enabled her to eke out her seven shillings and sixpence a week.

Nevertheless, she knew only too well that her pension did not cover the cost of her living, and that her sister and niece both worked very strenuously in order to keep the home together, and that sometimes it was very difficult to make ends meet. Therefore, she was, perhaps, the most anxious of the little family that her hard-working sister should be in possession of an assured seven and sixpence, to be added to the income of the three.

On the day when Mrs. Francis, amid much consideration and intense flutterings of anxiety, sent in her claim for an Old Age Pension, there was much rejoicing at the thought of the good fortune in store for them all. Mrs. Francis thought it would be a gold mine, but Josie was only conscious of a certain relief from anxiety, and trusted that it might enable her mother to take some of the rest she needed so much.

But, alas! Not one of the three even dreamt that there was a likelihood of not being entitled, until the Pension Officer, on being informed by Mrs. Francis that she was earning as much as twelve shillings a week and, further, arriving at a decision that such must be the case, said:

"Then if that is so, Mrs. Francis, you understand, don't you, that you will be recommended for a One Shilling Pension?"

Mrs. Francis stared at the Officer as though she had been turned to stone, and said slowly and in a lifeless tone of voice:

"One shilling? One shilling?" and then, suddenly, as though the meaning were gradually being burnt into her soul, "Do you mean to tell me that I am only to have one shilling?"

The Officer realised in a flash the extent of the old lady's misery and tried to explain the reason, but the old lady was not listening and went back to her machining, viciously turning the handle and reiterating the awful fact that she was only entitled to a One Shilling Pension.

All her hopes had flown. Whatever would Josie say? Poor Josie, who worked so hard, too, in order to keep the home going!

Mrs. Smith looked on as though stupefied. She heard the Pension Officer's verdict, and she realised the agony of mind through which her sister was passing. She was powerless to help, and yet her instinct to try to put things right made her attempt to fight with the only weapon she knew how to use.

"You don't earn twelve shillings a week, Lizzie! I'm sure you don't. Why, you don't earn nothing regular. You just helps Josie. That's what you does!" And then she turned on the Pension Officer who had blighted all their hopes.

"There wasn't all this fuss when I got the Pension! It's all along of having women to do the job. Talk about brutes; why you women are much harder down than the men, and you ought to be ashamed of yourself for making so much trouble. Call yourself a lady, why, you're just a paid servant, that's what you are! We'll not let this matter drop, I can tell you. *John Bull* shall hear about it, and we'll see then whether we'll have the Pension."

Mrs. Smith would have said more, but by this time Mrs. Francis had worked off her anger at the machine and swiftly crossing the room, she held out her hand to the Officer, saying:

"I'm not blaming you, miss; of course, you can't help it, but, oh, it is so terrible hard to think that the one thing I've wanted to get old for was to have the Pension like my sister, so as it would help Josie a bit," and then she suddenly broke down and wailed, "Oh, dear! What will Josie say?"

The Pension Officer wondered the same thing as she left the house and made her way back to the office.

B. J. S.

## A Woman of Genius.

By ROSAMUND SMYTH.

**Impressions that Remained.** Memoirs by Ethel Smyth. (Published by Messrs. Longmans, Green & Co. 28s. net. 2 vols.)

This is a delightful book, chiefly because it is a frank self-revelation of a woman with a remarkable personality; a personality which is vivid and strong and yet without hardness, and sympathetic without a trace of sentimentality. This combination of virtues is somewhat rare, and, in addition, the author is richly endowed as an artist with a dose of British common sense to leaven the more flamboyant characteristics and the artistic temperament. Though this is the autobiography of a musician it is less concerned with her musical than with her personal life. Perhaps the years of "success"—a word which Dr. Smyth regards with horror—lie outside the scope of the book, or perhaps modesty forbids more than an occasional glimpse of personal triumphs on the concert platform or the operatic stage.

The musical life of Leipzig, of the author, and of the many celebrated men and women who became her friends is like an undercurrent or a running accompaniment to the wonderful life of friendship for which Dr. Smyth has so much genius. The greatest of these friendships was, of course, with Frau von Herzogenburg, "Lise"—fellow-pupil in counter point of the latter's husband—a childless woman with a strong maternal instinct, who adopted the young composer as a spiritual child and for seven years was her intimate companion, admitted to the closest confidence. The abrupt ending of this romantic attachment was naturally a staggering blow, from which, however, Dr. Smyth had the courage to rally after a time of intense depression and some bitterness of spirit. She blames herself severely for this bitterness, perhaps unduly, for the book shows her to be far too sound at heart to become for long a victim of anything morbid or unbalanced.

Fortunately for Dr. Smyth she had her art and a circle of friends of outstanding ability and personality, besides the more intimate companionship of such delightful people as Nellie Benson, Pauline Trevelyan, Lili Wach, and a host of others. Special mention must be made of "Marco," the dog-friend who went everywhere with her, even to the Paris Exhibition, where, having constantly to be left shut up in his mistress's bedroom, he occupied his time in attempts to tunnel a way to freedom. The resultant damage was concealed by a skilful re-arrangement of the furniture, but all in vain, for, on leaving, a long bill headed *Dégâts causés par le chien* was presented.

The greatest of these other friendships was with Rhoda Garrett, a cousin of Mrs. Fawcett, and her sister. Dr. Smyth describes the house where Rhoda was living with Agnes Garrett as "the focus of my English life," and the friendship must have been very deep and true. Rhoda Garrett's death in 1882 had the effect of cementing still more strongly the passionate attachment with "Lise," which was to last for three more years. On reading of the ending to this devoted friendship it is impossible not to recall the almost equally intense relations between Octavia Hill and Sophia Jex Blake. Dissimilar though the circumstances may have been, there is in both cases an element of coldness on one side of the friendship and a mystery about the final breach which can never be explained—in full at any rate. Dr. Smyth fails to make "Lise's" character very clear. At one moment she alludes to her coldness of temperament and at another appears to absolve her from the accusation. The intelligent reader must puzzle it out for herself; it is one of the attractions of the book to read between the lines and to guess whether "Lise" was *au fond* a woman of rigid and uncompromising character, or a vacillating creature, influenced by the stronger will of her mother, Baroness von Stockfelsen, and yielding, partly through ill-health, to whatever promised the easiest life.

Dr. Smyth makes it clear that she still retains her faith in the affection of women for women. She finds in it "a peculiar understanding, mothering quality that is a thing apart," and remarks that these relationships have been "shining threads" in her life.

"Lise's" sister and her husband, so closely concerned with the parting of the friends, are rather shadowy figures. Indeed, this is the case with many of the people mentioned towards the end of the book, for Dr. Smyth's frankness is naturally more controlled as her story advances. She makes up for this by

producing a gallery of portraits of interesting and leading figures in the social life of Frimhurst and its neighbourhood, and in the musical world of Germany.

This world took the young musician to its heart, and she had the joy of finding herself accepted as a fellow-artist by some of the greatest men of the day. In the midst of this artistic companionship Dr. Smyth, like other lovers of musical life in Germany, had one or two disconcerting reminders of a growing dislike of England and everything English.

The book does not include the period of her activities in the agitation for the vote, but it is a record of the life of a born feminist. More fortunate than Florence Nightingale in her struggle to be allowed to take up serious work, she succeeded at about the age of nineteen by a judicious combination of passive and active resistance, in obtaining permission to study music at Leipzig. Once out in the great world there was a far harder struggle to be a woman composer in an age which took only the work of men seriously. It can be guessed that the obstacles were many and that the prejudices to be conquered were great, and when Dr. Smyth obtained sufficient recognition for an "ideal performance" of the "Wreckers" to have been planned to take place at Munich in February, 1915, it was of course "annulled by the war," which she describes as "the bitter disappointment" of her life.

Space does not permit of enlargement on the details of her home life or on the curiously sympathetic and yet difficult relations between mother and daughter. On the whole it does not appear that her family were a hindrance to her artistic development, and they make a pleasant every-day background to the far more thrilling and exotic life of a genius which Dr. Smyth led when away from home.

After all that can be said of the book and its writer, a final judgment must be that by far the most delightful, the most developed, and the most human quality in Dr. Smyth is her sense of humour; real humour, without a touch of malice in it, a second "shining thread" running beside the golden thread of friendship through her life. One tale must be quoted of Dr. Smyth and "the celebrated Presbyterian minister, Dr. Macgregor" taking a walk together. The conversation turned to Spanish literature and the way to pronounce "that fine name, Don Quixote: 'The way to pronounce it,' he cried, 'is Don Kee-hott-tay; now say it after me carefully, Don Kee-hott-tay' and I obediently echoed him to the best of my ability. But he was not satisfied: 'No, no, that's not it at all; try again—Don Kee-hott-tay. . . . Don Kee-hott-tay,' and we wandered along, crying 'Don Kee-hott-tay' alternately, as if reciting some demented litany."

Her sense of humour, her courage, her capacity for friendship, and her perfect sincerity, these with her musical genius make up a personality with which everyone will hasten to make acquaintance in the pages of a wonderful auto-biography. And then they will ask for some more volumes to carry on the chronicle, while hoping that it may be long before it is complete.

## Miss Romer Wilson's New Novel.

By N. G. ROYDE SMYTH.

**If All These Young Men.** By Romer Wilson. (Methuen. 7s. net.)

The complexities of the artistic temperament include in many cases a susceptibility to impressions which constitutes at once the glory and the peril of the artist. Impressionability of eye and of mind working together serve intuition, and furnish almost all the novelist need ask in the way of equipment, once the power to write at all has asserted itself. But impressionability of will, an amiable capacity for admiring the work of other people, a cleverness which makes imitation easy, are defects associated with these very qualities, and they have seldom been more strikingly illustrated than in the first and second novels of Miss Romer Wilson.

In "Martin Schuler" this young and unusually gifted writer produced a first novel which astonished critics by its brilliant solidity. Now, a year later, she follows that initial success with a piece of composition in the fashion of the day, as it is approved of in an intelligent but limited section of literary and artistic Londoners. "If All These Young Men" is almost exactly the kind of novel anybody who belonged to the group which considers that English fiction began with "Howard's End" and reached its culmination in "The Voyage Out" might have written. It also owes certain qualities to a technical appreciation of the work of Miss Dorothy Richardson and Mr. James Joyce; in a word, in manner, method and material it is a book written both of and for Bloomsbury.

This in itself is no adverse criticism. Good comes out of Bloomsbury still; but in allying herself with a school, in writing for a limited and very exclusive audience, Miss Wilson has assumed self-consciousness, has shut herself off from the freedom in which she began to write, and has, for the moment, forgone that rapture of creation which was so extraordinarily communicated quality of her earlier work.

"If All These Young Men" is a series of introspective essays in the consciousness of three or four members of the same group of highly nervous, finely educated young people during the tension of the spring and summer of 1918. The story, such as it is, is told chiefly through the consciousness of Josephine, and with Josephine Miss Wilson is at home and un-easily at ease. There are passages of real beauty in Josephine's lonely adventures with her soul: a night walk from Reading, an isolation in a restaurant party, a girl's waking dream of her lover, a remarkable sequence of hours in which the reverberations of war find their echo in her inarticulate mind. But the sensitive registration of this hyper-sensitive girl's fluctuations between exultation and despair is interrupted by sudden, equally intimate, but far less convincing, excursions into the private minds of Sebastian King, of James Blanchard, and less frequently and for shorter periods into the unspoken lives of other characters. This suspension of the main thread is quite astonishingly inartistic and out of keeping with the effect of controlled power which "Martin Schuler" produced. It is as if Miss Wilson's admiration for the manner of some of her contemporaries had demented her.

All through the book there are Influencies written large; the best influences, but always those included by one particular school of selection. Here, for example, is a passage which derives from Stendhal:—

"In vain men love the idol of their dreams, and if from time to time the exquisite loveliness looks out of the face of this man or that woman the owner of the divine expression stands before and joins with human error to keep apart the divinities. Then desire to tear off the men and you excludes every other desire, but the defensive flesh blows out a cold fog, and the perfection hides again in its woods and forests, not the less enchanting because unseen, nor less desired because lost. The voice keeps silent. It is not usual to cry out, 'Stop! I lose you divinity with mine; we are a part of the genius of the world.' Many ceremonies and much wearisome patience keep the lover in anguish, and long before the delight is won the owner of this sweet object has become disgusted with the sutor who is driven mad by longing. No despair, no cruelty, no insensibility can destroy his fidelity, and though his body pursues a common course, his soul lingers until life kills his aspiration, in those localities when the unattainable light has flickered, which are henceforth sacred groves to him."

This quotation illustrates the excellent quality of Miss Wilson's prose, and it has merit as a contribution to the philosophy of the book. But in other places the prose remains good, while the thought is obscure or even silly. Miss Wilson, for instance, looking at Leicester Square through the mind of James Blanchard, can tell us that:—

"Yet he and Shakespeare were the only persons in the square who had any reasonable comprehension of their surroundings. . . . Leicester Square was just as usual in its usual mood, with its familiar juxtaposition, its familiar and peculiar atmosphere, and its secret superiority towards every other spot in the world. The people who walked in it might have walked in it since the beginning of its history, so much a part of it did they seem. Yesterday, to-day, and to-morrow were all the same in that square . . . some institution would have to be burned to the ground before a new character could appear amongst its habitual frequenters, or before the proportion of its foreigners, its cheap young women, its cabmen, or its gentlemen could vary."

It sounds all right, but it means distressingly little.

It is the same with the whole book. There are vivid descriptions in "If All These Young Men," a real sincerity, often more than a little solemn, with bright flashes of wit, but no humour or how would it have come by its uncomfortable title? Humour, too, or a sense of proportion, which some people say is the same thing, would have relieved Miss Wilson from too deep a sense of the seriousness of her secondary theme, which is the difficulties of sentimental entanglements just at present, due to the sparseness of the provision of young men, and the concentration in London of young women more or less all war-working, which is an inevitable but not an enduring consequence of a long war. The humiliations and embarrassments of a large circle of young people who do not cultivate reserve about themselves or about each other, which arise in consequence of the British practice of monogamy in adverse circumstances, is a theme which seems depressing, as the sorrows of infancy are depressing, only to those unable to take long views. Miss Wilson would have done better with her subject in a short story, and even in this novel she should have kept to the experience of one character and that character's observation of others if she hoped to give her theme a perspective.

## Shorter Review.

**Reconstruction: A Play in Three Acts.** By Gordon Lea. (W. Haffer & Sons Ltd. Cambridge. 3s. 6d. net.)

"Reconstruction" is a play with a purpose. Its purpose is suggested by the following words printed on the title-page: "Reconstruction that aims at the true happiness of humanity, can never be complete if it hesitates to dig through the threshold of any tradition, however sacrosanct, if it be proved in experience that that particular tradition is a hindrance to the realisation of such happiness." The plot of the play is, briefly, that a gentleman marries a lady he does not love, that the lady goes out of her mind and is removed to a lunatic asylum, that he returns to the house after seeing her off in a cab; the lady he does love calls, and in a scene of mutual pity for their bad luck in life, he and she decide to reunite their fortunes—"What reck! if we do lose a whole world of men, if we still have God?" are the words in which they sum up this very remarkable decision. Frankly, we find this nauseating. We are not concerned here to discuss whether or not the marriage laws need drastic reform. There is much reason to think that they do. But no reform in law could make justifiable the coarse callousness exhibited by the hero and heroine of this play. So much for the "purpose." In regard to the literary and dramatic qualities of the play, the case is different. The author shows a power of realism almost hideous at times. And a certain somewhat crude humour, as in his characterisation of the heroine Lydia Shortte, who wears khaki and affects a slangy jargon in keeping with her idea of a dashing young man, but who is full of sterling worth, and whose relations with her old parents are delightful. We think that Gordon Lea may do great things if he forgets his purpose, restrains his tendency to sentimentality, controls his power of realism, and writes another play for the love of art alone.

A. H. W.

## Correspondence.

(Letters intended for publication must reach the Editor by first post on Monday.)

### A WEAPON SURRENDERED.

MADAM,—I am sorry to see in your current issue, the account of the difficulty women workers are finding in maintaining the positions in skilled trades for which they have qualified, owing the the opposition of the Trades Unions.

It confirms me in the belief, which I have often stated in public, that women should leave "equal pay for equal work" to be insisted upon by men. They are giving up their chief weapon, when they agree not to undercut men. And they should only do so when they receive a *quid pro quo*. If the men are willing to give them equal opportunities, they should agree to equal pay. But if the men are trying to prevent their entry into skilled trades, the only way in which they can obtain admission, is by working for less money than men do. They can do it. Without starving themselves or suffering in any way, they can comfortably work for less than men. Women who are not obliged to be economical eat less, and the food they naturally take is less expensive than the food men like. They are much more commonly teetotalers or nearly teetotalers than men are. They do not smoke so much.

I am not recommending as a desirable state of things, that women should work for less wages than men, but I do say that the power to do so is a potent weapon, and women workers are very foolish to lay it aside, unless they are assured that men will do them justice.

MAUD SELBORNE.

### A TRADE UNION FOR NURSES.

MADAM,—In your issue of November 7th, my old friend, Miss Sheldon, remarks that the inaugural meeting of the Professional Union of Trained Nurses (to be registered as a trade union) was not representative. I personally spoke to many nurses I had not seen for years, and met others from many sections of the profession. She further contends it was controversial; then how can she maintain that discussion was not allowed? Controversy is the outcome of opposite opinions. Be that as it may, the last mass meeting, held November 7th, had purposely a small platform and discussion was invited, nay, implored; the few opposers' statements and reasons were negatived, and the meeting again closed with a bumper collection to carry on the movement.

It has been stated more than once that the aims of the College of Nursing Company, Limited, and the new Nurses' Union are in many respects similar; if that be so, then it will be easy for College members to advance a stage and enjoy the freedom and protection that a trade union can give them. But instead of their names being printed on an open register, the roll of a trade union is confidential. Too often is the College roll considered when posts are bestowed, too often has it been augmented almost at the point of coercion. The Council of the Nurses' Trade Union will not boast twenty-two matrons on its roll, nor hospital governors and superintendents. The labours of the College may be untiring, but they have not satisfied the rank and file, and they have not even obtained for nurses a single seat in the Medical and Allied Services Committee set up to advise the new Ministry of Health. Government will listen to a trade union when it will give ear to no other.

Yes! The promoters of the new union "do seriously imagine" they can do more than has ever yet been done for nurses; because they are going to manage their own affairs in future. Remember the old saying: "The Lord helps them who help themselves." "If you wish a thing well done, do it yourself, nurse"—not leave it to your disinterested employer.

JENTIE B. N. PATERSON,  
late Sister, Guy's Hospital, London.



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**THE WOMEN'S ENGINEERING SOCIETY.**

A Social will be given at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Tuesday, December 9th, at 7 p.m., followed by a Lecture at 8 p.m. on Machinery and Art—a New Trades Union. Lecturer: S. B. Caulfield, Esq., F.R.I.B.A. Chair: Miss R. M. Parsons.  
Admission by ticket only. Non-Members, 1s. 3d. For tickets apply, Secretary, Women's Engineering Society, 46, Dover Street, W.1.

**CONFERENCE ON ECONOMIC POSITION OF WOMEN.**

Fabian Hall, 25, Tothill Street, Westminster,  
**ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27th, 1919.**

Morning Session, 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Afternoon Session, 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.  
Admission Free. Tickets to be obtained from the Secretary, Fabian Women's Group, 25 Tothill Street, S.W.1.

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### Headquarters Notes.

#### Immediate Work for Societies.

This week we have important work to bring before the notice of our Societies—work which is clamouring to be done, and to which women pledged to a programme such as ours can wholeheartedly devote themselves.

There is probably not one of our members who has not realised the increasing unpopularity at the present time of women's employment in trades and professions. It is said that women's work is now unwanted. Consequently, the woman's point of view is no longer treated as important. We are suffering from the reaction from our war-time popularity.

Our unpopularity is neither unexpected nor unusual. We knew that when the army was disbanded, woman's newly-won industrial position would be jeopardised. Those of us who remember the days when we fought together for the suffrage will remember that popularity was not what we expected or found. It is only of late that we have come to expect all to go smoothly. The important thing to-day is to realise that all is not going smoothly, and to be prepared to fight for freedom and for equal opportunities as we have fought for them before.

Societies are therefore asked, in the first place, to report to this Headquarters any known cases of the unfair dismissal of women workers. Where a woman has held her post on a temporary footing, she must expect dismissal when the fighting man she has been replacing, returns. But cases of flagrant injustice are occurring all over the country in which women, many of whom have others dependent on them, are being dismissed to make room for men and boys who have never served in the Army at all. Cases are even being brought to our notice of women who are being dismissed from posts which they held before the war.

It will greatly assist the efficacy with which we can make our protest, to have a large body of proved cases on which to base our evidence. Our protest will take the form not only of asking for equal opportunities for women with men who have not served, but also of pointing out the loss to national productivity if women are not allowed to help carry the great burden left by the war, and are not able to assist in bringing about that increase in production which is so urgently necessary for the welfare of this country.

Secondly, we ask our Societies to take action in the matter of the education of demobilised members of the Women's Auxiliary Forces. Six million pounds has been allowed by the Government to the Minister of Education to be distributed in grants to demobilised officers and men for the continuation of their education at Universities. Not a penny has been granted for the education or training of members of the Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps, Women's Royal Naval Service, Women's Royal Air Force.

Our Societies are asked at once to pass resolutions of protest on this subject, and to forward them to their own Members and to Mr. H. A. L. Fisher, Minister of Education, Whitehall, S.W. 1.

Thirdly, we are anxious that the importance of having a large number of women candidates chosen to represent constituencies at the next General Election should be recognised up and down the country. Hon. Secretaries of Societies are therefore asked to get up public meetings or debates on "Are Women Really Wanted in Parliament?"

Fourthly, we ask our Societies to do what they can to press for the immediate introduction of legislation, in order to give pensions to widows with dependent children. There is enormous support for this reform throughout the country, but pressure must be felt at Westminster before the Government will embody the reform in a Widows' Pensions Bill.

Hold meetings, send in resolutions, and get all the other women's organisations in your locality to do the same—in favour of Widows' Pensions.

#### £10,000 Appeal.

Societies and members are asked to do all in their power to help the £10,000 Appeal. Extra copies can be supplied for distribution to anyone likely to be interested in the work of the Union. A short personal letter enclosing a copy of the appeal ensures at least attention to the request, and repays amply for the trouble involved.

The programme and urgent work outlined above shows the need for the active co-operation of every member of the Union in obtaining powder and shot—i.e., financial supplies, for the present campaign.

#### Classes on Election Work.

Three of these Classes have already been held, and have proved to be a great success.

The two remaining Classes of the Course are as follows:—  
November 21st, 5.30 p.m.—"Canvassing." Opener Miss Macadam.  
November 28th, 5.30 p.m.—"Should Women follow Ordinary Election Methods?" Opener: Miss How Martyn.

Readers are reminded that they may attend these Classes at a cost of 1s. 6d. per Class.

#### Further Help from America for the S.W.H.

Notwithstanding the most generous assistance already sent to the Scottish Women's Hospitals Committee from America, Miss Kathleen Burke has again been the means of sending further tangible evidence of the kindly feeling existing in America towards the work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals still being carried on in Serbia. Mrs. Laurie, the Honorary Treasurer, has just received, through Miss Burke, a further donation of £1,000, per Messrs. Morgan, Grenfell & Co., New York.

## THE ENGLISHWOMAN EXHIBITION.

NOVEMBER 12th TO THE 22nd.  
CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER. OPEN DAILY FROM 11 a.m. TO 6 p.m.

The Englishwoman Exhibition, opened on November 12th by the Countess of Lytton, is one of the most charming that has been given, and this, as all frequenters know, is no small compliment.

The first impression is almost bewildering, but wholly delightful. Visitors will find themselves drawn to visit the Exhibition several times, and to examine the stalls in detail. It is not possible to describe them all here, and in referring to one or two of them only, we must warn our readers that they had far better go and see for themselves what they like best.

One of the stalls which we ourselves found most attractive was No. 10, that organised by the Nayland Training Centre (near Colchester). At this stall there is really beautiful jewellery and metal-work, made by disabled and invalided soldiers trained at this centre. There are also some fascinating painted wooden toys.

The Hand-Loom weaving is always one of the industries in which visitors are most interested. The Somersetshire Weavers at Stall 21, Mrs. Ethel Mairret at Stall 30, the Shottery Weaving School at Stall 32, and other exhibitors of weaving, show delightful and useful things. Quite a different kind of artistic work is the writing and illumination work done by Miss M. C. Bowerley, and exhibited at Stall 26. Readers of THE COMMON CAUSE will be glad to visit the "Educraft" Needlework Stall, which is No. 45. The Children's Jewel Fund has Stall No. 23, and there are the usual Christmas exhibits of fascinating dolls and toys, jewels, enamels, leather-work, bead-work, needle-work and embroidery, wood-work, &c. It is always a special pleasure to see the beautiful stained glass of which Miss Forbes is in charge at Stall 20. An interesting exhibit is the leather-work shown by Mrs. Bird and Miss L. Holt at Stalls 39 and 40; but there is much more. We urge our readers to go themselves and visit the Exhibition.

#### PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORKERS' CONFERENCE.

The scheme for the organisation of Professional Social Workers was carried a step further at a Conference held at Caxton Hall on October 21st. The chair was taken by Mrs. Boyd Dawson, who presided over a well attended and enthusiastic meeting, representative of almost all the recognised branches of social work.

The business before the Conference was to consider and adopt a Constitution, which had been drafted by a Committee elected for that purpose. The first item on the Agenda, however, was a resolution expressing the regrets of both the Committee and the Conference, in the resignation of the Hon. Secretary, Miss Sayle, to whose initiative and resource the whole movement owed its inspiration. At the same time Miss Sayle was heartily congratulated on her new appointment under the Ministry of Health.

The new Constitution, which was adopted after full discussion, and with several important amendments, is, briefly, the establishment of a Federation of existing professional social organisations, and provision for the admission of future organisations as they may be formed. It is expected that such Associations as those of the Care Committee Organisers, Welfare Workers, Deaconesses, Pension Officers, &c., will be eligible for affiliation to the Federation. There are, however, a large number of individual social workers for whom no Associations exist. These isolated workers will be grouped into one Association and affiliated to the Federation, to encourage the formation of occupational Associations, and as each one is formed from among the individual members, it will become a separate affiliated Association. Each Association will nominate a representative for the Council, which is to be the governing body of the Federation, large and small Associations having alike one representative each.

The objects of the Federation are:—  
(1) To uphold a high ideal of social service.  
(2) To obtain the recognition of Social Service as a Profession.  
(3) To secure for Professional Social Workers such conditions of employment as will attract and retain the best brains and the highest qualifications.  
(4) To promote the adoption of Schemes of Training adapted to the needs of various branches of Social Service.

Affiliation fees to the Federation are as follows:—  
Affiliated Associations having a membership up to 100 ... 5s. per ann.  
" Thereafter rising by 2s. 6d. for every additional 50 members.  
Individual members to pay a graded minimum subscription of:—  
1s. per annum on Salaries under £100  
2s. 6d. per annum on Salaries of £100 up to £200  
5s. per annum on Salaries of £200 upwards.

Associations of Professional Social Workers and individual Social Workers are now being invited to apply for affiliation to Miss St. Clair Townsend, Hon. Secretary, 6, York Buildings, Adelphi, W.C.2, from whom copies of the Constitution may be obtained.

#### BIRMINGHAM S.E.C.

On Tuesday last the Birmingham Branch of the Women Teachers' Federation passed a Resolution protesting against the high price of milk in the interests of the children, particularly those in the Infant Schools, who, they said, were suffering seriously from the effects of an inadequate supply of milk and butter and sugar. The same organisation passed a Resolution of protest against the profiteering in lodgings. Young teachers who had to support themselves on small salaries, and were obliged to take rooms near their work, found themselves utterly unable to meet the prices demanded. An instance was given of one who rented two empty rooms and an attic, receiving no service of any kind, who had to pay £50 a year rent. This enabled the tenant of the house to live rent, taxes, and light free, at her expense.

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## The New Europe for our Children

A CHILD, aged ten, picked up THE NEW EUROPE.

"Topping coloured cover," he said. "Is it nice and interesting inside?"

"Yes, very! But you can't understand it."

"I'll be grown-up, too, some day, and I don't know why grown-ups won't explain things to me," replied the child angrily. "I just love the word Czecho-Slovakia!"

It is fite to say "the children of to-day are the citizens of to-morrow."

An article such as "Foreign Office Reform" would be difficult to explain in words suitable for children. But would it not be helpful to the furthering of the much neglected study of foreign politics and history in this country if we talked to our small sons and daughters, in language that they can understand, on some of the conditions of Europe? Talk, not in the somewhat cheap language of most journals written for children, but as *one sensible human being to another*—and, by familiarising them with foreign names from their babyhood, create a *less insular generation*. What child fails to appreciate a word with such an intriguing sound as "Golovlev"!

Take, for example, Saltykov's *Wild Squire*, a translation of which appeared in THE NEW EUROPE of October 30th. Two small boys, aged six and seven, have acted a revised nursery version of this story every evening since their grandfather told them about it, and announce their intention to visit Russia at the earliest opportunity. The small inhabitants of another nursery are writing their own version of the Golovlev family to be acted at Christmas-time; while in a third home Spain's past literature is being revived with the aid of a tail-less rocking-horse and a five-year-old Don Quixote.

It may be objected that THE NEW EUROPE is a magazine for deep thinkers, not for the nursery. Surely the most certain way of achieving any lasting success is by attention to detail, and no wise woman dare neglect such an important detail as the brains which, though in the nursery to-day, will soon be bearing the terrible responsibility of guiding the destiny of New Europe.

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Vice-Presidents: MISS CLEMENTINA BLACK. President: MISS PHILIPPA FAWCETT. Hon. Treasurer: THE HON. MRS. SPENCER GRAVES. Mrs. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D. LADY STRACHEY. Secretary: MISS PHILIPPA STRACHEY.

The Society exists to secure full equality of liberties and opportunities between men and women. To advance this end it carries on Practical Work and Propaganda and maintains the

## THE WOMEN'S SERVICE BUREAU.

Supported by The Rt. Hon. Lord Robert Cecil, K.C., M.P. The Viscountess Cowdray. Mrs. Creighton. The Lord Emmott. Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D. The Viscountess Gladstone. Lady Lockyer. The Hon. Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton. The Earl of Lytton. Mrs. Leopold de Rothschild. The Viscount St. Cypres. The Marchioness of Salisbury. The Countess of Selborne. Mrs. Scharlieb, M.D. Lady Strachey. Miss Tukey.

The Society's Employment Bureau is open to Employers and women seeking employment. All women can here obtain (free of charge) help, advice, and information upon any subject connected with employment, prospects, trainings, wages, conditions, and all other matters of importance to women workers.

### EMPLOYERS!

DO YOU WANT QUALIFIED WOMEN WORKERS? If so, apply to the Women's Service Bureau, whose register of 60,000 women includes such workers as the following:-

- D. 34480. Journalistic and research work. Translation. Slight knowledge of short-hand and typing. French, German, Dutch, Danish, Scandinavian Languages, Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian. (Censor's office during war.)
D. 28019. Organiser of girls' clubs. Manager of laundry, has done reserve work, followed by hospital work, prison warders' work, superintendent of maternity home. (Women petrols, supervisor in Government factory, and welfare work during the war.)
D. 3055. Music and singing in Paris. (In war welfare worker 3,000 girls, then administrator over 5,400.)
D. 34593. Private secretary, administrative and journalistic work: French, German, Italian, Dutch, Latin, Anglo-Saxon, and Esperanto. (In war interpreter to General Omnibus Company and lecturer to women conductors.)
D. 7656. B.A., Lond., 1st class honours lecturer in Mathematics. (V.A.D. work during war, then lecturing with Army on Rhine.)
D. 34915. Diploma Social Science. Club work. Women's Institute. Morris dancing. (Administrator, W.R.A.F. during war.)
D. 36400. Trained nurse. C.M.B. Special knowledge of infants. (Inspector Board of Agriculture and officer Q.M.A.A.C. in war.)
D. 3055. Music and singing in Paris. (In war welfare worker 3,000 girls, then administrator over 5,400.)
D. 34593. Private secretary, administrative and journalistic work: French, German, Italian, Dutch, Latin, Anglo-Saxon, and Esperanto. (In war interpreter to General Omnibus Company and lecturer to women conductors.)

### DEMOBILISED WORKERS!

DO YOU WANT SUITA LE JOBS? If so, apply to the Women's Service Bureau, whose record of recent suitings includes such posts as the following:-

- P. 6500. A lady with History degree to write school history for publisher.
P. 6404. A lady to represent British firm in Paris (showroom, and to act as interpreter. Knowledge of chemistry required; salary £4 10s. weekly.
P. 6751. Demonstrator for gas cooker: knowledge of cooking and ability to talk while so doing essential. Travelling to Ireland, etc. Permanent post; salary, commission, and travelling exps.
P. 6825. Lady to manage residential club, catering, housekeeping and accounts: college graduate preferred. (Salary £150.)
P. 6395. A letter designer for firm of architects to take the place of a man killed in war. (£3-14 weekly.)
P. 6819. A lady, not under 45, to be secretary to a college and undertake management in Warden's absence. (£100 and all found.)
P. 6825. Lady to manage residential club, catering, housekeeping and accounts: college graduate preferred. (Salary £150.)

### YOUNG WOMEN!

DO YOU WANT TRAINING? If so, apply to the Women's Service Bureau, where you will get full information and help as to your future career. When there are funds you can also get

### GRANTS AND LOANS FOR TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE.

- Women have been helped to train and are now being successful in the following careers:-
D. 18977. Assistant Supervisor, Ministry of Labour during the war. Demobilised April, 1919. Loan granted for shorthand and Secretarial training.
D. 32912. London Matriculation. Training granted (in conjunction with other funds) for Medical Degree.
D. 33973. Three years' experience as children's nurse. Training granted at Polytechnic for full Infant Welfare work and Nursery Nursing.
D. 20264. Experience as Secretary, accountant. Worked for Matriculation in evenings and passed, 1918. Training granted as Elementary School Teacher.
D. 27200. No previous experience, love of children. Training granted for private children's nursing.
D. 25306. Worked as typist. Training granted in dental mechanics.

### WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS BOTH!

support this good work. Give it every donation you can spare. The Bureau is entirely voluntary and is carried on by the Society as a practical way to secure equal wage-earning opportunities for women.

### HELP WOMEN'S SERVICE AND YOU HELP DEMOBILIZED WOMEN,

### JOIN THE LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

Sign and cut out this membership form, and post it with subscription (1/- or more), to Women's Service.

I wish to be a member of the London Society for Women's Service, and herewith enclose for £ s. d., the amount of my Annual Subscription to the Funds of the Society. Name { Mrs., Miss, Esq., or other Title } Cheque Postal Order

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### THE SERBIAN RELIEF MATINEE.

Now that the War is over people are apt to forget that there is still a great deal of suffering needing alleviation in various Allied countries, and not the least needy is Serbia, where the severe winter is likely to bring famine and pestilence in its train. Hospitals are established in most of the important towns, but in the remoter districts there is as yet very little provision for sickness, and to meet this need the Serbian Relief Fund is establishing Wayside Dispensaries in all parts of the country. In order to raise funds for this purpose a great Matinee, under the patronage of H.H. Princess Marie Louise, has been arranged for the afternoon of Monday, November 24th, at the Globe Theatre, which has been kindly lent by Miss Marie Lohr and Mr. Anthony Prinsep. The programme arranged for this occasion is one of the most attractive that has ever been seen at any Charity Matinee. Mr. Arthur Bouchier, Miss Fay Compton, and Mr. Murray Carrington will appear in Leo Trevor's play, "Dr. Johnson." Mr. Maurice Moskovitch, Miss Mary Grey, and the Court Theatre Company are playing the Trial Scene from "The Merchant of Venice." Mr. C. V. France will assist Miss Lillian Braithwaite in "The Long Arm of Coincidence," and Miss Marjorie Gordon and Mr. Donald Cathorp will be seen in a new duologue. Among other artistes who have kindly promised to appear are: Madame Karsavina, premiere danseuse of the Russian Ballet, Mlle. Delysia, Miss Violet Vanbrugh, Miss Desirée Ellinger, Miss Violet Loraine, Miss Sybil Thorndike, and Messrs. Leslie Henson and Mark Hambourg. Tickets for this performance can be obtained from the Countess of Bective, 29, Eaton Place, S.W. 1, or from the Box Office, Globe Theatre, at the following prices:—Boxes by arrangement. Stalls 5 guineas. Dress Circle 2 guineas and 1 guinea. Upper Circle 10s. 6d. Pit 5s. Gallery 2s. 6d. Applications for seats will be dealt with in strict rotation.

### Coming Events.

- INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB. NOVEMBER 26. 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly. Subject: "Enthusiasm versus Experience." 7.15 p.m.
"THE ENGLISHWOMAN." From NOVEMBER 12 to 22. Central Hall, Westminster. Exhibition of Arts and Handicrafts. Open Daily. Entrance, 1s. 3d. 11 a.m.—6 p.m.
WOMEN'S INDUSTRIAL LEAGUE. NOVEMBER 23. Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W.1. Speaker: Miss Damer Dawson, O.B.E. (Commandant, Women Police Service). Subject: "Women Police." Speaker: Miss Key Jones (Gen. and Organising Sec., Women's Industrial League). Subject: "The Work of the League." Chair: The Viscountess Rhonda. Admission Free. Collection. 8 p.m.
MOTHER'S DEFENCE LEAGUE. NOVEMBER 21. Caxton Hall, S.W.1. Subject: "The Invasion of the Home." Speakers: Monsignor Provost Brown, Mrs. Cecil Chesterton, Miss J. F. Mackintosh, Miss Anna Martin. Chair: Rev. Vincent McNabb, O.P. 3.30 p.m.
GARDEN CITIES AND TOWN PLANNING ASSOCIATION. 3, Gray's Inn Place, W.C.1. To NOVEMBER 30. Whitechapel Art Gallery. Housing and Town Planning Exhibition. DECEMBER 25. Lecture. Subject: "The Problem of Tenement Dwellings." Admission Free. 7.45 p.m.
ST. BOTOLPH'S CHURCH, BISHOPSGATE. At the mid-day services, 1.15, Miss Picton Turbervill is preaching a course of addresses on the subject of "What is the Kingdom of God?" November 27: "What is Man?"
THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE. 52, Victoria Street, S.W.1. NOVEMBER 25. Lecture with Lantern Slides. Subject: "Through the Balkans to Constantinople." Speaker: The Hon. Lady Shelley-Rolls. 4.15 p.m.
WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE. Minerva Cafe, 14, High Holborn. NOVEMBER 26. Speaker: Miss Abadam. Subject: "Come, and She Cometh; Go, and She Goeth." NOVEMBER 28 and 29. Central Hall, Westminster. Green, White, and Gold Fair.
UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES. University of London. Marble Arch Branch. Two Courses of Lectures on "The State and the Citizen," by Miss E. Macadam (late Director, School of Social Studies, The University, Liverpool), will be held during the Michaelmas and Lent Terms, on Wednesdays, at 6.30, beginning November 19th, in the Club Room of the Social Students' Union, 11, Marble Arch (2nd Floor), W. 1. Michaelmas Course consists of five weekly Lectures on "Childhood and Adolescence." Lent Course consists of ten weekly Lectures on "The Adult Citizen." Application for admission should be forwarded not later than November 17th to the Hon. Local Secretary, Miss D. K. Low, Social Students' Union, 11, Marble Arch, W. 1. Fee for Michaelmas Term (5 Lectures), 10s. 6d. Lent Term (10 Lectures), £1 1s.

### Forthcoming Meetings (N.U.S.E.C.).

- NOVEMBER 23. Birmingham—Midland Institute. Theosophical Society. Speaker: Mrs. Ring. 6.30 p.m.
NOVEMBER 24. Birmingham—Edgbaston College, Bristol Road. Speaker: Mrs. Ring. Chair: Mrs. Oeler. 3 p.m.
NOVEMBER 24. Leicester—Lecture Room, Temperance Hall. Subject: "Women and the League of Nations." Speaker: Mrs. Corbett Ashby. Chair: Mrs. James Billson. 8 p.m.

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### M. Poincaré and the Scottish Women's Hospitals.

It must be very pleasing to the Committee and Friends of the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Home and Foreign Service, to notice the very gracious and appreciative reference made by M. Poincaré to the Nursing and Medical aid given at Royaumont during the war to French soldiers. The occasion of the reference to the Scottish Women's Hospitals by M. Poincaré was on Thursday, November 13th, 1919, when he was installed as Lord Rector of Glasgow University. M. Poincaré received a most enthusiastic and hearty reception from the Students, and in his rectoral address, which was of a most happy nature, touching upon the "Auld Alliance" and ties of amity between Scotland and France, said how, in these recent years of war, the friendship has been cemented by common sacrifice on the field of battle. The President's tribute to the work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals at Royaumont is referred to in our editorial columns.

### (N.U.S.E.C.) Scottish Women's Hospitals for Home and Foreign Service.

Headquarters: 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh. Founded by the Scottish Federation of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

#### Serbia's Need.

The Serbian Government have made special request for the continuance of the Hospital work, as great distress still prevails.

The Committee have therefore transferred to Belgrade the "Girton and Newnham" Hospital, and "Calcutta" Orthopedic Centre, formerly maintained in Salonica, which it is hoped to establish later as the "Dr. Elsie Inglis Memorial Hospital for Serbs."

Since the conclusion of Peace, freight charges have become very heavy, and additional support is needed to meet this expense.

Donations will be gratefully received by the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Laurie, at Headquarters, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, or at Red House, Greenock.

Cheques and Postal Orders should be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland."

Table with 2 columns: £ s. d. and £ s. d. listing various donations and financial records for the Scottish Women's Hospitals, including items like 'The Domestic Staff, St. Mary's School, Melrose' and 'Per Miss E. J. Soane Hon. Sec., Leicester, S.E.C.'

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

MISS E. PICTON-TURBERVILL will preach at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, every Thursday, at 1.15 p.m., during the month of November. Subject of the series of addresses: "What is the Kingdom of God?" St. Botolph's Church is one minute's walk from Liverpool Street Station.

MISS ROYDEN will preach at the City Temple on November 16th and 23rd, on "What did Christ do for the World?" November 16th: "The Revelation of God." November 23rd: "The Revelation of Man."

## PUBLIC SPEAKING.

CLARA REED'S STUDIO of Public Speaking, Rectifying, and Dramatic Work; Day and Evening Classes, 21s. per term. All classes limited to 10 students. Private Lessons, 10 for £3 3s.—All communications, 38, Upper Gloucester-place, Dorset-square, N.W. 1.

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