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NOTES AND NEWS.

Naval Disarmament.

The British Note inviting the Governments of France, Italy, and Japan to attend a five Power Conference in London next January to deal with the question of naval disarmament, was communicated to the respective embassies yesterday, and serves as a satisfactory comment on the negotiations between the Prime Minister and President Hoover, which have been proceeding so smoothly in Washington. The main points of the note are as follows: That the present negotiations are the direct result of the signing of the Kellogg Pact; that the principle of parity is accepted for all classes of warships not covered by the Washington Treaty, it being understood in the case of Great Britain that all the forces of the Empire are to be taken into consideration; that it is desirable to consider a revision of the life of battleships to avoid carrying out the full programme provided by the Washington Treaty of 1922; that in the opinion of Great Britain and of the United States submarines should be abolished completely, though it is recognized that this must have the consent of all the forces concerned; that it is hoped that by means of the projected conference an agreement can be elaborated which would facilitate the task of the disarmament commissions and conferences of the League of Nations. There can be no doubt that the agreement between the United States and this country is so complete on account of the feeling of security between us with regard to the impossibility of war. If only a similar feeling of security could be felt by the other nations who will be meeting in January, the submarine problem would vanish. At present it seems impossible to expect France and Italy who have never agreed even to limitation of submarines, much less to their abolition, to do more than consent to a restriction in the tonnage devoted to them. Even so, a step forward will have been taken. It is gratifying to read of the fine impression which has been made by the Prime Minister's speeches in America.

Stresemann.

It is not often that the death of a statesman spreads expanding circles of consternation and sorrow far outside the national frontiers of his own country. But so it was at the end of last week when the sudden collapse of the German Foreign Secretary in the full tide of his momentous work was telegraphed from city to city throughout the civilized world. For all those who have followed the precarious stages of post-war European reconstruction, the incongruous figure of this typical German nationalist, a right-wing man of education, tradition, and party affiliation, forced by high pressure of clear common sense into the path of internal conciliation and external pacification, seems strangely symbolical of the mood of modern Germany. He was the main architect of the Locarno Treaties as well as

the pilot who steered the German ship of state into the roadstead of the League. That task accomplished, he played a big part on the international stage, throwing the weight of his considerable intellect and strong character at all times on the side of constructive conciliation. Yet it may be that the most momentous and far-sighted act of his political career was his intervention as Chancellor in 1923 when he brought to an end the hopeless passive resistance of the Ruhr population and opened a constructive phase of Franco-German negotiation. A long and complicated chain of events links that German retreat from the Ruhr in 1923 with the Allied retreat from the Rhineland which is at long last in progress. But in all those events Stresemann played a leader's part. Some of our contemporaries have compared him to Bismarck, but the comparison is a misleading one, for his methods were the antithesis of Bismarck's methods. They were the methods, not of a supreme player of the old diplomatic game, but of a new game of international statesmanship, played out on a new stage before a new public. The other great players in that game—Briand, MacDonald, Henderson, Cecil—will miss him sorely. The Memorial Service organized by the League of Nations Union in St. Margaret's, Westminster, on Tuesday, was a fine tribute to the work of a real hero and to the spirit of peace he strove so hard to inculcate.

Report of the Board of Control.—Lunacy.

The Report of the Board of Control on Lunacy and Mental Deficiency for 1928, calls attention with regret to the postponement of legislation to give effect to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Lunacy Laws which reported three years ago. They state "while delay is unavoidable it is none the less regrettable that the poorer classes should continue to be denied facilities for voluntary treatment—i.e. without certification—in the early and hopeful stages of mental disorder which are open to those more fortunately circumstanced." The number of new cases in 1928, 2,787, was above the average—2,149—for the last five years. There is, however, no grounds for the suggestion sometimes made that an abnormal increase in insanity is resulting from the stress of modern life. The insane represent 3·57 per thousand of the population, or a total of 141,080, in England and Wales. The increase does not fortunately represent a growth in the incidence of lunacy, as the greater length of life among the patients themselves, and the increase in the population, especially the adult population, are enough in themselves to account for it. There is, however, considerable cause of anxiety in what the Board themselves call the "recovery rate," which last year was 30·84 per cent, a rate similar to that which has prevailed for a great many years. The Report's most hopeful feature is the success of the new treatment of the injection of malaria for general paralysis of the insane. Exceptionally little progress can be recorded during the year with regard to meeting the shortage of accommodation referred to in such strong terms in the Board's last report. There were five new institutions opened, and several schemes have been prepared. The Board warns Local Authorities against the use of many of the surplus Poor Law Buildings with which they will be dealing under the Local Government Act, as owing to the lack of land and other facilities they are unsuitable for other than temporary accommodation.

Mental Deficiency.

In turning to the Mental Defectives, the Report shows that out of 300,000 mental defectives in England and Wales, one-third require institutional treatment and two-thirds supervision outside an institution. The Board adds: "It is in the case of the latter that the risk of procreation arises and the case for sterilization, if such a case exists at all, is strongest. It can

hardly be denied that the 200,000 defectives who must remain in the community are wholly unfitted for parenthood . . . in our view it would be a valuable safeguard if the marriage of defectives, whether under order or supervision, could be prohibited by law. It is astonishing that on grounds of so-called morality well-meaning persons are found to countenance and even to encourage the marriage of defectives." This view will, we hope, meet with a great deal of support.

Cabinet Ministers and their Critics.

The meetings of the National Labour Party Conference at Brighton resulted, in the main, in a strong expression of confidence in the achievements of the Government during its short span of office—more particularly in so far as those achievements relate to the handling of international problems. In this particular respect, the approbation of the Conference probably reflects pretty accurately the approbation of the country. It was certainly expressed with considerable generosity by the discomfited leaders of the Liberal National Conference at Nottingham. Nevertheless, there are signs that two Cabinet ministers at least are likely to find themselves subject to a fusillade of criticism from their own side, and both are concerned with that most prickly and untractable of current problems, the problem of the unemployed. J. H. Thomas is one of them, and Margaret Bondfield is the other. Criticism of the latter, turns, of course, on the fact that rightly or wrongly, the administrative powers of the Minister of Labour have not so far been stretched to the uttermost to secure a drastic change in the day-to-day operation of the unemployment insurance scheme, more particularly with regard to the interpretation of the condition "genuinely seeking work." The view of the Minister appears to be that legislation rather than administrative changes are called for by the present situation. At any rate, it is clear enough that a formidable task lies ahead of Miss Bondfield and that the first woman Cabinet Minister has been entrusted with a rough-and-tumble ministerial job demanding an iron nerve and a bold initiative. It is a significant sign of the times that this should be so.

Miss Susan Lawrence as Chairman of the Labour Party Executive.

For the first time in the history of the Labour Party a woman, Miss Susan Lawrence, has been chosen as Chairman of its Executive. It will be remembered that the Conservative Party elected Lady Bridgeman (then Dame Caroline Bridgeman) as its Chairman in 1927. We hope that the Liberal Party will shortly follow suit. The other women elected to the Labour Party Executive were: Mrs. J. L. Adamson, Dr. Ethel Bentham, and Mrs. Gould. We regret that Miss Ellen Wilkinson was not successful this year.

"Marriage and Death and Division."

The Registrar General's Statistical Review for 1928 has just been issued, and it presents certain features of especial interest to our readers. With regard to the age of marriage, the most usual age of marriage is 24 years for men and 23 years for women. Two "women" married at 14 and 55 at 15. This large increase in the number of marriages under the age of 16 as compared with previous years, will rejoice the hearts of those who worked for the passing of the Age of Marriage Act to make these child marriages no longer possible. It is indeed unfortunate to note that there are 440 marriages at 16, and 2,499 at 17. At the other end of the scale, two women who married were both 80, and surprising discrepancies between husbands and wives were numerous. The number of decrees nisi made absolute was 4,018, which was 828 in excess of the previous year, and the highest on record. There is probably little doubt that this is due to the Matrimonial Causes Act of 1923. The number of births registered during the year was 660,267, equal to a rate of 16.7 per thousand. This is a slight increase on the preceding year, and is presumably only a reflection on the higher marriage rate for 1927, as the figures for this year show a continuous decline. The number of illegitimate births was 29,702, or 45 per thousand live births. This is a slight increase over 1927. The proportion of male to 1,000 female births was 1,044, this proportion having shown a great increase during the war years and having obtained a maximum of 1,060 in 1919.

Retribution in Cardiff!

The Cardiff Education Committee has recently passed a resolution involving the dismissal of its married women teachers. It is at the same time profoundly interested in the teaching of Welsh. These two apparently unrelated facts are prettily

interlocked by the circumstances that one of the best and most active teachers of Welsh in the area is Mrs. Gruffydd, wife of Professor Gruffydd, of Cardiff University College, who is a teacher in one of the girls' secondary schools. The headmistress of the school in question protests that Mrs. Gruffydd is an expert under whose hands the teaching of Welsh has increased threefold. Professor Barbara Foxley says that she is a pioneer of the subject, and that no woman in the area has anything like her knowledge of modern language teaching. This quibbling about married women is, she adds, beside the mark. What will the Cardiff Education Committee do about it? They do not appear as yet to have made up their minds. Meanwhile those of us who believe with Professor Foxley that the best qualification for a job is fitness to perform it, must be forgiven for regarding the present difficulties of the Cardiff Education Committee with a measure of *Schadenfreude*.

The Marriage Bar and Unemployment Benefit.

We welcome a recent statement of an Umpire under the Insurance Act, who reversed a decision made by the employment exchange officials and the Court of Referees, who refused to give benefit to a woman who had had to give up her job on getting married owing to the firm's rules and had been unable to find another post. "If the rules governing a woman's employment," he said, "are such as to present to her the alternatives either of retaining her employment and remaining for ever single, or of getting married and having, in consequence, to seek work elsewhere, she is in my view entitled to take the latter alternative.

Smoke Abatement.

The amalgamation of the two Societies dealing with Smoke Abatement under the name of the National Smoke Abatement Council, give great hopes of the strengthening of the movement. That it is still unfortunately necessary is clear from an address given this week by Mr. Chubb, Advisory Secretary of the new Council, when he pointed out that up to the present only 17 Local Authorities have made by-laws, and 51 placed schemes before the Ministry of Health. Unfortunately these by-laws are all confined to the suppression of *black* smoke. The Ministry of Health has laid down that it is not prepared as yet to sanction by-laws dealing with smoke of another colour. This seems entirely contrary to the last Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Act. Small consolation can be found in the fact that when a real effort has been made to prevent the emission of black smoke, other smoke has in fact been largely suppressed as well.

National Council of Women Conference.

The National Council of Women meets in Conference at Manchester from 14th to 18th October. A large attendance is anticipated, and a most interesting programme of excursions in and around Manchester has been arranged. Among the subjects on the Agenda are the following: Peace, Women Police, Information on Methods of Birth Control, Slum Clearance, House Property Management, the Local Government Act, and Women and the Diplomatic Service. With regard to the resolution on information on methods of birth control put forward by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, a keen debate is anticipated.

New Appointment for Mrs. Wintringham.

Mrs. Wintringham is working hard. In addition to being a member of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service, she has now been made a member of the Committee appointed by the Home Secretary and the Minister of Labour to inquire into the administration of the laws relating to the relief of the casual poor.

Women's Suffrage Abroad.

In Switzerland the suffrage fight still goes forward. On Friday of last week the National Council adopted a resolution calling upon the Federal Council to consider as soon as possible a petition in favour of woman suffrage signed by some 250,000 Swiss citizens—both men and women. We wish the petitioners the very best of luck. Meanwhile in South Africa, to judge from the heated reactions of its opponents, the demand becomes increasingly importunate. On the same day as the above-mentioned Swiss incident, the Nationalist Congress at Pretoria passed a resolution opposing any extension of the vote to women. Woman's place, said one of the delegates, is with her pots and pans. We have no ulterior knowledge of the intellectual quality and political standards of the Nationalist Congress. It would therefore be unfair to assume from its attitude to this particular question that it reflects the narrowest type of crude Afrikaner obscurantism.

THE CIVIL SERVICE.

Now that the Royal Commission on the Civil Service has been appointed, and that its wide terms of reference are known, there is likely to be even more discussion than usual about its special problems. The various societies and individuals who will be called upon to give evidence will be arranging their ideas in concise forms, and they will be looking at what they have to say from every point of view and trying to make their proposals watertight. Some of the readers of this paper are no doubt interested in general administrative problems and in the vital question of adequate and just arbitration machinery; but for most of us the outstanding part of the new Commission's work will be that which relates to the treatment, pay, recruitment, and marriage regulations of women Civil Servants. On these points we have long had our policy clear; and we have stated our position again and again. But it is well to state it again.

Firstly, then, we hold that the administration of the country must be carried on by men and women together if it is to reflect the wishes and meet the needs of a population of adult men and women voters. And for this to be true women Civil Servants must not be segregated off into the routine and unimportant positions, nor confined to the supervision of female staffs, but they must be taken right into the real machine, and found in posts where interpretation of policy is done, where new schemes are drafted, and authoritative reports considered. The Civil Service, no less than Parliament itself, is the servant of the public; and it will not suit the modern public long if it remains in the higher branches a purely male preserve. This idea is by no means new, and has even been accepted by the House of Commons and allowed for in the official regulations. Since 1920 the whole of the Treasury grades have been theoretically open to men and women alike, and they have been supposed to enter by open competitive examinations and find themselves on an equal footing (except as regards pay) once they are in. But in fact, of course, this state of things hasn't quite reached reality. It is true that the open competitive examinations are held, and that young women as well as young men enter the service that way; and to that extent we are at ease. But since the war the number of posts filled by these methods of entry, whether for men or women, have been very few, so that the effect of this concession has as yet been very slight.

And for the rest, for those who were already in, the old conditions have shown all too little change. Promotion has lagged for the women, and the only chances they have had—with a few notable exceptions in some of the newer Departments—have been in connection with the control of the subordinate female staff. At this moment the great and important executive grade of the Civil Service, which is the backbone of the administration and consists of some thousands of officers, contains less than forty women, and promotion for women into that grade is at an almost complete standstill. All this is very

disquieting, and the obsolete system of segregating the men and women into different blocks of work, and so preventing exact comparison either of their efficiency or their chances of promotion, makes the matter worse. So that, although the ultimate future has been rendered almost safe by the victories of 1920, the Civil Service, in this generation, remains still almost wholly a male preserve. Nor is this the only trouble. Even when time has solved the present inequalities, and all the staff is recruited by open competition, there will still remain, unless something is done, a serious obstruction to the women in the fact that they are compulsorily dismissed on marriage. Already the effects of this disability is showing in the recruitment; for most young women expect to marry, and are reluctant to embark upon a career which precludes it. But the effect is more serious and important than this retarding of recruitment. For the result of the operation of this rule is that the Civil Service is liable to lose, at any time, the women who are becoming trained and expert in the job; and as a natural consequence the Departments are loath to waste the training of good experience and responsibility upon them. Nor is this all. The public, which consists for the most part of family groups, is being deprived of the services of people who themselves have normal family experiences. It is losing from the inspectorate of schools, for example, the experience of mothers, and it cannot but suffer in consequence. Not that we should be so rash or so silly as to claim that it is only mothers who can understand children, or that single women are never able to contribute fully first-class service to the community. But it is as plain as day that if the Civil Service is to reflect the wishes and understand the mentality of the population it cannot be composed entirely without the married woman element.

In old days, when the work of the Civil Service was less human and less detailed, the lack might not have been so important; but now, when our legislation is daily becoming more grandmotherly, a different situation arises; and we hope from the bottom of our hearts that the Royal Commission will face the facts.

The question of equal pay, which of course also comes within the purview of the Commission, is one which needs separate discussion. All we shall say upon that matter to-day is that we hope and trust that the discretion of the Commission is to be limited to the way in which the principle is to be applied, and that the actual granting of this piece of justice will not again be in question. The House of Commons has twice decided that it should at some time be done, and the whole of the organized Civil Servants, both men and women, are demanding it; so that the only problem for the Commission to solve is how, amid the intricate regulations which govern Civil Servants' pay, the principle is to be enforced. We shall return both to the question of equal pay and of family allowances in a later issue.

DISARMAMENT AND THE TENTH ASSEMBLY.

By K. D. COURTNEY.

The background of the debates about disarmament at the League Assembly is to be found in the proceedings of the "Preparatory Commission for the Disarmament Conference," which has been meeting at intervals since 1926, and opened its sixth session at Geneva last April. To those who do not believe that truth is stranger than fiction, a perusal of the minutes of this sixth session is to be recommended. Here we find truth in an unvarnished form; indeed, the raw material of history is made in the verbatim report of what was said by some of the leading statesmen of the world when they met to—well, what did they meet to do? To prepare for a disarmament conference, of course. Yes, but read the minutes and see whether you agree with Mr. Sandler, of Sweden, that results had "only been secured by limiting the limitation and reducing the reduction of armaments."

Anyhow, the results of the meeting of the Preparatory Commission were necessarily the basis of any action upon disarmament that might be taken by the tenth Assembly. On certain questions these results had been so unsatisfactory that if they were to be taken as final there could be little hope of the Preparatory Commission making proposals for a real reduction of armaments, and the prospects for the Disarmament Conference itself would be far from bright. It was therefore essential to establish the thesis that these questions were not closed, but could be dealt with afresh at the next session of the Preparatory Commission, and that they should be dealt with on the lines of

certain definite principles. This was the object of the British resolution, and obviously it was not unconnected with the change of government in Great Britain since last April when the Preparatory Commission met. The resolution, which was ably moved and brilliantly supported by Lord Cecil throughout the debates of the Third Commission, reads as follows:—

The Assembly,

Being convinced that a progressive and general reduction of armaments is urgently needed throughout the world,

Expresses the hope that the Preparatory Commission will finish its labours at the earliest possible moment.

And considers that in completing the Draft Disarmament Convention it should consider how far the following principles have been or ought to be adopted:—

(1) The application of the same principles to the reduction and limitation of personnel and material whether in land, sea, or air forces;

(2) The limitation of the strength of a force either by limiting its numbers or its period of training or both;

(3) The limitation of material either directly by enumeration or indirectly by budgetary limitation or by both methods;

(4) The recognition of a competent international authority to watch and report upon the execution of the treaty.

This resolution was withdrawn by Lord Cecil after a debate of extraordinary interest and significance, and a resolution drawn up by that prince of compromisers, Mr. Politis, of Greece, accepted in its place. Was this a defeat? Was it, as some would have it, a pusillanimous retreat which augurs ill for the attitude

of Great Britain at the next meeting of the Preparatory Commission? It was neither. It was a victory. A moral victory certainly, for once more the forces which support and the forces which oppose disarmament were drawn up in alignment, and there was no question upon which side Great Britain stood. But it was more than a moral victory, for as Lord Cecil said in summing up the debate—and he was not contradicted—"It was quite definitely conceded both by the chairman of the Special Committee and by all the speakers that points (1), (2), and (4) were still clearly open before the Preparatory Commission, it was therefore unnecessary to press the resolution regarding those three points." With reference to point (3), which Lord Cecil has described as "by far the most important paragraph in this resolution", he pointed to certain statements in the report of the last meeting of the Preparatory Commission which certainly left the door open, and said that the door had been pushed a little wider open by Mr. Politis' resolution. "What was desired," said Lord Cecil on behalf of the British Government, "was liberty to present their view in detail on these subjects, and in effect he thought that liberty was secured to them by the course of the debates which had taken place in the Third Committee."

The object of the British Government was therefore achieved. But what does this mean in detail, and how does it affect those thorny subjects—the limitation of effectives; the question of trained reserves; and the limitation of material? These questions can only be answered here in a somewhat summary fashion. The interested reader is referred to that fascinating document, the minutes of the Preparatory Commission for the Disarmament Conference. It will there be seen that at the sixth session the Commission considered two vitally important questions—the limitation of men—"effectives" and the limitation of material; it will be further noted that the question had by no means reached the stage at which numbers are considered, the Commission was simply discussing the categories to which limitation should be applied, and the methods by which limitation should be calculated. It was once more made abundantly clear by the French and some other continental powers, who depend for their armed forces upon conscription, that they entirely refused to abandon that system; in support of which, by the way, they allege a number of reasons which cannot be disregarded. The question of conscription leads to the question of trained reserves, and here the same powers adopted the position, from which they refused to move, that trained reserves should not be reckoned amongst the "effectives" which were to be counted in any scheme for limitation. The difference between those who took this point of view and those who insisted that there could be no real calculation of effectives if trained reserves were excluded, appeared to be irreconcilable, when at the sixth session of the Commission Mr. Hugh Gibson made the announcement that the U.S.A., while still believing in the principle of reckoning trained reserves as effectives, was disposed as a practical matter to withdraw its objection and accept the French view. He was later followed by Lord Cushendun, who made substantially the same statement on behalf of Great Britain, and the President announced that the limitation of trained reserves could not be included in the text of the Convention.

Lord Cecil's resolution at the Tenth Assembly meets this situation in paragraph 2, which speaks of "the limitation of the strength of a force either by limiting its numbers or its period of training or both." The subject is now open for discussion when the Preparatory Commission meets again, and proposals can, and no doubt will, be made by Lord Cecil and others for limiting the period of training of conscripts. If this were cut down to three or four months, as it is now in Switzerland, the aggressive strength of conscript armies might be so reduced as to make them of little danger to the world, and the question of trained reserves would settle itself. The reserves would, in fact, be so little trained that it would not signify whether or not they were reckoned as "effectives." Those who have reproached the British Government with giving way at the Tenth Assembly on the question of trained reserves appear to have misunderstood the position. Trained reserves are not mentioned in the resolution; their limitation is to be secured by limitation of the actual trained forces.

The limitation of material had been dealt with by the Preparatory Commission in what can only be called a cynical spirit. The Commission had, in fact, "looked this difficulty in the face and passed on." The decision is best given in its own words: "Having rejected the system of direct limitation of material in service and in stock; having noted that the system of indirect limitation (limitation of the expenditure on material) did not meet with general assent; decides that the limitation and

reduction of material must be sought by means of publicity of expenditure." Small wonder that as the Chinese delegate said, a shudder seemed to go through the meeting when this decision was announced, like the "quivering conscience" of mankind.

The result of the debate in the third Commission is that this question of material is reopened. Over and over again Lord Cecil emphasized its enormous importance: "It seemed to him absolutely vital; unless the prevision of every expert was at fault, war would become more and more a war of machinery and less and less a war of men, and if a convention were produced nominally for the limitation of armaments from which the limitation of machines and materials were excluded, he was afraid it would be of little value." "He would say quite plainly that the British Government did desire to press that matter on all proper occasions, and with the utmost vigour."

A victory has been won at Geneva for the cause of disarmament, but the goal is not yet reached, and the support of a strong and informed public opinion was never more needed than it is to-day. The closing words of Lord Cecil's great speech in the Assembly should ring in the ears of everyone: "I am convinced that you will have no form of established peace unless you can succeed in reducing and limiting armaments. I am convinced that you can have no real reduction and limitation of armaments unless you have a reduction and limitation of the material of war. That is the attitude which, through my mouth, the British Government takes up, which I submit to this assembly and through this assembly with confidence I submit it to the peoples of the world."

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA.¹

We are accustomed to see the prefix St. on the top of our rates demand note, for example, St. Pancras or St. Marylebone; it is sometimes found before our holiday destination, St. Leonards or St. Austell; it is sometimes the prefix for a hospital, St. Mary's or St. Thomas's. Thus it is that we forget that a man or woman with this prefix is just as real a man or woman as an earl or a duchess. But those who read Miss Curtayne's most learned and most live book are easily convinced that Catherine Benincasa, the daughter of the worthy dyer of Siena, is not a bit like St. Marylebone. She was, indeed, much more like our own Florence Nightingale, though with certain points of difference. But most of all she was like herself. Born in 1347, and, as she grew up, fond of religion and disinclined for marriage, it would have been natural for her to become a nun. But emphatically she did not want to be a nun, and the nearest she ever got to it was to dream of dressing up like a boy and becoming a monk. She joined the Third Order of St. Dominic when to do so was a very real discipline, and thus she obtained, Miss Curtayne remarks, "both protection and liberty by a religious dress." Nevertheless, Catherine's life and work were in the world, that world of the fourteenth century wherein the ecclesiastical and the secular political systems were closely interdependent.

"As she grew from infancy to childhood," observes our author, "she was so excessively merry that they thought her almost fey." This characteristic must have remained with her through most of her life, or so it would seem from the charmingly playful way in which her group of friends were in the habit of expressing their affection for her.

Such merriness is in no way incompatible with her high vocation. It was, indeed, from childhood that her dedication dates. At the age of six she had a vision in which Christ "looked directly at her with a loving smile, and blessed her in the manner of a priest," and from that day she understood her calling and was no longer a child. And yet with it all, hers was never a cloistered virtue; she mixed freely with people and she boldly faced the problems of her time. She exercised a freedom which, as Miss Curtayne puts it, "makes modern feminism look foolish." Whatever views a person may have about the Roman Catholic Church, this at least must be conceded, that she has from time to time, and not infrequently, recognized great personalities, and has granted to them, whether men or women, a very free and wide field. Let us ponder this, about Clement VI at Avignon:—"Two days after her arrival in Avignon Catherine was presented by Father Delle Vigne to this Pontiff. She had already written to him six times in an intolerably dictatorial tone, a little sweetened with expressions of her perfect Christian deference. It is greatly to Clement's credit and typical of the age that he answered her mildly and even sought her opinion" and again, when rumours of deadly plots were delaying Clement even after he had yielded to her entreaties to return to Rome, she wrote: "According to what I understand, they want to make

¹ *St. Catherine of Siena*, by Alice Curtayne. (Pub. Sheed and Ward.)

you afraid in order to prevent you from coming, through fear, saying: 'You will be killed.' And I tell you on the part of Christ Crucified, not to fear for anything whatever. Come securely. Up like a man, father! I tell you there is no need to fear. You are bound to come: come then. Come sweetly without any fear. Take comfort and have no fear; there is no need for it. Father Raimondo told me, on your behalf, to pray to God and find out if there be any obstacle. I have already prayed, before and after Holy Communion, and I saw neither death nor any peril whatever." That, apart from her remarkable personality, Catherine possessed amazing ability, may be gathered from the following: "Between 9th and 13th October she kept Maconi, Neri, and Barduccio writing in turns all day, while she dictated to them her great religious philosophy of life. . . . Those ideas which she had broadcasted in over four hundred letters up and down Europe, through every stratum of society, were now condensed and clarified in a book. Her method of dictation was always an amazing performance. She often, for instance, dictated three letters simultaneously to three scribes, without falling into the slightest confusion." She failed in her chief aim, for a schism developed, but what human being could have succeeded? Again, to quote our author, "The nations grouped themselves slowly under the rival standards (i.e. after Clement's death, the Urbanists and the adherents of Clement VII), the grouping being mostly determined by political motives, but in no country was one obedience complete. The split in authority widened until the whole ecclesiastical fabric was rent. The very families of Christendom were sundered by it. It was spectacular. If it is difficult to-day to determine the facts after the clarifying effect of centuries and with all the evidence accessible, it was impossible at the moment." "But after all, failure in some degree is the lot of everyone in this imperfect world. The ultimate question is, not what a person does, but what he is. And the 'Blinding blaze,' as Miss Curtayne has it, of St. Catherine's personality shines upon us after nearly six centuries, while for many a one among her contemporaries it was the light of their whole lives. Yet she was stern at times to her very dearest friends. Father Delle Vigne was among these. This is how their parting is described when he went on his mission to the French king: "They had a long last talk of several hours. She walked down to the river with him and said: 'We shall never again talk like that.' They blessed each other. The tears were running down her face as he stepped into the boat. It drew away and she (who was never dramatic) knelt down at the river-side and prayed heart brokenly." But shortly after, when he seemed to be shrinking from the dangers of the enterprise, these are the words she spoke, with more like them: "You were not yet worthy to stay in the battle, but you were hunted back like a child; and you fled gladly and you were thankful to God for the concession to your weakness. Bad little father! How blessed your soul and mine would have been if you had walled up with your blood one stone in Holy Church for love of the Blood!" Whether in spite, or because, of this method with her friends, they loved her with a deep and playful affection, thus: "I tell you," says one of them, "that I firmly believe and so confess, that our most benignant Mamma is Mamma; and I have firm hope that every day with clearer light, I will believe and confess with greater efficacy that she is Mamma. I do not believe my pain will ever be fully assuaged until I find myself again at the feet of my *diletissima* Mamma." Such feelings were common to many, and they were not ephemeral. Of Ser Cristofano, who had six children, it is said: "In his old age, his wife, his children, his political work, seemed to fade out of his mind as unimportant, and he looked back on his acquaintance with Catherine as the supreme event of his life." What a field for modern psychological theory all this provides! We need not delve into the obvious ourselves:—suffice it to say that, except for a few critics, those who knew her best loved her best and took her as they found her, most simply.

It was in April, 1380, that she died, still a young woman, surrounded by her friends, and "around her bier, the church and the state united to honour her"; eighty years later she was canonized. Canonization sometimes seems to remove a person from the common people, almost like being elevated to the House of Lords. Not so with St. Catherine. In 1926 the chair of Catherine Studies was inaugurated in the University of Siena, and a Catherine Hall opened, out of the offerings of the women of Siena. At the conferences held in this hall the little "famiglia" she drew around her, seem to live again. "On the alert and smiling faces of this group of Caterinati shines still the bland light of that glorious Fellowship. Year by year on her Feast, her life seems to be lived again: so thoroughly is the city permeated with the presence of St. Catherine in this great commemoration every spring, that the children sing her hymns

to themselves for weeks afterwards on their way to school.' Surely such lives may be counted as jewels in the crown of the Church and age which produces them. A. H. W.

WOMEN IN THE SCOTTISH CHURCH REUNION.

From a Correspondent.

Needless to say women played no part except as thrilled spectators in the memorable and dramatic events which marked the consummation of the reunion between the two great Scottish Churches in Edinburgh last week. Lady Frances Balfour, according to Press reports, was one of those privileged to look down from the Throne Gallery of the Tolbooth Church on the array of black-coated "fathers and brethren" below, and it would be interesting to know the reactions of that stalwart feminist, at the same time loyal daughter of the Scots' Church, both then and during the subsequent union ceremonies. We fully recognize the difficulties of the two churches in their delicate and prolonged negotiations and hardly expected any definite pronouncement on the ministry of women, but the evasive condescending and out of date sentimental attitude towards the women's services was very disappointing. The new Moderator, Dr. John White, in an otherwise impressive speech, lost in our opinion, a great opportunity. With the usual platitudes that even the best of clerics indulge in when they get on to the subject of women he announced, if he is correctly reported, that in future they were to be permitted to serve on appropriate standing committees. In this way, he believed that the Church "which has been the pioneer in recognizing the position of women has given effect to necessary and desirable changes" without hurt to the honoured features in the life and constitution of the Church. Later in the proceedings another sop was thrown to women in the form of a rhetorical resolution, supported by the only woman speaker at the Assembly, which earnestly enjoined Ministers and Kirk sessions to foster and encourage in every way the organized work of women in the Church. As if they didn't already! One speaker to the resolution admitted that every Minister knew that if he wanted anything done he went to the women; another called them "unpaid assistants." But equal recognition with men is quite another matter which might injure the honoured traditions of the Church. The Scottish Press has outshipped the Scottish Church in this matter for at the Close of the Assembly in a leading article entitled "Women in the Pulpit," the *Scotsman* referring to the action of the "continuing" church described below advocates with indisputable logic the case for the admission of women to the Ministry, and reproaches the Church for having fallen behind in its adaptation to modern conditions.

It was left to "the United Free Church (Continuing)"—the remnant consisting of a few dozen congregations which repudiated the Union, to do the bold and right thing so far as women are concerned. The newly elected Moderator of this small body, the Rev. James Barr, M.P., in his opening address was received with applause from its members when he said he would like to see every office in the Church open to women equally with men, and the subsequent transactions of the Minority Assembly proved their sincerity. One of its first acts was the unprecedented appointment of a woman, Miss Annie McLean, as general secretary. But still more far-reaching was an "overture" to give all members (men and women) in full communion equal standing to hold office in the Church. An amendment opposing this on the grounds that the introduction of so controversial a subject as the admission of women to the ministry at the very beginning of their existence as a separate Church was highly undesirable received only two votes, and the overture accordingly was remitted to Presbyteries for consideration and became in the meantime "an interim Act." It has been unkindly suggested in the Press and elsewhere that this noble gesture on the part of a small dissentient minority with inadequate resources, may have been prompted by expediency. But we look elsewhere for the explanation. Two of the leaders of the "Continuing" church, its Moderator and its legal advisor, Mr. Rosslyn Mitchell, late Member of Parliament for Paisley, have gained experience in a wider field. They know from first hand experience in the House of Commons the place that women are filling in International and national politics. They know that women are free to offer their services to the State without discrimination of sex, and they recognize the inconsistency and short-sightedness of the Church's adherence to an obsolete sex barrier in the service of God. We hope this bold and wise act on the part of the minority may strengthen the hands of those who are working for the removal of this barrier in the now reunited Church of Scotland.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS.

By BERTHA MASON.

ARTICLE III.—PUBLIC HEALTH AND INFANT AND MATERNAL WELFARE.

Housing was the subject of our last article.

In this, the third of the series, we draw attention to the duties of Borough Councils in regard to Public Health and Infant and Maternal Welfare. The connection between the two is self-evident. The very titles of the subjects chosen for this article show to how great an extent the interests of women are involved, and how much their personal comfort and happiness as well as that of the home, depend upon the way in which Borough Councils carry out their duties in respect to these matters.

Public Health.—Borough Councils, through their health departments and committees, are responsible for health in home and school, in laundry and workshop, for sanitation, for the collection and disposal of rubbish and refuse from house and street, for street and road cleaning in addition to much else.

Upon the housewife falls the duty, as a rule, of keeping the home healthy, clean, and in order. She is expected to prevent in the home the accumulation of dust, dirt, rubbish, and all uncleanness. Borough Councils are elected to perform the same duties in boroughs. The order and cleanliness of a borough are the same, only on a larger scale, as the order and cleanliness of the house. The process is similar, only dustcarts and watercarts take the place in the former case of dust-bins and brushes, and the cleaning apparatus the latter.

It is just as essential that *dustcarts* should be properly covered, that dust-bins should be frequently emptied, that refuse should be cleared away, and that streets should be kept clean (and free from litter so far as the public will permit!) as that houses should be kept clean and sanitary and tidy. For this, in the borough the Council is responsible, as is the housewife in the home.

Take another instance.

The importance of pure unadulterated food, clean milk, and good water, cannot be over-estimated if the health of a nation is to be maintained. The necessity is admitted on all hands. Borough Councils have wide powers in this direction. Their inspectors can enter premises and inspect food. If found unsound and unfit for human consumption, it may be seized and destroyed. Borough Councils are entrusted with the sanitary control of *dairies*, the enforcement of regulations respecting the structure and equipment of cow-sheds, and much else. Impure milk and bad housing are stated to be the main causes of tuberculosis. The certified deaths in England and Wales alone in 1928 from this complaint, is estimated at, approximately, 40,000.

The need for a pure and adequate water supply is obvious. Borough Councils must see that such is provided.

Maternal and Infant Welfare.—This all-important subject has been of late years much before the public.

It is satisfactory to learn from the last report of the Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health, that the *death-rate* of infants under one year of age per 1,000 born, was 65, the *lowest yet recorded*. This means that in 1928, the country saved the lives of 41,500 babies over and above the annual saving in 1901-10! To the excellent work carried out by the infant welfare centres, much of the improvement is doubtless due.

The number of maternity and child welfare centres which in 1914 numbered 160, had risen in 1928 to 2,500.

Unfortunately, the same encouraging statement cannot be made in regard to *Maternal Mortality*. "The *Maternal Mortality* in 1928 was the *highest* recorded, viz. 4.42 per 1,000 births. In a number of counties and large towns it exceeded even this rate. Some of these deaths were perhaps unavoidable, but it cannot be doubted that many of them were preventable." (See 1928 Report of the Chief Medical Officer, page 268.) "The State has provided half a dozen safeguards against maternal mortality and yet it is not reduced." What is the reason? "Two official commissions,"¹ continues the Chief Medical Officer,

¹ Since the Report of the Chief Medical Officer was published, one of the Commissions referred to has published its report.

"are exploring this problem," but pending their finding, it may be said that (1) many women are not making use of the facilities provided, and (2) many *local authorities* are not vigilantly engaged in *perfecting each* of the various branches of their maternity service.

"To provide facilities is not sufficient. It is for the Local Authorities to see that the provision which they make is *effectively co-ordinated*."

Good progress, of course, has been made in the provision of facilities for the care of motherhood by many local Authorities, but it is obvious that much more requires to be done in this direction. The number—about 800 ante-natal centres and approximately 150 maternity institutions—is totally insufficient to deal with the need.

The subject is too big to deal with adequately in this short article, but enough has been said perhaps, to draw increased attention to one of the most acute problems which Borough Councils have to face.

(To be continued.)

CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN INDIA.

A large and varied gathering, consisting of delegates from women's organizations, Indian women in gorgeously coloured saris, Civil Service men and their wives home on leave, doctors and social workers from India, and others specially interested assembled on 7th and 8th October at the Caxton Hall for a conference on Women in India, which had been convened by the Women of India Survey, under the auspices of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. The chair was taken by Miss Eleanor Rathbone, M.P.

The subjects discussed included the extension of the women's medical and educational services in India, measures to abolish child marriage, and three movements of recent origin in India, which the Women of India Survey had been asked to further by any means in their power. Two of these movements were initiated by Indian women. The first session was devoted to the discussion of Mahila Samitis, or Women's Institutes, started by the late Mrs. Saroj Nalini Dutt, in the rural districts of Bengal. The London secretary of the movement spoke in the absence of Mr. E. S. Dutt. The work of similar organizations in the Punjab was dealt with by Mr. C. F. Strickland (late Registrar of the Punjab Co-operative Department) and Mrs. Cuthbert King. Mrs. Rama Rao and Mrs. Byramji spoke of the position in South India and in the Central Provinces.

In the second session Mrs. Bruce Richmond outlined a scheme for training social workers, founded recently in Calcutta by Miss Cornelia Sorabji. Subsequent speakers described an allied movement in Bombay, and the work of the famous Seva Sadan at Poona.

The Punjab "Village Uplift" movement, initiated by Mr. F. L. Brayne, Deputy Commissioner of Gurgaon (embracing in its comprehensive scope agriculture, feminism, health, and education), was described by the organizing secretary, Captain Ingram, and illustrated by lantern slides in the evening session. Striking speeches were made by Mr. C. F. Strickland and Mr. Miles Irving, and reference was made by speakers who followed to other rural schemes under the auspices of the Servants of India and the Y.M.C.A.

On the second day of the conference Dr. Kathleen Vaughan, former superintendent of the Diamond Jubilee Hospital at Srinagar, Kashmir, spoke in the medical session on the need for increased government support, more adequate personnel, and better co-ordination in the women's health services. An interesting discussion followed. In the short session on child marriage which succeeded, Mrs. Rama Rao (Hon. Secretary of the Child Marriage Abolition League) described the propaganda work of Indian women's organizations in favour of the reform, and Mrs. Underhill (better known as Mrs. Starr, who in 1924 rescued Miss Ellis from frontier tribesmen) spoke on the need for registration of births.

Valuable material on the need for improving the quality as well as the quantity of women's education and its financial provision was given in addresses by Mr. Richey (former Education Commissioner to the Government of India) and Mr. J. H. Lindsay in the last session, when education was discussed. A full report will appear next week.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY.
Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. ALFRED HUGHES. Hon. Secretary: Mrs. RYLAND.
General and Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HORTON.
Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1. Telephone: Victoria 6188.

DEPUTATION TO THE HOME SECRETARY ON THE FACTORIES BILL.

The Home Secretary has agreed to receive a Deputation on 1st November, which this National Union is organizing of representatives of women's societies on the subject of the Factories Bill as it affects women. The principal points to be laid before him are:—

- (i) That the ratification of the Washington Hours Convention is warmly welcomed.
- (ii) That the regulations as to hours in different industries which will have to be drawn up in order to implement the Convention should, if incorporated in the Bill for women workers, be also incorporated for men.
- (iii) That the same regulations with regard to the prohibition of night work should be laid down for men and women.
- (iv) That provisions regarding general safety, including protection from machinery, weight lifting and provisions and regulations for health safety and welfare should apply to all workers irrespective of sex.
- (v) That in industrial legislation women should be classed as adults and not with young persons.

WOMEN DELEGATES AT THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS ASSEMBLY.—Friday, 25th October, 4.30 p.m.

Mrs. Swanwick and Mrs. Hamilton, M.P., have very kindly consented to speak at a reception in their honour on those aspects of the work of the League most directly concerning the Women's Movement. It is hoped that Dr. Jull, one of the Australian Delegates, may also be present. The reception is to be held at 50 Porchester Terrace, W. 1, by kind permission of the Hon. Mrs. Franklin, and applications for tickets for admission (Price 2s. 6d.) should be made to the Secretary at 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

CORRESPONDENCE.

LOCAL OPTION.

MADAM,—Miss Monica Whately, in her article "The New Parliament and Local Option," in your issue of 2nd August last, is undoubtedly right in giving no solid ground for hope as to "the chances of a Local Option Bill from the present Government."

With your kind permission I should like briefly to state the case for a section of the opposition to which I feel she has done scant justice.

Leaving out "the Trade" and the "Working Men's Club and Institute Union," each of which doubtless fights, quite naturally, in defence of its own interests, there remains a substantial body of opinion that is opposed to any hasty, ill-considered, and, it may well be, quite unnecessary legislation on this question. This body, largely as yet unorganized, considers that each individual of sane mind and full age has the right to determine for himself how he shall spend his income and his time, whether on food, drink, clothes, motor-cars, gramophones, horse racing, or what not, provided always that he does not misuse these good things to the injury or deprivation of his fellows.

Are the proposals of the would-be "Temperance" legislators compatible with this view? The demand for alcoholic drink, Miss Whately tells us, would under a "disinterested Board of Management" be supplied, but not created, "for the sole purpose of building up private profit." But the enterprise must be run, whether publicly or privately, either at a loss or a profit. If, under the proposed Board of Management there should be a loss, who would suffer? The taxpayer? This would not commend itself to anyone concerned about a financial "burden on the country" (neither, for that matter, would the enormous public expenditure involved in any form of Local Option). So the industry is presumably intended to pay its way; the demand, then, must be maintained though no new demand is to be "created." But is it not, in practice, rather difficult to draw a line between the "supply" and the "creation" of a demand? If the supply be efficient, will it not itself "create a demand?" If it be inefficient, is the arrangement fair to the consumer?

So far, however, it would appear that it is "in the interest of the masses" (including, of necessity, the consumers) that the Local Optionists are working; and when one reads further that "democratic control" (how many of the public understand just how the control in this case is to be applied?) is desirable because without it "we cannot substantially reduce the amount spent on liquor," one wonders for a moment whether it is proposed so far to gratify "the masses" as to give them cheaper beer and if so whether, apart from the question of trading loss, the income (an estimated 43 per cent of the total "drink bill") which now pours into the national exchequer in the form of beer, spirit, and licence duties will not suffer an awkward reduction.

It soon appears, however, that it is the amount of drink consumed and not the amount of money it costs that Miss Whately proposes to reduce

by this circuitous and financially risky method; that, in short, "temperance (not to be confused with Prohibition)" is her ultimate goal.

An excellent goal, but is there not a better way? Many things beside alcoholic drink "if misused, cause . . . untold misery and suffering," but is it at all practicable to shield people by Act of Parliament from every possible source of temptation? Is it not the task, rather, of practical citizens to work constructively, encouraging man's self-control that he may not misuse things?

This responsibility women have accepted and are steadily fulfilling through Women's Institutes, Townswomen's Guilds, Girls' Clubs, Housing Associations, in the promotion of the "restaurant" type of public house where working-class men and women can have healthy social intercourse—as necessary for "them" as for "us"—and through all movements that, in helping "the masses of the people" to find "life . . . more abundantly," continue to serve the ideal for which we waged our suffrage fight.

MARY PHILLIPS.

2 Horbury Crescent, W. 11.

TRAPPED RABBITS.

MADAM,—I was very glad to see a letter in the Press from the R.S.P.C.A. offering to send a humane rabbit snare to any who might apply, and I hope that the letter resulted in a large number of applications.

"Rabbits are in season." What a tragedy this short sentence spells! Those who look with careful interest at the rabbits exposed for sale will notice the broken and lacerated limbs, telling only too plainly of the little creatures' long hours of agony in the steel-toothed traps or "gins."

It is in the power of women to do much to prevent this unnecessary suffering by refusing to buy rabbits with torn and broken limbs, and in demanding humanely killed animals they can feel that they are buying healthy meat, as poisons are bred in the flesh of animals that have suffered long terror and pain in destruction, thus rendering the flesh dangerous for consumption. How long the agony may last in the case of creatures caught in the "gin" is shown by the fact that pet animals have been found alive in these traps days after they have been missed. Cases are known where rabbits have managed to escape by tearing away one or both legs, only to be caught again later, or to die a lingering death.

There are other methods of catching rabbits, such as netting, shooting, ferreting and the humane snares. The R.S.P.C.A. snare holds the rabbit alive and unhurt, while the Scottish S.P.C.A. have a snare which kills the little creature practically outright, as also does the Lewis snare. All these methods are humane compared with the horrors of trapping. Tradesmen will supply humanely caught rabbits if the public will demand them, and it is to the interest of the housewife and mother to procure healthy and pure meat for consumption.

I shall be pleased to send literature on this subject to any inquirer, and a Petition to Parliament to prohibit the use of these barbarous traps.

AGNES M. HUM,
Sec. Anti-Steel Trap Committee.

11 Lincoln's Inn Fields, W. C. 2.

MEMORIAL SERVICE TO DR. ALETTA JACOBS,

1854-1929.

The memorial service in the Hague on Saturday, 5th October, was impressive in its simplicity and dignity. After an introduction of Handels *Te Deum*, Mrs. Cohen Tervaerts, the president of the League of Women Voters, spoke of her work for suffrage. Miss Rosa Manus, whom she loved as a daughter, spoke of her international work, recalling congress after congress where, since the foundation of the Alliance in Berlin in 1904, Dr. Aletta had taken a leading part. As president of the Alliance, it was a privilege for me to bring the tribute of affectionate admiration from many lands and to say something of what Dr. Aletta meant to us, her faith and enthusiasm, readiness to take up new ideas. Special messages were given me by our societies here, by the Women's Enfranchisement League of South Africa, which she founded in 1911, and from India. After eloquent speeches by Mrs. Beekker Nort and Mrs. Doorman Kielstra, President of the National Council of Women, Mrs. Groot finished with a magnificent and deeply felt speech on her work for peace, her horror as a girl of the war of 1870, her offer of service as young medical woman in the concentration camps of South Africa, her untiring work for constructive peace and relief during the world war. It is intended to have a permanent national memorial to Holland's first woman.

MARGERY CORBETT ASHBY.

FOUR-AND-A-HALF INDIAN COLLEGES FUND.

The Lord Mayor of London is holding a meeting at the Mansion House on 14th October at 3 p.m. to consider means for furthering the cause of Higher Education for Indian women. Among the speakers will be the Earl of Lytton, Lord Meston, and Mrs. Rama Rao, well known as a persuasive speaker on behalf of women's interests, and in India for the public work that she has done. The meeting at the Mansion House is in aid of the funds of the Four-and-a-Half Indian Colleges Appeal and it is hoped that as a result of this meeting a very large part of the £50,000, for which this organization is appealing, will be raised.

COMING EVENTS.

B.B.C.
Monday, 14th October. 10.45-11 a.m., "Common Sense in Household Work: Clever Cleaning," Miss Sydney Bushell.
Wednesday, 16th October. 10.45-11 a.m., "A Woman's Commentary," Mrs. Oliver Strachey.

C.B.C.
17th October. 8.30 p.m. Grotrian Hall, Wigmore Street, W. 1. Dr. Marie Stopes: "Birth Control To-day."

FORUM CLUB (Women's Institute Section).
21st October. 2.30 p.m. Mrs Hubback, "The Local Government Act."

GUILDHOUSE W.C.A.
14th October. 3 p.m., The Guildhouse, S.W. 1. Mrs. Tamplin, "Are Large or Small Families Best?"

MORLEY COLLEGE FOR WORKING MEN AND WOMEN.
11th October. 8 p.m., 61 Westminster Bridge Road, S.E. H. Wickham Steed: "France." Chair, Sir Fabian Ware, C.B., etc.
18th October. 8 p.m. R. C. Davison: "Unemployment."

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.
14th-18th October. Annual Meeting and Conference, Albert Hall, Manchester.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.
11th-14th October. Scottish Summer School, Allan Water Hotel, Bridge of Allan.

25th October. 4.30 p.m. Reception to Women Delegates to the League of Nations Assembly, 50 Porchester Terrace, W. 2 (by kind permission of Hon. Mrs. Franklin).

Dunfermline S.E.C.—*17th October.* 8 p.m. Co-operative Hall. Mrs. Corbett Ashby: "The Woman Voter's Influence on World Problems."

Preston W.C.A.—*22nd October.* 7.30. Orient Café, Friargate. Mrs. Gates: "The Local Government Act, 1929." Chair, Miss Marsden.

SCOTTISH FEDERATION OF SOCIETIES.

Clackmananshire S.E.C. and Alton L.N.O.—*16th October.* 8 p.m. Mrs. Corbett Ashby: "The Berlin Congress and Peace."

Falkirk S.E.C.—*14th October.* 8 p.m. Temperance Café. Mrs. Corbett Ashby: "The Berlin Congress."

17th October. Rotary Club Lunch, 12.45 p.m. Mrs. Corbett Ashby: "The I.L.O. and the Berlin Congress."

Glasgow Soroptimist Club.—1 p.m. Mrs. Corbett Ashby: "The Berlin Congress." Chair, Miss Catto.

Edinburgh Soroptimist Club.—1 p.m. Mrs. Corbett Ashby: "The Berlin Congress." Chair, Miss de la Cour.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

17th October. 4.30 p.m., Minerva Club, Brunswick Square, W.C. Miss Jenner, "Development of the Woman's Movement in South Africa."

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