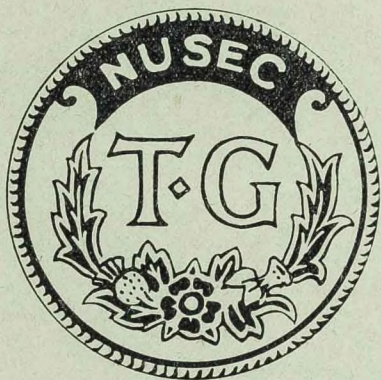


WOMEN'S SERVICE
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THE
WOMAN'S LEADER
AND THE COMMON CAUSE



TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD
NUMBER

Price 2d.

Number 8.

May, 1931.

TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILDS.

Affiliated to the
NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: MRS. CORBETT ASHBY.
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. VAN GRUISEN. Hon. Secretary: MRS. RYLAND.
General and Parliamentary Secretary: MRS. HORTON.
Offices: 4 Great Smith Street, S.W.1. Telephone: Victoria 6188.

Objects.

To enable women as citizens to make their best contribution towards the common good, and to obtain all such reforms as are necessary to secure a real equality of liberties, status and opportunities between men and women.

To serve as a common meeting ground for all women, irrespective of creed and party, for educational and social intercourse.

SPRING FLOWERS.

Spring is very slow in coming this year, but those Guild members who live in country districts have been rejoicing in the Spring flowers, and some of them have not been content to enjoy them alone but have made collections of primroses and daffodils which they have set to rejoice the hearts of sister Guild members in the towns. Perhaps there may be many Guilds who would like to make similar collections later in the year of roses, sweet-peas, etc., and we shall be very glad to put them in touch with town Guild members who have no gardens and delight in some flowers fresh from the country.

While we are on the subject of gardening, perhaps some of our Guilds would like to adopt the idea of a Guild flower. Packets of seed of any one flower easy to grow, such as stock, mignonette, or marigold, can be sold at a Guild meeting and every member plants a patch in her garden, which distinguishes it at once as a Guild garden, and later when the flowers look their best a competition can be held for the best bowl of them.

SUMMER OUTINGS.

We shall be very glad to hear if any Guilds propose coming up to London for their Summer Outing. We are always glad to advise them as to where to go and what to see, and to help with the necessary arrangements for meals, etc. In the same way perhaps Guilds in the country districts would let us know if they are willing to do the same for Guilds from the towns who want a day in the country. We have already heard from one or two Guilds who are exchanging visits in this way, and it must enormously add to the strength of our movement if Guilds in various localities are in such close touch with one another.

MRS. CORBETT ASHBY'S TOUR.

Our President, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, will be starting on 6th May for an interesting journey across Europe. She will first preside at an International Meeting in Belgrade, the capital of Jugo-Slavia; this meeting is the ordinary half-yearly Executive Committee Meeting of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, of which we are a British member. Dr. Pauline Louisie, from Uruguay, has already arrived in Geneva on her way; she is a very brilliant woman doctor and has led the fight in South America against the terrible traffic in women and children. As a reward for her services, the Chair of Social Hygiene was founded for her in the University of Montevideo. Miss Ruth Morgan is already here from the U.S.A.; her main interest lies in the way of Peace, and she will preside at the two-day Conference on Peace in Belgrade, at which leading economists, such as Monsieur De'Laisi, of Paris, and disarmament experts, will speak to women delegates from many countries. Our own Admiral Drury-Lowe will represent Great Britain among the speakers, and Count Von Rheinbaber, Mr. Ryssen of Belgium, and Senorita Quatara from Italy. At the end of the Conference, the women of the Balkan countries, under the presidency of Mrs. Theodoropoulos, of Athens, will discuss their special difficulties in economy as minorities. After this Conference Mrs. Corbett Ashby is making a tour of some of the beautiful old towns of Jugo-Slavia to meet the local organizations of women. At present the women there have no chance for any kind of expansion or suffrage for women, but the women are keenly alive to the necessity of the sweeping away of the old laws. Mrs. Ashby will tell them more about the Townswomen's Guild movement, of which they have already heard something.

OUR BILL OF FARE.

Guild readers must not forget to turn to the article on Saint Joan of France, the interesting account of the week in the House of Commons by Cross Bench, and Anne Pope's "History and Cookery". There are also some useful hints for "Safety First Week" (see page 102) which should be followed up by Guilds all over the country.

HOW TO ORGANISE A PUBLIC MEETING.

Although we have our Guild Meetings every month, occasionally we wish to organise a meeting on a larger scale on some topic of general interest to which the public are invited. Such a meeting needs very careful organising to be a success. First, having chosen your subject you want to secure your

SPEAKERS.

It is best not to have too many speakers—sometimes one good one will suffice—sometimes it is best to have a man and a woman speaker—remember the old saying that "A prophet is not without honour except in his own country", and it is best for a special meeting to get special speakers. You want to get someone who is known to be an attractive and well-informed speaker—there are certain speakers—you can almost count them on the fingers of one hand—who fill a hall with no trouble—but a good speaker is generally available if long enough notice and a choice of dates are given. We are always glad to advise on suitable speakers from Headquarters.

Having secured your speakers, you want a Chairman, and here you want someone who is well-known locally. If it is a town meeting it is usual to invite the Mayor or Mayoress to take the Chair—unless the Chairman of the Society organising the meeting does so, in which case the Mayor or Mayoress should be invited to be present and given a prominent place on the platform. People well known locally should be asked to propose and second the votes of thanks to the speakers and Chairman. When securing the speakers it is best to give them some idea of how long you will want them to speak, and it is a good plan to have a timed agenda prepared for the speakers which gives them an idea of the course and duration of the meeting. After the speakers, and before the votes of thanks, a time can be allowed for questions and discussion. It will be found useful if stewards are armed with pencils and paper so that questions can be sent up in writing and the names of those wishing to speak. All speeches should be made from the platform, otherwise the audience find it difficult to follow the discussion.

PREPARATIONS.

As soon as the date of the meeting is fixed, the most suitable hall should be reserved. If it is an important meeting, application should be made for the Town Hall, and the Mayor usually has the power, if he wishes, to grant the use of it on the payment of out-of-pocket expenses only. It is best to try and gauge the size of your audience and choose your hall accordingly, as a crowded meeting in a small hall is much more satisfactory than a thin meeting in a large hall.

On the night of the meeting you want to make your hall look as attractive as possible—have some decorations, or at any rate a bowl of flowers, on the platform, and have the chairs of the speakers and others invited to sit on the platform carefully arranged and ticketed. It is possible sometimes to reserve the best seats at a meeting on payment of a small sum, which helps to pay the expenses of the meeting, or sometimes a retiring collection is taken for the same purpose.

Stewards should be appointed to be on duty in the hall to see that everything goes smoothly—they should have distinctive badges. The stewards should be told beforehand what their duties will be, and they should be on duty before the doors open and stay until the audience have left the hall. Their duties vary, of course, with the arrangements for the meeting. A special steward should be detailed to look after the Press and a Press table should always be arranged for as near the platform as possible. Agendas should be provided for the Press, giving the names and other particulars of the speakers.

ADVERTISEMENT.

It is most important that a public meeting should be well advertised. This can be done by putting a notice in the local paper—if an advertisement is given the editor will often give a news paragraph as well.

It is generally useful to advertise by poster as well; if large posters are used a bill-poster has to be employed—he has certain posting stations and can give an idea how many posters are needed to cover the town. Shop bills, rather smaller, are very useful also to be displayed in shops and places of business all over the town. Handbills are cheap and can be printed in large quantities for distribution, but it is sometimes more useful to have a more personal form of invitation in the form of a letter or entrance ticket to be distributed. It makes people feel it is more of a privilege to be asked, especially if these are distributed

Continued on page iii.

SISTER GUILDS.

A VISIT TO DOCKLAND.

I think we can liken our expedition to our sister Guild at Canning Town via the City and Tilbury to one of those tours that Cook's plan for Americans when they visit England and set out to "do it". From start to finish it was crammed with incident and interest, and the end capped the whole.

We, the Chesham Bois members, left Amersham station by the 11.39 a.m. for Liverpool Street. We were a party of ten conducted by our Treasurer, who led us on foot from Liverpool Street to Fenchurch Street, where we were met so to speak and taken over by Mrs. Grey and Miss Clarke from Canning Town, who had taken our tickets for the Tilbury train. Mrs. Grey was already known to us, and in the course of conversation we found that we were indebted to Miss Clarke for the privilege of "going over" the S.S. *The Viceroy of India*, the largest of the P. and O. liners arrived at Tilbury. Twelve members of the Canning Town Guild met us, and we were soon walking in informal formation to the docks that looked so attractively sparkling in the sunlight, for we were favoured by a perfect spring day for our jaunt. *The Viceroy* was ready for our inspection, and we were soon all aboard, being conducted by one of the coloured crew on a tour that lasted over two hours. This would have seemed incredible, so interested were we in penetrating everywhere except the engine room, had not our legs testified rather plaintively towards the end to the companion ways we had mounted and dismounted and the miles of cabins, saloons and decks we had traversed. At last, sustained by the magic word tea (it was past five o'clock), we gathered our last energies together for our walk back to Tilbury town, where we boarded a charabanc which our kind hostesses had engaged to take us back to their Guild as quickly as possible; en route, however, we had glimpses of open country, then Dagenham, Barking, and finally Canning Town were traversed and "The Wellington" opened its hospitable doors and we were being welcomed and introduced to the remaining members of the Guild we had come so far to see.

A very cheery tea party followed, held in the big hall, every guest being partnered by a hostess member, each table was decorated with hyacinths in bowls, as a bulb-growing competition had just been held at the Canning Town Guild and the competitors had left their blooms to decorate for us. This added to the already very, very inviting look of the tables. Tea ended, we were welcomed in a very kind speech by Mrs. Kitchen and Miss Clarke, to which Mrs. Wege and I warmly responded for our Guild, voicing the hope that we might all meet again in the summer, when we hoped some of their members might visit us.

Before we left Mrs. Kitchen and Miss Clarke took us over the Creche and told us a little about the work that is carried on at "The Wellington," which it seemed to us must be the hub of social life and the backbone of all that is best and pleasantest in Canning Town. We marvelled at the cheeriness and enterprise of the workers. Making their acquaintance was like reading *The Good Companions*; coming away one felt the same desire as on closing that book, to renew one's acquaintance with such endearing characters at no very distant date. One of the show hyacinths, presented to us on leaving, is one of the fragrant memories of our visit to Canning Town, and will bloom afresh in a Bois garden next spring, we hope, a recurring testimony to a very happy day.

E. W. G.

HOW TO ORGANISE A PUBLIC MEETING. (Concluded from page ii.)

personally by members of the committee. Printing expenses should be carefully estimated, as they mount up very rapidly.

The local picture house will sometimes help by advertising a meeting on the screen.

AND THEN,

when we have made every preparation we can think of, the success of a meeting is "in the lap of the gods". It depends on the weather, on rival attractions, on the speaker, on the subject, on the psychology of the audience. Let a meeting start punctually; let it go with a swing; let the speeches be too short rather than too long; very brief votes of thanks, and a sigh of relief by the organisers when it is successfully carried through!

Remember, a successful meeting depends on detailed preparations.

B.R.

SOME WOMEN OF SUFFOLK.¹

By B. M. HOSSACK.

It may seem easy to find names of famous daughters of any county, but this is not the case, and the reason is simple. In the "good old days" women's activities were more limited. Not every woman could be a Jeanne d'Arc, learning was almost a closed book, and woman's place was definitely the home. Until comparatively recently, the only paths to fame were a pious life and possibly the authorship of devout books, or a "fame" of a kind that the fewer inquiries made into a lady's past the better. Certainly the revelations are frequently not fit to appear in print!

The first women we then, are the martyrs, and of these the most remarkable is Alice Driver, of Grundisburgh. This ploughman's daughter stood in no awe of judges, but argued at her trial with an amazing wit and skill. She likened Queen Mary to Jezebel, and for this opinion her ears were struck off. Even at the stake she thanked God for her "goodly neckerchief"—the iron chain that bound her.

From Alice we pass to Mrs. Mary Beale, of Charles II's reign. She was born either at Woodbridge or near Bury St. Edmunds. She married Charles Beale, an artist and maker of artists' colours. From his notebook, we know that she studied with the great Peter Lely, and often copied his portraits. But it is not as a copyist that she is known so much as for her paintings of eminent Churchmen. Her sitters were a curious mixture, for she painted Nell Gwyn and other Court favourites, many royalties and dukes, and even Charles II and his sons. These paintings are not so well known as they might be, many of them being in the private collections of descendants of the originals, though some are in the National Gallery. Mary Beale died in 1697 and was buried in St. James's Piccadilly, where her memorial states she "was of a very estimable character and very amiable manners". By their wills, she and her husband gave 2s. in every £1 to charity.

Next we come to a pioneer in medicine, who had to contend with opposition which, to later generations, seems merely ridiculous. This was Mistress Anne Smythies, of Lavenham. She had such skill in the healing of blotches and the King's Evil that it was thought she must have some devilish assistant! However, an Act of Parliament was passed licensing her to practise, on condition that she publicly subscribed to the Articles of Religion. This in the reign of George II!

We have an educationalist in Mrs. Sarah Trimmer, of Ipswich (1741-1810). She had twelve children, and the education of these evidently constituted her an authority. She wrote many books, chiefly on religious education, and they were accepted as standards in her time.

The stage claims its representative in Mrs. Keeley (Mary Ann Goward), of Ipswich. Her first success was at the age of 17, and later she trained in London as a singer and actress. She and her husband, "Little Bob Keeley," were favourites of the last century. Last, we come to that modern pioneer, Elizabeth Garratt, better known as Elizabeth Garratt Anderson (1836-1917). The sisters of Browning, the poet, who educated her, impressed upon her that women should have an engrossing interest in life and economic independence. When medicine attracted her, she found difficulty in obtaining training and in finding a qualified body who would examine her. She trained privately, and finding that the Charter of the Society of Apothecaries prevented them from refusing to examine her, obtained their licence to practice. She opened a dispensary for women and children in Marylebone, now named after her. Later she obtained her M.D. in Paris. She maintained her interest in Suffolk, becoming President of the East Anglian branch of the British Medical Association. Here she indulged her hobbies of gardening, music and art needlework, and here she died. She and her sister, Millicent Garratt Fawcett, were ardent suffragists.

Her daughter, Dr. Louisa Garratt Anderson, followed in her footsteps. She established, during the War, the first military hospital managed by women at the Front, and later became the head of a military hospital in Endell Street.

Others there are but, alas, space forbids their inclusion.

¹ This article was prepared as a talk for a Suffolk Women's Institute; some Guilds may similarly like to find out about the famous women associated with their own towns and counties.

NEWS FROM GUILDS.

DOWNHAM GUILD.

The Downham Townswomen's Guild held its first birthday party on Thursday, 9th April, when a real birthday party was arranged with tea, sandwiches, and cake. Each member of the Guild was delighted by receiving a bunch of primroses which had been sent by Mrs. Grey from Devonshire. After tea the chairman and five members of the Guild had organized a concert party, which gave great enjoyment. The Meeting closed with a competition on the five most important things in a first-aid box, the two winning members receiving Guild badges as prizes; this is a splendid idea which other Guilds may like to copy.

HALESOWEN GUILD.

The Halesowen Townswomen's Guild is now one year old and has a membership of 65. The Guild has had some very interesting lectures and original competitions. At their last meeting Dr. Elgood Turner spoke on the Simon Report and gave an idea of the difficulties and complexities of the Indian situation. This Guild were particularly interested in a demonstration in rug-making from old cloth, the demonstrator being one of their own members. The rug was made from lengths of cloth cut from an old coat and a dyed costume, the colours being beige and blue, effectively intermingled. The Guild are making arrangements for starting an anti-litter campaign in the district, which will be launched during the summer months.

HIGHLANDS (LEIGH-ON-SEA) GUILD.

The Highlands Townswomen's Guild have been having a series of very interesting classes in embroidery and leather-work. At the April meeting Miss Absolem spoke on the work of the Women's Patrol in the Borough of Southend, after which a spontaneous collection was made and 23s. was subscribed in aid of the work. This Guild have invited the Hoxton Guild to spend a day in Southend in July and have had a Whist Drive to raise funds for the entertainment of their guests.

HOVE GUILD.

The Hove Townswomen's Guild has so greatly increased its membership that it has had to arrange a larger hall for its meetings this year. Lectures have been given on Empire Marketing, Gilbert and Sullivan Operas, and Home Decoration, and a demonstration on English and Italian quilting. At one of the recent meetings members were asked to give two-minute speeches on "Our Town"; the subjects included Municipal Reform, Ventilation of Public Halls, Bus Shelters, and the Lending Library. Three Handicraft meetings have been held when members who are experts in certain crafts have given lessons to other members. This is an idea which we hope other Guilds will follow. The Hove Guild is going to start a choir.

LINLITHGOW GUILD.

The Linlithgow Townswomen's Guild started in December, 1930, with a membership of 35, which has steadily increased to 57 members. The Guild has already held four very successful meetings; in January there was a demonstration in lock-stitch rug-making and one of the members gave a demonstration in the making of marzipan sweets, when she also brought samples of her goods, which were sold in aid of funds, realizing 15s. 9d. In February the Guild welcomed Mrs. Taylor, a member of the National Union's Executive Committee, who deputised for Mrs. Corbett Ashby, who was prevented by illness from visiting Scotland. Mrs. Taylor spoke on the position of women in public life, before and after the Great War. A potato peeling competition caused much amusement at this meeting. At the March meeting Mrs. Young (Tranent) gave a very interesting account of her trip across America, from New York to California and Arizona, and showed many lovely souvenirs, including articles made by the North American Indians, and finally demonstrated rug-weaving as practised by these people. There was a competition on the best article made for 6d., the prize being given for a child's frock made out of a flour bag and beautifully embroidered. The Guild arranged an open meeting in April to which they invited visitors and the Secretary gave an interesting account of her visit to the Annual Council Meeting of the N.U.S.E.C. Mr. Ion Jamison (Galashiels) gave a talk on Scottish Country Dancing, and very soon had the members dancing themselves; the enthusiasm shown has made the Committee seriously consider the formation of a dancing class next winter; there was also a demonstration in solo dancing. The competition was for the best supper for 6d.

LITTLEOVER GUILD.

Littleover Townswomen's Guild held their first meeting in April; unfortunately both Chairman and Secretary were unable to be present at the meeting, but the members showed the true Guild spirit by carrying on the meeting to a successful conclusion. Sixty people were present and nearly all of them were enrolled as members. The head gardener of Darley Abbey, Mr. Maxwell, gave a talk on gardening and had to submit to a fire of questions. There was also a demonstration on loose chair covering so that the homes in Littleover will be very gay with new covers when spring-cleaning is over. Next month there is to be a competition on the best article made for 3d. and a talk on the work of the district nurse. A most excellent programme has already been arranged for the first year.

MIDDLESBOROUGH GUILD.

The Middlesborough Townswomen's Guild was formed in October, 1930, and started with a membership of 20, which has now increased to 32. The Guild have had lectures on Housing, Local Housing Conditions, Home Nursing, and Dramatic Work, and demonstrations in handicrafts. This Guild has made a wonderful start considering that they are in the midst of one of the worst of the depressed areas where unemployment is acute.

MILL HILL GUILD.

The April meeting of the Mill Hill Townswomen's Guild was opened by Mrs. Black singing "England"; Mrs. Drakeford, a delegate at the Annual Council Meeting of the National Union, gave her report. This was followed by an interesting talk on gardening, and afterwards various useful and amusing household hints were given, in a roll call, by the members. The members gave some time to learning the Guild song, "England".

NORRIS GREEN GUILD.

The Norris Green Townswomen's Guild started as a branch of the Liverpool W.C.A., but decided to change its name and also its character in some respects. The Guild has drawn up a most interesting programme for 1931; handicraft classes are held alternate weeks and lessons have already been given in rush seating, leather-work, and embroidery. The Guild has had talks on Local Government, the Merseyside Survey, the Unfolding Years (child psychology), the nervous child, prison reform, and gardening. The Guild members were interested to visit one of the new schools in the district, by courtesy of the headmistress; the children in the homecraft section provided tea and made the cakes and afterwards gave a short dramatic performance. During the summer months members have arranged to have alternate indoor meetings and visits of observation to factories or interesting places in the district.

RUGBY GUILD.

The Rugby Townswomen's Guild had a most interesting lecture on "Infectious Diseases" by Dr. Agnes Young at their April meeting, and the competition for the bulbs given by the National Gardens Guild was won by Mrs. Wilson. This Guild are taking part in the public meeting arranged by the Warwickshire Federation of Women's Institutes in the first week in May, when Dr. Hall is doing a tour of the county speaking on Maternal Health and Infant Welfare under the title "Women, Guardians of Three Houses". The Guild are arranging to go to Cheltenham for their outing in June.

ST. THOMAS (EXETER) GUILD.

The St. Thomas Townswomen's Guild had a most original subject for their meeting in March, when Mrs. Robinson, of Paignton, spoke on "Herbs and their use in sickness and health". She pointed out that the common dandelion was a most useful plant; its flower made wine, its leaves were excellent in salad and its roots good for poultices. She said that marsh mallow for inflammation and lily root for drawing out bad humours were two of the medicines grown in their gardens by our ancestors. She also gave some recipes for home-made cordials and wines. The Hon. Secretary of the Guild gave a short résumé of the County Conference held at Paignton, and the Guild decided to adopt Mrs. Corbett Ashby's suggestion to make a collection of primroses and other flowers to be sent to a London Guild.

THURSO GUILD.

Although Thurso Townswomen's Guild is only just four months old, they were represented at the Annual Council Meeting of the N.U.S.E.C., and the delegate gave a report of its meetings to the Guild at the March meeting. The membership has already increased from 32 to 92 members. Lectures have been given on rug-making, pouffe stool making, and plant culture; competitions and music are arranged at every meeting.

WESTCLIFF (BOURNEMOUTH) GUILD.

The Townswomen's Guild at Westcliff is one of the very youngest, but they have made a most excellent start with a membership of 34 and yet more seeking election. They have already drawn up their programme for the coming year which is going to be most smart in a folder gaily lined with green and tied with red ribbon, our Guild colours. The first meeting of the Guild was a triumph of good organisation and fellowship, a demonstration was given in making a fire-side pouffe, which was afterwards sold in aid of the funds. A most amusing roll call followed on "Spring Cleaning Hints", and quite the most popular was "leave it to someone else to do"; the meeting ended with community singing and tea. The Guild is looking forward to a lecture on their own coast-line, "From the Needles to Old Harry," and a Garden meeting and an American Sale of Work in aid of funds will be held in June. The Guild is hoping to send in a co-operative effort to the Brockenhurst Agricultural Show in July.

WIGAN GUILD.

The Wigan Townswomen's Guild was formed in November, 1930, and was represented at the Annual Council Meeting of the National Union. The Guild has had a series of interesting addresses on various subjects, and is arranging an outing to Port Sunlight in the summer months.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

The I.L.O. and Night Work for Women.

The fifteenth session of the Conference of the International Labour Organization is to open at Geneva on 28th May. Three items figure on the agenda. One concerns the hours of work in coal mines, another the age of admission of children to non-industrial enterprises, and the third, with which we are specially concerned, the partial revision of the 1919 Convention concerning the employment of women during the night. Those who are following this subject will remember that at a meeting of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. at Geneva early this year it was agreed by a majority of only one national vote to accept the British Government's proposal for revision of the 1919 Convention to provide that it should not apply to women in managerial or supervisory posts. Women's organizations in this country which stand for equality between the sexes cannot of course accept this illogical compromise and have urged our Government to instruct its delegates to propose and vote for the postponement until 1932 of the revision of the Convention, and to propose and vote for a general discussion the same year on the merits of the question of prohibiting night work to women. This would give the I.L.O. time to investigate the subject in its usual thorough manner before a decision be arrived at.

The Wills and Intestacies (Family Maintenance) Bill in Committee.

At the first day's sitting of the joint Select Committee of the above Bill the two witnesses called were Mrs. Hubback (on behalf of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship) and Sir John Withers (Conservative Member for Cambridge University), who has been one of the backers of the Bill and who has given considerable measure of advice in regard to the drafting. The questions addressed to both witnesses were directed in the main to ascertaining what classes of the community would be most affected by the Bill, and as to the methods by which present hardships could best be met. It would appear from the questions that the majority of the members of the Committee were starting off, at any rate, in sympathy mainly with the Dominions' type of legislation, under which a surviving spouse and children may come to the courts if left unprovided for, and may be granted maintenance, rather than the Scottish model on which the Bill is mainly based, under which a share in the estate is given by right to the surviving spouse and children. A section of the Committee went, however, to the other extreme in their fear that if Miss Rathbone's Bill became law the testa-

mentary provision made at present for adult children would become less.

The Bill—Lord Buckmaster's Opposition.

Last week an article by Lord Buckmaster appeared in the *Evening Standard* violently attacking the Bill on the somewhat astonishing grounds that all wives, including by inference those with small children, ought to be self-supporting, and that this consummation will be less likely to be reached if a widow feels that she can rely upon provision being made for her by her husband after his death. Lord Buckmaster also raised the difficulty that the Bill might enrich a worthless widow or widower. He did not appear to realize that, in the case of husbands and wives who have been separated, power is given to the Court to deprive the surviving spouse of his or her rights. Where separation has not taken place Lord Buckmaster certainly has a cause of complaint, but is it any harder on a man to have to support a worthless wife who has given him no reason for a separation or divorce during his lifetime, as the law compels him to do, than to leave her a life interest in a share of his estate on his death? Why, we wonder, has Lord Buckmaster shifted his grounds since the debate in the House of Lords in 1928 on Lord Astor's motion for an inquiry into various methods of making provision for surviving spouses? Lord Buckmaster, it is true, opposed the motion, but he added that if Lord Astor had "shaped his motion for the purpose of securing approval for the proposal" that "there should be a definite fraction of the estate to which women and children should be entitled" he (Lord Buckmaster) "would have been prepared to support it."

"Drastic Action" Called For.

A few weeks ago we referred to Lord Passfield's despatch to the Government of Bermuda pointing out that the franchise has been very generally granted to women in the British Empire, and urging the Bermuda Legislature to extend its franchise "in close conformity with contemporary British institutions elsewhere." Once again the proposal has been contemptuously brushed aside. No wonder indeed that the women of Bermuda are being goaded into what the correspondent to *The Times* calls "drastic action".

Girl Slaves in China.

We read in the *Manchester Guardian* this week that a recent Order of the Ministry of the Interior has prohibited the practice which prevails in different parts of the country of keeping slave girls, sold by poor parents who cannot afford to keep them. The Mui Tsai system of Hong Kong about which so much has been written in these pages is closely akin to the Chinese custom of girl slavery and the same excuses are advanced as in China when efforts are made to suppress the practice. In the same communication from Peking we are told that a proposal to establish a home for emancipated slave girls who have no families who can provide for them was rejected. Those who have read Lady Simon's book *Slavery*, in which an interesting chapter deals with China, will welcome the prohibition of slavery as at least a hopeful augury, but it is clear that an ancient custom cannot be magically abolished by a stroke of the pen and that even if emancipation were secured the girls and children let loose on the world as the result must be protected and provided for.

The New Mistress of Girton.

The appointment of Miss Helen Marion Wodehouse as successor to Miss Edith Major, of Girton College, whose resignation will take effect after the summer vacation, is announced this week. Miss, or Professor Wodehouse, as we should call her, is one of the few women of professional rank in this country. She was appointed Professor of Education in the University of Bristol in 1919, after eight years as Principal of Bingley Training

College, Yorkshire. She was herself a Girton student, and was placed in the first division of the first class of the Moral Sciences tripos in 1902. She began her career as lecturer in philosophy in the University of Birmingham, where she obtained the degree Doctor of Philosophy. In addition to her academic work, Miss Wodehouse has served on Education and other public Committees and is Chairman of the Bristol University Settlement. We shall find a later opportunity of expressing our admiration of Miss Major's work for Girton; for the moment we can only warmly congratulate the College on a successor so pre-eminently worthy of its high traditions.

Equality in Oxford Scholarships.

Miss Grier, the Principal of Lady Margaret Hall, moved a resolution in Congregation in Oxford on Tuesday of this week, which was passed unanimously, to the effect that women should be allowed to compete on the same conditions as men in various subjects, including mathematics, Spanish, classics, economics, Sanskrit, and Hebrew. This decree merely regularizes the present position, as already women have won scholarships in some of these subjects.

Lady Acland.

It is surprising to learn that Lady Acland, who has been invited to become a member of the Advisory Committee of the Liberal Party, is the first woman to be asked to serve in this capacity. We are, of course, outside party politics, but we venture to suggest that responsible women advisers at an earlier stage might have done something to preserve harmony and unity within the party. We congratulate it, however, on its belated choice. Lady Acland received her initiation in political life in the suffrage campaign in which she and her husband played a leading part. We understand that she has been invited to stand for Parliament in Exeter as successor to Sir Robert Newman. We find it difficult to imagine a House of Commons without the presence of this lifelong friend of our own and all good causes, but the return of a woman so experienced and gifted as Lady Acland would go some way to reconcile us to his loss.

Three Interesting Conferences.

The agendas of the forthcoming annual meetings both of the National Council of Women and of the National Federation of Women's Institutes have just been published. Different as these organizations are, they will be discussing many of the same subjects. One resolution indeed, on agriculture and unemployment, which is bold enough to suggest the uniting of all parties in a national effort, is identical even in wording. Both bodies will be discussing Miss Rathbone's Wills and Intestacies Bill, and both will be discussing Rural Education. We have already referred to other features on the programme of the National Council of Women. The National Federation of Women's Institutes has the proud distinction of being the first woman's Conference to hold its business meetings, as apart from its public meetings, in the Albert Hall. As there are now 5,000 Institutes affiliated to the Federation, it is not surprising that they have outgrown every other hall suitable for the occasion. For the first time, too, the Women's National Liberal Federation, which is holding its annual Conference at Buxton this month, will, after two days' separate conference, link up with the main National Liberal Federation and consider a joint programme. Resolutions before the delegates will deal with home affairs, including Free Trade, Unemployment and Economy, Imperial and International Affairs, Disarmament, India, and the Empire.

An Interesting New Publication.

That admirable little publication *Monthly Notes*, issued by the Family Endowment Society, has blossomed into a ten page quarterly, *The Family Endowment Chronicle*, with a very becoming green cover. We warmly congratulate our contemporary on the quality and appearance of this first issue, which is introduced by a message from the President of the Society, Professor Gilbert Murray. The opening "note" rightly regards it as a happy augury that the first number of the new *Chronicle* is able to report the passing of a Bill through the French Chamber of Deputies which makes the payment of family allowances universal. Other interesting features include a report of Sir Josiah Stamp's striking advocacy of family allowances in his evidence before the Royal Commission on the Civil Service, and an article by Miss Eleanor F. Rathbone, M.P., on Existing Forms of Family Allowances in Great Britain. We predict a large influx of subscribers to this useful periodical, which is priced at the modest annual sum of 2s. 6d. post free. Certainly those who wish to keep themselves abreast of the movement cannot afford to do without it.

Town and Country Planning.

It is pleasant to watch the progress in Parliament of at least one Bill which has a friendly reception from all parties, though the Committee stages appear to the laywoman unnecessarily protracted. Next week we print an article from Mr. Edward Unwin describing the scope of the Bill and the new powers which it gives local authorities to protect the countryside from wanton destruction.

"Children, Women, and the Aged."

The Six Point Group have administered a well-deserved reproof (assuming the press report of his speech at the Academy Banquet to be correct) to the Home Secretary, Mr. Clynnes. In a speech on this occasion he is reported as saying that while self-help is the best help, and the best efforts should be made in industrial service by those who are strong and healthy, "everything must be done to assist children, women, and the aged." To class women with children and the aged is, the letter points out, surely a little out of date. The Banquet was, we understand, a wholly masculine function, and we agree that the speech will not impress very favourably the women wage and salary earners who in spite of old-fashioned prejudice and restrictive legislation are holding their own with "strong and healthy" men in the trades and professions.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The Delhi Municipality has decided to grant to women residents aged 21 and over the right to vote in municipal elections.

Mrs. E. A. Martin, of Somerset, is one of the few women rent collectors in the West of England. She is employed by the Radstock Urban Council.

Felixstowe has appointed its first woman magistrate in Mrs. E. A. Haward.

Miss E. D. Thorne has been elected People's Warden of the Church of St. Mary of Bethany. She is the first woman warden in the history of the church.

The new Medical Superintendent of Armagh Asylum, Miss Dora Allman, is stated to be the first woman to receive such an appointment.

Miss Kate Smith has become the first woman police commissioner in Los Angeles, where there are already 18 police-women.

Mlle. Juliette Billiard, the first woman admitted to the French National School of Architecture, has designed and organized a pageant to be held in Rouen in honour of the fifth centenary of Joan of Arc.

Mrs. M. J. Stoker is the first woman to be elected to the Crumlington Urban District Council.

Miss Josephine Butcher and Miss Nora Gipson are the only two women in the list of 40 new barristers. Miss Butcher was called on the same night as her father, Dr. W. Butcher.

Miss Beatrice Jones is reported to be the first woman lawyer to appear in a Glasgow court. Miss Dickson, who is Clerk to the Sheriff, is the first woman to hold such an appointment in Glasgow.

A Woman U.D.C. Chairman.

Outside the largest towns, opinion regarding the status of women is apt to move more slowly. It is, therefore, with peculiar pleasure that we learn of the appointment of Mrs. K. M. Fletcher, J.P., as Chairman of the Atherton Urban District Council, in an area almost entirely working class, and mainly occupied with the coal and textile industries.

Other Women Chairmen.

Women Chairmen have been elected by the following Urban District Councils:—Carshalton, Mrs. Carpenter; Criccieth, Dame Margaret Lloyd George; Dorking, Miss F. M. Douglas, J.P.; Tanfield, Mrs. Mason; Worsley, Mrs. C. Berry. The Hetton and Ripley Councils have also elected women Vice-Chairmen, and the Coundon (Durham) Parish Council has elected Mrs. H. Leedale as Chairman.

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

"COTTON WEEK."

"Cotton Week", which opened on Monday last, may appear to many of us as almost a counsel of despair. In pre-war days of Lancashire industrial supremacy, the English cotton industry could afford to take very little notice of the home market. What really mattered was the export trade. To-day, with the collapse of the Indian and Chinese markets, it matters more: so much, indeed, that this week's exhortation, so graciously endorsed by Her Majesty the Queen, to buy Lancashire goods—and incidentally to wake up to their astonishing variety and excellence—is in fact a serious matter. As the *Manchester Guardian* puts it: "The home market, once second or third in importance, is now the largest outlet for Lancashire goods." Indeed, we appear to be moving towards a time when Lancashire, with a reduced productive equipment and a considerably thinned out textile population, will work mainly for British and European consumers, leaving the large markets of India and China to those far Eastern competitors who enjoy, above and beyond any present advantage in respect of labour costs and advertising push, the more permanent and irremovable advantage of physical nearness to the consumer. The situation may perhaps be summed up in the dictum: Lancashire was once the workshop of the world. To-day the world has other workshops. We are, in fact, moving in a contrary direction to that which our Victorian forebears chose to regard as the direction of material progress. We are recoiling from those vast local concentrations of specialized industry dependent on a mechanism of world-wide distribution which Cobden and the more thoughtful of his contemporaries regarded as one of the stabilizing conditions of world peace.

Yet the process is, without doubt, an uncomfortable one for Lancashire. In 1913 she possessed some 58½ million spindles and 800,000 looms. To-day she possesses about 57½ million spindles and only 700,000 looms. But these figures do not tell the whole story, for to-day the looms that she possesses are working to a fraction of their capacity. The figures of her actual production tell the tale in more accurate terms. In 1912 she produced 8,000 million linear yards; in 1930, something less than 4,000 million. Those who know something of unemployment and under-employment in Lancashire, those of the middle-classes who have seen their middle-class friends shutting up large houses and cutting down daily expenditure, know by these signs how such figures work out in terms of human comfort and security. It is a depressing picture, and perhaps all the more so because of the pathetic optimism which still dominates certain sections of

NOTES FROM WESTMINSTER.

The week in the Commons has been almost entirely devoted to discussions upon the Budget. As might have been expected from its contents, the Budget has in fact proved far more pleasing to the two Opposition Parties than to that from which it emanated, and this has produced a rather curious situation, but one of increasingly frequent occurrence in this Parliament. Perhaps on the balance it improves the tone at the cost of the vigour of debate that those who really dislike the proposal under discussion should find themselves compelled to express that dislike temperately and to stress points of agreement, while the edge is taken off the acrimony of the Opposition's criticism. But the star performer of the week is one who knows how to express agreement with his opponents even more pungently than disagreement. Mr. Churchill's much anticipated speech was by general consent a masterpiece. His successor has adopted so many of his own expedients—after in previous years hotly denouncing them—that it was no wonder that he had listened to the Budget speech "with amusement which almost rose into hilarity". In tracing the points of resemblance, Mr. Churchill did not let Mr. Snowden off lightly, but he handled him as a champion boxer might handle an adversary whom he did not want seriously to injure, and, in view of the vitriolic nature of Snowden's attack's on him last year, there was real feeling and magnanimity in his concluding admission that the Chancellor's many deviations from his lifelong convictions were themselves due to conviction and not to opportunism.

"He has had the courage and, I will add, the public spirit to set aside his own convictions, to defy his party's pressure, and to do what he deems to be his duty to the country".

Meantime the Left-Wing members of the Labour Party sat in gloomy silence while their impish opponent consoled with them as "poor unlucky I.L.P.! Forlorn New Party men!

the industry. Some such optimism is, of course, at the root of the unreasoning opposition with which the young women of Stalybridge have greeted the suggestion that they should embrace alternative employment at a distance from their homes. There has always been work for them round the corner or at the end of the street—for them, their mothers, their grandmothers, and their great grandmothers. Trade has at times been bad, but it has always righted itself. It will right itself again—if only, with the assistance of the Unemployment Insurance Fund, they are able to wait . . . It is not that they are lazy, or peculiarly contumacious. It is rather that they are, like some of their independent and highly sectionalized employers, industrial conservatives and tremendous respecters of tradition.

But it is not so much with the industrial Conservatism of the Lancashire textile industry that "Cotton Week" is concerned—that side of the matter is already as well in hand as analysis and exhortation can make it. It is with the conservatism of the British consumer in relation to the Lancashire textile industry. Man *qua* consumer is notoriously more conservative than man *qua* producer. It is of no use for Lancashire, with its growing dependence on the home market, to bestir itself in the production of excellent varieties at reasonable cost if the consumer is too set in his or her personal habits to make any response. We are not urging the consumer to adopt trailing draperies in order to use up material which she does not really want—better that she should buy Lancashire goods and burn them than that she should buy Lancashire goods for the accumulation of dirt and the frustration of free movement. But best of all that she should use her intelligence in the matter and buy Lancashire goods for real use and beauty. It is too *cold*—she may murmur. The British climate is more suitable for Russian fur than for Lancashire cotton. But has she observed that Lancashire can produce her a coat like the coat of a teddy bear, yet softer, thicker, and more comforting? It is too *wet*, she may complain; I cannot face the "dabbiness" of Lancashire cotton in Lancashire weather. Yet has she not observed that the Lancashire textile industry can produce her a velvet which the Lancashire rubber industry can fortify against the wildest rainstorm? It may be that she has not. Well then, it is Lancashire's business, through the advertisements, exhortations and festivals of "Cotton Week" to convince her that more things come out of Lancashire than she has hitherto been aware of, and that Lancashire is no less dependent on her enterprise as a consumer than she is on its enterprise as a producer.

Socialism in our time is as dead as mutton". Contrasted with Churchill's glittering performance, Sir Herbert Samuel's careful speech, excellent as always in material, sounded rather refrigerated, and it is not surprising that Mr. Lloyd George, with his unflinching flair for avoiding being outshone, has postponed the oration expected from him till late in this week. But considering the taxation of land values has been for so long a cherished item in the Liberal programme, it seems rather surprising that in Monday's debate on this subject only two Liberal backbenchers took part. It was left to an ex-Liberal, Col. Josiah Wedgwood, to expound the faith of his former individualist allies and to explain to Sir Hilton Young, in a vigorous and attractively informal speech, the difference between the 1909 tax on the unearned increment of land—a failure because it diminished the incentive to the owner to sell—and the tax proposed to-day of 1d. in the £ every year on the capital selling value of the land, which by diminishing its value must increase the incentive to sell. But if the Liberal Party has not shone this week in debate, they must feel themselves so lapped in the sunshine of solid achievement as to be able to forego more ephemeral triumphs. Obviously the general effect of the Budget has been to disperse the storm which threatened to whelm them in deeper gulfs than either of the other parties and, with them, the principles of Free Trade, which they hold so dear. The Government seems safe till the next Budget, unless from storms either of their own or of the Liberal Party's brewing, and it is difficult to see what inducement either party has to court suicide. The I.L.P. might do it on the principle that of Socialism it is true that "except the seed falleth into the ground and die, it abideth alone, but if it die it (may) bring forth much fruit". But such a policy involves much immediate self-sacrifice, and the Government have made it abundantly clear that they are not built in the heroic mould.

Friday's sitting was cut short about one o'clock by a count-out, in accordance with what is becoming almost the usual practice, though not till two useful little Bills—one to enable Local Authorities to advertise their amenities so as to attract trade or visitors, the other to permit marriage to a nephew or niece by marriage—had passed their Third Reading. But the count slaughtered a third innocent, the Second Reading of a Leasehold Enfranchisement Bill, moved by a Labour Member, Mr. Hopkin, just as last Friday it frustrated Sir John Withers' Bill to facilitate appeals by poor persons. It is rather doubtful whether the rank and file of the Labour Party (or perhaps any other party) would approve these count-outs did they realize the means by which they are brought about. The blame is allowed to rest upon supposedly negligent M.P.s who leave prematurely on Fridays for the sake of a longer week-end. In fact, there are usually quite enough Members within the precincts of the House to secure a quorum. But the Government has a heavy programme and dislikes the additions to it made by these Private Members' Bills. Hence the Labour and Conservative Whips in unholy alliance succeed, under the guise of a nominally free vote, in turning back the Members who surge forth from their lairs at the sound of the bell before they reach the Chamber. Thus we all enjoy a half-holiday at the expense of massacring the chances of some very useful though unpretentious legislation.

Wednesday's debate on India in the House of Lords was tame and innocuous, and revealed nothing much that was not known already. Since Lord Birkenhead's death, Winston Churchill has no puckish fellow-spirit in the Lords. The newly created Lord Snell, who made his maiden speech as Under-Secretary for India, was a fresh tribute to the power of that assembly to subdue its members, at least outwardly, into its own semblance. The moving spirit of the Ethical Society was quite lost in the well-groomed, discreet and cautious Under-Secretary, careful not to go an inch beyond his prepared brief.

CROSS BENCH.

QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT.

Monday, 27th April.

FILM (CENSORSHIP).

Sir G. Penny asked the Home Secretary whether in view of the Sunday Performances (Regulation) Bill, which was recently given a Second Reading in this House, the Government will equip itself with powers to establish a board of film censors responsible to his Department and paid out of public funds.

Mr. Clynnes: I am not aware that the proposals contained in the Sunday Performances (Regulation) Bill afford any reason for contemplating a change in the existing system of film censorship.

Wednesday, 29th April.

FORCED LABOUR (DRAFT CONVENTION).

Sir K. Wood asked the Minister of Labour if the Government have now decided to ratify the draft Convention on Forced Labour; and whether any further countries have signified their intention to ratify with or without reservations.

Mr. Lawson: The Government propose to ratify the Draft Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour. A White Paper (Cmd. 3841) was laid on 16th April setting out the Government's proposal, with regard to ratification by other countries.

Thursday, 30th April.

SEX EQUALITY.

Mr. Mander asked the Home Secretary if the Government are prepared to introduce a Measure giving equal rights to men and women with a view to facilitating the drawing up of a general treaty on the subject through the League of Nations.

Mr. Short: The principle that no person shall be disqualified by sex or marriage from the exercise of any public function, from holding any civil or judicial post, or from carrying on any civil profession or vocation, has already been embodied in the law of this country by the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919. His Majesty's Government do not propose to introduce any further general legislation on the subject at present.

Mr. Mander: Do I understand from the hon. Gentleman's answer that the Government are not in favour of equal rights for men and women.

Mr. Short: The hon. Member is not entitled to draw any such conclusion at all. My answer makes it clear that what he is asking is covered by the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919.

WOMEN POLICE—AN IMPORTANT DEPUTATION.

From a Correspondent.

Last week an important event took place at the House of Commons with regard to Women Police. As a result of a large meeting organized by Miss Picton Turbervill last month, a strong Parliamentary Committee was formed of members from all parties interested in the welfare of Women Police. A Parliamentary deputation waited upon Mr. Clynnes to press certain reforms such as Standardized Regulations. The deputation was a purely Parliamentary one, but Miss Picton Turbervill in her opening speech introducing the deputation reminded Mr. Clynnes that for the last ten years the National Council of Women and the N.U.S.E.C. had advocated these reforms.

The deputation was composed of twelve members; the speakers were Mr. Duncan Miller, K.C., Member for Fyfe, East, Lieut.-Col. Moore, Ayr Burghs, and Mr. Leach, Central Bradford, representing the three parties in the House. Lord Byng of Vimy was with the Home Secretary. The only person present not a Member of Parliament was Miss Tancred, who represented no outside party, but came as technical advisor to the Parliamentary Deputation, who also spoke most effectively. Various points with which THE WOMAN'S LEADER is familiar were raised, but the main point emphasized was the necessity for standard regulations.

Lord Byng was the first to reply, as he had to leave early. He informed the deputation that he was most desirous to strengthen the Women Police, but that he was unwilling to do so until he could find a house large enough to house seventy policewomen, each with separate bedrooms, which, of course, was desirable, a reading room, library, sitting-room, and what he described as the full amenities of life. Various members of the deputation expressed great surprise that policewomen should not live in lodgings or small flats, and challenged Lord Byng's statement that they would prefer to live in a big hostel. Few people have more experience of hostels, etc., than Miss Picton Turbervill, who assured Lord Byng that women, after the age of 25 or so, longed to have some little home of their own, and it would be far more satisfactory if policewomen could live in two's or three's in lodgings or tiny flats.

Mr. Clynnes, in his reply, complimented the speakers on the competent, effective way they had put the case, and in his speech uttered the following words: "The main subject of this deputation has been the subject of regulations. I guarantee that your words will not be put aside." Miss Picton Turbervill then remarked: "Is that all that you can say?" Whereupon Mr. Clynnes replied: "This is not the House of Commons. I mean more than I said."

The official considered reply has not yet been received; it will, of course, be in writing, but the deputation came away quite confident that it marked a distinct step forward in the progress of Women Police.

WOMEN IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

As Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, Sir Warren Fisher's evidence before the Royal Commission is bound to have very special weight. His views are in so many respects in accordance with those held by readers of this paper that we venture to reprint, with the permission of *Opportunity*, a summary of the evidence he gave in December with regard to the status, etc., of women.

Asked if he had any general observations as to the "status" of women in the Civil Service and the opportunities afforded them, Sir Warren stated his belief that there is a considerable amount of prejudice and that prejudice is based on fear. He thought it premature to put a limit on what women may do in the future. Men have monopolized public experience over the centuries and therefore have experience which women have not. If he had to hazard a guess, he thought in a generation or two "they would give the men a jolly good run for their money". He agreed that it would be advisable to begin gently and that it was not advisable to march too fast ahead of the general public.

There were some pleasantries between Lord Tomlin and Sir Warren on the evidence of Sir Hubert Montgomery, of the Foreign Office, and references were made to his picture of a woman diplomat dealing with a gentleman of primitive or oriental habit of mind, and of a lady dealing with seamen at a port, possibly "drunks", which would not do. Sir Warren stated that he felt Sir Hubert took too gloomy a view and that in countries where it is customary to regard women with civility and courtesy he saw no reason why a diplomat should not be a woman.

FILM NOTES.

The intelligent film-goer is at last receiving consideration from commercial managers. The announcement that the Rialto will show films of historic and intellectual interest, and the Academy (Oxford Street) a season of French talkies, raises a hope that the audience of the old Avenue Pavilion will again have an oasis in London. In East London, the Stratford Palladium is having a season of Russian, German and French films. Here you will see the finest products of the Soviet film industry, which have hitherto been shown only to private societies, the slow-moving beauty of "Earth"; the experiment of "The Blue Express"; the misery of "The Song of the Market Place"; the sociology of "The Peasant Woman of Riazan"; the perfection of "The Ghost that never returns"; the grand sweep of "Storm over Asia"; and the primitive glory of "The General Line".

"The Peasant Woman of Riazan" is of particular interest to women. This film claims to be "powerful propaganda for the complete independence and equality of woman in society". Neither as a film nor as propaganda is it wholly successful. We see the beautiful cornfields and the massed clouds, the rhythm of crowd and procession which distinguish many Russian films, but there is no telling insistence on the central idea. The theme is the emergence of women from the virtual slavery of pre-Revolution days. One remembers the dignity of "The General Line", and the white-hot enthusiasm of "The End of St. Petersburg". Neither dignity nor enthusiasm are in "The Peasant Woman of Riazan"; the story is muddled, war and melodrama usurp the plot. The attack on the selfishness of men in their treatment of women, needs more point and vigour.

For the rest, at Stratford you can see Grierson's "Drifters", a British picture of the herring fleet, unforgettable for its rhythmic unity; the revival of "Berlin", which you may contrast with "The man with the movie camera". Then turn back the leaves to "The Student of Prague", one of the gems of Germany's golden age of production. This backwater of silence may suffice until the films which have found voices find also humour and intelligence.

The cinema needs the attention of acute minds and one almost despairs of attaching them to a young art which is so overgrown with stupidity and vulgarity. The titles of films, the advertisements of films, the material of films, all seem deliberately to aim at driving away the decent-minded citizen. When the enthusiast remembers the long treks to find films of distinction, he does not wonder that the discriminating audience is small. Yet there are no limits to the raw material of true cinema. Water, wind, sand and foam. The enchantment of these "Images d'Ostende"; produced without cost and far lovelier than the expensive, empty splendours of Hollywood. Why can we not have more of the stuff of "Images d'Ostende," "H₂O" and "Conquest"?

The world of fancy one would imagine the hunting ground of film producers. Yet how few fairy tales, how few fantasies we see on the screen. The delicate beauty and charm of Lotte Reiniger's silhouettes in eighteenth century settings, tripping to the lilt of Mozart; or her quaint silhouettes of Dr. Doolittle and his tribe. Should these be the joy of the Film Society only? A manager could surely risk slipping one of these delights into a corner of the programme.

To turn from Lotte Reiniger's work to the screen's latest comedy, "Le Million," seems a far cry. But the two have in common that sense of balance and repose which make for perfect enjoyment. René Clair has here taken a leap far beyond any other talkie productions. The enchanting atmosphere he created in "Sous Les Toits de Paris" returns again, with an added gaiety. This is the perfect welding of sight and sound. The ballet practice reminds irresistibly of a canvas by Degas; the comedy is of the Mack Sennett school and the music is part of every gesture, every word and every thought. There is a richness of photography, a selection of material and movement, which combine to an exquisite end. The satire on the stars of opera is the most delicious thing the screen has given us for many a day. The weak note in the film is the sop to the English-speaking world. This piece could be enjoyed by everybody without the aid of the stupid dialogue at the attic skylight. But this is a small flaw in a great treasure.

MARIAN COOPER.

The Duchess of Atholl followed up this statement by asking whether any difficulty would arise owing to the fact that you could not send a woman diplomat to many countries. The witness replied: "Of course, one can magnify difficulties, or one can minimize difficulties. It would be an inconvenience, but anything new is an inconvenience. So long as there are countries that would not behave quite as they should to women diplomats, that means that you could not send women to those countries."

The Duchess continued: "What I have in mind was that men would get more than their fair share of the distant posts and the posts in the worst climates." Sir Warren answered that he would not recognize that as an argument, that transfers could be made in rotation. Moreover, it was not as though a whole regiment of women will be unloaded on the Diplomatic Service at one go. He would not disregard a principle for fear this inconvenience might arise in a hundred years' time; he was entirely unmoved by that type of argument.

The Duchess pointed out that it was based on a condition of things abroad over which we have no control. Sir Warren drew attention to the arrangement by which the agreement of the country to which it is proposed to accredit an Ambassador or Minister is secured, and in cases where the name submitted is not acceptable the appointment is not made. If, therefore, in any particular case it was stated a woman would not be acceptable she would not be appointed. He was in favour of starting tentatively.

With regard to the Consular Service, he frankly stated that he did not picture the "recurrent life of the Consular officer as to help drunken sailors", and that to raise it was to scratch about for objections. He would certainly have women in the Consular Service, but experimentally and quietly. To bring down a guillotine and say that it is impossible for women to do this work was to his mind absolute nonsense.

Sir Percy Jackson asked if the witness accepted the principle that women should be given "a fair field and no favour" subject to certain reservations of posts to men or to women. The reply was in the affirmative. Sir Percy then observed that a woman ambassador, if we had one, could only be sent to a civilized State, that a woman would not be sent to do navy work; to which Sir Warren Fisher agreed. Sir Percy then asked if this was not giving women favouritism all the way round. The witness stated that he did not look at it in that light. If it were the case, which he did not think was the case, it was very small compensation for having kept women down for century after century.

With regard to the marriage bar the witness considered the present arrangement sensible, and mentioned that in the event of a woman in a senior position marrying there is no rule to prevent her retention in the Service. Sir Assheton Pownall pointed out that though the power existed it had not been used for ten years. In reply to a question of Lord Tomlin's, Sir Warren stated he was not in favour of differentiating between the higher and lower grades.

Asked his view on Equal Pay to men and women, he stated that at the moment men, rank by rank, were more efficient than women. It might not be true to say this in thirty years' time. He did not regard this as a criticism of women's potentialities; it was merely the result of men having kept them outside business for so long. He did not think there was at present any real support for the claim for equal pay.

OBITUARY.

DR. HARRIET CLISBY, THE OLDEST WOMAN DOCTOR.

We regret to have to announce the death of Dr. Harriet Clisby in her 101st year. Our readers may remember an account we printed of this wonderful old lady on her hundredth birthday,¹ when she was discovered by a reporter of *The Observer* vigorously engaged in physical exercises. Dr. Clisby's family migrated to Australia when she was 7 years old, and it was there that she was inspired to study medicine owing to a pamphlet received from Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell. At that time the United States was the only country which offered openings to women doctors, and after many years, some of which were spent at Guy's Hospital training as a nurse, she saved enough money to go to New York, where she qualified in 1865. She founded the Educational and Industrial Women's Union in America, and in 1880 went to Geneva, where she founded the Union des Femmes. In the nineties she came to London, and lived to see the fruition of her work for women both in medicine and in politics.

¹ THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 10th October, 1930.

COMING EVENTS.

ASSOCIATION FOR MORAL AND SOCIAL HYGIENE.

13th May, 5.15. Livingstone House, Broadway, S.W. 1. Annual Meeting. Speakers: Rev. W. Paton, Miss Alison Neilans. Chair: The Lady Balfour of Burleigh.

B.B.C.

Monday, 18th May. 7 p.m. "New Books." Miss V. Sackville-West. Wednesdays, 10.45. "The Week in Westminster." 13th May: Lady Iveagh, M.P.

CECIL HOUSES (INC.).

15th May, 3 p.m. Piccadilly Theatre, W. Meeting in support of Women's Public Lodging House Fund. Chair: Comdr. Locker-Lampson, M.P. Speakers: Miss Maude Royden, Mr. Ian Hay, Mrs. Cecil Chesterton, Mr. Somerville, M.P., and others.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES.

19-20th May. Royal Albert Hall, S.W. Annual Meeting. Sessions 10.45-12.30, 2-4.30 p.m.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Acton W.C.A.

14th May, 3 p.m. Y.W.C.A. East Acton Lane, W. 3. Miss Nina Boyle: "Slavery under the British Flag."

Glasgow S.E.C. and W.C.A.

12th May, 8 p.m. Lyric Theatre. Hon. Mrs. Victor Bruce: "Flying Alone Round the World."

Kensington and Paddington S.E.C.

11th May, 3 p.m. 42 Bramham Gardens, S.W. 5. Miss Musson: "The Unmarried Mother and her Child." Chair: Lady Trustram Eve.

Petersfield S.E.C.

12th May, 7 p.m. Heathfield Street. "Nursery Schools."

PULFORD STREET SITE COMMITTEE (to assist Housing of Westminster Workers).

12th May, 5 p.m. Westminster School Hall. Demonstration of Modern Magic and Mind Reading by Mr. Douglas Dexter, in aid of funds. Tickets from 65 Victoria Street, or at the door.

ROYAL ACADEMY.

9 a.m.-7 p.m. Summer Exhibition. Admission 1s. 6d.

SAFETY WEEK.

11th-16th May.

SAINT JOAN.

8 p.m. "Saint Joan": His Majesty's Theatre. Matinees, Wed. and Sats., 2.15. With Sybil Thorndike. (Moving to Haymarket Theatre, 12th May).

ST. JOAN'S QUINCENTENARY APPEAL.

10th May, 12 noon. St. Mary's, Cadogan Gardens. Fr. Day, S.J.: "We have burnt a Saint."

SOCIETY OF WOMEN ARTISTS.

To 14th May. 10-5. New Burlington Galleries, Pictures, Sculpture, Crafts. Admission, 1s.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

14th May, 4.30. Minerva Club, Brunswick Square. Miss J. Tooke, J.P.: "Children's Courts."

TYPEWRITING.

M. McLACHLAN and **N. WHITWAM**—**TYPISTS.**—4 Chapel Walk, Manchester. Tel. 3402 City.

MISS HOBBS, 121 Beaufort Street, Chelsea, S.W. 3.—Typewriting, Shorthand, and Longhand Service; visiting, with or without machine; arrangement by correspondence.

TO LET AND WANTED.

KENSINGTON.—First floor, furnished flat; large balcony, overlooking extensive grounds; lounge, bed-sittingroom, small bedroom, kitchen, bath, piano, wireless; attendance available; 22nd April-1st September; £2 10s., exclusive gas, electricity.—Box 1,627, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

PRETTILY furnished small bed-sittingroom in ladies' hostel facing Regents Park to let temporarily. £1 weekly, including electric light, linen and plate. References required.—Apply, 12 Bentinck Terrace, Regents Park.

UNFURNISHED very attractive Rooms in excellent part St. John's Wood; just opening; 16s.-28s. inclusive; elec. light and constant hot water; meals and service obtainable.—Box 1,625, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

UNFURNISHED Large Room in excellently appointed house for ladies; Hampstead N.W. 3; delightful garden; telephone, etc.; rent 30s. inclusive; elec. light and constant hot water; meals and service obtainable.—Box 1,626, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

FLAT, Furnished, Unfurnished, two rooms, third available; kitchenette, lighting, heating, cooking, 1d. unit; country views, golf, riding; suit professional women.—Wheatbarn, Welwyn Garden City.

NEAR Baker St.—Comfortable, quiet Bed-Sittingroom in professional woman's flat; gas fire, geyser, electric light; board as required; terms moderate.—Box 1,633, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION.

VEGETARIAN Guest House; ¼ hour by tram from centre of Bath; central heating; large garden; fine views; boating and bathing in River Avon.—Misses Tollemache, Bath.

MRS. HUBBACK recommends furnished house, beautiful part Skye coast; 5 bedrooms, 2 sittingrooms; bathing, fishing, walking; very low rent.—Write Campbell, Table View, Ardmore, Harloch, Dunvegan, Skye.

WALES.—Close mountains and sea; convenient house; three sitting-rooms, 5 bedrooms; maid if wished; golf, tennis; July, £5; August, £7 weekly.—Thoday, Haulfre, Llanfairfechan.

WESTMINSTER, off Smith Square, tiny furnished house; sitting-room, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, etc.; garden. Telephone. Suit two girls. Three months, 3 guineas weekly.—Mrs. Gray, 21 Gayfere Street, S.W. 1.

LAKE DISTRICT.—Comfortable; good cooking; inside sanitation; electric light; very moderate terms; highly recommended; excellent centre.—Davies, Priory Boarding House, Cartmel, Grange-over-Sands.

CAMBRIDGE.—Furnished House, near Newnham College; four bedrooms, three sitting-rooms; attendance; to let six weeks from 8th May; moderate rent to careful tenants.—Miss F. Johnson, 1 Millington Road, Cambridge.

EXCHANGE HOSPITALITY.

SWISS Lady from Geneva is anxious to spend five weeks in London from 10th May with English lady. She would offer exchange hospitality for five weeks during September, and would secure admission for her visitor to the Assembly meetings; references.—Write to the Secretary, Welcome Committee, League of Nations Union, 15 Grosvenor Crescent, S.W. 1.

POSTS WANTED.

COOK-HOUSEKEEPER.—Belgian lady, 20 years' experience in London, requires post in flat (town only), with lady and gentleman, or one or two ladies. Excellent cook and worker, capable of taking complete charge. Highest references.—Box 1,629, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

EXCELLENT Repairer of Carpets, antique and modern; recommended.—Box 1,630, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Tufton Street, S.W. 1.

AU Pair.—Well-educated German girl would like to spend six months in England (Oxford or country); would undertake light domestic duties in exchange for hospitality and pocket money if possible.—Box 1,632, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

LADY, disengaged, would be glad of part-time work; secretarial or accountancy.—Box 1,634, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

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

TWEED Costume, two skirts; medium size; hardly worn; also Navy Silk Dress.—Box 1,631, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

MISCELLANEOUS.

FINEST Jersey Butter, wonderful flavour; hygienic methods; private pedigree herd; first prizes; any quantity carefully packed; trial order ½ pound 1s. 6d., post free.—Bridson, Aldwick Court, Wrington, Somerset.

PROFESSIONAL.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED. Consult Miss H. M. Baker, 275 High Holborn, W.C. 1. Income Tax Returns, Super Tax Returns, Repayment Claims of all descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 0377.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON AND NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 27 Marsham Street, Westminster. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey, Members' Library, Centre, and Restaurant. Bedrooms obtainable at reasonable charges. Advisory Bureau open to non-members. Minimum house subscription 10s. 6d. per annum.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 10th May: Miss Maude Royden.

HOME HELPS BUREAU, 190 Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W. 1, requires and supplies educated women for all domestic work. Holiday engagements. Registration: Employers, 2s. 6d.; workers, 1s. Suiting fee: Employers, 10s. 6d.; workers, 2s. 6d. (Victoria 5940.)

THE WOMAN'S LEADER can be supplied direct from this Office for **2½d.** including postage. Send 10/10 to the Manager, WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W. 1 (Telephone Victoria 6188), and the paper will be sent to you at any address for a whole year. Persuade your friends to do the same.

Please send THE WOMAN'S LEADER to me for twelve months. I enclose 10/10.

Name

Address