

THE
WOMAN'S LEADER

IN POLITICS
 IN THE HOME
 IN INDUSTRY

IN LITERATURE AND ART
 IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
 IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND
THE COMMON CAUSE

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

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THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND
COMMON CAUSE.

NOTES AND NEWS

The League of Nations Pilgrimage.

It has been reluctantly decided that the National Pilgrimage which was being organised to take place in May and June, must be postponed till next year. The continuation of the industrial crisis through which the country is now passing is proving an insuperable obstacle to the arrangements necessary for carrying through an enterprise of this character. In spite, however, of the abandonment of the actual Pilgrimage, the preparations which have been set on foot for holding meetings and demonstrations of every character are to go forward, and it is hoped that the large numbers of volunteers, and the splendid support given to the Union by the Organisations of the country will continue to make these demonstrations a great success, and it is hoped that no efforts will be relaxed to carry on the local activities. The Rally in Hyde Park on League of Nations Day will also take place, and all those who can do so are cordially invited to come to London for the occasion, and join in the processions and demonstrations. Everyone willing to do so, should communicate at once with the Pilgrimage Secretary, League of Nations Union, 15, Grosvenor Crescent, when they will be placed in communication with the Organiser of the Procession to which they will be attached. Volunteers to sing in the choir of the Hyde Park Rally are urgently required, and it is also hoped that all those who have banners and pennants will come and carry them in the processions, or send them for use in the London demonstration, after they have been used at local functions. We hope our readers will throw themselves into the new plans with all the enthusiasm they felt for the old ones, so that League of Nations Day will be a great and glorious success in spite of all the difficulties which surround it.

Indian Women and the Vote.

We reported last week that Woman Suffrage was being considered in Bombay, but Madras has gone further, and is to be congratulated on being the first Presidency to grant the franchise to Indian women, and thus to take a great step towards democracy. After a prolonged discussion, the Madras Legislative Council decided, by 47 votes to 13 (10 members remaining neutral), to recommend the removal of the sex disqualification for admission to the electoral roll. Under the Reform rules the Government is bound to accept the recommendation, and at the beginning of the debate Sir Lionel Davidson announced on behalf of the Government that it would remain neutral, and that members would be free to vote as they pleased. This was a great help and the large majority of the Hindu members spoke for the resolution, the only serious opposition coming from the Mohammedans. Much credit is due to the Women's Indian Association, which did such valiant work in organising a great educational campaign, and in arranging deputations to Ministers and Members of Council. Everything was done to make things easy for the members of the deputation and the Ministers received them with the utmost courtesy and friendliness, and during the debate two galleries were reserved by the President of the Council for the use of the women. In India it is felt that there will be little opposition by the men of India to any progressive reform really desired by the women, and it is hoped that Bombay will soon follow the lead given by Madras. It will not be quite so easy in the Purdah districts of India, for there is not the same widespread demand for the franchise, and many of the leading women are working in the non-co-operation movement. Three Indian States have already given the vote to women, Travancore, Cochin, and Jahalwar. The number of women in Madras who will profit by the removal of the sex disqualification is not as large as might be hoped, for the franchise is based on property qualifications, and in Southern India, under the joint family system, women do not often hold property. The vital step has, however, been taken and the sex barrier in politics has been removed.

The Civil Service.

There is still no news of the promised Parliamentary debate upon the position of women in the Civil Service. On Monday last Major Hills asked the Prime Minister when it was coming, and received the reply that no date could yet be given. Meanwhile the abuses continue. The departmental and professional classes are being treated upon the lines laid down for the clerical classes (the very ones that Parliament will reconsider when they get the opportunity), and the general confusion, uncertainty, and dissatisfaction in the Service increases day by day. The Second Interim Report of the Lytton Committee, and the results of the examination for temporary clerks have caused great consternation. The only comfort, and it is slight, is that the women have done rather better than the men in the examination. We understand that some four hundred temporary women clerks are to be immediately established, and that further vacancies for the rest of the year will be filled from this same list, which should, in that time, provide for the women who qualified. Ex-Service people (men and women) are, by the Lytton Report, given an absolute assurance of ultimate establishment if they qualify, and are thus given an advantage over the non-Service men and women. This is, of course, the Government's policy, and it is very hard. But when there are fewer posts than candidates all policies are hard, and we can only hope that the arrangements made by the Report will have mitigated the hardship as much as possible.

The Whitley Principle.

Mr. Stuart Bunning, the chairman of the Staff side of the National Whitley Council for the Civil Service, has published in Civil Service papers the text of an interview between himself and the chairman and secretary of the Joint Committee on Women in the Civil Service. It is interesting reading, and shows, among other things, that Mr. Bunning is very uneasy about the whole matter. Our readers will remember that the Staff side supported the equality principle, but that when it came to giving things away to secure agreement that was the thing they gave. The Federation of Women Civil Servants, represented on the Staff side through the Civil Service Alliance, then left the Alliance and tried in vain to retain representation on the Staff side. In practice, even the meagre good done by the Whitley Report to women is being refused, but Mr. Bunning asserts that their action makes it impossible for him to see that the agreement is carried out. Apparently he wishes to spend no more effort in the matter, although, of course, he still believes in equality, and still represents hundreds of other women through the Staff side. We cannot admire his attitude, nor the revelation it gives us of the mentality of Whitley Councils. The principle upon which they were founded was to secure by discussion the greatest measure of common agreement between employers and employed: the custom they appear to be following is that fatal one which seems to dog and clog all present-day labour politics—namely, the endless indulgence in technical recriminations about the methods of procedure and the convolution of representation, to the almost total exclusion of the matters in dispute. If Whitley Councils run too hotly down this curiously unattractive path, they will run into the sand, and become futile and ridiculous. We should deplore this result, for the Whitley principle is a fine one, as a principle.

Substitution in Italy.

Ex-soldiers are taking the law into their own hands in Rome, and last week encamped in various Government offices as a protest against the employment of women in the Civil Service. Popular subscriptions kept them supplied with wine and tobacco in their encampment, and we suspect that the scene was not edifying. Since then, the situation has been discussed in a debate by representatives of the two parties. The women

protest against any interference with their right to earn their own living, and assert that only a very small percentage of them have private means. We hope that justice will be done to them. As we are continually pointing out, the easing of one hardship by creating another does not leave the society concerned any better off. The only thing it does do is to sacrifice the less well-organised, and, therefore, less dangerous, section to the more troublesome, and this form of opportunism is only too well-known to the present generation.

The Plumage Bill.

Last week a Standing Committee of the House of Commons, presided over by Sir H. Mackinder, considered the Plumage Bill. Colonel Archer-Shee tried to repeat his old tactics, but the Chairman, after ruling a large number of amendments out of order, refused to accept Colonel Archer-Shee's motion for adjournment, and was obliged to call him to order repeatedly for irrelevancy and repetition. Eventually, this singularly persistent obstructionist was requested to resume his seat. The speech of Mr Charles Williams, another opponent, drove an exasperated Member to inquire whether complete incoherence of speech was in order. Later, the Committee was without a quorum and adjourned till this week. We hope sincerely that the small group of Members whose determined opposition, and whose despicable tactics, caused the failure of the last Bill to emerge from the Committee stage, will not be able to repeat their manoeuvres. The friends of the Bill will have to attend regularly and see it through.

The Control Board.

The Liquor Control Board seems to be a Government Department that wants to die, but is not allowed to do so. The Government is not prepared with a new policy on the Drink Traffic, and is to keep the Control Board in being until, under pressure of public opinion and assisted by a round-table conference, such a policy has crystallised. The brewers are waiting for the Government to call a conference, and are in favour of the Attorney-General as its chairman; the Temperance party is in favour of a committee consisting, as to one half, of impartial representatives of the public, and, as to the other, of equal numbers of representatives of temperance and the trade. Impartial representatives of the public will not be easy to select, unless impartiality and indifference are deemed to be synonymous. Much will depend on how these representatives are chosen, and we should not be surprised if the non-expert members of the committee are selected by reference to some other "label." We shall not be satisfied with any committee which contains only two women, though that number seems to be regarded in many quarters as possessing some peculiar sanctity.

Factory Inspection.

We are glad to note that several vacancies for Junior Inspectors of Factories, both men and women will be filled "shortly." This department, one of the most useful and fruitful, has long been understaffed, and has been fed with promises rather than recruits. In the case of men, the age-limit of 23-30 years is extended to 35 in the case of men with ten years' industrial experience. All women applicants must have had at least twelve months' recent experience in a Government Department on responsible work of administration or inspection concerned with conditions of labour. This rules out women who have acquired extremely useful knowledge in the service of private firms; we trust that it is a concession to women war-workers in Government employ, and that it will not be imposed on future candidates for the inspectorate. The age-limit of 25-40 is a recognition of the fact that women of middle age are for some purposes at their most competent; this is a great thing gained, and the change of public opinion on the matter has been astonishingly rapid.

Belgian Women Lawyers.

Last week the Belgian Chamber of Deputies passed, by 124 votes to one, the Bill giving women the right to practise as barristers. Married women still, however, have to obtain the permission of their husbands, which is a curious, but probably a purely formal reminder that marriage is still an official state of bondage. Husbands in Belgium, as elsewhere, are not likely to object to an addition to the joint income: and we do not suppose that this provision will prevent any barristers from practising. It will, however, furiously annoy married women, and if it seems to spur them on to enforce a fairer ideal of married life, this ridiculous provision may actually do good.

CAMBRIDGE COMPROMISERS.

Cambridge University is mortally afraid of the Commission. It knows that it has behaved badly towards women—or that most people outside the University think so—yet it can neither bring itself to recognise the equal educational claims of women citizens, nor, if possible, allow the State to recognise them. So during the past few weeks it has set itself to "explore" (in modern phrase) the possibilities of a compromise—or, in other words, to do a deal. The endeavour is to conclude a bargain with the women's colleges and their friends. The terms of the bargain are roughly these: that the University should give women nearly everything they ask for, except the membership of the University, which they most desire. In return for this half-loaf, the governing bodies of the women's colleges are not to invite "external interference" by drawing the attention of the Universities Commission to the present grave injustices.

The terms of this proposed bargain have been drafted by a group of a dozen gentlemen—half of whom were opponents of sex equality at the University, and half supporters—who, at the invitation of the Vice-Chancellor, assembled in informal conference. The twelve members of this new conference have embodied their proposals in the following memorandum, which many of our readers will like to study carefully:—

1. Women students shall be matriculated as members of women's colleges and be subject to a distinct disciplinary body.
2. Women students shall be eligible for all degrees of the University, with all its privileges, except membership of the Senate and of the Electoral Roll and of any other such House of Residents.
3. There shall be a Board elected by senior women residents to control the discipline of women students and with the right to report to the Vice-Chancellor for publication to the Senate on all matters affecting women's education.
4. Two women representatives shall be elected by senior women residents as assessors to the Council of the Senate, with a consultative voice but no vote.
5. The number of resident women *in statu pupillari* shall not be increased beyond 500, except by grace of the Senate.
6. Women shall be eligible, subject to existing special rights of particular colleges,* for all scholarships, prizes and studentships of the University, and for all professorships, readerships, lectureships, examinerships, &c., and for membership of boards and syndicates.
7. A woman if elected professor shall not be *ex officio* head of the department concerned.

It will be noticed at once that fear of the Royal Commission has led the enemy to "give ground" extensively. Their sole concern is to grant as much as possible in order to prevent the Commission from giving women everything. They seek, in their preamble to this memorandum, to force their terms on women by saying that the Council of the Senate will ask the Senate to vote for giving women merely "titular" degrees as an alternative to the larger offer. It looks, therefore, as though these new proposals would be carried.

That the proposals, if carried, will mark a great advance upon anything yet done by Cambridge for women is obvious. But then Cambridge is so far behind.

The present scheme, which would allow women to be professors, but not to exercise the ordinary rights of M.A.'s, or even to elect other professors, to act as "assessors" to the Council of the Senate, but not to vote in the Council, is a scheme riddled with all the absurdities which invariably accompany unfairness. Should the scheme pass, far more attention will be drawn to the Senate, the Council, and the anomalous procedure of Senate House discussions—than would have been the case had the reactionaries not made this ludicrous attempt to preserve for their own enjoyment one last cabbage-patch of power. Meantime, enfranchised citizens of both sexes all over the country will look to the Commission to place the admission of women to full membership of Cambridge University in the forefront of its recommendations.

The proposals for the "compromise" had no sooner been circulated than a bitter cry went up from the opponents of the women's cause, who exclaimed, in effect, that "lost leaders" had betrayed them. "It is not a compromise, but a surrender," they groaned. They see all too clearly that members of the garrison have undermined their citadel and that they cannot continue the fight with any hope of success. The notion of offering women a nine-tenths victory does not allure them; since they do not care to take their own defeat by instalments. If the Universities Commission and Parliament by their *force majeure* would establish complete sex-equality, both parties to the struggle might welcome the deliverance.

MARGARET HEITLAND.

* For example, this would exclude a woman from claiming the right to membership of a college for men in virtue of a professorship held by her.

FATHERS AND MOTHERS.

Of all the elements which make up human life, there can be no question as to which is the most important. Civilization, with all its complications, government with all its problems, war, peace, the food or the coal supply, these and a thousand others are all vital and fundamental matters; but all these things are as nothing to humanity compared with the continuance of the race. Everything is, of course, closely bound up with everything else, but the starting point of human affairs is human life, and nothing whatever in the material world is of comparable importance. It is, therefore, obvious that we must make wise arrangements for future generations, and must provide for our successors upon this earth an opportunity to be born, and to live, in such conditions as will enable them to take up our tasks when we must lay them down.

This doctrine is so obvious that it needs no preaching: it has been accepted and believed since the world began. It is reinforced, moreover, by so strong an instinct that it can be accepted without any words at all. It is the natural function of a normal man, and still more of a normal woman, and as such it takes its place in life at the very centre of the whole concern. The sexual instincts, the love of a home, as well as all the protective and unselfish movements of men's hearts, are parts of this primary business of handing on our life, and there is very little in ordinary human effort which can be said to be wholly unconnected with it.

While all this is true of men and women alike, there is every reason to believe that this general instinct has a special and peculiar intensity for women. Physically their connection with their children is very close. Their share in bringing new human beings into the world, and in watching over their helpless days, makes a claim upon their whole being, and there is no doubt that, while to all of us this matter is fundamental, to those of us who are of the female sex it is consciously and obviously the main task we have to perform.

When we say this, we mean considerably more than that women wish to have children of their own. The special lot which life and circumstance may give to any individual is distinct from the human instincts which move us all, and many women who never bear a child possess, and consciously exercise, those faculties and emotions which motherhood requires. We mean more even than that many women devote their lives to caring for children not their own. We mean, rather, that women, taken as a whole, look upon life as if they were mothers, basing their standard of values upon the assumption that children are of the first importance, that the qualities which their nurture demands are the qualities a human being should possess, and that the state of the world most favourable to their upbringing is the state of the world which should everlastingly prevail. We believe that these statements are true, and that the world offers evidence enough to prove them, and in saying this we are saying nothing more than that "Woman's Place is the Home." Although this phrase was used by our opponents in the suffrage days, it is a maxim which is profoundly true, and we have never disputed it. It was, indeed, one of our best reasons for wanting the vote; we need not, fortunately, renew that old discussion, but can most solemnly assert that we not only know our place, but delight in it: for what is natural is very satisfactory.

What we do not know, however, even now in our new enfranchisement, is what is our home? We know what we should

like it to be, and what it ought to be. Nature says to us that our home is where our children are, and that it is our place to care for them up to our very highest lights, helping and being helped by their father. We can imagine a home in which father and mother are partners, where the welfare of the young is the central point of the interests of the home, and where the whole business of family life runs smoothly and well. If we are both fortunate and wise we secure such a home for ourselves, and enjoy it: but we have to be both very fortunate and very wise. For the laws of this land provide for no such thing, and prepare for no such ideal. And, although we are much better than our laws, they influence us still.

According to the law of this country a married woman is not responsible for her children. It is not her part to decide, or to share the decision, as to their religion, their place of abode, their education, or their health. She has no rights over them, and they can be taken from her by their father whether he supports them or not, and, in short, according to the law she is not their parent at all.

The survival of the ridiculous code upon which all this is based is one of those curious anomalies of which English law is so full. It dates back, of course, to the days when married women were supposed to have no separate existence. Husband and wife were one, and he was that one; they had but one purse and it was in his pocket; and all she need do was to act as unpaid housekeeper and be thankful she wasn't an old maid. They were bad days for women, and we have long outgrown them; but the laws based upon them still disgrace our Statute Book, and still allow abuses which have most intolerable effects in those homes where happiness and agreement do not reign.

On the day this paper appears a private members' Bill will be brought forward in the House of Commons designed to remedy this state of affairs. Its title is the "Guardianship, Maintenance and Custody of Infants Bill," and it will be introduced by Colonel Greig and backed by members of all parties. Being a Bill to introduce equal guardianship and to protect the interests of infants, it is naturally supported by all the leading women's organisations in the country, the long list of which is published on another page. The provisions of the Bill, which have been set forth before in these columns, include not only equal guardianship by father and mother, but also equal responsibility upon both to support their children according to their means. It provides for better and speedier enforcement of maintenance orders, and abolishes the present ridiculous plan by which the imprisonment of the father for non-payment of such an order cancels all his arrears of debt. It is, in fact, a Bill drafted not in the interests of fathers, or of mothers, but of the "infants" themselves, and we sincerely trust that the House of Commons, for all that it has but one mother in it, may see its real importance, and push it through with so fine a majority that the Government will give it the necessary facilities to pass into law.

When women got the vote some people feared they would have too much influence on the form of legislation. This fear has proved quite unfounded, but we can say without hesitation that in directions such as this women cannot possibly have too much influence. This is the sort of Bill which falls entirely within "women's proper sphere." If our place is to be the home, the children for whom that home exists must be our children as well as their father's children. The thing is self-evident—and we trust it will soon be an accomplished fact.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

The week has been so full of political incident that it is impossible in the compass of these notes to give both an account of the events as they occurred and also their inner significance. Perhaps the best course is, therefore, to describe as shortly as may be the happenings of an eventful week, and to leave over their effect on the deeper movements of politics.

On April 25th and 26th, Mr. Chamberlain introduced the Budget. He spoke well, but not remarkably so; and, except in one point, the contents of his speech were so well known beforehand that interest somewhat flagged. The only new point was his conversion scheme for government borrowings which mature in or before 1925. He had to meet a difficult situation, for in addition to our floating debt of some 1,200 millions, 600 or 700 millions more call for repayment within the next four years. This latter sum he is converting into a long-term loan, which will not be repaid for forty years; and, naturally, since he has to ask the holders to forego early payment, he has to give them something in exchange. What he gives is probably the minimum that they would accept, and he has made the best bargain possible in a difficult situation.

The discussion on the Budget on neither day rose to a great height. It never does. The interesting debates occur later, when the individual duties are discussed, and on these the real contest of will arises.

More dramatic, and far more important in its influence on the future, is the retirement of Mr. Lowther from the Speakership, and the election of Mr. Whitley. This occurrence, carried through with all the pomp of traditional form, took four days for its completion, and was not perfected until Thursday, April 28th. The following is the sequence of events:—On Monday, April 25th, immediately after Questions, Mr. Lowther announced his decision to retire, and the Prime Minister gave notice that he would next day move two resolutions, one thanking him for his distinguished services, and the other praying His Majesty to confer some signal mark of his favour upon him. The meaning of the second resolution is that Mr. Lowther gets a peerage and a pension of £4,000 a year. On the following day, in a packed House, with the Peers' Gallery, the only one open to strangers, fuller than it has ever been before in this Parliament, Mr. Lloyd George rose to move his motions. It has often been said before that he does not excel on these occasions, but on the present this criticism must be withdrawn, for whether from deep feeling or from personal regard for Mr. Lowther, he made an admirable speech, which well reflected the feelings of the House. Mr. Walsh and Mr. Asquith followed, and then the resolutions were carried by acclamation, without any opposition, and Mr. Lowther made an impressive and dignified speech of thanks. Owing to the exigencies of his official position it fell to his lot himself to read the two resolutions to the House, and for the first time in his Parliamentary career he was too deeply moved to be able to go on.

It seldom happens in human affairs that the setting and the atmosphere are fitting for great events, but on this occasion they most conspicuously were. Every element conspired to make the House's farewell to Mr. Lowther commensurate with his great qualities and the affection in which he is held. His record, if you come to think of it, is an extraordinary one. A member of a family which was first represented in the Commons six hundred years ago, he himself has sat for thirty-eight years, of which twenty-six have been spent in the service of the House, ten as Chairman of Committees and sixteen as Speaker. Only four Members survive of the Parliament Mr. Lowther originally entered. He has, therefore, seen a whole Parliamentary generation come and go, and he has seen it in an epoch when change has moved with unusual swiftness. The qualities which have won him the esteem in which he is held are simple qualities. He is courageous, quick at making up his mind, impartial, and, above all, possessed of the salt of humour. His very voice, calm and resonant, has dispelled many an impending storm. He has a personality of that character that his word is readily obeyed, and he has the power to rule without appearing either dictatorial or aggressive. No turbulence destroyed his equanimity, and no crisis found him at a loss. He remains a high example of a type which comes to its highest in our country, and he has set an example which has immensely strengthened representative government.

On the following day (Wednesday, April 27th) came the election of Mr. Whitley. The attempt of the small body of his opponents, for, whatever they say, they are his opponents, and they are few, to defeat his election does not form an agreeable

story. It has been often said that they were the same people who have voted against the Government before, the extreme Conservative wing who dislike the Coalition and want a Conservative Speaker. They approached Sir Ernest Pollock first, but he was naturally told that since the Government supported Mr. Whitley's candidature, it was impossible to allow him to stand unless he resigned his office of Solicitor-General. He would not do that, and that ended his aspirations to the Chair. Next, Sir Frederick Banbury was chosen, and he, old political warrior that he is, declined to stand unless he obtained a written promise of support from one hundred Members. This number was not reached. His actual supporters are believed to have been sixty-five. Here the matter ought to have ended, but with some temerity Mr. Whitley's opponents determined on a protest, which, though in form an objection to the method of his election, really bore the character which has been indicated above. Of the three spokesmen Mr. Ronald McNeill was listened to with an impatience which remained silent, but his two successors, Sir Wm. Joynson-Hicks and Mr. Dennis Herbert, with an impatience which became vocal. When Sir Wm. Joynson-Hicks had the assurance to claim that he spoke for the bulk of the private Members he received a shout of protest which showed how small a body the revolvers were. Mr. Whitley was chosen without a Division, and his speech of thanks to the House deeply impressed all who heard it. He takes to the Chair the esteem and, indeed, the affection of nine Members out of ten.

No space has been left to give an account of Thursday's Debate on Ireland, which had a deep significance. This must be left over.

[The views expressed in this column are those of our Parliamentary correspondent, and are not our editorial opinion. Like so many other things in this paper they are expressly controversial, and comment upon them will be welcomed.—Ed.]

AN IMPRESSION OF THE LABOUR WOMEN'S CONFERENCE.

By A DELEGATE.

Some five hundred delegates from Trade Unions, Labour Parties, the Co-operative and Railway Women's Guilds, and such unplaceable bodies as the Fabian Society, attended the Conference held on April 27th and 28th in Manchester. The Conference was convened by the National Labour Party, and arranged by the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations. Women in industry were in a very obvious minority, and the Conference gained an added weight and significance because it was the largest assembly of women in the homes that has yet met under any auspices, since the General Election, and represented larger numbers of similar women than any other conference which has been held.

"The Live Wire," the organ of the National Ex-Service Men's Union of Civil Servants, not long ago contained a statement to the effect that every man who was married should remember that he had two votes, one for himself and one for his wife. The author of such an optimistic statement might have felt grave doubts if he had been present at the pow wow of his members' and similar men's wives in Manchester. An amazingly independent spirit was shown throughout the debates, summed up in Mrs. Pearson's *bon mot*. Mrs. Pearson claims to live in the worst house in Manchester; one long since condemned as unfit to live in, and shored up in front. On application for one of the new houses, however, for which a waiting list of ten thousand exists, she was informed that as her husband was not an ex-Service man she could not be housed until all the ex-Service men had been satisfied. "What have I to do with my husband, anyway?" said Mrs. Pearson. "Can't I stand on my own feet?"

A majority vote was cast in favour of a recommendation to the National Labour Party, so to alter its constitution that the four reserved seats for women on the National Executive should be filled by the direct vote of a conference confined to women, instead of by the general mixed vote at the general conference.

This serves to indicate the vigorous strength of the working women, whether in industry or the home, who, in spite of the fact that men are probably the only group of men unanimously standing for mothers' pensions and all the other things so dear to the women's hearts, desire to have some special means of

settling their own problems for themselves, while co-operating with the men on every common problem. Whether the policy is wise or not, is more open to doubt; women elected equally by men and women would probably carry more weight in deliberations on common policies, although there might be something in having additional seats filled by direct women's votes.

Resolutions on the ordinary Labour lines on International Policy, Ireland, and Unemployment were passed; the resolution on Ireland being somewhat damped by the speech of a young Irish representative of the Railway Clerks, who said, "We're sick and tired of your resolutions in Ireland. We don't believe in English resolutions—nothing ever happens except pious resolutions." The women who really work hard in the home showed a very different spirit to that shown by the women who only like to dust; the Fabians were in difficulties over their rider to the Unemployment resolution, to the effect "That domestic workers with no previous experience of 'living in' shall not be disqualified for unemployment benefit because they refuse to live in." Before the working mothers would pass the rider, Mrs. Corner had to make it quite clear that they did not want anyone, with previous experience or not, to be denied benefit for refusing domestic service "living in." The Conference did not wish to see any industrial woman forced into domestic service by economic necessity.

Women in the Civil Service, though not to any large extent represented in the Conference, yet received the support of the Conference in the passing of an Equal Pay resolution, moved by Miss Herring of the Post Office Workers, and in the resolution moved by Miss Maguire, Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, supported by Miss Smith Rose of the Civil Service Sorting Assistants' Association.

With regard to Housing, the Conference endorsed "the action of the Standing Joint Committee and their nominees in withdrawing from the Housing Advisory Council, and expressed its deep dissatisfaction at the failure of the Minister of Health to make use of the advisers whom he had himself called together."

Resolutions opposing economy in Education, and in support of Equal Franchise, the ratification of the Washington Conventions regarding leave with pay before and after child-birth, and of the principle of women jurors and magistrates being present in all cases in which women or children are concerned, however "objectionable," were passed with acclamation. Mrs. Hood, J.P., gave from her personal experience instances of how her presence had been helpful in cases where she had been advised by friendly officials not to be present because they were nasty. She also drew attention to the fact that in one swearing-in of juries with which she was concerned, although the two women who tried to get off were loudly reported in the Press, no less than two dozen men had pleaded against service, and no one noticed.

Miss Mannicom, Workers' Union, attacked the women over thirty, who apparently liked it, on the ground that they had quietly gone off with the vote when they got it, and had forgotten their juniors who had played as strong a part as themselves in winning it. Miss Symons, General Workers' Union, Women's Section, and Miss Talbot, Shop Assistants, exposed the campaign against women's rates under the Trade Boards, giving material to the Conference which would need a special article to deal with.

In spite of the feminist independence of the Conference, the spirit of true co-operation with their men was shown on the resolution in support of the miners' struggle for principles, and in condemning the Government for breach of faith and over-haste with military measures. Miners' wives and daughters from every district rose and spoke magnificently, some quite noticeably already feeling the pinch of under-feeding, but all determined to push their men on to fight to the last ditch. One miner's wife, speaking sympathetically of the sailors billeted on their district, though condemning the unnecessary burdening of the local ratepayers with the cost of troops they had never asked for, caused amusement by stating that she had left the sailors turning the skipping ropes for the miners' children, and that they were feeding at their own expense four hundred of these. The Conference showed its practical sympathy by raising over £20 for the miners.

Mothers' Pensions were urged by a frail little widow with six children, who complained that whereas she had previously received 30s. a week relief for her children, now she was earning 15s. a week the guardians had cut her relief money down by 12s. She also spoke of the good work of women guardians in such cases, and appealed for more women guardians. Taking it all round, it was a magnificent Conference.

NEWS FROM OTHER LANDS.

THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' CONGRESS AT PRAGUE.

Students of many nationalities have recently met together in Prague, which has the oldest University in Europe, their object being to deliberate upon matters of concern to all educationists, but, incidentally, they gave a practical demonstration of the possibility of a League of the Peoples of all Nations. A remarkable thing about these Congresses is the extraordinary way in which such varied types get to understand one another in spite of language difficulties. The spirit of good fellowship and the will to agree enable them to surmount all barriers, and mutual respect is developed by more intimate companionship. Common interests, too, form a strong uniting bond.

The Students' Congress, the first truly international one called since the war, had a good deal of business to transact, and part of its work was to secure recognition from its members of a common responsibility for the succour and relief of the many destitute students who are thronging into the Universities in Vienna, Prague, and elsewhere since demobilisation became general. Many of these are without food or lodging, and are extremely short of clothing; some of them are already tubercular, all are in need of assistance of some kind, yet unless they can complete their education they will be of little service to their several States.

Members of the Federation attending the Congress in Prague this Easter found conditions there in a very different state from what had been the case a year or so earlier. A year ago there was suffering as acute as anywhere else, but self-help and other help, notably that received from the American Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A., has set the Czecho-Slovak students on their feet, and they are now fast getting over their troubles. The American Student Friendship Fund first started the good work, but the students themselves, by their own initiative, last autumn obtained from the Government the grant that has enabled them to get to work and build accommodation suited to meet the needs of many hundreds, and inspection of this work was one of the most interesting, as well as the most important, items on the programme for the Congress. With the Government grant of four million kronen as a start, the students got to work on a piece of land allotted to them by the civic authorities, and the digging of the foundations was finished by Christmas, while at Easter some of the buildings were nearing completion, and our party was able to see what the accommodation would be like. The students are doing nearly all the work, going to and fro every day in big cars labelled "Student Barrack Builders," and the women students help in the kitchen and dining-room sections. Only those who are so working will be allowed to live in the new buildings, but even so, accommodation will be needed for some seven hundred.

Through the American Relief Administration, American students are contributing funds as their share towards the general Student Relief enterprise, the Committee of which has its headquarters staff located mainly in Geneva, and its field representatives in Austria, Czecho-Slovakia, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Turkey, and elsewhere. The field staff is largely voluntary, and very many students also give time to assist in distributing relief. This takes the form of medical help where needed, of clothing as well as food, secures and runs hostels and dormitories, obtains for study halls and rooms light and heat at the cheapest rates, and provides equipment for study and for the co-operative purchase of stationery and books. No student is helped until the strictest examination has been made into his financial and other resources, and self-help is encouraged in every possible way, while they are urged to assist in some productive work for the good of the country as well as to study for their own good. All relief and assistance is given impartially, without regard to colour, race, or creed.

All this work was going on while the Congress visitors were being entertained with the most generous hospitality. If their interest and co-operation and sympathy were desired, it was returned to them in abundant measure in the programme provided for their amusement. In Prague two banquets and a ball, a special gala performance at the National Theatre, and a Venetian night on the river were outstanding features, while the beauty of the old city itself was fascination enough for any lover of the antique. Warmth, colour, enthusiasm, a vigorous people rejoicing in their new-found freedom, eager to show the world what they can do—this is my impression of Czecho-Slovakia.

L. H. YATES.

BURNING QUESTIONS.

In reopening the discussion on marriage and sex relations in our controversial columns, we wish to emphasise the fact that we are not preaching any modernist doctrine or upholding any revolutionary point of view. Our object is to offer a platform for frank discussion of different aspects of this very complex subject. It is one of the utmost importance to men and women alike, and the interchange of serious thought upon it is too often avoided or repressed. The world's attitude towards sex relations is wrong. The double standard of morality and the calm acceptance of prostitution which have hitherto prevailed are proof that something is wrong. However difficult it may be, plain speaking and free discussion should be encouraged, and we hope that our readers, even when they disagree with the articles we print, will think that we are right to discuss these matters.

BIRTH CONTROL, THE FOUNDATION STONE OF WOMEN'S FREEDOM AND POWER.

By MARIE CARMICHAEL STOPES, D.Sc., Ph.D.,
Author of "Married Love," "Radiant Motherhood," and "Wise Parenthood."

Great though woman's political freedom is, and well worth the struggle which all thoughtful women have been waging to win it, it is less to each individual than her personal and bodily freedom: and without control over her own motherhood no married woman can have bodily freedom.

The means employed for the regulation of her motherhood so as to suit it to the appropriate times and seasons indicated by her strength and her material and spiritual surroundings are many and various, ranging from arbitrary separation from her husband (which demands immense self-control on his part, or secret unfaithfulness) through the various methods of simple physiological control, and finally to the total sterilisation of the woman, either by radium or operation.

But, in writing on the subject of the *control of conception*, I confine myself deliberately to its *control*. This essentially implies the retention by the woman of the power of fertility, and, therefore, excludes voluntary permanent sterilisation.

By controlling her motherhood a woman is enabled wisely to refrain for two or more years between births so as to be strong and able to give strength to her children.

To me, steeped in a realisation of the unspeakable agonies of myriads of women since the world began who have been deprived of this elementary power over their own fate and that of their children, it seems incredible that there should still be any left to argue against giving the mother her due place as guardian of the race. That there are any who argue thus is due chiefly to their inability to realise what enforced and enslaved motherhood has had to bear, and still to-day has to bear. It is also due to some extent (alas that it should be at all) to the desire to keep women enslaved and ignorant so that their helplessness shall pander either to the lust for power or money on the part of others to whom they must turn in their physical distress.

In 1915, stirred to action on behalf of Mrs. Sanger, of America, who was in that amazingly backward country risking a criminal prosecution for giving birth-control information, I wrote to President Wilson as follows:—

"Have you, Sir, visualised what it means to be a woman whose every fibre, whose every muscle, and blood capillary is subtly poisoned by the secret, ever-growing horror, more penetrating, more long-drawn than any nightmare, of an unwanted embryo developing beneath her heart? White men stand proudly and face the sun, boasting that they have quenched the wickedness of slavery. What chains of slavery are, have been, or ever could be, so intimate a horror as the shackles on every limb, on every thought, on the very soul of an unwillingly pregnant woman? And you have thousands of such slaves in your 'free' United States, many of them 'honoured' wives, forced to stumble through nine months of nightmare for want of the scientific knowledge which every grown man and woman has a right to have. And does the State benefit by the numerous births of the poor and ignorant classes? In the 'slums' women often have nine or ten or more births or still-births, and yet of these only two or three offspring reach a feeble maturity. The State, therefore, not only loses the four or five healthy children the woman might have had, but also suffers the costly drain of her ill-health and weakness, and the reduction of her working power due to the useless births. The only people who benefit are the undertakers."

This letter expresses as tersely as I can well do the essence of what I feel upon the subject. Almost incredible as it may be to those who are free, intelligent, and well-to-do, you have to-day but to transpose the words "Great Britain" for the words "United States" in this letter, and it remains true of our own

country. There are still thousands of poor women among us, who, as enslaved mothers, bring forth children only to die or to live through a few weak and puny years to drain not only the vitality of their own mothers, their own brothers and sisters, but of the whole nation.

This Journal is not the place to discuss the physiological details of actual methods. This has been done fully, for the first time scientifically, and yet at the same time very clearly and simply, in my book "Wise Parenthood." Those who read that book with attention will also find in it the reason why it has been so long possible for the opponents of birth control to coerce, brow-beat, and frighten women by the general statement that "birth control methods are harmful." In "Wise Parenthood" I show quite clearly that a good many of the birth control methods widely used are extremely harmful. I might draw particular attention to the method so widely used under the false and misleading name of "self control," namely, *coitus interruptus*, which has done an incredible amount of damage to the nervous organisation of both man and woman, and has broken the peace of thousands of homes by creating nervous and hysterical wives, where the more natural and sound physiological method of control would have secured happy, peaceful, and normally developed couples.

Middle-class, educated and moderately well-to-do women can, either through their own medical man, or through my books, obtain the necessary very simple knowledge and apparatus, but poor women are still immensely at the mercy of ignorance and prejudice, and by their conditions are shut away from sources of sound information.

Feeling the need of the poor and ignorant, my husband, Mr. H. V. Roe, and I, recently decided to take this knowledge to the slums, and by founding a free Clinic for Birth Control (at 61, Marlborough Road, Holloway, London, N. 19), give to those who most need it, help and information which those who have had the knowledge have grievously failed to hand on. The patrons of our clinic, who give their names to indicate the deep interest felt in various quarters in a scheme of such racial moment, include several of our greatest medical men.

In this Journal, which is written for women in the interests of the race, I may say frankly that under normal circumstances there is, and there can be, no detrimental effect from the birth control method which I advise in my book, "Wise Parenthood." If, for purely theoretical reasons of discussion and argument, one allows, say, one per cent. loss in perfection of unions in which this method is used there is a counterbalancing gain of 99 per cent. on the part of the woman who would otherwise become pregnant at times of ill-health or weakness, or at psychological periods unsuited for motherhood.

It is within my knowledge that women who have read, fully understood, and desired to use the harmless methods I recommend, have been told by their medical attendants that they would harm them. I now publicly ask that in all such cases women *will write to me direct*, giving exact particulars of the reasons given by their medical practitioner for his or her objection. I may say that so far, in every case which I have followed up, I have found simple ignorance on the part of the medical practitioner. I am prepared publicly to debate on this subject with any competent medical practitioner. To help women, moreover, I am always willing, indeed, glad, to give names and addresses of fully qualified and competent medical advisers to any and every woman desiring help on these lines.

The point which is of such immense racial significance in this connection, is that it is only through voluntary and joyous motherhood that woman is going to save the Race.

THE BURDEN OF THE INCOME-TAX.

By E. AYRES PURDIE.

The Budget of 1921 is a serious affair, and it behoves the ordinary citizen to give it serious consideration. It must be admitted that this is no easy matter, for present-day Budgets soar to such colossal proportions that they seem to bear no relation to realities; the phenomenal figures stun the ear and confuse the mind, which wearies in attempting to envisage their significance as a whole. The only way of realising their meaning is by picturing the relation of the individual to the vast sums which the nation is being compelled to find. The Income-tax, a chief and permanent source of revenue, gathers everyone, broadly speaking, into its net; and is the tax most widely spread and severely felt.

The present Budget offers no relief from the now standardised 6s. rate. Barely a year has yet elapsed since this was fixed as the general rate for all, whether rich or poor; and its operation has not had time to make itself felt to the fullest extent. The pinch of it will be experienced more vitally in the coming year than in that which is past. Most people assumed that the Finance Act of 1920 had in some mysterious way diminished the income-tax burden, and are just beginning to discover that it was the other way about. It benefited merely the poor and the affluent, putting the screw on all those in between. For purposes of illustration I call a £200-a-year person poor (in present conditions), and a £2,000-a-year or more person comparatively affluent. The new provisions of 1920 affecting income-tax were so contrived that the first person, broadly speaking, might get out of income-tax entirely, and the second person might get reliefs never hitherto extended to him. So the one was made contented by paying nothing, and the other pleased that he paid rather less than he did before. But what of the vast army that fall between these two classes? In general terms it may now be said that any increase of income accruing to a person already having £500 a year, is far from being what it seems, as the State will commandeer 6s. out of every £ of it, or, if earned, a little less.

A £500 a year employee who seeks and obtains a rise in salary will get rather less than three-fourths of such increase for himself, the State having constituted itself a considerable partner in his industry and advancing prosperity. In pre-war days the State would have been satisfied to let him keep about 26-27ths to himself. Take the £1,000 a year income as another illustration. £1,000 nowadays is at most £500 pre-war value, so this is not a very grand income. If unearned, £200 will be taken from the owner, leaving him with £400 a year (pre-war value) at his own disposal. If he earns his income, the State will only claim £170 from him.

If a single woman is earning £400 a year she will pay £34 only. But if she married a man also earning £400 a year, the tax payable on her earnings would at once increase to £51 instead of £34, and similarly on her husband's, i.e., £102 would be paid instead of £68.* Suppose a single woman is fortunate enough to be able to earn £700 a year, she will pay £115 income-tax. If she got an increase to £800 she would pay £140. If her income were £400 earned and £400 from other sources she would pay £155, or, if all unearned, £166. These figures will serve to demonstrate how sharply the screw is applied directly the income passes above £500 a year, and how any person of decent (not luxurious) income has to yield about one-fifth of it to the Government.

The 1920 Finance Act gave certain ostensible relief with one hand, while removing with the other hand the graduated rates of tax. On results, the average taxpayer loses heavily. It was Mr. Lloyd George who, years ago, introduced graduated rates, lauding them to the skies, and professing inability to understand why such an obvious reform had not been introduced years before. His graduated rates have now followed his land taxes into oblivion. There is no longer any pretence at graduation, except the quite insignificant distinction made between unearned and earned income, namely, 6s. in the £ on the former and

* On marriage people lose the personal abatements previously enjoyed, which suffer amalgamation and reduction.

10 per cent. less, say 5s. 5d. in the £, on the latter. Yet Mr. Lloyd George, when Chancellor of the Exchequer in pre-war days, contended that the disparity between unearned and earned income was "enormous," and ought to have been recognised in income-tax regulations years before. That official and accepted recognition has now diminished to the difference between 6s. and 5s. 5d.

The gently graduated rates in force before 1920 made a vast difference to the class which has between £500 and £2,000 a year, the typical middle class. People then paid according to their means. But now, if she passes the £500 mark, the woman with a small business or boarding-house will pay tax at the same rate as the popular music-hall artiste. It seems strange that anybody could be found to introduce and defend such a retrograde step, or that the taxpayers should acquiesce in it if they fully realised its significance. Since 1290, reliefs for children and dependent relatives are the same for everybody, without regard to income. The Welsh miner and the millionaire mine-owner get exactly the same reliefs for supporting their old mothers, or children. In fact, the richer one is, the longer relief for children is enjoyed, as the children can be kept at school or college long after they are sixteen, often till they are five-and-twenty; but the working man, the struggling professional man, or the small shopkeeper, cannot afford to continue his children's education beyond sixteen, so he loses the relief much earlier than better-to-do folks.

But the crucial point at issue for every one of us is: Are we getting our money's worth out of the Government? Does it give good value in return for the taxes, and if not, why not? Every woman should try to realise what is the proportion of her income that is going into the Government's coffers to support reckless and unprofitable ventures in various parts of the world, and colossal armaments. Does she honestly feel that she has any voice, any effective control in the spending of her money, that it is being paid out wisely and economically, in short, that she gets her money's worth?

The wrench of parting with an exceedingly large proportion of one's income might be ameliorated by the reflection that the money was being spent to good purpose; if one could see homes being built, and employment being provided for the people, peace, industry, and prosperity being organised and encouraged in Europe and elsewhere, dirt and disease, poverty and ignorance being combated and overturned. We see, instead, clinics, crèches, hospitals at their wits' end for money; and the taxpayers' money flows into a bottomless pit, and nothing worth while seems to be obtainable in return.

Mr. G. Locker-Lampson is to propose that the standard rate of income-tax for the second half of the current year shall be reduced to 5s. 6d. in place of 6s., which would make the rate for the whole year work out at 5s. 9d. in the £. It is to be hoped that this will be strongly supported by women as well as men. The knowledge that the Government takes 6s. in the £, and the remaining 14s. is only worth 7s. in purchasing value, acts as a blight on thrift and industry. There is a feeling that whereas each of us has to lay out his own money wisely, and to the best advantage, with a sense of responsibility, the Government is influenced by no such considerations, and the money we entrust to it will be so used that it will not benefit us or posterity.

It has been asserted that out of every pound raised in taxes 4s. is spent on armaments alone, 11s. goes as interest on the war debt, and a good deal is spent on endeavouring to force our system of government on nations to whom it does not appeal, and who prefer to initiate their own system and work out their own salvation. It is obvious that little can be left for social schemes, for improving the race, or for constructive development of any sort. Therefore, it behoves women to consider seriously whether they desire to see their enormous contributions to the national exchequer used in more profitable directions, and how they can bring this about, or whether, alternatively, the contributions should be reduced, and the State should cease to make such heavy inroads on the resources of the individual.

EFFICIENT HOUSEKEEPING.

THE EXPERIENCES OF A "LADY SERVANT."—I.

By ANN POPE.

"Judging by the number of advertisements one sees in the columns of the Press, there is at the present time considerable demand for the 'lady' servant."—*Daily Graphic*, November, 1919.

This being the case, it may be of interest to many, and useful to some, to relate the experiences of an educated woman who became a domestic servant, and persevered in that calling from choice, not necessity.

My father, a clergyman, rector of a country parish several miles from a railway station, had a large house, numerous small children, and a small income, consequently my step-mother may be forgiven for taking me away from school when I was fourteen and a-half.

I knew nothing of my mother's people, who were well off and belonged to a good old family. They had disapproved of my father's second marriage, and would have nothing to do either with him, or his wife; they would have been glad to have had me to stay with them, but my father would not allow it, because he was afraid, and justly, that they would set me against my step-mother, and make me discontented with my home.

My father, also, belonged to a good stock, but my step-mother's people were of the shop-keeping class, which had a different status in those days to that which it now holds. She had been useful companion at the Rectory during my mother's short married life, and remained on after her death as house-keeper, to look after me.

From 1878 to 1881 we were practically without a servant all the time, and certain definite duties were made over to me. I was down at six o'clock, chopped wood, fetched in coal, made a fire in the kitchen, which was furnished and used as a "living room," cleaned boots, fed the chickens and ducks, swept up the kitchen, took up a cup of tea to my step-mother, and got the family breakfast for 8 o'clock. Directly the others sat down to the table I rushed upstairs, opened the bedroom windows, and stripped the beds, then came down and had my own breakfast. At 8.45 it was my duty to go up again, do the washstands, make the beds with my step-mother's help, and, if it were bedroom day, prepare the rooms for sweeping. My step-mother was a splendid housekeeper, and I learnt to do all these things in the best way.

As soon after 9.30 as possible, I was downstairs washing-up the breakfast things and cleaning the knives. From ten to twelve the children had their lessons in the kitchen, and it was my business to teach and supervise them whilst cooking the dinner. My step-mother told me what to cook, and how to do it, and one of my amusements was to make nice dinners out of scraps. I remember inventing a roly poly meat pudding, which was a great success. It could be made with all sorts of odd pieces of meat and fat from the bone of a joint, or a ham bone, and was nice and substantial. With some good gravy, potatoes and vegetables it was a favourite dinner.

A woman came in once a week to scrub the floors of the kitchen premises and blacklead all the grates, so I never learnt to do these things. Neither did I learn to wash; the same woman came in every Monday to do the household washing, but I learnt to fold, sprinkle, iron, and mangle clothes; washing glass and cleaning brass and silver were also amongst my accomplishments. During these three years I worked hard at my lessons, and passed the three examinations of the College of Preceptors, and took prizes for drawing at the South Kensington examinations. My tutors were my father and his friends. My father taught me Latin, Euclid, and Algebra, and some Greek. One of his friends gave me occasional lessons in drawing and painting, another in the Theory of Music. I had not enough time to practise much on the piano, although I had had lessons before leaving school. Stella and Dennis taught me to dance, and an old clergyman from a neighbouring village, a godson of Sir Walter Scott, talked about the wonders of the stars (astronomy was his hobby), introduced me to some good literature, and taught me to think. On Sundays I taught a class in

the Sunday School, and during the week often visited sick and old folks in the village.

Looking back, I cannot remember being anything else but very happy, and we certainly had plenty of fun.

The garden was large and the country lovely. One of my duties was to amuse the children out of doors, and I once overheard my father say to himself: "Will anything break that girl's high spirits?"

I remember feeling rather ill-used at the time, my high spirits were all I possessed! Later on I learnt they were a legacy from my mother, who had been the happiest girl in the world.

Darning and mending, of course, were learnt in the natural order of things, and my step-mother was a very good teacher. Dressmaking and millinery were picked up through the desire to be as well-dressed as possible on nothing! When I was nineteen three of my step-brothers were sent to school by my wealthy aunts, and I went to help a friend nurse her mother and aunt in their last illness. One had creeping paralysis, and the other a tumour that could not be operated on. My step-mother lent me for a month, and I stayed a year. During that time I had very good training in invalid cookery, pastry making, and cooking game of all sorts. I also learnt how to look after and care for the sick in their own homes.

On my return home a situation was obtained for me as governess in a clergyman's family, and I stayed there until in 1885 I was lucky enough to get into High School work.

At thirty my eyesight and strength gave out under the strain of studying and teaching at the same time, and I drifted into journalism, which, with one break, filled my life for another ten years. When I was forty I gave up journalism to specialise in literature, and went to Paris, and for five years coached students in English for the Sorbonne examinations; lectured, and studied—English!

From that time my life was spent alternately on the Continent, travelling and teaching English, and in England, doing odd bits of social work.

When the war began I possessed a small income of £120 a year, inherited from my mother, and I had settled down in a country cottage near London to do literary and social work.

There were plenty of odd jobs to be done, and having acquired flat foot by over walking in Scotland a few years previously, I did not volunteer for France for fear of giving more trouble than help. When, however, women were asked to register, I did so at once, and offered to do anything in the way of office, factory, or shop work to release a man for active service. For nine months I hammered at doors of Labour Exchanges, Urban District Councils, Municipal Authorities, &c., without getting a single offer of work. I was never even interviewed. My testimonials were excellent, and I was qualified in various ways, but had no certificates because I had always been able to get employment through work done, but the thing that went against me more than anything, I feel sure, was that I gave my correct age—fifty-two. When I sent in applications and copies of testimonials, the recipients, when they saw my age stated, apparently simply turned me down!

Just at that time the shortage of domestic servants began to be serious, and I promptly went to London, walked into a registry office, and entered myself as willing to go out as a general servant.

In addition to doing the work of a general servant for my step-mother for three years, I had at different times acted as cook-general, housekeeper (in houses where the staffs ranged from one servant to six), nurse-companion, Lady Superintendent and Matron in hostels for students, governesses, factory hands, business girls and servants, and had made a hobby of cooking, taking lessons whenever I could, and studying dietetics, and I did not consider any work menial.

So I screwed my courage to the sticking point, determined to do my best, and not be daunted.

(To be continued.)

REVIEWS.

The Industrial State. By M. D. Stocks, B.Sc. (Collins. 4s.)

When asked some time ago by a friend for my opinion of her new book, I remember giving quite unconscious offence by responding warmly that I greatly admired her selection of quotations. I have no intention of repeating the same clumsy blunder in the case of Mrs. Stocks' book, but it is impossible to refrain from congratulating her on the apposite extracts from a great variety of sources with which she strikes the right keynote for each chapter. Perhaps the best of all is the verse which inaugurates the chapter dealing with reconstruction after the Industrial Revolution.

"If seven maids with seven mops
Swept it for half a year,
Do you suppose," the walrus said,
That they could get it clear?
"I doubt it," said the carpenter,
And shed a bitter tear."

This little book is intended primarily for the use of scholars attending continuation schools, but it should certainly reach a much wider circle of readers. I have scrutinised many books on Citizenship for schools and study circles, and found them, for the most part, strings of facts and platitudes; Mrs. Stocks' book is the first approach to the subject which has completely satisfied me; it is a picture, not a map or diagram, a moving picture, if one may use anything so crude and artificial to illustrate a story so vivid as Mrs. Stocks' survey of the development of society from the Middle Ages to the present time.

Mrs. Stocks has been remarkably successful in producing a little book which can be used with almost equal suitability for children, boys and girls already wage-earners, young people at college, associations of women citizens, study circles of working men and women, and, not least, teachers who want suggestions for the preparation of lessons on elementary social history and citizenship. Here is exactly the book I could not lay my hands on a short time ago when asked by a group of keen young medical students, with little time to spare for reading outside their work, to recommend for a study circle "something which would help us to understand social problems." Many people to-day, with, perhaps, less excuse than medical students, crave for short cuts to the understanding of modern economic and industrial problems. In this little volume they will find the historical background which is indispensable to the thorough study of the changes and chances of the present.

There are picturesque touches here and there which will seize the imagination of intelligent boys and girls as well as adults whose interest is still fresh and unjaded, and invest the history of our nation with an interest and fascination as great as any story book or novel; the Kensington resident of past generations who lived in solitude, as "though cast on a rock in the middle of the ocean," because the road to London is an "impassable gulf of mud"; the "silent monitor," introduced in Owen's factory—a device which might well be imitated in a modern nursery—and the story of the fisherman's apprentice at Aldburgh.

Perhaps the most interesting chapter is that entitled "The New Age of Paternalism," in which the writer traces the evolution of a new form of State responsibility which she suggests is fraternal rather than paternal. In the last chapter she takes stock of the Great Britain of to-day; she discusses the three great problems which the conditions of a modern society present for solution—the relation between capital and labour, the relation between our own nation and other nations of the world, and the relation between the State and the individual. No doubt Mrs. Stocks intentionally touched very lightly on the present century when, as she says, history has become merged into politics, and any direct reference to the League of Nations would possibly have been out of her perspective; nevertheless, I wish she could have found room, at least, for the suggestion that the Great Society, whose development she has described, will utterly collapse if wars do not cease and nations fail to come closer together in a greater Society of Nations.

This brilliant little book, with its carefully selected bibliography, though destined for fortunate young "citizens to be," cannot fail to find an immediate welcome from citizens already in being, who, like most of us, are only too conscious of the fact that we have attained our full political stature with very inadequate preparation for its responsibilities.

H. S.

A History of Scotland. By Charles Sanford Terry. (Cambridge University Press. 21s.)

In writing a history of Scotland from the Roman evacuation to the Disruption in the space of rather over 600 pages, Dr. Terry has attempted a difficult task, and, despite his great learning, has not entirely succeeded. Histories of this kind appeal to but a small class of readers; they are too long to be read in conjunction with monographs, biographies, and reprints of ancient texts, and yet too full of lacunae to fill completely the place of a book of reference. Events which strike the unlearned as important are here passed over in a few paragraphs. The barest possible sketches are given of the careers of William Wallace and Robert the Bruce; the account of Mary Stewart's trial and death is condensed into five lines, and the story of Flodden Field into 170 words. Nor are Dr. Terry's pages charged with feeling; he remarks, after relating Queen Mary's death upon the scaffold, that Scotland "exhibited emotion," but for him the tragedy is merely an incident in the Counter-Reformation. On the other hand, the student in search of a continuous condensed historical record will be disappointed to find only ten pages devoted to the years between 1715 and 1745.

Considerations of space have banished from the work a good deal that the general reader demands as encouragement by the way and aids to memory; and it is sad to see a work of erudition and calmly-balanced judgment deprived of its due audience, and one can but deplore the loss of an opportunity to dispel the prevailing ignorance of Scottish history which is a blot on English education. The arrangement of this history, its excellent index, and its thirty-two invaluable pedigree tables are to be commended, though the substitution of the date, or the decade, for the number of the chapter as a page-heading, would be an improvement, and some readers will regret the omission at the beginning of the chapters of names of contemporary English and French monarchs, as they appear in Mackintosh's larger work. The maps are exceedingly well chosen, that showing Protestant and Roman Catholic populations in Scotland about 1590, throws a light on Scotland's domestic dissensions and vacillating foreign policy at that epoch.

In the later chapters of the book the author allows himself a larger canvas, and his portraits, heightened by apt quotations from contemporary writers, are often subtle and arresting. Working under less cramped conditions, the author clarifies his style, which the effort for brevity had in the early chapters affected for the worse. Inversions become rarer; we meet with fewer ambiguities on the pattern of, "In the rare intervals of peace Oxford and Cambridge attracted them to its halls"; and grammarians will not be startled by constant sentences on the model of, "Like Arthur and Charlemagne, his people refused to think him dead." On the question of the Union Dr. Terry holds the balance impartially; he sees that both countries had much to gain from the cessation of border wars and foreign intrigue, but he gives neither to advocates or opponents of the Union, either English or Scottish, credit for any great honesty of dealing, or clearness of outlook.

Much of the chapters on "National Revival" and "Disruption and Reform" will surprise English readers who are accustomed to regard Scotland as a school of politics. In fact, as Dr. Terry makes clear, the Scottish Parliament was, to the end of its existence, a feudal, not a national, body. The General Assembly was the voice of democracy, while on the eve of the Reform Bill there were only 4,000 Parliamentary voters out of a population of two and a-half millions, and the local government was as undemocratic as can well be imagined. In 1832 the franchise was restricted to "sixty-six Royal Burghs, and about 2,600 persons who constituted the county electorate, and the Royal Burghs depended upon a self-elected and practically permanent Council to choose their Members of Parliament." It would be difficult to decide whether the urban or the county franchise were the more corrupt. The progress made in less than a hundred years is almost incredible; freedom did not so much slowly broaden down from precedent to precedent as rush like a flood. It is a striking picture, but Dr. Terry is not concerned to paint pictures, nor to flatter any national vanities. He tells us that his book is "not a school-book," but he asks of his readers something of the attitude of the school-room, which must consent to be informed rather than demand to be delighted.

DRAMA.

"The Knave of Diamonds," by Ethel M. Dell at the Globe.

A moral holiday is a very different kind of outing to-day from a century ago. Lamb, when he wished to escape from the morals of real life, "to take for a season an airing beyond the diocese of strict conscience, not to live always in the precincts of the law courts," used to turn to the old comedies of Wycherly or Congreve. We need not go so far. For us it is sufficient change of moral air to turn to the works of Miss Ethel M. Dell. Not that her works have anything in common with those of the old dramatists, unless it be that they have no connection with real life, but make "a world of themselves as much as fairyland." But different ages have different morals, and consequently require different moral relaxation. The charm of Miss Dell's characters is not that they are outside, independent of all moral law, but that they are bound by the strictest and simplest moral code, that they live in a land where the difference between right and wrong is as clear and simple as between black and white. To an age of half lights and eternal niceties of conscience, nothing could be more delightfully restful. One settles down to an evening of peaceful enjoyment in a land where the laws are so strict and simple that no argument is possible about them.

First among these is the marriage law. In plays where the scene is copied from real life these laws are hopelessly intricate and confused. Characters who are already married do not regard the matter as settled, but are continually wondering whether they ought to remain bound to a partner whom they have ceased to love, or who is a criminal, a lunatic, a fool, or a drunkard, &c. No such difficulties exist in Miss Ethel M. Dell's world. Marriage is marriage and there is no more to be said about it. The heroine in "The Knave of Diamonds" finds herself in a position which would have worried an heroine of Mr. Shaw, Mr. Somerset Maugham, or Miss Clemence Dane with a thousand questions of conscience. She is married to a drunken brute, who, not content with drinking himself into delirium tremens, bullies his wife night and day, makes scenes at evening parties, attacks her friends, and finally his wife herself with a husband? Her friends may be horsewhipped, she may be not exist for Lady Carfax of Baronmead. Is not Sir Giles her husband. Her friends may be horsewhipped, she may be strangled, Sir Giles may be locked up, her duty is to remain faithful still, to love, honour, and obey.

She can honour and obey but to love is not quite in her power. For, though this does not alter her conduct or her duty by a hair's-breadth, Lady Carfax loves another. She will not look at another until Sir Giles has safely drunk himself to death, still, though she keeps him at arm's length, she loves Napoleon Errol, Nap, the Knave of Diamonds.

From this we gather that she never loved Sir Giles. For here is another equally rigid law of Miss Dell's world—one can only love once, and then it is for life. So many difficulties are simplified by this rule. In spite of all that Lady Carfax can say to Nap, or about him, in spite of the fact that she drives him to the other side of the globe and then becomes engaged to someone else, we know that she still loves Nap, that he still loves her, and we hope, for Miss Dell never lets us down, that in the end they will come back to each other.

It may, perhaps, appear odd that so good a woman as Lady Carfax should marry one man she did not love and become engaged to another. But she was not really in the least to blame. She was obeying one of the most important laws of the Dell world—self-sacrifice. This is the highest virtue. Truth,

honesty, the good of the race, of the community, self-respect, all other considerations pale before the crowning glory of throwing oneself upon some altar, of sacrificing oneself body and soul for the benefit of another. Lady Carfax did it twice. The first time for her father, a fraudulent bailiff on the Carfax estate. The only condition on which Sir Giles would refrain from sending him to prison was if his daughter would marry him. Sir Giles was more honest in his demands than one might have expected. Anyhow, the daughter did not hesitate, and like the white woman she was, stuck to her bargain. When at last Sir Giles had been carried kicking to the grave, and Lady Carfax was free, she immediately prepared to sacrifice herself again. The saintly Lucas Errol was dying, but the doctor told her that his life would be saved if she would marry him. Naturally, Lady Carfax consented, though she loved his sturdy ne'er-do-well brother Nap. In the end, it all came right, after Lucas and Nap had both sacrificed themselves to the other, handing the lady backwards and forwards like the last chocolate in the box. Just at the right moment Lucas quietly died, flickering out like a candle from unselfishness and a broken heart. So the ne'er-do-well with the golden heart had her—the Knave of Diamonds took the Queen.

It is a "lovely" play, and loses nothing in the acting. The most attractive character was Mr. Townsend Whitley as Sir Giles Carfax. He was perfect in top-boots, white breeches and pink hunting coat. The scene where he insulted and was knocked down by Nap, horsewhipped his wife, was pinned down by the gardener and the gardener's boy, the butler, two footmen, and the groom three on each side, and was finally subdued by one glance from the pale, limping cripple Lucas Errol, was an evening's entertainment in itself. The pity was that Sir Giles only appeared in the first act. Miss Violet Vanbrugh was also in her element, her deep voice vibrating and breaking with emotion and self-control, her haggard loveliness growing more haggard as she is tossed from one strong man to another.

There can be few things more delightful in this world than to be Miss Ethel M. Dell sitting in a box at the Globe.

"Count 'X,'" at the Garrick.

There are good moments in "Count 'X,'" for instance, when the lights are turned out and two green eyes float about the room, or when the Count thinks that he has taken poison and falls fainting to the ground, only to be brought round and be told the brutal yet not unwelcome truth that it was pure water. But, on the whole, it is a disappointing play. With the exception of Mr. Leon M. Lion neither the actors nor the author take it seriously enough. The situation which is meant to be so sinister and dangerous never gives us a moment's anxiety. The actors and the author appear to think it all rather a joke, so, of course, cannot expect us to be frightened. The followers of Count "X," and the Count himself are so stupid that one has not a moment's doubt that the clever young inventor will outwit them all, and so he does in rather a slow and tedious manner.

Mr. Leon M. Lion, of course, does all that can be done as the sinister Count, and if the part were better written would doubtless alarm us. Mr. Herbert Marshall appears as an intelligent but dull young man, which is all that is required of him. Miss Moyna MacGill is not a comedy actress. She has considerable gifts, as she showed in "John Ferguson," but they do not include sympathy with, or appreciation of, the softer and more fatuous sides of the female character. So she frankly geyed and thus killed what there was of her part.

D. E.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PREVENTION OF VENEREAL DISEASE.

MADAM.—The letter by Miss Norah March on the Prevention of Venereal Disease ends with the sentences: "In the meantime, we have widespread venereal disease. We have also means of preventing it."

In individual cases, when self-disinfection can be properly and immediately applied, no doubt the chances are enormously in favour of impunity, but will that be a means of preventing "widespread venereal disease?"

Will it not probably, I might almost say certainly, immensely increase the number of those who will run the risk, and the number of the times they will venture to run it, so that the strong probability is that, in the long run, the incidence of the disease will become more widespread than ever, as the general moral restraint of the population becomes lessened?

Besides, what is the use of anyone attempting to institute moral and "inspired" education among the young if, at the same time, we are offering means of carrying on self-pollution with impunity? To say, in effect, "Chastity is the right thing, but if you cannot be chaste here is the means for you to act unchastely with safety" is surely the subtlest form of temptation.

Is not the greatest safeguard against failure before temptation self-respect? And is it not a sure undermining of the self-respect of the young to let them see that we do not expect them to act up to our teaching? How can any moral education, however "inspired," hope to be successful under such circumstances?

It is not fair to weaken the defences of the average young man or woman by inferring that we do not expect right conduct from them and so advise them to be prepared for failure beforehand.

To place expediency before principle, even in the supposed interests of others, always ends in failure, and the end can never justify the means. For the end cannot be separated from the means, they are both part of one and the same thing.

How good the end desired, if it should be secured by unsound means, then into that good end there enters inevitably just so much of evil and unsoundness as entered into the means employed.

CAROL KING.

MADAM.—The letter from Miss Norah March in your issue of April 15th, on the Prevention of Venereal Disease, contains two startling statements, viz.: (1) "Venereal disease is increasing at a much more rapid rate than is effective moral education"; and (2) "The equal moral standard... is establishing itself, but unfortunately in the anti-social direction. Instead of decreasing promiscuity among men, we have increased it among women."

For the first statement, very little evidence is adduced, and for the second no evidence whatever. As regards the increase in case of ophthalmia neonatorum, referred to by Miss March, it is to be noted that this disease has only been notifiable since April 1st, 1914, and it is, of course, impossible to make any positive deductions from statistics extending over only a few years.

The actual figures for the six years, 1914-19 (converting those for nine months of 1914 into the corresponding rate for twelve months), were 8,221, 6,806, 7,613, 6,716, 6,532, 8,648, the rate per 1,000 births in each year being 9, 8, 10, 10, 10, 12, respectively. Miss March refers to the increase of infant mortality from syphilis in 1917, and adds, "I do not find any report of subsequent decrease."

There was, in fact, a decrease in 1918, and again in 1919, as appears from the Report of the Registrar-General for 1919; and that Report also shows, that the total mortality at all ages, returned as attributable to syphilis was lower in 1919 than in any year since 1911. But considering the question whether venereal disease has increased in recent years, and if so, to what extent, it is useful to examine the official statistics, so far as they are available, for the last fifty years; and it is important to note that the Royal Commission on Venereal Disease were unable to produce any evidence whatever that the disease had increased during the fifty years preceding their report.

the case of the venereal disease figures) to the standard of ten years ago. In his Report for 1919, the Registrar-General says that a further rise appears in the first half of 1920, and observes that this last rise "corresponds in point of time with the period of most rapid demobilisation."

The main object of Miss March's letter is to preach to unchaste men the necessity for safeguarding themselves, as far as it is humanly possible, from the possible consequences of their action.

GEORGE W. JOHNSON.

BIRTH CONTROL AND WOMAN'S LIBERTY.

MADAM.—I entirely disagree with Mr. Harold Cox in your issue of April 22nd, when he says that "to suggest, as some theological writers have done, that conception should be avoided by abstinence from the basic relationship of married life is to mock at human nature."

Why cannot we pioneer women stand for the highest ideal possible on this question, as we have done on so many others? As a teacher, wife, mother, and speaker, I am convinced that a large majority of the working women to-day are ready for it, and can grasp it when put before them.

As to the problem having already settled itself in certain classes, I venture to say the middle-aged women of those classes could tell a different tale if they would.

M. E. ANDERSON.

SANATORIUM TREATMENT FOR THE PROFESSIONAL WORKER.

MADAM.—May I, through the medium of your valuable paper, draw the attention, and perhaps sympathy, of your readers to a gross injustice? When the Insurance Act of 1913 came into force, granting to the insured free Sanatorium treatment, many County Councils adopted the amendment whereby patients might obtain the Medical Benefit in whichever Institution they chose; there are, however, some Health Authorities who ignore this amendment, with the result that patients of all classes coming under the Act are treated indiscriminately alike in the County Industrial Sanatoria.

King Edward VII.'s Sanatorium, Midhurst, was built expressly for the professional classes of limited means, the only one of its kind in England, I believe; many insured persons go there in preference to an Industrial Sanatorium, paying the difference between the amount the State offers, and the fee charged by the Sanatorium authorities themselves.

Surely the State is defeating its own intent and purposes in the fight against the spread of tuberculosis, when such short-sighted policy is allowed to prevail.

JUSTICE.

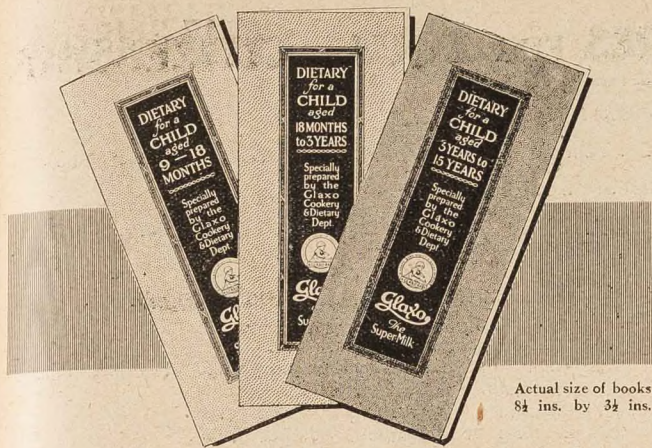
DRESSMAKING TRADE BOARD RATES.

MADAM.—In your "Notes and News" for April 20th, you refer to the proposed reduction in rates of pay fixed for learners under the Dressmaking Trade Board. I fully agree with your protest, but feel that it is even more important that the public should insist on the Trade Board taking more care to secure that "learners" are really taught their trade. At present, the elaborate machinery set up for registration and certification of all learners is almost a farce.

It is true that conditions in the trade were far worse ten years ago, both in this and in other respects, but much still remains to be done, and if, as seems very likely, we lose the opportunity now offered for revising the Trade Board regulations in this respect, a great wrong will be done to these children.

"INTERESTED."

[We have received a copy of an official letter which denies the statement attributed to a Government Inspector under the Dressmaking Trade Board, which we reported in our last week's Notes and News.—Ed., W.L.]



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OBJECT.

To obtain all such reforms as are necessary to secure a real equality of liberties, status, and opportunities between men and women.

GUARDIANSHIP, MAINTENANCE, AND CUSTODY OF INFANTS BILL.

In response to our appeal for help, we are pleased to be able to report that we have received the most cordial support from other women's organisations in our campaign on behalf of this Bill. The following is a list of some of the most important among those which are taking active steps:—

Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.
British Women's Patriotic League.
Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.
Church Army.
Conservative Women's Reform Association.
Federation of Women Civil Servants.
National Council of Women.
National Union of Trained Nurses.
National League for Health, Maternity, and Child Welfare.
State Children's Association.
Scottish Mothers' Union.
Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations (Passed a resolution at the Manchester Labour Women's Conference on April 27th).
Union of Jewish Women.
Women's Co-operative Guild (Welcomed the assistance of the N.U.S.E.C. in circularising their thousand branches).
Women's International League.
Women's Local Government Society.
Women's Freedom League.
Women's National Liberal Federation.
Young Women's Christian Association.

The following letter received at Headquarters will interest our readers. . . . "Thousands of mothers will never be able to thank you enough for the help and support you are giving to the Bill for the equal Guardianship of children. I know of many cruel cases. My solicitor, during his practice, has come across some very sad cases. I have asked him to write to our Member, to ask him to vote for the Bill. Thanking you for the good work you are doing. . . . I shall be very much obliged if you will kindly let me know how to become a member of one of the Societies of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship."

CONFERENCE OF SOCIETIES IN AND AROUND LONDON.

A Conference of Societies in and around London is to be held at the Head Office on Tuesday, May 10th, to discuss the advisability of forming a London Area Group as part of the reconstituted Federation System. In addition to taking part in the discussion, representatives of Societies present will have an opportunity of seeing the library at Headquarters together with the Parliamentary records. The officers and members of the Executive Committee welcome this chance of talking over problems of co-ordination and development with those who can speak for the affiliated Societies of the London Area. Tea will be served at 4 o'clock and discussion will follow.

LIVERPOOL W.C.A.

SUMMER SCHOOLS.—The Equality Committee is arranging a short Week-end Summer School at the Pavilion Field, Greenbank, Sefton Park, from Friday, June 17th, to Monday, June 20th. Accommodation will be provided at a moderate charge. Further details will be issued later; as space is limited, early application should be made to Miss E. A. Parry, Hon. Sec., Equality Committee W.C.A., 6, Lord Street, Liverpool.

SELECTED N.U.S.E.C. PUBLICATIONS.

ELECTION WORK.

Notes on Election Work. 6d. each.
And Shall I Have a Parliamentary Vote? (C. Macmillan) 3d. each.

A Vindication of Canvassing. Price 2d.
Election Note Book Leaflet. 6d. per dozen.

RECENT AND IMPENDING LEGISLATION.

Guardianship of Infants. 4d. each.
Guardianship of Infants Bill. 2d. each. (Col. Greig.)
Criminal Law Amendment Bill. 1d. each. (Bishop of London.)
Matrimonial Causes Bill. 4d. each. (Lord Gorell.)
Bastardy Bill. (Capt. Bowyer.) 1d. each.
Sex Disqualification (Removals) Act Amendment Bill. 1d. each.

WOMEN MAGISTRATES.

The Work of Women Magistrates. 2d. each.
The Powers and Duties of Justices. (By Sir Edward Sanders.) 4d. each.

ECONOMIC POSITION OF WOMEN.

Equal Pay for Equal Work (1919). 4d. each.
Equal Pay for Equal Work (1920). 2d. each.
National Family Endowment. 2d. each.
National Endowment of Motherhood. (By A. Maude Royden.) 2d. each.

Equal Pay and the Family. 1s. each.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Edward Wright and Cavendish Bentinck Lending Libraries. (Free distribution.)
N.U.S.E.C. Programme Leaflet. (For free distribution.)
Annual Report, 1919. (Containing brief statement of position of the Woman's Movement at Home and Abroad.) 4d. each.
Annual Report, 1920. (Containing account of position of Woman's Movement at Home.) 3d. each.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.*

CHESTER W.C.A.

On Tuesday, April 19th, at 8 p.m., at the Town Hall, Councillor H. F. Brown, J.P., the Chairman of the Chester Education Committee, gave to members and their friends an address on "Rates and Taxes," showing clearly the far-reaching evil of our prodigal expenditure at the present time. Alderman D. L. Hewitt presided, and several members joined in the discussion. On May 25th, the Women Citizens purpose holding a Mock Trial, "The Murder of Prince Saradine," at 8 p.m., at the Queen's School, when eminent Counsel will plead before Judge and Jury.

BOLTON W.C.A.

We have received an admirable report from our Bolton Society, which is a development of the former Women's Suffrage Society. This Society has an office and lecture room, and the services of a part-time Organising Secretary in addition to the honorary officers. Its constitution consists of a General Council of bodies including almost every type of woman's organisation. The report gives an interesting record of activity in connection with local matters, such as work of women candidates on the Town Council, nomination of a woman member of the Housing Committee, the Anti-Venereal Diseases Propaganda Committee, Employment Exchanges, Local Advisory Committees, &c., as well as action with regard to national matters affecting our Equality Programme.

* We are sometimes asked to insert notices of interesting meetings or reports of non-affiliated societies. It will readily be understood that limitations of space prevent any notices on this page of any but our own Societies.

COMING EVENTS.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

MAY 6.
At Newbury, Corn Exchange.
Speaker: Frederick Whelen, Esq. 7 p.m.

MAY 7.
At Rochester, Diocesan Union, C.E.M.S., Keppington Parish Room, or the Club Hall.
Speaker: Frederick Whelen, Esq. 11 a.m.

MAY 9.
At Eltham, The Institute, Cinder Path.
Speaker: Miss Brodie. 3 p.m.

MAY 10.
At Milford-on-Sea, Women's Institute, Victoria Hall.
Speaker: Miss M. Currey, O.B.E. 6.30 p.m.
At Chelsea, Onslow Dwellings, Pond Place Mission Hall.
Speaker: Lord Phillimore. 5.30 p.m.

MAY 11.
At Lyceum Club, Piccadilly.
Speaker: Capt. Reginald Berkeley.

MAY 12.
At Speldhurst, Village Hall.
Speaker: Canon Bickersteth Otley. 7 p.m.

MAY 13.
At Birmingham, Lecture Hall, Y.W.C.A.
Speaker: Frederick Whelen, Esq. Evening.

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

MAY 10.
At Gloucester, Society for Equal Citizenship.
Subject: "State Purchase the Way to Local Option."
Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E. 7.30 p.m.

MAY 11.
At Rodney Hall, Cheltenham.
Public Debate: "The Solution of the Drink Problem."
Speakers: For State Purchase, Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.; For Local Option, Miss Bessie Wiseman. 8 p.m.

MAY 12.
At Oswestry, National Council of Women.
Subject: "The State Purchase of the Liquor Trade."
Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E. 6.30 p.m.

MAY 13.
At Masonic Hall, Shrewsbury, Women Citizens' Association.
Subject: "The Future Public House."
Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

THE PIONEER CLUB.

MAY 10.
Subject: "That the Development of British Drama is due to the Reformation."
Debate opened by Mr. Basil Bazley; opposed by Mr. Osman Edwards.
Chair: Miss Agutter. 8.15 p.m.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

MAY 9.
At the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn.
Subject: "The Position of Women in England a Century Ago."
Speaker: Mr. E. G. Clayton.
Chair: Miss Newsome. 6.30 p.m.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

MAY 11.
A Public Meeting on Women Jurors will be held at the Women's Institute, 22, Victoria Street, at 5.30.
Speaker: Mrs. H. More Nisbett (Sub-Inspector W.P.S.).
Chair: Miss Fennell.
Entrance free.

WILLESDEN WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

MAY 12.
A Meeting will be held in Furness Road School (Lower Hall), at 8 p.m.
Speaker: Mr. J. L. Hammond.
Subject: "Ireland."

INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CLUB.

MAY 11.
9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.
Subject: "The Endowment of Motherhood."
Speakers: Miss Eleanor Rathbone and Miss Helen Fraser.
Chairman: Mr. Percy Handcock (Barrister-at-Law).

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LIBERAL FEDERATION.

MAY 11.
A Meeting on the Condition of Ireland will be held in the Central Hall, Westminster, at 8 p.m. Mrs. Walter Runciman will preside.
Speakers: Mr. Asquith, Lord Buckmaster, Sir John Simon, Sir Donald Maclean, Lady Dorothy Henley, and others.

REPORTS.

DEPUTATION TO THE ULSTER UNIONIST LEADER.

Sir James Craig recently received a deputation from the Belfast Women's Advisory Council. This Council represents ten societies, varying in character from, for instance, the Girls' Friendly Society to the Textile Trade Union. The interview was private, but Sir James gave time and careful consideration to the programme set before him. The "equality of opportunity" point in the "Equality formula" was especially emphasised in view of the establishment of a new Civil Service. As elsewhere, feminist reforms involve heavy immediate expenditure with only the prospect of an ultimate economy. It is, however, satisfactory that the deputation, representing over 20,000 voters, was able to set before the future Prime Minister a programme of "agreed measures" of social reform. This type of deputation, sufficiently familiar to British women's organisations is a definite forward step in feminist work in Ireland. It is an indication of the progress in such work since the General Election of 1918, when joint action on such a scale would have been impossible. The Advisory Council, only organised in 1919, provides machinery for the "common action for the common cause," so much desired by Lady Astor.

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THE PIONEER CLUB for Professional and Business Women has been re-opened at 12, Cavendish Place, W. Annual subscription, £4 4s. No Entrance Fee (pro. tem.).

PUBLIC SPEAKING.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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