

# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

## AND THE COMMON CAUSE

Vol. XXI.

No. 46.

Twopence.

REGISTERED AS  
A NEWSPAPER.

Friday, December 20, 1929.

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Annual Subscription for Postal Subscribers: British Isles and  
Abroad, 10/10.

Common Cause Publishing Co., 4 Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

### NOTES AND NEWS.

#### A piece of good news.

We hear with peculiar pleasure from Mrs. Corbett Ashby that the Belgium Government has appointed a woman on its delegation to the Conference on the Codification of International Law which is to take place at the Hague next March, and at which the question of the Nationality of Married Women will be discussed. The woman selected is Mademoiselle Marcelle Renson, who, we are informed, is "all that could have been wished."

#### The Factories Bill.

The third deputation taken by women's organizations on the subject of the Factories Bill was received by Mr. Clynes last week. It was introduced by Mrs. Rackham and included representatives of most of the big trades unions with women members. The deputation expressed the hope that the Government would introduce the Factories Bill at the earliest possible date, and urged the inclusion of provisions for shortening the present maximum hours of work, restricting overtime, abolishing the two-shift system, regulating weight lifting, improving the lighting, heating, washing, and drying arrangements in factories, and extending the provisions relating to employment in lead processes. The deputation disagreed with the view that regulations applied to women and not to men place women at a disadvantage in industry. The Home Secretary stated that the Government were anxious to have the Factories Bill passed into law at the earliest possible opportunity, and hoped that after Parliament had disposed of the admittedly more urgent business after the Christmas recess it would be possible to make progress with the Bill. He said he would not be a party to removing any protection that women at present enjoyed, and that a large number of the suggestions made by the deputation would find their place in the Bill. In comparing the requests put forward by this deputation with those put forward by the deputation organized by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, it is clear that most of the positive demands of the industrial women's deputation would have the support of those represented by the N.U.S.E.C. The difference of view arises as to whether the women

in industry have or have not had their field of employment limited as a result of protection. It is partly because they feel that this has happened, and is likely to happen, and partly because they realize the need for greater protection for men by legislation, that the National Union and its supporters puts forward the view that protection should be based on the nature of the work, and not on the sex of the worker. We cannot help wishing that the industrial women's organizations had supported this wider demand.

#### Progress in Ceylon.

The Ceylonese constitution as embodied in the recommendations of the Donoughmore Report, modified and approved by the Colonial Office, is an argosy which carries in her hold the precious item of woman's suffrage. We therefore watch her passage through the sea of political controversy with peculiar interest. If she becomes a total wreck, the political fortunes of the women of Ceylon perish with her. But last week came the news that she had weathered at least one destructive tempest, and was holding her course steadily. On Thursday evening the Legislative Council at Colombo accepted the reforms by 17 votes to 15, after a five days' debate. So far so good. May the winds of Heaven blow progress and prosperity to that heavily laden ship, and may those who man her never be tempted, as nervous navigators have been tempted in past ages, to lighten the ship by throwing cargo overboard.

#### Women of the Native Races.

On Wednesday evening a discussion on the exploitation of native populations took place in the House of Commons which was almost ignored by the greater part of the Press, probably because of the important debate at the same time in the House of Lords. The Duchess of Atholl and Miss Eleanor Rathbone made use of the occasion to draw attention to the position of native women. The question which they raised is of so much importance to the women's movement that we have decided to reprint their speeches. We give first<sup>1</sup> that of Miss Rathbone, which dealt with the general question of status. Both amendment and motion were accepted by the Government but the motion was talked out. We hope to print the Duchess of Atholl's exposé of a certain terrible native rite early in the New Year. It so happens that during the same week questions relevant to this subject have also been raised (see page ), and readers who read Miss Nina Boyle's articles on Slavery and our own recent leading article dealing with Lady Simon's work will rejoice that the subject is at last beginning to receive due publicity.

#### Margaret Bondfield Holds Her Own.

A correspondent writes: Little Miss Bondfield makes a great impression on anyone seeing her for the first time sitting on the Treasury Bench. She is so small, so *impassible*, so immovable. She listens very attentively, very politely, to criticism, but not a muscle of her interesting face moves and it is impossible to guess what she is thinking. When she rises to reply you expect her to give utterance to scorn or annoyance or indignation or whichever has been passing through her mind during the last two hours, especially when her nominal supporters joined in the attack. Not at all; with perfect good nature she applies herself to the point at issue, and all the irrelevancies that have gone before seem to have slipped away like water off a duck's back. The personal impression that she leaves on one who is not a member of her Party is one of power.

<sup>1</sup> See page 356.

## More Light!

The Birth Control Investigation Committee, of which Sir Humphrey Rolleston is chairman, appears to be well under way with its task of medical investigation and research. But for the first of these objects it requires a large measure of public co-operation in the collection of individual experience, and with this end in view it has prepared a questionnaire on the subject of methods of birth control in general use, their efficacy, and their effects upon the mutual health and happiness of husband and wife. This questionnaire is to be sent to any persons who signify in writing to the Hon. Mrs. Farrer (at 41B Clanricarde Gardens, London, W. 2) their willingness to fill it in or secure the co-operation of others. It is stated on behalf of the Investigation Committee, in a letter to the Press asking for such help, that all replies will be treated as strictly confidential, and that those who fill in the questionnaire need not attach their names to it. We are glad to pass on this request to our readers, believing that the large majority of them, whatever may be their views concerning the social or ethical aspects of birth control, will support the plea for accurate and adequate information concerning the nature, extent, and results (harmful or beneficent, as the case may be) of this widespread and significant practice. In the hands of a very carefully selected medical research committee, uncommitted to advocacy or opposition, any information that may be communicated is likely to be turned to the best possible account.

## The Treatment of Mothers.

An article by Lady Williams entitled "Public Opinion and the Treatment of Mothers" appeared in THE WOMAN'S LEADER on 1st March of this year. Many readers for the first time realized the unnecessary suffering undergone by women in childbirth in our hospitals. At a recent meeting in support of the National Birthday Trust Fund for the extension of maternity services, Mrs. Stanley Baldwin urged the use of anaesthetics in maternity cases, and stated that it was hoped to raise a fund which would enable London maternity hospitals to provide these for their patients. While we are wholly in sympathy with their effort, it appears to us nothing short of a scandal that maternity hospitals should have to wait for the raising of such a sum for an obvious need. Lady Williams pointed out that while we enforce the use of anaesthetics for operations upon animals, we allow mothers to undergo hours of what is actually operative treatment without anaesthetic of any kind. We are told that sound-proof doors have to be fitted to prevent the cries of the patient from being heard. We advise our readers to re-read the article referred to, and thereupon make inquiries as to the practice in their local hospitals. We would welcome correspondence on this subject.

## Responsibility for Large Families.

At an inquest on a child of 8, who died of septicaemia due to septic tonsils, at Shoreditch last week, the Coroner after hearing the father's story said that a serious moral responsibility rests on those who light-heartedly encourage other people to ignore the question as to whether it is possible for them to maintain a family of indefinite size. The child's father said he was out of work and suffering from rheumatism. He and his five children, the survivors of a family of thirteen, lived in two rooms. A verdict of death from natural causes was reported, and the kindly Coroner gave the man £1 and expressed the hope that he would soon find work. Is this the end, or is someone following this unfortunate father to his home, and is any constructive attempt being made to help the family? Is it too much to hope that the new public assistance committees in co-operation with voluntary bodies trained in thorough handling of such difficult cases, will deal more constructively than under the old regime with those who fall by the way in the struggle for existence.

## A Real Service.

The London and National Society for Women's Service has performed an act true to its name in the provision of a beautiful hall capable of holding 250 people within five minutes of the Houses of Parliament and equally near practically all the central offices in London. The hall was presented by an anonymous donor, to whom thanks of future generations of workers are due, and the fittings were the gift of Annie Viscountess Cowdray, who opened the hall last week at a reception, at which the new

president, Viscount Cecil, was present. But not only has a new hall been provided, but extended residential and club facilities are offered, and before long women will have their own peaceful library—a beautiful circular panelled room, a library in the best sense of the word, where they can read quietly or borrow books. We would congratulate the London and National Society on this new development.

## Ourselves.

We wish to call the attention of our readers to the next two numbers. Next week Miss Picton Turbervill, M.P., will contribute a Christmas article. Cross-bench will describe the closing weeks of Parliament and more space than usual will be allotted to reviews of books. The following week will appear the 12 page New Year issue.

## Offices Regulation Bill.

The Offices Regulation Bill came second on the order paper on the Private Members' day, Friday, 13th December, but as all the time was taken by the first Bill, it was unfortunately not discussed.

## QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT.

10th December.

## MATERNITY.

Viscountess Astor asked the Minister of Health whether it is intended to introduce legislation embodying the scheme outlined in a memorandum of the British Medical Association for a national Maternity Centre for England and Wales, the findings of the Royal Commission on Health Insurance, and the recommendations of the Report of the Departmental Committee on the Training and Employment of Midwives.

Miss Lawrence: My right hon. Friend is not yet in a position to make a statement on this subject.

12th December.

## SLAVE TRAFFIC, PERSIAN GULF.

Mr. Mander asked the Secretary of State for India what steps are being taken to abolish domestic slavery in territories under British influence in the Persian Gulf.

Mr. Benn: I will ask the Government of India to obtain reports on the subject from our local representatives. I would, however, explain to the hon. Member that, while His Majesty's Government either by treaty or usage exercise powers which have enabled them effectively to check the traffic in slaves, their powers of intervention in the internal affairs of the territories now in question are strictly limited.

## EAST AFRICA (MIDWIVES TRAINING).

The Duchess of Atholl asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies the amount of grants made to voluntary agencies for the training of African women as midwives for the years 1921 to 1928 inclusive, in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanganyika respectively.

Dr. Shiels: Both the Kenya and Uganda Governments have for some years made annual grants to voluntary agencies (usually missions) for native medical training, or for the maintenance of midwifery centres and midwives. There are, however, no figures available in the Colonial Office showing what proportion of the grants were spent for the specific purpose of training African women as midwives, but if the Noble Lady wishes, the Governors of Kenya, Uganda, and Tanganyika will be asked whether they can supply the figures.

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

## UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE UNEMPLOYED.

In pre-war days when we set out to study the problem of unemployment and the unemployed, we had one supreme and indispensable text-book ready to hand, and one equally inevitable official document. The text-book was Beveridge's *Unemployment, a Problem of Industry*, and the official document was that section of the Poor Law Commission *Minority Report* of 1909, which dealt with the treatment of able-bodied destitute persons. Between them they almost covered the ground as regards the interacting causes of unemployment, and the steps taken by public authorities and voluntary bodies to mitigate the effects of unemployment on the unemployed.

But those halcyon days have passed almost out of memory. Our normal seasonal and cyclical fluctuations of industry, with their unemployment percentage varying between extremes of 2 and 7 per cent, our distress committees and small opportunist tamperings with a theoretically deterrent but practically elastic Poor Law, have faded into pre-war history, and *pari passu* the text-books which served our effort to understand this small scale problem of economic adjustment and relief have to a large extent lost their relevancy. To a large extent, but not entirely. For Beveridge's book will never cease to be relevant to unemployment in general, though changing events have wrought havoc with its relevancy to unemployment in particular, and all students of the subject will do well to take Beveridge as their starting point.

It is, however, unemployment in particular which baffles our brains and troubles our dreams to-day—unemployment maintained inexorably year in year out at a level never touched by the brief high peaks of pre-war misery, its centre of infection in the large export industries, with their war legacy of maladjustment and their obstinately depressed wage rates. While in the background looms the rickety structure of an unemployment insurance system formed out of so many Acts and Amending Acts that one would judge it to be the administrative development of a century if one did not know it to be, in fact, the work of two delirious decades. And all that the old *Minority Report* tells us about unemployment insurance is that it is for very good reasons unlikely ever to exist!

Such things cannot, of course, occur in a world of critical and constructive men and women without giving rise to a flood of analytical and descriptive literature. Nor can successive Governments pass a score or so of unemployment insurance acts without throwing off a few illuminating blue and white publications by the way. But this is poor comfort to the inexperienced citizen who looks for the direction of some guiding, proportioning, summarizing hand in the mass of material presented to him. Well—he need not now look very far. Two such hands are held out to him.

The first is that of Mr. R. C. Davison, who in his book on *The Unemployed*,<sup>1</sup> traces the development of public policy in the treatment of the unemployed up to the eve of the last general

election. His book is, for the most part, a description (combined with criticism and suggestion) of our national unemployment insurance system as it has developed under pressure of post-war conditions since 1920. As such it constitutes the best conceivable background, as far as the general reader is concerned, for an understanding of Miss Bondfield's Bill, the peculiar difficulties which it is designed to meet, and the cross-currents of criticism which diversify its storm-tossed passage. Not the least interesting and illuminating part of the book is Chapter VI, in which Mr. Davison analyses the fluctuating personnel of the unemployed, and puts his finger on a lamentable "hard core" of defective workers chronically dependent on the insurance fund.

The second is the hand of Professor Henry Clay, who with his masterly treatise on *The Post-war Unemployment Problem*,<sup>2</sup> directs a bright ray of light over the whole field of unemployment—very pertinent conclusions regarding the handling of the problem. In Chapters I and II he describes the course of pre- and post-war unemployment, stressing its peculiar location in certain groups of industries. In Chapter III he analyses the connection between currency movements, inflation, and deflation, and the prosperity of industry. Deflation, he considers, was a cause of unemployment, but not the whole cause. He is not an anti-gold standard man. In Chapter IV he concentrates in greater detail upon the group of industries peculiarly affected: the export industries tracing the effects of war expansion and peace contraction upon their fortunes. In Chapter V he describes and appraises various remedies, and in Chapter VI he presents a summary and conclusions. His most general and confident conclusion is "to discourage the hope that the problem if left to itself will cure itself, and to argue that the necessary reorganization of the depressed industries will not be effected unless the initiative is taken and the impulse given by some agency outside them." Emphatically he is not a *laissez-faire* man. Nor is he a wage-reducer. There is in his opinion likely to be no salvation by way of a downward revision of wages in any section of depressed industry. On the other hand, he considers that there is considerable scope for a reduction of labour costs by rationalization, carried through with the sympathetic co-operation of a banking world which has hitherto concentrated a larger measure of interest on the financial requirements of South America and China than upon those of Bury or Bradford. Nor is he averse to a measure of State compulsion in the interest of rationalization, comparable to that already applied with universal approbation to the railways and the electricity supply industry. Risks, he admits, in connection with such positive remedies. But he sets them in the balance against the risk of "leaving the depressed industries to make the inevitable adjustment to post-war conditions by the harmful and uncontrolled process of individual bankruptcies," and the issue of that balance is not for a moment in doubt.

WOMEN POLICE—THE PRESENT POSITION.<sup>1</sup>

By EDITH TANCRED.

## PART II.

The Royal Commission on Police Powers and Procedure issued questionnaires to (1) persons holding judicial positions and (2) chief officers of police. Question 3J, reads:—"Can you suggest any authority other than the Police to whom the taking of statements could properly or more advantageously be entrusted either generally or in certain types of cases? Would such change be calculated to serve the interests of justice, or to safeguard the rights and liberties of the subject?" The reply in almost every case is NO. THE POLICE ARE THE PEOPLE TO DO IT, on account of their specialized training and wide experience in giving evidence and in Court procedure. The few alternative suggestions—such as before a magistrate or a lawyer attached to the Court—are all tentative and doubtful. In 1924 it was definitely recommended by the Bridgeman Committee that *Policewomen* should take these statements, and the circular of 21st September, 1924, endorsed this, saying how it could be made compulsory, viz. by regulations. Mainly owing to the timidity of the English report on Sexual Offences against Children, issued in 1925, the words "trained women" have been substituted in the circular of 17th September, 1926, for policewomen, giving police authorities

<sup>1</sup> *The Unemployed*, by R. C. Davison. (Longmans. 10s. 6d. net.)  
<sup>2</sup> *The Post-war Unemployment Problem*, by Henry Clay. (Macmillan. 8s. 6d.)

an opportunity—in the case of women and children—to adopt the extraordinary and illogical position that though in their opinion *nobody but the police should take statements*, in these cases of women, girls and children requiring the most skilful and delicate handling by "persons trained in the law relating to each offence, with practical experience gained by working alongside of experienced officers of police, by attending Court in order to become familiar with legal methods of establishing accurate and reliable evidence", (Sexual Offences Report) a training that on the face of it *can only be obtained in the police force*, these statements can be, and are, taken not by specially trained and experienced *policewomen*, but by police matrons, probation officers, social workers: these at least are women, but in my experience and in the evidence given before the Royal Commission more frequently it is a *police-man* accompanied by a police matron—the Sexual Offences Report says: "we have evidence that in some districts young men take the statements in these cases." In the case of Miss Savidge, two male officers took her statement and the woman police officer was ordered out of the room.

Well might Mr. Henderson ask in the House of Commons on

<sup>1</sup> Second part of speech by Miss Tancred at recent Deputation to the Home Secretary.

17th May, 1928, "Why did we institute Women Police? Why did we appoint a Committee a few years ago to look into the work done by Women Police? Why did we suggest that they should be increased in number?" Why indeed! seeing nothing has been done to carry out the first recommendation of that report or to restore public confidence that a case such as that of Irene Savidge can never occur again. We do ask you, Sir, in the interests of justice, decency, and common sense, to embody in regulations the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Police Powers and Procedure.

I will only deal with one other class of duties, those relating to women prisoners. We heartily agree with the Royal Commission's recommendation that the escort and conveyance of women prisoners and of women and children to homes, hospitals, etc., should be done by policewomen. The present arrangement of a policeman accompanied by a matron—who is not responsible for the prisoner, the policeman alone is responsible—is expensive and thoroughly undesirable. The need for policewomen to take entire charge of women in custody in police cells was demonstrated beyond question by the enquiry undertaken in 1925 by the N.C.W. When the results of the inquiry were laid before the Home Secretary in 1926, he promised that the matters complained of should be set right, and every year since we are glad to note that H.M. Inspectors of Constabulary impress upon Chief Constables the necessity for proper arrangements being made for women prisoners from the time of their arrest until released or handed over at gaol. We note that the numbers of police matrons increases year by year (from the 40 whole-time matrons for England and Wales in 1915), but we know from reports received that there is room for much improvement and we ask that the Royal Commission's recommendation be adopted that the matrons be used for domestic duties in connection with the women's cells but that the searching and supervision of women prisoners "should be performed by attested women police, so that women prisoners may receive the same trained care and assistance as men."

May I end my remarks as I began—we are met to discuss how to secure the appointment of Women Police. We venture to suggest that the first step is to apply the Police Acts to policewomen and to make regulations for the women as has been done for the men. How? By calling a Police Council as laid down in section 4, Police Act, 1919. The functions of the Police Council are fully explained in the Home Office Memorandum on the Police Forces of England and Wales supplied to the Royal Commission.

We feel strongly that a Council for the consideration of Women Police would be strengthened by the inclusion of women representatives of County and Borough P.A.s, several of whom are available—women who have already taken a prominent part in securing women police for their county or town.

The Memorandum proceeds to detail the provisions of the Police Act, 1919, for a draft of the proposed regulations to be submitted to the Police Council, etc.

Some of us made a study of the Statutory Regulations for men before meeting the Home Secretary and the Secretary for Scotland in 1926. We asked then and we ask again now that the regulation on "Strength" may read:—"The numbers shall be sufficient to provide men and women for the carrying out of patrol, station, reserve and any other appointed police duty under responsible supervision in each tour of duty."

Our newspapers on Saturday morning told us of the hope you, Sir, expressed that the Government would introduce a new Children Act. The work of Women Police has been conspicuously successful in preventing crimes against and protecting children from moral and physical dangers and if there are no trained policewomen, to help to administer the new Act, its full remedial effect will not be experienced.

**THE WOMAN'S LEADER**  
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### EQUALITY—RACE, COLOUR OR SEX.<sup>1</sup>

Miss Rathbone: I beg to move, in line 10, to leave out the word "or," and, at the end of the question, to add the words "or sex."

This Amendment would make the last sentence of the Motion read as follows:—

"Native self-governing institutions should be fostered; and franchise and legal rights should be based upon the principle of equality for all without regard to race, colour, or sex."

In moving it, my motive is not to discuss the great abstract principle of sex equality, important as I believe that to be. My object is a much more immediately practical one. The Noble Lady the Member for Kinross (Duchess of Atholl) has communicated to the House some of the results of the consultations that we have been holding with those who have had intimate acquaintance with the lives of coloured women in some parts of Africa, and has dealt with the question of the effect of certain customs on the health of native women. I want very shortly to allude to another aspect of the question. We have had evidence from witnesses which has revealed to us that the position of the native women in many of these tribes—I do not say all—is one of sheer slavery, accompanied by many of the worst conditions of slavery, and carried on practically without let or hindrance from the British authorities—slavery, not to Europeans, but to men of their own race. If it be thought that the word "slavery" is an exaggeration, may I quote the definition of the word in the Slavery Convention of the League of Nations:—

"Slavery is the condition or status of a person over whom any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership are exercised."

We have evidence that practically all the rights of ownership are, in effect, exercised over the coloured women of these races. A girl is sold by her father, often in early infancy, without choice, to the man who is destined to be her husband. Before marriage she undergoes, again without choice, at the age of 10 or 11, the cruel custom that has been described by the Noble Lady the Member for Kinross. After marriage she becomes the property of her husband, to be used by him and treated by him as he desires. If he dies she becomes the absolute property of his next male kin: it may be his brother, his cousin, or even a little boy of her own. She may be sold by her new owner in one direction, her daughter may be sold in another direction; the sons are usually retained as the representatives of the tribe. One witness, a very cautious, moderate man, evidently anxious not to exaggerate but rather impatient with the questions with which we plied him as to whether a woman had rights over real or personal property or over her children, said, "I can summarise it very shortly. So far as we can judge, a woman in these tribes has no rights at all from the moment she is born until the moment she dies." If that is not slavery, what is it? To endure torture and mutilation, to be sold in marriage to a man whom she loathes, to be obliged to endure childbirth under conditions under which childbirth is carried on, without any of the comforts of decent treatment and medical care, and separated forcibly from her children—are those things less hurtful and humiliating and degrading to humanity because the persons who perpetuate them are the blood relations of the women who endure them?

I would not have it thought that we who are responsible for this Amendment are out of sympathy with the purpose of the motion. Most of us are in full sympathy with it. We do not wish to draw a red herring across the trail or to distract attention from the need of better relations between coloured men and white men. Two wrongs do not make a right. The exploitation of coloured women by coloured men is no excuse for the exploitation of coloured men by white men. But racial emancipation must go hand in hand with the emancipation of women. We hope the champions of these native races will remind them that it has been an old principle that there shall be no slavery under the British flag. It has been a terrible shock to many of us to whom these facts are new to find that there is slavery under the British flag, and that it affects not small numbers but some millions at least of women, and that it is tolerated so long as you can get away under the pretence that it is a domestic custom. Many of us will never be satisfied until the full hideous truth is disclosed and made known to the

<sup>1</sup> Miss Rathbone's speech in House of Commons on 11th Dec. The speech by the Duchess of Atholl in the same debate will be printed early in the New Year.

### FROM "HARMONY VILLAGE" TO "MIDDLETOWN."<sup>1</sup>

Those of us who were brought up on the works of Louisa M. Alcott have secretly cherished a fond belief that there still existed, somewhere in America, those charming unsophisticated small towns where everyone is "neighbourly" and the young people had such a good time at "spelling bees" and "apple-coring parties". *Mr. Babbit* with its description of his "home town" Zenith rather shook our faith and *Middletown* has finally shattered it.

This survey of a Middle-West town of 38,000 inhabitants is an intimate study of a kind not so far attempted in this country. Charles Booth's *Life and Labour in London*, Rowntree's *Livelihood and Poverty* and *Has Poverty Diminished?* and even the recent work of Dr. H. A. Mess on *Industrial Tyneside* all view their subjects rather from outside. Mr. and Mrs. Lynd and their colleagues lived in and became members of the community they were observing and have sketched out for us the whole round of its life. Through consulting newspaper files, diaries and older citizens an interesting contrast is shown between the environment and standards of 1890 and the date of the survey, 1924-5.

Life in Middletown seems to English eyes to have developed in a somewhat patchy manner. Nearly everyone has an "auto" but a large number have no bathrooms and most of the houses are built of wood. Vacuum cleaners and electric washers may be used in houses where the water supply is a pump in the same back yard as the family privy! Health and social services are inadequate and badly organized, while there are no Old Age Pensions or Unemployment Insurance. On the other hand Education is free and prolonged and a bewildering variety of "courses", cultural and vocational, are included in the High School curriculum. Four-fifths of Middletown's teachers are women, but a leading official gave it as his opinion that on a School Board of three there was no place for a woman!

There seems to be little skilled labour employed in the three factories which absorb most of Middletown's workers. One superintendent said that 75 per cent of his 800 men could be trained in a week. This fact keeps the workers in fear of the periodic "lay off" to which American employers resort in merciless fashion. The Minimum Cost of Living Budget for a family of five drawn up by a group of working-class housewives is interesting but has little relation to cold fact as the income of more than half the Middletown families fails to reach this standard. Such conditions accord ill with the legends of prosperity and unlimited opportunity in the States.

Credit buying is very extensive and the rise in the standard of living, largely induced by advertising, causes the wage-earners to be constantly struggling to make the money they earn keep pace with the rapid growth of their families' wants. The mothers often take up work outside the home in order that their children shall "keep up with the others in the High School" by means of silk stockings and innumerable party frocks for the girls, "autos" and "radio sets" for the boys. And what about the young people for whom these sacrifices are made? Although we get no evidence of such depravity as Judge Lindsey (generalizing from the much larger city of Denver) states to be prevalent throughout U.S.A., we do get lamentations from the mothers interviewed and 55 per cent of the boys and 44 per cent of the girls in High School stated in answer to a questionnaire that they had spent only three of the last seven evenings at home. The family "auto" is much used for "petting parties" for out of thirty girls brought before the Juvenile Court for sex offences nineteen were listed as having committed the offence in an automobile.

To an American "clubs" are the pivot of his existence, and even in Louisa Alcott's *Jack and Jill* we read "Harmony Village" had a great many clubs—in summer the boys devoted themselves to baseball, the girls to boating, while in the winter the lads had their debating society, the lasses their dramatic ditto." For the young people of to-day auto-speeding seems to have taken the place of games, the movies and jazzing of literary clubs, but there are still enough clubs to make one feel that Middletown must be "clubbed to death". There are no fewer than 458 clubs or one to every 80 persons; 95 of these are for juveniles and 19 women's clubs for "the social and intellectual advancement of their members". As the investigators say "the programs tend to oscillate somewhat from subject to subject". One

(Continued in next column).

<sup>1</sup> *Middletown*, by Robert S. and H. M. Lynd. (Constable, 18s. 6d.)

women of the world and everything that can be done is done, whether by legislation, by education, or by public opinion, to stamp out slavery of this kind. Let them take this message to the men of the native races: There can be no equal citizenship between coloured men and white men till there is equal citizenship between coloured men and coloured women.

### A WOMAN HARBOUR MASTER.

Women are to be found in so many new occupations that their appointment has almost ceased to be "news." But a woman harbour master is something quite unprecedented. Miss Stella Gale has been appointed in open competition Harbour Master at Paignton. She is an expert yachtswoman, and has been trained in engineering in her father's engineering works. This is another step in the right direction. The right person for the job, however difficult and responsible, irrespective of sex.

### INDIA IN THE MAKING.

Morley College, Westminster Bridge, is very accessible, and London readers who can spare an evening will be interested in the course of lectures on "India in the making," by Mr. Philip Cox, which is announced for next term. These lectures, we are told, will be descriptive, with no propaganda of any kind, and are planned to serve as a background for those who are interested in the anticipated report of the Simon Commission. Interest in India among the general public, for reasons which need not be enumerated here, has advanced by leaps and bounds in the last few years, and this opportunity of dispassionate study of its problems is very opportune.

(Continued from next column.)

characteristic club took up within one recent year (1) Christian Science and New Thought, (2) The Dictograph, (3) Mural Paintings, (4) The Panama Canal, (5) The Drama, (6) Hull House Settlement, (7) Dress! It is to be hoped our Townswomen's Guilds will not strive to emulate this all-embracing culture!

And now we await a similar study of Wigan or Huddersfield.

EDITH MACCRINDELL.

## THE WOMAN'S LEADER

SPECIAL NUMBERS.

### MEMORIAL NUMBER

15th November, 1929

CONTAINS:

Reproduction of portraits of Dame Millicent Fawcett, including the most recent by Lionel Ellis, and a photograph taken after the Royal Assent to the Equal Franchise Act, 2nd July, 1928. "What we Remember"—short appreciations from Dr. Louise Garrett Anderson, the Lady Frances Balfour and others, and a short sketch of Dame Millicent's life and work by Mrs. Oliver Strachey.

Copies (price 2½d. post free) still to be had. Per dozen copies post free 2s. 6d.

### THE NEW YEAR NUMBER

The Annual Survey of the Year

Women in Politics	Women in Social Work
Women in Local Government	Women in Commerce
Women in the Professions	Women in Literature
Women in Industry	Women in the Theatre
Women in the Churches	Women in Medicine
Women in International Affairs	Women and the Administration of Justice

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The MANAGER,  
4 Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.



## COMING EVENTS.

## FABIAN SOCIETY (WOMEN'S GROUP).

14th January. 8 p.m. Caxton Hall, S.W. 1. Miss Carol Morrison: "Property, Income, and Inheritance." Chair: Miss Elizabeth Haldane.

## HOWARD LEAGUE FOR PENAL REFORM.

10th January. 1 p.m., Luncheon, Pinoli's, Wardour Street. F. Pick, Esq. (member of Royal Commission on Police Powers): "The Police and the Public."

## MORLEY COLLEGE FOR WORKING MEN AND WOMEN.

61 Westminster Bridge Road, S.E.

10th January. 8 p.m. Prof. H. A. Smith (High Commissioner): "Canada."

14th January. 7.30-9.30. "India in the Making" (first of series on Tuesday evenings). By Philip Cox, B.A., B.L. Fees for course of 12 lectures 3s.; College entrance fee 2s. 6d.

14th January and subsequent Tuesdays. 2.30-4 p.m. "Child Psychology," course of lectures by Mrs. Susan Isaacs, M.A. (chairman, Education, British Psychological Society).

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Barnsley W.C.A.—29th January. 5.30 p.m. St. Mary's Parish Room. Mrs. E. M. White: "First Things First."

Bingley W.C.A.—15th January. 8 p.m. Ring of Bells. Miss Walker, "Russia."

Petersfield W.C.A.—28th January. 7.30 p.m. Tea Shop. Annual General Meeting.

Preston W.C.A.—30th January. 7.30 p.m. Reunion in St. John's Ambulance Hall.

## TYPEWRITING.

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## PERSONAL.

WILL the Lady who offered "Comfortable room in ladies' warm house, S.W." etc., kindly forward name and address, which were not included with advertisement.

## TO LET AND WANTED.

BOARD AND LODGING. Quiet home at moderate terms. Bed-sittingroom and service for lady or gentleman at Cheam. Pleasant country in easy reach of London.—Apply, Mrs. Bampton, Puttsboro', Alberta Avenue, Cheam.

RECOMMENDED by Mrs. Oliver Strachey. Swiss family receives paying guests. Large comfortable house and garden near Lake of Geneva. French lessons arranged if desired. Mile Reitzel, le Prieuré, Tour-de-Peilz (Vevey).

LADY wishes to hear of small furnished cottage or rooms (sittingroom and two or three bedrooms) for January; sunny aspect, country, near sea preferred.—Box 1,576, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

OFFICES TO LET, furnished, two rooms, January to Whitsun.—Apply, J. C. W., 117 Victoria Street, S.W. 1, or by telephone, Victoria 3217.

LADY offers very comfortable rooms or board-residence; warm house, standing high; near shops, sea, baths; care of invalids; excellent cooking.—Sunnycroft, Sidmouth.

HOVE.—"Wendover," 29 Lansdowne Place, Board-residence; minute sea; separate tables; gas fires bedrooms.

AVAILABLE FOR PROFESSIONAL WOMAN, small furnished bedroom with use of bath in private flat in W.C. 1 district (no meals); 20s. weekly.—Box 1,578, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

SMALL Modern House in Wiltshire village to Let January to March; one sittingroom, three bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen; independent boiler, hall stove; beautiful down views.—Miss Fletcher, 4 Horbury Crescent, W. 11.

## PROFESSIONAL.

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

## POST WANTED.

WANTED, part-time post, London or Provinces; keen organizer; good speaker; excellent testimonials.—Box 1,577, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

RECOMMENDED by Miss I. B. O'Malley, Evening Secretary with Portable Typewriter, knowledge French, Spanish; low terms. Mrs. R. D. Taylor, 12 Greville Place, N.W. 6.

## FOR SALE AND WANTED.

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

## DRESS.

GOWNS well cut and fitted by experienced dressmaker. Terms from 21s. Ladies' own materials made up. Renovations a speciality.—Grace Mayman, 168 High Street, Notting Hill Gate. Phone: Park 2943. Appointments.

SHOES recovered, satin, brocade, or velvet, 13s. 6d.; ladies' and gents' hats cleaned and re-blocked; new hats made to sketch; furs re-lined.—The Hat Doctor, 52 James Street, Oxford Street, W. 1.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON AND NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 35 Marsham Street, Westminster. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Advisory Bureau. Interviews 10 to 1 and 2 to 4, except Saturdays. Members' Centre open daily.

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

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 21st December, 6.30 p.m., Mrs. Janet Binns.

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