

THE
WOMAN'S LEADER

IN POLITICS
IN THE HOME
IN INDUSTRY

IN LITERATURE AND ART
IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND

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NOTES AND NEWS.

The Matrimonial Causes Bill.

Lord Buckmaster moved the second reading of his Matrimonial Causes Bill in the House of Lords on March 10th, when Lord Braye moved the rejection, and the Archbishop of York strongly opposed the Bill. It was decided to adjourn the debate until Wednesday, March 24th, so as to allow for further discussion; the Lord Chancellor announced his intention of indicating the Government's attitude towards this question on the resumption of the Debate. This, it must be remembered, is not Lord Buckmaster's first attempt to amend our antiquated and unequal divorce laws, and there is no man in the country better fitted for this task than he is. In 1918 he introduced a small Bill, the object of which was to eliminate what were considered one or two of the gravest injustices of the present law, but the Bill was lost by ten votes. It was owing to the numerous appeals that he had received from sufferers all over the country that Lord Buckmaster decided to frame a new Bill and make yet another attempt to bring the law into line with modern demands. The Bill, as Lord Buckmaster explained, has been most carefully framed and embodies the whole of the majority recommendations made by the Royal Commission of 1909: these are seven in number. First, that there should be decentralisation of the sittings of the Court; second, that there should be the abolition of the existing powers of summary jurisdiction to make orders for permanent separation; third, that men and women should be placed on an equal footing with regard to divorce; fourth, that desertion, cruelty, habitual drunkenness, incurable insanity, and commuted death sentence, should become grounds for divorce; fifth, that there should be new grounds for obtaining decrees of nullity, that there should be certain amendments to this law, and that there should be provision with regard to the publication of reports—such, briefly, are the reforms dealt with in the Bill.

The Opposition.

It is curious to note the rejection was moved by a Roman Catholic peer, Lord Braye, on the ground that this was an acutely religious question. Lord Braye did not consider it an appropriate one to be discussed at all in the House of Lords, though where it should be discussed he did not condescend to inform their noble lordships. The Lord Archbishop of York was kinder and more sympathetic in his criticism. He thought it a great improvement on the 1918 Bill, and he was in agreement with a great deal of it—i.e., with those reforms on which the majority and minority Reports were unanimous, namely, the equality of the sexes in regard to divorce, and the clause relating to the Courts of Summary Jurisdiction. The majority of the opposers even are of one mind concerning an important portion of the Bill—the establishment of equal grounds of divorce for men and women. Lord Phillimore's remarks on this score are, however, illuminating. "With regard to the so-called equality of the sexes, let it pass. It is sentimental and not practical. We all know it—we all know that adultery on the part of the woman is not the same thing as adultery on the part of the man—that it involves a greater moral fall, and that it produces more practical mischief"; "but," continues the noble lord, "if the ardent advocates of femininity want that, and if they would be content with that alone, I would offer little opposition to such a proposal." Lord Gorell recognised the need for reform of the law, which was "unjust, anomalous, inconsistent, and an open sore in the life of the nation." He proposed that should the present Bill not go to Second Reading or be withdrawn or lapse he should re-introduce into the House that Bill of 1914, which dealt with those points upon which the Majority and Minority Reports were unanimous.

The Aims of the Bill.

What is it that Lord Buckmaster's Bill does? It removes to some extent the reproach that in matters of divorce the doors of our Courts are easy of access for the rich and hard to enter for the poor. It establishes as a fundamental fact equality of moral obli-

gation between man and woman; it attempts to afford some relief for people who through no fault of their own have been left desolate and derelict upon the world, and to dissolve a union which binds a person to another in a living death, when the spouse is cursed with habitual drunkenness or is under the misfortune of incurable insanity or the stain of an inexpiable crime. That if we have a Divorce Law such humane reforms must come with the years is not to be doubted, but whether the time is yet events during the next few weeks will show.

The Civil Service: Within.

The unrest among the women civil servants is reaching great proportions, all the more because of the well-meant efforts of those who try to assure them that all is as it should be in a world of universal compromise. We understand that protests both from temporary and from permanent civil servants are pouring in upon the members of the Whitley Council, and that the Civil Service women's organisations and other women members of joint organisations are demanding that the report of the Sub-Committee be referred back or amended in respect to the position of women. A big mass meeting of women is being held on Thursday, and a poster parade of women swathed in red tape should call public attention to the matter. It is, of course, difficult for women in the Service, themselves in a sense parties to the scheme of Whitley Councils to do more than beg for revision before final ratification, but if revision is refused we may see further developments. The main Whitley Council meets on the day this paper appears. We trust that they will not overlook what is a widespread and deep-rooted movement.

The Civil Service: Without.

Meanwhile other organisations not bound by the trammels of the Civil servants are questioning the whole thing from top to bottom. Why, they ask, should such a matter as the conditions of the entry of women be referred to the Whitley Council at all? It is the business of the outside world to say which kind of an administration and executive this country shall have, and to hand the matter over to them who already cherish all too vested an interest therein is surely bad public policy. This is not an abstract objection at all, but a very practical one. For who has a better right to speak on qualifying examinations and conditions of entrance than the educational experts of this country? We understand that protests are being addressed to Mr. Fisher and others by a number of prominent educationalists and by the Federation of University Women and the Association of Headmistresses; and we trust that the views of these people will receive from the Government, if not from the Whitley Council, the consideration they deserve. There is much to be said about the suggested "local examinations of a simple character," as well as about the suggested differences of entrance age for boys and girls. If they are not listened to by the Whitley Council there will always be the House of Commons to appeal to. What a comfort that we have votes!

The German Revolution.

News of the German Revolution is still puzzling. The Junkers who have engineered it have declared for a continuance of the republic or a new republic; they are now said not to have come to terms with Ebert, and foreshadow the election of a new President by the people, not as in Ebert's case by the Reichstag. The general strike proclaimed as a protest against Dr. Kapp's dictatorship, though spreading is not yet general; the Allies have not recognised his Government, and Stuttgart and other southern towns and States have declared their adherence to the Ebert Government. Nothing definite emerges from these confused rumours except that a revolution has begun and that civil war threatens. The outlook is dark, and threatens not only Germany but the unstable equilibrium of Europe.

Paying Our Debts.

The news that we are to pay off a considerable part of our debt to America instead of asking for an extension of time is reassuring. Even if we have to borrow among ourselves for the purpose it is preferable to remaining under an obligation to a friendly ally who has shown some signs of being anxious for reimbursement. America has always been a borrowing rather than a lending nation, and she does not easily adjust herself to the present position. We, on our part, are far from wishing to call in our loans, either that to Belgium, which bears no interest, or to France and Italy, who are allowing interest to accumulate for future settlement, or that to Russia, a large and very doubtfully realisable sum. The settlement of a portion of our American debt will for a time move the dollar exchange to our advantage, but this relief and the fall of prices which is likely to result from it will be but temporary unless we can export more to America or import less. We should guard ourselves against being tempted by the reduced prices of American goods to buy them in increasing quantity. Soaps, cosmetics of all kinds, canned meats and fruits, breakfast groceries, can all be dispensed with for the present. The exception that may arise is the labour-saving inventions in which America, with its domestic difficulties, is always so fertile. And even here we may argue that the patent dishwasher at twenty pounds and upwards is a superfluity, even to the cookless housewife.

Bye-Elections.

One of the most interesting of the bye-elections pending is that which will follow the promotion of Dr. Macnamara in the Government. Miss Susan Lawrence, so well-known for her work on the London County Council, is likely to contest his re-election. At the General Election his only opponent was an unofficial Unionist, but his action in speaking against Sir John Simon during the Spen Valley contest resulted in his repudiation by the Camberwell Liberals, who have invited Mr. J. C. Carroll to be their candidate. North-West Camberwell is a new constituency, and no party has a very satisfactory organisation there at present. Mr. Carroll's record as chairman of the Sanatorium Committee and member of other local bodies, will make him a worthy opponent for Miss Lawrence on her own ground. Dr. Macnamara was an old but rather tepid friend of women's suffrage, and he will be obliged to devote a good deal of attention to the point of view of women in his constituency if he is to get their help in retaining his seat. Stockport threatens to nominate six candidates; here Sir Leo Chiozza Money is standing with Mr. S. F. Perry, both being supported by the Labour and Co-operative Parties, while the Coalition Liberal and Unionist candidates are sharing their platforms. Dartford has five candidates in the field. If there is an election at Northampton Miss Margaret Bondfield should prove a strong candidate, making a powerful appeal to women of all parties.

Married Women's Income - Tax.

The recital of imaginary injustices that might arise from ill-considered legislation are apt to leave us cold. There are thirty thousand laws upon the Statute Book, and many of them are dormant and innocuous. Existing cases of hardship are much more stimulating to the reformer, and we are glad to draw attention to a case of married woman's income tax which is set forth by Mrs. Agnes Purdie in a letter to Mr. Locker-Lampson. Mrs. Graves, a client of Mrs. Purdie's, has a gross income of £50 a year, from which £15 is deducted at the source in the form of income tax. Is this sum, or any of it, recoverable? Should Mrs. Graves be excused from paying tax, should she pay three shillings in the pound or six shillings, or is she liable for super-tax? As the law stands the answer to these questions depends upon the amount of her husband's income. This he will not disclose; the surveyor of taxes for his district refuses to state it without Mr. Graves's authority. The Board of Inland Revenue supports him in his refusal. This state of things has continued for five years. No difficulties exist when the case is reversed and a man desires to ascertain the income of his wife. Next year the income may dwindle to less than the £35 of to-day. The taxation of the joint incomes of married persons is already an injustice, its unfair incidence upon the woman is intolerable, and no reform of income tax administration which should leave it out of account would be equitable.

Direct Action.

The conspicuous defeat at the Trade Union Congress of the direct action policy removes a very serious threat to our national life and institutions. Women will see much to be thankful for in the unmistakable verdict of organised labour, for they have faced the possibility that their fifty year fight for citizens' rights would be of no avail if the rule of a male minority in the name of a restricted franchise were to be succeeded by the dictatorship of another minority, again chiefly male, in defiance of a reformed and democratic suffrage. The adherence of the Miners' Federation to the defeated policy and the proclamation by the Rhondda miners of a Saturday strike to influence the Government's Russian policy is not unexpected. Miners by their domicile, their working hours, and other conditions of life, are very largely segregated from other men even of their own class with similar incomes and habits, and, in counting heads, they are apt to reckon a miner as more than one or a worker above ground as less than one reasonable being. The direct action controversy is not an episode in a class war. Mr. J. H. Thomas's stirring speech reminding his hearers that "political action has not failed, it has never been tried," was heard or read by very many newly-enfranchised men and women with enthusiastic agreement. Mr. Clynes's "I oppose direct action because it is wrong," was a characteristically bold and frank statement of a position he has maintained both where it was popular and where it was unpopular. The majority of approaching three million against direct action was, owing to the imperfections of the card system of voting, not demonstrably an accurate numerical reflection of the opinions of the unions represented, but its magnitude disposes of any misgivings as to its decisive character.

Criminal Law Amendment.

The Bishop of London has suggested to the Government that the less controversial clauses of his Bill for the amendment of the Criminal Law might be combined to make a short agreed Bill confined to the matters in common between his projected measure and that which is to be re-introduced by the Government. There is much opposition to both Bills as they stand: the Bishop's provides for what is called "compulsory rescue," the Government Bill proposes penal measures against the communication of venereal disease. It is a pity that obviously desirable reforms such as the raising of the age of consent and the abolition of the clause concerning "reasonable cause to believe" a girl to be over the age of sixteen, should be held up until the more controversial matters can be decided. Even more urgent is the increasing penalties for brothel keeping, which are now derisory. There are still some timid persons who hold that it is an injustice to men to protect, on the ground of her youth, a girl who appears to be older than the age of consent, which now stands at sixteen. We must point out that the law has no such scruples when the minor to be protected is a man and the subject of the aggression is money. It is illegal to offer to lend money to a youth under twenty-one, and it is no defence to say that the boy appears to be older. If an appearance of maturity is misleading to a moneylender, he suffers for his lack of judgment. We ask for a girl's honour the same protection that is given to her brother's pocket.

Indian Women in Fiji.

A Committee of Australian and New Zealand Women is working steadily for the improvement of the condition of Indian women in Fiji, and has recently recommended several measures for their material and moral welfare, which are being favourably considered by the Governor. He has asked the Australian Society to recommend a medical woman suitable to carry out the Society's suggestions, and able to speak Hindustani and the languages of Southern India. It is evident that such women are greatly needed if Great Britain and her Dominions are to fulfil their duties towards the Eastern nations of whom they are the guardians. It is plain, too, that the acquisition of several Oriental languages is a serious addition to the curriculum of a medical woman, and that exceptional self-reliance and resource are needed by those whose work lies far from specialist help and hospital accommodation as it does in Fiji as in remote parts of India. The solution of the problem lies, we believe, in the education of Indian women for the service of their own race, and relying upon the comparatively few English women who can qualify in languages as well as in medicine and surgery to supervise the work of native assistant surgeons.

N.U.S.E.C. Council Meeting.

The Council of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship which met last week was a small gathering compared with some of the old Councils of the N.U.W.S.S., but it was widely representative, and the delegates, most of whom stayed through the whole three days' proceedings, showed considerable enthusiasm and steadfastness of purpose. Miss Eleanor Rathbone's presidential address was received with enthusiasm, and Mrs. Fawcett was welcomed with the usual affectionate ovation, or perhaps one should say *ovations*, as the greeting was repeated several times. A full report of the proceedings will be found on page 162.

One of Them.

A pleasant interruption to the gravity of the debates was the visit of Lady Astor upon the second day. Whatever the House of Commons thinks of the Hon. Member for Plymouth, there is no doubt that meetings of suffragist women find her irresistible. This is not due solely to her delightful gaiety and freshness—though these qualities are sufficiently rare in political gatherings to make them a refreshment one cannot afford to miss—nor does it depend only on her spontaneous and characteristic friendliness, it springs we believe from something deeper. Her charm is merely the pleasant vehicle of a sympathy and similarity of outlook which make the real bond. When the first woman Member at Westminster thanked the gathering of time-worn Suffragists for their work for the vote they smiled faintly; when she said that, in view of her own fourteen-hour a day duties, she sometimes wished they had not worked quite so hard, they laughed cheerfully; but when she went on to talk of what remained to be done, and said that no woman, in politics or elsewhere, ought to care two straws for her own "career" but only for the things she was out for, an applause that sprang from the heart broke out in the hall. That, the delegates felt, was the real "Suffrage spirit." Though Lady Astor might not have been with them through their long toils for the vote she was nevertheless one of them—a true representative of the women who care most for politics, and who have shown *how* they care for them in the last fifteen years.

A Valuable Piece of Work.

We are sorry to hear that the electoral registers in many parts of the country are still very incorrect. It is to be feared that many of the new women citizens are not sufficiently accustomed to having a vote to remember to make the necessary enquiries for themselves. In this connection the Glasgow Society for Equal Citizenship has recently undertaken a heavy but most valuable piece of work. It has itself undertaken the enquiry for its members, and has let each of them know whether or not her—or his—name was on the Register. This has aroused much interest, and has undoubtedly served to stimulate the sense of citizenship among those concerned. We should be interested to hear from other Societies for Equal Citizenship or Women Citizens' Associations who have done this work. In years to come it is possible that women voters will look after themselves, but for the present many of them still need education and stimulus.

Getting into Debt.

The spendthrift in private life finds it just as comfortable to owe a great deal as to owe a little, and sometimes even takes a kind of pleasure in throwing good money after bad on the plea that a large expenditure at once may be really economical in the end. Governments, if we may take our own as a fair example, share this tendency. Mr. Asquith's speech on the Civil Service estimates put the position with his accustomed clearness. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is asking for a vote of two hundred and fifty million pounds in excess of his normal budget for Civil Service estimates. Since he spoke we learn that the Air Estimates amount to over twenty-one million, or four-fifths of the sum spent on the Army in 1914-15. The Army and Navy cannot, in the disturbed state of the world, return to a peace footing. We are spending eighty-three million in subsidising coal, railways, and foodstuffs. The enormous expenditure on pensions is an item which no single Englishman or woman would wish to cut down, but added to all the rest it gives an appalling

total. We may not agree with Mr. Asquith that subsidies can be precipitately withdrawn, if we do not we only emphasise his contention that continuous work and rigid self-denial is called for from all classes and all individual citizens. Labour justly demands a larger share of the fruits of its exertions; this the community owes to it. But it owes to the community to save a proportion of its earnings. The middle classes have always carried the saving habit to an extreme; the very rich man however self-indulgent cannot in his own person enjoy more than a small part of his yearly income, and his accumulations, though no evidence of exceptional virtue, are an undoubted advantage to the community, which taxes him up to eighty per cent. or more of his income and commandeers most of his savings at his death. He saves because he is unable to spend, the middle class saves from habit; the working class must direct their attention from the truth that money means pleasure to the equally obvious truth that money saved means power. But all this is as nothing unless we work, work harder than we desire, and work after we have earned sufficient to satisfy our own needs and wishes. No one man or woman can take his hand from the plough without betraying his country, and with that, betraying Europe and the world. When we have become a thrifty nation (and necessity is a rapid teacher) we shall no longer ask in vain for an economical Government.

Women Magistrates.

The County Palatine of Lancaster which, being a Duchy, stands by itself in its method of selecting magistrates, has set a good example by appointing twenty-four women at once. We are glad to see a large proportion of married women on the list, to notice the distinguished name of Miss Eleanor Rathbone among those whose work is known beyond their own district, and to recognize that by selecting suitable women from many different districts the Duchy of Lancaster marks its appreciation of the valuable services women can render as magistrates beyond those connected with administering justice from the Bench. The names of the women appointed are as follows: Miss Georgina Birdsworth Ayre, Mrs. Annie Maria Cunliffe, Mrs. Mabel Constance Edwards, Mrs. Lilian Gill, Mrs. Margaret Hargreaves, Mrs. Margaret Ann Hartley, Mrs. Annie Elizabeth Holme, Ms. Jane Elizabeth Heywood, Miss Agnes Higham, Mrs. Margaret Marion Kenyon, Mrs. Elizabeth Johnstone Lowther Lees, Mrs. Miriam Macklin, Mrs. Zipporah Mountain, Lady O'Hagan, the Hon. Mrs. Hope Pilkington, Mrs. Mary Beatrice Pyke, Miss Eleanor Florence Rathbone, Mrs. Anne Frances Rawstone, Mrs. Alice Ann Rothwell, Mrs. Ada Emma Aves Christine Squires, Mrs. Angeline Swale, Miss Alice Maud Rowson Taylor, Mrs. Elizabeth Jane Walsh, Mrs. Lucy Mona Newman Wild. Recent appointments bring the number of women magistrates in Ireland up to seven, but so far, in spite of the efforts of Women Citizens' Associations, Ulster is without even one. Is this, perhaps, due to the feminist traditions of Celtic Ireland overcoming the opposing forces of inertia?

A Woman Vice-Chairman of L.C.C.

The London County Council has appointed Mrs. Wilton Phipps, who has been an Alderman since 1913, its Vice-Chairman. We congratulate that judicious body on setting up this precedent.

Fight the Famine Council.

The Fight the Famine Council has called a meeting at the Queen's Hall on Friday, March 19th, to consider the terrible situation of the devastated and starving countries of Europe, and to suggest remedies. Miss Picton-Turbervill, Lord Buckmaster, the Rt. Hon. J. R. Clynes, and Sir George Paish will speak.

Policy of "The Woman's Leader."

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 aims at offering 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.

THE FINANCIAL STRAIN.

SOME OF ITS EFFECTS ON WOMEN.

By MRS. MARGARET HEITLAND.

WOMEN are between the millstones. After-war conditions compel them to earn money, and compel them with an urgent force unfelt by many of them before. After-war conditions likewise make for many women the earning of money an undertaking of increased difficulty. It is between these millstones that women groan and are crushed.

I grant that not all women are suffering from this kind of pressure. Some women, and for some work, are earning good pay. Some women are the wives of rich men and are not conscious—or not disagreeably conscious—of prevailing troubles. It is difficult to say everything in a short article, and if one tried nobody would read it, the effect would be so blurred. But let it be assumed that in this article I am not saying that every living creature in this country is suffering from exactly the same evils and in exactly the same way. These things never do happen. One person's black cloud has a nice gold lining for somebody else. We are not all suffering. Together with my readers I am aware of this fact. But a great many people, especially women, are in a state of mental perturbation. It is on this form of suffering that I wish to focus attention.

Almost daily we see or hear that women are being ousted from the posts which they held during the war. The field out of which they are being chiefly swept is that of clerical work, banking, and some kinds of Government or other office work under public bodies. Here, again, I do not say that all of them are being dismissed from all clerical jobs; since, of course, this is not the case. But a good many of them are disappearing from the banks and offices where they have been recently seen. "Well, and what of it?" someone may ask; "they can go back to working, or live without working, as they did before."

This is precisely what many of the women in question cannot do. Life as it was "before" has gone. Our present economic wage-earning life, so far as it rests on a stable basis at all and not on an earthquake, operates on a basis of high wages and high prices. But the women who have earned high wages during the war and are now thrown out of work are tossed back into a world where for them there are high prices to pay but no high wages to meet such prices.

Nor does the trouble end here. The greater part of the middle-class population sees that it is needful for money to be earned, not by the male "bread-winner" solely, but by almost every individual member of it, woman as well as man. It sees that its income buys only from one-third to a half of what it used to purchase. It sees that its income is eaten away by taxation and its capital threatened. It sees that wage-earned wealth (provided it be consumed at once like daily manna) is the only form of wealth which may be tranquilly enjoyed. It sees these effects and in its turn it produces other effects, of which one is an urgent demand for wage-earning work. But those who are already in employments of the kind desired are hard pressed by the same conditions. They are determined to repel unemployed invaders, no matter who they are or how well-grounded their claim may be. Thus we are at the beginning of a time of intensified struggle for work of certain kinds. Meantime the public, as employers and consumers, are hungry for workers, but (they being similarly pressed in the financial mill) are compelled to reduce their own demands. Nor is this struggle carried on among the younger workers only. The hostility with which the old-fashioned virtue of saving is now viewed, and the attacks made with increasing force upon all private resources lead women and men to hold as long as possible to any wage-earning power they possess. Women on marriage often give up their work with the utmost reluctance, recognising that an independent income gives them a sense of moral freedom, and perceiving also that under the present system of taxation they are individually much poorer as wives (and still more as mothers) than they were as spinsters. They may, no doubt, live in greater comfort, but any income which they earn or happen to possess in their own right is reduced. And all these influences of high prices, of heavy taxation and of fear of still heavier taxation (in any of its multitudinous forms) impel women as well as men to postpone as long as possible the age of retirement. What this means is that the whole population is becoming conscious of those spectres of unemployment, disablement, and superannuation, which formerly scared a section of the people only, though a large section.

I may be told, no doubt, that these spectres ought not to frighten anybody in the future, seeing that there will be pro-

vision for old age pensions, wives', mothers', and widows' pensions, children's pensions, etc. I can only reply that I am considering people as they are; and that as a matter of fact they are frightened. They are frightened, partly because they have not quite so firm a confidence in Governments and other benevolent paymasters as they have in their own brains and hands; but they are much more frightened by doubts lest these doles should not correspond with the cost of living at the time they receive them. They are in a state of deadly and cruel uncertainty.

It is this deadly and cruel uncertainty that I would emphasise. It is to this uncertainty that I ascribe many of the cases of theft, fraud, and suicide of which we now hear. People from week to week find themselves and their affairs subjected to the most violent jerks. Threats of expulsion from their homes, of rent-raising; the sudden rise of price for any of the necessities of life; notice of dismissal from a post where good service has been given; proposals to sweep away by taxation a large part of the savings which people have made for their old age or for dependent relatives—these and other like occurrences are producing a most disastrous effect on the character of many persons, an effect far more disastrous than any real, settled poverty would have.

This insecurity is in domestic affairs our worst evil. It discourages the good worker, and especially the good woman worker, who is often made to feel that the better her work the more disapproval it invites from jealous rivals. It puts many a woman out of love with steady work (because for her to-day work never seems to be steady), and inspires her with a hungry eagerness for wealth when she sees that all solid property is now so glorified. If she resists invitations to put into lotteries she may fall a victim to "rubbers" or "oils." A good many women will plunge into trade on their own account and try life from the employer's side, where the sex barrier is less noticeable and the rewards of good work are better. There will be bankruptcies and failures here also; but some women will emerge successfully and may become specialists in certain forms of industry. Outlets must be found, and it is in this direction that egress from the dark places seems most possible. Moreover, when we have a larger number of undertakings directed by women there will be a larger number of women employed. I do not mean to imply that all women will, for purely feminist reasons, employ women for work which men might do more satisfactorily; but simply that the tendency for each sex to gather colleagues from its own members may be expected to operate.

Reverting to the labour situation, we see that labour is (with some exceptions) over-plentiful, but that it is not cheap and cannot be cheap. Shorter hours and a distribution of work among a larger number of persons is one remedy—so long and so far as it is not too costly for application. But what must be removed are the present terrible discouragements and uncertainties which are thrusting people away from work towards gambling, speculation, and eventually crime. As the time for the Budget approaches, the feeling of uncertainty develops. Rumours are poured into scared minds concerning fresh varieties of taxation which may possibly be devised in order to meet the recent estimates for enormous departmental expenditure and to make good any losses caused to the Exchequer by small tax abatements. One of these abatements, it is said, will take the form of raising the tax-exemption limit to £250 for the "joint" income of married persons. This concession may bring some trifling relief, though it will simply perpetuate the bad system of regarding an income as sometimes an individual's income, and sometimes part of the income of another person.

There has been no more eloquent proof of alarm and the costly effects of uncertainty than the frequent falls within the last few weeks in the price of Government and gilt-edged securities. But if the very word "security" be turned, by a pouncing levy, into irony, what inducement is there to choose this way of thrift?

Men and women alike await the Budget with the greatest anxiety. A "tame" Budget would make for national stability; but a Budget which introduced serious changes in commercial and household finance would assuredly bring on a national epidemic of speculation. I can only express a fervent hope that our rulers will do all they can to restore stability to our affairs, so that housewives and workers need no longer fear that their 2+2 which are their 4 to-day may amount to =1 to-morrow.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

Once again foreign affairs overshadow political opinions. The revolution in Germany seemed at first to be of such supreme importance that the prospect of a new party resulting from Mr. Lloyd George's meeting with the Coalition Liberals dwindled into comparative insignificance. With the apparent solution, however, domestic affairs re-emerged and the new re-grouping of parties which is so long overdue may be really about to begin.

During March the Members of Parliament are always engaged in galloping through financial business. This week the Air, the Navy, and parts of the Civil Service have been brought forward, with the usual result that there was no time to get to the bottom of anything. On Monday, however, an attempt was made to go into the question of high prices; but high prices take a lot of getting to the bottom of, and it will need a good deal more than a Parliamentary debate before we feel any happier about them. Several interesting and suggestive things were said by Mr. Asquith, particularly in his insistence upon the international causes of our distress; but, meantime, the price of bread is going up and we wish something were being done.

In the House of Lords last Wednesday Lord Buckmaster introduced the Matrimonial Causes Bill, to which we refer in detail in Notes and News. The debate, which reached a high level of seriousness and sincerity stands adjourned till March 24th.

On Friday last, Mr. Ben Tillett's Bill for the better Technical education of the Blind was read a second time in the House of Commons. Nothing, as Lady Astor said in her brief speech in support, is so useful a gift as the power of self support, and it is this that the Bill aims at extending to the blind. It is encouraging to find that not only private members but the Government also supported the Bill, and Dr. Addison's promise that they would take it on and see it through its further stages—though perhaps in a slightly altered form—should give real hope to those who live in darkness.

It is not as widely known as it should be that a procession of the blind came to London from the North to secure support for this measure. Nothing can be a greater proof that the Bill is wanted than this, and it is a most hopeful augury for the actual working of the Bill when it is law. A curious incident in connection with the procession is worth notice. When first mooted, the pilgrimage was to be of blind men only, and arrangements on this basis were set on foot. Blind women then felt within their hearts the fear and anxiety with which other organised bodies of women are familiar. Was the Bill to extend to men only? Were they to be forgotten and unhelped? They went to one of our suffrage friends who knew them and understood, begging her to help them, and an application to the promoters of the movement at once secured their inclusion. The blind have need of watchfulness, no less than those that see; but we are glad that women have not been forgotten. The Bill, it is true, says nothing of them. But in these days of Sex Disqualification Removal we can hope that "persons" means women if it never did before.

The case of the teachers, which is being promoted by an active Parliamentary Committee, is likely to come up before the end of the Estimates, and Parliament will hear more of the Women Civil Servants before long.

Meanwhile, the case of the widows of pre-war naval officers is in the hands of Lady Astor, and that of the women disabled on active service of the Comrades of the Great War. If our grievances are many and sore, our helpers are many too, and the old apathy of the Parliaments before 1917 has departed.

It is interesting to note that Lady Astor has been appointed a member of the Home Office Committee of enquiry into the work of women with the police forces.

We notice with delight that two other women are about to stand for Parliament in the forthcoming by-elections, Miss Margaret Bondfield for Northampton, and Miss Susan Lawrence for Camberwell. Both stand as Labour candidates: we hope they will both join our existing woman M.P.

CIVIL SERVICE RECONSTRUCTION:

A Retrogressive Report.

By CHRISTINE MAGUIRE.

(Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries. Member of the Ministry of Pensions Departmental Whitley Council.)

The Report of the Re-organisation Sub-Committee of the National Whitley Council for the Civil Service so bristles with injustices to women that it must be dealt with section by section.

THE WRITING ASSISTANT CLASS.

The Report states that women Writing Assistants are already employed in certain departments on routine duties. It fails to state that this class is scandalously sweated, that its opportunities for promotion are practically non-existent, and that its members can look forward only to being the hewers of wood and drawers of water to their more fortunate colleagues until they retire, worn out, on a miserable pension, if the monotony of their existence does not break them down prematurely. This class is to be extended to other Departments, such as the Pensions Ministry, which have not so far rejoiced in a sufficiently sweated class of woman clerical worker. It is impossible to believe that the men on the staff side of the Committee would have consented to the continued existence of this class had it not been confined to women.

The position of the women writing assistants must be emphasised, because as long as this class exists the whole position of women in the Civil Service is undermined. The fact that a few may be promoted to woman clerkships, having passed into the Service on a lower examination than any man, will lower the status of all the women clerks, in spite of the fact that in practice a woman writing assistant would have to be superior to the normal woman clerk if she were to obtain any chance of promotion at all.

THE CLERICAL CLASS.

The women clerks in the Civil Service, through the Federation of Women Civil Servants, have long claimed equality with Second Division men. If the Report be adopted, the bulk of Second Division men would move into the Executive Class, though the bulk of the women clerks on similar duties would remain graded as clerical workers. Moreover, the women, who have up till now entered at the same age and through a similar examination to that of the Second Division men, would in future have a lowered entrance-age, and consequently a lowered status.

The public Press has, unfortunately, so advertised the promise for men and women in this new "clerical" class of equal pay for the first few years of their respective service that the important fact that the recommendation refers only to pre-war salaries has passed unnoticed. A Treasury representative on the Committee has definitely stated that the women will find when the post-war salaries are fixed that there is still a considerable differentiation between men and women throughout, even at the bottom of the scales.

The Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill did in effect give equality to women in the higher grades of the Home Civil Service, the London Society of Women's Service, with the support of Women's Civil Service organisations having secured a pledge from Mr. Bonar Law and the Lord Chancellor that the dangerous clause enabling the Government, by means of Orders in Council, to withhold equality of opportunity from women wherever they felt it to be necessary should only be used in the case of Indian Civil Service or other overseas appointments.

The staff representatives of the Re-organisation Committee have attempted to sign away the right of women to compete side by side with men for the higher posts of the Civil Service.

It will be pleaded that the women on the staff side of the Committee were themselves to blame in signing the Report; but they were in the unfortunate position of not directly representing women alone, but were appointed equally by men. Pressure could therefore be put upon them not to set off the men's gains against the losses of the women.

Fortunately, women's organisations, with few exceptions, have repudiated the terms offered and the representatives of the majority of established and temporary women Civil Servants have been instructed to vote at the National Whitley Council for the reference back of the Report.

THE ECONOMIC CONDITION OF EUROPE.

The history of war for all time is the same. Hard on the footsteps of the devouring monster of desolation follow the grim phantoms of famine and disease. This truth, which centuries of warfare ought to have stamped indelibly upon the consciences of men and long made war impossible, was never illustrated so devastatingly as it is to-day. Never was need for action more urgent, never were men more seemingly impotent. There is much wringing of hands and infinite discussion, but meanwhile Europe staggers on the edge of the abyss, ready to fall over from sheer exhaustion, and nothing is done.

For many months the papers have told us of the famine now raging throughout Europe, and within the last three weeks horrible stories have been circulated of the typhus which is ravaging Poland and threatens the whole of Europe. We are told that it is the worst epidemic of typhus fever the world has ever experienced, and that it is due to the influx into Poland of war prisoners and refugees from Russia. In Galicia whole towns are crippled. Over forty-six doctors are reported to have succumbed, and the fact that there are few doctors, no nurses, and a great lack of medicines immensely aggravates the evil. A gentleman, sent by the Friends' Emergency and War Victims Relief Committee to East Galicia and West Ukraina to investigate the circumstances, states that, in one of the Ukrainian towns visited, a whole family of seven in one house in the Jewish quarter had died from typhus and starvation.

Meanwhile, a new disease has made its appearance in France and Austria. The "Sleeping Sickness," or "Lethargic Encephalitis," has spread to Switzerland, and on February 20th the *Times* reported eleven cases in the Canton of Basle, eight in Solothurn, four in St. Gall, four in Davos, and one or two in French Switzerland. Sweden has not escaped the scourge of disease, and during the first week in February over 1,500 cases of influenza were reported.

But disease itself is due to a number of causes, each of which presents a problem to be solved. In Russia, the effect of war has been enormously to increase the mortality. Mr. Hoover, then Director-General of Allied Relief Work, stated in April last that more than 200,000 people were dying monthly from lack of food. Hundreds of people succumb daily in North-west Russia, whilst only the most careful organisation on the part of the Communist Government has kept Petrograd alive during the past two and a half years.

In France the tale of famine and sickness is the same. The war has no more pitiful story to tell than that of the sufferings of those helpless innocents, the children. Thus, Dr. Calmette (head of the Pasteur Institute, Paris) has reported that in Lille, situated in the devastated region of France, 8,000 of the 18,000 children attending schools at the time of the armistice had to be sent to hospitals or convalescent colonies. Forty per cent. were suffering from tuberculosis or kindred troubles, and 60 per cent. showed marked arrest of growth. As to the children of Austria and Hungary, the whole world knows their story.

The tragedy of starvation and disease originates from economic circumstances extremely difficult to control. In the devastated districts of France the production of corn and coal has decreased enormously, and her industries have suffered equally in proportion. Already the work of reconstruction has begun, and saw-mills, brickfields, cement works, and all kinds of factories for the production of building material needed for permanent dwellings and workshops are being established. But despite the fact that labour is being recruited freely in Poland, that 50,000 Poles are already in Northern France, and that Germany and Austria are under an obligation to supply France with 700,000 workers, it is estimated that it will take ten to twenty years to complete the task of reconstruction.

One of the most urgent problems in France is the coal question. The war destroyed many of her most valuable mines, and it has been estimated that the work of restoration will take about two years in the eastern district of the coal area, and from

six to eight years in the western district. Although Germany has agreed to deliver 27,000,000 tons of coal a year to France, she had sent only about 300,000 tons by the end of January. Germany's obligation is the more difficult of fulfilment, because under the Peace Treaty she has been obliged to hand over a great number of locomotives to France. In consequence transport is almost impossible.

The transport problem is one of the most difficult to solve. Owing to the wear and tear of war, most of the countries find themselves burdened with worn out locomotives, passenger carriages and goods waggons which cannot be repaired for lack of material. Hungary has practically no rolling stock, for the Roumanians seized and despatched to Roumania no fewer than 1,151 locomotives, 1,801 railway coaches, and 37,706 railway trucks. In addition, they stripped Hungary of most of her agricultural machines and factory plant. Russia, too, is suffering a lack of rolling stock.

The question of exchange value is another cause of the existing distress. Austria is the worst example of the adverse exchange. Allowing for fluctuations in value, about one thousand kronen are equivalent to the English pound. When it is understood that a municipal employee in Vienna in a position formerly regarded as very comfortable now earns on an average only 1,150 kronen a month, and that an adequate meal costs from 50 to 60 kronen, it will be realised that living is but a bare existence. The position is further complicated by the fact that the newly-created small States—such as Czecho-Slovakia and Jugo-Slavia—knowing how valueless is the Austrian krone, will not permit the export of food and other commodities to Austria. The evil of the adverse exchange exists in a varying degree in France and Italy, and the countries with which we were at war.

The need of international stabilisation of the rate of exchange has already been recognised in Germany. At present, she is importing five times more than she is exporting, and paying for import ten times while receiving for her exports only six times pre-war prices. On these lines it is obvious that she is getting farther and farther away from establishing a balance of trade with any country. Someone has said that all Germany can do to retrieve her position "Is to work, work, work"; but even that is impossible when men, women, and children are suffering from lack of food.

How general is the disaster engendered by the war can be gauged by the extent to which it has affected other countries. Everywhere prices have gone up, and there is a lack of food, fuel, and raw materials. Recently a car load of flax was sold in Winnipeg for 8,332 dollars, or 4.26 dollars per bushel, the highest price ever paid. The export of rice from Bengal has been prohibited. On one occasion there was no electricity in Antwerp owing to the lack of coal—and so on. And yet, side by side with these grave conditions, we hear of such scandals as of meat being held up in English ports and of fish rotting in Norway. In the West End the wanton waste of coal for production of electricity used for illuminated signs advertising whisky and quack cough cures is apparent to everyone.

Meanwhile, the danger is becoming more and more acute. The lack of credit is general in Europe, owing to the excess of imports from America over exports. While production is more than ever needed, the general lassitude due to the abnormal conditions is increasing. Added to this is lack of man power.

Very ominous are the signs of times. A counter-revolution has broken out in Germany which threatens civil war in that unhappy country and danger of even greater disaster to the rest of Europe. There is no time to be lost. People must learn the facts speedily and know what they have to face, for Europe can only be saved by international co-operation, and the statesmen of the various countries will work together only under the strongest pressure of public opinion.

A. A. P.

SAUCE FOR THE GOOSE

Oh it has been a dull week, and what is to be done to brighten life I can't imagine. True, a green bicycle wheel and a Berlin Revolution and a lady with a great many different names have done what they can to improve matters for the general public, but for the feminist monotony goes unrelieved. Yes, the fact is we are too popular. Even a women's franchise Bill has failed to move the House of Commons from its complimentary habits, and everyone seems only too ready to do what they can to meet our wishes. So that we are left to occupy ourselves in organising social functions of congratulation on our achievements. Quite pleasant in a mild way, but just a trifle tame when one thirsts for the old-time battle-cries. Nothing in fact remains for us but the garden and worms—unless, oh blessed thought! some philanthropic feminist will get up a beauty competition from which women are excluded, and so provide us with a grievance!

Then, too, one's early optimism seems to have vanished. Once the heart would have leaped up to hear that a Nuneaton scientist had invented a method of producing cheap coal gas. For besides being inexpressibly encouraged by the discovery that Nuneaton has an inhabitant and does not merely exist to provide a good title for a fancy dress, one would have seized on the words "cheap" and "gas" and wrought of them a rosy cloud of hopefulness. Now one murmurs "coal" in sceptical gloom. For what is the use of knowing how to make cheap gas from coal when coal is the one thing we never see? If he had told us how to make coal out of second-rate gas now, or even a simple little substance like sugar—well, that would have been something!

And besides everything else there is this horrible sword of Damocles, jury service, perpetually dangling over our heads. Of course we were all quite determined to get rid of the absurd idea that women were not fit to serve on juries—that was intolerable! But somehow we never expected our campaign of protest to come off quite so effectively. What mortal woman could conceivably want to spend the day in a jury box? It makes it so awkward too about arranging the week's shopping if one never knows when the blow will fall.

The price of wives is rising! It was only £25 a head during the "Chattel" scandal, you remember, but the Royal Commission on Income Tax has stood nobly by us and now the figure has run up to £100. Our incomes may perhaps still be pooled with our husbands' for purposes of taxation of course, but then we never expected much else. The great thing is that, whereas a bachelor's income is only exempt up to £150, he escapes with £250 tax free if he marries. So you see a wife is worth a clear hundred, which is not so bad considering.

There was a mass meeting for housekeepers held during the week in Trafalgar Square to protest against the rise in prices. Judging from press reports and photographs it was a highly successful mass meeting as far as attendance goes, overlooking the one fact that no housekeepers were present, the audience being exclusively male. Of course a little detail like that doesn't matter—the moral effect is all the same. Still, it makes one feel rather ridiculous, don't you know, and I never sound to myself quite convincing when I explain to my anti-feminist acquaintances how keen men have grown over women's questions, so that we poor little creatures have given up trying to find a corner at women's meetings. If only one had a head for dates and hours one would make an effort to attend these functions. Though as a matter of fact I don't think I could have reached Trafalgar Square on Saturday afternoon. I got hung up, you know, in my shopping through trying to buy butter for less than a pound an inch.

The one and only bright spot the week has provided was a House of Commons dinner given for Mrs. Fawcett and Lady Selborne to discuss the provision of a fund to enable women to train for the legal professions, and, one hopes, to give the fund a good send off. All sorts of imposing people were present, including the Lord Chancellor. And that, of course, is the kind of thing that makes one really feel one is getting on. Acts of Parliament are all very well, but everyone knows it is these satisfactory little House of Commons dinner-parties that really count.

THE GOOSE GIRL.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING CHILDLESS.

It is possible to appreciate the gallant campaign conducted by various progressive women's organisations on behalf of the unmarried mother and her child, and yet feel a slight pang of regret that the increasing troubles and difficulties of the married mother should receive, comparatively, so little attention. The nation, we are told, needs babies; well and good; but surely the babies who should have the first claim upon our care and compassion are those at present being born to prosaically respectable young parents who have been adventurous enough to enter into the bonds of matrimony any time during the past five years. The "love child"—outside the imagination of sentimental writers of fiction—is not, as a rule, remarkable either for health or beauty; there is another reason for the high mortality amongst illegitimate children, besides the pressure of harsh economic conditions. I am not advocating indifference towards the fate of these little unfortunates; I am not defending the exasperating and ludicrous tangle of our marriage laws; but the fact remains that the balance of public sympathy is in some danger of swinging over in the wrong direction; and healthy-minded young women with sufficient sense of public duty to uphold the normal traditions of the land in which they live may even look with some secret envy upon their fallen sister—with half-a-dozen philanthropists buzzing round her, all eager to exert themselves over "such an interesting case, my dear."

TOO EXPENSIVE A LUXURY.

Meanwhile, if the production of a jolly little pink citizen, well within the bounds of lawful wedlock, were a crime and an outrage against our national prosperity, it could hardly be more heavily penalised than it is at the present day. There may be a comfortable little self-contained house at a moderate rent built by the fairies at the end of the rainbow; but nowhere else is it to be found. Landladies and boarding-house keepers look with the sourest suspicion upon a perambulator; and the poor young mother who has had to endure all the discomfort and expense of a confinement in "furnished apartments" will certainly make a secret resolution never to face such an ordeal a second time. Yet the fees of a very ordinary nursing home have already risen to unheard-of heights; and very many provincial towns are unprovided with a nursing home of any description—whilst the average general hospital, even if it admits private patients, is reluctant to give up a bed to normal maternity cases. Then of all the profiteers who batten upon our daily needs, the greediest and most merciless are those who surround the new-born baby; doubling and trebling the price of his cradle, his pram, his bath, his soap and powder and flannels and woollies—even his teddy bear and his fluffy rabbit. Small wonder if he frequently accepts the hint so unwillingly given by his parents, and decides not to get born at all until better times shall come!

WOMEN'S WORK AND THE BIRTH RATE.

All this has an important bearing upon the question of women's position in the labour market and the rates of pay she receives there. She may or may not choose to continue doing paid work after she is married; but if she is to have a family she will assuredly need all the money she can make and save before her wedding day. If a man has to bear the whole cost of supporting a wife and children under present economic conditions, he will not be able to marry until he is well on in the thirties—an unsatisfactory and unwholesome arrangement for more than one reason. We need not despise the man who roundly objects to "living on his wife's money"; he is a more admirable person than the man who is perfectly willing to live upon his wife's money just as long as she will allow him to do so; but he must be made to see that the girl whom he would select for his life's partner has an equally strong objection to watching him work himself nearly to death, no matter how fagged or unwell he may be, in order that she may have a baby. Her natural liking for babies appears then a selfish indulgence, like high play at bridge or a taste for Paris hats. Yet the

alternative is either a childless marriage or enforced celibacy mitigated in the usual fashion, unless the young wife has a comfortable little sum of money of her own "put by"; and this the normal middle-class girl will not have nowadays without working for it.

PROFESSION IN LIEU OF DOWRY.

The dowry system is never likely to become popular again in this country—poor Papa, with the latest income tax form haunting his sleep o' nights, will have a word to say upon that subject. Nor is it a particularly admirable arrangement, except in the case of a daughter who has deliberately sacrificed her wage-earning opportunities to her parents' needs—in which event she should certainly have some monetary compensation. The best dowry any daughter can receive is a sound professional or business education. Then if she earns adequate pay she will need very little persuasion to put by a regular sum either for her own use on a rainy day if she remains single or for her "bottom drawer."

We are told that the birth-rate is dwindling most ominously amongst the professional classes. So long as we place difficulties in the way of the lucrative employment of healthy young women of that class it will certainly continue to dwindle. Even if the best paid positions were ultimately reserved for married men, the employment of women in well paid jobs would be all to the good. At present a girl is dismissed from her minor clerkship in the Civil Service, or in a bank, or in a commercial office; lives on her savings for an indefinite time, exhausts them, and becomes financially, a most ineligible bride; and meanwhile her old job is taken by a young man—who would soon find his way to a better post if this were not open for him—and he receives her salary, which is, as the negro said of the turkey, "too much for one, but not quite 'nuff for two." He perforce remains single, and so does she; or, if they marry, their babies remain unborn. For the question of the birth-rate is not a question of irresponsibility, or selfishness, or frivolity, but a plain and simple question of £ s. d.

MADGE MEARS.

THE HOME IN PARLIAMENT

Because the home-loving woman so often thinks that Parliament is no concern of hers, and, because as a matter of fact Parliament has a great deal more to do with the home than you imagine.

And because, during the present Parliamentary Session in particular, Parliament will be discussing and deciding a number of questions which every good housekeeper must understand:

For these reasons you will find, every week on this page during the session an article about one home question with which Parliament is concerned, showing just how the home comes into Parliament's discussions and debates.

You will find this article because the "Woman's Leader" knows that only the woman who understands how Parliament is dealing with her affairs can be a really responsible citizen and a really reliable home-keeper.

ON THE TOP LANDING.

MOST home-keepers have found enough and more than enough to occupy them during the winter in the larder. So that it is with diffidence that I ask you this week to lock the larder door and come with me upstairs, right to the top of the house and through the little wicket-gate that guards the stairhead on the top landing. For all said and done, even in days of rationing, the nursery is that part of the home that lies nearest to the home-keeper's heart, and it is of the nursery that I want this week to write.

The best-trained mothers are apt to cherish the absurd idea that they are something of a necessity to a properly equipped nursery. Most of them would be more than a little indignant if you explained to them that they are nothing more than a lucky accident. And yet this is what our British law explains in its unsympathetic language and this is what those unfortunate mothers whose rights are called in question before a court of law discover to their cost.

In the eyes of our British law a mother is not the mother of her child, nor even necessary to it as a nurse, to care for its physical well-being, after it is seven years of age. A mother has no legal right to a voice in her child's upbringing; she cannot legally have a share in deciding what religion it shall be taught, what education it shall have, what surroundings, or what care. She has even no legal right to insist that her child shall be left in her charge. A father is the only parent that the law recognises. To him is left the power of making all decisions regarding the child—he may even remove the child from its mother at the age of seven if he so decide without so much as stating the reason why.

Fortunately for them, if unfortunately for the state of the law, comparatively few mothers are ever brought face to face with these facts, for comparatively few mothers in practice have their rights questioned by the law. The ordinary father is only too glad to leave to his wife the lion's share of responsibility for his child's welfare and to consult with her over its education; the ordinary mother regards herself as quite as important and necessary a parent as the father; and the ordinary child does not underrate the importance of its mother. Still considering the fact that mothers are now voters and that women's citizenship is fully recognised in most walks of life, the condition of our Guardianship Laws is remarkable, and it seems odd indeed that

women's sphere, the home, should be the one spot where she has no proper legal status.

Our Guardianship Laws are, of course, like our Divorce Laws, a survival of the old barbaric days when women were not considered to have rights or personalities of their own, but were simply regarded as their husbands' property. No one believes in such a notion nowadays. No one could seriously oppose the reform of the Guardianship Laws. It is not because Parliament clings to them that they remain unaltered, but simply because it is difficult to awaken sufficient energy in any large enough body of people to get an alteration carried through. Those mothers who suffer from the Guardianship Laws are ready enough to spend their energy on getting the laws reformed, but other people either do not realise the present state of affairs or, if they do, have so little expectation of being themselves affected that they treat our old-fashioned laws as something of a joke. Yet in actual fact the state of the Guardianship Laws is no joke and it is clearly the business of every woman and particularly of every mother in the country to do all in her power to get these laws reformed; and a great deal of support is needed behind a reforming Bill before it makes its way into Parliament.

A Bill to reform the Guardianship Laws has already been drafted by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. It lays down quite clearly that the mother shall be equally responsible with the father for their child's welfare, and shall have the same legal right as the father to decide how the child shall be trained and educated. This Bill will almost certainly not be brought before Parliament this session, but if the mothers of the country show themselves sufficiently eager for it, it should easily secure time for discussion next session, and when it is really before Parliament it will probably have a quick passage into law, since there is no possible logical ground for opposing it.

The mothers of the country, when once they do ask, will not ask unheeded for this Bill now that they are voters. Members of Parliament are only too ready to do all that they can to please the women in their constituencies. And when the Bill is introduced, support for it will not be far to seek. Where is there a home-keeper who can possibly remain indifferent when not merely the Home, but actually the Nursery has taken the floor in Parliament?

INEZ M. FERGUSON.

OVERSEAS SETTLEMENT FOR BRITISH WOMEN. CANADA.

By E. MONTIZAMBERT.

UNTHINKING people often express a regret that Great Britain should lose so many of the best type of her citizens for the benefit of the other parts of the Empire.

Yet surely it is of just as vital an importance to Great Britain as it is to the Dominions that the best type of settler should people the vast spaces of the Dominions overseas. One has only to realise the inevitable result of the policy of using the Dominions as a dumping-ground for wastrels and remittance men or defective, incapable women to refrain from the mistaken regret that Great Britain should lose so many of her best citizens. They are not lost to her, the war proved that, and since the present population of Canada's three and a half million square miles only equals that of London, it is easy to foretell the result if Britain only sent her failures to impress her greatness and inculcate the spirit of the Empire among the foreigners who will inevitably flock to take advantage of the untapped sources of wealth in a new country.

Before considering the opportunities that Canada offers to British women there are one or two misconceptions I would like to clear away.

The first is about the climate. More than one Government official has come back from a hasty tour to report that only very robust people can hope to stand such a rigorous climate. They ignore the fact that Canada is as big as all Europe, and that in a country covering 3,729,665 square miles more than one kind of climate may be found. In Ontario and British Columbia, each of these three times the size of the United Kingdom, the climate is very similar to that of England; in the latter province there is almost as good a chance of finding primroses in February as there is in Hampshire. Even in Quebec and in the north-west provinces, where the climate is certainly severe and the winters long, the air is so dry and invigorating that English people visiting the country for the first time do not feel the cold half so much as the Canadians, and until the second winter, when they become more acclimatised, they usually wear much lighter clothing.

Another misconception concerns the surplus of men in Canada. Before the war it was true that Canada had a surplus of 600,000 men, one-tenth of whom were bachelors of marriageable age. But the casualty lists have shown that 60,000 men were killed and 40,000 severely wounded or disabled in the last five years, and since Canadian soldiers have taken back 30,000 English brides to Canada the old conditions as to the relative numbers of men and women have disappeared.

Then there is the vexed question of social conditions. Canadians often smile over the sweeping generalisation that there are practically no class distinctions, and that masters and servants habitually eat at the same table. I believe that utopian plan was once tried with ill success in Ottawa, but not by Canadians.

Broadly speaking, class distinctions are observed in Canada very much as they are in England. In Alberta as in Yorkshire a farmer's wife may cook for her husband's labourers, and if an educated woman chooses to be a farmer's wife she must expect to share the ordinary life of that class. Domestic servants are difficult to get in the country districts, and the farmer's wife has to face the probability of doing all her own house work. In the cities, where servants may be had for a much inflated wage, the social conditions only differ from the English in a

little more elasticity of intercourse, a remnant of the days before the acquisition of wealth bred mistrust to smother the kindness engendered by mutual dependence against the common foes.

The idea that money may be easily made in Canada is no misconception if the desire to make it is supported by a capacity for hard work and the ability to seize opportunities, but faith should be tempered by a knowledge of the high cost of living.

Let me add that it is quite unnecessary to take out an elaborate outfit. Houses in Canada are so well heated that clothes such as are worn in England are perfectly suitable for Ontario, Nova Scotia, or British Columbia. Warmer outdoor clothing is necessary for the winter in Quebec or the north-west provinces.

With these misconceptions cleared up let us see what conditions are required and what provision is made for the comfort of the British women settling in Canada.

The Canadian Government offers a free passage across the ocean to the woman war-worker, but she must pay her own travelling expenses from the port of arrival. A civilian domestic servant going out to Toronto would have to spend about £20 between London and that city, but it is not necessary for her to secure a situation before leaving England, as work is practically certain to be found for her within twenty-four hours of her arrival. In cases where it is very difficult for a capable woman to pay all her passage money some assistance is given, and I understand that the Women's Legion is also preparing to help overseas settlers in this way.

Once the decision has been made—I am told that for some mysterious reason this generally occurs on a Monday morning—the landing permit must be applied for at the Canadian Government Offices at 13, Charing Cross, and from the moment that this is granted, the Canadian authorities do everything they can to ensure a safe and successful début in the new life. One of the staff of nine trained women officials personally conducts the party of girls across the ocean, so that they do not have to face a lonely voyage.

On arrival at St. John, where, by the way, one of the medical inspectors, Dr. Parkes, is a woman, the settler finds a chain of comfortable hostels organised for her use by the Canadian Council of Immigration for Women. They extend across the Continent to Vancouver, and the fact that the newcomer is only offered their hospitality for nothing for twenty-four hours, is a cheerful assurance that by the end of that time she will be in a position to pay the small sum asked for accommodation in each hostel, where she may be sure of finding sympathetic help in all her difficulties.

I now come to the question of employment. Each office of the Dominion Emigration Service has a Women's Department which investigates all situations before they recommend the acceptance. In Canada there are various women's organisations which co-operate with the Government Bureaux and keep in touch with the new arrivals, making them feel part of the community. A Committee has just been appointed in Ottawa to study the question of industrialising and standardising house work. For while it is not exact to say that Canada has no present use for women workers other than domestic servants, it is true that this class are the workers of whom the country stands in most need.

The wages given to even untrained "house workers," as they prefer to be called, are as high as from \$18 to \$25 for a maid-of-all-work; a table-maid receives from \$30-\$40 a month,

MAUDE ROYDEN, THE WOMAN PREACHER.

AN APPRECIATION.

BY A MEMBER OF HER CONGREGATION.

There is always something impressive in the sight of a great company of men and women deeply separate in tastes and opinions who are joined in a glad fellowship of silence to give one voice a hearing. The differences of class and creed and sex are broken down, and the worries of life are forgotten as a great audience comes under the magic spell of noble thought expressed in simple language. In such gatherings the brotherhood of mankind becomes an accomplished fact.

So strong was the atmosphere of unity, that there was little room for the "sadness of farewell" in the City Temple as Miss Maude Royden conducted her last service as a regular preacher there, while nearly three thousand people participated in the act of worship, almost forgetting to marvel as they did so that for three years past they have been led by a woman.

Some, to whom their minister has appeared to be inspired as a prophetess of old, "the repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in," sat side by side with others who, though attentive and appreciative, still regard a woman in a pulpit with dismay and perturbation. Yet many who have held that the religious woman can be nothing more than a dreamer of impossible dreams propounding impracticable theories, have with growing respect listened and watched during the last three years, and at last understood the significance of the word "vocation." They have seen that a fellow-traveller upon the road of life who has experienced griefs that scar the heart, and joys that glorify the spirit, can, irrespective of sex, possess the power to interpret these experiences aright and translate them into the language of ordinary men and women.

For it requires splendid courage to do the work which Miss Royden has done: to stand alone encountering misunderstanding and opposition: to give a message with which the heart is charged: to devote all the energy of a frail body, all the love of a great heart, and all the treasures of a versatile mind to mere strangers. And it is liberality indeed to agonise for the bread of life in order to cast it upon the waters of human nature.

"To give all for love, this is a most sweet bargain."

There is no doubt as to the need for Miss Royden's new enterprise which she is undertaking with Dr. Percy Dearmer. For long there has been a growing desire on the part of the younger generation of thinking people for a better appreciation of beauty, truth, and goodness as aspects of religion; a desire to establish a foundation of faith in them upon which to build a work-a-day life.

This section of the community, knowing that Miss Royden has for three years drawn to the City Temple on Sunday evenings the largest intellectual congregation in the whole country, looks to her now to supply their needs in the Sunday evening meetings which are to start on March 21st at the Kensington Town Hall. Especially do the thoughtful young women of London badly need opportunities to worship sincerely, to study deeply, and, above all, to discuss minutely the teaching of One whom this great woman leader of religious thought has so often commended to them as "the most adorably appealing Figure in human history."

The day of the ordained woman minister has, alas! not yet dawned; but those who have composed the regular section of Miss Royden's congregation contemplate its advent with confidence, knowing that when it comes the Church will be the richer in possessing not only pastors but spiritual mothers. The benediction, falling from the lips of a woman, is like a maternal caress in the warmth of which tired hearts renew themselves, and become again as the hearts of little children.

and the wages of a good cook are as difficult to calculate as the price of a much disputed bibelot. The excellence of the training for nurses in Canada, and the number of army nurses now demobilised, does not leave much room for the British woman who goes out without an assured position, but, as in nearly every other rule about employment in Canada, there are exceptions in regard to this profession, and not long ago fifty British nurses were asked for by institutions in Ontario, and at once supplied. Hospital ward maids are also required: women undertaking this work receive \$20 and are given their uniform.

Employment in factories is quite possible, but not so easy to find, and in view of the fact that manufacturers might try and induce British girls to go out and work under precarious conditions for a lower wage than a Canadian would accept, the authorities are careful to protect the interests of the British settler by refusing to allow her to accept a post that has not been investigated, or to go out without an assured position unless she is prepared to take up the alternative housework. A certain number of girls are sent out from time to time to fill positions offered by manufacturers—as a rule, these men apply to the Provincial Employment Bureaux when they want workers. If these workers cannot be supplied in Canada application is made to the Clearing House Employment Bureau, and if they are satisfied with the conditions offered the British authorities are communicated with. Fifty British girls have just been sent out in a conducted party to work in hosiery mills, textile workers being most in demand.

I am sorry to have to throw a certain amount of cold water on the very natural idea that there is plenty of employment for the British land girl in Canada. There may be in the future, but not at the moment, and curiously enough, the chief impediment appears to be the farmer's wife. She is not in the least averse to the novelty of the land girl, but she is quite clear on one point. If there is any help to be given on a farm by a woman, that help must be given to her and not to her husband, who can find men to help him much more easily than she can find women. The grant of 160 acres of uncultivated land given by the Canadian Government is not granted to women settlers unless they are widows and the heads of families, so a group of land girls wishing to farm in Canada would have to buy their farm—and their experience, but given a certain amount of capital, good health, youth, and industry, I see no reason why life in one of the milder provinces should not prove very successful.

Fruit picking and similar seasonal work in the summer would be possible for the girl who did not mind doing house-work in the winter, if by that time she had found no other outlet for her energy. In devising new openings for that energy, it is well to remember that official discouragement is often only due to a sincere desire to avoid disappointment for the overseas settler, and to forgetfulness of the fact that ability and enterprise thrive on the unbeaten track.

There is a limited demand for well-educated and well-trained stenographers, but none for typists.

I have left to the last the teaching profession, that offers to the educated woman-settler not only an assured position in her new surroundings, but also the satisfaction of feeling that she is helping to strengthen the bonds of a great Empire.

The Fellowship of the Maple Leaf, a society for the supply of British teachers for Western Canada, that has its offices at 13, Victoria Street, Westminster, is calling for 400 young women a year for at least ten years for the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan alone. Little red brick school houses, one for every four square miles with a population including twenty-five children, are springing up like mushrooms all over the west, and where a British-born teacher is not available a foreigner has to be employed. English women in the past have added much to Canadian life by their wider education and the outlook of an older civilisation. Canadian women have profited by the example of their skill in organisation, and have ably undertaken the responsibilities of the last five years, but they welcome more than ever that co-operation in the development of their great country that British women can give, bringing with them, as the women of no other nationality can do, that intimate tie of mutual interest in the well being of the Empire.

THE VIRTUOUS SPINSTER.

By SUSAN MILES.

I.

It was naughty, of course. Nobby nearly always was naughty, but then her naughtiness was so deliciously characteristic that one couldn't be really annoyed. At least Mrs. Foster couldn't.

The mumps stood out triumphantly, blatantly, undisguisedly, swelling almost visibly before Mrs. Foster's horrified eyes. And Agnes, the delicate housemaid, who had admitted Nobby, was so ridiculously susceptible to infection. To say nothing of the two babies whom Mrs. Foster had just shooed tempestuously from the room, oblivious of loud-uplifted protests and an attempted kick or two.

Mrs. Foster loved people doing things in character. Even if it involved a certain amount of inconvenience it was worth while because it was such fun. And here was Nobby acting gloriously in character. It was not only the mumps. There was also the fact that she was on the way to the photographers to fetch the portraits, not yet paid for, which were to win her a prize in the Daily Mirror Beauty Competition. ("Such a blessing, Nobby dear, the photos were done *before* the swelling.")

And it was not only the photographs. Nobby was returning from an unsuccessful attempt to capture a star post on the films. And it wasn't only the films. Nobby was carrying a parcel which contained clothes that simply must be sold—or pawned—that very morning if Nobby wasn't going to have to be obliged to let a chum down. And Nobby didn't like letting chums down (though she rather often had to), and that was in character too, reflected Mrs. Foster.

But the last and the longest chuckle was called out by the revelation among the blouses and the stockings and the gloves, of a silk petticoat which had been Mrs. Foster's until Nobby's last, petticoatless, visit had brought about a delighted change of ownership.

"Oh, Nobby, you villain! Come! You can't ask me to buy back my own petticoat! And you went off chortling over it too, not six weeks back. Outrageous little piece of impertinence that you are!"

Nobby's gesture of confusion was pretty to see. All Nobby's gestures always were pretty to see. Even mumps gave Nobby a certain attractive plumpness if you caught her contour from the right angle. And Mrs. Foster had a knack of catching the right angle where Nobby was concerned.

II.

Nobby wasn't a bit attractively plump at the moment. Nature and Mrs. Foster's remedies had cured the swelling weeks ago. The Beauty Competition had proved a frost. There were still no star jobs going on the films. Only the crowd touch and provide your own costumes at twenty-five bob a week. True the out-of-work Government dole (Nobby had driven a motor lorry till she was hooped out for furious driving and overstaying leave) helped to eke that out. But it was a bore having to turn up to sign for it every day. And they always might, she supposed, turn awkward over the film job if they got to know. Of course, she hadn't really had the whole two pounds ten she was drawing; so much of it had had to go to paying off that beast of a milliner who would keep bothering. As a matter of fact Nobby hadn't had a thoroughly satisfactory meal for a fortnight or more. But cream buns were much nicer than horrid meat, as well as cheaper. So that didn't matter much. It was a bore that cat of a landlady had put a padlock on the gas machine.

It had been a good sort of money-box up till yesterday. One had known where to look for a shilling if one had wanted one in a hurry. She had always had a grudge against Nobby since her wretched infant had caught the mumps. How could Nobby help it? If she hadn't said the doctor had told her the infection was over she wouldn't have got the room. And she *had* to get the room. Mrs. Foster couldn't have kept her much longer, and she had got fed up with being there too. Mrs. Foster was awfully kind, of course, but Nobby just had to get on her own again. Mr. Foster was such a tidy man. It got on Nobby's nerves. And he gave one such weird books and then asked one about them. It made one feel so silly, somehow.

Nobby was really fed up with things. She wished it wasn't Christmas. What on earth should she do till bed-time?

There was a mince-pie in the cupboard, but she wasn't hungry. She believed she would feel better if she had a pick-me-up. After all, as it was Christmas she might as well do something to celebrate it. She would go out and buy a bottle of port and drink some in bed. Bed was the easiest place to keep warm in. (Cat of a landlady—how could she have had the face to insult Nobby with that beastly padlock?) But there was just about enough money in her purse to pay for the port, or at any rate to pay what would persuade the man to let her have it on tick. She could manage the rest next week . . . or sometime.

No, it wasn't *good* port, but it was sweet and it made it much easier to forget it was Christmas. Did she mean forget or did she mean remember? She wasn't quite sure. Anyway it didn't matter.

She wished some really nice man would come and take her to a theatre, or a ball, or a supper-party. But men were so horrid. They would want you to kiss them and things. And Nobby hated kissing men. Some girls really like it, she knew. Mabel did. Mabel was awfully weird. She was always wanting to talk about men and kissing and things. Nobby got fed up. The really nice thing about men was that they were so rich. Nobby *loved* people being rich. There was Captain Mulliner. How gloriously rich Captain Mulliner was! Piles and piles of money. What a heavenly week that had been. "Chu Chin Chow" twice, three dinners at Frascati's, a dream of a dance-frock, and the duckiest hat. And then there had been that perfect day at Hampton Court and so many ices and so much champagne-cup she couldn't have had more if she'd been paid. And then he had turned out *so* horrid. If the cat of a landlady hadn't put on that padlock and if she weren't so stingy and grasping about the rent, and if that milliner didn't keep bothering, Nobby would really begin saving up and would pay him back every penny he'd spent on her. What fun it would be writing the letter and sending him all the notes! Nobby could see him opening it. It would be a big square envelope, *very* big, awfully thick rough paper, and her huge square writing (purple ink) would stand out on it *so* beautifully. How angry he would be. She must do it someday when she had got that star job and things were easier again.

She was getting most awfully sleepy, though it couldn't be more than seven. It was the port, she supposed. Her head felt so stupid. Or else it was not having eaten anything but mince-pies all day. No, that was nonsense. Mince-pies couldn't make you sleepy.

She wished Captain Mulliner would stop stroking her hand and talking such nonsense. She wished . . .

III.

"Yes," said Mr. Foster, looking up from a plate of walnuts he was industriously preparing for his wife's visitor, "yes, it's very sad to think of the temptations they have to face, these young girls living alone in London lodgings. Aileen, what was the name of that little person you were so fond of? She gave your housemaid mumps, you remember? Olive something. Two years ago it must have been or more."

Mrs. Foster's face changed.

"Olive Hannafore," she said; "poor little Nobby. I wish she'd write. She just dropped out of our lives, Miss Chambers. A dear little person. Not a relative in the world so far as we could make out. Nor any friends that were much use to her. I tried to trace her, but it was no good. One set of lodgings to another."

Miss Chambers clucked appropriately.

"A girl of really high principles," went on Mr. Foster. "Straight as a die in the face of the gravest temptations. Pretty as a humming bird. A real little lady in voice and appearance, though of no birth whatever. Always well-dressed in spite of her poverty. My wife took her up—persuaded me to help her once or twice from a fund I'm trustee of."

Mrs. Foster's eye-lid twitched slightly.

"She wasn't," Mr. Foster explained a little heavily, "quite the type that the benefactor had in mind when he founded the fund. It was to provide doles of not more than ten pounds to virtuous and needy spinsters of this borough. I was a little dubious at first, but Aileen finally convinced me that it was quite legitimate. And there had been so few *ordinarily* virtuous and needy spinsters available of late years, the neighbourhood having changed so, so the money was accumulating. The young person was certainly entitled to the little grant. I quite saw that when Aileen pointed it out.

"Little Miss Hannafore showed me some of her unpaid bills, I remember; I wondered whether they ought not to go before the other trustee, but Aileen thought it wasn't necessary. Some of them struck me as a little extravagant, I think, but, of course, I don't really know what prices it is reasonable for a young girl to pay for such items as, well, I think it was garters that seemed a little excessive."

Miss Chambers clucked, less appropriately than before, and became effusive in her thanks for the plate of neatly excavated walnuts.

"Edward," broke in Mrs. Foster, "loves to believe in people's principles, Miss Chambers. (He even thinks the children possess them, the darlings.) Personally, of course, I don't believe Nobby would have known a principle if she'd met one. It was instinct. Pretty things gave her pleasure; dirty and ugly ones didn't. They fed her up. So she sought the pretty things and kept clear of the others."

"Very sound," murmured Miss Chambers, munching her walnuts.

Mr. Foster had not been listening to his wife. The post had come, and after a ponderously polite excuse to Miss Chambers, he was absorbed in sorting the letters. He passed one across the table.

Mrs. Foster opened it carelessly and glanced at it as she sipped her coffee.

"Good heavens!" she cried, "what an amazing coincidence! It's Nobby. At least it's about Nobby. It's from a district nurse. Nobby's ill—fell against a gas fire and burnt herself."

"T't, t't, t't," murmured Mr. Foster.

"It's from an address at Camden Town. Odd they didn't take her to hospital. She seems pretty bad. I must go to her—later in the evening . . ."

Miss Chambers clucked herself into her furs.

"Not a bit. Please don't. Any time. I can so easily come another day. And would you? Do you mind? Some little delicacy perhaps. Grapes, you know, or port wine."

She rummaged in her purse.

IV.

Mrs. Foster and the district nurse were talking in hushed voices in the dingy passage.

"Yesterday, about nine," answered the nurse. "The woman smelt burning and went in. The girl was unconscious; quite drunk, I'm afraid. Her arm was right up against the gas fire and the burns are something shocking. Both sleeves seem to have caught. No, too bad to move. She can't last many hours. A sad case. No relations it seems. Nor friends. But quite respectable. Nothing in her purse but two pawn-tickets, and the address, very dirty and odd-looking, of some captain, Mulliner, I think. But she said she didn't want him sent for. Quite upset at the suggestion. Said something about Frascati and paying some one out or something back, I forget which.

"I insisted on being given *some* name, it saves so much trouble you know, all round. She gave yours, a bit reluctantly at first, but came round all of a sudden and seemed quite eager. But she didn't want to be a bother, she said. And something I couldn't catch about someone being so tidy. Wandering, I expect. You'd like to see her. Yes, you can go in. I'll fetch you when I think it's time."

It was some minutes before Nobby opened her eyes. There were no burns on her face and she was still pretty, but a little bloated. The lips seemed thicker than two years before.

"Mrs. Foster," she said, faintly.

"Nobby, my dear . . . Why didn't you let me find you? . . . I tried. Oh, Nobby . . ."

"I knew you'd come. I've been wanting you, Mrs. Foster. You'll do something for me?"

"Anything, Nobby, anything."

"Nurse can't be bothered; she says it's silly when I'm so ill. I suppose it is silly, but I can't help it. My arms are all bandaged up. I can't do it myself. It's my nose. I know it's shiny. I do so hate a shiny nose."

"Powder it?" whispered Mrs. Foster.

Nobby nodded weakly.

Mrs. Foster took the powder-puff from the shabby dressing-table. Nobby's eyes were closed again and big drops of sweat stood on her low white forehead.

Mrs. Foster powdered the little tip-tilted nose, delicately, meticulously, with exquisite tenderness.

Nobby opened her eyes for a moment and smiled her thanks. She tried to speak.

Mrs. Foster stooped low to listen.

"Not shiny now?" the lips barely moved, but it was just enough.

"Not shiny now," smiled back Mrs. Foster, bravely.

And Nobby, undeliberately 'characteristic' as ever, but failing for the first time to amuse, quietly died.

I.—BEFORE.

I WAIT your coming as a miracle
And the expectant morning waits with me.
Time hangs suspended like a quiet bell
That once did strike the hours successively,
For over all the country lies a spell,
A hush, a painted stillness; I do see
(As calm as skies reflected in a well),
The fields enchanted, waiting silently.

II.—AFTER.

And oh! the beauty of your wind-swept hair
Blown from your temples as you swiftly came!
For all the pagan grace of you was there,
Remembered, ardent, after months the same.
The eager muscles of your throat were bare,
The candid passion lit you like a flame,
As, striving on against resisting air,
You reached me, failing . . . breathing out my name.

V. SACKVILLE WEST.

"THE WOMAN'S LEADER" IN LITERATURE. THE WOMEN'S VICTORY—AND AFTER.

Personal Reminiscences.

BY MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

There is only one fault to find with this delightful book, and that is that there are so few personal reminiscences. If only Mrs. Fawcett would, what fascinating things she could tell about her own experiences amid the humours of the great suffrage struggle! But Mrs. Fawcett won't. She tells us instead of the struggle itself, with the same clearness and insight that made her leadership so brilliant, and her book sets before us very plainly the successive steps of the last phase of the movement for the enfranchisement of women.

It is strange in these days of achievement and new work, to look back upon the history of this movement—history so recent in actual years, so utterly remote in feeling and in sentiment. As we read these lucid chapters, the past comes rising up, and brings with it echoes of the old excitements. Four thousand meetings in two months! We had forgotten the size of it all, but once we think of it we can remember how it swung on, and how gloriously it grew. From month to month, as this book relates, the agitation widened and deepened, and surely all those who worked in it then must stop, as they read to indulge in their own personal reminiscences. What fun it all was, after all! How exhilarating the opposition, how sustaining the certainty of success. And how splendidly Mrs. Fawcett led us!

Nowadays, in the complexities of our problems, we cannot but regret the days of our singleheartedness. It is impossible to read this book through without a sigh for the days that are gone. For it was all so straightforward, and it was all so simple. The old arguments, a few of which Mrs. Fawcett reproduces, were so easy to answer, and we knew our way so well. And then, how picturesque it was! The Pilgrimage: the Banners: the Processions: Hyde Park on a Sunday, and the rotten eggs at street corners! Gone are all those pleasures, and in their place—

the vote.

The main outline of this book, however, is not reminiscence so much as political analysis. Though it calls up in our minds endless memories of the work and of the Union, its real purpose is to show how the cause itself advanced to success; how it was first isolated in the thin shades of non-partyism, then lost in the quagmire of party politics, and finally won by the driving force of universal agreement. Mrs. Fawcett traces out these stages with absolute clarity, placing beside them the corresponding policies and actions of the N.U.W.S.S., and showing how results gradually took shape. In these days of Paisley and of the forgiving that comes of victory, we are apt to forget the obstinate iniquities of Mr. Asquith in the old days, and the sordid story of the defeat of the Conciliation Bill in 1912. But it comes back clearly enough as we read, and the masterly analysis of the political situation makes plain to us elements of the situation that it was easy to miss while the battle was joined. It is not very edifying reading from the point of view of the genuineness of our pre-war politics. The story of the abortive Government Reform Bill of 1913 makes an indictment of the old Liberal Party that cannot be escaped, and the relative political importance of enfranchisement and of justice comes out as clearly in the story as it now does in the light of plain fact. In an appendix Mrs. Fawcett compares the Bills passed between 1902 and 1914 with those passed in 1918 and 1919, and this comparison gives substance to the statement, elsewhere clearly enough established, that it was not our lack of support or of progress that prevented our enfranchisement in 1912 and 1913, but merely our lack of votes.

Mrs. Fawcett devotes several chapters to the developments caused by the war. She describes the war work of suffragists and the wave of popular sentiment that turned towards women in 1916. But she has no need to dwell on these things. They are easily understood and plain to see, and for this period also it is the political side of the events that she is concerned to explain.

Here again Mrs. Fawcett sets out the political progress of the movement, with the successive resolutions, bills, and conferences by which the Representation of the People Act finally found its way on to the Statute Book, and once more her summary of the causes at work in the minds of politicians is convincing and true. All through, and in every stage, Mrs. Fawcett saw clearly and it is very largely to her vision and to the serenity and calmness which show so clearly through this book of hers that we owe the actual realization of our dreams.

R. S.

Recollections of Lady Georgiana Peel. (The Bodley Head. 16s.)

Lady Georgiana Peel, the daughter of Lord John Russell, was born in the year of Queen Victoria's accession, and her recollections cover two-thirds of the nineteenth century. She should be well able to interpret to us that age, now stranger to us than many epochs more remote, for her birth made her free of political circles, her marriage with Archibald Peel took her into the world of sport, she and her husband were friends of the Tennysons, Jowett, Carlyle, Edward Lear, and Woolner, the sculptor. She heard Macaulay's floods of conversation inundate dinner-tables, and she has thrown mutton-chops from the windows of Woburn Abbey as *largesse* to waiting tenants, been present at Queen Victoria's hair-brushing, and conversed with ghosts. Alas! we have only a pale shadow of the story that might have been told us, for the original diaries written day by day when all this panorama was fresh and vividly coloured have been lost or stolen. Let us hope that they were stolen, for if so they will probably now see the light. We shall then hear more of Lady Georgiana's visit to Vienna on a Peace Mission in 1854, and of the Italian journeys, when damp beds made it wise to sit up part of the night, of the charming "Aunt Lottie," who boasted of being snubbed by Samuel Rogers, and of Aunt Bunny, who (having been "held up" in Richmond Park by a pickpocket whom she recognised as a young man in society) rather surprisingly decided that "the occurrence had better not be talked about." It is these small things that help us to revive the flavour of that Victorian time. Nothing can better mark the changed relation of a Member of Parliament to his constituency than being told that General Peel during all the years he sat for Huntingdon was never asked by the electors any other question than "How are you?" Such tranquillity is no longer possible to mortal legislator.

The Peels were democrats in their way. "The only ancestry we care about is the shuttle," said one of them. They had great riches, and the first Sir Robert had nobly used his by making them a splendid gift to the nation, and thus averting national bankruptcy. Archibald Peel was the son of Lord John Russell's bitterest opponent, but the two elders respected each other, and Lady Georgiana's marriage was approved by both families. She was a second wife—these pages are full of step-mothers and re-married widowers: one need not wonder why there were so "superfluous women" in Victorian days—and she seems to have lived as amicably with her step-children as she did with her half-brothers and sisters. Archibald Peel hunted and bred horses and rode steeple chases. He advocated Labour Exchanges in 1870, airing the notion in the *Morning Post*, of all papers. But he did not care for politics, and Lady Georgiana, feeling that reminiscences of merely private life do not call for publication, concludes her record, covering with less than twenty hasty pages the time between her father's death in 1878 and the outbreak of the Boer War. The volume is something of a scrap-book; for those who have no head for family trees the generations are easily confused and the whole effect is somewhat dim. But there are things we should be sorry to have missed: the charming, breathless, unpunctuated letters of the sixth Duchess of Bedford, the glimpse of Dickens in his transparent shirt-front lined with rose-coloured satin, the Miss Faithful's preparatory school where the little boys were read to sleep, and Archibald Peel with the Riot Act in his pocket.

BOOKS AT RANDOM.

OXFORD term is just over, and it has been a term of no mean achievements either, for the progressive party in the University. The most important business done has been the throwing open of degrees to women in every school but that of Theology, for which holy orders are an essential for the master's degree. Siege is already being laid to this citadel, and it will of course fall in time, for, as *John Bull* would say, "Watch Maude Royden!"

The next most memorable business has been the killing of compulsory Greek, by an unusually large majority in Convocation of seventy votes. The debate was the occasion of some very pretty speeches pro. and con., and two notoriously bad ones; one from an expansive headmaster of a progressive grammar school, another from a gentleman who tried to catch votes and smiles by cheap sneers at Cambridge. Anyway, the change is made now, and nowhere will there be such gratification as at the women's colleges, where most of the students have hitherto had to waste their first university year solely in cramming Greek for the entrance examination (Greek being very much of a luxury at most high schools and others) before they can pass on to their usual studies, chemistry, modern languages, or what not.

"Fuze" is himself a furious pro-Greek partisan, but can see no good in the half-and-half business that has been going on till now. Admitted that Greek is the cradle of all modern thought and art, a short dishonest course of cramming cannot possibly be expected to teach this to anyone; in fact, do it properly or not at all! And the circumstances of the moment spell "rot at all." The result of the motion was celebrated by one of the men's colleges with a mock funeral for Greek, in costume, with appropriate *oimoi's* and *opopoi's*; the proctors took a serious view of this display and the college was "gated" for a week.

Cambridge in reforms has always been just one ahead of Oxford, and in Oxford's third memorable achievement of this term, the giving of an honorary doctor's degree to Thomas Hardy, Cambridge had already been there first, and so had Aberdeen, perhaps the most alive of all our smaller universities. Still, better late than never, and the ceremony was by no means unimpressive. The cardinal-red robes of the "priests of Isis" in the temple of Isis, the Sheldonian Theatre, were a great sight. The uniformed mace-bearers might well have been a bit brisker with their arms drill, but then it wouldn't have been Oxford if they had. They were splendidly unsoldierlike. There was a pretty big audience considering that the ceremony was not advertised, and when Mr. Hardy advanced from the robing-room to the middle of the building there was a great uproar from his supporters in the galleries, and even the ranks of Tuscan (the learned gentlemen who had read "Jude, the Obscure," and taken it as an insult to themselves) could scarce forbear to cheer. Mr. Hardy was eulogised by the Public Orator in a long Latin speech, addressing him in the best Ciceronian as "easily prince of poets, indeed so also of fable-makers," and a long series of "This is he who's," spoken with much expression and appropriate shrugging references to the orator's personal and obviously excessively humble talents. It is good that Mr. Hardy, even though only at the age of eighty, has at last been recognised by the Don class; it is perhaps even better that a photograph can appear in a powerful Labour daily with "Mr. Hardy: The Greatest of Living English Writers."

And what he is like? A little old man, quiet and very nervous; loving the sun and the hearth rather more than he once did, but otherwise as vigorous as he ever was; majestic in a cardinal-red robe, but just as majestic tramping round the fields of Dorchester in his old raincoat; he has a soft voice with an unmistakable Wessex burr, and in his manner such gentle kindness as one could only expect from the author of "A Group of Noble Dames" and "Tess." Here is he whom Oxford delights to honour, not the shell of a great man, but the great man himself, who is at this moment writing poetry of a vigour and sweetness that one associates more with the age of thirty than that of eighty.

I suppose it is more than one dare hope that Oxford will one day honour Mr. Masfield similarly; although he is doctor *honoris causa* of two American Universities, and is, I believe, to lecture the English School once or twice next term in the absence of Professor Sir Walter Raleigh. For there will always be the reactionary party to fight the proposal and say: "Oh, but he wrote that dreadfully common 'Everlasting Mercy,' besides he's not nearly eighty yet; we have at least thirty-five years to wait and anything may happen meanwhile. And we can't move till Cambridge moves; it would be too much like gambling." Still, the mills are grinding at Oxford slowly and not exceeding small, but you can hear the machinery creak.

By the way, first editions of Masfield are very valuable now, especially his early narrative poems and copies of the *English Review*, in which they appeared serially. The other day a pamphlet of his on Woman's Suffrage, issued in the stormy days of the W.S.P.U. at the price of 2d., sold for fifteen pounds. Mr. Masfield has of course been one of woman's greatest allies in her struggle for emancipation, and his "Tragedy of Nan" is very symbolic of her position as drudge throughout the centuries: nowhere else in modern literature, except perhaps in the "Story of an African Farm," by Olive Schreiner, is given that stifling sense of kitchen cruelty in a succession of petty treacheries withering for ever the happiness of a sensitive child's heart. The incidents of the bad mutton pasties and of Nan's favourite cloak thrown into the pig-bucket have a sour horror about them that cannot be matched by the blackest bombastic tragedies of Ben Jonson or Christopher Marlowe. Jonson and Marlowe are no haphazard choice in poets; they were the only two serious rivals of Shakspeare on the Elizabethan stage, and it was owing to no lack of power or imagination that neither of them came halfway to Shakspeare's genius; their chief lack was understanding of women; their women are mere puppets, foils to the swagger and rhodomontade of their fathers, brothers or lovers. Neglecting woman they mirrored less than half the world; Shakspeare's genius was universal, he gave us a Rosalind, a Cordelia, a Lady Macbeth.

Mr. Masfield's women have always been live creatures; remember the widow in the "Bye-Street," Dauber's sister, Mrs. Laggard in the "Everlasting Mercy," and in his latest and most amazing poem, "Reynard, the Fox," Jane Harriden, the Squire's daughter:—

"Jane looked like a dark-lantern burning
Outwardly dark, unkempt, uncouth,
But minded like the living truth,
A friend that nothing shook nor wearied.
She was not "Darling Jane'd" nor "Dearie'd,"
She was all prickles to the touch,
So sharp that many feared to clutch,
So keen that many thought her bitter.
She let the little sparrows twitter.
She had a hard, ungracious way.
Her storm of hair was iron-grey,
And she was passionate in her heart
For women's souls that burned apart
Just as her mother's had, with Squire.
She gave the sense of smouldering fire.
She was not happy being a maid,
At home, with Squire, but she stayed,
Enduring life, however bleak,
To guard her sisters, who were weak,
And force a life for them from Squire.
And she had roused and stood his fire
A hundred times and earned his hate
To win those two a better state."

Which is as good in its way as Chaucer's contrasted pictures of the Prioress and the Wife of Bath: but, then, Mr. Masfield is a great Chaucerian; I saw him once at Oxford gazing out of a window in the direction of Osney village, and when I asked, he said he was wondering where John, the Carpenter, in Chaucer's "Miller's Tale," had crossed the river to get his timber. There is a rumour that he has just completed another long narrative poem about Algerian pirates, which sounds a great theme for the author of "Dauber" and the "Tarpaulin Muster." May it appear soon.

FUZE.

"THE WOMAN'S LEADER" IN DRAMA.

"Medea" at the Holborn Empire.

They say that Euripides was married three times. Each time unhappily. It is true that he says some bitter things about them. But he puts these sayings into the mouths of men who had injured them. They are not his own opinions. Euripides looked at woman not as the help-mate of man, not as the curse of man, but as a human being, an end in herself. Herein lies his amazing originality—his difference from the classical, his kinship with the great modern writers.

Not that he knew anything of the Rights of Women. He could see nothing but her wrongs, the hardness of her lot. Again and again he describes the bitterness of her dependence.

Of all things upon earth that bleed and grow
A herb most bruised is woman. We must pay
Our store of gold, hoarded for that one day
To buy us some man's love; and lo, they bring
A master of our flesh.
She must learn to please her master
And she, who labouring long, shall find some way
Whereby her lord may bear with her, nor pay
His yoke too fiercely, blessed is the breath
That woman draws! Else, let her pray for death.
She has no means of escape.
Her lord, if he has wearied of her face
Within doors, gets him forth; some merrier place
Will ease his heart; but she waits on, her whole
Vision enchained on a single soul.
Yet she has work harder and more terrible than
His. Sooner would I stand
Three times to face their battles, shield in hand,
Than bear one child.

Euripides takes Medea as the supreme type of wronged woman. She is a barbarian, a savage bride, won in far seas. Her wild passions are untamed by civilisation, she has all the beauty and magic wisdom of ancient untamed races. She is conquered by Jason; she is led captive across the world "chained by a Greek man's voice." She leaves her home, her city, her family; more—for Jason she commits savage and unthinkable crimes which cut her off from all her past. She bears him two children. Then Jason turns against her. He tires of her, falls in love with a younger, richer, lovelier woman, and casts off Medea and her children.

What is Medea to do? She sees but one remedy, and takes it—revenge. She slays the young bride, her father; she even sacrifices her two children. "So that the man I hate be pained the more." Only Jason she spares, for him "age cometh and long years." He shall feel the horror of that.

It seems as if as Euripides looked at the women of his own age enslaved for so long and so hopelessly, he wondered why they bore it. Why they did not turn and rend the civilisation which enslaved them. Terrible as she is, his sympathies, and consequently ours, are with Medea.

They are with Miss Sybil Thorndike too. Her performance of Medea was always moving, at times tragic. Especially well she had caught the craft and cunning of the barbarian woman. She had not quite the strength and majesty of the barbarian queen though. Mr. Nicholas Hannen was singularly and surprisingly successful as Jason, far more so than his performances as Menelaus and Eugene Marchbanks had led one to expect. The chorus is not good. There is something curiously tame in Miss Florence Buckton's performance. The Swedish exercises of the other young ladies are sadly misplaced. Surely something might be done about them; for we learn with pleasure that "Medea" and the "Trojan Women" are to remain at the Empire.

"The Young Visitors" at The Court.

It is curious how little enthusiasm the performance of "The Young Visitors" has met with from the newspapers. How cold and patronising have been most of the notices about it. It is true that it is a difficult undertaking, that there are a great many scenes and the curtain is constantly up and down. It is

true that in their determination to make a full evening's entertainment out of a slight work the producers have in the end departed from the inspired words of Daisy Ashford, and invented a last scene which drags a little. They thus lose much of the applause which they would have had if the curtain had been rung down a quarter of an hour earlier. But what of that? On the whole the undertaking is successful beyond expectation or belief. It is almost as wonderful that grown-up people should act a child's story so well as that a child should write a story so absorbing to grown-up people.

The three chief characters, Miss Edyth Goodall, Mr. Harold Anstruther, and Mr. John Deverell, must have played out of their nursery memories. It is almost a shock to realise that other people's nursery conventions were so much like one's own. To anyone who has ever been a little girl Miss Edyth Goodall's performance is a perfect orgy of reminiscence. All the old traditions are there. There are the old mincing tones which signify "society ways," especially when accompanied by the cocking of the little finger in the air, when handling one's victuals. There is sidelong glance, the tripping walk, the half-shut eyes of the irresistible charmer. Mr. Harold Anstruther is the eternal hero of the pre-adolescent fancy. So tall, so beautifully and variously dressed; so languid as to be at times almost inaudible, his "r's" all pronounced as "w" in the old aristocratic style. As for Mr. John Deverell, the Earl of Clincham, such heights were hardly reached in nursery performances. He represents a kind of seventh heaven of acting.

What was so delightful was the obvious enjoyment of the actors in their parts. Their gravity was perfect, but it was balanced on a hair's breadth. The least touch would have toppled them over into the laughter in which the audience was flooded. They too, like Daisy Ashford and us, were children in the nineties.

"The Three Sisters, by Tchekhof, at The Art Theatre.

The surface of their lives is still and grey as a mountain pool ruffled only by vague melancholy breezes. The sisters are very lonely though they live so close together, though they are so much alike. Their voices rise slowly from the bitter depths and trail drearily across the void without meeting echo or response. They are sad though they are young and beautiful and have known no sharp sorrows. Above all they are tired. Tired with a life dreary and exacting, which asks so much and gives so little. For these sisters are no Maeterlinck princesses with flowing robes and golden hair. One of them is a school teacher, another a telegraph operator, and the third a schoolmaster's wife. There is no adventure in their lives, no romance, and little beauty in their surroundings. Yet, as we watch the years pass over them, as one by one their lights are put out, and the dim colours of their life fade to a settled grey, we feel that we are present at a tragedy, the successor of the old great tragedies—all the more their successor in that it is so different from them.

So different from what we are used to at the theatre that it needs courage to produce such a play, even at a Sunday performance, even before an audience of subscribers. On the whole, the courage of the Art Theatre was justified. The audience, though not enthusiastic, were not bored, and the actors, though not perhaps doing full justice to the play, made it clear that it was a work of genius. Mr. William Armstrong, as the schoolmaster, was, as far as I can see, perfect. Ridiculous and pathetic, exquisitely humorous without a touch of caricature. His performance was even better than his wonderful acting in "On the High Road," by the Pioneer Players. This time there was no danger of his acting the other players off the stage. He was exquisitely in his place. On the whole, the Sisters were the weakest among the actors. They were over emphatic. Why, for instance, did Miss Margery Bryce contort her beautiful features into the mask of a tragic muse, when nothing more terrible was going forward than a family squabble? Why did the three Sisters group themselves together in the centre of the stage in the last act, and remain thus as if carved in marble for at least five minutes before the curtain fell? Sisters do not do that in real life—and what people do not do in real life they do not do in Tchekhof's plays.

THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ART CLUB.

It is sometimes questioned whether it is wise or necessary to hold an exhibition of pictures by women painters only, and whether art should not ignore sex distinctions and be judged by merit alone. At the present stage in the evolution of the woman artist, there are many reasons which justify such an exhibition. Until within recent years women have been comparatively ignored in the art world, with a few exceptions; as a force to be reckoned with they have only recently come to the fore; there has as yet been no supreme woman artist, and they have still some way to go before their position is secure. That they are steadily building up such a position becomes evident when their work is exhibited collectively, while it is extremely interesting to watch the progress of the woman artist and to study the influences which affect her; and although the present exhibition at the Grafton Galleries does not, perhaps, contain works of as high a level as some of its predecessors, yet it has such a high standard, and has so many distinguished women artists among its contributors as to make it possible to judge to some extent of the direction in which this part of the art world is moving.

One of the things most obviously noticeable is the fact that the women painters, so far, show little trace of following the latest developments in the men's art world; cubism, vorticism, and the rest do not seem to appeal to the greater number of them. As a result, a certain excitement which is generated by the work of these advanced groups, and which has added a freshness to many recent picture shows is lacking, and possibly accounts for a slightly monotonous effect which is noticeable in the exhibition. It would be interesting to analyse the reasons for the absence of this latest phase in art, and to discover whether women will in the end follow the men, whether, on the contrary, they will originate a new style of their own, or whether they will keep to the trodden ways.

There is one possible explanation of the reason why women have not to any great extent adopted the cubist methods. This development in art is deeply interesting psychologically, for it represents at present the triumph of the intellectual over the emotional. Geometrical design, an absorbing interest in the different planes of the picture, in the direction of line, &c., these are the things which occupy the attention of the latest art groups. The only emotion which finds play is the worship of force. No one examining their pictures can fail to realise the intense virility and strength of the work, while different emotions, those of delicacy and beauty, are largely suppressed. Art has grown stern and arid, a matter of pure brain work, of theory and not of feeling, it lacks warmth and colour. The spirit of the world war seems to animate its votaries; how admirably their manner of work suited war-like subjects was abundantly manifested at the exhibition of the Imperial War Museum collection at Burlington House. As a revolt against mere prettiness and sentimentality, this work is bound to have a good influence; it does away also with a great deal of sloppiness and slipshod painting. But an art which solely confined itself within these limits could not live long, the atmosphere is too cold and rarified for any but a few select "highbrows" to breathe in. Art which suppresses emotion no longer appeals to the whole man: it becomes precious and slightly inhuman. A small clique may maintain that art must of necessity be undemocratic, that it will always appeal to the select few and not to the many, yet in the past the greatest artists have combined the passionate with the intellectual, and have so furthered a harmonious advance along the whole line. Meanwhile it will be interesting to see whether men and women will together seek for this solution, or whether one sex will be drawn strongly in one direction and the other in the opposite one. So far, as we have said, the signs of the times point to this solution, but it is as yet too early to reach any conclusion. Doctrines of force do not appeal to the majority of women, but there is undoubtedly something which they can learn from those who profess them.

Returning to the present exhibition, it would seem that a certain increased definiteness in some of the work is derived from this source, and this is all to the good.

Two or three of the artists who show most traces of this influence send work which has a distinction and individuality which is very attractive. Mary McCrossan, for instance, has some of the best landscape work in the gallery, the "River Blyth," Suffolk, No. 43, and "Cornish Sea," No. 63, are specially

interesting. E. McNaught also has very characteristic work, especially in landscape, and a good portrait, No. 207, while two small paintings by Lena Pillico, Nos. 124 and 126, are very fresh and pleasant.

The exhibition as a whole is not quite so satisfactory as was the last year's show, owing to the absence of any large canvas of distinctive merit. Ethel Walker, for instance, has nothing which equals the "Lilith" of the former exhibition, though she is well represented by two fine portraits. Mrs. Sargent Florence, who is a master of large wall decorations, sends only four small water colours, the original designs for her Bournville frescoes.

Frances Hodgkin is one of the most individual of modern painters. Her exhibition at the Hampstead Art Gallery was a notable one. Here her large painting, "The Victorians," is one of the best things in the exhibition, and in a delightful water-colour, "My Landlady," her sense of humour overflows, as it sometimes does, into caricature, the caricature is at any rate sympathetic and kindly.

M. E. Atkin's work has advanced tremendously of late. No. 74, "Lewes," is a brilliant piece of painting, beautiful in colour and in quality. Her other landscapes are also very good, as is a still life of hyacinths in a window, No. 47. Beatrice Bland has recently come to the fore as a painter of flower pieces, which have colour and charm to rejoice the heart. She would probably, however, wish to be judged also as a landscape painter of distinction and ability. She is here showing several wide views over open country, and No. 50, "The Cheviots," is a particularly good specimen of her art.

Adeline Fox's work is striking. Her fine, clear painting shows a keen vision of things. In particular, No. 8, "The Winding Road," and No. 94, "Kingston in the Downs," are extremely interesting canvasses.

It is always a dangerous thing to deal in allegory, only very strong heads can stand it. Louis Thomson should refrain from the rather terrible attempt exhibited in No. 14, "Lest we Forget." Her less ambitious black and white work is infinitely preferable. Phyllis Emmerson has also fallen a victim to the same error. Such work as Nos. 98, 99, and 100, has been "done before" too often. She has too much originality and distinction, as is evident in her "Portrait," No. 139, and in two landscapes, to waste time over these elaborate efforts.

Mrs. Raverat, on the contrary, is at home in work of this character. There is nothing forced in her very remarkable woodcuts, Nos. 113 to 116. They represent a very imaginative and individual point of view, and are among the most interesting things in the exhibition. Other good woodcuts are contributed by Mrs. Austen Brown and by Janet Fisher, who does her best work in this medium, and there is a charming aquatint, No. 109, by Georgina de Lisle.

Mary McDowal has some very delightful still life studies, Nos. 7 and 9 in the first room, and an interesting portrait, No. 82, in the centre gallery.

Mrs. Whately has made "Knightsbridge" (a subject which to many people would suggest merely dreary roofs under snow), a fascinating place of adventure and vision, and in No. 138, "All Saints' Church, Spring," has endowed a suburban churchyard with something of the same magic. It is easy to paint a romantic scene romantically: it is an achievement to breathe life into dry bones.

Isobelle Dods-Withers does not send quite such good contributions as last year, nevertheless, No. 77, "The Mill at Muids," and No. 78, "Old Houses at Guienne," are exceedingly attractive specimens of her art.

Among the water colours, Grace Rogers' work is very charming, both in drawing and in colour. E. Brake Baldwin has a strong drawing, No. 130, "A House in Rothenburg," and Alice Swinburne a good study of a boy's head, No. 162. Julia Creamer's work is direct and interesting, and E. Granger-Taylor has a well-executed drawing of a "Girl Resting," No. 191.

The sculpture exhibited is not particularly interesting, but this criticism cannot be applied to Gwen Parnell's Chelsea Cheyne figures. The fascination of her work is great. She has found a medium of expression which, while based on the old Chelsea work, becomes in her hands a new thing, brilliant and exquisite. We can do with a great deal of this form of art; there is not nearly enough of it in England at present. Let us hope that Miss Parnell will prosper and flourish.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING.

The Annual Council Meeting of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, was held on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of last week at the King George's Hall, Y.M.C.A., Tottenham Court Road. This was the first meeting of the Council since the alteration in name and constitution decided on by the Council of 1919 and the resignation of Mrs. Fawcett, its President and leader throughout the stormy years of conflict, and it was feared by many that after a discouraging year of war-weariness and reaction, it would be impossible to attract delegates from any distance or to arouse interest in the proceedings. These fears, happily, proved to be unfounded. It was, of course, a small Council compared to the Councils of past years when the struggle was at its height, but over eighty societies sent delegates; Scotland, North Wales, Yorkshire and Lancashire and the Midlands were well represented, and there were evidences on all sides of re-awakened interest and energy.

Miss Rathbone's presidential address on the opening morning was given in full in THE WOMAN'S LEADER last week. Miss Rathbone said that in speaking for the first time as President, she felt herself a kind of usurper, but Mrs. Fawcett's presence in her accustomed place on the platform and her active share in the proceedings, gave the delegates the feeling that in electing Miss Rathbone as her successor they had not lost Mrs. Fawcett. The President's address was worthy of the traditions of the Union; it was an inspiring call to women to follow up the partial emancipation already secured by unrelaxed efforts to attain true comradeship between the sexes, not only for the services of the nation, but for humanity.

The question of the immediate programme for the coming year naturally produced the best speeches and discussion, especially as the proposals to include work for the League of Nations and the equality of service of women in the Churches introduced a new element into the debate. The result of the ballot which placed the following six reforms on the immediate programme appears to have had the unusual result of satisfying all sections of the Union in the Council:—

1. Equal Suffrage.
2. Equal moral standard, including the repeal of the solicitation laws and equality in divorce laws (England and Wales).
3. Candidature of women for Parliament.
4. Equal pay for equal work and equality in industry and the professions.
5. Widows' pensions and equal guardianship.
6. League of Nations: "An active propaganda in support of a democratic League of Nations and of the practical application of the principle of equal opportunity for men and women within it."

Though the Council did not include in this list equality between men and women in the Churches, its sympathy was amply proved at the public meeting and at the admirable discussion during the Council on the subject, when an important resolution was carried which pledged the N.U.S.E.C. to give definite support to the principle of equality of status and opportunity for men and women within the Churches.

Among other important resolutions passed was one dealing with the recent Report of the Joint Committee on the organisation of the Civil Service. The Council expressed its grave dissatisfaction at the differential treatment of men and women in the report, and called on the National Whitley Council to amend the report so as to establish equal treatment for men and women throughout the Civil Service.

Industrial questions relating to women naturally occupied a good deal of the attention of the Council. The Council deplored unemployment among women, and re-affirmed its demand for equal opportunities for women in all professions and industries. It further urged (1) that legislation with regard to pregnancy should be on the lines not of forbidding women to select their own work, but of providing for them such economic conditions as should make it possible to give birth to their children without facing either ill-health or starvation; (2) that regulations concerning night-work should be based on the type of work and not on the sex of the workers.

Interesting discussions took place on the position of women in the League of Nations. The Council declared itself in favour of an International Women's Conference and an International Women's Office with the object of raising the status of women. The conditions under which this department is to be organised were laid down, and it was clearly stated that it was to be in addition to, and in no way instead of, the appointment of an adequate number of women on the bodies of the League.

A strong resolution, dealing with the responsibility of the womanhood of the country with regard to the famine-stricken areas of Europe, was carried unanimously. The President's appeal in her opening address, the moving speech by the Chairman, Miss Courtney, who had recently returned from Vienna, convinced the Council of the urgency of such an expression of opinion by a body of representative women meeting together at the present time.

The question of the future election policy attracted a good deal of attention. The Council declared its intention of giving official support to the Parliamentary candidature of:—

Women and men of any party or independent, who are willing to support the object and programme of the Union, and who have rendered service or are likely to render service to the cause for which the Union stands.

Conditions were laid down as to the form this support should take.

The Council resolved to promote legislation to make eligible for jury service the wives of men at present eligible, and to repeal the provision which makes it possible for a judge to decide that a case in which both sexes are concerned shall be heard by a jury of women only or of men only.

The speaking throughout the Council was on a very high level. It added to the interest and variety that new voices were heard and that some excellent speaking came from the body of the hall. The absence of Miss Royden, who was delegate for West Bromwich, was a disappointment to everyone, but Miss Picton-Turbervill and Miss Helen Ward made eloquent and convincing speeches on the position of women in the Churches. Mrs. Cavendish-Bentick, Miss Neilans, Miss Abbott, Lady Lawson Tancred, Miss Buchanan, and others among our newer delegates, impressed the Council by their speaking.

A picturesque event of some historic interest was the surprise visit of Lady Astor, M.P., who got a very warm welcome from the Council as the first woman Member of Parliament. Lady Astor gave a delightful impromptu speech, in which she urged the Council to send her some colleagues in the House.

Much useful work was rapidly done in the three days under the able chairmanship of Miss Courtney, and the prevailing feeling at the close of the proceedings was that our goal had not yet been reached.

The Women's Victory —and After: Personal Reminiscences, 1911-1918 By Millicent Garrett Fawcett,

LL.D., once President, N.U.W.S.S.

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NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS AND FROM OUR SOCIETIES.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS.

A short report of the proceedings will be found elsewhere in this issue, and under the rule amended at the Council "an adequate report" will be sent to Secretaries of our Societies within three weeks. It was agreed on all hands that the Council had been alive and vigorous beyond the expectations of even the most optimistic. Our members may be interested in certain special features which do not concern the outside public. A well-attended and most encouraging meeting of Secretaries and other officers was held on Wednesday afternoon, at which delegates from different parts of the country made suggestions for increasing membership, arousing interest locally, and raising funds. The question of Federations was discussed, and it was urged that there should be at least one society affiliated to the N.U.S.E.C. in every town or Parliamentary Division.

An unexpected incident added greatly to the interest of the proceedings, and that was the immediate and generous response made to the appeal of Mrs. Fawcett on behalf of THE WOMAN'S LEADER. Though THE WOMAN'S LEADER is no longer the organ of the N.U.S.E.C. and the pride of possession no longer influenced its members, almost £500 was raised in a few moments.

The three Council days were not, however, wholly given to work, and the warm thanks of the Executive Committee are due to Dr. Jane Walker, who so kindly lent her house for a reception on Thursday evening, which was attended by a large number of Council members and their friends, with a sprinkling of distinguished guests from other lands. Most of the evening was given to music and conversation, but a short time was allotted to three minute speeches by Miss Eleanor Rathbone, Mrs. Fawcett, Mrs. Tata, of Bombay, Lieutenant Sugden, M.P., the Hon. Crawford-Vaughan, ex-Premier of South Australia, and our hostess.

The experiment was tried during the Council of providing tea from four to four-thirty, and this gave an opportunity for conversation. Many delegates availed themselves of the kind arrangements made by Miss Garrett to make up small parties for lunch at a private ladies' club near the Conference Hall.

Mrs. Fawcett's presence on the platform each day added to the widely-spoken feeling which she herself expressed, that a delightful spirit prevailed in the Council, and that it was like the old days back again.

SUMMER SCHOOL.

We are arranging a summer school during the first fortnight of September in Oxford, and hope to secure Ruskin College as its headquarters. The college will accommodate about forty "students," and lodgings will be secured if possible for the remainder. Full particulars will be given to our Societies in the next monthly letter. Meantime, we may say that a programme is being arranged which will, we hope, make the school of value to all who are interested in problems of citizenship, both local and national. Besides the subjects of our equality programme (which since last week include the League of Nations and Equality of Services in the Churches), there will be courses of lectures on social administration and economic and industrial questions, and classes for speakers, canvassers and others, who hope to take part in election work, both municipal and parliamentary, are to be organised. Miss Macadam (formerly Director of Studies at the Liverpool University School of Social Science) and Mrs. Hubback (formerly Director of Economic Studies at Newnham College, Cambridge), will act as directors of the school, and we hope to have the help of Mrs. Stocks and Miss Deneke (our new treasurer) and other members of our Oxford branch.

A member has offered several free studentships, open to members of societies affiliated to the N.U.S.E.C. Full particulars of the terms on which these will be competed for can be obtained from the directors. Secretaries of societies should lose

no time in making these arrangements known to their members, so that they may settle their summer plans accordingly, and as accommodation is limited, application should be made as soon as possible. The school is open to members of the general public, both men and women, but members of affiliated societies will have the advantage of special rates.

CAMBERLEY AND DISTRICT S.E.C.

The Committee of this Society recently most generously decided to send an affiliation fee, which will cover the loss incurred by Headquarters on the reduced basis decided on at the last Council. In other words, Camberley multiplied the minimum fee based on its membership by four.

CHISWICK S.E.C.

The Chiswick Society has had fortnightly meetings of their Study Circle during the winter. From one of which, held on February 2nd, when Miss Tann gave an address on "Widows' Pensions," a resolution was passed urging immediate legislation and sent to the Member, Colonel H. Grant Morden, in answer to which he promised his hearty support. The Society is holding a conversazione in aid of the Headquarters Fund on March 13th.

EALING WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

A meeting was held on February 25th, at which the chair was taken by Mrs. Mitchell. Miss Royds, from the Women's International League, gave a most interesting address on the Aims and Hopes of the League of Nations. She dealt shortly with previous attempts in history to promote peace, including the progress of arbitration during the last hundred years, and proposed a resolution, which was carried unanimously, expressing satisfaction at the steps taken by the League of Nations with regard to (1) the economic condition of Europe, and (2) the internal condition of Russia. Miss Royds also dealt in an interesting manner with various questions which were asked, and a hearty vote of thanks to her followed.

BRISTOL SOCIETY FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Two very successful meetings were held by this society on February 24th. In the afternoon Miss Rosamund Smith opened a discussion on widows' pensions, a subject which has led to some searching of heart in Bristol, owing to the fact that the work of the Poor Law Guardians is exceptionally well done under the chairmanship of a woman, Miss Rosa Pease. The discussion was carried on with spirit. Miss Smith presented a convincing case and was well supported, the only fly in the ointment being the expense of the scheme. However, the anxiety thus caused was somewhat alleviated by the timely article on "The Economy of Widows' Pensions" in the current number of THE WOMAN'S LEADER. A resolution urging the Government to introduce a system of pensions for civilian widows was carried unanimously.

In the evening a large number assembled to listen to Miss Rosamund Smith's account of the work of the National Union. His Honour Judge Stranger presided, and speaking as an "old campaigner," recalled some of the early efforts made in the cause of women's suffrage, and congratulated the society on the change which had come about. In an able speech, which won the close attention of the audience, Miss Smith described the special objects which have been before the Union this year, giving a clear account of each one, and concluded by moving a resolution in support of the Bill to amend the Representation of the People Act. Mr. W. C. H. Cross seconded the resolution, and Professor Helen Wodehouse moved a vote of thanks to the speakers. Professor Leonard, in seconding, congratulated Bristol on the appointment of its first woman professor, Dr. Wodehouse.

There was a brisk sale of THE WOMAN'S LEADER.



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The Danger of Ignorance

THE great conspiracy of silence on sex matters has already been tolerated too long. We, in our day, see the danger of ignorance, and the result of the false, crude knowledge gathered from undesirable sources is apparent in every phase of modern life. The time has come when we must stem the whirling tide of life which flows in the wrong direction. YOU must realise the necessity of understanding, for your own guidance and happiness, and for the sake of those who look to you for help on the complex problems of sex and Nature. The books listed below are pure, clean, and wholesome, yet they remove the veil from Nature and lay bare the wonderful secrets of life and sex. There is a clarity, a courage, and a directness of expression which opens up the world of understanding in all its most beautiful aspects.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE UNMARRIED MOTHER.

MADAM,—I should be so grateful if you will give me space to protest against a Bill which is shortly to be introduced at the instance of the National Council for the Care of the Unmarried Mother and her Child. This, apparently, is one of those organisations that deal with other people's affairs over their heads and under guise of "protection." This Bill aims at robbing these unfortunate women of every vestige of liberty and control of their own affairs.

The Bill provides for the compulsory declaration by the mother of the name of the father. He is then to be given the alternative of maintaining the child or fighting an action, *whether the woman wishes it or not*. The "collecting officer" is to draw and control the maintenance money and the mother is to be obliged to consult with him about her arrangements for her child. She is not to be allowed to make any private arrangement with the child's father without the consent of the magistrate; and she is to be robbed of the one poor privilege she has, the guardianship of her child. The child is to be the ward of the Children's Court—Children's Courts, mark you, being established to deal with delinquent children!

Had this measure been devised in the days of Cromwell, or by the savage Puritans of New England, it would not have been so surprising. But after all our struggles for freedom it is lamentable that there should still be so many people who can think of no other way of "protecting" women than by robbing them of their rights and restricting their liberty.

C. NINA BOYLE.

TEMPERANCE REFORM.

MADAM,—As one who desires temperance reform and realises that England is not ripe for prohibition, I have read with much interest your article on State purchase in THE WOMAN'S LEADER of March 5th. The following questions, however, come into my mind, and I shall be very glad if you can find space for them in your next issue, as I understand you have opened your columns for a discussion of this subject:—

1.—Under Mr. Lloyd George's scheme for State Purchase (1917-18) was it not decided to leave a large proportion of licensed properties in the hands of private owners, including the wine trade (both manufactured and imported), and the liquor businesses of licensed theatres, music halls, railway companies, hotels, &c.

2.—Would not the State publicans be paid, and have their trade union like other State employees have, and prove powerful supporters of whichever political party would increase their salaries?

3.—Is it not a fact that in South Carolina and Scandinavia State ownership failed to remove the liquor traffic out of the political arena?

4.—Was not State monopoly started in Russia in the hope that it would lessen the drunkenness and the sale of drink, and did it not prove an utter failure in this respect?

5.—Was not the estimated cost to the nation of buying up even part of the drink traffic over four hundred million pounds, and if the Government eventually took over the whole of the trade, would not that sum be greatly exceeded?

6.—If the Government owned the drink trade, is it probable that their desire for temperance reform would prove stronger than the temptation to profit by the trade, especially at a time when money is so badly needed to pay off war debts and carry out necessary social reforms?

7.—At present the revenue from drink is obtained by taxing or restricting drink, but under nationalization we should no longer merely tax the liquor sold, it would really then be the profits we shared, and is not this idea repugnant to those who realise the immense harm that is done to the community by the sale of intoxicants?

8.—If local option would be difficult to carry under present conditions, would it not be still more difficult when the Government had to find yearly interest on the bonds given to the trade, and people began to realise that this interest—if not made out of the profits on drink—would have to come out of their pockets by taxation?

9.—Has any community ever carried local option while it had a State monopoly—or ownership—of the drink traffic?

Should you be able to publish these questions—they may evoke answers which will not only clear away doubts in my own mind—but in the minds of other readers of your very interesting paper.

ALICE SCOTT.

WOMEN IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

MADAM,—With reference to your article on Women in the Civil Service in the issue of February 27th, there is one point, *viz.*, the fixation of age limits, to which the attention of all supporters of women's interests might be usefully directed. Any one who has had experience of women in industry, or in the women's services during the war, must have been struck with the fact that much good work was done by women of twenty-five to thirty-five, to many of whom life had previously offered little opportunity of doing interesting or responsible work. It will be hard if women who have rendered good service during the war are now excluded from permanent posts—of the class dealt with in the recent Report—entirely on the score of age. As it is suggested that entry of women into the Civil Service should be controlled by Selection Boards, and that the scheme should be provisional for the next five years, there should be no difficulty in securing a stipulation that during that period the Boards should be prepared to consider candidates, if suitable in other ways, irrespective of age.

This would be in harmony with the attitude adopted in respect to employment of ex-service men. It would be in accord, too, with the

principle recognised whenever there has been any "tightening up" of the qualifications for admission to any profession, *viz.*, that a time limit should be fixed for consideration of the case of those debarred from exact fulfilment of prescribed conditions.

E. H. PRATT.

THE CALDECOTT COMMUNITY.

MADAM,—May I draw the attention of your readers to the urgent financial need of the Caldecott Community. This enterprise is run at a cost of £2,000 a year. For £50 one child is clothed, fed, housed, and educated. Prices are rising daily and our supporters are compelled to reduce their subscriptions. At this moment there is a deficit of £500, and the Directors of the Community do not know where to look for money to meet it. It is small contributions we are asking for, donations and subscriptions of half-a-crown, five shillings, or ten shillings.

ENID COGGIN, Organising Secretary.

72, Warwick Street, S.W. 1.

LOCAL ORGANISATION.

MADAM,—May I ask your readers to help solve the problem of local organisation for the purpose of furthering women's contribution to the good ordering of the State?

I beg to put forward suggestions for criticism and in the hope that they will draw forth accounts of organisation which is working well and which we may all advisedly follow.

1.—For political purposes.
Joint meetings of the women's sections of the political parties.

2.—For philanthropic purposes.
A Civic League of men and women. No doubt some societies affiliated to the league would be composed of women only, and whenever desirable either men or women could meet alone to discuss a subject, just as they now do on Boards of Guardians.

3.—For representation of women as wives, mothers, and customers.
A Women's Citizens' Association, in which the typical wife and mother could feel in place.

In some sections of society this need is met by the Women's Co-operative Guild, and I think we want a society for all women to which the Women's Co-operative Guild could affiliate.

If the Women's Co-operative Guild would extend its aims it might perhaps provide what seems so much needed.

If the most thoughtful women do not soon meet this need we may see aggressive non-constructive associations of women coming into being.

HELEN G. KLAASSEN.

REORGANISATION REPORT.

MADAM,—I shall be obliged if you will allow me space to place before your readers the attitude of the established Women Clerks as regards the Report of the Reorganisation Committee of the National Whitley Council of the Civil Service.

In 1912 the Women Clerks gave evidence before the Royal Commission on the Civil Service and urged their claim to equal pay and conditions of service with Second Division Clerks (men). The Commissioners recommended that where the work of women approximated to that performed by men the pay should be approximate. The recommendations, were, however, never considered owing to the outbreak of war. After a considerable period had elapsed the Treasury was approached with a view to obtaining equality of pay and the matter was finally referred to the Conciliation and Arbitration Board for Civil Servants for decision.

The Board, on the eve of the date fixed for hearing the case, announced that the War Cabinet had decided that the principle of the equality of pay between men and women was not within the competence of the Board to determine. A provisional claim was then made and an increase of £10 on the maxima of the lowest grades was granted, the Board adding that this Award was without prejudice to the re-opening of the case at the end of the War or when the Report of the War Cabinet Committee on Women in Industry was issued. Meanwhile, Civil Servants were pressing the Government to set up a National Whitley Council for the Service, and in view of the imminence of this the Women Clerks decided to wait until they could place their claim before such a Council. One of the first steps of the National Council was to set up a Committee consisting of twenty-one men and four women to consider the reorganisation of the clerical classes of the Service. This report was published on the 1st March, and is to be submitted to the National Council on the 10th instant.

In spite of the recommendations contained in the Report of the War Cabinet Committee on Women in Industry that women and men in the Civil Service should receive equal pay, this recent report only recommends equality in the early years of service; in the higher ranks of the two lower grades the men's minimum is the women's maximum. There are also inequalities in the matter of recruitment. Whereas men are to enter the Executive and Administrative Classes by Open Competitive examination, women can only obtain these posts by "selection," a method which lends itself to patronage and influence. In the matter of the assimilation of the existing classes, it is laid down that the Second Division men should normally be placed in the Executive Grade, but the future of the Women Clerks, who entered the Service at about the same age and by a similar examination, is left uncertain.

There are many high-sounding phrases on the principle of equality, but these are of little value to women who looked for practical results. They are, therefore, urging the National Whitley Council to amend the Report or to refer it back to the Committee for further consideration on the women's case.

O. KING.

Hon. Sec., Federation of Women Civil Servants.
19, Buckingham Street, W.C. 2.

REPORTS.

CLAIMS OF WOMEN WITHIN THE CHURCH.

On Thursday, March 11th, in connection with the Annual Council Meeting of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, a Conference was held on "Women in the Churches." Miss Rathbone was in the chair, and Miss Picton-Turbervill stated the case for the need of such a course being adopted. Several speakers took part in the animated discussion which followed Miss Picton-Turbervill's speech.

It was only three years ago, Miss Picton-Turbervill said, that the question of women's claims within the Church was prominently raised. When the Church was organising its National Mission of Repentance and Hope it was realised that so vast a movement would be handicapped by the absence of many clergy who were engaged in the Army, the Bishop of London announced his intention of seeking the help of women. The opposition to the Bishop of London's proposal was so great that it was rumoured abroad that a certain section would do their best to wreck the Mission if this proposal were carried into effect; after six weeks the Bishop withdrew his consent to women co-operating in the Mission, but the question raised has not been allowed to subside. Miss Picton-Turbervill then related an amusing discussion she had with a lady missionary who was very strongly opposed to the idea of women entering the Church, the lady maintaining that there was such a wide field women could cover outside the Church. While the discussion was in progress the post arrived, bringing the notice of a church meeting; it announced various speeches that would be made by the Vicar, the curate, the churchwarden and so on, and at the bottom of the announcement in small print it was intimated that "The ladies have kindly consented to serve tea and coffee!" To serve tea and coffee and carry round the parish magazine was characteristic of what women were allowed to do within the Church.

To exclude women from the Ministry is a perpetual insult to all women and the concern of all women. Men often say women are spiritually superior to men—but, they are excluded simply on the grounds of their sex, because they are women. They may have gifts and powers equal to an Archbishop, they may be able to sway large congregations, but because they are women they must not be given the opportunity to do so within the Church. The Bishop of Exeter had said "He did not think it would be wrong for women to speak in the Church provided that only women and children were present!" A woman may preach the Gospel anywhere but in Church. Because the Church is consecrated she may not use it to deliver her message; such a thing was an insult to women.

The present position of women in the Church is out of harmony with the teaching of the Founder of our Church. Christ, throughout his whole teaching made no distinction between men and women. On that first Easter morning the message of Hope and New Life was given to women, and they were instructed to carry it to the disciples. When Christ appeared in that upper room after His Resurrection women were present with the disciples and saw and heard Him.

The primary duty of the Church of Christ is to interpret to the world the mind of Christ. Men have given their interpretation of the mind of Christ in the churches, but women have never yet been able to give their interpretation of it. This matter of women's claims within the Church concerned all, for the National Church is a vital part of the nation. The curse of our national life was the divorcing of social and political life from religion. "Man does not live by bread alone," and political life cannot be devoid of religious feeling. Miss Picton-Turbervill then moved the resolution: "That this Conference give definite support to the principle of equality of status and opportunity to women within the Church." Women within the Church as in the State must be given an opportunity of consecrating her services to the welfare of mankind.

Lady Lawson Tancred, who had announced her intention of speaking "against," said she did not think it desirable that women should become priests. The Church was nearly cut in twain already by controversy of different kinds, and its position would only be weakened by more controversies—such as the question of women priests would entail. Lady Lawson Tancred, as a keen feminist, advocated women preachers, but thought that their ordination could not come yet. Miss Cockle spoke with much fervour against any political action being taken in this matter; the question, she said, must be left to the churches to decide for themselves, and declared that they would not tolerate any outside interference, and Nonconformist bodies and the Scotch Churches would most strongly resent it. Miss Baker, speaking in support of the resolution, said that in those religious bodies where men and women did identical work such as "The Salvation Army" and the "Society of Friends," the results for good were very far reaching. The attitude of the Church with regard to rescue work was a scandal; we shall only get the higher moral standing when we get women in the Churches. Mrs. Stocks spoke on behalf of the "outsiders"—those people, and she was one of them, who did not pretend to understand the Apostolic Succession; if they took part in religious controversy, they could not stand up against arguments regarding the Apostolic Tradition, but although she did not know what it was, she would say "Pull it down." She thought herself a fairly typical specimen, and were Miss Picton-Turbervill vicar of the parish, she would often go to hear her. Miss Picton-Turbervill, in replying to the various speakers, said Lady Lawson Tancred, although supposed to be speaking against, was entirely in accordance with the views she had expressed in her speech. Miss Cockle had protested against any action being taken outside the Church—but she would ask, what were the boundaries of the Church? All those whose minds were in accordance with the mind of Christ belonged to the Church. Miss Picton-Turbervill then put the resolution "that we give definite support to the principle of equality of status and opportunity for women within the Church." Mrs. Fawcett, in seconding the resolution, said she was

rather a buttress than a pillar in the Church! She did think it was necessary to wait for public opinion to accept such a change, but at the same time we must work to form public opinion. Mrs. Fawcett recalled an amusing and characteristic incident which occurred in 1909 when the Suffrage Alliance held its Convention in London. Doctor Anna Shaw, who was a minister in her own country, figured on the programme as "the Rev." Anna Shaw. Another prominent member, full of wrath and indignation, approached Mrs. Fawcett and said if such a thing as Doctor Anna Shaw's name being prefixed with the sacred title Rev. were allowed to remain, then she would withdraw altogether. But Mrs. Fawcett replied, do you then object to the Roman Catholic designation "Reverend Mother?" after which the infuriated prominent member was quite reconciled. She was quite sure that could St. Paul be with us at this time he would be a keen supporter of such a cause, for he was second to none in earnestness and receptivity of new ideas. Mrs. Fawcett had great pleasure in supporting the resolution. Miss Rathbone then put it to the vote, and out of a crowded hall only five hands were held up in opposition.

Obituary.

MISS AMY ELISABETH BELL.

The many friends of Miss Bell will have learnt with much regret of her death which took place on March 12th from a brief attack of influenza bringing on heart failure. In her, workers for the women's cause have lost one of their pioneers. Her position was for many years unique, inasmuch as she was the first woman stockbroker, though, of course, as a penalty for her sex, the Stock Exchange excluded her from its membership.

She was an interesting and unusual woman both by character and by career. She was a native of the West of England, where her father was a medical man of considerable ability. After a course of study at University College, Bristol, she proceeded, with a Goldsmiths' Scholarship, to Newnham College, Cambridge, of which Miss A. J. Clough was then Principal. Having thus equipped herself with as complete and as "all-round" an education as she could obtain, she resolved to follow her bent for finance. She opened an office on her own account in the city where, by her perfect straightforwardness, her genuine interest in the world's affairs and her attractive personality, she won the sympathy of men of her own class and standing. The business which she carried on during the later 'eighties and into the 'nineties of last century, was not for the most part a speculative one. Even were it not that the political and financial circumstances of that epoch led most people to rest satisfied with low rates of dividend, believing that their capital was thus made secure, the majority of her own clients, being women of moderate and inelastic means, desired that their income should, though small, be safe. Placing herself in imagination at the point of view of each client, Miss Bell would think out with the greatest care the policy which might be best suited to her enquirer; and in this undertaking her naturally sound judgment was aided by her wide knowledge of foreign politics and by her realisation of the constant need for acquiring further knowledge. She was also a woman of considerable literary taste, a great reader of poetry, and exceedingly fond of travel. Her mind, in short, was intensely alive. Unfortunately her health was never strong, and owing to this cause she was obliged many years ago to retire from the City and to transfer her business to other hands. One of her most striking qualities was her unchanging loyalty to her friends; and it was at the house of one of her friends, Miss Maude Biggs, 3, Alexandra Road, South Hampstead, that she died.

M. H.

COMING EVENTS.

CHESTER WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

MARCH 19.
In the Town Hall, Chester.
Speaker: Miss H. M. Cowlin (Director, Liverpool and District Training School for Women Police).
Subject: "Police Women." 7.30 p.m.

FIGHT THE FAMINE COUNCIL.

MARCH 19.
In Queen's Hall, Langham Place.
Great Public Meeting.
Speakers: Lord Buckmaster, Sir George Paish, Rt. Hon. J. R. Clynes, M.P., Mr. Ben Spoor, M.P., Miss Picton-Turbervill, O.B.E.
Chair: Lord Parmoor.
Tickets, 5s., 2s. 6d., and 1s., from Queen's Hall. Admission Free by Ticket. 8 p.m.

SCARBOROUGH WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

MARCH 22.
In the Municipal School.
Subject: "Work of the Women Police."
Speaker: Inspector Champneys.
Chair: Councillor Boyes, J.P.

WOMEN'S INDUSTRIAL LEAGUE.

MARCH 22.
In the Conference Hall, Central Buildings.
Speaker: Dr. Marie Stopes.
Subject: "The Employment of Married Women."
Chair: Miss Ada Moore. 8 p.m.

NEWPORT (MON.) WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

MARCH 22.
In No. 2 Committee Room, Town Hall. Debate for Members Only.
Subject: "Widow's Pensions." 7.30 p.m.

GERRARDS CROSS SOCIETY FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

MARCH 23.
Annual Meeting at Mrs. Thackeray's.
Speaker: Miss E. Picton-Turbervill, O.B.E.
Subject: "Woman and the Church."
Tea and Discussion.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

MARCH 24.
In the Central Hall, Westminster. Conference on Women in Industry and Commerce.
Speakers: Miss Gladys Burlton, B.A. (Messrs. Selfridge), Miss Beryl Heitland (Messrs. Evans Bros., Publishers), Miss E. M. Smith (Ingersoll Watch Co.).
Chair: Major P. Lloyd Greame, M.P., M.C.
Admission Free. Discussion. 4-6 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB.

MARCH 24.
9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W. 1.
Subject: "The Loves of the Roman Classical Poets."
Speaker: Mr. J. Wells Thatcher (Barrister-at-Law).
Chair: Mrs. Woodward. 8.15 p.m.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

MARCH 24.
In the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, W.C. 1.
Speaker: Miss Haslett (Women's Engineering Society).
Subject: "Women and Engineering."
Chair: Miss Newsome. 3 p.m.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

MARCH 24.
In the Drill Hall, Penrith.
Speaker: Major-Gen. Sir Fred Maurice, C.B.
Chair: Rev. R. D. Laws. 7.30 p.m.

MARCH 24.

In the Co-operative Hall, Colne (Lancs.).
Speakers: Hon. Crawford Vaughan, Capt. S. Smith, M.P., T. Wing, Esq.
Chair: His Worship the Mayor. 8 p.m.

CONFERENCE on
WOMEN IN INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

at the CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER
(Close to St. James's Park Station and Westminster Abbey)

ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24th, 1920, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Chairman—
Major P. LLOYD GREAME, M.P., M.C.

Speakers—
MISS GLADYS BURLTON, B.A.
(Director of Education, Messrs. Selfridge).
MISS BERYL HEITLAND (Messrs. Evans Bros., Publishers).
MISS E. M. SMITH (Ingersoll Watch Co.).

NOTE.—This is the second of a series of Monthly Meetings of the LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 58, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.
Future Fixtures, same time and place:—
April 21, "Women and Housing."
May 19, "Women and the Civil Service."
ADMISSION FREE. DISCUSSION.
Tea Bar Open at 4 p.m.
Particulars of the Society's work appear in "The Woman's Leader," 2d. Weekly.

WANTED! A WOMAN.

"I could do it myself if I had time," I murmured discontentedly. Four firms had given me the same answer. "We are very sorry, Madam, but we cannot undertake any more orders for some months." I wanted my bedroom walls re-coloured, the chair covers and curtains were disgraceful and I felt a little doubtful of the colour scheme I had in mind. I had always thought how nice it would be if some of the doors could "slide" instead of "open"! I turned with a sigh to my letters. The wrapper of THE WOMAN'S LEADER caught my eye. I tore it open, scanned the advertisements and there was the very thing! (Advt.)

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