

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

The Importunate Widow.

We noted with satisfaction the contributions made by Mr. Pethick Lawrence and Mrs. Wintringham to last Thursday's Budget debate. Mr. Pethick Lawrence precisely expressed our own views when he congratulated the Chancellor of the Exchequer on providing for debt repayment, on sweeping away a considerable section of the food taxes, and on being scrupulously fair to all sections of the taxpaying community, but at the same time regretted that no provision had been made for Widows' Pensions. Mrs. Wintringham asked whether we could afford not to make such provision, adding that the patience of the women of this country was being very sorely tried.

Mr. Snowden Becomes More Explicit.

Meanwhile we are not accustomed to quarrelling with Mr. Snowden. It even goes a little against the grain to criticize him—in view of his record as a sound feminist and warm-hearted social reformer. All the more glad are we therefore, to desist from our quarrel and pin our faith to his statement made in response to these discontents. "The Government had," he said, "been considering the matter for some time. It was not merely a question of Widows' Pensions. The question of Widows' Pensions could not be even intelligently considered without regard to other schemes, and they were considering the whole question. Their experts had made considerable progress. He would give no pledge at the moment, but he expressed the confident hope that before the end of the year they might be able to submit to Parliament legislative proposals on this question. If these were approved by Parliament the necessary financial provision would be made." We presume that Mr. Snowden here foreshadows the inclusion of a Widows' Pension scheme in the large measure of social insurance which the Government is engaged in hammering out.

P.R. and the Duchess of Atholl.

Whatever the views of our readers on the question of P.R., it will be generally acknowledged that the Duchess of Atholl in moving the rejection of Mr. Rendall's bill on Friday of last week, made one of the most efficient well-informed speeches of a generally efficient and well-informed debate. On one point, however, we are tempted to criticize. We do not agree with her that the fatigue of contesting a hugely enlarged constituency would prejudice the prospects of women parliamentary candidates, partly because women have not shown themselves to be less energetic than men in this respect—as witness the records of our suffrage agitators—partly because, as the Duchess herself pointed out, the working of these large constituencies will be very much

less intensive. Inevitably the butter of each individual candidate's personality will be more thinly spread. On the contrary, we believe that whatever the merits or demerits of P.R. from a national point of view, its introduction would, if anything, facilitate the return of women to Parliament, since local party organizations which might hesitate to chose a woman as their sole standard bearer might be disposed to put one woman upon a party list containing several men.

The Prevention of War.

The Conference at Wembley on the Prevention of War, organized by the International Council of Women, opened on Monday under the Presidency of the Marchioness of Aberdeen. Both the morning and afternoon sessions were devoted to the educational aspect of the problem, including the development of a Peace outlook. On Tuesday the rights of racial minorities and the rights of the wage-earners occupied the morning session, and in the course of the latter discussion Miss Margaret Bondfield reiterated the British Government's decision to adopt the Eight-hour Day Convention. International economic problems occupied the evening session. As we go to press (Wednesday) both morning and evening sessions are engaged with the discussion of existing international conventions and their application. And on Thursday, after discussions of democratic control in foreign affairs, the League of Nations, and disarmament, the Conference will close with an address summarizing its results by the Marchioness of Aberdeen.

Two Scottish Bills.

The Guardianship of Children (Scotland) Bill, and the Adoption of Children (Scotland) Bill passed their Second Readings on Tuesday, 30th April, and have been referred to the Standing Committee on Scottish Bills. It is highly improbable, however, that there will be time for the later stages of these Bills, as they have been introduced so late in the Session.

National Conference of Labour Women.

The Final Agenda of the National Conference of Labour Women, to be held on 13th and 14th May, 1924, in the Guild House, Eccleston Square, London, S.W. 1, has been issued. The subjects to be discussed are:—Equal Franchise, Pensions for Civilian Widows, Family Endowment, Education and Juvenile Employment, Penal Reform, The Position of Housewives in relation to World Supplies, The Position of the Wage-earning Woman, Unemployment, The Care of Maternity, Rent, Housing and Prices. We congratulate the Labour Women on an exceptionally interesting Agenda, but regret that owing to the short time that has been allotted to the Conference it will obviously be necessary to telescope and to omit many of the Resolutions.

Women Police.

Much is hoped from the Committee which has been set up to consider the question of women police. In the meantime we hope women's organizations will bestir themselves to collect facts. Commandant Mary Allen pointed out before leaving this country for America to study American methods, that though Great Britain was the first country to introduce women police there are only 20 women police officers in London as compared to 23,000 men. We see that a deputation from women's organizations recently failed to convince the Chairman of the Watch Committee and the Chairman of the Parks Committee in Manchester that women police with powers of arrest were required in the parks because they did not produce concrete cases of indecency. This is a matter largely in the hands of the Mothers of the Community. Let them demand with no uncertain

voice that their children shall not run the risks of contamination in inadequately protected public places, and show that women are more suitable for such protection than men, and it will be done.

The French Birth-rate Still Falling.

Recently published figures show that during the first quarter of the present year the births in the ten largest French towns declined to 23,860 from 24,102 in the corresponding quarter of 1923. The decrease has been rapid and continuous since 1921; moreover it is not merely the total figure which shows a decline. In each town, considered separately (with the exception of Strassbourg), a decline has taken place. Unfortunately the death rate shows no compensatory reduction. On the contrary it shows an actual increase from 23,982 in the first quarter of 1921 to 26,907 in the first quarter of 1924. It is interesting to consider these figures in connexion with the attempt of the French Government to penalize the diffusion of knowledge concerning the methods of birth control, and in connexion with the rapid development of the Family Wage system, which affects the majority of the towns in question.

The New French Legitimation Act.

A French Legitimation Act became law on 1st May. It provides for the legitimation of children born out of wedlock (other than those born in adultery) by the subsequent marriage of their parents. In certain cases also, children born in adultery can be so legitimated:—(a) Children born in adultery who are disavowed by the mother's husband and his heirs. (b) Children born in adultery of either parent if they are reputed to be conceived at a period when the father or mother in question is legally separated. (c) Children born by the adultery of the husband in all other cases, if there do not exist legitimate children of the marriage in the course of which the child born in adultery was conceived. It will be noticed that these exceptional cases cover a very wide field and virtually lay the new law open to those criticisms of our own legitimacy proposals, which led to the framing of the Archbishop of Canterbury's amendment.

Segregated Electors.

In our issue of 21st December, we commented upon a suggestion put forward by the *South Wales Daily News*, to the effect that women should be required to record their votes on marked ballot papers reserved exclusively for their use. The suggestion arose out of contemporary discussions concerning the responsibility of the women voters for the violent reaction against a protectionist programme which was a feature of the last General Election. Readers may remember that we condemned this proposal to isolate women voters in this manner, on the ground of its essential incompatibility with the British citizen's constitutional right to cast his or her vote in perfect freedom; though we were willing to admit that the introduction of marked ballot papers for selected categories of voters would provide much fascinating data for politicians and social investigators. A correspondent of this paper, recently returned from Germany, reports that at the last Bavarian State elections an experiment of this kind was actually carried out, men and women being required to cast their votes at separate polling booths. Unfortunately he failed to obtain the actual figures giving the relative distribution of men and women voters according to party—we should be grateful to any correspondent who could supply them—but the general result appears to show that the women's votes were more heavily concentrated upon the clerical parties of the Centre, at the expense of the parties of the extreme Left and extreme Right.

A Demand for Family Endowment.

At its annual conference in Melbourne early in April, the Victoria Labour Party adopted a report recommending that as a first instalment of complete national family endowment, a Labour Government on attaining office should establish a weekly State payment of 5s. to each child from birth until school leaving age. Full State maintenance of illegitimate children and children of widows and deserted wives was part of the proposal. The financial aspect of the scheme was referred back to the party's Federal Executive.

Advanced Study for the Nursing Profession.

An international course of study beginning on 1st September and extending over ten months, has been organized by the League of Red Cross Societies, in conjunction with Bedford College and the College of Nursing, for nurses who hope to qualify for adminis-

trative or teaching posts in the profession. A Joint Advisory Committee has been formed with Miss M. J. Tuke, of Bedford College, as Chairman, which includes the Matrons of the leading London Hospitals, the Leeds Infirmary, and the Radcliffe at Oxford. It is specially interesting for the lay reader to note that students, who must be graduates of recognized Schools of Nursing, may select as an optional subject, Psychology or Modern Industrial Problems and Economics.

America's Greatest Women.

We referred in a recent issue to the dinner to be given at Buffalo by the National League of Women Voters in honour of America's twelve greatest women. The selection is the result of a year's work undertaken in the first instance as the result of an inquiry from a delegate from Chile at the Pan-American Conference of Women in 1922. The different States were canvassed, and a representative Committee of women's organizations appointed to make the final selection. It appears to us, so far as we can judge, a good list, and we are not surprised that Miss Jane Addams stands easily first and that Mrs. Chapman Catt, whose work on woman's suffrage and politics we hope to review in an early issue, has a high place. The other names best known in this country are Edith Wharton, the novelist, Julia Lathrop, social worker, and Mrs. Fiske, actress.

Questions in Parliament.

BRITISH-BORN WIVES (UNITED STATES).—Mr. Penny asked the Home Secretary whether he is aware that a British-born wife of an American citizen, wishing to visit her native land, cannot obtain a passport either from the State Department of the United States because she is not an American subject, or from the British Consul because she is not a British subject; and whether it is possible to move this anomaly and disability attaching to British-born wives who have not relinquished their birth-right? Mr. Henderson: Yes sir; but the incapacity to obtain a national passport does not prevent the British-born women in question from visiting their native land. It has been arranged that on making the appropriate affidavit they may be granted the necessary facilities by British Consuls. This is all that the British Government as at present advised can do to meet the difficulties arising from the recent American legislation under which a foreign woman does not on marriage to an American acquire American nationality. Mr. Penny: Will the right hon. gentleman make overtures to the United States Government in that direction, to see if this anomaly can be removed? Mr. Henderson: Yes, I am quite prepared to make overtures to them. Mrs. Wintringham: Will the Home Secretary give consideration to legislation that will allow a British woman to retain her nationality on marriage, and so bring English law into line with American legislation?

SINGAPORE (MAISONS TOLÉRÉES).—Mrs. Wintringham asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has yet received a copy of the Bill which it is proposed to pass in Singapore governing the control of the maison tolérées in that dependency; and whether it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to take any action with regard to this Bill? Mr. Thomas: Yes, I have recently received a copy of the draft Bill, but I am not yet in a position to say what action it is proposed to take with regard to it.

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

WOMEN MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

The speeches made by Mrs. Wintringham and the Duchess of Atholl in favour of Widows' Pensions and against Proportional Representation respectively have been referred to in other columns, as have also questions asked by Mrs. Wintringham.

Mrs. Philipson spoke in the Debate on the Prevention of Evictions Bill in support of an amendment to the effect that in a dispute between landlord and tenant, in which the Court is of opinion that equal hardship would be caused to the tenant by granting as to the landlord by refusing to grant an Order, he who is a British subject shall be preferred by the Court. Lady Astor, having returned from Palestine, is again active in the House.

P.R.

On Friday last Proportional Representation leapt into the arena of Practical Politics, to remain there, in all probability for some years to come. We are tempted to this drastic statement not because P.R. was made the subject of a Private Members' Bill, and debated at some length in the cold light of a Friday forenoon, but because for the first time it has become consciously identified with the practical interests and immediate programme of a political party. And we suspect that there were Liberals who voted in favour of P.R. because it is a Liberal Party measure, as well as Labour Members who voted against it because, as a *Daily Herald* correspondent unashamedly put it, "the Liberal Party would gain more than any other party. Labour would get very few second preferences, and would have to wait a long time before it got a Parliamentary majority." "It would be interesting to know," he asks, "how the transferable vote is going to help the Labour Party." Well—that is one way of looking at the matter, but it is not our way, nor apparently was it the way affected by Mr. Snowden, Miss Bondfield, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Trevelyan, and the other Labour leaders who followed Mr. Asquith into the "aye" lobby on behalf of P.R.

On the whole, however, whatever party-political considerations may have lurked in the minds of those present and reflected themselves in the final verdict—a 238 to 144 majority against P.R.—on Friday afternoon the question was debated on its merits as a non-party proposition. Indeed, so non-party was its discussion that we had the inspiring spectacle of the Duchess of Atholl and Mr. Herbert Morrison, of the London Labour Party, acting in harmonious co-operation as mover and seconder of its rejection. And since, in view of its practical bearing on our existing political grouping, this is very probably the last occasion on which P.R. will be so debated, let us take advantage of the pervading atmosphere to meditate upon a few of the very important considerations which this heroic proposal to alter the basis of our electoral machinery involves. That the present system of representation by single-member constituencies exaggerates majorities, distorts the actual relative strength of parties, and leaves large and compact minorities such as the Birmingham Liberals and (since the last General Election) the Manchester Conservatives in a state of rankling and understandable discontent—no one can doubt. The advocates of P.R. have a formidable batch of statistics at their disposal wherewith

to prove this, and they prove it up to the hilt every time that they open their mouths.

Equally convincingly do they prove that (to quote Mr. Athelstan Rendall's words in last Friday's debate) "if the House of Commons is to be a mirror reflecting all the votes in the country, no other plan has been propounded which can compare with Proportional Representation." But apparently—and Friday's debate bears this out—it is the dynamics of the matter rather than its statics which trouble advocates of the *status quo*. They believe, and the sudden preoccupation of the Liberals with P.R. seems to bear out their belief, that P.R. would encourage the multiplication of parties. Or, to put it mildly, that it would check those forces which are continually operating to force our political activities into the two-party mould. Mr. Storry-Deane, the Unionist Member for Sheffield, voiced this fear when he prophesied on Friday afternoon that P.R. would bring the two-party system to an end for ever—the two-party system which was, he opined, in suspension now for the time being. Clearly the opponents of P.R. are haunted by the vision of perpetual coalition government as the price paid for a House of Commons which is more accurately than heretofore "a mirror reflecting all the votes in the country." Is the game worth the candle? they ask. And their answer, with one eye on the electoral struggle now proceeding in Germany, is an emphatic negative. There are of course other important pros and cons. There is the question of whether a considerable increase in the size of the constituency would destroy such personal relation as exists between representative and constituent (a point ably contested by the Duchess of Atholl), or whether such personal relationship (as the seconder of the Bill pointedly suggested) is better dead. Again there is the question of whether the security that P.R. would give to the outstanding and serviceable personalities of the political world is of more permanent value than the sobering ever-present possibility that even the mighty may be put down from their seat. There are in fact a bewildering tangle of pros and cons. But we venture to think that the most important of these concerns the effect of the change upon the number of parliamentary parties and the connexion between the number of parliamentary parties and the efficiency and integrity of governments. Being precluded from an editorial verdict, we leave the business of further elaboration to our readers.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

From OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

THE NATIONAL HOUSEKEEPING.

The House came back to work after the Easter recess speculating as to the future. Speeches delivered to the country had rumbled like distant thunder, and some Members feared a storm. Mr. Snowden had a great opportunity, and took it with both hands with the result that the Parliamentary situation on the Government side of the House is much easier, and there is gloom on the faces of the Opposition. The financial statement was admirably delivered and splendidly arranged, and Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer used his musical voice to the full so that he was admirably heard.

The main lines of his proposals are approved in all parts of the Chamber, and apart from the much-debated McKenna duties, they should be assured of an easy passage into law.

As a speech Mr. Snowden's statement will rank high, especially for its lucidity, and as a physical effort by a disabled man it was great. The best moment in the speech was the unconscious humour of his statement—after referring to "Jix's" (Sir Wm. Joynson Hicks') fondness for unsweetened table waters—that "they were mainly consumed by children."

AN OUTLINE OF THE BUDGET.

The main facts can be simply stated.

(a) The provision of a sinking fund made by Mr. Baldwin is continued, and £45,000,000 is to go to the repayment of debt this year.

(b) Indirect taxation is lessened by £25,000,000 and the Chancellor has adopted the motto of the British Navy, "Women and children first," in taking 1½d. per lb. off sugar, and 4d. per lb. off tea, and in halving the cocoa, coffee and chicory duties.

(c) The direct taxes are substantially lessened by the repeal of the Corporation Profit tax and the Inhabited House duties, both of which alterations will be generally welcomed.

(d) The Protective Taxes known as the McKenna Duties, are to be repealed, with effect, as to motor cars, from 1st August.

(e) After Budgeting to spend £790,000,000, Mr. Snowden expects a surplus of £4,000,000, and this expenditure will

constitute the *preliminary* provisions for the removal of the thrift disqualification for old age pensions, new unemployment schemes, and new housing "proposals."

THE CRITICISMS

These, apart from the attack on the repeals of the new import duties, were mainly directed upon things left undone.

Mrs. Wintringham in one of her admirable and wise speeches "rich in saving common sense" voiced the opinion of the majority in deploring the absence of any reference to pensions for widows, and in his reply, on 1st May, Mr. Snowden said it was the intention of the Government to deal with them later in the session. Mr. Asquith said he wondered whether the provision for the new social services was ample enough, and in this he was followed by Mr. Masterman who made a speech which impressed the whole House. Its wisdom and humanity were warmly commended by Mr. Snowden in his reply.

Conservative criticism completed this line of attack, but Sir L. Worthington Evans was very unhappy in his handling of the proposed housing finance.

SOME PERSONALIA

On the Government side Mr. Willie Graham has again been a tower of strength. His fifty-minute reply to Sir Robert Horne's able speech was received with admiration in all parts of the House and he again spoke without notes, an achievement for which the Member for Twickenham envied him. I thought the finest speech on the Opposition side came from Sir Arthur Steel Maitland, but, unfortunately it was delivered in the dinner hour when there are few to hear and less to praise.

Two Liberal back benchers made really admirable speeches. Mr. J. Freeman Dunn, M.P. for Hemel Hempstead, and Mr. Arnold Williams, M.P. for Sowerby, and both have received warm notes of commendation from the Treasury Bench. The House is a generous place.

(Continued on page 121.)

WHAT I REMEMBER.¹ XXXV.

By MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT, J.P., LL.D.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR, 1899-1902 (contd.)

We visited an orphanage in Kimberley of over 50 children, some of whom had been sent from the camp. Their ages varied from 1½ to 15 years. They looked healthy and were very bright and cheerful. They all spoke and understood English perfectly, and were learning their lessons, from Dutch teachers, out of English books.

When we were wending our way northwards again towards Pretoria, we sought an interview with General Kitchener. We had already had the advantage of several conversations with Sir A. Milner (now Lord Milner) and had told him our views about the necessity of a more varied dietary for the camps. He said he would support our application, but that the final decision must rest with Lord Kitchener, the allocation of extra trucks for the supply of the camps being a military matter. We therefore wrote and asked Lord Kitchener to see us. He agreed to do so, and sent his letter by General Sir John Maxwell, who had the camps especially under his charge. We had heard a good deal of Lord Kitchener's general opinion of the female sex, and rather smiled when we read his letter, for he expressed a wish that of the six of us only two should come on the deputation to see him. Our colleagues decided that these should be Lady Knox and myself. At the appointed hour General Maxwell arrived with a carriage to take us to Lord Kitchener's house. It was a charming and attractive building standing in a garden: we entered a large square hall, where we were asked to be seated while General Maxwell went into the room where Lord Kitchener was working. He left the door wide open, and we could not help hearing what was said. Again we smiled when we heard Lord Kitchener's voice inquire anxiously, "How many are there of them?" In another minute we were shown into his room, and thereupon there ensued the most satisfactory and businesslike interview that I, at any rate, had ever had of an approximately similar nature. We set forth our views as to the necessity of providing greater variety in the dietary of the camps, and suggested the addition of rice to the rations on account of the number of ways in which, with even the simplest appliances, it could be cooked, stewed in milk for children, made appetizing for adults by adding a little curry powder, and so on. He listened and then said: "It is a question of trucks. What you propose would mean an extra truck every week." We said we had recognized that, but still urged that the extra truck should be provided. He replied: "I allow 30 trucks per week for the food supply of the whole civil population of the Free State; of these 30, 16 go to the camps and 14 to the rest of the civil population. Do you wish me to give 17 to the camps and only 13 to the other civilians?" We exclaimed, "Certainly not. We have been in these people's houses and know that already they are on very short commons before the end of each week. We don't want to take an ounce from them; we want an extra truck." And an extra truck was agreed to, so that we felt that our talk with the great man had been very satisfactory. Not an unnecessary word had been spoken, and therefore no time had been wasted. I liked him far better than any of the politicians I had gone to on deputations in London. I always say that Lady Knox and I, after this interview with Lord Kitchener, received the compliment of our lives; for after sampling two of us, he invited the whole six of us to dinner! We did not all go; but I think there were four of us. Lord Kitchener took me into dinner and I had much interesting conversation with him. Later we had many talks about him with men on his staff and others. We were told that on his journeys up and down the line or on horseback his keen eye saw everything and everybody, noting which men were doing their work well and which were slack or indifferent; the first were promoted, the latter were, in the phrase of the day, "Stellenbosched," and sent where they could do no harm. Previous to our conversation with Lord Kitchener, we had had experience of subordinate officials of the type which believed that as soon as a thing was written down on a piece of paper, it was done. One man had read out to us a list of groceries and asked us if we did not think it admirable English: another when we emphasized the urgency of the fuel question, replied that he had indented for further supplies six weeks ago, and seemed quite hurt when we said that it had not actually arrived. These were the sort of people who ought to be "Stellenbosched," especially in a life and death business like war.

¹ This article is one of a series which will extend over several weeks.

We stayed in Durban for about ten days to draw up our final report; it was signed by the whole six of us without reservations. The rest and excellent food of our good hotel were very welcome to us. We took a German ship, the *Herzog*, from Durban to Naples, and had a most interesting journey, putting in at Beira, Mozambique, Zanzibar, Dar-es-Salaam, Lamu, Aden, etc. At Lamu our ship was visited by a health officer, who turned out to be Dr. Alfred Paget, son of our old friend, Sir George Paget, of Cambridge. He knew the place well, and was very good to us in helping us to see some of its curious manners and customs. A well-born native lady at Lamu is not content with being veiled; when she walks abroad she is enclosed in a little movable tent, which is carried by a female attendant who precedes her mistress. I got a "snap" of this example of female modesty, but Dr. Paget was very careful not to allow this to be discovered. Our ship proceeded very leisurely up the East Coast of Africa. Zanzibar was found a most entrancing place, the architecture was very attractive, the immensely thick walls giving deep recesses to all windows and doors and making an admirable effect. What I most remember of Zanzibar, however, is the wonderful beauty of the gold mohur-tree: it was in full blossom when we were there. The tree itself is as big as an English forest tree, and it was crowned by great trusses of scarlet flowers, glowing like fire against the dark blue sky. Sir Harry Johnston made a beautiful drawing of it, and used it as a sort of wall-paper design for a lining to one of his books on Africa. It was worth going to Africa just to see it in all its glory. We were also taken to Sir John Kirk's garden, a few miles out of Durban, full of all kinds of botanical treasures. The frangipani-tree is what I best remember there: very lovely and very sweet-scented, but not equal to the gold mohur-tree.

There was a Boer lady on board the *Herzog* with whom we made friends. She told us that at the same time as the terrible infant mortality was raging in the concentration camps, Mrs. Kruger, whom she knew intimately, had had six of her grandchildren to stay with her. The virulent form of measles which had swept the camps carried away four of these children in their grandmother's house, notwithstanding all the care which they received from the outset of the illness.

After we had returned home, and when our report had appeared as a Blue Book and had been circulated to both Houses of Parliament, I received the following letter from Mr. Broderick, now Lord Crewe:—

"Dear Mrs. Fawcett—Now that with the publication of the Blue Book your task may be said to be at an end, I cannot let time pass without expressing to you, and your colleagues who worked with you on the Concentration Camps Commission, my very sincere thanks for the able way in which you carried out the work which we asked you to undertake. The difficulties of it are well known to you who had to surmount them and did so with great success. The importance of it is patent to all who know what a great mass of questions were involved, and I hope you will kindly convey to your colleagues both here and in South Africa the thanks which are due to them and to yourself from me, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, for the very zealous and able way in which their arduous work was brought to a conclusion, which is, I think universally recognized to have been satisfactory.

Yours very truly,

ST. JOHN BRODERICK.

2 GOWER STREET,
8th March, 1902.

To this I replied:—

"Dear Mr. Broderick—Your kind letter received last night gave me very great pleasure, and I am sure my my colleagues, both here and in South Africa, will be equally gratified by it. We also feel very grateful for the kind and generous terms in which you and Mr. Chamberlain alluded to the work of our Commission, in the House of Commons, on Tuesday last. I am sure I may speak for my colleagues as well as for myself when I say it was a real satisfaction to us to be allowed to do some special work for our country in South Africa during the present crisis. I will not say that visiting and reporting on the camps was not fatiguing; but it was very interesting and quite straightforward and easy, for, as we said in reply to inquiries from the camp people at Aliwal North, all we had to do was "to see and hear all we could and to tell the truth."

Believe me, yours very truly,

MILLICENT G. FAWCETT.

THE FACTORY INSPECTOR: PAST AND PRESENT.

This book¹ presents surveys of the historical development and present organization of the Factory Inspectorate in twenty-five countries, including the U.S.A. Its compilation was due to the fact that Factory Inspection was the subject chosen for deliberation at the fifth session of the International Labour Conference, and the surveys were issued as a basis for discussion. On the historical side alone they are of considerable interest as showing how far we in Great Britain have travelled from the days when the health and morals of apprentices were supervised under the Act of 1802 by the parson and his fellow J.P.s. Other countries, too, we learn, tried various forms of amateur inspection without success. The school inspectors charged with administration of early labour laws in Switzerland managed no better than the honorary committees of France or the local boards of Spain. All these twenty-five countries have come sooner or later to the conclusion that the only effective method of securing satisfactory administration was the appointment of specially trained responsible officials. It is natural to look in a comparative report of this kind for likenesses and differences between the various countries, and readers of this paper will desire first and foremost to know how women stand. Four of the twenty-five countries dealt with are definitely mentioned as having no women inspectors—Switzerland, Spain, India, and Japan. No mention is made of women inspectors in Poland, Hungary, and the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, though the Polish Provisional Decree of January, 1919, lays down that the posts of factory inspectors are to be filled without distinction of sex. Although the survey of the position in each country contains a heading entitled "present organization," the exact position of the woman inspector in the various countries is not clear. It is manifest that it differs. In one country (Denmark) the women inspectors and their male colleagues "may be regarded as of equal rank," whereas in Finland the present scope of their activities "is very similar to that of the municipal inspectors in urban areas."

The question of qualification raises another interesting difference between the various countries. Some, like Belgium and Finland, definitely demand a technical degree or diploma from men candidates, women candidates being recruited differently. Others, like Great Britain, demand a University standard of general education, but in the case of men give preference to applicants technically qualified. Incidentally, we wonder why the same preference is not exercised in the case of women, since we are told that in the latest reorganization of the British system they were included in the general service on precisely the same footing as men. Only in a few cases in this book are we given definite information as to the scope of work of women inspectors. We are told that in Sweden they supervise workplaces which employ a large number of women workers all over Sweden; in Denmark they are responsible for certain classes of manufacture; and in the Austrian Republic they enforce the law particularly in undertakings where the majority of the workers are women. The Norwegian woman inspector follows the same course except, oddly enough, in the food industry, where she takes a leaf out of the book of her British colleague, whose duties since the recent reorganization, include the inspection of factories employing only men. Many other comparisons might be made between the different countries both in connexion with the duties laid upon inspectors and with the methods of enforcement adopted. Enough has been said to show that this is a book indispensable to the student of the subject, though not perhaps for the general reader. Even the general reader, however, may be interested in principles, and the paragraph on page 11 summarizing the two fundamental conceptions of factory inspection could hardly be bettered. The compilers of this survey fear that the uniform method of presentment may have blurred the individual characteristics of each national system. To us this does not seem so. Where the information is sufficient the picture is good; but the material is so incomplete that the reader is constantly brought up short and finds himself asking questions to which no answer is given. It would, however, be churlish to press this criticism of so gallant an attempt at a new piece of research. Instead, we would thank the I.L.O. for beginning to write for us the history of that specialized administration without which all our law-making is vain and unprofitable.

¹ "Factory Inspection: Historical Development and Present Organisation in Certain Countries." Pub. I.L.O., Geneva, 1923. Price 5s.

"TO A PROUD PHANTOM."

By ENA LIMEBEER (The Hogarth Press).

Miss Limebeer's work is already known to readers of *The New Statesman*, and of other weekly journals, and it is a pleasure to welcome her poems in book form. One is struck at once by the delicate craftsmanship, and the singing quality which is the essence of real lyric. The movement of *In Winter*, with the subtle variation of the lines within its apparent regularity, is beautiful, and this poem shares with *Fairy Night*, *After Sunset*, and others that unity of feeling which is another of the qualities of song, the song that springs to the lips as well as to the mind. We shall be surprised if some composer of the young English school does not make them his own before long.

Perhaps Miss Limebeer is happier in such poems, where she finds delicate symbols for her thought, than when she tries to come to closer grips with life. Song has its own instinctive wisdom: the freer and more personal poems seem to call for more direct philosophy. The sense of turbulent feeling imprisoned struggling with a delicate personality gives to these poems a curious elusiveness. The elusiveness perhaps of this generation: dreamers thrust so early and suddenly into harsh contact with reality—sometimes forcing themselves against it, as in the almost epigrammatic directness of *The Prostitute*, or in *Madness*,

"When soul sees soul and comprehends it
Thinking to grow wise."

sometimes seeking refuge in dreams; sometimes feeling that even dreams too elude us:

"Then I will crouch inside my little house
Built by where the moon's feet gliding go
And I will not come out to find the footsteps,
Even long afterward, on the silver snow."

The adjusting of that relation of vision to personal experience is the personal problem of every poet; to the solution of which in Miss Limebeer's later work we shall look forward with expectation.

M. RADFORD.

A CHOICE OF BOOKS.

BYRON AND GREECE. By HAROLD SPENDER. (Murray, 15s.)

Mr. Spender has made a complete collection in this not unhandy volume of all "the passages both of prose and verse—poems and letters—in which Lord Byron gave form and expression to that passion for Greece which he sealed with his death on 19th April, 1824."

THE SEASONS IN WOOD AND VALLEY. By E. M. WILLIAMS. (Duckworth, 6s.)

Of the making of nature books there is no end, but this little volume is sure of a welcome wherever it is known. Under the heading of each month, Miss Williams, has arranged her short studies, packed with first-hand observation, terse, and often charming in the exact manner of their setting forth. Wild creatures, plants, and butterflies are her usual theme, but she also records the talk of her friends the "foresters" and episodes in their lives.

THE LOST DOMINION. By A. L. CARTHILL. (Blackwood, 15s.)

Those who are making a study of the situation in India must take into account this book, as remarkable for the inside knowledge it reveals as for its denunciation of the handling of events by those in authority in India. Nothing is lost by the extremely able and pointed way in which the author develops his thesis.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER (Continued from page 119).

THE EFFECT OUTSIDE BIG BEN

The Budget will strengthen the Government in the country as well as in the House. It is a positive achievement and will do much to rally forces not actually allied to the Labour Party in support of a Radical policy. As to the situation in the House. It drives Radical M.P.s above and below the gangway closer together, and in its Free Trade proposals gives the Conservatives a motive to try and get an appeal to the country soon. I think they will be disappointed. The latest joke in the Lobby is to the effect that if a certain loquacious M.P. and the Sergeant-at-Arms rose at the same time, Mr. Speaker would call "The Sergeant!"

GREEN BENCH.

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

LONDON'S FOREIGN ELEMENT.

By D. L. HALDINSTEIN.

It was on a Friday afternoon that I first found myself in the strange neighbourhood of Aldgate. With its unfamiliar language and numbers of foreign-looking people, it might well have been some street far removed from England. I learnt later that the chubby little dark-haired children playing in the roads in dangerous proximity to the passing traffic, were mostly Poles by birth, whose parents had fled from an intolerable existence to find peace and freedom in England. This was no new movement. For the past twenty years or more Jews had migrated to England where they knew they could practise their religion without fear of persecution by the Government. The Home Office regulations framed with a thought of the unemployment here, have now made it more difficult for any foreigner of any nationality to come into the country.

It seemed strange on this particular evening that the streets should be so full of children, when in other parts of London schools would still be open; but it was "Shabbos" evening here. I followed one dark-eyed Hannah up a narrow, ill-smelling alley to the front of a small block of flats which is a common feature of this neighbourhood. The name "Starlight Building, Mulberry Street" sounded like a mockery. Peeping into the freshly swept living room, I saw that the table was laid as though for a feast. Two fine old silver candle-sticks stood amongst a collection of the most appetising dishes. Now I knew why there were so many fried fish shops in Aldgate and Stepney and Whitechapel, and never a sign of the shell fish stalls so common in a poor district where the word "kosher" (or clean food) is unknown. A stout, dark-haired woman was calling from the top of the building to a child in the street below. Her words were in Yiddish, a mixture of Hebrew and German that had been used in the ghettos for centuries. But Yettie, with her English education, answered: "Righto, mum, I'm coming. I shall have my 'Shabbos' frock on in a jiffy."

Back in High Street the thoroughfare seemed more crowded than ever. Everyone was buying from the street stalls, cakes, fruit or meat for the Sabbath meal, while the queue from the Free Library on one side of the road vied in length with that of the Labour Exchange on the other. The number of tailors' shops and milliners also struck me. Perhaps that accounted for the extraordinary smartness of the young working girls who seemed strangely out of harmony with their squalid surroundings. The names over the shops were all foreign-sounding, such a Gaborinsky, Kaufman, Kish, or Chikowski. Even the posters on the hoardings, and the cinema advertisements were written in this Semitic tongue, resembling a page from a Hebrew book.

The trams and buses had the greatest difficulty in making any progress through the swarms of people, though this was one of the broadest thoroughfares in East London. The furious ringing of the driver's bell, and the hooting of the busman's motor horn, added to the uproar caused by the stall-holders shouting their wares. Once or twice I met one of those greasy, bearded "Schnorrers" who seemed to have stepped straight out of a Zangwill story. For the first time since pre-war days I noticed the picturesque figure of the onion seller bearing his load over his shoulder, and I wondered whether Breton onions were popular in this neighbourhood.

Amongst this crowd was an occasional health visitor or Care Committee secretary, easily recognizable by her taller slighter build and duller clothing—one of that huge army of municipal or voluntary workers who are for ever waging war on disease and ignorance in this thickly inhabited borough. Before I boarded my bus the crowd was beginning to diminish and the stalls were being packed up as the wintry sun went down and the peace of "Shabbos" pervaded the scene.

OBITUARY.—E. NESBIT.

Those of our readers who were children at the beginning of the century, will note with a pang of special regret the death on Sunday last, of E. Nesbit (Mrs. Hubert Bland). E. Nesbit covered, in her writings, a peculiar variety of experiences. As a hot Socialist, she collaborated with her late husband, Hubert Bland, a leading member of the Fabian Society. As an equally passionate imperialist, she devoted her ready pen to the glory of the Diamond Jubilee, and later, the cause of the Allies during the Great War. She wrote novels, short stories, poems, and essays. But overtopping them all she wrote excellent children's books, among which *The Treasure Seekers* stands unequalled—except perhaps by Charlotte Younge's *Stokesley Secret*.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: Miss ELEANOR RATHBONE, C.C., J.P. Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. SODDY. Hon. Secretary: Miss E. MACADAM. Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HUBBACK. Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1. Telephone: Victoria 6188.

THE SUMMER SESSION.

On the reassembling of Parliament we find most of the Bills for which our Societies are working, e.g. the Representation of the People Act (1918) Amendment Bill, the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bill, and the Legitimacy Bill still awaiting their turn on Standing Committees which are unfortunately dealing with Bills on which obstructionists are delighting to exercise their art. The Government Bill on the Guardianship of Infants will be introduced in the House of Lords very shortly. The Bill has not yet been printed.

A MONEY-RAISING ADVENTURE.

Response to our Appeal is already forthcoming and a preliminary list will be published in these columns next week. Several of our Societies have already announced their intention of having a money-raising effort. North District, Croydon, for instance, is organizing a Garden Whist Drive. We shall be most grateful if those of our Members who are prepared to help would themselves send out copies of the Appeal to those whom they think would be interested in our work.

A BRIDGE AND MAH-JONGG TOURNAMENT.

Owing to the illness of Mrs. Clement Davies, who had kindly offered her house for the above Tournament, we much regret it must be postponed for the present.

BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.—I.W.S.A. Pavilion.

Announcements will be made next week of the Conferences which are being arranged weekly on Wednesdays in the above pavilion by the British Overseas Committee of the I.W.S.A., on which the N.U.S.E.C. is represented. The Conferences will start on Wednesday, 28th May. The general title of the Conferences will be "The Legal and Economic Status of Women in the Empire," and will deal with subjects such as Franchise, Women Members of Parliament, Maintenance of Wives and Children, the Unmarried Mother, Opportunities in Industry and in the Professions, Problems of Population, and Family Endowment.

MASS MEETING ON EQUAL PAY FOR TEACHERS.

We draw the attention of our members to a Mass Meeting to be held in Trafalgar Square on Saturday, 10th May, at 2.45 p.m., to demand Equal Pay for Men and Women Teachers of the same Professional Status. The chair will be taken by Miss Conway (Bradford), President N.U.W.T., and the speakers will be Members of Parliament and leading Women Teachers. We much hope that as many of our members as possible will be present at this meeting. Further particulars and handbills may be obtained from the General Secretary, National Union of Women Teachers, 29 Gordon Square, W.C. 1.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE RECEPTION.

A reception was held on 5th May, by Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President of the I.W.S.A., and the Lady Isabel Margesson for the League of Nations Section of the Forum Club, in the drawing-room of the Club, to meet Presidents and Members of the Affiliated Societies of the Alliance. A large and representative gathering was present, including Lady Astor, Mrs. Wintringham, Miss A. Furjhelm. Short speeches were made by Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Mrs. Wintringham, Miss Plaminkova (Czecho-Slovakia), Miss Montgomery (Ireland), Miss Manus (Holland), Dr. Luisi (Uruguay), etc., etc. A record was given of the position of the Woman's Movement in other countries, and the need for an international spirit was emphasized by speaker after speaker.

OBITUARY.—MISS DUMBLETON.

We much regret having to record the death of Miss A. E. Dumbleton on 1st May, at Winchester. Miss Dumbleton, whose charming and gracious personality will be remembered by her fellow workers at Winchester, and by Students at our Summer School, and by the Staff at Headquarters, had for many years given time and labour to the National Union. As Honorary Secretary of the Winchester W.C.A., and as Honorary worker at Headquarters, Miss Dumbleton's untiring and conscientious work was of the greatest value.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

(British Section: 55 Gower Street, W.C. 1.)

Hitherto the work of the British Section of the Women's International League has been necessarily largely concentrated on Europe. During the next few weeks there will be a unique opportunity for establishing contact and making known their International work for peace, and special efforts are being made during the Wembley Exhibition to get into touch with overseas visitors during their stay in England.

The Women's International League has taken a room in the Pavilion of the International Council of Women (E. S., South) for the week 19th-24th May. There an Information Bureau will be open, dealing with the activities of the League, past and present, and a rallying point will be supplied for overseas friends and supporters of the Peace Movement, British and Foreign, from all parts of the world.

On 28th May in the Large Hall there will be a Conference in two sessions (2.30-8 p.m.), on the responsibility of the Women of the British Empire in relation to Peace Work.

On the afternoon of the 23rd May there will be a Reception in the Small Hall.

Amongst the speakers on these occasions will be Mrs. C. P. Trevelyan, Mrs. Swanwick, Mrs. Barton, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Jewson, Miss Sheepshanks, Miss C. Willis, and some of the delegates who have returned from the Washington Congress.

Offers of help at Wembley will be welcomed and should be sent to the Secretary, W.I.L., 55 Gower Street, W.C.

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION OF CARE COMMITTEES.

This Association was formed mainly on the suggestion of the General Board of Control for Scotland and held its first meeting in February of last year. The members are composed of representatives of a large number of Parish Councils, Education Authorities, Town Councils, and District Boards of Control, and of many social and Voluntary Organizations. The Association is interested chiefly in Mental Welfare Work and particularly in the care of former pupils of the mental section of Special Classes Schools. One of the aims of the Association is to set up throughout Scotland Local Committees for the care of such cases, and at the same time to establish occupation centres for children who are unable to benefit by attendance at Special Classes School and also for those who have left such Schools and cannot find employment. In September last Miss Jeffries, 25 Palmerston Place, Edinburgh, was appointed whole-time Organizer and much valuable work has been accomplished by her. Several Local Care Committees have been formed in different parts of Scotland and these are affiliated with the Central Association. The Second Annual Meeting of the Association will be held in the Y.M.C.A. Hall, Edinburgh, on Friday, 23rd May, at 3.30 o'clock. The Right Hon. Lord Murray, C.M.G., LL.D., President, will occupy the chair, and the Right Hon. William Adamson, the Secretary for Scotland, will speak. Dr. William Potts, a well-known Birmingham authority on mental cases, will also address the meeting on "Some Social Aspects of the Mentally Defective."

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE GRIEVANCES OF MIDWIVES.

MADAM,—May I support most warmly the letter in your issue of the 25th April over the signature of V. C. C. Collum stressing the importance of advice and help for healthy pregnant women which shall not be that of the medical practitioner, whose training is too much associated with disease. I have long felt the importance to the nation of securing that the healthy mother is catered for by others than those saturated in the mental atmosphere of disease, and now that the subject is becoming prominent, what I said in 1920 in *Radiant Motherhood* is appropriate:

"I should like to see a new profession created for women who, to the experience and the training of first-class midwives, have added a sufficient training in general medicine to be specialized to advise the healthy prospective mother, and to be able to detect at once anything which should necessitate handing her on to the doctor of disease. Such practitioners should rank in status somewhere between the cultivated midwife of gentle birth (such as a Queen Charlotte's Hospital nurse) and the medical woman."

MARIE C. STOPES.

A DANGEROUS TRADE.

MADAM,—Hitherto the whole of the Feminist Press, like Sir Robert Peel's Parliament, "would not suffer the word *Midwifery* to be mentioned." One rubs one's eyes, therefore, and gives thanks for the space you are devoting to it. As a journalist, one is bound to admit that such a scare headline as the one hit upon by your sub-editor, namely, "A Dangerous Trade," must have been tempting, if rather *yellow* in complexion than agrees with the fadeless red, white, and green of glorious days of battle. One deprecates both the noun and the adjective, in spite of effectiveness, because one doesn't expect a level-headed suffragist organ to imply, even in passing, that human motherhood is akin to queen-beeing, worked at full-time in segregation to the job; still less in an organ so closely identified with the claim for a sliding wage commensurate with the size of the family and for pensions for civilian widows with dependent children. When one thinks of the economic conditions of widowed and of unmarried mothers the term "trade" becomes a cruel irony. So much for the noun. The adjective "dangerous" itself becomes a danger to weak "suggestionable" minds. One of the greatest difficulties of the obstetrician is in trying to clear away the psychological rubbish that has encrusted the ideas of child-birth in the minds of the pregnant woman (and her family), superstitions and terrors whose realities are in inverse proportion to the amount of actual suffering they occasion. It was the male midwife of a French king's mistress to whom we owe the *mot*, "pregnancy is an illness nine months long," a statement as unscientific as the stupid arguments that women could not vote or sit in Parliament because of their sex, or

that a woman M.P. must see less of her children than if she spent the same time of absence from them as an actress or a bridge-player.

Madam Editor, in all considerations of maternal mortality one needs to get down to first principles; the sacredness of life; the importance to the community of those who give life at the risk of their own; and the inalienable duty of the whole community to that section to see to it that life-giving is accompanied by the *irreducible minimum of risk, of suffering, impairment, and death*. This is the first consideration. The second is that all professional attendants on women in child-birth shall be suitably trained, supervised, and remunerated. Neither doctors nor midwives are at present sufficiently trained. Only one category, the doctors, are sufficiently remunerated. Only one category, the midwives, are inspected. These are highly contentious questions, and the solutions will be slow and gradual.

Meanwhile, at least one half of the present maternity mortality could be reduced here and now by a change of public opinion and public habits. Knowing, and rightly, that the medical profession is more highly educated than the midwifery profession, the public concludes, and *wrongly*, that there is greater security by engaging a doctor than a midwife, or by engaging a doctor for delivery and a midwife for nursing. Over and over again the midwives in England and other countries have demanded to have separate statistics, distinguishing the incidence of mortality and morbidity in doctors' and midwives' practices respectively. This has always been strenuously obstructed by the medical profession, which has fought a hard, but losing, warfare against the better training of midwives everywhere also. The demand for better and longer training—and even for inspection—has come from midwives themselves, backed by an enlightened body of the general public, aware of the atrocities bad midwifery implies.

The Health Minister, himself, in his reply to Lieut.-Col. Fremantle, M.P., recently declared he was ignorant of whether the mortality figures were higher in doctors' or in midwives' cases—a most extraordinary confession from such a quarter and on such a matter—when asked in the House "if the maternal death rate was not stationary for the last 20 years at, or about, 4 per 1,000 births; and whether in midwives' cases it was only 2 per 1,000 births?"

So far as I have been able to ascertain, Madam Editor, there is only one State which compiles and issues separate statistics of maternity mortality and morbidity incident in the two professions' cases. In Bavaria (excluding cases confined in institutions) 1 death occurs in every 144 doctors' maternity cases (approximately 6.9 per 1,000), and only 1 in every 362 midwives' maternity cases (about 2.7 per 1,000). No one who knows the conditions in Bavaria would say that the doctors there were less skilful, or the midwives more skilful, than our own.

But the whole solution lies with the *organized* woman's vote. Midwifery, like Temperance, is a woman's question, because it affects the homes of the nation as a whole, and because it is a matter in which women are the chief sufferers. One remembers Mrs. Park's clever propagandist postcard, inscribed:—

"Politics is not outside the Home."

It is inside the Baby."

(Mrs.) KATHARINE GILLET-GATTY.

HOUSING CREDITS.

MADAM,—Although you added to your last comments the words "this correspondence must now cease" I imagine you do not intend to deprive me of the privilege of the last word, which is, I believe, generally allowed to the opener. There is no space now for argument, but I want to make the following statements without arguing them:—

- (1) It ought to be possible to discover for certain whether "bank loans create deposits," as most bankers and economists say they do, or whether bank loans chiefly consist of depositors' money.
- (2) "Remunerative enterprise" is not necessarily "real trade." Pure speculation is often extremely remunerative to individuals, and in any case banks demand ample security before making credits.
- (3) I am not in favour of any *inflationary* issue of credits resulting in rising prices.
- (4) I am fully aware "the public" cannot get money for nothing; the banking trusts are the people who do that, and we pay for it.

With my thanks for the kind hospitality of your pages.

ALISON NEILANS.

[To confess the truth, we had intended to deprive our correspondent of the last word, on the assumption that the editorial right of comment over-rides even the right of an opener to the last word. But Miss Neilan's concluding sentence disarms our obstinacy, and her third statement satisfies us concerning her orthodoxy. So we will leave it at that.—ED.]

TO VISITORS TO LONDON.

THE LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE have pleasure in announcing that the Women's Service House and Members' Centre, 35 (formerly 16) Marsham Street, Westminster, S.W. 1, will be opened from 13th May onward. For details of opening ceremonies see "Coming Events."

House Membership, 10/6, giving free use of Information Bureau and Members' Centre, with Reading-room for quiet study, and Restaurant.

Overseas Membership (for persons residing in Great Britain for less than six months), 5/-.

Membership, 2/6 (plus 1/- a day for house privileges when required).

Enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary,

MISS PHILIPPA STRACHEY.

COMING EVENTS.

GUILDHOUSE W.C.S.

MAY 12. 3-4.30 p.m. Lecture on Town Gardening by Mr. Richard Sudell, A.R.H.S. (Secretary London Gardens Guild).

BERKSHIRE FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES.

MAY 10. 2.30 p.m. Girls' Club, Chain Street, Reading. Mrs. Berry on "Widows' Pensions."

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CLUB, 55 GOWER STREET, W.C.1.

MAY 15. 8 p.m. Mrs. Ayrton Gould on "Widows' Pensions and the Guardianship of Infants."

THE LABOUR PARTY.

MAY 13 and 14. Guildhouse, S.W. 1. National Conference of Labour Women.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

MAY 13. 4-6 and 8-10 p.m. 35 Marsham Street, S.W. 1. Opening of Women's Service House and Members' Centre by the President, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., the Mayor and Mayoress of Westminster, Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., the Rt. Hon. Sir Samuel Hoare, Bart., M.P., and others.

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NORTH DEVON.—Few Paying Guests received; comfortable cottage, sea and country, interesting part; terms moderate.—Pottery, Fremington.

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WEST OF ENGLAND.—Wanted to rent, preferably unfurnished and near sea, Country COTTAGE.—Ryan, "Rustington," Mulgrave Road, Sutton.

WEEK-ENDS IN THE COUNTRY.—Saturday to Monday, 20s. Week-end tickets, 6s. Little country house; garden; near station.—Miss Basnett, Foxley Villas, Wokingham, Berks.

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN.—Floors to let at 32 Norfolk Square, Hyde Park, W. 2. Close to Paddington Station.

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FOR PROFESSIONAL WOMEN and others, newly decorated bed-sitting rooms; gas fires, own meters; near Gloucester Road and Earls Court Stations. Telephone, Western 1202.—Box 1061, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

PROFESSIONAL.

LEARN TO KEEP ACCOUNTS.—There are especially good lessons in book-keeping at Miss Blakeney's School of Typewriting and Shorthand, Wentworth House, Maurea Road, Chelsea, S.W. 3. "I learnt more there in a week," says an old pupil, "than I learnt elsewhere in a month." Pupils prepared for every kind of secretarial post.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

EDINBURGH W.C.A. MAY 14. 8 p.m. Royal Society of Arts Hall, 117 George Street. Discussion, "Scottish Hospitals: should they be Voluntary, or State-Aided and Rate-Aided?" Speakers: Sir George Beatson, M.D., K.C.B., and Mr. John S. Fraser, M.B., F.R.C.S.E.

EXETER S.E.C. MAY 14. 3 and 8 p.m. Café Chantant at Barnfield Hall. Afternoon tickets 3s. and 2s., evening tickets 2s. 6d. and 1s. 6d.

PRESTON S.E.C. MAY 13. 7.30 p.m. Annual Members' Meeting at Orient Café.

READING S.E.C. MAY 10. 3.30 p.m. Girls' Club, Chain Street. Mrs. Berry on "Widows' Pensions."

ROTHERAM W.C.A. MAY 13. 7.30 p.m. Miners' Institute, Packgate. "Can you provide for your children out of your weekly wage?" Speaker: Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., C.C. Chair: S. Featherstone, Esq., J.P.

NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN TEACHERS.

MAY 10. 2.45 p.m. Mass Meeting in Trafalgar Square to demand Equal Pay for Men and Women Teachers. Chair: Miss M. Conway. Speakers: Well-known Members of Parliament and leading Women Teachers.

LACE.—All kinds mended, cleaned and restored, embroidery undertaken; church work, monograms, initials.—Beatrice, Box 1,017, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 35 Marsham Street, Westminster, S.W. 1. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Members' Centre Inaugural Ceremonies, see "Coming Events." House and Restaurant open to members from 14th May. Information Bureau as usual.

THE PIONEER CLUB has reopened at 12 Cavendish Place. Town Members £5 5s.; Country and Professional Members £4 4s. Entrance fee in aliyance (*pro tem.*).

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 11th May, 3.30. Music; Lecture, Rev. Hudson Shaw, "Life and Works of John Ruskin." 6.30, Maude Royden, "In what sense do we believe in the Atonement?"

JOIN INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CLUB, 55 Gower Street, W.C. 1. Subscription, 7s. 6d. per annum. Luncheons, and Teas in the Cafeteria. Thursday Club Suppers 7 p.m., and Discussion Meetings 8 p.m. 13th May: Mrs. Ayrton Gould on "Widows' Pensions and Guardianship of Infants."

HOUSE ASSISTANTS' CENTRE

510 King's Road, Chelsea, S.W. 10.
Telephone: Kensington 5213.

The Employment Office connected with the above Centre was closed on December 14th, 1923, but the office has been open for interviews on as many Fridays as possible. Every Friday has been impossible, owing to illness, and the office will be closed altogether for interviews until further notice, except by special appointment made by letter three days at least beforehand.

ANN POPE, HONORARY SECRETARY.
(Member of the American Home Economics Association.)

HOME-MADE CAKES, made with butter and eggs (no substitutes), can be obtained from Nan's Kitchen, 15 Furnival Street, Holborn, London, W.C. Layer cakes, éclairs, meringues, etc. Regular orders undertaken. A room for tea and light luncheons. Recommended by Ann Pope.

THE SHIELD CO-OPERATIVE RESTAURANT, 1 Marsham Street, Westminster, S.W. 1, has an excellent French cook. After 3 o'clock there are two rooms on the 1st floor which can be engaged for private tea parties. Tea and lunch served daily in the restaurant. Smoking-room.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER can be supplied direct from this Office for **1½d.** including postage. Send 6/6 to the Manager, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1, and the paper will be sent to you at any address for a whole year. Persuade your friends to do the same.

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