# THE **IOMAN'S LEADER** AND THE COMMON CAUSE

Vol. XXI.	No. 25.	Twopence.	REGISTERED AS Friday, July 26, 1929.
THE UNIVERSIT SERVICE. I NOTES FROM W LITTER AND LO Mason .	CONTENTS. FORM OF HOUSIN Y GRADUATE ANI 3y N. M. ESTMINSTER. By OCAL AUTHORITIES PARLIAMENT	G SUBSIDY . 195 D THE CIVIL 196 Crossbench . 196 S. By Bertha 197	the shape of children's rent rebates. The gist of her argument was that if housing policy had confessedly failed hitherto to relieve slum dwellers and those living under overcrowded conditions, it was because the policy had been dominated by an economic fallacy, namely that so purely personal a factor as incapacity to pay an economic rent, which varies infinitely with the individual, can possibly be dealt with through a subsidy spent on a flat rate reduction of rent amounting to 3s. 6d. a week. She argued that the subsidy, though necessarily based on the house, should not be spent on the house, but by reducing the rent in varying proportions to various groups of tenants whose
	for Postal Subscriber Abroad, 10/10. shing Co., 4 Tufton Stre		needs were sorest, especially those with young children. She urged that this could be done under the present law if the Ministry of Health would bless and encourage such a policy, and further that a select committee should be set up to deal

## NOTES AND NEWS.

## The Fulfilment of a Pledge.

Our fears, expressed last week, with regard to the schoolleaving age, were set at rest a few hours after they appeared in print by Sir Charles Trevelyan's announcement in the House of Commons on 18th July. After careful consideration, he said, the Government had decided to raise the school-leaving age to 15, as from 1st April, 1931. This is presumably the minimum time in which local education authorities can carry through the necessary structural and administrative preparations for this extension of their work, and it is unlikely that the most impatient educational enthusiast will seriously criticize the duration of the proposed time-lag. Moreover, it must be remembered that the change is likely to involve a considerable reorientation of the curriculum and a new emphasis on the break between elementary and secondary education at eleven years. Four years of secondary education will, after 1931, become part and parcel of the minimum equipment with which young citizens face the world. Whether this socially beneficent change will stimulate any conscious resistance among financially over-burdened parents is yet to be determined. Miss Froud, of the National Union of Women Teachers, considers that the value of educational opportunity is universally appreciated to-day as never before. But without doubt the answer to this particular question is bound to depend upon the policy pursued by the Government in the matter of maintenance allowances during the last year of school life; and on this matter Sir Charles Trevelyan was non-committal. He " could not yet say what the form and amount of the maintenance grant will be granted. It would, however, appear from this answer that maintenance allowances in some form or another are part and parcel of the Government's scheme. And, indeed, how could it be otherwis?e To promote educational opportunity at the expense of accentuating the existing intolerable burden of family dependency on an inelastic and inadequate family wage would be to rob Peter for Paul's payment. The possible fear that 1931 may usher in a stringency in the juvenile labour market leaves us wholly unmoved. Industrial organization has hitherto shown itself capable of a ready response to social and legal standards, whatever dismal prophecies may herald its efforts. It is high time it closed some of its capacious juvenile blind alleys, and this new educational measure is calculated to stimulate the process.

## Miss Rathbone's Maiden Speech.

It was a fortunate accident which enabled Miss Eleanor Rathbone to devote an exceptionally effective maiden speech to two of the subjects to which she has given special studydirectly to housing and incidentally to family allowances in

to to wded d by actor nitely bsidy week. 1 the g the hose She the olicy deal with the problem of housing, not from the structural but from the tenancy point of view. The House was obviously struck by the force of this argument, as well as by the masterly style of its presentation, and subsequent conversations in the lobbics of the House suggested that seldom has a maiden speech made so profound an impression on its hearers.

## The London Lock Hospital Situation.

Our readers will be glad to learn that a partial measure of success has attended the efforts of those who have urged publicity for the majority and minority reports of the Committee of Inquiry into the London Lock Hospital and Home. The Ministry of Health has issued a white paper containing a pre-fatory note by the Minister, the recommendations of the Committee and a letter from the Board of the Institution describing the steps taken to give effect to the recommendations. the steps taken to give effect to the recommendations. We congratulate the Minister on this publication, which confirms our opinion "that a drastic revision of the laws and rules of the Institution is imperatively needed." But we would remind the Minister that on 30th April, in the House of Commons, he himself spoke in favour of the publication of the complete report on the ground that "suppression was wrong". Once again we urge full publication in order that the public may judge from the evidence submitted the adequacy of the proposed from the evidence submitted the adequacy of the proposed reforms. We consider that the charges made public by the late Ladies' Committee should be proved or disproved. We cannot feel satisfied that a monetary payment "as an act of grace" to the three women members of the staff who were dismissed gives adequate justice if these officers were discharged without due cause. Further, while we welcome the new decision of the Board of Management to enlarge itself to include women, we should like to know on what principle they will be selected. The case for full publication has been raised by women Members in the House of Commons and was stated in a convincing letter to *The Times* by Sir Reginald Poole. In fairness to the dismissed officers and in the interest of all hospitals the report should be published at once.

## A Courageous Stand.

Everyone will welcome Lord Byng's courageous line over the outrageous behaviour of medical students at a recent anti-vivisectionist meeting in Caxton Hall. Lord Byng states frankly that he has come to the conclusion that the officer in charge of the detachment of the police sent to the hall, failed to deal with the situation in an effective manner and asks that his sincere regret should be conveyed to the chairman of the meeting. He has written to the authorities of the Medical Schools calling their attention to the breaking-up of the meeting and asking that steps should be taken to prevent its recurrence. We express no views for or against vivisection, but nothing can, in our opinion, justify such interference with the free expression

## Woman to make Aerial Survey.

The world of science is no longer a strange country to woman, the invader, and certainly in the field of aviation some women have already made their mark. Nevertheless, many people must have been surprised that the British Association should have chosen a woman to make an aerial survey of the legendary site of King Solomon's mines in South Rhodesia. Miss Caton-Thompson, who has been thus honoured, is a British explorer of high repute and her two assistants are both experts, so it is expected that their work will result in some very valuable material. The appointment is significant of the acceptance of women in the world of aviation, where there is an ever-widening field of work in various parts of the world for those who hold scientific qualifications.

## Spanish Women Make Progress.

Which will be the first of the Latin countries to enfranchise its women ? The latest reports from Spain point to that country as a likely winner in the race. Women in Spain will have all political privileges now possessed by men when Constitutional Government is restored, possibly in 1930. A section of the new Constitution says that all Spanish citizens over 25 years of age of both sexes are voters, and that election to the proposed new National Assembly will be open to women on the same conditions as men. It was a significant sign that when the new Constitution was presented to the National Assembly it was read by a woman secretary, Senorita Carmen Cuesta. The feminist movement in Spain has been steadily growing; there are now women doctors, engineers, publicists and airwomen, and in business life woman's position has become more important. We hope that before long the movement will be crowned by equal suffrage, for without that the tide cannot advance very far. It would no doubt give a great impetus to the movement if one of the inspiring Congresses of the International Suffrage Alliance could be held in Madrid.

## Policewomen In Turkey.

The Turkish Women's Union has asked, and been denied, permission to found a school for the training of Policewomen. It appears that the Constantinople police director, from whom the refusal comes, is of opinion that Turkish crime calls for a double dose of physical force. That it has hitherto called forth this particular characteristic appears, indeed, to be the case; for a special official investigation is at present being made into charges of police brutality to arrested persons. Thus it would appear as though the objection lodged by the police director might well serve as a valuable argument in the mouths of those who are attempting to promote the training of women police. Meanwhile, in view of Mustapha Kemal's recent campaign of headlong feminist reform, it is almost refreshing to meet with a full blown example of the *Turk complex* at the seat of its reputed origin.

## A Plea for Equality of Comfort.

On one of the hottest days of last week Mr. A. J. Cook, of the Miners' Federation, raised the standard of sex equality in the matter of dress. Combining common sense with personal courage, he entered a Bloomsbury restaurant without his coat. On being told by the manageress that under such conditions no waitress would be permitted to serve him he referred to the obvious and relevant fact that many ladies were being served in spite of the fact that their arms were bare to the shoulders. The manageress, as is the way with persons responsible for the enforcement of oppressive, indefensible and inequitable sex disqualifications, replied that such were her instructions, and that was that. We have been obliged on previous occasions to with-hold our sympathy from Mr. Cook. On this occasion, however, we offer it to him in full measure. Why his female colleagues should be allowed to sport bare arms while he is required, however hot the weather, to encase his in a double cylinder of cotton and dark woollen cloth, we cannot see. And yet we fear that in this case we can do little to help men if they will not help themselves. We have shown them the way to freedom. They must strike their own blow.

## The Rights of Married Women.

Just now when one hears almost daily of new penalizations of married women, it is good to read of the decision of the National Conference of German Socialists recognizing the industrial equality of women and the right of married women to retain their positions in industry. The adoption of the resolution followed a great deal of discussion in the Socialist Press of Germany, and was based on the assumption that in order to realize the aims of Socialism it was necessary to have the collaboration of women as well as men. The resolution recognizes that to-day it is numerically as well as technically impossible to force woman out of the shop and replace her by man. Furthermore, such action would violate the Social Democrats' established principle of the right of woman to industrial labour. In view of the strongly expressed views of the German Social Democrats in regard to the necessity of restrictive legislation for women in industry, it is good to know that they recognize the right of married women to choose their own work.

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## Miss Edyth Goodall.

The untimely death of Miss Edyth Goodall has robbed the English stage of a talented and versatile player, trained in the incomparable school of Horniman repertoire and worthy of its traditions. Her peculiar aptitudes seemed at an early stage to precipitate her into a groove of melodrama, in which a powerful command of emotional intensity diverted attention from a certain lack of tenderness and grace which seemed to characterize her art. To the outside observer it sometimes appeared as though for some reason or other Miss Goodall was failing to secure parts worthy of her considerable abilities. Yet two Shaw plays gave her, at various times, golden opportunities— Widower's Houses and Mrs. Warren's Profession. In both, her somewhat ferocious talent had adequate scope. We could have wished that such occurrences had been more frequently repeated.

## Memorial to Gertrude Bell.

A memorial to Miss Gertrude Bell, one of the most distinguished women of the century, is to be erected at Baghdad, Iraq, in memory of her work in that country. Miss Anne Acheson's Portrait Bust of Miss Bell was on exhibition at the Forum Club recently, giving those who remember the keen eyes and pointed features so full of vitality, an opportunity of seeing how strikingly these characteristics can be portrayed in bronze. The portrait was a live thing dominating the room. The memorial is to be a doorway in the courtyard of the Museum which Miss Bell herself founded at Baghdad. The bronze bust and bronze tablet with its inscription both in English and Arabic, will have a background of yellow Yorkshire stone which is also being sent out direct from this country. The inscription runs as follows : "Her memory the Arabs will always hold in reverence and affection. She created this Museum in 1923, being then Honorary Director of Antiquities for Iraq. With wonderful knowledge and devotion she assembled the most precious objects in it and through the heat of the summer worked on them until the day of her death on 12th July, 1926. King Faisal and the Government of Iraq in gratitude for her deeds in this country have ordered that the principal wing shall bear her name and with their permission her friends have erected this tablet." The memorial has been designed by Mr. J. M. Wilson, and the work has been carried out by Miss Anne Acheson. It will be remembered that Miss Acheson was a member of the important small committee entrusted with the responsibility of inviting and hanging the work at Wembley in the great exhibition of British sculpture.

## An Honorary Degree for Miss Lily Montagu.

We are glad to learn that the Hon. Lily Montagu, J.P., has received from the Faculty and Board of Governors of the Hebrew Union College of Cincinnatti the honorary Degree of Doctor of Hebrew Law in recognition of her lifelong service to Judaism. It was Miss Montagu who, after championing the cause f Liberal Judaism in England, conceived the idea of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. She is the first Jewish woman on whom such a distinction has been conferred.

## JULY 26, 1929.

Miss Susan Lawrence has made it perfectly clear that the Government's action last week in arresting the decline of the existing housing subsidy, was something less than a half-way measure in preparation for the constructive policy mentioned in the King's Speech. To the development of that policy we must now look forward, in the hope that when it comes it may embody in some form the type of additional subsidy which we have for a long time past advocated in these columns : the rent allowance, adjusted to the size of the family. We are aware, however, that this particular device, in spite of the vivid and unanswerable exponency by Miss Rathbone in the House of Commons on July 22, may still appear to many people as a new and somewhat startling form of public subsidy. Certainly those who find themselves face to face with it for the first time are slow to recognize it as an equally logical expression of the time-honoured principle of social provision in response to proved need, already embodied in our fifty year old system of national education as well as in our more modern embryonic maternity and child welfare service. Therefore we make no apology for returning to the subject once again in order to dwell upon one aspect of the rent allowance which may commend it peculiarly to those whose desire for an adequate national housing policy is qualified by grave apprehensions concerning the resulting drain on the national exchequer. The rent allowance is, in sober fact, and in spite of its profound social significance, the cheapest form of subsidy that can be devised. That is not to say, of course, that it is cheaper than no subsidy at all, or that it is cheaper than a subsidy so inadequate in amount as to make no appreciable difference to the number of new houses available at rents which will compete effectively with those of slum property, and thus relieve the overcrowding which successive national housing programmes have so far failed to diminish. It is the cheapest form of subsidy that can be devised to satisfy the standards of those who are determined that the problem of overcrowding shall be solved.

Let us follow the stages of reasoning which Mr. E. D. Simon has set forth in his recently published book, How to Abolish the Slums—since they seem to us irrefutable and have not so far been refuted. Let us assume that if the slums are to be drained of their teeming population, preparatory to successful rebuilding or reconditioning, alternative ouses must be available at round about 7s. and 8s. a week. Let us assume that existing subsidies may be relied upon to secure the provision of minimum standard houses at 10s. to 15s.

NOTES FROM The labours of the week have been mainly devoted to the various stages of the four relatively small Bills which the Government proposes to carry through before the House rises on Fridayfor providing funds to finance unemployment schemes through loan guarantees or grants, for increasing the Exchequer grant to unemployment insurance, for making loans in aid of Colonial development and for keeping the housing subsidy at its present

With regard to all these measures the House has been comparatively speaking united. Criticism has been confined either to points of detail or the discussion of what would *not* be effected by the Bills rather than to their positive results. The front Opposition Bench continues to take keen pleasure in twitting their successors in Office with their failure to implement the large promises made at the election time of at least an instalment of "socialism in our time". Mr. Winston Churchill is particularly successful in the art of teasing. His shafts are nearly always well directed and it would be unfair to say that they are poisoned. Mr. Thomas is no match for him at this sort of game and gives some justification for the ex-Chancellor's description of his tone as beginning with the truculent and passing through the querulous to the plaintive. Mr. Thomas's usual vein of blunt and genial humour has been overcast by the responsibilities and perplexities of Office, and his most notable attempt at pleasantry was particularly unfortunate. Rebuking Mr. Boothby for taking himself too seriously, he described the duties of Parliamentary Secretaries as those of keeping the door and supplying their chiefs with liquid refreshment. This clumsy joke naturally did not please the various Parliamentary Secretaries of the present Ministry and there is said to have been a domestic row about it.

Much stronger feeling and deeper dissatisfaction than any expressed by the Opposition is finding voice on the Benches

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## THE CHEAPEST FORM OF HOUSING SUBSIDY.

a week, but that they have not touched and cannot touch the problem of the 7s. to 8s. a week house. We are therefore faced with the necessity for an increase of subsidy in some form. But what form ? Clearly the largest dividend of social welfare is to be derived from some form which will make the more heavily subsidised and therefore cheaper houses available for those whose needs are peculiarly urgent and most unlikely to be met by the higher rented houses.

Now the most usual cause of such peculiar urgency and at the same time of inability to cope with the rent of a standard corpora-tion house at 10s. a week and upwards is family dependency. Thus, if the subsidy is to be concentrated on the peculiarly needy, it must be concentrated on the larger families of the lower-paid wage-earners. The 7s. a week house will be in fact the same type of house as the 10s. a week house, because the former is in conformity with minimum standards. But it will be a 7s, house for a certain class of tenant, those in fact who clearly cannot afford 10s. a week, and in no case for those who can

This leads Mr. Simon to his conclusion that the increased subsidy, instead of being based, as hitherto, on the type of house, must be based on the type of tenant and that it must be limited to those who have on the one hand less than a certain income, on the other more than a certain number of children. As a tentative concrete proposal he suggests that it might be applied to families having (a) an income of 60s. a week or less, (b) three or more children and that where these conditions are satisfied it should take the form of a rent rebate of 1s. per week per child. Thus a " standard family " with an income of less than 60s. a week, would secure a minimum standard house for 7s. a week-a working alternative to the slum dwelling which is the only reasonable possibility for such a family to-day.

At this point the question of cost comes into play. At a rough calculation-given the suggested income limit-some two million children appear to be involved. The total cost of the suggested rent allowance would therefore be round about five million pounds year. This then is the additional cost, which added to the Wheatley subsidy would, in Mr. Simons' view, make it " possible for every family in the country to pay for a standard minimum Given the rough accuracy of this estimate, we find it house.' impossible to disagree with Mr. Simons' further contention that a children's rent allowance is in principle the best and cheapest, and perhaps even the only, way of getting the large families out of

## WESTMINSTER.

where the Independent Labour Party and Clydeside members both most frequently sit. This is a formidable band, for the number of members who have signified their wish to join the Independent Labour Party Group in the House is said to be 141. The most interesting and heated exchanges of opinion have been in the course of question time. The incessant fire of questions on the subjects of the school-leaving age drew from Sir Charles Trevelyan on Thursday an announcement of the Government's decision to raise the age as from April, 1931, a year earlier than proposed by the Hadow Report. But except that there were to be maintenance allowances of some sort,

he would give no assurances on that point. The fiercest outburst was provoked by the rather laboured explanation of Mr. Clynes as to the reason of the Government's refusal to permit Mr. Trotsky to enter the country. The rea reason behind the action is doubtless the Government's desire to give their opponents no sort of handle for getting up any newl scandal on the lines of the Zinovieff letter. But it was evident that the decision really pleased nobody except possibly the Liberals, and that only because it brought into sharp contrast their historic role of defenders of the British tradition of free asylum to political refugees. The Conservatives were annoved at being deprived of a potential weapon, and many of the Government's best friends felt that excessive caution has greater dangers sometimes even than rashness, when it leads to a too flagrant departure from principle.

The debate on the Colonial Development Bill in its committee stage secured some useful amendments for the prevention of British money being used in the employment of forced labour.

Monday's debate on the third reading of the Housing Bill was mostly occupied in fighting once again over the fields so well-

(Continued in column two, page 196.)

THE WOMAN'S LEADER.

## THE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE AND THE CIVIL SERVICE.

The historian of the future looking back on the first quarter of the twentieth century, will observe changes in the functions of the Civil Service and in the sphere of University education which will probably appear to him more closely related than those of us who have experienced them could bear witness to. For he may conclude that the growing function of the State with the consequent increasing complexity of administration was calling for a new type of Civil Servant which the Universities were naturally supplying. Reading of the growth of bureaucracy, and the simultaneous growth of the Universities, he will perhaps be led to interpret this as cause and effect. But if he pursues his historical researches carefully he may discover with no little surprise that while an increasing number of students were entering the Universities, while the doors of these Universities were being opened ever wider so that all who might profit by entering were enabled to do so, nevertheless the regulations in regard to the entry to the Civil Service changed but little, so that enrolling as a University student meant, for the majority, closing the door upon the Civil Service.

Yet this is, broadly speaking, little exaggeration of the truth. It is not therefore surprising that the Universities are coming to regard the present position with a certain amount of dismay, knowing that by the time the average student has completed his University studies he is too old to compete for many of the Civil Service examinations.

This, of course, is not the case in regard to the Higher Administrative posts, which however entail one of the severest competitions in existence, and therefore can only be regarded field for those whose academic attainments are of a high order. Except for a certain number of professional and technical openings the vast body of University students are debarred from the Civil Service because the age of recruitment is so low. True, the Inland Revenue Department is entered by an examination for which the upper age limit is 24, and this examination has recently been opened for recruiting third-class officers for the Ministry of Labour ; yet it is also true that much executive work, which must necessarily require a person with wide vision, is only filled by promotion of those who have entered the Service before they attained the age of 18. In fact, the majority of Civil Servants are recruited at this age, and much work of importance to the country is being performed by those who so entered and who have obtained promotion.

Now it is not here argued that people so recruited have failed to carry on their work successfully; nor is there any wish to debar from the Civil Service men and women who for various reasons have not had the advantages of a University education. But it may surely be asked whether it is wise that regulations should be in force which by their nature rule out the University student. In the past these regulations may have achieved their purpose, for in the past the Universities did not cover nearly so wide a field. But different times make different demands ; the system suited to one period of a nation's development seems likely to be totally unsuited to a subsequent period and a system of recruitment which may have attracted people of good ability before University education became so general, may prove to be a system which will utterly fail in consequence of having to choose its recruits from those outside the range of the Universities.

It is surprising that during a period when it is generally acknowledged that Public Administration has been growing steadily in complexity, little effort has been made to attract to the Service an increasing number of University graduates. This may be because much of the work demanded by a colossal administrative machine is of a purely mechanical nature; it may be due to a belief that administration is best learnt from within the departments, and that the younger recruit proves excellently fitted for the work which in the future is likely to come his way. But while admitting all this, it is contended that there is much work of the executive grade which entails responsibility, which calls for width of vision and a well-balanced judgment; work, which it may be supposed the University graduates are admirably fitted to perform, provided the Universities have not entirely failed in their purpose.

Further, the ever-widening sphere of the State Social Services calls for an increasing number of people of this grade. Inspectors under Insurance Acts, Trade Boards Act, Pension Acts, to cite a few instances, are positions for which the Universities may justly claim that they are providing the right type of person.

Until, however, the regulations are altered such posts are practically closed to the University graduate, unless (as has sometimes happened in the past) exceptions are made.

That the regulations for entry to the Civil Service need revising is clearly proved by the fact that the Civil Service Commission find themselves from time to time compelled to break through their own regulations to meet exceptional demands. These exceptions indicate a fundamental weakness in the system, and from the standpoint of University graduate are unsatisfactory because, not knowing when the exception will occur, he cannot prepare for it. It becomes a question of luck whether having finished his University course, he will find himself within the age limit for the exceptional recruitment.

While men and women both suffer as a result of the present regulations ; while the State must also suffer through ruling out many excellently qualified persons, women probably suffer the most. For there are few professional and technical positions open to them, and in consequence the majority of women entering the Civil Service have to enter before the age of 18.

It is hoped that if a Royal Commission on the Civil Service is set up, the whole question of recruitment will be included in the terms of reference; and if this happens, it is expected that the Universities will not be backward in laving before the Commission an unanswerable case for amending the regulations, either by raising the age of entry for the lower grades, or by establishi an intermediate grade. If the efficiency of the Service is to be maintained, the doors must be opened to those who have undergone the mental training that a University offers and who will bring to the service of the State the breadth of view so essential if the work is to fulfil its main purpose.

N. M.

#### ERRATUM.

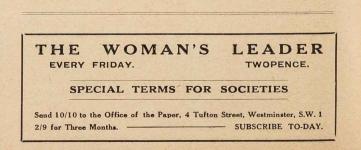
In our issue of 21st June we published a note containing the information that the Plymouth Corporation had appointed Dr. Elizabeth Miller as deputy assistant medical officer at a salary of  $\pm 500$ , in face of the British Medical Association's demand for  $\pm 600$ . We now learn that this information was inaccurate, as the post in question was refused by Dr. Miller.

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trodden the week before as to the effect of the subsidy on building costs. References to the possible use of the subsidy or part of it for rent-rebate for children, were made by several speakers and were well received, but failed to draw any response from the Ministry, except that of "wait and see"—wait that is until their main Housing Bill is introduced in the Autumn. All the Government's many proposals for the Session are to come forward then and, in addition, it is understood that the innings usually allowed to Private Members after Christmas for the introduction of their Bills and Resolutions will be transferred to the Autumn

CROSSBENCH.

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



## JULY 26, 1929.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS.

By BERTHA MASON.

## LITTER, LOCAL AUTHORITIES, AND AN EXHIBITION.

Before dealing with the already announced subject of this article, we ask the attention of our readers to a matter germane to it, i.e. the interesting and novel experiment organized by the London Society in the shape of an "Anti-Litter" Exhibition. This Exhibition was on view from 1st to 8th July in The Fellowship House, one of the old Y.M.C.A. huts in the gardens of Euston Square, kindly lent by the Committee of the Fellowship

Society, which we may say in passing is carrying on a wonderful work by providing an open air centre for delicate children from the slums in the district.

The Exhibition, which has been prepared especially with a view to its being circulated in the provinces, consists of specimen litter-receptacles, posters, pictures and photographs. Amongst the latter a series of pictures showing " London as it might be if it were free from the litter nuisance and from falling soot are suggestive. Samples of notices in reference to tidiness are also shown, prominent among which is the King's Appeal to the public on the opening of Ken Wood.

In connection with the Exhibition lectures were given, and through the co-operation of Miss Edith Neville, the Chairman, and Mr. Amor, the Hon. Secretary of the St. Pancras House of Fellowship (to the latter the writer is indebted for much courteous and valuable information concerning the work), little plays on tidiness were given by the children attending the open air centre in Euston Square Gardens.

During the visit of the writer an illuminating lecture was being given on the object of the Exhibition by a teacher to a group of interested children from a neighbouring school.

The Exhibition, which is only in its infancy, is capable of great development, and may well become a great educational instrument. Application for dates and details should be made to The Secretary, The London Society, Lancaster House, St. James's, London, S.W. 1.

Now, in regard to the specific subject of this article, the part which can be-and in many areas is being taken in the campaign to keep our country tidy, attention may be drawn in the first place to the fact that it is in the power of local authorities to prohibit the scattering of litter in streets, public places, in parks, and on commons and moors.

Section 23 of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, empowers borough councils to make "such by-laws as to them seem fit for the good rule and government of the borough" and to attach penalties for breaches of the law not exceeding  $f_5$ . By Section 16 of the Local Government Act, 1888, this power is extended to County Councils. Any by-law on the subject must receive the approval of the Home Secretary.

A certain number of County Councils and a number of borough councils have exercised their powers in the direction of litter. The by-laws vary very much in different areas. For example, in some counties the by-laws apply only to broken glass. In others, the application is much wider, including not only bottles and china, " but empty tins, old buckets, household refuse, waste paper, shavings and other litter, and refuse likely to cause danger or annovance to persons passing along or over such street or public place.'

We are of the opinion that the only real remedy for the nuisance is the creation and formation of a sound public opinion resenting such practices and by united effort on the part of children and their elders (who are responsible, it must be admitted, for much of the evil), to preserve the decencies of civilized life and to maintain beauty and tidiness both in town and country. We are fully aware however that national failings and bad

habits are difficult to eradicate by moral suasion only, and the creation of a sound public opinion takes time. Meanwhile the country as a whole suffers. The scattering of litter is not peculiar to any one spot. The habit prevails in every part of our island, giving infinite and unnecessary work to local authorities, involving the community generally in heavy expenditure, and causing great and needless inconvenience and pain to all who desire the protection of that which is beautiful in town and country alike. The matter calls for serious consideration and increased action of one kind or another.

We suggest that it would be worth while for our readers to institute an inquiry in regard to the action (if any) of the local authorities in their respective areas and the effect produced.

P.S.—Just as we were going to press we received from a Denbighshire J.P. and County Councillor, who had read the previous article on this subject, saying that his County Council had recently passed a by-law imposing a fine of  $\pounds 2$  upon anyone leaving litter in the beautiful and much-visited valley of Llangollen, which is being spoilt by refuse left by visitors. He is of opinion that only by the enactment of such by-laws can the mischief be prevented. We thank the writer and shall welcome further expressions of opinion.-B. M.

## QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT.

## Tuesday, 16th July.

## JUVENILE OFFENDERS (TREATMENT).

Mr. Lovat-Fraser asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he proposes to take any steps to establish a system of probation as recommended by the Scottish Prison Commissioners in their last annual Report ?

Mr. W. Adamson: This question is under consideration together with other recommendations by the Scottish Departmental Committee on the Treatment of Young Offenders which cannot be carried into effect without legislation.

#### TRADE BOARDS ACTS.

Mr. Mander asked the Minister of Labour whether the Government are prepared to extend the provisions of the Trade Boards Acts to further industries where low wages are current? Miss Bondfield : The answer is in the affirmative.

#### HONG KONG (MUI TSAI SYSTEM).

Mr. Foot asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the report of the Governor of Hong Kong on the mui tsai system will be published ; and, if so, when such publication may be expected

Mr. Lunn: My Noble Friend contemplates the publication of a full statement as soon as he has had time to give adequate consideration to the matter, including the further information in the Governor's latest despatch.

## Wednesday, 17th July.

HONG KONG (MUI TSAI SYSTEM).

Mr. Day asked the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can now make a statement upon the Report received by his Department from the Governor of Hong Kong on the question of the abolition of the system of mui tsai?

Mr. Lunn: I am not yet in a position to make a statement as my Noble Friend has not yet completed his consideration of this problem, but a full statement will be made as soon as possible

Mr. Day : Is my hon. Friend aware that this statement is very long overdue, and cannot he give the House a date when a state ment can be made ?

Mr. Lunn: I will inform the hon. Member as soon as possible

when I am able to make a definite statement upon the Report. *Colonel Wedgwood*: Would it be possible to have the Report from the Governor of Hong Kong laid on the Table of the House before publishing it

Mr. Lunn: I will consider that suggestion.

### WHITE LEAD.

Mr. Mander asked the Home Secretary if the Government are prepared to ratify the International Labour Office Convention, 1921, concerning the use of white lead in painting ?

*Mr. Clynes*: Ratification would have to be preceded by legislation for the amendment of the present law, and all I can say on the subject at the present moment is that it will be considered with other questions in connection with the proposed Factories

### BAKERIES NIGHT WORK

Mr. Mander asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether it is the intention of the Government to ratify the Draft Convention of the League of Nations, 1925, concerning night work in bakeries?

Mr. Clynes: The question of ratifying the Draft Convention adopted by the International Labour Office in 1925 in regard to night work in bakeries will be considered by the Government. No decision has yet been taken.

Mr. Mander asked the Home Secretary whether it is the intention of the Government to include in the forthcoming Factories Act a clause prohibiting night baking?

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Mr. Clynes : This question will be considered by the Government in connection with the Factories Bill, but I am not at present in a position to make any statement.

## Thursday, 18th July.

STREET TRADING (CHILDREN).

Mr. Ede asked the Home Secretary whether he has had any Report on the extent to which the by-laws made by the local education authorities with respect to street trading by young persons are enforced ; if so, what was the date of the Report ; and, if not, will he consider, in view of the importance of these by-laws in safeguarding the health and morals of young persons, calling for such Report ?

. Clynes : Inquiry as to the working of the provisions of the Education Act relating to the employment of children, including street trading, was made in 1924 and the result was summarized in the Second Report of the Children's Branch of the Home Office published in that year. Some local authorities -notably the London County Council-publish each year a statement of the action taken by them. The question of making further inquiries has recently been under consideration. I will bear my hon. Friend's suggestion in mind.

Viscountess Astor: Will the right hon. Gentleman consider the advisability of securing the passage through this House of the Bill dealing with this question which was brought in by Lord Astor in another place ?

Mr. Clyres: Yes, I will consider that point.

CIVIL SERVICE (ROYAL COMMISSION).

Mr. Smilhers: Can the right hon. Gentleman say whether the composition of the Royal Commission can be published before we rise at the end of the month?

Viscountess Astor: Will the right hon. Gentleman see that there is a competent woman on the Committee, and a woman not blinded by party politics?

The Prine Minister: I should be much obliged if both those questions were addressed to the Treasury, which is the Department which will give the advice as to the composition of the Royal Commission.

## Friday, 19th July.

INSTITUTIONS (CHILDREN).

Mr. Day asked the Minister of Health the number of children in England and Wales not suffering from sickness, accident or bodily or mental infirmity between the age of 3 and 16 years of age who, on 1st January, 1929, were in wards other than sick wards in general Poor Law Institutions for longer than four weeks

Mr. Greenwood : The exact information for which my hon. Friend asks is not available. The number of children in England and Wales, not suffering from sickness, accident or bodily or mental infirmity between the age of 3 and 16 years of age, who on 1st January, 1929, had been in wards other than sick wards of general Poor Law Institutions administered under the Poor Law Institutions Order, 1913, for longer than six weeks was 840.

### INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONVENTION.

Mr. Mander asked :-

(1) The Minister of Labour whether it is the intention of the Government to ratify the Draft Convention of the League of Nations, 1921, concerning the application of weekly rest in industrial undertakings ?

(2) The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether it is the intention of the Government to ratify the Draft Convention of the League of Nations, 1919 (Washington), concerning the employment of women before and after childbirth ?

Miss Margaret Bondfield : I have been asked to reply. As regards these and other International Labour Conventions which have not been ratified, it is proposed to examine them in the light of the existing law and practice in this country, and it is not possible for me as yet to say what action may be decided upon in any particular case.

## OBITUARY.

By the death of Mrs. Madeleine Parnell on 14th July St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance has lost a valued and devoted member. She was one of the original members of the Liverpool Branch of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society founded in 1912, and she served actively on the Committee of St. Joan's. R.I.P. Her daughter, Miss Nancy Stewart Parnell, is the Honorary Secretary of this branch.

Thursday, 18th July, was a day of festivities. The event of the day was the N.U.S.E.C. Public Luncheon in honour of the Women Members of Parliament held at the Holborn Restaurant, at which about 400 people were present. Eleven of the fourteen women M.P.s were present, including the first woman Cabinet Minister, the Rt. Hon. Margaret Bondfield, M.P., and the Duchess of Atholl, Under Secretary for Education in the last Government.

After the health of "The King" had been drunk, the first toast was "Our Friends in the House of Commons," proposed by the Chairman, Mrs. Corbett Ashby. In coupling the toast with the name of Miss Bondfield, Mrs. Corbett Ashby said that it was a cause for congratulation that the first woman Cabinet Minister had won her position entirely by her own character and ability.

Miss Bondfield, who was greeted with great applause on rising, said that she could not look on her position as a personal victory ; it was the result of the work of hundreds of women known and unknown, and because of that she could join with everyone present in rejoicing that at last there was a woman in the Cabinet. had received an enormous number of letters of congratulation from all over the world, and she felt that a victory for women in this country was also of great benefit to women in other countries who were still struggling for political rights. Miss Bondfield urged on the women present their future responsibility

in economic problems relating to poverty and unemployment. The next speaker was a very old friend, Lady Astor, M.P., who proposed "Success to the N.U.S.E.C." With characteristic wit she said that Mrs. Corbett Ashby had spoken of her as the perfect wife and mother, but she thought more people would term her a perfect nuisance. The N.U.S.E.C. has also sometimes been a perfect nuisance, and she hoped it would go on being so. Lady Astor spoke eloquently of women's message to the world, and said that it was as a spiritual and moral force that women in public life were going to be of the greatest benefit to humanity.

In replying, Miss Eleanor Rathbone, M.P., said that when the partial franchise was granted some people had urged that the N.U.S.E.C. ought to come to an end. She quoted the large number of laws affecting women which had been passed since that date as justification for the continued work of the Union.

That staunch friend of the women's cause, Mr. Pethick Lawrence, M.P., proposed the health of the women Members of Parliament, and the toast was responded to very charmingly by Miss'Megan Lloyd George, M.P., who is the fortunate possessor of a very beautiful voice.

Before returning to their duties at the House of Commons the women Members present were introduced to the audience and greeted with cheers. In addition to those already mentioned, there were Dr. Ethel Bentham, M.P., Mrs. Mary Hamilton, M.P., Miss Jenny Lee, M.P., Miss Picton-Turbervill, M.P., Dr. Marion Phillips, M.P., and Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P. The guests of honour also included Major the Rt. Hon, J. W. Hills, M.P., and Sir Robert Newman, M.P.

## MORE ABOUT BERLIN.

In the afternoon another enthusiastic gathering was held in beautiful Crosby Hall to meet the British delegates to the Berlin Congress, and the presence of some of the delegates from other countries made it quite an International occasion. Mrs. Corbett Ashby was again in the chair, and the first speaker was Miss Macadam, who gave a general impression of the Congress and spoke of the wonderful hospitality received from the women of Germany. Following, speakers gave a short account of the work of some of the Committees. Miss Courtney spoke on the Peace Committee, Miss Neilans on the Equal Moral Standard, Mrs. Laughton Matthews on the Enfranchised Women's Committee, and Miss Margesson on the Women Police Committee. Dr. Elizabeth Knight spoke as a representative of the Women's Freedom League

After the British delegates had spoken, the audience had the and Dr. Klausner, of Berlin, and from Miss Assmundsen, of Iceland, who with her mother, aged eighty, is visiting London after the Berlin Congress. Fru. Assmundsen is one of the pioneers of the Suffrage movement, and her daughter has followed nobly in her footsteps. She created some amusement in her speech by giving her impression of the English as "people who never speak unless they have something to say, and who always have something to say.

## JULY 26, 1929.

WOMEN DELEGATES TO THE LEAGUE ASSEMBLY.

The Women's International League invited representatives of women's organizations to a meeting on 22nd July, to meet Mrs. President: Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY, Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. ALFRED HUGHES. Hon. Secretary: Mrs. RYLAND Swanwick and Mrs. Hamilton, the two women delegates to the General and Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HORTON. Assembly of the League of Nations. Both delegates first Offices : 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1. addressed the meeting on general subjects. Mrs. Swanwick Telephone : Victoria 6188. pointed out that Governments now considered it necessary to send a woman among their delegates, but showed that it was BANK HOLIDAY. essential that the women appointed should have obtained national The Office will be closed for August Bank Holiday at prestige if they were to be successful in international spheres. 5.30 p.m. on Friday, 2nd August, and will re-open at 9.30 a.m. Other societies had been invited to send in subjects for discussion. on Wednesday, 7th August. The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship had sent in a memorandum on the nationality of married women, and the LUNCHEON TO WOMEN MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT. Association for Moral and Social Hygiene raised the question of Four hundred people attended the luncheon at the Holborn the attitude of the British Delegation to the International Labour Restaurant on 18th July. Readers will find in another column Office (Maritime Session) on one of the recommendations which a full report of this very successful function. have been circulated by the Joint Maritime Commission of the TEA PARTY AT CROSBY HALL—REPORT OF BERLIN CONGRESS. I.L.O. suggesting that there should be strict medical control of women in ports who have illicit relations with men. The A report of this tea party, which followed the luncheon and possibility of securing a woman on the League of Nations Comat which there were about 140 present, will be found elsewhere. mission on Forced Labour, the position of women on the The audience was addressed by several visitors from abroad as well as by members of the British Delegation. Secretariat, and the possibility of setting up an international inquiry into the sufferings of political prisoners in many parts WOMEN DELEGATES TO GENEVA of the world, were raised by the Women's National Liberal The Women's International League, of which Mrs. Swanwick Federation. Among the other subjects discussed were : Minorities, is President, has this year arranged a conference of women's Forced Labour, Arbitration and Disarmament, Opium, the organizations to meet the two women delegates to Geneva, Mrs. Swanwick and Mrs. Hamilton. A report of this Conference, attitude of the British Government to the International Labour which was attended by delegates from the N.U.S.E.C., appears Office Budgets, and the possibility of extending the scope of the elsewhere. On the return of the delegates, the N.U.S.E.C. is Slavery Convention to cover conditions analagous to slavery proposing to hold a Reception, at which they will be able to among women. Both delegates promised to give these matters report on those questions discussed by the League which most their earnest consideration. directly concern feminist organizations.

## THE ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE.

The Fourth Annual Conference of the Electrical Association for Women was held at the North-East Coast Exhibition, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

The opening ceremony at the Festival Hall, North-East Coast Exhibition, on 11th July, was presided over by Mrs. Wilfrid Ashley, President. The Lady Mayoress of Newcastle (Mrs. Arthur W. Lambert) expressed the City's welcome to the delegates, and Miss Baxter Ellis brought the good wishes of the Exhibition

Mrs. Wilfrid Ashley said that the Electrical Association for Women was the first non-commercial Association of its kind in the world, and women in other countries had watched its phenomenal growth and success with keen interest. She hoped that the organization might in time become an international one. Their aim was to educate women in the uses of Electricity, and not only had they been successful in this work among women in the home and women in public affairs and industry, but they were now carrying on a campaign to have something of the theory and practice of electricity taught to girls in schools. The Board of Education had recently received a deputation from the Electrical Association for Women on the subject. Their second aim was to express the women's point of view on matters electrical, and this had been done in many ways, chiefly in a campaign for the better wiring of houses.

Five delegates were present from overseas, and gave most interesting speeches on "The Modern Development of Electricity as it affects Women " in their respective countries. The public meeting was followed by a luncheon at the Grand

Assembly Rooms, and the afternoon was spent at the Exhibition. On the following morning, the Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at the Exhibition, presided over by Mrs. Hammer, Chairman of the Electrical Association for Women Council, and the Annual Report was presented by the Director, Miss C. Haslett.

Mrs. Wilfrid Ashley was unanimously re-elected President, and the other officers elected were : Mrs. S. Z. de Ferranti and Mrs. Hammer as Joint Chairmen, Councillor Mrs. Gregory as Vice-Chairman, and Mrs. Ll, B. Atkinson as Honorary Treasurer. At the conclusion of the meeting a very good discussion took place on the papers which had been read on the previous morning.

## THE WOMAN'S LEADER.

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

## NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

ROMSEY TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD.

A very delightful garden meeting was held on 19th July, by kind invita-tion of Sir Samuel and Lady Fay. About sixty members were present, and were deeply interested in the history and work of the N.U.S.E.C. as explained to them by Mrs. Ryland. After the meeting tea was enjoyed on the terrace overlooking the beautiful park, and after tea a competition took place for "The Best Rose from my Garden." Another attraction was the exhibition of handicrafts kindly lent by the Warwickshire Federa-tion of Women's Institutes.

## THE OPEN DOOR INTERNATIONAL.

The British Open Door Council held a dinner at Pinoli's on 18th July, when a report was made of the new International organization which was inaugurated in Berlin last month Miss Monica Whately was in the chair, and the first speaker was Miss Chrystal Macmillan, President of the new Open Door International, who gave a graphic description of the proceedings in Berlin, ending with the words, "Protection or Not, that is the Woman's Question of To-day."

Mrs. Le Sueur, in the course of a very interesting speech, spoke of a U.S.A. delegate, Maud Williams, a working woman compositor from New York, who had brought up three sons. Mrs. Williams came to Berlin especially for the Open Door Conference, and made a very valuable and interesting speech with inside knowledge on the subject of night work for women. Mrs. Abbott said that even she herself had been surprised

at the amount of international support they had received-not from the cranks, but from the really experienced women. Mrs. Van der Litt, of the U.S.A., spoke of the formation of the

new International as the fulfilment of a dream. V. L. M.

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## THE WOMAN'S LEADER.

WOMEN'S ENGINEERING SOCIETY.

26th-28th July. Bedford College, Regent's Park, N.W. Seventh Annual Conference. Saturday, 27th July, 8 p.m., Lyceum Club, Piccadilly. Dinner to "Women in other Professions." Chair: Lady Moir, O.B.E. Sunday, 28th July, 3 p.m., Bedford College. Tea party to meet representatives of American business and professional women. Further particulars of programme from the Secretary, W.E.A., 46 Kensington Court, W.8.

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WANTED, Assistant Secretary, end of September, for Southwark Diocesan Association for Preventive and Rescue Work. Typing, book-keeping, and good experience of social work desirable. Churchwoman.—Par-ticulars from Miss Retallach, 125 Kennington Road, S.E. 11.

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## COMING EVENTS.

## WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

2nd-15th September. International Summer School at Lepence Visegrad, ungary. Subject of study : "The effects of public economics upon Hungary. Subject of sum foreign and interior Politics. study : The effects of public economics upon