THE

WOMAN'S LEADER

IN POLITICS
IN THE HOME

IN INDUSTRY
IN LITERATURE AND ART

IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND

THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS

Irish Women M.P.s at Westminster?

It has been suggested that all the members for South Irish constituencies might take their seats at Westminster pending the establishment of their new Parliament. In that case Lady Astor and Mrs. Wintringham may be reinforced by five other women with claims of seniority. Besides Countess Markievicz, who is Minister of Labour in Dail Eireann, there is Mrs. O'Callaghan, widow of the late Lord Mayor of Limerick; Mrs. Tom Clarke, Mrs. Pearse, and Dr. Ada English. Sinn Fein has always recognised the equality of women, and the five women members of Dail Eireann take their fair share in its work.

A Woman M.P. in Canada.

We are delighted to learn that Miss McPhail, the Progressive candidate in South Grey, Ontario, has been elected to the Canadian Federal Parliament with a majority of over 1,000. She is the first woman M.P. in the Canadian Federal Parliament, and the constituency which returned her is a rural one.

Prospective Women Municipal Reform Candidates.

At the coming L.C.C. elections, which take place three months hence, between 700,000 and 800,000 women will be asked to vote on practical matters which are so important to them in their everyday life. At the last elections, in March, 1919, only about 17 per cent. of the electors voted. Next March the women voters must set the example to the apathetic men and go to the poll. The Women's Section of the London Municipal Society, of which Viscountess Helmsley is President, and Lady Brittain Chairman, has been successful in getting the following women adopted as prospective Municipal Reform candidates at the coming elections:—Lady Trustram Eve for North Hackney; Mrs. Hudson Lyall, C.B.E., J.P., for East Fulham; Mrs. Hopkins for South-East St. Pancras (all standing for re-election); Dr. Adeline Roberts, O.B.E., for Marylebone; Dr. Barrie Lambert, C.B.E., for Bow and Bromley; Mrs. Dunn-Gardner, J.P., for Norwood; Mrs. Lankester for Limehouse; Miss Rachel Parsons for Finsbury; and Miss Rosamond Smith for North Islington. All these women are well-known and have fine records of public service.

A Woman Mayor in South Africa.

We learn with pleasure that Mrs. M. C. Wilson has been elected Mayor of Germiston. She is the first woman to be elected Mayor of a Municipality in the Union, and the Transvaal is to be congratulated on its policy of ignoring sex-distinction in civic life. Mrs. Wilson, since her election as Councillor some months ago, has always put the interests of the town before party interests, and her election will give general satisfaction.

New Lancashire Women J.P.s.

Two new women J.P.s have been appointed in Lancashire—Mrs. Mary Peel, of Lathom Estate Office, near Ormskirk, and Mrs. Louise Wilkinson, Capernwray, Carnforth—together with eight men.

A Woman's Divorce Suit in Japan.

Mme. Aki-ko Ito, one of the leading literary women of Japan, has begun divorce proceedings against her husband, which is a thing unknown in Japan. Hitherto only husbands have brought divorce actions, and the precedent which Mme. Ito is establishing has aroused much adverse comment. Among others, a woman's society has protested, and fears that the social life of the country will go to pieces if women are allowed to bring divorce actions. The sooner an evil is faced with the public light of day, the sooner is it likely to be cured.

Chinese Woman Preacher.

A Chinese woman doctor, Miss Shuang Mei-li, is visiting this country, and is speaking in many churches on Chinese life. She was educated at a girls' school founded in China by Miss L. O. Squire, B.A., and now, having taken a course at Kingsmead College, Selly Oak, and at Birmingham Hospital, she is to return to China as a missionary.

False Economy and Mental Defectives.

A few weeks ago we drew the attention of our readers to the Treasury restrictions on the spending powers of local authorities under the Mental Deficiency Act. The position appears to be even worse than at first realised, and it seems that about 2,000 mental defectives will be brought before the local authorities in

the course of the year. The cost of dealing with them in a wise, efficient, and humane way, namely in colonies and homes, would be about £100,000, half to be borne by the Treasury and half by the local authorities. The cost of letting them drift will be infinitely higher; they will be in and out of prisons and workhouses, a charge to the ratepayer and the taxpayer. A far larger sum will have been spent in the end, and there will be more illegitimate and defective children to cope with in the future. An example given in a letter signed by five Members of Parliament will bring these facts very vividly before our readers :youth, known to be defective, with a mental age of eight years, who had attended a special school for mentally defective boys, was convicted of indecent assault on a girl of twelve years; he was sent to prison for six months. His sentence terminated in August, 1921. He was to have been sent to an institution for defectives, but the responsible local authority had placed in institutions as many cases as their estimates allowed for, and had no vacancy for the boy. They told the magistrate that, in view of the Treasury restrictions, they could not deal with the boy. He was discharged; in less than three months he again criminally assaulted a little girl of six and a-half years, was

again brought before the Court, and will now at last have to be

dealt with under the Mental Deficiency Act." The Treasury

must be made to reconsider its decision, and nothing but an

Glasgow Corporation and Married Women.

aroused public opinion will do it.

The recent action of the Corporation of Glasgow in dismissing married women whose husbands are in employment, has aroused considerable feeling among the women of Glasgow. A Joint Deputation, organised by the Scottish Council for Women's Trades, and representing the Glasgow Society for Equal Citizenship, the Glasgow Women Citizens' Association, the Women's Educational Union, and the Women's Guild of Empire, was received by the Corporation on Thursday, December 8th, and in the course of a very able speech, Mrs. Wm. Fyfe, President of the Women Citizens' Association, stated the case for the married women. She said they had been advised that, in terms of the Sex Disqualification Act, the dismissal of married women that had taken place was illegal. As representative of a large body of ratepayers she submitted that efficiency where public money was being spent, should be the only standard upon which to base a decision. The only just and logical application of that principle was to apply it to all employees of the Corporation. They should ask each employee if he or she was in a house into which a second income, either earned or unearned, was going: if the answer was in the affirmative the only logical decision in view of the one income principle was that each one of those officials must go, irrespective of efficiency. Miss Thomson, of the Women's Educational Union, made special reference to the value of married women doctors to the community. The Lord Provost assured the deputation that their recommendation would have the serious consideration of the Town Council, and the subject has been put on the agenda for the next meeting of the

Domestic Work.

The social status of the domestic servant was one of the problems discussed at a conference last week of the Girls' Friendly Society. It was thought that a good deal of the trouble is due to the fact that girls do not look on service as a profession or business, but simply as a means to live, and parents regard it as an easy way of getting a girl out to work without the trouble of having her trained. The difference in status between domestic servants and business girls is another reason for the discontent with domestic service on the part of the girls of to-day, although conditions are undoubtedly improving. The following resolution was finally adopted:- "That the question of making domestic work a profession with training, qualifications, and status is in the interests of the community, and should therefore be considered by the G.F.S. Central Employment Committee in conjunction with the co-opted members for the purpose, with a view to taking steps to produce and put into effect a scheme, which shall be used by G.F.S. and any other voluntary societies willing to co-operate.'

Mr. Cross

We congratulate Mr. J. R. Cross, J.P., of New Laithes Hall, Horsforth, very heartily on his appointment as Knight of Grace of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England. Mr. Cross, who is very well known to our readers in Yorkshire and elsewhere, is an ardent supporter of our cause, and has thrown himself whole-heartedly into work to further our aims and ideals.

Brazilian Children and Parental Authority.

A Bill regulating the employment of children under fourteen. and young persons between fourteen and eighteen, lays down that it shall not be lawful to employ children of either sex under fourteen in any way, while young persons between fourteen and eighteen shall not work more than a total of five hours a day, with a weekly rest of thirty-six consecutive hours, and this only on the production of a certificate of attendance at an elementary school. Such young persons are entitled to the "exclusive ownership of the product of their work." "It shall not be lawful," says the Bill, "to employ young persons under the age of eighteen years in establishments where dangerous machinery is installed, in unhealthy industrial establishments, in occupations tending to injure morals or condemned by the Penal Code as contrary to morality, in underground work, in work taking place during the night, or on compulsory holidays, in public entertainments, circuses, menageries, acrobatic performances, and exhibitions of strength, contortion, or balancing, in short, in all occupations of a nature prejudicial to the health or the morality of such young persons." Parents are responsible for the observance of the later part of this regulation, for, says a further article:—" If the father, mother, or guardian of the child is responsible for the exhibition or performances they shall, without prejudice to the penalties provided in the Penal Code, be liable to a fine double the amount laid down in this Act as well as to temporary loss of their authority as parents; in such case the children shall be regarded as abandoned, and placed under the protection of the State." Parents are also liable to penalties if a third party is responsible with their knowledge.

Cure for Bad Husbands.

A new method of curing husbands who abuse their wives comes from the United States, which sounds more like the plot of a musical comedy than real fact. Nevertheless, Mr. Justice Kochendorfer, of Long Island, announces that, since nine-tenths of the cases of marital infelicity which come before him are the result of faults in the husbands, he proposes to punish them by lightening the burden of the wives. In future, these husbands will either go to gaol or accept the following alternative:-They must agree to prepare breakfast every morning, to wash the dishes in the evening, to take care of the children for an hour a day, to have one evening out a week, to take the family to church on Sunday morning, and for a walk on Sunday afternoon, to allow their wives to administer the family finances, to start a savings bank account, to wait on their wives instead of expecting the reverse, and to repeat once a day the promise they extracted from their wives before the altar-to love, honour, and cherish them. Probation officers will check the husband's performance daily, and Mr. Kochendorfer thinks that "after two or three weeks the husbands will realise the monotony and drudgery of most women's lives." Nevertheless, we are sure that the wives will be as glad as the husbands when the term of discipline is over. It is so much easier to do a thing oneself than to watch it being done by an unwilling or incompetent person!

Ourselves.

We print this week a second list of the very welcome gifts which are helping us through into the New Year, with our very special thanks to Miss Lancaster for taking up such a solid block of shares. We still need £158 to make up the £250 wanted. Who will remember us in the Christmas present list?

| SECONE | SECOND LIST. | | | | S. | d. |
|---|--------------|-----|-----|---------|----|----|
| Previously acknowledged | | | | 40 | 6 | 6 |
| Mrs. Page Miss E. M. Lancaster (shares) | | In | | 0 | 5 | O |
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POLICY.—The sole policy of THE WOMAN'S LEADER is to advocate a real equality of liberties, status and opportunities between men and women. So far as space permits, however, it will offer an impartial platform for topics not directly included in the objects of the women's movement, but of special interest to women. Articles on these subjects will always be signed, at least by initials or a pseudonym, and for the opinions expressed in them the Editor accepts no responsibility.

HEALTH AND HOSPITALS.

Everybody knows that the position of hospitals is critical at the present moment. Everybody knows, too, that the nursing profession is taking great steps forward, and that public health and medical investigation are advancing with rapid strides. International health organisation is on foot, and the whole position of the physical well-being of the world is under review.

This spring of interest and progress coincides with the increasing share and responsibility of women in public affairs. But it is a curious and most dangerous thing that the world of health seems to be the one in which women can make the least headway, and in which the forces of reaction and opposition to them are most firmly entrenched. In spite of the respect in which the nursing profession is held, and in spite of the fact that it is the pivot upon which cures depend, it has been, and still is, badly paid, and still more badly over-driven. The matrons of our great hospitals are by far the most important people in the whole place: upon them the administration hinges, and yet they are not consulted upon hospital policy. A great awakening is taking place among nurses themselves, but their position is anything but satisfactory in the health-world to-day.

Among medical women the position is no better The facilities for medical training for women expanded enormously during the war, and a great many of the London hospitals accepted women students. In consequence a really considerable number of women began to turn to this great profession, and then the hospitals closed their doors again. University College Hospital severely limited its female entrants last year, and just recently the London Hospital has decided to exclude women students altogether. It looks as if the medical men were determined to prevent competition in their ranks by cutting down the supply of female competitors, just at the moment when a number of women are seeking to enter this field of work.

As regards the hospitals, the blame for this obstructiveness

As regards the hospitals, the blame for this obstructiveness seems to rest with the Boards of Management, which are themselves almost always without women members. At the present day this is a serious anomaly, and if, as seems possible, the State undertakes some share in their management, it is to be hoped that it will not long continue. However, the prospect of this is not so bright as it might be, for Lord Cave's Committee has itself no woman member. In every direction one turns the same unsatisfactory state of affairs is to be found.

An effort is being made at the present time to attribute all this hostility to women, and in particular the closing of the medical schools, to reasoned causes. They say that the type of young woman who is now a medical student is unsatisfactory, that she does not keep up the standard of the pioneers of the movement, and that she is a disturbing and troublesome element in the teaching hospitals, and would do no good to the profession if she entered it. We do not believe that this is true; but even if it were it would still be an invalid argument. Everybody knows that medical students are the rowdiest and most object tionable set of young men when they are congregated together, and it would be only natural if the young women in the same circumstances developed the same characteristics. There may really be something in it, and the rowdiness and the "rags which have so long distinguished medical students may be a natural reaction from the very arduous and painful work they have to perform. But if their objectionableness is a good reason against the women, then medical schools must be closed against everybody except those steady, earnest students who no doubt sometimes exist; and then we should not have enough doctors

Of course it is not the real reason, and it is a shame that it should be so much bruited abroad. The real reason is a fear on the part of medical men of excessive competition from medical Why else should the young doctors trouble to go to Cambridge to vote against women's degrees? Why else should it be so difficult for even a brilliant woman to get a good hospital appointment? In our experience there are many parallels for this, and we need not seek them all on sex lines. The bricklayers and the ex-Service men; permanent civil servants and the temporaries; the skilled engineers and the dilutees-these are all examples of a similar force. We can trace the motives easily enough, but they are not very noble, and the unfortunate part of it is that the general good of the public, which requires free competition all round is the aspect which in these cases drops out of sight. We, who are the general public, must not, however, forget our own interests. That it is to our interest that women should take a large share in the development of modern medicine is an indisputable proposition, and we must see to it that this present sex antagonism is overcome

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

The Irish settlement seems to be taking effect. It is being accepted on all sides, and it holds the field above all other political events. The sclemn pageant of the opening of Parliament this week marks the outward respect we pay to the great constitutional change which is to bring peace and healing to these islands, and the general expectation is that the Resolutions approving the settlement will be agreed to in both Houses with but the formal outcries which convinced Die-Hards are bound to emit. The whole feeling of the nation goes with this change; and when I say the nation I mean (if for the last time), the people of Great Britain and Ireland. In future we shall be "the nations"; on this occasion we are, for the first and only time in history, one.

This great event, which will have its enduring effects throughout the world, has brought many minor consequences, of which the one most discussed at Westminster is the imminent prospect of a General Election.

Opinions are divided as to its probable date, some saying it will come at once (that is to say, in February) so that the Government may reap the full benefit from its success. This school of thought expects an early meeting of Parliament after Christmas to make interim arrangements, and an appeal to the country before the whole Bill is attempted. The other view (which I myself hold) is that Parliament will meet early in February and will proceed with the main Irish Bill, the Budget, and the Reform of the House of Lords before going to the country, and that in consequence the election will be held in June or September of 1922. In either case, however, it is near enough to have provoked great constituency excitement, and candidates are being adopted and are setting to work in their new attitudes at a very great rate.

Among these candidates women are doing fairly well as to numbers, though there is a rather marked tendency to allot them to rather shaky seats. But then all seats are shaky nowadays! As far as my information goes there are now nineteen who have been formally adopted in their constituencies, and seven others known to be "in the running." The nineteen certainties are as follows:—

Co. U., Viscountess Astor, M.P., Sutton (Plymouth).

Co. U., Lady Cooper, Walsall.

Co. L., Mrs. Coombe Tennant, Forest of Dean.

Co. L., Miss M. P. Grant, S.E. Leeds.

Ind. L., Lady Barlow, High Peak (Derbyshire). Ind. L., Mrs. Burnett Smith, Maryhill, Glasgow

Ind. L., Mrs. Egerton Stewart Brown, Waterloo (Lancs.).

Ind. L., Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Richmond.

Ind. L., Miss Alison Garland, Dover.

Ind. L., Mrs. Scott Gatty, Huntingdon.

Ind. L., Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., Louth.

Labour, Mrs. Ayrton Gould, N. Lambeth. Labour, Mrs. Barton, King's Norton (B'ham.)

Labour, Dr. Ethel Bentham, E. Islington.

Labour, Miss M. Bondfield, Northampton.

Labour, Miss S. Lawrence, E. Ham, N.

Labour, Mrs. M. Pease, E. Surrey.

Labour, Miss J. S. Wood, Mossley (Lancs.).

Ind., Miss Rathbone, E. Toxteth (Liverpool).
The candidates as yet unsettled are, I understand, the follow-

The candidates as yet unsettled are, I understand, the following: Co. U., The Duchess of Atholl and Miss Eunice Murray; Co. L., Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon and Miss Helen Fraser; Ind. L., Mrs. Evan Hayward; Ind., Mrs. O. Strachey. I have no doubt that this is an incomplete list, and I hope to be able to add many more names to it. For everyone knows that we need lots of women in Parliament, and unless a great many come forward to stand a great many cannot get in.

[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.]

THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN HOLLAND.

By ANNA POLAK.

in 1919, and will doubtless be incorporated in our new Constitution, which comes up for discussion before the House next session, or at any rate some time before the summer of 1922, when the general elections will take place.

We have women elected to all our representative institutions: two M.P.s, one Socialist and one belonging to the Liberal party; one female member of our Senate; some sixteen in our Provincial State Councils; and more than eighty in our Common Councils. They belong to various parties, from the Roman Catholic to the Communist.

Every political party, even those which did not formerly admit women (e.g., the most orthodox Protestant, the "Anti-Revolutionary Party"), has admitted women voters to

The number of women on the boards of our various unions and institutions has greatly increased of late. Women are nominated to committees, public as well as private, and can hold office as secretary, deputy chairman, or chairman, where only a few years ago nobody would have thought it possible that one of the "feebler" sex should even be admitted.

Nowadays a good many women are appointed to high public positions, as teachers at mixed high schools, and as scientific workers, directresses of laboratories, of museums, university lecturers, and even professors. They are admitted everywhere on terms of perfect equality with their male colleagues. The title of doctor honoris causa has been offered several times to scientific women who missed the opportunity of studying in the ordinary way in their youth. They are elected members of all our scientific societies, with the exception of one, the most exclusive, our Royal Academy of Science, the membership of which is, as yet, reserved for men.

Whereas the position of the few who emerge from the ruck is swiftly improving, the position of the many is even more swiftly deteriorating. For instance, in the lower and middle-grade places in the postal department, where the competitive examinations were open to girls as well as to young men, only a certain percentage of girls are admitted to-day, and some positions are now entirely closed to them. And it is the same in nearly all positions in the railway department. We do not deny that a great deal of the measures we deplore must be put down to the behaviour of some of the female officials themselves; but we do not consider this the right way of healing the evil.

An equally unjust method is followed in dealing with the married female official. The married telephonists in the service of the commune at The Hague offend enormously by absenteeism, either from illness or from other causes. The Lord Mayor and aldermen therefore propose to exclude in future the married official from that branch of service, retaining, however, in the meantime, those who are actually appointed. Instead of which they should have fixed a maximum limit to which absenteeism can be tolerated, and dismiss those officials individually who went beyond it.

It is not only because of their more frequent absenteeism that officials are sent away on marriage, or that married women sometimes are not put on the list of candidates. Opinions of the authorities about the proper place of the wife and mother, or about the incompatibility of the two tasks—the one inside, the other outside the home—are continually threatening the position of the married female worker. Some thirty communities have already carried a resolution dismissing women school teachers on marriage. And the orthodox Protestant Minister of Instruction, when appealed to, declared himself in favour of dismissal as a rule, with permission to stay as a rare exception in case of serious illness of the husband.

This opinion is shared by our Roman Catholic Minister of Labour, who has already announced his intention of prohibiting the work in factories and workshops of the married woman labourer. The passing into law of this proposed bill will be all the more serious as the wives and mothers of the labouring class rarely continue their outdoor work when it is not absolutely necessary. With better social conditions the number of married female outdoor workers naturally diminishes. The Roman Catholic trade unions, not satisfied with this natural process,

A Bill making Dutch women eligible for the vote was passed have used their influence to drive and keep the married women out of the factories. They have introduced into many a collective labour convention a clause to this effect, and within the course of a few years it will have become impossible for a married woman to earn her bread in a Roman Catholic factory or workshop. The Roman Catholics form about two-fifths of our

> Not only the married but the single woman is finding it more difficult than ever to earn her bread.

> It is true that the professions from which she is excluded are not many, and are soon enumerated. The law prohibits her from becoming Burgomaster (Lord Mayor), secretary, and taxgatherer of the town. It is an open question whether under the present law she can or cannot fill the offices of judge and notary, but she never will be nominated to either position until the law is altered and made clearer.

> In the law recently passed on the special jurisdiction concerning children, an attempt was made to reserve the position of deputy (sole) judge in matters of this kind for the female doctor of law; but the amendment was dropped.

> As to the office of clergyman, there are only a few relatively small sects—the Brotherhood of the Remonstrants and of the Baptisterians (Mennonites), in which the ministry is open to women. In those two, and some other congregations of relatively small importance, the women members have got the vote. On the other hand, our largest and most significant Protestant community, formerly our State Church (Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk), has left its women unenfranchised, notwithstanding several attempts to alter this state of affairs.

The Universities are open to women students on the same terms as to men; and in the sphere of education—co-education in most cases—the Dutch girl does not stand behind the Dutch Though our first "Law on Professional Instruction" (of 1919) does not contain the article we hoped for, conceding State grants only to schools which admit pupils of both sexes, there actually exists hardly one professional school that would refuse a girl pupil because of her sex.

But, nevertheless, the economic position of women is far from brilliant. The whole economic life is suffering from the trade depression; men are finding it hard to earn their bread. so they try, as they have always tried from time immemorial in similar circumstances, to push out women competitors.

It is not only the labourer who thinks and acts in this way, but the director of our most important labour exchange, that of Amsterdam, believes that men have a right to work and earn their living before women; and this opinion is shared by one of the most influential leaders of our Roman Catholic trade unions. So the claims of the women who seek work run the risk of being postponed till the men are employed.

In 1919 our "Labour Law" was changed, and whilst the old law gave protection only to the factory and workshop labourers, the new one extends its influence over shops and stores, offices, apothecary's shops, hotels, restaurants, tea and lunch rooms, bars, hospitals, homes for children, invalids and old people, and may, by Royal Decree, extend it over a still wider range; a change which will be welcomed by all those, men and women, who work in these trades.

But besides protecting an infinitely larger number of people, the new law narrows the gulf between the male and the female labourer. It prescribes for both sexes the eight-hour day and forty-five-hour week in workshops, factories and offices; the labour limits in the other cases to ten hours a day and fifty-five hours a week; prohibits nightwork and work on Sunday, and prescribes a half-holiday.

The only discrimination is protection for the wife before and after confinement. For eight weeks the factory, workshop, or shop, remains closed to her, without, I regret to state, the necessary complement of State maintenance.

We have good reason to fear, however, that the Royal Decrees, making exemptions and amendments, will again widen the gulf just narrowed, and make, whilst remaining within the limits drawn by the Labour Law, new differences between the workers of either sex, with the old, hateful, and deplorable result—dismissal of the "specially protected."

(To be continued.)

INTERNATIONALISM.

DECEMBER 16, 1921.

Christ and International Life. By Edith Picton-Turbervill, O.B.E. Introduction by Lord Robert Cecil. (Morgan & Scott, Ltd. 3s. 6d.)

In her book, "Christ and International Life," Miss Picton-Turbervill has made a notable contribution towards clear and right thinking on one of the most pressing problems of to-day.

To many of us, Internationalism, with its new vision of co-operation between nations for the common good of all, has come with the disturbing force of unfamiliar truth. There are heart-searchings. We look back half wistfully to the old patriotism, the patriotism that used to say "My country right or wrong," the patriotism that covered a multitude of sins. Narrow it certainly was, and selfish. The first new step was taken when we were taught to think imperially; now we must learn to think internationally.

Miss Picton-Turbervill contrasts the teaching of Christ with the teaching of Machiavelli. Machiavelli frankly advocated a double moral standard, one for use in human relations, and the other for national ends. History proves over and over again that Christian countries have in their international relations followed the teaching of Machiavelli rather than that of Christ. Yet Christianity is not merely a personal matter, relating to the saving of our own souls, the message is universal. "Love your enemies," "Do good to them that hate you," is the truest internationalism, founded on love of the whole human race, and the recognition that we are all "members one of another" under the common Fatherhood of God.

The description of the conditions in Galilee at the time of Christ are deeply interesting. It was a crowded cosmopolitan centre of industry and commerce. Romans ruled, and Phœnicians, Greeks, Egyptians, Syrians, Arabians, and Jews jostled each other in the market place. National feeling ran high. The Jews traded with their neighbours, but had no social intercourse with the Gentiles. As the chosen race they despised all who were not Jews. The Romans, on their side, had nothing but contempt for the Jews. How startling must have been Christ's message of peace and goodwill, how incomprehensible that He should exalt the Roman soldier's faith, and the good Samaritan's pity. No wonder that the Jews were surprised and troubled. The patriots in those days found it just as difficult to apply the teaching of Christ to their international relations as we do to-day, yet it can hardly have been more necessary than it is

The chaos left by the war has driven us to seek for new remedies. Can it not be that after all the only hope lies not in any new Gospel, but in the application of the old one that has never been taken as a guide for national policy? This book will clarify the thoughts of all who read it. It traces to their source the waters of bitterness and strife. Fear and hatred are at the root of the evil. Fear leads to hatred and wrong, and by seeking to save our lives we may lose them. But righteousness exalteth

"Christ and International Life" should be read by all women who share the common passion for the welfare of the child, born and unborn, and who believe that by spiritual progress the glorious destiny of the coming race can alone be attained.

DOROTHY GLADSTONE.

DELIGHTS FOR LADIES,

TO ADORNE THEIR PERSONS, TOILETS, CLOSETS, AND DISTILLATORIES.

A small, brown book, printed, so the title-page tells me, in London in the year 1628, with the recommendation "Read, practise, and censure." Having complied with the first of these articles, I found myself more inclined to comply next with the second rather than with the third. Indeed, I found nothing that I wanted to censure-nothing, indeed, that I should have had the heart to censure in a work so fragrant, so naif, so graceful, or so well-intentioned. The index alone was a source of joy, from "Bags sweet to lye among linnen," to "Ytch helped. I turned up the latter reference, but the index was evidently unreliable, for on the page indicated I found instead "A delicate stove to sweat in," and a second attempt led me to the knowledge of "How to gather and clarify May-dew." So I abandoned the index, trusting myself among the old, rusty pages, and learnt there how to renew the scent of a pomander; is a sleight to pass away an old Pomander," said the author, but my intention is honest "; and I learnt other things, some of which I here transcribe, choosing the simpler and more concise among them, and omitting the more ambitious, such as the "most singular and necessary secret for all our English Navie, which at all times, upon reasonable termes, I will be ready to disclose for the good of my country," or such anecdotes as that of Mr. Foster, an Essex man, whose "face was for many years together of a high and furious colour, and who had spent much money in physic until he obtained this receipt the receipt in question having been obtained from "an outlandish gentlewoman.

'To make a paste to keep you moist, if you list not to drink oft: Take half a pound of Damask prunes, and a quartern of dates; stone them both, and beat them in a mortar with one warden being roasted, or else a slice of old marmalade; and so print it in your moulds and dry it after you have drawn bread; put Ginger into it, and you may serve it at a banquet.

' How to keep Apples, Pears, Quinces, Wardens, &c., all the year, dry: Pare them, take out the cores, and slice them in thinne slices, laying them to dry in the sun in some stone or mettalline dishes, now and then turning them, and so they will keep all the year.

Hazell Nuts kept long: A man of great years and experience assured me, that Nuts may be kept a long time with full kernel by burying them in earthen pottes well stopped a foot or two in the ground; they keep best in gravellie or sandy places.

' How to hang your candles in the air without candle-stick. This will make a strange show to the beholders that know not the conceit. It is done in this manner: Let a fine virginall wire be concealed in the middle of every wick, and left of some length above the candle, to fasten the same to the postes in the roof of your house; and if any of the rooms be anything high-roofed, it will be hardly descried; and the flame though it consume the tallow, yet it will not melt the wire.

A sweet and delicate pomander. Take two ounces of Labdanum; of Benjamin and Storax, one ounce; musk, five grains; civet, six grains; Amber-grease, six grains; of Calamus Aromaticus and Lignum Aloes, of each the weight of a groat; beat all these in a hot mortar, and with a hot pesttell, till they come to paste; then wet your hand with rose-water, and roll up the paste suddenly.

'A delicate washing-ball: Take three ounces of Orris, two ounces of Calamus Aromaticus, one ounce of Rose-leaves, two ounces of Lavender-flowers; beat all together in a mortar, searcing them through a fine Searce (? sieve), then scrape some Castille soap, and dissolve it with some rose-water, then incorporate all your powders therewith, by labouring of them well in a mortar.

'A quarter of a pound of Coriander seeds, and three pounds of sugar will make great, huge, and big comfits."

And so I read, until I felt that from the mere turning of the pages my fingers must be redolent of spices, of Amber-grease, Cloves, Cinnamon, Musk, and Orris. The compilation of the book, I discovered, had taken the author something over twenty years. The true collector's instinct, obviously! and it was easy to figure her excitement and delight on coming across Mr. Foster of Essex, or the man of great years and experience, or the outlandish gentlewoman, whom she must have approached for information in a spirit at once resolute and tremulous. It was easy to figure the many little note-books she must have possessed; was there one especially slender, which might be slipped into her stomacher when travelling from home; or did she never travel from home, and was that little book compiled in some enclosed garden under the shadow of a cathedral and within sound of cathedral bells, or in a walled garden in Chelsea, when Chelsea was a village and Chelsea mulberry trees were voung?

V. SACKVILLE-WEST.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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Telephone: Museum 6910.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

A meeting was held in Chelsea on November 29th, under the auspices of the London Society for Women's Service, when Sir Samuel Hoare, Bart., D.S.O., met representatives of women's societies having members in the constituency, to discuss questions brought forward by them. Fifteen societies were officially represented. Sir Samuel Hoare made a short opening statement, in which he declared himself opposed to all inequalities of the law as between men and women, a statement which is borne out by his Parliamentary record. A discussion followed covering a wide field, including the following points:—Franchise, Employment, Moral Standard, Status of Wives and Mothers, Jury Service, Penal Reform, &c., Education, Housing, League of Nations, and Reduction of Armaments.

BRITISH WOMEN AND WASHINGTON.

The actual terms of the resolution telegraphed from the great meeting of British women gathered in London on Armistice night to the meeting of American women in New York assembled at the same time has hardly received the attention it deserves. It runs as follows:—

"We British women, called together by the League of Nations Union, including delegates from eighty-seven organisations representing over four and a-half million women, send greetings to the women of the United States. We intend that no great war such as the war whose end we celebrate to-day shall ever take place again, and we heartily welcome the Conference for the Limitation of Armaments and other purposes now opening in Washington. We hope that our sisters in America will join us in creating such a public opinion as will ensure permanent peace in all civilised countries."

civilised countries."

This is, in effect, a very solemn pledge, to follow which means strenuous and sustained effort. The N.U.S.E.C. having on its immediate programme work for the ideals of the League of Nations, and being one of the supporters of the meeting where this resolution was carried, has a special responsibility in the matter, and the League of Nations Special Committee earnestly hopes that every society will organise some form of gathering—either a public meeting, a conference, or a Study Circle on the subject of Disarmament (limitation of armaments)—during the session of the Washington Conference—If this opportunity is lost, it may be long before another presents itself.

BARNSLEY W.C.A.

The Barnsley Branch of the N.U.S.E.C. was honoured by a visit from Miss Eleanor Rathbone on December 1st, who addressed them on "Why a Woman's Movement is still needed." Such an illuminating and com-

prehensive address should greatly speed on the activities of this Society. A collection of £1 is. was taken for the Russian Famine Fund, and copies of The Woman's Leader were sold.

ROTHERHAM W.C.A.

ROTHERHAM W.C.A.

Miss Eleanor Rathbone addressed a large meeting in Rotherham on December 1st, on "Wages and their Relation to Family Needs." Major Kelley, M.P., presided, and spoke in favour of equality between the sexes. Miss Rathbone, before coming to the subject of her address, gave an outline of the programme of the N.U.S.E.C.

Coming to her lecture, she pointed out that all were agreed on the value of the work of the mother, and that the children of the nation were part of its wealth. We only provide financially for the rearing of the future generation through the wages earned by the male workers. It was becoming an economic axiom that the wages where men were concerned should be adequate for the maintenance of a family, the "Standard Family" consisting of a wife and three children. This doctrine of a living wage works out extremely badly as regards the welfare of the family. It was an ample wage for a bachelor, but when a man marries and one child after another is born, the economic pressure tightens. This method of rearing future generations was not only inefficient and clumsy, but preposterously extravagant. By paying each man on the assumption that he has three children to support, we are paying for three times as many children as there really are. At the same time we are making no provision for the large number of children who belong to families in which there are more than three children. A large proportion of the children of the nation are having less in order that the unmarried, childless man has more than enough. In order to remedy this state of affairs some scheme of wages allowance must be adopted. In Australia it is being proposed that the minimum wage should be based on the needs of a husband and wife. In addition, every employer should be asked to pay 10s. 9d. per week on behalf of each of his employees into a children's pool, out of which 12s. per week should be paid to mothers for each child under fourteen. In that way there would be a provision for each family according to its real needs

CORRESPONDENCE.

GIRLS IN BORSTAL INSTITUTIONS.

GIRLS IN BORSTAL INSTITUTIONS.

MADAM,—As a regular reader, I desire to enter a word of protest against the remarks in a recent issue under the heading "Girls in Borstal Institutions." It is only reasonable to suppose that handcuffs and irons would only be used as a last resource in cases of violence, involving injury to other persons or to building and furniture; and in such instances a measure of severity is certainly justifiable. The attendants and well-behaved inmates would never be safe if such conduct received no adequate restraint and punishment. As for the solitary confinement, that, if not of long duration, might be very salutary, especially in the case of offenders of sixteen and upwards. A little quiet meditation, after instruction, would do them good, I should think. There is far too little of it in these days. In the matter of Prison Reform, I am sure there is much useful work to be done by women; but let us not be carried away by an excess of sentimental zeal into efforts to make Children's Courts and Penal Institutions for the young (maintained at the public expense) attractive, and therefore worse than useless, or we shall deservedly incur the ridicule of all reasonable persons.

MAGGIE FARROW. the ridicule of all reasonable persons. MAGGIE FARROW.

WOMAN LINGUIST.

MADAM,—I want to thank you very much for the friendly little notice on p. 530 of your recent number, but please allow me to correct the absurd statement—due to a misunderstanding on the part of the Daily Mail. What I really said was that there were "about" 300 languages belonging to the Bantu family, whose main grammatical features are so uniform that a knowledge of one will make it comparatively easy to acquire any other. I cannot lay claim to an inside acquaintance with more than three or four—though it is quite true that for the reason first given I should be ready to give elementary instruction in any for which printed materials are available.

WOMEN AND WAR.

WOMEN AND WAR.

Madam,—Your correspondent, Mary M. Adamson, has misunderstood my meaning. I certainly do not "fear that a civilised nation which is not prepared to sacrifice thousands or millions of lives in warfare stands to lose its honour." I agree with your correspondent in believing that this idea of what honour requires, and of how it can be defended, will, in time, become as obsolete as the old ideas about private duels. What I do fear is that, in the present day, there are still people in every land who may be led to believe that they ought to fight for their conception of honour, while others will be equally ready to be led to battle in defence of their conception of "Freedom," or "Order," or the "Rights of the Proletariat." I think that while the belief that any moral idea whatever can be defended by physical force survives anywhere, it will be exceedingly difficult to make sure that war will cease.

Meanwhile, as Miss Royden has pointed out, all people of goodwill can join together in working constructively for peace. I heartily agree with her in thinking that it is incomparably more important to do this

than to decide whether we ourselves, or any of our friends, are worthy of

the name of "Pacifist."

Peace-lovers, as distinguished from pacifists, ought to try to understand each other, and I am sorry my letter has given rise to any misapprehensions. I hope I have now made it clear that my only intention was to point out a difficulty in our path, because I believe that the plain seeing and resolute facing of difficulties is a necessary preliminary, not only to lucid thought, but also to the right kind of vigorous action.

I. B. O'MALLEY.

THE DISINFECTION CAMPAIGN.

THE DISINFECTION CAMPAIGN.

Madam,—Meetings are being held in a number of towns to induce the Local Authorities to agree to use public funds and public places (generally men's lavatories) for making known the means and methods of self-disinfection after exposure to venereal disease. I have lately received letters saying that if only the writers had known in time where to apply for information, they could have put up a much stronger opposition to these proposals. Knowing that your valuable paper reaches large numbers of thoughtful men and women, may I ask you to make it known to your readers that the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene is always willing to supply accurate information on this subject, free of charge, to anyone who is interested and who will write to me for it?

My Committee is very anxious to have voluntary correspondents in every town, who would undertake to let the A. M. & S. H. know of any proposal made in their district which has a bearing on public morals and health. We are particularly anxious to be kept informed of local developments in regard to disinfection after exposure to venereal disease, compulsory notification of venereal disease, or any special legal action contemplated against immoral women.

Alison Nellans,

contemplated against immoral women. ALISON NEILANS

"TEACHING MOTHERCRAFT."

"TEACHING MOTHERCRAFT."

Madam,—I was very much interested in reading L. H. Y.'s article on "Teaching Mothercraft," but, while agreeing with all that the writer says about the importance of care and training during the second year of the child's life, I do not think that the second year should be over-emphasised at the expense of the first. Our work lies almost entirely in the care of the child during its first year, and in dealing with troubles that arise from wrong feeding, but, while fully acknowledging the wonderful part played by Nature in safeguarding the new life, I would say that Nature makes it quite plain that she needs and expects the co-operation of the mother, who, in these highly civilised days at any rate, generally requires the interpretation of experience to tell her what her part is. L. H. Y. mentions that the little girls were taught to "dress and /eed" a baby. One wonders if the feeds were given in a bottle? In teaching the older girls, could not this important subject have special emphasis and the pupils made to understand that the "natural food" is every child's birthright? It is on account of the numberless tragedies, brought to our notice often too late, of first babies either dying or suffering from scrious digestive troubles, due to the ignorance of their mothers, that I raise the plea for the enlightenment of future mothers as to what is their privilege and duty. mothers as to what is their privilege and duty

MATRON, Mothercraft Training Society.

Mothers and Sons.

MADAM,—I am anxious to bring to the notice of the readers of WOMAN'S LEADER a beautiul little poem, entitled "To My Son,"

THE WOMAN'S LEADER a beautiul little poem, entitled "To My Son," by Mary F. Rolt.

The writer of the poem has preserved and cultivated the wonderful gift of imagination, which is the heritage of every child, but which, alas, is so often lost in later life. The aim of moral training should be to use this gift of imagination to present to them facts in their true relationship to spiritual truth, so that these may become gradually woven into their lives. Sadly, too, often facts break in upon the imagination in such a way as to destroy it.

Mary F. Rolt shows a wonderful insight into the child-mind, and deals tenderly and truthfully with the great facts of motherhood. Her poem is full of inspiration and suggestions which should be very helpful to parents who realise the importance of helping their children to "fathom truth."

The beautiful ideal of preparation for motherhood, expressed in such direct and simple language must surely appeal to every "mother-heart," and I am anxious for it to reach as many as possible. Copies of the poem can be obtained from Mrs. Wilfred Thompson, Old Nunthorpe, York. Price 2d.

Mabel SMITH.

TO MY SON.

My little Son, I would that you should know That mystery which I alone can tell Of your life's history; That all your days, wherever you may go Your soul may be a citadel Of purest glory.

And as the questions pour from out your mind And your sweet wistful eyes are raised to mine Seeking to fathom truth, I would that you should meet her so enshrined In mystic loveliness, wholly divine: That she may win your youth

That she may win your youth For God

Ere your sweet life had started on its way I knelt to God as you do, when you pray, Asking this gift from His rich treasury, That through the love your father bears to me, As crown of all our joy, into our home A little child, our very own, might come.

And then one day a message came to me
That that which I had prayed for was to be,
So I must now for motherhood prepare
For God in Heaven had heard my anxious prayer.
But so the message told me, you would be
Too frail and fragile yet for me to see,
So Heaven had been for Mesher lave. So He would wrap you safe in Mother love
And your young life would thus be interwove
With mine; and you close to my heart would lie
Folded in love and peace and sanctity.

And as your tiny limbs took life and form And as your tiny limbs took life and form, I must protect and shield you from all harm, By sacrificing all things for your good, In my great love and greater motherhood, Moulding your tender spirit by my prayers, Mindful lest harm should reach you unawares, Surrounding my own mind with lovely things, That you might hear their echoed murmurings, Living my life with only one intent, That yours might wake in mystic wonderment.

Slowly I went, tenderly treading, lest
Haply I might disturb your tranquil rest,
Through months of patient waiting till at last
Your journey ended and my vigil past,
God brought you forth from your safe hiding place—
And then I looked upon your baby face

Pain cast a shadow on your earliest breath,
And my own life stood hand in band with death;
But God drew near and gave your life to me
To love and train for Immortality.
And so I lived for you, my little son—
I lived and loved and suffered, and I won
Your life and all the love you brought to me
From Heaven, in this most sacred mystery.

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COMING EVENTS.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

DEC. 16. Bedford, Town Hall, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: J. H. Harris, Esq. DEC. 19. Goole, Market Hall, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: Major H. Barnes, M.P. DEC. 21. Llandrindod Wells, Albert Hall, 8 p.m. Speaker: Frederick

EDINBURGH W.C.A.

DEC. I. Public Meeting, Gartshare Hall, 116, George Street, 3 p.m. Business: Formation of a Scottish Branch of the Howard League for Penal Reform. Chair: Councillor Ella M. Millar, M.B.E., J.P.

WESTMINSTER COALITION LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

DEC. 19. At St. Andrew's Hall, Ashley Place, S.W. I, at 8 p.m. "Platform Methods." Speaker: Mr. Marshall J. Plke (of the B.C.U.).

PIONEER CLUB.

DEC. 20. 8.15 p.m. Founder's Day. Musical and Dramatic Programme.

SHEFFIELD PLAYERS' SOCIETY.

DEC. 16 & 17. "Rich Martha," new four act play by Bertha N. Graham, at the Church House, Sheffield. Dec. 16, 8 p.m.; Dec. 17, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

CIVIC PLAYERS.

DEC. 17. In the Theatre of Birkbeck College, 8.30 p.m., a Masque, "Land and People," written by Gladys Mayer, music composed by Mr. Leigh Henry, will be performed. Particulars from Sec., Civic Players, Leplay House, 65, Belgrave Road, S.W. I.

SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES.

DEC. 21. The Bantu Tribes of East Africa (The Washambla). 12 o'clock.

Lecturer: Miss Alice Werner.

MEDICAL, Etc.

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THE PIONEER CLUB has re-opened at 12, Cavendish Place. Town members, £5 5s.; Country and Professional members, £4 4s. Entrance fee in abeyance (pro. tem.).

VENEREAL DISEASES AND DISINFECTION. Is this question coming before your Local Council? — Write for details to the Secretary, Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, Orchard House, Gt. Smith-street, S.W.1.

O'NSERVATIVE WOMEN'S REFORM ASSOCIATION, 48, Dover Street, W. I. Read December number Monthly News (price 2d.) for article on Washington Conference

I ONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 5-8, Victoria Street, S.W. I. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Christmas Sale, 56, Victoria Street, S.W. 1, remains open daily.

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