

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.

The League of Nations.

The League of Nations Council has met in London, and part of its session has taken place in public. Its next meeting will be in Rome. The cloud cast upon its inaugural sitting at Washington by the non-participation of the nation which was giving it hospitality could not, things being what they are, be entirely dispelled, but it was less ominous, and the fact of America's absence from the Council Chamber was felt to be only temporary. The presence of neutrals added weight to the proceedings, and is an earnest that the Council will be not the meeting of an alliance, but of a family of nations. Not one of the Eight Representatives was a woman. We are not to blame for this, but we shall be to blame if any part of any public session of the Council passes without a woman's presence. The Eight represent us, and we must watch that they represent us truly. It is true that we have no voice in their deliberations, but if they do not hear us, they in their turn will count for nothing. A nation, whatever its franchise, is a nation of men and women, not of men alone.

Women and the League of Nations.

Opinion among women is still divided as to the need of a special Bureau of Women in connection with the League of Nations. The great argument against such a Bureau is, that if it does exist, women will have less chance of finding places in the general Councils of the League. It seems probable, however, that in any case only a few nations will at first appoint women as their representatives, and that the existence of a special Bureau may hasten the time when they will be willing to do so. If the Bureau does come, it will probably be the result of an international movement on the part of women, and we are glad to hear that the subject is to be discussed at the International Woman's Suffrage Conference in Madrid in May. Meanwhile, we understand that the provisional Committee which was appointed to prepare and keep up-to-date a list of women suitable for appointment to official positions in the League of Nations is to be reconstituted on a permanent basis. A conference of women's organisations is to meet at the Caxton Hall on February 26th, to make the necessary arrangements.

The Need for More Women M.P.s.

Lady Astor had a rousing reception at the meeting which was held in Queen's Hall on February 12th, to advocate the need for more Women Members of Parliament. As Miss Rathbone pointed out, in thanking Lady Astor, this first woman at Westminster has already been of real service in many ways, and not the least thing she has done is, that by her personal charm and obvious sincerity she has made it easy for other women to follow her. The Queen's Hall Meeting, organised by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship and the National Council of Women, will, we hope, help in that direction. The Prime Minister, though intending till the last moment to be present, was in the end prevented from coming by the duties of a specially strenuous week. Mrs. Lloyd George read a letter from him. A full report of the meeting, over which Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon presided, will be found on a subsequent page.

Women and the Party Caucus.

Miss Eleanor Rathbone, who is now President of the N.U.S.E.C. in succession to Mrs. Fawcett, has not often been heard at great London meetings, and though only the duty of moving a vote of thanks fell to her, her speech aroused the meeting to fresh enthusiasm. The frequent applause with which it was greeted showed that women and men too realised that the pathway to Parliament was not so easy for women as had been suggested, and that in this as in other directions sex disabilities had still to be removed. Women were perfectly willing to run their chances of defeat as well as men, but Miss Rathbone pointed out that it was hopeless to try to get a footing in the constituencies without the help of the Party caucuses. Women must have a chance to fight for seats, not only for forlorn hopes. At the last election, when women were said to have made a poor show, it could be proved beyond dispute that men would have

done just as badly under similar conditions. Miss Rathbone pointed out that the King's Speech did not mention one single specifically woman's reform, and that no allusion was made to long overdue legislation for the provision of pensions for civilian widows. Miss Rathbone paid a warm tribute of gratitude to the services of the Prime Minister and Mr. A. H. Henderson with respect to the position of women in the past, and hoped that these might prove a portent of favours to come.

Woman's Suffrage in America.

Mrs. Ida Husted Harper informs THE WOMAN'S LEADER that the process of ratification by the State Legislatures of the Federal Suffrage Amendment is progressing as rapidly as can be expected, when it is remembered that a special session must be called for ratification and that this costs several thousand dollars. Rhode Island, Kentucky, Indiana, Wyoming, and Oregon have already ratified in January, and the certain adhesion of four Equal Suffrage States which have called sessions for February will bring the total up to thirty-one of the thirty-six States required for a complete Suffrage victory. New Jersey, whose opposition had been expected to be very strong, reports a favourable vote of the Lower House of its Legislature, and the State Suffrage President, Mrs. Lillian Feickert, who headed a deputation of one hundred and twenty-two thousand women in favour of ratification, hopes that next week New Jersey will be the thirty-second State to ratify. That American women will have the Suffrage this Spring is the opinion of prominent Suffragists in the States.

Women's Views on Ideal Homes.

Several hundred women, chiefly delegates from women's organisations and committees throughout the country, responded to the invitation of the Garden City and Town Planning Association to meet in conference on Tuesday, the 10th inst., at the Ideal Home Exhibition at Olympia. The conference had a short morning and an extended afternoon session, under the chairmanship first of Lady Emmott, then of Mrs. Boyd Dawson and of Dr. Marion Phillips. All three proved first-rate guides, directing and controlling the vigorous discussions that followed each paper. Women from the country had come determined to make known the difficulties and disappointments they were meeting with in efforts to improve housing projects. From their statements it might be gathered that the Ministry of Health has been "turning down" the majority of the demands that have come from working women as being "too expensive." One or two women of the working class spoke clearly, and a little bitterly, on this head, and met with the keenest sympathy not only from the audience, but from the Association officials, whose aim is to prevent the perpetuation of the cheap and ugly.

A Wealth of Ideas.

It was to be expected that there would be no lack of ideas concerning improvements in plan and design, since most women know it is the labour-saving house and not the labour-saving tool that is wanted. The Ideal Home Exhibition shows numberless labour-saving appliances, but the majority of these are unhelpful to the working woman whose house is cramped, short of cupboard room, and has steps at every turn. The demands of women were admirably voiced by Councillor Mrs. Barton, herself a working woman, as more ground space, a larger house and a smaller garden where eight or twelve to the acre are planned, more sunlight, covered-in places for children to play in, a plentiful and reliable supply of hot water, and more bedrooms. The housewife's biggest trouble is the limited space that cramps and thwarts her at every turn. The cry for room to live and room to breathe shows that women have got down to bedrock facts and are not going to be deluded with ideal offers which leave out essentials. That any house-plans and lay-outs should be passed without consulting them is rightly held to be an insult. Since women live the greater part of their lives in houses, do all the work of the houses, and actually preponderate in number as occupants of houses, their's is the ruling interest. They do not ask to be saved work so much as for conditions that make work enjoyable, and a conference that reveals this spirit is bound to result in some definite good.

Get on the Councils.

The need for women on all Councils, and the amount of influence they may exert when there, was admirably stated by Miss E. A. Browning of the Garden City Association, and by Miss Elsie Smith, of Sussex, on behalf of Women's Village Councils. The first speaker urged the importance of "getting there." It was not enough to be "co-opted"; a co-opted member was seldom listened to or seriously regarded as was the woman who had been returned by election. Village Councils were generally self-formed, and by force of numbers and weight of opinion they compelled the District Councils to listen and to act in accordance with their wishes and suggestions. The very reluctant admission of two or three women to a board or a council must be altered, and their position in equal numbers with equal authority should be claimed as a right. The vote has given responsibilities as well as rights, and such responsibilities must be shouldered and used to the fullest extent. Ideal homes and an ideal country will not be realised unless we get united work on the same aims by both men and women.

Consultative Health Council.

When the Consultative Councils which are to advise the Minister of Health were being set up, women made a claim to have a special Women's Council. This was refused, and adequate representation on the other advisory bodies was promised us. Remembering what "adequate" had meant on previous occasions, we were not very sanguine as to the outcome—and with grateful surprise we admit that we were wrong. Women have a majority on the Consultative Council on general health questions which balances their lesser representation on professional advisory bodies. Lady Rhondda will act as chairman, and Mrs. Arthur Greenwood as vice-chairman. Eleven of the remaining seventeen members are women—Mrs. Aspinall, Mrs. Harrison Bell, Mrs. Burke, Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, Mrs. Hood, Miss Margaret Macmillan, Mrs. Mayo, Miss E. M. Phelps, Mrs. Pember Reeves, and Miss Gertrude Tuckwell.

Unemployment Insurance.

The new scheme for extending unemployment insurance to substantially the whole employed population between the ages of sixteen and seventy, carries on from the National Health Insurance the practice of exacting from girls and women a contribution higher in proportion to the benefit accruing to them than is the case for men. In the case of health insurance we were told that the higher rate of sickness among employed women made this discrimination necessary, and we do not dispute that this is so to-day, though it might cease to be so were women in the labour market on a real equality with men as regards entrance to skilled trades, and equal pay for equal output. But in an unemployment scheme, this discrimination is out of place. Why should a contribution from a woman and her employer amounting to fivepence bring in only twelve shillings a week, while the man's sixpence brings in fifteen shillings? Her benefit should be twelve and sixpence, and the girl's six and threepence instead of six shillings. Does not a woman's accumulated contribution bring in the same interest as a man's?

The Children's Era.

The meeting arranged at the Mansion House by the National Baby Week Council was in support of the Children's Era Movement, which is directed to concentrating all efforts being made for the physical, moral, and mental welfare of the coming citizens. "Give me the child," its promoters say, "and I will create a new mind and a new earth in one generation." Lady Astor spoke on Child Welfare and Citizenship, Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher on Education and the Children's Era Movement. Some points made by the speakers were: that the child is the plaything of his environment, and that the most important part of the environment is the home. Lady Astor said that only through restlessness could we progress, and advocating the destruction of drunkenness, asked why, if nine hundred thousand men had sacrificed their lives for their country, some men and women should not sacrifice their appetites. Several speakers pointed out that we were trustees for the children of men who had fallen in our defence, and that as such we must see that all children had equal opportunities of health and of education in its wide sense.

The W.N.H.A. of Ireland.

The Women's National Health Association of Ireland is not sufficiently familiar to English readers to be readily recognised under its initials, but its work, especially its battle with tuberculosis, is already having a marked influence on mortality figures. Ireland, whose low rate of infant mortality is a model to all European nations, is sadly high in the list when mortality of children from tuberculosis is concerned. Not only is the death-rate from all forms of tuberculosis much higher than that of England and Wales, but the number of victims to surgical tuberculosis of children under fifteen is much higher than that of Great Britain with her large industrial population, which would naturally be supposed to be more liable to the infection. The W.N.H.A. has had excellent results in County Clare from its Research and After-Care work in connection with the Ennis Sanatorium, the number of tuberculosis deaths having fallen since 1908 from two hundred and twenty nine to one hundred and thirty seven. Not a single case treated in the Sanatorium has since been lost sight of, a fact which is as important from its preventive side in the control of contacts as in the beneficial after-care of the patients themselves. The Society expects great results from the compulsory medical examination of school children, which has only now been introduced into Ireland, though its effects have been well-marked in Great Britain for years.

Cost of Living.

Official figures show that the cost of living increased again in the month of January by about five per cent., and that we are now paying £2 6s. 8d. for what in 1914 would have cost a pound, and this in spite of a Government subsidy which gives us bread at considerably under cost price. This week the air has been full of challenge of these official figures, some persons quoting the Sumner Report on the cost of living to show that they exaggerate the rise in food prices, and others following Mr. Bevin in his speech before the Dockers' Commission to show that they are too low. The disputants are somewhat inclined to suspect each other of bad faith, or at least of ignoring material considerations, and the general public is frankly puzzled by their arguments, and demands the "facts." Unluckily, the facts are and must remain obscure.

The Sumner Report.

Until war conditions began to raise food prices with unexampled rapidity, the official or Board of Trade figures were practically unimpeachable. They took as a basis the actual expenditure of existing families on a large number of necessities, and called the sum of money thus arrived at 100. It was simple when a slight rise or fall in bread or meat or other foods occurred to reckon out its effect on the specimen weekly budgets. If the resulting figure was, say, 98 or 102, the cost of living was described as having risen or fallen two per cent. Difficulties first arose when rationing strictly limited the amounts of butter, sugar, and meat, for the official figures still assumed that the quantities consumed before the war were being bought, while in fact, margarine at a shilling a pound has replaced the butter which now costs 5s. 6d. That rise in price of butter from 1s. 2d. in 1914 to 5s. 6d. in the present month appears in the official figures, but not in our house-keeping books. The Sumner Report recognises this, and, substituting margarine for butter in figures as in fact refuses to reckon 5s. 6d. butter in our budget at all.

The Housekeeper's Distrust of Statistics.

The housekeeper has an answer to this, saying, with undoubted truth that butter is better than margarine, and that this makes the Sumner calculations unfair. And she is right. But she will hardly go so far as to say that a pound of butter is worth 4s. 6d. more than a pound of margarine. She will, we believe, put the rise in the real cost of living somewhere between the Board of Trade figures and the Sumner Committee figures. She will say that living costs more than twice as much as in 1914, and she will be more in accordance with the facts than are the statisticians. She will be much closer to them than Mr. Bevin, who, in making his calculations, has supposed that a rise of threepence a pound in bacon will be as bad for the housekeeper's purse as a rise of threepence a pound on bread. He has not, in the statistician's phrase, weighted his averages. This is a process difficult to explain and of unfamiliar name, but it is done, in a rule of thumb manner, by all housekeepers who cut their coat according to their cloth.

Presentation to an Irish Suffrage Worker.

A pleasant incident marked the annual meeting of the Women's Political League, on February 12th, in Belfast, when a presentation was made from friends in many parts of Ireland to Miss Dora Mellone as a recognition of her services to the feminist cause during the last eleven years. Miss Mellone, in acknowledging the gift, spoke of the encouragement such a token of appreciation afforded in a work very slow and often very difficult. Measures which simply relieve present injustices and evils for the moment are fairly easy, but to remove the causes which lead to these conditions is always somewhat hard, seldom more so than in Ireland at present. This appreciation was especially welcome, coming from personal friends and from women all over Ireland who had been fellow workers in the Suffrage Movement and now shared in the wider tasks which followed.

Wages Before Dividends.

The Y.W.C.A. wish to give all possible publicity to their conviction that the claims of the workers to adequate wages come before the claims of shareholders to dividends. They desire to urge upon those of their members who are shareholders the duty of accepting their responsibility towards those whose labours help to produce their dividends. Further, they feel convinced that members should inform themselves as fully as possible as to the conditions of employment, and as one means to this end, attend shareholders' meetings. A shareholders' meeting, we may point out, is an annual fixture. To attend it is but little tax upon the time of even a busy woman living in London. If the shareholder is satisfied with what she hears at the meeting, she need do no more. If she learns nothing of the conditions of employment for which she among others is responsible, it is her duty to ask for information. Until men and women with shares recognise this responsibility they must expect to hear workers gibe at the "soulless capitalist," and they will have no answer to the taunt.

Mental Disorders.

The important statement on the need for reform in the treatment of mental disorders which is signed by Lord Pontypridd, Dr. Mott, and other experts, demands in the first place facilities for the treatment of incipient mental disease, and in the second, facilities for research. There are now no opportunities of out-patient treatment, very little for free or aided treatment of un-certificated persons who voluntarily place themselves under care, and hardly any mental hospitals except those for shell-shocked soldiers, which are especially equipped and staffed for the purpose of treating for a few months those cases only which promise speedy recovery. Dr. Henry Maudsley's intention, when making his generous gift of £40,000 for the establishment of a neurological hospital was that the Maudsley hospital should be used for incipient cases without certification, and as a training ground for mental specialists. The hopeful aspect of out-patient treatment is apparent to anyone who considers the difficulty of providing "interests" for a mental patient uprooted from home and familiar surroundings. An outpatient in early stages could have both skilled care and natural environment, whereas he (or quite as often, she) has to make a fatal choice between two essentials for recovery. Scotland is more fortunate in admitting treatment without certification, and its greater liberty in this respect has not been abused, while its record of cures in early stage cases is encouraging. The announcement that Cambridge University has arranged a complete course of lectures for a Diploma in Psychiatries gives ground for the hope that our asylums may soon be really hospitals and not merely boarding houses for the insane.

The Ministry of Women.

The Lower House of Convocation having resolved against giving permission to accredited women to "preach and pray in congregations composed of women and children," basing its decision on "the statements of St. Paul and the uniform practice of the Church in the past," the Upper House will postpone their consideration of the matter until after the Lambeth Conference in July. We direct the attention of our readers to the Petition to be presented by the League of the Church Militant, praying for recognition of the Ministry of Women. The postponement is not, the Archbishop of Canterbury explains, to be interpreted as showing hostility to the proposals recommended by the Joint Committee on the Ministry of Women, but is directed to obtain-

ing a fully considered verdict on these proposals. Those who wish to sign the petition can obtain forms from the League of the Church Militant, 6, York Buildings, Adelphi. We print the text of the petition elsewhere.

Dried Milk.

The valuable research work bearing on the feeding of infants which is being carried on at the Lister Institute, under the direction of Dr. Harriette Chick, has been already mentioned in these notes. The results of experiments with guinea-pigs and monkeys as to the respective merits of fresh and dried cows' milk, are of much practical importance. They demonstrate that despite its usually superior purity and its many conveniences in use, dried milk is an incomplete food. Even fresh cows' milk is less rich in anti-scorbutic vitamins than an infant's natural nutriment. Dried milk loses some of this essential quality, and any young animal fed exclusively upon it is liable to scorbutic symptoms. On the other hand, the experiments have shown that its growth-producing qualities are equal to those of fresh cows' milk. It is, therefore, an excellent food for children on a mixed diet which includes fruit and vegetables, and can be made a complete food for the bottle-fed infant by the admixture of small quantities of orange juice, tomato, or swede juice. This conclusion is not affected by the fact that the fresh milk of cows deprived of fresh grass may also be dangerously deficient in the anti-scorbutic quality. Probably dried milk, if suitably supplemented with fruit juice, is a better food than the fresh milk usually obtainable in towns. The detailed account of these experiments is very interesting; they ran the risk of entire failure twice, once because the guinea-pigs refused to accept milk, either dried or fresh, as their whole *menu*, their principles being even more completely dry than Prohibitionist America's and again when one of the few available monkeys suddenly refused dried milk at any price, perhaps because she knew it did not contain the indispensable orange juice.

The Plumage Bill.

The hopes held out of a Government Plumage Bill are, for the present at least, at an end; fortunately the Plumage Bill group, who always foresaw the possibility of this failure, have been keeping in touch with the opponents of bird-slaughter in both Houses of Parliament. Now that the Government has definitely failed to assign a date for any Bill of its own, Colonel C. E. Yate, supported by Viscountess Astor, Sir John Butcher, Commander Dean, V.C., and Major Oscar Guest, has introduced a very satisfactory Bill, which should come for Second Reading on April 30th. There is also every reason to expect that a similar Bill, promoted by the Plumage Bill group, will shortly be introduced in the House of Lords.

Oxford and Women's Degrees.

As we go to press we learn that the statute providing for the admission of women to degrees in the University of Oxford was promulgated in Congregation on Tuesday, February 17th. The statute was introduced by Professor Geldart, and its preamble, "Whereas it is expedient to provide that women may be matriculated and admitted to degrees in the University . . ." was approved without a division. It is possible that the next round of the contest will involve the moving of destructive amendments when the main part of the statute comes before Congregation.

Miss Rathbone for Parliament?

We are very glad to hear that there is a prospect of Miss Eleanor Rathbone standing for Parliament at an early date. We understand that the Liverpool Women Citizens' Association are anxious that she should do so, and that it is probable that she will stand for East Toxteth. She has represented a ward in that division on the City Council since 1909, and her family have lived in it for many generations. It is at present represented in Parliament by Captain S. Rankin, a Coalition Unionist, who was returned unopposed at the last General Election. Miss Rathbone has always been an independent member of the City Council, and has no strong party views. Independent candidates for Parliament have special difficulties to confront, but if Miss Rathbone stands as an independent she will, at any rate, have the support of many women citizens.

THE ECONOMY OF WIDOWS' PENSIONS.

THE outlook for Widows' Pensions is very bright. Our friend, Mr. Tyson Wilson, M.P., has obtained first place in the ballot for Private Members' Bills,* and has given notice of his intention to remind the Government once more of the existence of widows with dependent children. We do not wish to press the parallel with the New Testament story of the importunate widow too far, remembering that this concerned a magnate who "feared not God, neither regarded man." Nevertheless, the old parable encourages us in our importunity, and in so far as the powers with whom we have to deal fear God and regard man, there will be so much the less necessity for wearisome reiteration of our demands.

Meanwhile the times provide the champion of the widows with an ever-strengthening argument—*economy*. Month by month the will to economise grows upon our representatives; month by month our straitened national resources of labour and capital become more precious in our eyes; month by month we draw further away from those days of headlong wastage and destruction, when nothing counted but the supreme effort of the passing moment.

Now at first sight the pressing need for economy may seem to be a poor argument for the introduction of a measure which will involve the annual expenditure of between twenty and thirty million pounds. Seeing that we have left our widows to the uncertain ministrations of the Poor Law for so many years, is this precisely the moment to choose for incurring the new burden of providing them with adequate pensions? The thing may be humane; it may be an inevitable moral obligation; but can it be regarded as economical, at a time when Mr. Austen Chamberlain is straining every nerve to bring his State revenue into some kind of respectable relationship with his State expenditure?

To such a question we reply that the immediate introduction of a system of pensions for widows with dependent children is a matter of urgent national economy. Looked at solely from the point of view of its bearing upon the material wealth of the nation—and we do not pretend that any measure should be looked at solely from such a point of view—this measure remains a matter of urgent national economy. And if any reader ventures to doubt this, we challenge him to give us a definition of the word "economy." For ourselves, we are satisfied with that of our indispensable friend, "Nuttall's Standard Dictionary." To *economise*, says that infallible authority, is "to manage pecuniary concerns with frugality; to save; to use with prudence; to expend with frugality." And using with prudence, be it noted, means something more than using as little as possible. It involves the mental effort of using in such a way as to obtain the greatest proportionate result. The woman who economizes so rigidly on her child's milk bill that she is subsequently forced to spend large sums on medical advice and cod-liver oil, is not, in our opinion, economical. We ourselves did not act economically last year, when we trustfully purchased a pair of shoes for 6s. 6d., only to find two days later that they were manufactured out of absorbent brown paper.

With such a definition of economy in our minds, therefore, let us assume that a reasonable scheme of Widows' Pensions is going to cost something under £30,000,000 a year. That done, let us consider what we are going to get for our money. In the first place we are going to remove a large number of children from Poor Law institutions throughout the country: all those, in fact, who are the children of widows incapable of earning sufficient money for their support at home. At the same time, we are going to cancel a considerable proportion of the annual expenditure of Poor Law Unions on intermittent outdoor relief: all that, in fact, which is doled out to widows with dependent children. We have now to consider what relation these cancelled sums bear to the cost of maintaining the corresponding number of children under a scheme of Widows' Pensions.

* As we are going to press we learn that Mr. Tyson Wilson's Bill has been ruled out of order.

As regards the first—the expense of maintaining widows' children in Poor Law institutions—we have unfortunately very few statistical data. We do not know what proportion of the children now under the Poor Law are widows' children, nor do we know what is the average weekly cost of their maintenance. It varies widely of course, from the cost of maintenance in an up-to-date community of cottage homes, to the cost of maintenance in those Unions (if any such remain) where the children live in the general mixed workhouse, and attend the local elementary school. As a rule, the average weekly cost of maintenance will include educational expenses which would not enter into the cost of Widows' Pensions, being borne by the Education Authorities. Nevertheless, we believe that nobody will challenge us when we say that the cost of maintaining a child in a Poor Law institution, quite apart from the expense of educating it, is appreciably greater than the cost of paying its mother such a sum as will enable her to provide for it adequately at home. We should not resent this fact if we believed the benefits of institutional life to be correspondingly greater than the benefits of life in the home. We do not, however, believe that they are. We believe that 10s. per week spent on the child in its own home will probably benefit it about as much as £1 a week spent on it in a really well-equipped Poor Law school. And the reason for our belief is this:—The average mother is in a sense an expert as regards her own children. She may not be able to clean out an office, or sew buttons on to cards any better than millions of other people. She may not be able to look after children in general any better than the well-trained spinster who makes a profession of it. But she is, as a rule, capable of looking after *her own children* better than anyone else in the world. She is capable of giving them something that other people will very probably not be able to give them. She is, we repeat, as far as her own particular children are concerned, a born expert. Their existence provides her with the one job which she can do better than other people; and in so far as society fails to employ her on that one job it is wasting its resources as surely as if it diverted skilled engineers to road-sweeping.

As regards the cancellation of sums spent in out-door relief to widows with dependent children, the economy of substituting adequate regular pensions is less obvious. Indeed, it almost appears as though the money spent under the new scheme were going to exceed the money saved under the old. This would be the case if the money saved under the old scheme were confined exclusively to the expenses of the relieving officer.* We must, however seek for them further afield—in the school-feeding accounts of the Education Authorities, in the records of the Charity Organisation Society, in the archives of any body, public or private, which expends money upon repairing the ravages of under-nourishment and neglected disease. Many of these expenses are, of course, deferred expenses, burdening the rates and charities of the community long after the widow's child, on whom money was once saved, has grown into a weedy or stunted adult.

But these incidental and deferred expenses are not incurred by the community solely on behalf of the children dependent on out-door relief. They are incurred, as every social worker knows, on behalf of that vast army of widows' children whose mothers manage, by hook or crook, to keep off the Poor Law. The maintenance of these children is intensely economical in the sense that little is spent on them; it is intensely wasteful in the sense that what is spent gives the community little return in the form of mental and physical power. Exactly what they cost our public and charitable bodies in incidental and deferred expenses we cannot tell; exactly what society misses by failure to cultivate its human resources we cannot tell. But we venture a very shrewd guess that if such a calculation could be made and estimated in pounds, shillings, and pence, it would weigh down the balance against our thirty millions so heavily that we should regard that little sum as an investment bearing interest beyond the dreams of avarice—even in the Year of Grace 1920.

* For the position of widows and their children under the Poor Law, readers should refer to Miss Eleanor Rathbone's pamphlet on "Widows' Pensions," published by the N.U.S.E.C., 62, Oxford Street, price 4d.

FEMINISM IN IRELAND.

By DORA MELLONE.

IRISH feminism, like everything else in the country, has its roots far back in ancient days, days still vivid in the mind of a people to whom the past is possibly even more real than the present. Men and women worked and fought side by side. In ancient Ireland a greater thing than the vote was given to women on the same terms as to men. This was life itself. The whole field of human labour was open to women—even the best paid posts! The test in all cases was fitness or unfitness.

In Pagan times women exercised all the functions of the Druids, and with the coming of Christianity an even wider scope was given. St. Brigid, head of the great convent at Kildare, was apparently the superior of the Abbot of the neighbouring monastery, since the record states, "Brigid chose him to rule the church with her." She attended synods and councils, taking part in the discussions, and women are to-day working to regain this privilege.

The other learned professions were also open to women; there is an instance of a lady doctor treating bloodpoisoning by cupping, using special instruments forbidden to the lay folk. Another woman is mentioned in the records as deciding points usually referred to the judges, and her decisions are quoted as precedents in difficult cases. For the skilled trades the art of metal work might be taken. Everyone knows how much beautiful work was done in this medium by the artists of Celtic Ireland, and the importance attached to it may be judged from the law providing that the first person to see a completed piece should give it a blessing, on pain of fine.

It is true that the bondswomen had a hard lot, but with that exception women were sheltered by a rigorous code. Where a maiden or young child had been assaulted the fine was heavy, and was exacted, even if the criminal had been prevented from carrying out his intention, and had only torn the dress or put his hand on the hair. "Consent" was not recognised as an excuse at any age. The other day a case of assault on a girl of eleven was punished by three months' imprisonment without hard labour. It is easy to see how this will be regarded by those who brood over the ancient ways, especially as the offender was an ex-soldier and recommended to mercy on that account. All this is ancient history, and is only noted as one of the reasons why able and gifted women are found in such numbers in the ranks of the party whose motto is an Irish Ireland, and who desire to clear away every trace of the English "occupation." The manifesto of the Irish Republic in 1916 promised equality between men and women in the genuine spirit of the Brehon law. A newspaper illustration of a meeting of Republican delegates showed the more comfortable chairs occupied by the men and the wooden forms left for the women; but this might be attributed to the degrading influence of the English occupation! A truer indication of the party attitude was afforded at the first meeting of the newly elected Dublin Corporation, when, during a temporary absence of the Lord Mayor, the chair was for the first time taken by a woman Councillor, Mrs. Sheehy-Skeffington.

All through the troubled course of Irish history women have played a leading part, and the members of the Women's Unionist Association and the Cumman nam Bán (now suppressed) are only following the traditions of their common country. Each of these, however, worked on lines settled for them by the men, and for true feminist work in the last half century the historian will look to the records of the Suffragists and of such societies as the United Irishwomen, organisations creating and carrying on their own work without direction from any political party.

There was little characteristically Irish in the Suffrage movement, indeed this formed one of the great difficulties. Audiences constantly flung the reproach at the speakers that they were paid by England to distract Irish attention from Home Rule. In Ulster the same speakers were told they were employed by the Nationalists to sow dissension in the Unionist camp. After the hatchet-throwing in Dublin and the house-burning in Ulster matters became worse. That hatchet was never buried!

Since the Reform Act the Suffrage societies have for the most part become Women Citizens Associations under various names. The Irish Republican women claim theirs is the right method for attaining feminist ends. There is no difficulty unfortunately in producing instances of the delays in obtaining vitally important reforms from a "foreign Parliament." Take, for example, the position of the Health Council in Ireland and

compare it with the Health Ministry in England. Some months ago *The Weekly Irish Times* published an article on The Openings for Irishwomen in the new Health Services. Careful reading showed that these were in England. The Irish Council has no funds and can only advise and recommend. Its head is the Chief Secretary, a man already overburdened with official duties. The Council is not an equivalent for the English Ministry of Health, and the Republican women know this.

Could what Lord Robert Cecil calls "the nightmare of Ireland" be settled it would mean a great addition to the strength of feminism. Such a settlement, if real, would include Ulster, and would release some of the very experienced and able Unionist women for social reform. Even worse than the subordination of everything to the one issue, whether viewed from the standpoint of the Unionist Council or from that of Dail Eireann, is the distraction caused by the political tension and the misery of the recurrent outrages. These conditions make constructive work very difficult. It is slightly discomposing to argue Mothers' Pensions when your audience may tell you they will hear nothing of a scheme based on grants from an "enemy Power," and that Ireland, once free, the twenty-two millions now filched in taxation will be used for such beneficent reforms.

What is the present strength of feminism in Ireland, and to what ends does it work? The election results were not encouraging. There was no feminist candidate in the Parliamentary election, and the results in the municipal elections were more hopeful owing to the establishment of P.R. For legislative results, after one year's fishing with the bait of the vote, there is a catch of three small fishes, the Health Council, Medical Inspection of Schools, and P.R. As some compensation, most of the points in the feminist programme have been adopted by the different political parties, though they are on the waiting list. The difference between this programme in Ireland and in other countries is due to the conviction that the first duty is in the most literal sense to save the race from perishing. This has led to the concentration on health questions. Arthur Griffith charged the British Government with the deliberate purpose of destroying the race by neglect of measures recognised as indispensable for the physical welfare of the people. The neglect is there; but there will be differences of opinion as to the explanation. Then there are the questions of equal pay and equal eligibility, of desperate importance to Irish feminists, for the young women must be kept in the country. "Don't take work in Ireland if you can possibly help it" is recognised as good advice among the better educated women, who have their living to earn. There are only four forces that count in the Ireland of to-day: religion, agrarianism, ignorance, and poverty. It is the earnest conviction of many feminists that only by removal of the causes of poverty and ignorance, not merely by alteration of the form of government, can peace be established in the country. The fires of Easter, 1916, were smouldering in the Dublin slums before the fierce storm of political agitation fanned them to a blaze.

When the work of the United Irishwomen has rendered village life endurable, and their nursing schemes have brought help to the sick in the scattered cabins of the lonely countryside, when the teachers' organisations and the Union among clerical workers have gained for educated Irishwomen something like the English scale of salaries, when the disgrace of barefoot children begging and crying papers early and late in the city streets has been done away with, when a commencement has been made with the housing problem, then Irish feminists will be free to devote themselves to those moral issues which are at the heart of the movement. Religion in Ireland is part of the life of the people, and therefore the standard of morality is high. But the injustice of the laws bearing on the relations between men and women are fully realised, and no opportunity for action, even at present, is neglected.

So far Irish feminism has held back from formal alliance, even with the Labour Party. This latter is gaining strength, as the recent elections proved, and there will probably be increased co-operation. But the majority of feminists feel that in isolation lies their true strength. The women's organisations are not rich either in funds or in membership: but they have knowledge, and are not to be frightened, cajoled, or bribed. These are the real sources of power—to know what should be done, to care for that passionately, and to be afraid of nothing.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

THE King's Speech and the amendments to it have passed and have left the Coalition with considerable dialectical triumphs; but Parliamentary debate is one thing and the state of the country is another, and the attention of the Government must immediately be focussed upon settling two overwhelmingly urgent matters which are threatening the stability of the country. It is difficult to realise that there are two such things when one watches the progress of Parliamentary business. Yet one of them is already causing bloodshed and disorder, and the other is more than likely to do so in a few weeks. I refer, of course, to Ireland and to coal. Perhaps it is because our imaginations have grown weary of disaster on a big scale that these actual and urgent dangers are not vividly realised.

In the case of Ireland no doubt Members of Parliament, like the rest of us, feel a mild despair. If nothing is going to satisfy them, and if indeed they don't even want to be satisfied, what is the use of troubling. But trouble they must, and it is to be hoped that the Government's Bill, which was introduced at the end of last session, will proceed rapidly on its way.

As to coal, there is as yet less indifference. Both the Government and the Members are aware that a settlement has got to be reached, and the fact that the miners' leaders have gone to the Continent to try and arrange that no coal shall be sent to us from there in the event of a strike in this country, should bring home to the rest of us the importance of the present coal crisis.

The ballot for places for Private Members' Bills is always a thing of interest to non-party societies, and to reformers generally. In the long years of the Suffrage struggle the result of that ballot was sometimes the only hope of raising the question in Parliament at all, and the continued good fortune of our friends was often a matter for congratulation.

This session our luck seems to hold. The first place in the list fell to Mr. Tyson Wilson, who was to have introduced the Labour Party's Mothers' Pensions Bill on Friday, the day this paper appears. We understand that that Bill provided for pensions (on the scale of the pensions to the widows of soldiers) for all civilian widows with one or more children, and for those women who have been known as unmarried wives. Unfortunately, however, Mr. Tyson Wilson's Bill was ruled out of order, on the score that it involved the expenditure of money. (Financial questions cannot be dealt with in Private Members' Bills.)

Mr. Grundy has secured the second place in the ballot, and is bringing forward a Bill to amend the Representation of the People Act in the direction of Adult Suffrage. It will be discussed on February 27th. Two other Private Members' Bills which have obtained places in the ballot deal with subjects on the immediate programme of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. One is a Women's Franchise Bill, presented by Sir R. Parke Goff, and to be discussed on May 14th. The other is a Proportional Representation Bill, presented by Major Morrison-Bell, and to be taken on May 21st. The Bill to amend the Bastardy Laws and to make better provision for bastard children, presented by Mr. Neville Chamberlain, and put down for May 7th, is also of great interest.

With regard to the general political situation the outlook still remains obscure. It is reassuring to find that the meeting of the Council of the League of Nations has in fact secured a decided modification of the position with regard to war criminals, but apart from this the international outlook is ominous. The news from America, which is still wrapped in a mist of newspaper speculation, seems to be very serious, and the re-emergence of the Fiume controversy is a reminder that peace is not very stable.

The Prime Minister has made it fairly clear in this first week of the session that he does not intend to appeal to the country just yet, unless things change very suddenly. Changes, however, are just what are likely, with the Paisley result imminent and the coal situation developing, and any attempt at direct action on the part of the miners would be sure to lead to remarkable political results.

THE OUTLOOK IN JOURNALISM.

By Mrs. MARGARET HEITLAND.

THE Press is pleased to say it is free. At least it is pleased to say so at public dinners when its mind and other parts are full of pleasant things. It is free to say whatever pleases itself—provided it pleases other people. But it never pretends to be able to speak freely about the Press itself. Just as dressmakers dress everybody gorgeously except themselves; so the Press gives publicity to all who want it and to a good many who don't, but keeps its own doings very quiet. The Press is the most private profession in the world.

If the Press does not choose to speak about itself in the Press, nobody else can. But some of us are soldiers fighting for freedom—and especially for the freedom of women—before we are journalists. We value our membership of the journalistic profession chiefly because it enables us to talk to an immense number of people about the things for which we care. But if in any way that profession hampers us from fighting for our cause, then the cause must come before the profession. In these pages the cause stands first.

I want therefore to say a little about "The Outlook in Journalism," by which I mean the outlook for women as journalists and the outlook for the women's cause in journalism. Here we have not only one big subject but two; consequently I must be forgiven if I only utter a few thoughts about a few bits of each subject.

What I mainly want to say is that I am dissatisfied both with the position which women occupy on the Press and—though here my dissatisfaction is more partial than complete—with the manner in which women's public interests are represented in the Press.

The position which women occupy on the Press is doubtless a good deal better than it was five-and-twenty years ago; but it is nothing like so much better as it ought to be. The improvement of women's position on the Press is in no sort of correspondence with the improvement of women's position in public affairs and in other professions. On some of the principal London daily papers there has doubtless been an increase in the number of women employed to write articles, reports, &c., dealing with labour and social questions as they affect women. But even in such cases, many of the women writers are what I may style regular irregular contributors. That is to say many of them (though not all) can be dismissed at short notice, or no notice at all, for they are pieceworkers, and not salaried members of the newspaper staff. The progress of women as regular reporters has certainly been discouraged. It is only recently that women reporters obtained admission to the Parliamentary Committee rooms, owing to the extreme dearth at the moment of competent men; and they may be said to have just crossed the threshold of the Press Gallery of the House of Commons. The number of women to be found in newspaper offices doing work which is ostensibly clerical, or secretarial, but actually journalistic, has grown considerably of late, but except in London and the great cities, such women are seldom seen acting as representatives of a newspaper outside its office. The person sent to report women's meetings, or to interview a woman about some question of women's politics is often quite a raw lad, seldom a woman journalist. Were it not that the Press is, as I have said, the most private profession in the world, an injustice of this kind could have been exposed more vigorously. At the present time it is easier for a woman to become a great physician or surgeon, the mayor of a borough, a magistrate, or a member of parliament, than it is for her to be engaged as a regular member of the reporting staff on a small local newspaper. In almost every field of labour we have broken in pieces the old rule that the whole world, plus the women's world, is the domain of men, but that only the women's world, and not always that, may be occupied by women. Yet throughout the Press, with few exceptions, this rule is still accounted valid.

I turn to the second portion of my subject—the treatment of women's interests in the Press. In this department women have much less cause to complain than they had five years ago. During the war they became electors and citizens of their country. The war put the value of their labour at a premium

where their work before had often fetched rubbish prices. This brought women, for a time at all events, into the ranks of organised, highly-paid labour. Politically and economically they became eligible to join one of the most powerful of the Parties. Many of them have availed themselves of the opportunity. They have broken loose from the "Ladies' Column" and have refused to be buried under paper patterns. They are, in short, members of the general public.

That is the truth which is recognised in many portions of the newspaper world. Ever since the spring of 1918 there have been fresh converts to this view among newspaper owners and editors; and a few of these never needed to "re-interpret" their old statements. But there remain in certain Midas-governed quarters strong influences which are pulling against us. The notion of the particular type of newspaper Midas whom I have in mind is that his gains will only multiply themselves as rapidly as he wishes if women are discouraged from joining the general public and are shepherded back into the Ladies' Column.

Now it is no use being angry or cross with Midas; since all of us who are indignant at our own poverty are incipient Midases. But I think there are matters about which the newspaper Midas is mistaken; and I should like to suggest some considerations to him. I think he is mistaken in assuming that the woman reader would be less remunerative to him than she is at present if her work and her interests were wider, and if she more frequently earned some of the wealth which she scatters. He believes that if women knew and cared about a great many things, they would care less devotedly for dress, and that his income from dress advertisements would suffer. Therefore he labours without ceasing to stimulate the clothes interest. He tells women writers to describe all social gatherings in terms of drapery, to treat the theatres as clothes' displays, and to concoct their novelettes of competitive costumery. He aspires to act in modern phrase, as a "demand creator." He finds that he is permitted to stimulate a demand for finery, and that the demand is capable of enormous stimulation. If he were to try, for example, to stimulate a demand for expensive food (as journalists have sometimes tried to do) he would come more quickly to the limit of his public's powers of consumption than he does where the traffic in *modes et robes* is concerned. One may buy hosts of toques, tea-gowns and silk stockings in the hope of wearing them some day; but it is no use being tempted to buy more than one dinner at a time. And there are directions in which "demand creating" would not be tolerated. Alluring society articles and novelettes might be written round a wine dealer's catalogue. I can imagine countesses being described as regaling duchesses with sherries of "nutty" flavour, followed by burgundy of "fine bouquet," and proceeding to an old "vintage" port of "very interesting character." But the seductions of this kind of writing might lead to breaches of public decorum, and the attention of magistrates and missionaries would be called unfavourably to "demand creating" of this class.

This question of "demand creating," its scope and ethics, is to me extremely interesting; but I must leave it now in order, before I finish, to mention to Midas two facts. The first of these is that the Midases of the women's Press enjoy no monopoly of their special gold-mine. Other Midases in the general Press are disputing a large share in these spoils. The second point is that, inasmuch as women join the General Public, they also become the readers and supporters of the general Press. Not only will they, as voters, insist on fair treatment in the Press of all their interests as workers and citizens—that is obvious—but—and it is this which is not yet quite visible to Midas and others—their participation in all sorts of affairs and enterprises will become so much more active and varied as to stimulate trade in countless new directions. From the multiplicity of women's interests a greater multiplicity of employments will ensue; and this in itself will be a good thing. (Even the least money-making of women philanthropists can scarcely speak about housing or infants' feeding without involuntarily pressing some lever of trade.) But while I consider that women as journalists and buyers of journals, must make their way on equal terms into the general Press, I am even more strongly convinced that for some long time to come we shall need to have pioneer organs of our own to formulate our demands and to safeguard women against inequity.

SAUCE FOR THE GOOSE.

WELL, the poor Goose has been fairly in the pillory of late, labelled "Chattel" in large letters, and a helpless target for newspaper articles of every sort and description. And all because some husband of sound business instincts had the sense to realise that the law enabled him to claim damages for the loss of his faithless wife, while in pronouncing judgment, Mr. Justice McCardie made it quite clear that this sort of conduct is not permitted to deserted wives, but only to deserted husbands. The pillorying of the Goose has served its turn, however, if it has roused, as it seems to have done, the British public to a sense of indignation at the idea of property in wives. For the British public is always rather great on suppression of the slave trade, and perhaps something will now be done to improve the legal position of us poor women-folk. Really, you would imagine from the recent hubbub that no one had ever noticed before that our marriage and divorce laws were a trifle antiquated!

Out of all the multifarious "chattel" correspondence which has appeared this week, the most amusing letters have been written by righteously wrathful wives. These ladies are very eloquent, and in the heat of their indignation have failed to make it quite clear whether their wrath is directed against the fact of their husbands having property rights in them, or the possibility of their value being rated as low as twenty-five pounds! Twenty-five is rather a bad minimum for a wife, I admit, particularly in these days of war prices. I wonder, is it a controlled price, or might we make it fifty?

Our one comfort—cold comfort, I grant you—is that the Spanish women are worse off than we. They have not only to struggle against a law which allows property in wives in a general sense, but one which specially provides that husbands may beat their wives if they prove annoying. If a wealthy Spanish wife, too, is separated from her husband, the husband continues to administer her estate and makes her an allowance out of her own money! No wonder the Spanish Suffrage Society flourishes!

China is becoming just a little bit alarmed by all these signs of feminine emancipation. The Government has, therefore, taken counsel, and has issued the following proclamation, which I am going to quote in full, as it is so charmingly worded—in a fatherly spirit. It is carefully explained that the notice is intended to "uplift the morals of the female sex."

"In recent days women of questionable character have been seen talking and laughing in the streets and public-houses of the Wu-Han cities (Wuchang, Hankow, and Hanyang) clad in extraordinary clothes and trousers, which are neither foreign nor Chinese. Further, in their dresses there is no difference between the women and girls of respectable and good families and those who are not. As this sort of thing bears great significance on the morality and modesty of the Chinese female sex as a whole, especially in view of the fact that women are playing an important part in modern politics in Western countries, and there is sufficient reason to believe that this awakening of the gentle sex will soon be extended to the Far East, the police commissioners of the Wu-Han cities have been ordered to see and enforce the following strictly:—

1. Women of questionable character are not to be permitted to talk, laugh, or walk hand-in-hand with their male acquaintances in the streets and public-houses.
2. Women and girls are not permitted to wear extraordinary clothes.
3. The female dresses which were generally adopted by the Chinese gentle sex previous to the first revolution in 1911 are better suitable for young women because they are not too short or too narrow, should be used again.

The police have been instructed by the military governor to enforce the above-mentioned regulations, both through peaceful and forceful means, and it is anticipated there will be trouble between the police and the young female generation of China in this province, because the students of certain girl-schools and colleges regard them as an infringement of their personal rights and liberties."

There is a rumour afloat just now that the new play at the Duke of York's, "Kitty Breaks Loose," is written, produced, and—as far as principal parts go—acted by three women-collaborators. Rather an achievement for frail womanhood, I think; don't you?

THE GOOSEGIRL.

EQUAL SUFFRAGE AND THE SOCIAL EVIL.

Some Lessons gathered from Forty Years Work in England and India.

By Mrs. J. F. T. HALLOWES.

(National Superintendent of Moral Education for the Women's Christian Temperance Union of India.)

There is an old adage, "Experience makes fools wise." So that however foolish I was when I began, I ought to have a measure of wisdom at the end of forty years. That wisdom I offer now, to those who are interested in the sweeping away of Commercialised Vice from the civilised countries of the world.

RESCUE WORK.

In 1876 I went, as the young bride of a clergyman, to a small Yorkshire town, absolutely ignorant of the Social Evil. I and my five sisters knew nothing of this festering sore of our cities. Once I asked my mother, "What is a bad woman?" She hushed me hurriedly, and warned me never to ask such a question again. My mother was a Saint, but it was the fashion of Saints in those days to ignore the whole question, and leave it to a few, who ran what were called "Magdalen" Homes. Looking back upon my girlish life, I realise that this was a very unsafe policy for well brought up girls, taught to be obedient and unselfish, they were all the more unfortified when the advances of false lovers called for love and self-abnegation.

My dense ignorance was soon dispelled. Visiting with my husband in a street of the town where we lived, we came upon a "bad" house. A girl with long fair hair, who sat on the doorstep, her elbows on her knees, her hands supporting her miserable face, attracted my attention. At first she refused to tell me anything, but seeing that I was really interested in her, she unfolded a most repulsive story of seduction, desertion and present suffering from disease. Plunged into horror, I questioned my husband as to the extent of these "houses," and made him tell me the whole shameful story of the Social Evil. From that day I entered upon *Rescue Work*; driven by my conscience and my pity to endeavour to pluck some of these "brands from the burning" in my own town.

Opposition from men and astonishment from women were the usual response to my appeal for practical help. One man I remember, wrote to my husband, and asserted "that if I was allowed to take girls off the streets respectable women could not walk abroad safely." Such opposition did not deter me for a moment; I was disgusted at the defence of this evil, but I never lost faith in men; I believed *then*, and I believe *still*, that men are inherently pure and chivalrous. A few brave women rallied round me; one gave herself entirely to rescue work and after to the training of women who left the "life." A Home of Hope was started and supported for twenty years by a few. Mrs. Josephine Butler's work against "regulation" stirred us greatly. I had once the delight of hearing her speak, and was an enthusiastic follower.

But as time went on an uneasy suspicion grew in my mind, that we were dealing with *results* rather than with *causes*. Prostitution did not grow less; we saved a girl and another filled her place; the *demand* was unaffected. Society received the men, but banned the women, accepting the shameless lie that prostitution is "necessary."

I was at this time much drawn towards Women's Suffrage; I had attended a few meetings—we had none in our own town, but pioneer women came to Sheffield, which was near. When in London I attended some of the meetings held by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, which had been founded in 1861. I came to the conclusion that until women had political power, the Social Evil would continue and from that time I was a keen adherent of women's enfranchisement. I can most truthfully say that I desired the Suffrage for women with my whole heart, but first of all, because I believed it was the only way to bring about a *Single Moral Standard*.

REGULATION IN THE ARMY.

In 1903 we went to India. Here I found what had ceased to exist in England—authorised vice in the cantonments (cantonments is the name given to the districts where the soldiers are quartered). There are sixty-seven such in India. I was elected National President of the Women's Christian Temperance Union of India in 1906. Almost at once, requests came from South India, asking me to undertake an inquiry into a report that "regulation" authorised by the army authorities was in existence, and that European, Indian, and Japanese brothels were allowed in cantonments, on condition that the keepers of these "houses" compelled the inmates to submit to a periodical examination, and allowed them to attend hospital for treatment. I must say here, that our American sisters, Mrs. Andrews and Dr. Kate Bushnell, had, in 1894, made a

searching examination through India as to "regulation," and their representations in Parliament had resulted in a more modified form of Indian cantonment rules, for some few years before this date. This new Act was passed in 1895. Evidence was sent to me from thirty cantonments of the truth of the assertion made by our workers in South India. Not content with this, I visited the "houses," European, Indian, and Japanese, in one of our largest garrison towns, and found women in all, who were periodically examined. Their "tickets of health," certificates of their freedom from disease, which had led before to "parliamentary interference," were now withheld. Then ensued a correspondence with Lord Kitchener, who was Commander-in-Chief in India. Our evidence was sent to him. His reply was "that it was necessary for the health of the men," and not an incitement to vice! This correspondence was forwarded to the British Committee of the International Federation against State Regulation of Vice, and a new Parliamentary inquiry into matters in India undertaken. A "White Book" was issued—but with little result. In 1916 Mrs. Dixon, the wife of an Army chaplain, took the matter up, and as an agent of the British Association of Moral and Social Hygiene travelled, interviewing officers and soldiers all over India, with the result that the present Commander-in-Chief, in October, 1918, ordered the closing of army brothels; men could no longer talk of *Government sanction* of vice.

THE WAR AND ITS "GRAVEST EVIL."

Segregation seems to be the only idea of dealing with prostitution. During the war the folly and futility of this course has been demonstrated as never before. One incident of the many which has come under my notice I will quote. During two years of the occupation of Mesopotamia by our troops 27,000 men were sent for rest and recuperation to India. Of these 7,000 returned from their furloughs infected with venereal disease. These were *hors de combat* for from ten to twelve months in hospital. And after? Cured? Perhaps. Perhaps *not*! In the latter case think of the wives of those men, and of the children to be born. Here is a war which is worse even than the "Great War," for it devastates the race, so that each generation is strewn like a battlefield with men, women, yes, and children, horribly wounded and handicapped for life. A war in which the stronger and, it is claimed, more intellectual sex preys upon the weaker! A war in which the young of both sexes are unnaturally turned into agents of destruction, devastation and death to the opposite sex.

THE LESSON LEARNT.

In 1916, a pamphlet reached me from England, written by Mr. W. A. Coote, that Knight of Chivalry, the greatest authority on prostitution in the world. It was called, "*Commercialised Vice: Can it be Abolished?*" His conclusions were the same as my own. They followed the same course of reasoning as I had been brought through in my forty years' experience. The conclusion arrived at by us both was that the only effective method of cleansing our cities of prostitution was by *legislation*, which should penalise *equally* both sexes. This booklet was to me light and leading. I vowed then and there that when the war was over, if God spared my life, I would enter upon a crusade in India upon these lines. I received very clear guiding, and on February 18th, 1919, I submitted a resolution to the W.C.T.U. meeting in Convention at Allahabad, advising that we should commence this propaganda. The Convention passed the resolution unanimously and appointed me as director, warning me, however, that no grant of money could be made but this did not deter me. No other country has had such a propaganda as this—it is pioneer work—and the conditions of Indian life had to be considered if arguments were to be acceptable to the Indian people.

At the end of ten months we have spent £50 in issuing books and pamphlets and posting them to the leading officials, members of seven legislative councils, to municipalities, to the Indian Medical Service, to Bishops, Chaplains, Missionaries, Medical Missionaries, both men and women, and leading people among Hindus and Mohammedans. We issued 1,000 petition sheets to H. E. the Viceroy, with this prayer: "All classes resident in India humbly pray for legislation which shall penalise commercialised vice and make it illegal for a man to buy, and a woman to sell, womanhood for immoral purposes. We believe

that such a law would result in abolishing the prostitute, in staying contagion from venereal diseases, in closing markets of vice, in shutting up disorderly houses, in destroying vested interests in immorality, in killing the traffic in women. Publicity and penalty would be deterrents to vice, and a great gain to public health." Seven thousand signatures of men and women on separate sheets have come in from every province in India. We hope to get 10,000 names and then present it when the bill, which is now being drafted by the Hon. Dr. Tej Bahadur Sapru, Member for the United Provinces on the Imperial Council, submits it to that Council.

It is said that in parts of India every other wife is suffering from venereal disease, communicated by her husband, or parents. Thus the innocent wives and children, though ignorant, cry aloud to us for help. We have confidence in the new conditions of political life. With 8,000,000 women electors in the United Kingdom—there are, as Mrs. Fawcett

THE HOME IN PARLIAMENT.

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

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

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

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

DANGER SIGNALS!

Of the home, not in the home, is our subject this week. For home-life is not always bounded by the four walls of the home but often roams abroad, and we meet it in shops, in theatres, or taking its Sunday afternoon stroll along sunny roads and lanes. And there is one place which—particularly in the holiday season—is familiar above all others with the intimacies of family life. On high days and holidays when fathers, mothers and children are clinging together there in dazed little groups, when the moments are filled with partings and reunions and the air with hurried, whispered injunctions, then surely of all homely places in the world the railway station platform is the homeliest!

We are apt to think of our railway system—just as we think of the sun, and the moon, and the stars, and the National Debt—as something quite safe and certain and solidly established which will go on for ever and on which we may depend. When there is a strike on the railway, we gaze at the empty stations and idle trains as we might gaze at an eclipse of the sun, very much interested, rather puzzled, faintly amused, but always quite sure that given a little patience and the passage of a little time these strange happenings will pass over and a normal state of affairs return. It never occurs to us to consider what would happen if our railway system broke down or were changed; but then it never occurs to us to consider what would happen if the sun's rays suddenly ceased to reach us.

Our railway system, however, is not quite so safe and certain as the solar system—although it is almost as important to us—so that our present attitude towards the railway will not quite do. We must give serious thought to the railway, on which so much of our home life depends. Just as Great Britain can no longer produce within its coasts all that its people needs, so no longer can most of us produce in our gardens all that our family needs. We must depend for much that we want on what comes from other gardens and other towns or villages, on much in fact that comes by rail. "No trains," therefore, will mean not only no holidays and fewer friends, but even no bread and butter and no boots and shoes, while a different arrangement of trains may mean a different arrangement of home life. It is certainly very much the business of the house-keeper and home-keeper to have a watchful eye for the railway.

Now if the management of the railways gives you and me to think seriously, how much more serious is it to Parliament? For Parliament's chief business, after all, is to provide not for one home but for all the homes of the country. And particularly at this time are the railways claiming Parliament's attention. Our age is one of rebuilding, and a sound system of transport must be behind all satisfactory reconstruction of trade and industry. But just now our transport system is unsound, for the recent railway strike has shown us that neither railwaymen nor railway companies are satisfied with the railway system as it at present exists.

It is, of course, important to understand the terms of agree-

said, 8,000,000 reasons for a change in the social order. The awakening of women here in India is very remarkable—witness the late demand for enfranchisement under the New Reform Bill just granted to India.

Penalty, Publicity, and Prohibition of the Liquor Traffic are the three P's which will "turn off the tap of Prostitution."

I appeal to women citizens everywhere. Political enfranchisement means power, and power to its last particle means responsibility. Mothers struggle for the physical life of the race, they must struggle also for the moral life. They must realise that theirs is the power to press for a pure fatherhood, for such is as needful as a pure motherhood, if the reservoir of human life is to be kept untainted from deadly disease. Women! the welfare of the species is now placed in your hands as never before. You can, in a relatively brief period, modify this existing institution of prostitution if you are true to your principles and act, as well as talk, for the single standard of Purity.

ment reached between the Government and the railway companies and the railwaymen as to the wages and conditions of work of employees, if we are to take an intelligent interest in the railway problem. But more important is it for the ordinary person to realise the fact that the Government is required to make a definite choice between altering and patching up our present railway system, so as to try to meet everybody's requirements, and adopting a new system altogether. And it is an extraordinarily difficult choice to make.

As in the case of the coalmines, the railwaymen are largely in favour of the nationalisation of the railways, while the railway companies are almost, if not quite, unanimously against it. In one sense, when we speak of nationalising the railways, we know rather more of what we are talking about than when we speak of nationalising the coalmines; for during the war we have had experience of State-managed railways, and, although we have all suffered from the delays and congestion of war-time traffic, the transfer from company to State control has been surprisingly easy. But in another sense we know far less. In the case of the coalmines we can calculate roughly the effect on incomes and investments of nationalising the mines. The coal-owners are a comparatively few capitalists, and if the State purchased the mines, only their investments would be seriously affected. But in the case of the railways who knows who are their owners, or what the effect of nationalisation would be?

For, in fact, you and I, and our next door neighbours own the railways. Over half the railway stock in the country is held by persons who have invested under £500. No great capitalists there! And where larger amounts of stock are held, the holders are chiefly insurance companies, or trade unions, or such bodies, so that, if you and I do not actually own railway shares ourselves our insurance company probably does and, consequently, we are involved. Railway stocks and shares are the poor man's favourite investment on which he relies as though his money were tied up in his stocking. And you can see that the effect of the State buying us all out would be very far-reaching and possibly unsettling at a time when certainty about our income is what, above all else, we want. Our present railway system has the great advantage of being in existence.

Yet something must be done to meet the views of the railwaymen, who believe that so long as the railways are owned by private persons, who expect good interest on the money they have lent, the companies will try to make the railways pay by overworking and underpaying their employees. And between the two possibilities we are fairly between the devil and the deep sea. The problem is, as some optimistic railway official or other assures us nearly every day, "almost insoluble," but "almost" leaves us a loophole, and on that loophole we must concentrate. For somewhere or other there must be a way out of our difficulties, and that way out the Government is trying to find this session.

INEZ M. FERGUSON.

WOMEN AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE. I.

By M. H. KETTLE. M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

It is not wholly a coincidence that the adoption of medicine as a career by a large number of women is synchronous with a new era in the general medical outlook. It was similarly the advent of a new epoch, a change in clinical methods, that drew so many women into the allied profession of nursing in the latter part of last century. Better secondary education, overcrowding and under-payment in the teaching and nursing professions, and the passing of that form of snobbishness that discouraged the daughters of gentlemen from doing anything but the flowers, are factors that cannot be ignored; but probably the real significance of the movement towards medical practice is that it now attracts the large class of women who are more interested in the promotion of health than in the cure of disease. It is not that preventive medicine makes a wider appeal to women as a whole than curative medicine, but that the practice of the latter is more satisfying to a nurse than to a doctor, for reasons best indicated by considering the relation of both to the patient.

The operating theatre of the surgeon is a room in which the patient spends perhaps an hour. The operating theatre of the nurse is the sick room in which the patient spends weeks or months. The modern sick room is well ventilated and warmed, fitted out with mackintosh sheets and draw sheets, with water-bottles and air cushions, with feeding-cups and bed-rests and tables. The trained nurse knows exactly how to secure the greatest possible comfort for her patient. Unfortunately in many cases the doctor does not know with equal precision how best to treat him. In spite of its recent origin, the practice of nursing is comparatively more advanced than that of doctoring, and thus infinitely more satisfactory to the conscientious practitioner. Incidentally there are few things more pathetic than the nurse who becomes a medical student, hoping to learn the rules guiding the various treatments that she has carried out without question in the past. When she hears conflicting theories taught in different wards of the same hospital, when specialists disagree on diagnosis and treatment, when the only facts she is given are that nothing is ever certain in medicine, and that the dogmatism she had trusted was probably the bluff of ignorance, she passes through an agony of doubt and depression, during which she desires to run away from all sick people, and from which she seldom emerges with undiminished enthusiasm. It may thus be a protective instinct that makes a certain type of old-fashioned nurse anxious not to be taught too much medicine; she may realise subconsciously that if she can retain her faith in the infallibility of the doctor it will communicate itself to the patient, and it is the cure of the patient that matters most to her.

The suspicion with which many nurses regard a woman doctor or student is not founded on jealousy of her superior professional status. It is much more the fruit of a conviction, based on experience, that hourly personal contact and service are more powerful curative agents than drugs, and of contempt for one who deliberately chooses the impersonal relationship of the visiting medical adviser. To nurses training at a general hospital, at any rate, there seem to be too many medical students worrying the patients as it is. The need for women to join their ranks, especially to those whose scanty leisure gives them but little opportunity of judging the tendencies of the times—is not apparent; whereas they know that the genesis of the trained nurse was not only coincident with the discovery of the laws of hygiene, but was essential to their useful application. Till the last quarter of the nineteenth century doctors had relied chiefly on leeches and drugs, while suppuration after operation was regarded as inevitable and even welcomed as "laudable pus." When the elements of bacteriology and parasitology were dis-

covered it became obvious that by far the most important factor in the treatment of the sick must be cleanliness, and to a lesser degree ventilation, warmth, rest of body and mind; in fact everything that is likely to increase the resistance of the individual to infection; and that drugs are in most cases quite subsidiary to what we should now call "good nursing." Thus the doctor came to depend on his nurse as he had never been able to depend on his drugs. The good nurse did not, of course, begin with her training; nursing is essentially a form of mothering, and probably as old as Eve. In its disciplined form it is a younger and an easier art than doctoring, or rather an art based on more easily acquired principles, and assimilated by certain favoured individuals almost by instinct.

It is the nurse then, not the doctor, who is the High Priestess of curative medicine, though there is no suggestion that any hard and fast line can be drawn between the two great branches of medicine, which merge one into the other and overlap. A large part of a nurse's work certainly consists in the prevention of spread of disease and of secondary bacterial infections by careful disinfection, of complications and remote sequelæ by judicious handling of the convalescent; indeed, certain branches of nursing, such as school inspection and infant welfare supervision, are almost wholly preventive in character. Nor is preventive medicine itself entirely a new development, even in the modern sense. For example, it was in 1720 that Dr. Richard Mead published an appeal for more stringent quarantine laws. He advocated also notification to the magistrates of infected persons and their isolation, the inspection by official doctors of their houses and the subsequent cleansing of these under supervision. He even recommended that "all expenses should be paid by the public, and no charges ought to be thought great which are counterbalanced by the saving of a nation from the greatest of calamities." Again, the introduction of vaccination against smallpox was a typical example of preventive medicine. But with these and a few other exceptions its development up to the end of the nineteenth century was directed more to the sanitary conditions than to the citizen, was concerned more with the environment than with the individual. It is in the twentieth century that communal effort and legislation are for the first time being directed towards the promotion of the health of the race through the protection of the citizen in all stages of his development. In infancy, by means of antenatal and infant welfare centres, by the training, registration and inspection of midwives, recently by the provision of cheap milk to necessitous, expectant and nursing mothers, and of an extra winter sugar ration to certain infants. In childhood the future citizen is protected against would-be employers, is provided with free meals at school, is inspected regularly, with the consequent early arrest of adenoids, of verminous heads, and decayed teeth before these conditions lead to the diseases that inevitably follow their continued neglect. In adult life the hours of work are limited, factories are inspected and provided with welfare workers, regulations are formed to protect workers in dangerous trades, and countless other measures are being taken to promote the health of the citizen. Moreover, research institutes, such as the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, are being established throughout the country. The sciences of epidemiology and dietetics are being studied, also the methods of prevention of infectious and non-infectious diseases. The laws of hygiene and ventilation are being further investigated, and experimental research undertaken with a view to the extension of the boundaries of medical knowledge in all directions. Prevention is better than cure, says the proverb; and it is the realisation by the medical profession of the fact that this is no empty phrase but a real truth that is attracting so many modern girls into its ranks.

THE FROG BABY.

A Story in Four Parts.

By ELIZABETH ROBINS.

PART III.

LADY TERENCE began to make up stories about his origin. "I always thought that poor girl had a very refined look—didn't you?"

"A good many of them have that," said Marna. "The most exquisite face I ever saw, there or anywhere, was a cockney scullery maid's."

It wasn't the answer Lady Terence wanted. She moved her head with that delicate wilfulness that sent her veil swirling. "I wouldn't wonder at all if John's mother was a lady."

"I would," said the provoking Marna. You'd think it gave her positive satisfaction to think of John as base-born. Lady Terence told her so in a moment of vexation. "I haven't a doubt he has gentle blood in him."

"And I haven't a doubt his mother was a servant, or a shop girl, who'd got into trouble, as they say."

It very nearly led to a quarrel, that speech. The only way Lady Terence could get over it was by saying to herself: "It just shows how much more sensitive I am about the child than she is. Affection brings vision. I know his mother was a gentlewoman. It was a war marriage; in hot haste before he returned to the Front. Kept secret for some good reason. Creditable. The man was killed. The girl bewildered: dazed by grief." Oh, the Frog Baby of workhouse destination was far behind, by the time John Mundy was nearing the age of two.

He knew, if Marna didn't, that he was the equal of anybody. To one surfeited with respect, his summary way with great ladies was a delicious comedy, as well as a patent of nobility.

"The most lordly little person I ever knew!" Lady Terence would say. She would wait patiently for a return of the mood in which he would hold out his arms to her in a fashion which utterly melted Lady Terence. It would melt Terence himself.

To melt Terence became the most necessary end in life. It was worth taking any trouble to achieve. As to the best sort of trouble—taken with an eye to all that hung upon the issue—Lady Terence longed to admit Marna into her counsels. But Marna was unresponsive. Yes, even when it was a question of the baby's prospects. Not at all, you understand, as if she meant to be unresponsive. As if she couldn't help it. Made like that.

"I shall tell Terence how good you've been to the baby," was Lady Terence's way of conveying delicately the information—"you won't be forgotten—you'll get something out of this. Something handsome."

Lady Terence ordered four or five different sets of new clothes to try which should most commend the baby. He grew sick and tired of this trying on and taking off. He began to remonstrate, then to scream. He had to be given more barley sugar than was good for him in order to restore him to good humour. Marna, no help at all. What was the matter with the girl?

"I expect you are tired sometimes. A clever girl like you who can teach fearfully difficult subjects to other clever girls—it must seem rather a waste sometimes spending so much time on a small child."

"I haven't minded," said Marna. "Or rather," she added after a moment, "I've been very grateful. I wasn't fit for any other work when I came here."

"You do look a different creature, I must say," Lady Terence agreed cordially. "And so does John Mundy. It's an absurd name—John Mundy—don't you think? I sometimes feel it ought to be changed."

Marna seemed to have no opinion about this. What was wrong with the girl?

She had seemed all right yesterday. Lady Terence thought back. Petrol restrictions had been spoken of, and how Terence (not having yet seen the baby, or in the remotest degree realising what he'd come to be) had said lightly: "You won't be able to go gadding to the country so much."

"No," said Marna, agreeing as easily with Lord Terence as though she hadn't ever seen John either. Lady Terence made that head movement which set her veil swirling. "It's all very

well, but I'm not going to let their silly laws affect my looking after the baby."

"No." The same word, and yet a wholly different No. You'd think sometimes Marna had lost every atom of that old interest in having the baby looked after. Was she tired of her own share in it? What more natural? She was young, she had her friends, her interests, her profession. She had made herself a slave to the baby. Never went anywhere, never left him night or day. It was time it came to an end. She was even losing that serenity of temper which had so commended her.

When Lady Terence pulled off the white lace frock and began to try how he'd look in kilts—"I'm on your side, John," said Marna brusquely, "I don't see, either, the use of all this dressing up!"

"Very well!" Lady Terence went on struggling to bring the fat little sausage of an arm into proper relation with the jacket sleeve—if Marna couldn't see that all John Mundy's future hung on the impression he was going to make that afternoon, Anne Carrick was certainly not the person to explain.

"I believe, after all, he'd like you best as a sailor—let us try!"

"I thought you said your husband didn't care about babies."

"Well, he doesn't. But I don't see how he can help liking John. I shall insist on his liking John."

In spite of Marna's stockishness, Lady Terence went off in high spirits, her face quite pink with excitement. John Mundy pink, too, not to say ruffled, by being dressed and undressed four mortal times.

"I shall insist on his liking—" Lady Terence found herself repeating, as she smiled down at the baby's absorption in the great business of fitting the top of the Chinese bell into the bottom of the silver trumpet with which his hostess had so divertingly blown out the spirit lamp. The clock was chiming five, and a step was on the stair.

Lord Terence's eye had caught something in the evening paper. He paused an instant in the open door—a long spare person, with thin red hair, close-cropped on a high narrow head. A beak of a nose, slightly out of drawing, lent a misleading look of ruthlessness to the clean-shaven, mahogany-coloured visage. He was reading without glasses and with an angry preoccupation upon what Anne would have recognised as his 'submarine face,' had she turned to greet him as usual. She sat very still in the shelter of the high *Medici* chair, smiling. Let him wait till he came round the table and saw—

He didn't come round the table. He walked up and down. "The rot they write about the sinkings!" He quoted statistics, compared percentages, rated tonnage, not of course talking to Anne, or his tone would have been less hectoring: talking to himself: talking really to von Tirpitz. When he began to talk to von Tirpitz—"Sh!" said Anne.

"But don't I know? I tell you I'm morally certain—"

"Terry—look!"

He gaped. "What's that?" said the Admiral in his quarter-deck voice.

"Sh!" said his wife, "you mustn't frighten him." So far from being frightened, Jack Tar had given the booming Admiral a preoccupied glance and returned to his problem. He'd thought of a new way. The broken projection at the top of the bell fitted into the narrow end of the trumpet. This was an achievement outshining the glory of admirals. John Mundy produced a gurgle of triumph.

Lord Terence produced: "Bless my soul! Where did you get that?"

"Oh! I've had it a good while," she said more airily than she felt. "Only you're not to call him 'it.' You're John Mundy, aren't you, darling?"

"The workhouse baby!"

"He isn't a workhouse baby. I'm morally certain," she adopted the Admiralty expert's form, "morally certain his

mother was a gentlewoman. And anyhow he's the greatest darling. Don't you think he's a darling, Terry?"

"Well—I—I don't know if he's a darling or not. He's got rather a flat nose."

"Oh no! Not at all flat compared to—" she was going to say compared to what it was—"compared to most."

Lord Terence looked at the baby very much as he would have looked over a doubtful puppy. "You seem a sturdy little John Bull, with your bullet head!"

She protested against this description of John Mundy's head, as she pushed back the rings of yellow hair.

"It's good enough peasant type," he said, "a bit too short in the leg."

"That's only because he has a trick of curling them up." Lady Terence uncurled one to show. It seemed shorter than usual. She pulled it out a little.

"No!" said John Mundy, jerking the member out of her hand.

"See that? He won't stand any familiarity, John won't."

Something less genial than familiarity in the mahogany face induced her to assure Lord Terence: "The more you see of him the more you'll like him."

"But," he retorted, "I don't propose to—"

Behind John Mundy's back she leaned towards her husband: "Terry—"

He started faintly, and seemed to suspect what she was going to say before it came out.

"I want to keep him."

The wary expression bore little relation to the question-begging remark: "I thought you had been keeping him."

"I mean to keep him here. I want us to adopt him."

"We can't do that," he said with decision.

Like many another wife she didn't mind nearly so much what her husband said, as how he looked when he was saying it.

"You mustn't scowl at us, dear, as if we were a couple of Tirpitzes."

Terence Carrick was fond of his wife. Underneath that off-with-his-head manner he was the soul of kindness. About any matter near her heart he so much disliked crossing her that, practically, he had never done so. Not till this affair of John Mundy. She, on her part, had never been prepared to hold so tight to her own resolve. They discussed it with increasing energy. It wasn't a fair thing to ask of him! He surely didn't need to remind her how ready he was to give in to her fancies—

"That shows how little you understand," she cried. "This isn't a fancy! This is something—"

"This is something out of the question!" He stopped striding about. He stood confronting her faded loveliness with eyes that were suddenly quite gentle. "My darling—"

She wouldn't look at him. She looked at John Mundy till he tired at last of his belled trumpet, slipped off her lap, and went exploring. She noticed with relief that he'd forgotten where the Chinese pagoda was. *Were* his legs too short? The thought worried her. She wished she'd left him in skirts.

Terence was still standing there looking down at her. "You can't seriously ask me to adopt—to give my name, to a child out of the gutter—"

"He isn't out of—"

But he did have rather a bullet head. She bowed her own, confessing to herself that she had seen only the curls. How clever men were! You couldn't take them in. If she persisted in her plan—would John Mundy stand before her some day heavy, loutish, a thick-witted peasant in spite of all she might do?

"What is it?" she asked nervously. She drew her drooping figure up, the better to follow her husband's eyes. They were on John Mundy. And what was poor John Mundy doing to deserve a look like that? Merely dragging forward from behind the great easel a little chair. The little chair Terence's mother had so exquisitely embroidered for him. The chair of which Anne remembered saying in those early days of marriage: "No, it shan't be banished to the attic! We'll keep it there till another tiny wee Terence comes along." Terence's happy laugh that far-away day!

And now, instead of any faint reflection of happiness, this sharp shrinking at sight of the alien child usurping the ghost child's privilege.

"Oh, how you must have wanted him!" breathed Anne—"the baby that didn't come!"

"Not at all," he said brusquely; "I simply never think about it," and turned away.

"Such liars we've been!"

"Liars!" he looked back.

"Even to each other. Even to ourselves—when we agreed

a baby would have been an interruption. When you said you'd have been jealous of it. When I said we'd neither of us ever be first with the other again. We were whistling in the dark."

"The dark! Nonsense—you mustn't be morbid. I've told you I simply never think about it."

"But if you're reminded—you can't bear it. Get up, John Mundy. That isn't your chair."

John Mundy made a horrible scene. He hung on to the other child's chair with a grip that astonished Anne. He bellowed with a lung power that unnerved von Tirpitz's antagonist. Worse. John Mundy kicked out with his short legs as if determined to ensure respect for them in future. He kicked impartially. Kicked Lady Terence as well as his lordship.

Though she wouldn't have admitted it, Anne's belief in the delightfulness of her plan had been shaken before the exhibition of infant fury at being deprived of the one chair in the room suited to his taste and to the length of his members. Complain of my short legs, and then want me to dangle them a yard from the floor! his roaring seemed to say.

Oh yes, before being deafened and kicked, Lady Terence had begun to look on John Mundy with other eyes.

"The drawing-room is certainly no place—" Admiral Lord Terence Carrick had rung the bell. "Send Mrs. Wylie here."

By a common impulse he and his wife had turned their backs on the victorious baby—left him there with wet cheeks, scowling, but in possession of the chair. "You see it would never do—it would wear you out." As Anne didn't answer he tried to see her face. "Look at me! My dear! Does it mean so much?"

"It doesn't mean all I thought it might, but still," she glanced back at the comic little figure, "I do want him where I can see him, if I want to—rain or shine; petrol or no petrol."

Lord Terence stood wrinking his brows.
(To be continued.)

[Note.—Those who missed the first numbers of the "Woman's Leader" and are anxious to read Parts I. and II. of the "Frog Baby," will be glad to know that they can still obtain copies of our issue of February 6th and 13th on application to "Common Cause" Publishing Company, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1.]

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OUR OWN CITY.

By E. M. GOODMAN.

Nineteen hundred and nineteen was a year of coming home, and the soldier, like all returning wanderers, found disappointment following close upon the joy of welcoming and being welcomed. Exiles always look forward to impossibilities; they want to find everything exactly as they remembered it in their home thoughts from abroad, and they wish unconsciously to see in the England that welcomes them back all that England has been in the past and will be in the future. To come home after long absence is to be an idealist, at least for a few days or hours, and idealists lay themselves open to bitter disillusionments. A man who has helped to save the world from wreck and knows himself to be a citizen of the greatest nation the world has seen is chilled to find his own house, his own village, his own county less to his taste than some of the enforced habitations in which he has counted the days of absence. He wants it altered, and he wants to feel it more his own. Though he has more liberty, more prosperity, more comfort than the men who inhabited the little towns and villages of seventeenth-century England, he cannot attain to their contentment. Something was theirs that he lacks, and when one looks back to that unsettled century one wonders what it was that made the local patriotism of that day so powerful. Surely part of the secret lay in the large share which all able-bodied men took in their turn in unpaid service for the community. They were content, not because they submitted themselves dutifully to the parson, the squire, and the lord of the manor, or because parson, squire and lord were of no account in those days. It was no doubt partly that the system of land tenure at that time gave an interest in the soil to many peasants and yeoman farmers, but the spirit of ownership in one's own town was not confined to these. In the seventeenth century the townsman felt that his town belonged to him as hardly anyone nowadays feels a proprietary affection for his native place. It is this sentiment that we must get back. No international solidarity, no pride of Empire or flame of patriotism will fill its place. Just now it is very fast asleep, but it is not dead; it stirs uneasily. Only a few years ago the seventeenth century seemed nearly as remote as the middle ages, and its social framework as unlike our own as could well be imagined. Now, for good or for evil, we have revived many of its practices. Once again the Government fixes wages and prosecutes those who neglect the regulations; but now it is a minimum not a maximum wage that is prescribed. Fixed prices for commodities, restrictions upon free buying and selling, unemployment pay, relief works for the destitute, houses provided for the homeless by local authorities—all these were seventeenth-century expedients which tided the country over the upheaval of the Civil War, and afterwards fell into discredit and were swept away. But there were some characteristics of country life and provincial town life at that time which we have hardly thought of reviving, which would not bear revival in their original guise, but to which the formation of village institutes, the larger powers given to local authorities and the town-planning schemes of the more intelligent kind seem to point, and which, modernised by becoming voluntary instead of compulsory, might bring back to us the comfortable feeling of ownership and stimulating pride in our native place which now we lack.

The Local Government Acts which gave us our County, Borough, District, and Parish Councils failed to revive this local patriotism; those of us who are old enough will remember that the idea that a country village had public affairs of its own was derided by most people who thought of it at all. The Parish Councils did what was expected of them—quarrelled a little, protested that a penny rate brought in too little to merit serious attention, and fell into the hands of those who delighted in talk without consequences. It was not until the war with its need for Red Cross hospitals, depôts, special constables, and soldiers' recreation huts arose that the villages became self-conscious. They do not now wish to relapse into their old condition, and yet the Parish Council looks as unpromising a ground for community action as ever. This is natural, because it is a bond based entirely on cash and votes. The seventeenth-century village, the village of 1914-17, was alive because its inhabitants had work in common. It was also a more stable community, because in those days it was difficult for a family to move and settle in a new place. This is our case too, and unpleasant as

this compulsory immobility is it may have its uses. It may, for instance, direct our energies from continual removals in search of an ideal village or suburb to a serious effort to make our present dwelling place what we want.

The seventeenth century parish had numerous officials whose very names we have forgotten, and whose duties are now undertaken by the central government or are no more needed. The aleconner, who saw that the beer was good; the alnager, who inspected all woven cloth to ensure that it was of full length and stamped with the town seal; the clerk of the market, who inspected weights and measures; the hog-ringer, who was responsible for the pigs of the parish and ordered that rings in their snouts should prevent their injuring the parish common fields. These, like the parish constable, the justice of the peace, the churchwardens, the high constables, were unpaid. Unlike these last they were chosen by the community; they could not refuse office, it was the duty of their neighbours to keep them up to their work, and if the appointed task was beyond their powers they could call on the general public to help them, as the modern police constable may call for assistance in the King's name. Most of these officials held their posts for a year only, with the result that almost every adult able-bodied citizen served his turn in one or another capacity. Our modern plan of doing duty by paying a permanent official no doubt leads to greater efficiency in the officer, but those who appoint him are no longer experts. They know so little of his work that they appoint him on account of his religion or his politics, and judge of his success by his own report of it. He stays until he betters himself and is pensioned, and he behaves as though the township belonged to him. All this is very dull for us, and makes our small towns and villages no better than suburbs. It is less troublesome than the old plan, just as a boarding-house is less troublesome than a home. We are used to it, but the soldier has known in the trenches something that has more the spirit of the old village.

The Socialist town-dweller, too, has some vague idea that evil comes of segregating classes. When it is a question of planning garden suburbs and garden cities he wants them planted in what he calls a residential neighbourhood; that is in a district inhabited by people not of his own class. It seems an odd preference on the part of one who thinks the example of any "capitalist" a bad example, and is not altogether explained by the consideration that the amenities of a residential neighbourhood cost money and may well be paid for by capitalists. He also unconsciously hankers after the seventeenth century village, where everyone gave a hand to help things along, whether he were rich or poor.

We cannot at this time of day dismiss our paid officials and commandeer amateurs for public service. But the war has shown us that we really want much more done for us than we can afford to pay for. It is these extras which will make our community life really worth having—the luxuries which are as important as necessities. Our natural tendency is to demand that Government provide these extra amenities also, but the village institutes, though still in their infancy, show an alternative way. At present they point rather blindly to it, but in the light of our study of the seventeenth century parish we may guess that what is wanted is the substitution for the subscription list of unpaid work shared out. The old system fell into discredit partly because rich men grew powerful enough to refuse their share of the common responsibility; the nineteenth century, trying for improvement by philanthropy, left the poor man out of account because he could not be asked for money contributions. The new model suburbs and villages will be too dull to live in unless they can somehow or other acquire a corporate life; they will never attain it merely by voting and levying rates. There are advanced politicians who imagine that all will be well if the new townships can get all they wish without either working for it or paying for it. Their ideal is the hotel ideal with someone else to pay the bill; but that kind of thing will never suit an Englishman, even a Socialist Englishman, still less an Englishwoman. The seventeenth century township had many faults, but one supreme virtue overshadowed them all. It seemed to each inhabitant to be his own city, because he owed it a duty or had rendered it a service without reward or question. To-day millions of men, once indifferent, love England because they have served her. The smaller patriotism of town or village will grow from the same seed.

THE GREEN CROSS CORPS. (Women's Reserve Ambulance.)

By Mrs. CHARLES BEATTY, C.B.E.

WHEN the history of British women's part in this war comes to be written there will be in its annals scarcely any organisation more original in its methods, more varied in its duties, or more undoubted in its success than the Green Cross Corps.

Founded in June, 1915, it started with half a room as headquarters, a handful of enthusiastic members, one motor car, and—no money. It had two objects in view, the training and discipline of voluntary workers to do any and every odd job, so long as it "helped on the war," and the utilisation of any woman's spare time, no matter how little or at what hour of the day or night she was prepared to give it. Military drill was instituted, a smart khaki uniform adopted, and recruits began to flock to the diminutive office in Sackville Street. Companies were formed, owners of cars joined the Transport section, and work began in real earnest. The public forgot to jeer at the apparition of women in any other uniform than that of the nurse and V.A.D.; the khaki woman with her Green Cross badge was someone to reckon with, someone whose willing and good-tempered service was something to be sought after and depended upon; she was no longer told to "go home and mind the baby" by the lounge in the street, but invited eagerly to drive the wounded, carry munitions, collect hospital bales and stores. No longer was she told that she was aping men, nor called "indecent" for wearing khaki, but called upon to undertake arduous and responsible duties by reason of that uniform, rushing by right where the general public might not dare to tread. "Stick-at-Nothing" was the nickname flatteringly applied to the Corps that faced the horrors of every single air raid over London with its cars and ambulances as cheerfully as it washed up endless dishes in steaming canteen kitchens, or swept and dusted, unseen and unrealised, in hospital supply depôts.

The Green Cross Corps has worked unceasingly, ungrudgingly for four and a half years. It has served meals day and night, and sometimes all night, to hundreds of thousands of men; it has carried tens of thousands of limbleless men to Roehampton, tens of thousands of other sick and wounded for practically every hospital in London, and for several outside; it has run thousands of miles for Government officials; it has carted tons of munitions and hospital supplies; it has helped and guided tens of thousands of our Colonial troops; it has washed millions of cups and plates, made thousands of beds, swept innumerable floors, cleaned innumerable tables, waited long, grey cold hours till dawn, obedient to the police, notification that an air raid was imminent, far oftener than the ordinary Londoner had any idea. It has sent its members to the W.R.N.S., the W.R.A.F., the F.A.N.Y., the Scottish Women's units, and the British Red Cross in France. Its members have bought their own uniforms, paid their own expenses, subscribed to the expenses of the Corps, for the whole organisation does not possess a single paid member. H.M. The Queen, always quick to realise good work, graciously signified her approval of the Corps' aims, and expressed the hope that it would continue as an organisation after the war. It had the distinction of being the first Women's Corps to be inspected by her.

It is obvious that the Green Cross is too good an organisation to be lost to the country now that war has ceased, and in view of the crying need for women's clubs, residential and social, it is particularly interesting to learn that this excellent body of women is turning its attention to that need. Thus it will be seen that its future work is even more important than its past. The war has left many vacancies in our hearts, and the problem of the lonely woman is one that must appeal very deeply to those who realise the utter discomfort of dingy lodgings at high prices, with no friendly hand or cheery word to greet them on their return in the evening from office or shop, which is the lot of hundreds of our women workers; there are many who have no family tie whatsoever. What wonder if they turn to the doubtful pleasures that chance may offer them as an escape from loneliness? The lonely woman is a sad woman; it may easily be that one day she may become a bad woman. The nation cannot afford to put a premium on laxness or immorality; much of the soundness of its future is bound up in the purity and contentment of its women.

To this end the Green Cross Corps have secured spacious premises at 68-69, Guilford Street, Russell Square, where the first club is to be run. There is accommodation for

residents, and the large airy rooms afford a welcome social centre for many business and ex-Service girls. Good meals at reasonable prices, a library, dancing, gymnastic classes, dramatic and hockey clubs are all to be enjoyed by the Green Cross women, and the membership is growing rapidly. But there is something more than mere social advantages which they learn to appreciate. The old spirit of the "Stick-at-Nothings" lives, and service is still the keynote of the Corps. The blinded soldier, the juvenile evening clubs, the children's welfare centres are now the objects of their affectionate care, and every member is expected to be willing to undertake one voluntary duty a week if her help is required. No girl in London need be lonely or dull or friendless, for when she has enrolled she becomes one of a healthy, happy body of women, who though they receive benefits learn also to give themselves each according to her temperament and capability.

A LITTLE POINT.

(TO MUNICIPAL VOTERS.)

EVERY married woman of thirty who reads this is qualified to vote for Town and County Councillors. So is every single woman of twenty-one practically, except those who live at home with their parents. Last year (1918-1919) forty-four women took their seats on local bodies in the first part of the year and forty-six women after the March elections.

We can recall the November elections. Very soon the March elections will be here, and more seats will pass to women.

These facts mean power—power for the majority of ordinary women. They have power enough now to carry any policy, if only they were aware of their strength! If only they would apply it quite gently on one little point of attack! If women would make one little push at the coming election they could carry one little point. That little affair concerns the presence of mentally defective children in the ordinary elementary schools.

Everything that can be said has been said by somebody somewhere—by some grumbling teacher or some specialised doctor in some sound-proof sanctum. But it is not said yet by everybody, at every open meeting, at every council, in every drawing-room. Middle-class women do not say to one another yet: "Isn't it a shame, the Mental Defectives School is still shut?"

But our district school has been shut since the first year of the war. Nor is it so in our district only.

Of course there are really very few defective children. There are probably not more than one in a hundred in a bad area, and perhaps one in two hundred in a good area; that means in a bad area one in every second class, and in a good area one in every fourth class. That is very little—"nothing." "Negligible?" "Negligible?"

Who as a child would have liked the company of the village idiot? Fifty children are living in company with a defective for five hours a day. I remember two defective children. One was defective only in a very mild way. She was florid and lumbering, twitching and goggling, and her big tongue hung out a little. She could do reading and arithmetic of a wretched quality—not really worth calling anything but tricks. She was tiresome, and rasped the teacher's temper; a stumbling block in the class, and bad for the other children.

The other child was unstable as well as defective. Her emotions were too prompt, and unconnected with reason. In looks she was very like the ugly sister in a pantomime or a comic charwoman acted by a man—a flushed face, unsymmetrical eyebrows, a great mouth, and wild eyes. So suggestive was she that if anyone smiled she burst out into a shaking fit of laughter and could not stop; if a movement was mentioned or suggested she made it. She was punished very often for her work, which was unintelligible, and she was punished too for bad conduct. She cried noisily then, and then would stop and grimace and whisper and toss her head. All the children looked towards her if there was the least stir. They expected a pantomime from her.

Do not blame the teacher; she had fifty-six children to look after! What can one say? Poor child, poor children, poor teacher!

Let women have no doubt that defectives in ordinary schools are equally harmful and harmed. Let voters find out whether there is a Mental Defectives school in their district or not, and let them know if it is open or not. Above all, let them ask questions persistently at meetings and find out if the candidates realise this little difficulty and have a policy. Women could do this so easily if they would. It is a little point, and does not affect most people but those whom it does affect it affects strongly.

THE PRICE OF GAS

THE price of gas has, it is true, risen since the war; but it has risen far less than most other household necessities.

The rise is due to perfectly plain causes. Here are some simple statistics:

Labour has on the average mounted 300%
Coal—the chief raw material . . . 150%
Oil—largely used in manufacture 300%
Machinery and other Plant . . . 200%

☛ The average price of gas has not however risen 100%; and dividends are generally lower than before the war.

☛ This great public utility organisation, which has served the nation efficiently and economically for upwards of a century, and which contributed so considerable a part towards victory, is now working as one man to serve the nation in the new era in the same spirit of sound science and sane salesmanship, and is to-day in a stronger position than in the past, with a still greater future before it for united service to the community.

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COMMERCIAL
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THE CALL . . . of the Stricken Lands of Europe

**Fighting Disease and Famine in
Austria, Germany, and Poland**

☛ The womanhood and young life of Europe is in peril, and there is no frontier to disease. Tuberculosis, Rickets, and Typhus are decimating the countries of Poland, Austria, Hungary, Germany, Czecho-Slovakia, Serbia, and elsewhere.

☛ Food, Warmth, and Medical Supplies are the only effective weapons with which to combat the ever-spreading Mid-European scourge.

☛ In the face of these needs, money is needed to provide Milk for the three-and-a-half million young children who will die without it.

☛ The greatest suffering of this Winter is from lack of warmth. Coal can be obtained in some parts of Europe if paid for in English pounds.

☛ Clothing materials are needed for making into garments to cover the shivering millions of innocent children.

☛ Contributions will be gratefully received by the FRIENDS' EMERGENCY and WAR VICTIMS' RELIEF COMMITTEE (A. Ruth Fry, Hon. Sec.), 27, Chancery Lane, W.C. 2.

☛ Gifts of Clothing (new or partly worn) will be welcomed at the Warehouse, 11, St. Bride Street, London, E.C. 4.

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THE DOMESTIC SERVICE PROBLEM

There are readers who for years past have obtained domestic help through our small advertisement columns. Why? Because we can supply them with the kind of service which is so difficult to find at an ordinary Registry Office.

"THE WOMAN'S LEADER" IN LITERATURE.

FACT AND FICTION.

Fanny Goes to War. By Pat Beauchamp. (Murray, 6s.)

After what seemed to her interminable delays the author of "Fanny Goes to War" joined her unit of the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry in January, 1915; the first contingent, "hardly any of them twenty-one," had gone out in October, 1914, to take over a hospital for the Belgian authorities at Lamarck. The F.A.N.Y.'s did V.A.D. work in the wards, which were largely occupied by typhoid cases, carried clothing and comforts to the front line, and collected wounded from the trenches, drove patients to the ships which conveyed them to Cherbourg, fetched hospital stores, took turns at an advanced dressing station, and even took corpses to the mortuary. They were exposed to shell fire on their trips to the trenches, the hospital was constantly bombarded by Zeppelins; it was a matter of course that a F.A.N.Y. convoy should be summoned to pick up casualties from the neighbourhood of an exploding ammunition dump. Miss Beauchamp says little about the air-raids, which, in the absence of dug-outs caused little disturbance of the hospital régime, but she does in passing, complain that it was difficult to cope with typhoid patients, who ought not to be moved, when Zeppelin bombs had filled their beds with window glass. After a year's service with the Belgian Army Miss Beauchamp went with fifteen other ambulance drivers to replace men who had been driving for the British Red Cross, and lived first under canvas and then in huts. The journeys they made were long, sometimes as much as sixty miles, and often the same driver would make as many as five consecutive trips in the dark along war-worn roads to collect wounded from hospital barges or drive them to the port of evacuation. When the winter came the girls had to take turns to sit up and crank up the cars once an hour lest they should freeze. But they found time to get up theatre and concert parties for the wounded as they had when working under the Belgians. The impression one gets from reading the history of these two years is one of extraordinary courage and resource, and an almost incredible gaiety and endurance. It came to an end, for Miss Beauchamp at least, when a bomb struck the lorry she was driving, killing one of the occupants and severing the driver's leg. Then followed a fight for life, a year of recurrent operations and moves from hospital to hospital, because a wounded woman was in those days an exception for whom no provision had been made; and a final visit to the convoy just before its demobilisation.

"It was a singular and happy coincidence that on the second anniversary of the day I lost my leg I should be cantering over the same fields at Peuplinghe."

This may seem a trivial sentence to choose for quotation, but in it is the spirit which made these girls, most of them hardly more than children, able to "work day after day in scenes such as no man could long endure." This is Major-General Thompson's tribute to the Convoy which served under his command, and though the terrible side of the duty is but little stressed in the present volume no one can say that his praise is overdone. Miss Beauchamp received the *Croix de Guerre* from General Ditte while still in hospital, and it is evident that she and her companions were welcomed by the French, the Belgians and our own armies as true brothers-in-arms. The F.A.N.Y.'s have had less than their meed of praise in their own country, where their uniform is hardly known, for it is their proud boast that they were all on active service, and that they were the pioneer woman's corps. There are few women of whom more has been asked and none who have given more gallantly.

From Friend to Friend. By Lady Ritchie. (Murray, 6s.)

Lady Ritchie's last book, put together just before her death, and containing a delicately vivid sketch of a day in a French village in 1918, is yet chiefly interesting for its scattered reminiscences of friends who were living in the middle of the last century. Tennyson, the Brownings, Fanny and Adelaide Kemble, George Eliot, George Sand, Lockhart, Liszt are the great figures of the time. But masterful Mrs. Cameron, with what Tennyson called her "wild, beaming benevolence," is as romantic a figure as any, and seems to step out of an unknown Meredith novel. She "played the game of life with such vivid courage and disregard of the ordinary rules" that she must have been rather a fearful joy to the friends on whom she "showered

Indian shawls, turquoise bracelets, inlaid portfolios, ivory elephants," and from whose sick beds she chased their family physicians while recommending diet and routine like that imposed upon her convalescent husband.

"The patient has poached eggs at night, gets up at eleven, has his dinner (gravy soup and curry) at one, mulligatawny soup and meat at five, a free allowance of port, averaging a bottle a day. Ten drops of Jeremie's opiate every morning, a dose of creosote zinc and gum arabic before his meals, and a dose of quinine after each meal."

We hear of Mrs. Cameron accompanying Lady Ritchie to the station after a summer call, wearing a red velvet dress and carrying a cup of tea which she stirred as she walked along. Mrs. Kemble was another picturesque figure, of whom Henry James said, "A prouder nature never fronted the long humiliation of life." She attempted her first novel at the age of eighty, had known Mary Shelley, and heard Mrs. Siddons read the witches' scene in Macbeth. There is little in these ladies of what we now call Victorian primness, and they stand out rather oddly from the background we of another generation have invented for them, misled, one may suppose, by the fondness of Thackeray and Dickens for Amelia and Agnes characters, and by the languishing pose insisted on by the fashionable portrait painters of the day. The reminiscences are all too few, and we would gladly exchange the rather faintly etched short story reprinted from the *Cornhill* of 1893, for more about Lockhart's "pale and fiery" countenance and his liking for cream tarts, or another glimpse of George Sand with her great eyes, "fierce, defiant, powerful, sulky"—Lady Ritchie tries all these adjectives but cannot quite satisfy herself. There were, it seems, giants in those days, and hardly anyone now living remembers them or has the skill to tell us of them.

Eli of the Downs. By C. M. A. Peake. Heinemann 7s.

"Eli of the Downs" is a novel whose excellence depends singularly little upon form. All the drama is over by the thirteenth chapter, when Eli Buckle comes home from a night's work at the lambing fold to find his young wife dead in unaided child-birth. All the years after that are, in a sense, without emotional appeal, because work, adventure, peril, success, were nothing more than anodyne for an unhealed wound of which the lad was hardly conscious. At the end he comes back to Ewebourne Vale to live and die solitary as a shepherd, happy in his own manner because he no longer strives for forgetfulness. The matter of the story is not arranged in the compact circle that critics prescribe; it is contained in a long ellipse. No reader will look to see how the book ends while its course is still uncertain, and no one will hold his breath in suspense when Eli faces danger at sea or up the Tsilicot Valley, because Eli has attained to the temper which takes fortune's buffets and rewards with equal thanks. But the very lack of drama, the informal pattern of the story, make for verisimilitude. Just so do men go out as if to seek the fortune which has already been won and lost again at home, and for them nevertheless the world is a good world.

Mr. Peake (whom we suspect of being a woman after all) has in very full measure the power of communicating to his readers the spirit of place. The book is full of clear airs, long distances, wind sighing through woods or sweeping across uplands. He can draw a vivid thumbnail portrait, as of Davy Jones, that wastrel with his streak of chivalry. He can (and this is a hard task) make us love Ah Fong, the Chinese cook; he is at home in the fo'castle of tramp steamers, and can tell a yarn of an outwitted crimp that would have delighted R. L. S. in the mood which produced the "Wrecker." But the *clou* of the book is the chapter describing the night in the sheep fold and the return; its poignancy, its reserved and contained force, its simplicity, mark it as a very fine achievement. It is easy for the reader to believe that Eli never forgot that night during any waking hour. He is the man of that moment and that he should thereafter walk unchanged through a changing world is natural. Admirers of Miss Kaye-Smith's work will see in "Eli of the Downs" a certain kinship with "A Challenge to Sirius," and will welcome another writer able to depict the English peasant adventuring by sea and land with his rusticity and his easy confidence in his star, his closeness to the earth and his steady inward light.

"THE WOMAN'S LEADER" IN DRAMA.

TWO ARTIFICIAL COMEDIES.

("Tea for Three" at the Haymarket and "Just Like Judy" at St. Martin's).

According to the programme of "Tea for Three" "the action of the play takes place in London to-day." The scene of "Just Like Judy" is laid "in Chelsea in the spring of the present year." In spite of the references to the end of the war, to the "Lloyd George touch," the "Troic," and Ellis Jefferies—in spite of the efforts of upholstress and dressmaker—these statements make a heavy demand on our imagination.

This is the story which Mr. Roi Cooper Megrue, the author of "Tea for Three," asks us to believe—or rather imagine—happening in London at the present time. Doris and Carter have been married for three years. Doris (Fay Compton) is devoted to Carter, but she is in the habit of having to tea once a week an old admirer and now purely platonic friend. Her affection for him is said to be platonic, but sometimes it appears not quite platonic. But perhaps that is only when Miss Fay Compton's feelings run away with her. Carter (Mr. A. E. Matthews) is devoted to Doris, but he has two faults. First, he is so much immersed in making huge sums of money that he will hardly ever take Doris out. Secondly, he is unreasonably jealous of Philip. Philip (Mr. Stanley Logan) is one of those exquisitely sensitive men who protect their sensitiveness under a veil of cynicism. He describes himself as a "careless fellow—a butterfly." He is so much in love with Doris that he only lives for the sake of the one afternoon a week when he goes to tea with her. Yet she is as safe with him as with her grandmother. He tries to drown his sorrow in society. He has a large circle of lady friends whom he calls his "flutterers." He appears to entertain one or other of them alone in his rooms almost every evening. But all this is mere "fluttering"; just a way of passing the time till tea on Thursday.

A series of accidents, combined with incredible folly on the part of Doris, bring the husband's jealousy to a head. He rushes to Philip's rooms, and proposes that they shall draw lots as to which of the two shall have Doris. The unsuccessful candidate is to commit suicide within twenty-four hours. Philip draws the unlucky lot. The next day at tea-time the husband and wife see in the evening paper that Philip has committed suicide. Doris guesses that her husband has had something to do with this, and declares that she will never love him again. Carter is just wishing that he had not been such an ass, and that Philip had not been in such a hurry, when Philip walks in. It is the day on which he comes to tea. The paper was a hoax. Philip is a friend of the editor, who has paid him £50 for getting this one copy printed, to give Carter a lesson. It does give Carter a lesson. He welcomes Philip with open arms, and invites him to stay to tea on that and every subsequent Thursday. So an extra cup is brought in and they sit down to "Tea for Three."

Really it is a strange part of London where men who have sufficient wits to make large fortunes offer to draw lots with their friends as to who shall commit suicide—where they walk into such silly traps—where doctors (Philip's profession) lay such silly, cruel, and expensive traps for their friends. But it is not so strange as the corner of Chelsea in the spring of the present year, shown in "Just Like Judy."

A young lady, with the sole aid of a hat with brilliant feathers and an intermittent cockney accent, persuades an artist of some years' experience that she is a model. She also persuades the same young man that a five minutes' fainting fit was a period of three months' loss of memory. Further, that during that period he had married her. She also makes the young man fall violently in love with her, and also falls violently in love with him. This, however, is an accident. The real object of her strange plot is to make the young man marry her dearest—but most repulsive—

friend. It does not succeed, of course, and she marries the artist herself. This happy state of affairs is brought about by the unconscious agency of a real artist's model. She appears at intervals in the studio and relates the progress of a projected elopement between the young lady the artist should be going to marry and another man. This is the more remarkable as she is not the hero's model, and comes to his studio by mistake. Neither does she know the significance of the story she tells to the parties concerned. She just comes in out of the street and tells them all about it for no reason at all. But she saves the situation.

Of course, this sort of thing does not happen in the real world. But there is no need for a comedy to be like the real world. The best comedies are not—"The School for Scandal," "The Rivals," the whole of Congreve and Farquhar are riddled with coincidences, absurd plots, and disguises, improbabilities of all kinds. It is hardly likely that a sensible young man should mistake a gentleman's house for an inn, and his daughter for a barmaid. Yet no one thinks "She Stoops to Conquer" is any the worse play for that. The people are not real people, their world is not a real world, but it is much gayer, wittier, and more high-spirited than real life.

The characters of "Tea for Three" and "Just Like Judy" are not in the least amusing. They have lost the common-sense interest of real life, but have nothing to compensate for its loss. This is the kind of thing which passes for funny among them: "All the women I know fall into two classes. Those who have loved me, and those whom I have loved. The two never coincide." Or Beatrice: "Crawford was very kind to me when Peter was at the front." Judy: "He would be—he's that kind of man." Or the valet intending to convey that a lady visitor is downstairs. "The tailor sir, has called to try on your new coat." The fact that the audience smiled occasionally was a tribute rather to the actors than the authors.

For the audience did smile occasionally, and on the whole enjoyed themselves. This is entirely due to the actors. In "Tea for Three," though one has to listen for nearly three hours to insipid conversation, one can watch for three hours a charming woman. Once again one is reminded how charming Fay Compton is—her face, voice, the turn of her head—everything about her, even to her clothes—new ones in every act. She had not much conviction in her part, however, and at the crucial moment (when she heard that Philip had committed suicide) entirely gave it up and did not attempt to act at all. If the parlour-maid had been given her deserts, she would have received a month's warning. Mr. A. E. Matthews and Mr. Stanley Logan were more convincing as the husband and friend than the author deserved.

Even more successful were Miss Iris Hoey and Mr. Donald Calthrop in "Just Like Judy." Miss Hoey has not, of course, the charm and prettiness of Fay Compton. But she has a quality more rare among actresses—intellect. In spite of the author, she somehow convinces us that Judy is the strong, gay, clever woman her friends think her. Like Peter himself, we believe in her in spite of all the fatuous things she says and does. We even believe in Peter himself, thanks to Mr. Calthrop's excellent acting. He is so natural, so nice, that it is quite a shock when he is forced to break into such passages as "The face quiet and unruffled, how does it go?—A bower of peace and lifelong recompense." But even that he almost manages to carry off.

But why does he do it? Why do such really good actors and actresses as Miss Iris Hoey, Miss Fay Compton, Mr. Donald Calthrop, and A. E. Matthews act in such plays? Is it their fault or the manager's—or ours?

CORRESPONDENCE.

POSITION OF WOMEN UNDER THE LAW.

MADAM,—In the able and interesting *resumé* of the position of women under the law, in your issue of February 6th, may I note one important oversight? The writer states (1) that the husband is liable to maintain his wife, and (2) he is bound to feed, clothe and educate his children of tender years. This is, doubtless, the theory, and among many sections of the population, the practice. Nevertheless, the working-class wife has to take exactly what her husband chooses to give her, quite irrespective either of the man's earnings, or of the adequacy of the amount. Without exposing himself to the slightest legal penalty, a man can spend two-thirds of his wages on horse-racing, or on drink, or on a temporary mistress. Close to my own doors I know of woman after woman living with her children in painful poverty, though the husbands must be earning from £4 to £6 a week. Nor are the men altogether to blame. Church and State combine to make the man's default free from any disagreeable consequences to himself, and his moral standard must needs be high, if he is always to resist the subtle temptations held out to him by the institutions of this country.

It is often declared that the wife can enforce her right to maintenance by throwing herself on the Guardians. This is sheer nonsense. Would any reader consider she was adequately "protected" by the law, if her only means of securing payment of her earnings, or of her dividends, was to enter the workhouse, and there remain, while the Guardians collected enough from her employer, or from her banker, to defray her charges while in the House? People seldom realise that the unfortunate wife does not touch one farthing of the money recovered. It is no answer to point out that in millions of families mutual affection, love of offspring, sense of fair play, makes the state of the law of little or no importance. As well argue that, because most of us do not need extraneous aids to keep us from picking our neighbours' pockets, that the police are a useless institution.

As regards the payment of "maintenance" in the case of separation orders, the state of things is also much worse than readers of Mrs. Alderson's article would suppose.

If the ground of the wife's application is physical violence, she must either "show marks," which in the case of many serious injuries, is not possible, or produce witnesses of the assault, which is seldom committed in public. If she applies on the ground of neglect, the conditions imposed on her are so ludicrous that it almost needs an act of faith to believe they were not devised in derision. The woman, by hypothesis destitute through the neglect of her husband, must first leave his roof. As no mother would dare to leave her children to the mercy of an unscrupulous man, she must take a furnished room and keep herself and her brood going till her case comes before the Court. The magistrate may then order the husband to pay her a certain weekly sum, but if the latter chooses to disobey, she can take no action for four weeks. Meanwhile, she and the children have to live. Then she must furnish the police with the man's address, so the husband can easily baulk her by leaving the neighbourhood and going to work elsewhere. She must next prove that the man, after retaining ample for his own needs, can afford to pay the allotted sum; in many instances, therefore, the man temporarily leaves his usual employment and takes on a worse-paid job. Moreover, should the wife finally succeed in bringing the defaulter to justice, she reaps nothing but an empty vengeance; for imprisonment wipes out the whole of the arrears. There are, indeed, so many pitfalls in the unhappy woman's path that only a very desperate, or a very reckless creature ever dreams of applying to the law at all. It is therefore a sad commentary on the "Happy Homes of England" that, notwithstanding the above deterrents and others omitted for want of space, no fewer than between 6,000 and 7,000 separation orders are granted every year, the immense majority being at the instance of the wife. It is impossible to deny that the low legal status of the wife lies at the root of a vast amount of selfishness, brutality, sensuality and tyranny, and that consequently, multitudes of women are yearly broken in mind, body and soul.

Mrs. Alderton at the conclusion of her article indicates several legal reforms in the interests of women, which are long overdue. But as far as my experience goes, the most urgent and imperative of all is, that the pecuniary obligation of married men to their partners and to their children should be defined and enforced. The war has read us a striking lesson. For half a century at least, men and women of good will have struggled strenuously to secure social betterment. With what result? That England had, according to the Prime Minister, a greater proportion of unfit than any other of the recent belligerent powers, and that, in 1914, only one child out of four of the 'leavers' examined by the school medical officers had a body which could be classified as "good." (See Dr. Hamer's Report for 1914, p. 88.)

With the war came the recognition of the right of married women to a maintenance for herself and for each individual, dependent child, with the result that the condition of the children immediately and sensibly improved.

Surely he who runs may read. The mother is the key of the situation.
ANNA MARTIN.

THE IDEAL HOMES EXHIBITION.

MADAM,—Here are concrete blocks and 'units' of many different potteries." Such was the surprising sentence which I read over my own signature in last week's WOMAN'S LEADER. But the word which I wrote was not "potteries"; it was "patterns." Crockery is not yet one of the proposed substitutes for bricks.

CLEMENINA BLACK.

A DANGER TO THE WORKING NURSE.

MADAM,—In reply to the letter "A Danger to the Working Nurse" in your issue of February 13th, the Nursing Profession has reached a very definite landmark in its progression, and at the present moment two "dangers" confront its members.

There are to-day a very large number of nurses who can no longer actively engage in their calling, and who are in dire necessity of immediate financial assistance. If you will, make the State responsible for those who suffered through their war work, but in the meantime they must live and have medical and convalescent treatment. Others are now enduring the results of "the disgraceful conditions in the past," and others, perhaps the largest number, are gripped by the present economic situation, their homes are broken up, or pensions and annuities that sufficed in 1913 are now totally inadequate.

The tragic appeals for help which daily reach the promoters of the Tribute Fund show only too clearly that any "established funds" cannot possibly meet the present urgent need, and a very, very generous tribute of money is, alas! required.

This is a war debt that should be paid without delay. National memories are short, and the future presents its own problems. The danger to the past nurse is—"lest we forget."

The present and working nurse has also, to my mind, a danger before her. She, herself, and the world at large, may feel that now State Registration is an accomplished fact there is nothing more to achieve. That is a great mistake. Politically, educationally, and in the world of affairs, the profession is only on the threshold. This was well expressed by the President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses—Mrs. Bedford Fenwick—(when speaking in America in 1901 at an International Congress of Nurses) she says: "Educational advantages for nurses mean a direct gain to the public, and I think you will agree with me that it is not just that the whole financial burden of the further advance of nursing should be entirely borne by the nurses themselves. In other and richer professions the public take their share in financial support. Witness the magnificent universities, the endowed professional chairs, the medical colleges. . . . I claim that the time has come when nurses need their educational centres, their endowed colleges. . . . etc." 1920 has arrived, and The College of Nursing, which offers unlimited opportunities to the working nurses, is established, and now asks the public for endowment.

The constitution of the college is such that the election of its governing body, the council, is in the hands of the nurses upon the register, which now numbers 17,000. The nominations and elections are conducted by postal ballot, one-third of its members retiring each year.

The local centres of the college, of which there are 23, prove very valuable in forming constituencies whereby the council may be made truly representative. With such a constitution the working nurse has a weapon which has already proved effectual, not only in raising the salaries and shortening the hours of nurses, but provides a medium by which she has an opportunity for self-expression denied her in the past.

F. A. SHELDON.

Guy's Hospital Trained Nurses' Institution,
14, St. Thomas's Street, London, S.E.1

WOMEN CLERKS IN THE BANKS.

MADAM,—From time to time there have been letters in the daily press with reference to Women Clerks in Banks, but I do not think their status since the war has ended has been mentioned, nor can I imagine that it is known how unfair is the treatment of Women Clerks in Banks at the present moment. Of course, Madam, there are exceptions, and I cannot judge how many women bank clerks suffer in the same way as the two whose case I wish to bring to your notice, and to the notice of every woman who is in favour of the equality of the sexes and of equal pay for equal work. It does not seem consistent with that sentiment to allow the women who are still retained in the banks as clerks to suffer from very serious inequality of treatment. I cannot do better than quote from the letter of a clerk known to me. She writes: "The uncertainty of when we shall be dismissed is very trying. The one certain thing seems to be that there is no chance for women on the permanent staff at my bank or at that of my sister. Meanwhile, we women are expected to work as hard as the men for a salary no self-respecting male clerk would look at! While men and little half-educated boys are given big rises, bonuses, and grants, over and over again, and all the real privileges of the permanent staff. Of course, this lowers women horribly in the eyes of these pert youngsters, youths from lower-grade schools; but what are we to do? Most of us are serious wage-earners; in the main the women clerks are of rather better social position than the men, but that, I know, is beside the point, as if one has to earn one's living one cannot always be with those in one's own rank of life; but it does come hard on us to endure daily the coarseness, and I must add, at times the blasphemy of the conversation of our fellow clerks—the low tone is often a misery to me—and it is far worse since the war. There is, alas! so much sex bitterness now which I can only call *hideous*. Still, I and D. must carry on to earn our daily bread."

You will perhaps think that the case of these two is exceptional. Still, it does seem unfair that women who have given four valuable years of their life to working in a bank should be denied the salary and other privileges given to a man doing precisely the same work. Surely there should be more fair play possible?

M. F. LONG.



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F. 68. Hand-made Shetland Carrying Shawls (as bottom sketch), varying sizes and Prices. Sale Prices, 10/6 to 63/-

F. 60. Towelling Bath Wrap (as sketch) in White, with coloured Facings, or colours with contrasting Facings. Sale Price, 47/6

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NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS AND FROM OUR SOCIETIES.

WIDOWS' PENSIONS

It is a great disappointment to hear that the Labour Party's Widows' Pensions Bill, which was to have been moved next Friday, has been ruled out of order, as it necessarily had to ask for money to be granted by Parliament. It was not known until the last minute whether it could obtain the second reading, but great hopes had been built on it.

It now remains for all societies affiliated to us to do their best to demonstrate to the Government that public opinion is overwhelmingly in favour of this reform, as after this ruling, the measure will only be able to come up if introduced by the Government.

BILL TO AMEND THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT.

A Bill to amend the Representation of the People Act is to be brought up by the Labour Party on Friday, February 27th. The actual draft of the Bill will not be published until next Tuesday, but it is understood that it will extend the franchise to women on the same terms as to men.

Secretaries of societies are therefore urged to do all they can immediately, to approach their Members of Parliament asking them to be in their places on that day, and to vote for the Bill. As this reform takes precedence in many respects over all others in our Programme, it is hoped that no time will be lost and that immediate action will be taken.

THE APPEAL FOR FUNDS.

Readers of the list of subscriptions given below will see that money is coming in more slowly than we could wish. We warmly appreciate the help that has been given by some of our branches and affiliated societies in making special efforts to raise funds and we hope others will follow their example. We ask all readers of this page, whether members of our Union or not, who are in sympathy with our primary object, which is to secure a real equality of liberties, status, and opportunities between men and women, to send us a contribution to our special fund. The near future is certain to bring important developments; money is urgently necessary to carry out our "equality" propaganda effectively. It is quite impossible to maintain our organisers, an incessant Parliamentary scrutiny and prodding to action, an up-to-date information bureau, and a well-equipped library, even with the most rigid economy, without adequate funds. We welcome any amount, however small, as a mark of interest and appreciation, but we do urge those who really care for women's interests and who can afford to send us large sums, to do so. The contributions up to February 14th are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	2,048	13	4
West Midland Federation	14	9	8
Bristol S.E.C.	10	0	0
Mrs. Holland	10	0	0
Edinburgh S.E.C.	5	0	0
Miss Lampart	5	0	0
Mrs. H. Enfield-Dowson	5	0	0
Mrs. Stewart Brown	5	0	0
Nelson S.E.C.	3	0	0
Southport S.E.C.	2	16	0
Chester Equality Group	2	5	6
Mrs. Overton	2	2	0
Mrs. Smithson	2	0	0
Miss Miller and Miss Wilson	2	0	0
Cheltenham W.C.A.	1	5	0
Carnforth S.E.C.	1	1	0
Miss E. A. Parry	1	1	0
Miss B. R. Bruce	1	1	0
Miss F. Hughes	1	0	0
Miss A. M. Allen	1	0	0
Miss E. M. Bates	1	0	0
West Herts S.E.C.	14	0	0
Gloucester S.E.C.	12	6	0
Miss L. Edridge	10	6	0
Miss C. C. Lyon	10	0	0
Miss M. A. Hollings	10	0	0
Dr. Mary Clarke	10	0	0
Mrs. J. W. Wilson	10	0	0
Mrs. B. Blagg	5	0	0

	£	s.	d.
Mrs. A. J. Lane	5	0	0
Mrs. Tennant	5	0	0
Miss F. Elgood	2	6	0
Total	£2,129	9	9

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION—A SUGGESTION TO SOCIETIES.

Despite the present inclement weather many of our branches will shortly be planning their summer work in confidence that, at any rate in June and July, there will be weather which can with safety be called warm and dry. We suggest, for consideration, that an election under the P.R. method would be both diverting and instructive and quite suitable for garden meetings. If, say, seven candidates were nominated for four places and they were real live persons, each making three or four minutes speeches in favour of the principles advocated, the audience at the conclusion of the speeches could vote according to P.R. We are sure that the P.R. Society would advise as to the nomination of candidates and help in the counting of votes, besides giving an explanation of what P.R. really means to women. We would add that very successful elections of this sort have been held during the winter in halls, and there seems no reason why they should not be equally successful in such a pleasant surrounding as a garden.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

BIRMINGHAM S.E.C.—DEPUTATION TO SIR JOHN SIMON. The officers of the Birmingham Society for Equal Citizenship met Sir John Simon on his visit to Birmingham on February 6th and presented him with a short address, recording the appreciation and gratitude of the Society for his consistent and able support of the cause of Woman Suffrage through many years of patient constitutional agitation and his contribution to its ultimate success.

Sir John Simon, in reply, said that it had often been said there was no such thing as gratitude in politics, but that the entry of women into political life had disproved that statement. He had noted in the Spen Valley election that 80 per cent. of the electorate had recorded their votes, which meant that the women must have voted in great numbers, and he hoped this interest would continue. Sir John Simon then addressed a crowded meeting in the Birmingham Town Hall, and the manner in which the women members of the great audience (constituting about a third) followed the close reasoning of his delightful speech and appreciated its gravity and importance, no less than its subtle humour and charm, must have satisfied him that in the Midlands as well as in Yorkshire the newly enfranchised women were showing keen interest in politics.

LIVERPOOL COUNCIL OF WOMEN CITIZENS—WOMEN AS JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

At a recent meeting of the Liverpool Council of Women Citizens it was unanimously agreed that a letter be sent to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster suggesting the names of eight suitable women to serve as magistrates for the City of Liverpool. As nominations received from the various societies affiliated to the Council greatly exceeded the number it was proposed to recommend, a vote was taken, which resulted in the selection of the following:—Miss E. F. Rathbone, M.A., C.C.; Mrs. Richard Yates; Miss Frances Ivins, M.B., M.S., Chevalier de la Legion d' Honneur, Croix de Guerre avec Palme; Mrs. E. Stewart Brown, C.C.; Miss Florence Melly; Miss E. Chubb; Mrs. Shilston Watkins, L.L.A.; Mrs. Campbell.

BEACONSFIELD SOCIETY FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

The annual report of this Society shows a great deal of activity, both with regard to equality propaganda and the educational work among its members. During the summer a leaflet was printed and circulated stating the objects of the Society with the programme for the autumn and winter. The result of this vigorous campaign has been that the membership has more than doubled during the year.

REPORTS.

THE NEED FOR WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT.

The mass meeting at the Queen's Hall, on February 13th, which was organised by the National Council of Women of Great Britain and Ireland and the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship was a very successful one. MRS. OGLIVIE GORDON presided and was supported by representatives of all the women's organisations.

MRS. OGLIVIE GORDON regretted that two of their most important speakers, the Prime Minister and Mr. Arthur Henderson, were unable to attend, and in the absence of Mrs. Fawcett they missed one of their best and greatest friends. The meeting, Mrs. Gordon said, was called to give expression to the ever-growing need for women in the House of Commons. The country had been electrified by Lady Astor's success, tradition went to the winds and people were now beginning to recognise that it was right. The immediate object of the women's societies was to win good-will in a big national effort that was to be made to familiarise the public with the idea of women candidates. It is not an easy thing for women to run the gauntlet of a parliamentary election; it was a "dark and difficult adventure" even for hardy veterans. There is no wish or intention to form a woman's party, for both men and women are needed for good State management.

MRS. LLOYD GEORGE read the following message from the Prime Minister:—

"I had fully expected to be able to fulfil my conditional promise to speak at the Queen's Hall to-night, but the urgent call of public business in the House of Commons and at the Peace Conference, renders this impossible. Women have at last come into their own, after long weary years of waiting and resolute fighting, and their duty to the State demands that they shall not only exert the franchise on all occasions, but shall also actively engage in imperial and local government, in which many and great questions of public policy are their peculiar and special concern. Your meeting is called specially to advocate the need for women in Parliament. The movement has my utmost good wishes, for so far the only woman member who sits in the House of Commons is one of my supporters. I hope and believe that Lady Astor is the first of a noble band of women representing every grade and class who will adorn the House with their presence and their service to the State with the great qualities of sympathy and enthusiasm."

SIR HAMAR GREENWOOD, who deputed for the Prime Minister, said, thanks to the law of the land any woman of twenty-one years of age and over is now eligible for Parliament—if she can secure the nomination and the votes. The business of women now is to convince the electors. Lady Astor's campaign had been one of the most exhilarating in political history. Women candidates must not make the mistake of depending on the Central Societies in London, they must rally the electors round them in their constituency. The great cause of women cannot be forwarded by speaking ill of men, for men are the best champions of women. The woollack is now in front of every woman. It was not a good sign to find women worrying the Government to do the things for them which they could do better themselves. Women, if they have the qualifications, can take their place in the great professional, industrial and commercial world. During the war British women in the factory, in the home, in hospitals, had attained a standard of novel and intellectual eminence that surpassed anything in the history of the world.

SIR DONALD MACLEAN said there was practical need for women in Parliament. Lady Astor had paved the way, but she needed some company, it was impossible for one woman to come near even the fringe of dealing with the work. It was absolutely essential that the women's point of view should be expressed and advocated in Committee and on the floor of the House. Education, housing, legislation regarding the welfare of children, were subjects with which they had struggled long and of which they had made a poor job. For every woman that goes into Parliament one man goes out, but the men would take that in good part, for they fully realised the need for women's co-operation in all reform measures. Sir Donald then announced the joyful news that a member had been successful in the ballot that night and intended to introduce a Bill which would give the franchise to women on equal terms with men.

LADY ASTOR thought it a very stupid question to ask why women were in Parliament. She sometimes felt inclined to ask why men were there. The chief reason why women would develop those qualities of kindness, courtesy, and thoughtfulness if women were in the House. She sincerely hoped that no woman would go into Parliament through personal ambition, for it is impossible to do what is best if one is thinking of one's own political ambitions. Although there were many splendid men in Parliament they could not bring a woman's point of view into the question; they cannot realise the human side as women could. On the other hand, the women have got to get a lot of the men's what one might call "sticking together." Women must not become "party politicians," they must not think that one party is possessed of all the virtues and another of all the vices. Lady Astor said her correspondence in the early days amounted to five hundred letters and now averaged two hundred, and according to which she was supposed to be able to deal with the following subjects:—

Adoption of children, care of the blind, infant welfare and maternity, labour conditions of women, divorce law reform, drink, education, food prices, equal guardianship of children, health and sanitation, housing, hospitals, illegitimate children and their mothers, income-tax hardships, marriage laws, endowment of motherhood, penal reform, pension hardships, poor law reform, social purity, tuberculosis, and unemployment.

MISS HELEN FRASER, in making an appeal for funds to carry on the campaign for women candidates, said that they hoped the best candidate would always get in, whether man or woman, but at the present time an able woman has not the same chance of getting in as an inferior man. It was necessary to go into the constituencies to remove existing prejudices so that the right woman might have a chance of being elected. Miss Fraser's appeal for funds was generously answered, many people

sending her up slips promising donations of ten and five pounds.

MISS ELEANOR RATHBONE, in proposing a vote of thanks to the speakers, said they were disappointed at the absence of the Prime Minister and Mr. Arthur Henderson, but both had sent excellent substitutes. They were grateful to them for what they had done for the women's cause in the past, but they expected much from them in the future. Women knew they had to make good in the constituencies, but they cannot go in and get the required number of electors without the party caucus behind them. It was no use asking women to be content with forlorn hopes; the fact was that the clever women candidates lost at the last election for the very same reasons that men would have lost in their places. Lady Astor, Miss Rathbone said, had paved the way for the more stodgy women. They did not wish to be looked upon as sex candidates. In referring to Sir Hamar Greenwood's remarks about the King's speech, Miss Rathbone asked if women only were being thought of with regard to the minimum wage and insurance, why were not Widows' Pensions included in the speech. She thanked all for their speeches and for what they had already done and for what they were going to do.

COMING EVENTS.

BIRMINGHAM SOCIETY FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

FEBRUARY 28.
Drawing Room Meeting, Erdington.
Speaker: Mrs. Ring. 3.30 p.m.

BRISTOL SOCIETY FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

FEBRUARY 24.
Afternoon Meeting at 6, Berkeley Square.
Subject for discussion: "Widows' Pensions."
Opener: Miss Rosamond Smith.
Chair: Mrs. Barrow Hill. 3 p.m.
Evening Public Meeting at 16, Berkeley Square.
Speaker: Miss Rosamond Smith.
Subject: "Equal Franchise, Women M.P.'s, and the General Work of the N.U.S.E.C."
Chair: His Honour Judge Stanger, K.C.
Other Speakers: Prof. Helen Wodehouse, M.A., D.Phil., W. C. H. Cross, Esq., Prof. G. H. Leonard, M.A. 7.30 p.m.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

MARCH 24.
Conference Hall, Central Hall, Westminster.
Subject: "Women in Industry and Commerce."
Speakers: Miss Beryl Heitland (Messrs. Evans Bros., Publishers), Miss E. M. Smith (Ingersoll Watch Co.), Miss Gladys Burlington (Director of Education, Selfridge).
Chair: Major P. Lloyd Greame, M.P., M.C.

EALING WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

FEBRUARY 25.
Meeting of Members in Vestry Hall, Ranelagh Road.
Subject: "League of Nations."
Speakers: From the Women's International League.
Chair: Mrs. Mitchell.
Tea and collection as usual. 8 p.m.

NEWPORT (MON.) WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

FEBRUARY 25.
Town Hall Assembly Room. Mock Election. Seven Candidates supported by local speakers.
Address: "Proportional Representation," by the Secretary, P.R. Society.
Chair: His Worship the Mayor of Newport.
Admission Free. Collection. 7.30 p.m.

SUTTON & DISTRICT WOMEN'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND CITIZEN ASSOCIATION.

MARCH 8.
Town Hall, Assembly Room. Lantern Lecture.
Subject: "Modern Houses."
Speaker: Mr. Ewart Calpin.
Admission Free. Collection. 7.30 p.m.

A Course of Six Lectures on "Some Problems of the Present Day," by Miss E. Macadam, M.A., will be held weekly on Tuesdays at 3 p.m., beginning February 17th, in the Y.W.C.A. Hall, Throwley Road, Sutton. The Course is intended as an introduction to the study of social economics.

FEBRUARY 27.
In the Girls' High School, Cheam Road, Sutton (lent by the Council of the G.P.D.S.T.).
Speaker: Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, D.Sc., Ph.D., F.I.S. (President National Women Citizens' Association).
Subject: "The Coming Municipal Elections."
Chair: Miss Bell, B.A., U.D.C. 3 p.m.
Tea 4.15 p.m.

GUILD OF EDUCATION AS NATIONAL SERVICE.

FEBRUARY 24.
At 11, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.
Subject: "Day Continuation Schools."
Speaker: R. W. Ferguson, Esq. (Educational Organiser, Cadbury's). 5.15 p.m.

MARCH 2.
Subject: "Educational Ideals in India."
Speaker: A. Padmanabha, Esq., B.A.
These lectures will be followed by questions and discussion.
For membership to the Guild (5s. per annum) apply to the Secretary.

PARENTS' NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL UNION.

MARCH 5.
At 22, Sloane Gardens, S.W.1 (By kind permission of Mrs. Peepoe).
Subject: "Poetry and Education."
Speaker: Mrs. M. L. Woods (Author).
Chair: The Rev. W. H. Draper (Master of the Temple).
It is suggested that parents might bring poems by children to read in discussion. 3 p.m.

THE CHILD-STUDY SOCIETY, LONDON.

MARCH 11.
At the Royal Sanitary Institute, 90, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1.
Subject: "The Educational Needs of Adolescence."
Speaker: Miss M. Jane Reaney, D.Sc. (London).
Chair: Mrs. Scharlieb, C.B.E., M.S., M.D. 6 p.m.

BRITISH WOMEN'S PATRIOTIC LEAGUE.

MARCH 1.
At South Lodge, Rutland Gate, S.W.7 (by kind permission of the Lady Langattock).
Subject: "Emigration and Patriotism."
Speaker: Mr. Kingsley Fairbridge.
Chair: Lady McLaren Brown. 3 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB.

FEBRUARY 25.
9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.1.
Speaker: Mr. T. Scanlan.
Subject: "Proportional Representation."
Chair: Viscountess Rhonda. 8.15 p.m.

THE EFFICIENCY CLUB.

MARCH 1.
Subscription Dinner at the Holborn Restaurant for Members (who will be notified as to arrangements).

MARCH 11.
Conference Hall, Central Hall, Westminster.

Subject: "The Gattie System of Transport."
Speaker: Mr. Alfred Warwick Gattie.
Chair: Miss Reynolds.
Application for membership to the Club to be made to the Secretary, at the Triangle Secretarial Offices, 61, South Molton Street, W.1.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

FEBRUARY 25.
Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn.
Speaker: Dr. Octavia Lewin.
Subject: "The Cinema Neck: Are We Too Civilised?" 3 p.m.
Discussion to follow.

SERBIAN DINNER.

Wharfedale Rooms, Great Central Hotel, Marylebone, N.W.1.
MARCH 1.
This dinner is being held to give an opportunity for Social Re-union to those who have worked abroad during the War on behalf of Serbia.
Tickets, 15s. each (exclusive of wine), to be obtained from the Hon. Sec., Miss Marx, 24, Melcombe Court, Dorset Square, N.W.1.

LAY MINISTRY OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

The following Petition is being circulated for signature by the League of the Church Militant in view of this question coming before the Lambeth Conference in July.

To be signed only by Communicants. Graduates should indicate their degrees, clergymen their official status.

This form when filled should be returned to the League of the Church Militant, 6, York Buildings, Adelphi, London, W.C. 2.

To the Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of England in Convocation assembled.

THE PETITION OF THE UNDERSIGNED COMMUNICANTS OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND HUMBLY SHEWETH:—

That the spiritual equality of men and women is an indisputable principle of the Christian Faith.

That this principle is gravely obscured by the maintenance of distinctions amongst the laity of the Church, which are based not on capacity but on sex.

That the withholding from women of such opportunity as is accorded to laymen of speaking in the congregation is more especially harmful in this respect.

That all enlightened judgment recognises that St. Paul's attitude on this matter "is necessarily bound up with the entire tradition and outlook of his own day, and cannot therefore be regarded as applicable to circumstances and developments which he could not possibly have foreseen" (Report of the Joint Committee of Canterbury Convocation, 1919).

That such restrictions as the Catholic Church has hitherto placed upon the ministries of women has been determined not by fundamental principles incapable of variation but by the place of women in society as a whole, and that a rigid adherence to ancient customs, when the conditions which occasioned them have wholly disappeared, is incompatible with the duty of the Church to meet the needs of succeeding ages.

That, rightly or wrongly, large numbers of women feel that the refusal to them of an equal place with the rest of the laity is an intolerable insult to womanhood.

That for this reason many women are being alienated from the fellowship of the Church and the loyalty of many more is being severely strained.

That this matter has been before the English Episcopate as an acute question calling for immediate treatment ever since the inception of the National Mission, that is to say, for over three years.

YOUR PETITIONERS THEREFORE PRAY THAT THEIR FATHERS IN GOD WILL FORTHWITH TAKE STEPS TO ACCORD TO WOMEN AN EQUAL PLACE WITH MEN IN THE LAY MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH.

And your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

NAME.

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