

# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

## AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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### NOTES AND NEWS.

#### Circular 1371.<sup>1</sup>

We regret that pressure on our space prevented the publication last week of a letter from the National Union of Women Teachers on the now famous circular issued by the Board of Education. The N.U.W.T. draws special attention to the reduction of grants for children under five years of age and the reduction of grants for the training of teachers. The first point has already been deplored in these columns. With regard to the second, they quote the report of the Committee on the Training of Teachers in Public Elementary Schools, which points out the disastrous consequences of frequent alterations of administrative policy in the provision of a regular and adequate supply of teachers. Women teachers are not alone in their condemnation of the proposed experiments in economy. The Workers' Educational Association and many other bodies which hold a watching brief over the interests of Education have expressed their complete disapproval. This week Lord Astor will raise the subject in the House of Lords and Mr. Trevelyan in the House of Commons. We therefore propose next week to deal more fully with the subject after hearing the defence put up by the Government. Meantime we commend to the attention of the Minister of Education some words of Lord Birkenhead spoken in the House of Lords last Thursday in the debate on the second reading of the Irish Agreement Bill: "No nation had permanently occupied a great place in history which could not subordinate questions of finance, however embarrassed its finances might be, to questions of high policy."

#### Married Women Teachers lose their Case.

Mr. Justice Lawrence, as was feared, has decided against Mrs. Fennell in her action against East Ham Education Authorities, basing his judgment on the recent decision in the Poole case in the Appeal Court. In the course of his judgment, he said the only question was whether the resolution of the Council was passed in pursuance of some illegitimate aim and not in furtherance of its statutory objects, and he held that the dismissal of the married women teachers with a view to the employment of young women who had been qualified at a Training College was a policy which was not so alien to the powers of the Council as to render the steps taken to carry it out invalid. He considered the policy came well within the purview of the duties of the local education authority. This

<sup>1</sup> The debate on Lord de la Warr's motion will be dealt with next week.

then, unless the teachers get it overturned by the House of Lords, as we hope they will, is the interpretation of the law, and it will become, therefore, necessary for us to promote legislation which will protect the rights of married women teachers. It is of interest to speculate whether if married men had been dismissed with a view to facilitating the giving of employment to young men teachers, the judgment would have gone in the same direction. We offer to these ladies our profound condolences, our admiration for the plucky stand which they have made on behalf of our common cause, and our renewed determination to do all in our power to render such dismissals as theirs impossible in the future. Meanwhile, one sentence of Mr. Justice Lawrence's summing up deserves quotation: "If that policy (i.e., the Council's policy of dismissing women on the sole ground of marriage) did not commend itself to the majority of the electors of East Ham, they must take care that the members whom they elected at the next municipal election would reverse that policy. . . ." Quite so. That is our present and immediate concern. No man or woman must be successful in a municipal election who is not pledged to respect the personal liberties of married women. We urge our readers once again to make a note of this.

#### The Criminal Justice Bill.

Readers will remember an article by Mrs. Rackham dealing with certain aspects of this Bill as far back as May, 1924. On Wednesday of this week its report stage in the House of Lords was concluded, and it will in all probability become law before the House rises. From the point of view of our readers the most interesting clauses are those relating to probation work, and we intend to give some attention to the changes involved in subsequent issues.

#### The Fate of the Legitimacy Bill.

We much regret that the Legitimacy Bill is not going to be taken in the House of Commons this Session, in spite of the Prime Minister having stated more than once that its stages would be completed before Christmas. As our readers know, a Bill embodying the legitimation of a child on the marriage of its parents has been before Parliament now every year since 1920, and we are particularly sorry that it should have been held up once again owing to pressure of Parliamentary time, especially in view of the fact that owing to its practically non-contentious character the time needed to complete its stages would be but very limited. The announcement has been made that legislation on this subject will be included in the next King's Speech, but we confess that this leaves us a little cold in consideration of the fact that a similar announcement was made in the King's Speech at the beginning of this Session. We note only that the Married Women's Torts Bill has been withdrawn. We hope that if and when it will be introduced it will provide also for the removal of certain of the other anomalies arising from the law of coverture which bear hardly on wives, and not be confined, as was this Bill, to the one bearing hardly on husbands.

#### Women Police.

A good deal of useful publicity has been given to the movement for women police since the influential women's deputation last week and the introduction of Miss Wilkinson's Bill. We have always held that such Private Members' Bills fully justified themselves by their educational value, both inside and outside of the House. The letter written to *The Times* on 10th December on the subject by Captain Henderson-Livesey was ably answered by Lady

Rhondda and Commandant Allen. The suggestion that the movement for women police is a feminist agitation to which normal women are averse was easily negated by the long list of women's societies representing all shades of opinion. It is true that no attempt was made by the "engineers of this agitation to show that women do in fact perform duties which a *real* policeman (the italics are ours) cannot do better!" The need for women police was largely taken for granted. We have advanced a stage since a similar deputation some years ago was informed that such work should fall under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Canterbury rather than the Secretary of State for Home Affairs. If Captain Henderson-Livesey had been present we think Miss Grey's able speech would have convinced him of the need for women and the reasons why "normal women" support the movement.

#### Smokeless Houses.

In reply to our recent invitation for local information relating to schemes of smoke abatement, a correspondent writes:—The East Barnet Valley Urban District Council, in their latest housing scheme, are trying to make East Barnet the cleanest outer suburb of London. Sixty-six new municipal houses now in course of erection will be absolutely smokeless if the tenant-owners so desire. They are to be fitted with gas cookers, instead of dining room coal ovens, and there will also be gas lighting and geysers. Each of the three bedrooms, the parlour and the living room will be fitted with gas points in order that gas fires may be installed. The Council six years ago built 164 houses, all of which have since been equipped with gas cookers. The new smokeless houses are built of brick and slate and have large gardens. All have been sold at prices ranging from £650 to £750, on a twenty years' instalment plan.

#### Women and the French Bar.

The French Bar has been celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the admission of women. Representatives of the Bars of Holland, Belgium, and England were also present, the Bar Council of England having officially sent two women barristers to represent it at the celebration. There are now 150 women practising in France. The law was introduced twenty-five years ago by M. Poincaré as the result of an unsuccessful application by Mlle. Chauvin, who later became the first woman member of the Bar.

#### Scottish Married Women's Domicile.

The recent decision of the Court of Session, to the effect that the wife of a Scotsman who had seen fit to establish a domicile in the United States, could not divorce him in Edinburgh, brings home to us the need to have recognized a married woman's individual right to a domicile of her own. The law now assumes that if a man chooses to change his domicile, his wife perforce is compelled to change hers.

#### Magic Letters.

The Duchess of Atholl, M.P. and Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Music. The new F.R.C.M. was formerly an honorary scholar of the College. We congratulate her most cordially upon this newest honour, for there is not only more magic in the four new letters than in the two old ones, but also a more enduring quality. Music, like ministerial office, may be a hard task-mistress; but unlike her rival she is a very constant nymph.

#### Women under English Law.

A book which will be of interest to our readers will shortly be issued by the National Council of Women, "Women under English Law" (with a chapter on Scots Law by Miss Kidd). The writer is Mrs. Crofts, whose career as a solicitor has been watched with interest by many of our readers. Dame Millicent Fawcett contributes an introduction. This book will be invaluable to all who are following the woman's movement in this and other countries, and its low price brings it within the reach of all.

#### What Austrian Women Want.

An Austrian correspondent writes as follows: "The National Council of Austrian Women who invited Commandant May S. Allen to speak on Women Police, after the great success of this lecture, handed a petition to the Austrian Government in which Women Police are demanded. Though a demand for Women Police could not at present be met owing to the financial conditions of Austria, the National Council of Austrian Women is beginning with this petition to press for Women Police, and hopes for future

success. Meanwhile progress is being made by women in the Law. When, after the revolution, the study of law, formerly closed to women, was opened to them, Dr. Marianne Beth, already a doctor of philosophy, began to study again. Having finished her studies she was the first woman in Austria to enter her name for the law. She advanced so quickly that she was able to go in for the final examination in January, 1924, and then was admitted as a lawyer candidate. Now, a two-fold doctor, and one of the prominent women in Austria, especially interested moreover in peace and women's and children's welfare, she has been put as first woman on the list of Counsels. In two years Dr. Beth hopes to be admitted as an advocate. Dr. Beth is the wife of a University professor, and the mother of two children. In the political sphere, a woman member of Parliament, Frau Olga Rudel-Zeynek, a fine worker for social welfare, has brought in a Bill in which compulsory certificates are demanded for women desiring to wet-nurse a strange child, and for children who are to be wet-nursed by a strange woman. It is to be hoped that this Bill may be accepted without any discussion.

#### What German Women Want.

The following summary of reforms which the women of Germany are working for, sent us by a German correspondent, will be of interest to our readers:—"The German National Council of Women held its annual meeting at Dresden. Urgent problems have been discussed, and became subjects of resolutions, most of them in connexion with new bills lying before the Parliament. (1) With regard to the bills connected with cinemas, immoral literature and illustrations, the special protection of children must be extended until the age of eighteen. In carrying out the laws it would be desirable to affiliate with the headquarters for juveniles (Jugendämter), and to secure the assistance of women in all administrative positions dealing with examination and judgment in these questions. (2) A new law is in preparation, dealing with protection against damages through liquor (Schutzgesetz gegen die Alkoholfahrt). In consequence of the increasing evils due to drink, the demand for local option has now become an absolute necessity. The local option should comprehend general and special licences as well as the establishment of closing hours for public-houses. (3) In respect of venereal diseases the bill has been brought again before the Reichstag. Women hope that finally it will be published with some proposed improvements. The difficult question of section 218 arose, touching the punishment of abortion. The new Crimini Bill continues to regard it as a crime, but the measure of punishment is lowered and penal servitude abolished. Women are not granted permission for the physician in cases including a heavy danger for the mother's life, whereby social conditions should be considered. (4) With regard to provisions for maternity, prohibition of work before and after the confinement should be extended to all places of industry without consideration of the number of workers. Seats should be provided even there, where the work has to be done whilst standing or walking. The money benefits should be enlarged to a period of 12 instead of 10 weeks and partly be given before the confinement. The special benefit for suckling should be kept, having the effect of a premium for suckling. (5) Regulations by law should be given, concerning the holidays for juvenile workers and employees under eighteen. (6) The advantages of the School Medical Service should be extended to Day Continuation Schools and accomplished by school nursing. For the inspection of girls female doctors should be employed.

#### Questions in Parliament.

CONTRIBUTORY PENSIONS ACT.—Mr. Briant asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury how far, in sanctioning the new appointments in connexion with the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, they have been able to carry out the recommendations in paragraph 9 of the Reorganization Report as to ensuring equality of opportunity between men and women. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health (Sir Kingsley Wood): I have been asked to reply. Only one new permanent appointment has so far been made on the indoor staff of the Ministry for work in connexion with the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act. When the time comes for settling the permanent staffing arrangements for this work the recommendations in paragraph 9 of the Reorganization Report will be carefully borne in mind. A number of additional appointments have been authorized for the outdoor staff, and the men and women appointed have been given similar duties on the new work.

### "THOUGH HOPES BE DUPES, FEARS MAY BE LIARS."

One of the most significant auguries with respect to the Government's intentions for the extension of the franchise is to be found in two recent speeches of Sir Herbert Blain, chief agent of the Conservative Party, one to the Liverpool Conservative Club and the other to the London Women Unionists. He affirmed boldly that he looked with no doubt or hesitation to the coming extension of the franchise to women. He pointed out that some Conservatives had not yet reconciled themselves to women having the vote, and some perhaps regarded any possible extension of the women's vote as a catastrophe. Those were not his views. He was convinced that the British woman was inherently a Conservative, not primarily because she believed in party, but because she believed in her country. Whether this be so or not, the view that a large increase of women voters would be to their advantage is not confined to the leaders of one party only. We have heard that Mr. Ramsay MacDonald is of the opinion that Labour would gain by the accession of younger women voters and the post-war enthusiasm of the Liberals would indicate that they would not expect to lose.

We feel ourselves full of hope since Sir Herbert's statement; it is true that we are sometimes haunted by the fear that the Government, when tackling the problem, may put forward proposals for equality for both sexes at the age of 25, but against such an impracticable solution we find powerful allies in unexpected quarters. It may not be remembered that the Home Secretary in the debate on the Labour Party Bill last February agreed that "it would be very difficult to take away anything that men have at the present time," and, as we have frequently pointed out, leading Conservative authorities on the law and practice of the constitution hold the same view. Our fears, therefore, are now concentrated not so much on the danger of contentious proposals which would wreck any agreed measure as on the possibility of delay in setting up the promised conference. This conference of members of all parties "to arrive if possible at an agreed measure," was promised by the Prime Minister at the time of the General Election, and repeated in the debate referred to above. The pertinent question is when will this conference be appointed? "During the lifetime of the present Parliament" was the Government's first statement, and the second was made during the debate on the Representation of the People Bill this year when the Home Secretary stated that "the Conference referred to could be set up in 1926." (The italics are ours.)

Unnecessary though we consider this conference to be, women's organizations must press for it early next session as the Government regard it as an essential preliminary to legislation. The campaign frequently urged in these columns has now begun in real earnest. The National Union of Societies for

### "THE PIONEER POLICEMAN."<sup>1</sup>

By C. D. RACKHAM.

This book has just been published by Chatto and Windus, and gives from the pen of Commandant Mary Allen a most interesting account of the Women's Police Service. Whatever may be the future of women police in this country, there can be no doubt of their splendid record in the past, and it is well that this should be set down in full before any detail of it has been forgotten. In one sense one hopes that the record may never be repeated because it was of course the Great War which brought the movement into being, and gave its members their opportunity of proving the strength and discipline of the force. But peace needs those qualities as well as war if only those in authority could be made to see it, and one day we may see the achievements of the force repeated in the fight against the evils which are all the time in our midst.

The name of Miss Damer Dawson, and the advent of Belgian refugees in August, 1914, are inseparably connected with the birth of the woman police movement; afterwards came the huge military camps, the munition factories, demobilization, and finally Cologne; it is impressive to read how the force responded to each call as it came and how in every case prejudice and hostility began to disappear before the work of the uniformed women. The organization was in the hands of a self-constituted council of three, and that it was fortunate in its chiefs is easily realized by anyone who looks at the three fine portraits which are reproduced in this book.

<sup>1</sup> *The Pioneer Policewoman*. By Commandant Mary Allen. Chatto and Windus. 10/6.

Equal Citizenship, which has always had equal franchise for men and women in the forefront of its programme, is carrying on work of education and propaganda all over the country, culminating in a mass meeting in the Central Hall in February, 1926, with speakers including Miss Maude Royden, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, and of course Dame Millicent Fawcett, without whom no suffrage meeting would be complete. Its pamphlet entitled "The Case for Equal Franchise" has been revised and brought up to date, and new propaganda leaflets have also been issued. At the initiation of the Six Point Group, a large number of women's organizations are considering a demonstration in Hyde Park in June which will be reminiscent of the great displays of pre-war days. The Women's Freedom League is also conducting a campaign with its customary devotion and vigour. It is true that these organizations represent the advance guard in the great army of women voters, but we believe that there is almost universal agreement on this subject. At the annual meeting of the National Council of Women, a body which covers under its hospitable wing such political organizations mentioned above with others primarily educational, social, and religious, rather than political in character, a resolution was passed demanding "the removal of sex disqualification in all branches of the political, social, and economic life of our country as the first step towards practical idealism." Any apathy there may be is due to the feeling that the change "is bound to come," not to any opposition to the principle. We have never come across any type of audience, young or old, in the course of much speaking of a very varied kind, which does not react at once to the slightest allusion to the injustice of the present position.

In a recent article in *The Times* on the changes introduced by the new laws respecting property, the writer jibes that women have not sufficiently appreciated Lord Birkenhead's successful effort to place husband and wife on an equal footing with regard to each other's property. "Feminists," he says, "are apparently more interested in getting votes for immature girls of 21 than in improving the relative position of their sex generally." The writer is apparently not a reader of the WOMAN'S LEADER, or he would realize that the vote is regarded as the key to the kingdom of equal citizenship rather than an end in itself. On the other hand, we are often accused of spending too much time and energy in improving the position of women by legislative measures instead of concentrating on the final stage of the long struggle in which so many great and noble women have played a part—votes for women on the same terms as for men. Now is the time for such concentration. Stimulated by the new atmosphere of hope women voters must show that they are in real earnest in this matter.

"The protection of women by women was the root principle underlying the whole programme we laid down." This organization has never taken the view that the work of women police is the same as that of men, still less that women ought to be employed in place of men, or that the existence of women members on a police force is any excuse for the employment of fewer men. Women should be an addition to the force to do work which cannot, or should not be carried out by policemen. At the same time, the movement has sternly set its face against women police being regarded merely as rescue workers or as women patrols who would work behind the male police without any initiative of their own. The women police should be members of the force and under the Chief Constable, wearing definite police uniform, sworn in, and with the power of arrest, and as for their duties a page and a quarter of the book are taken up with a list of the "more important" of the services which can be rendered by them.

There are some fine stories in the book of how the women were able to keep order and to control unruly spirits by sheer force of character combined with tact and good temper. A testimonial was received from the officer in charge of the Beaver Hut in the Strand (and the patrolling of the Strand during the few months immediately following the Armistice was one of the worst tasks the police women had to undertake). "The women police have generally been able to deal successfully with these cantankerous creatures (i.e. drunken soldiers and sailors) when all others have failed." And a London evening paper com-

mented on the ability of the policewoman to turn disorder into calm by the power of the eye "... in many cases she does not even speak. She just looks and he who is looked at melts thoughtfully away." The dangers and difficulties at Gretna and other munition factories were of another kind; often it was loneliness rather than crowds which was trying to the nerves as the women police patrolled in pitch darkness over miles of country, in all weathers, amid the rats and half-wild cats and in imminent danger of death from explosion. Of one factory, we are told, that when an air raid was in progress the operatives were withdrawn, and the sheds and magazines were left in sole charge of the firemen and policewomen, but not one woman ever failed at her post.

The black sheep of the story is Sir Nevill Macready, who as Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police at the end of the war, decided to turn down the whole body of a thousand trained and disciplined policewomen and instead to recruit and train his policewomen patrols. These new members of the police force were not to be sworn in, and their duties only consisted in assisting police officers. Nor was even this inadequate addition to the male force made without a most offensive speech from the Commissioner on the kind of duties which he proposed to entrust to his women patrols. The final touch, as everyone remembers, was the prosecution of five members of the Women's Police Service for wearing uniform which had the appearance of that of the Metropolitan Women Police Patrols. As a result of this, the uniform was slightly altered, and the name changed to the Women's Auxiliary Service.

C. D. RACKHAM.

### JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS.

Three new children's books have reached us, and we are just in time (with not a week to spare) to offer our readers a piece of timely advice. Acquire, if you have not already done so, *Young James*, by Evelyn Sharp (Arnold, 7s. 6d.), *Nursery Verseries* and drawings by Emile Jacot (Noel Douglas, 2s. 6d.), and *Playtime and Company*, verses by E. V. Lucas, illustrated by E. H. Shepard (Methuen, 7s. 6d.). They are all excellent. We have sat in committee on them with our junior reviewing staff: Ann, aged 10; John, aged 7½; and Helen Jane, aged 5 (a foolish child, this last, light of head and irresponsible of judgment, but useful in a consultative capacity when a certain type of book is under discussion), and our verdict is overwhelming. They are, we repeat, all excellent—with one reservation. We consider (Helen Jane dissenting—but we repeat, her opinion is of no value) that the few illustrations contained in *Young James* are not up to standard. They are—to put it very mildly, excessively poor. Indeed, they ought not to be there at all, for in such a book, illustrations are superfluous. We all know what Pam, and Ambrose, and James, and the great Miss Popinjay are like; Miss Sharp sees to that quite effectively, without the assistance of these extraneous aids to imagination. But the story! Oh, grave and discreet citizen reader, you will enjoy that story much more than you will enjoy the draft text of the new Poor Law scheme on Lord Eustace Percy's anti-education circular, startling and intriguing as such documents may be. We did. Who, for instance, stole that first edition of Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*? And who was the mysterious Miss Popinjay? We will not spare you a thrill by telling you. Suffice to say here is a book of the calibre of Mrs. Bland's *Treasure Seekers*. Our junior reviewing staff are conscious of the high praise that they accord by such a comparison. And they are convinced that Miss Sharp will be satisfied with it—as well she may be!

Emile Jacot (a new-comer in our literary orbit) writes and draws with a freshness which entrances us. If his verse has in it a suspicion of pre-natal influence (after all many aspects of life would have been different if De la Mare had never lived nor written), his drawing is all his own. And his "Old Mad Kate" is as mad an old woman as ever was—not a very pleasant old woman, in fact, which shows how well he has drawn her, because mad people are, as a general rule, not very pleasant.

When two such people as E. V. Lucas and E. H. Shepard get together one expects high excellence. Of course their book is first class. We are not saying that it contains positive flashes of genius such as *The King's Breakfast* or ... dear, dear, it is impossible not to keep twisting round to De la Mare when children's verse is in question; or anybody else's verse for that matter. But some of E. V. Lucas's verses have pleasant echoes in the mind, and our junior reviewing staff (even the low-browed

and inconsequent Helen Jane) paid them the compliment of an encore. There is considerable charm in:—

"The gallant Welsh, of all degrees,  
Have one delightful habit:  
They cover toast with melted cheese,  
And call the thing a rabbit.  
And though no fur upon it grows,  
And though it has no twitching nose,  
Nor twinking tail behind it,  
As reputable rabbits should;  
Yet taste a piece, and very good,  
I'm bound to say, you'll find it."

*The Ploughman* too has a perceptibly poetical flavour about it. We felt all its quality—even Helen Jane whose outlook is restricted, whose desires are materialistic, and whose single ambition in life is to be a "maid" or failing that "an ordinary lady."

M. D. S.

### MARY ELIZABETH HALDANE.<sup>1</sup>

A beautiful old age has even more fascination for those who still bear the burden and heat of the day than the beauty of childhood. The recently published reminiscences of Mrs. Haldane, edited by her daughter, give us "the record of a hundred years, 1825-1925." It is the story of a beautiful life, beautiful in childhood, in active middle life, and most beautiful of all in old age. The first part of the book is the most interesting, as it comes from Mrs. Haldane's own pen. She gives us pictures of English family life, from personal recollections, in the first half of the nineteenth century, with shrewd comments on the educational ideas, the religious teaching, the general manners and customs of the period. Contemporary accounts and criticisms of bygone social habits are always interesting, but it is surely very rare to find a recorder who nearly a century later is capable not only of recalling the past vividly but of discussing it in the full light of modern standards. One of her friends says "No woman was more filled with what Meredith calls 'the rapture of the forward view.' This enthusiasm for the future was, I think, the most remarkable feature in a remarkable character. ... Her face was set to the sunrise and to the future, and her faith in the infinite powers of perfection in human nature made her hold out both hands to the changes through which growth and development alone can come."

Mrs. Haldane's account of her childhood, in spite of the devotion of her remarkable parents, will make the modern psychologist or educationalist shiver with horror. She recalls doing her lessons with her feet in the stocks and with a hard board behind her back. In the morning she was plunged by her nurses over head in a deep bath of cold water. Punishment took the form of solitary confinement for a day at a time fed on bread and water, on one occasion in a so-called haunted house. Port wine was given daily during a cholera scare, and a mug of ale was always served for her dinner. The country doctor, attired in a bright green coat, bled her for an attack of rheumatism. As a child of seven she heard the news of the Reform Bill announced from the Chevy Chase Coach which ran between Newcastle and Edinburgh. She remembers seeing a man-trap near Harrogate and seeing offenders with their feet in the stocks jeered at by the villagers as they passed by. When she was ten years old George IV died, and she recalls her childish pride in her mourning black and white gingham frock.

The story of later years is told by her daughter and in letters and impressions by friends. She and her sister wanted to go to school, but her father had a horror of girls' schools. A suggestion that she might cultivate her taste for painting in a London studio was vetoed as unsuitable. Her girlhood was haunted by agonies of distress over her sinfulness resulting from the harsh teaching of governesses. A young lover with tastes in common with her own was rejected because he was not religious enough in the opinion of her parents. A brother escaped from the conventional rigidly evangelical atmosphere in which she was brought up to study medicine. For a girl in her rank of life, marriage was the only form of escape, but she did not look forward to it as such. Like many girls of an earlier generation and religious upbringing, she wanted to become a missionary. "A married woman in my youth had no more position than a cat, but when Mr. Haldane wished to marry me I felt it was my duty to obey the nearer call and devote my life to him and his motherless children." So she married, at the age of twenty-eight, a widower with five children, and as time went on had six of

<sup>1</sup> *Mary Elizabeth Haldane: A Record of a Hundred Years (1825-1925)*. Edited by her daughter. Hodder & Stoughton, 5s.

her own. Thus her opportunity came, and "in her home and through her children, her character found its full expression; its greatness has been reflected in other lives." She became, to quote her son, Lord Haldane, who contributes a note, "a perfect mother" and the close friend of her distinguished children.

The repressions of her early environment left their mark, and made her sensitive to the position of women and anxious that their interests should be protected. She was a keen supporter of woman's suffrage, and in 1909, at the age of eighty-four, wrote a letter on the subject to *The Times*, signing herself "Octogenarian."

The impression of her long life which her daughter has given us will not only be a precious possession of her children and children's children. It is, I think, the only record of the life of a great woman—great though her achievements were in private rather than public—which covers the history of the woman's movement from its earliest beginning to the present time, and we are proud to include so noble and distinguished a woman among those who have supported the common cause for which we stand. What a lesson in growing old! Intellect, sympathies keen to the end. A friend found her in her ninety-seventh year reading Modern European history in order to understand the changes in foreign affairs recorded in the newspaper after the Peace of Versailles. Her son tells us that, instead of waning, her outlook and mental grasp widened each year during her last twelve years of life. Her physical and her spiritual beauty, as well as her mental stature, increased as the years passed. An old friend quotes the words in *Ecclesiasticus*:—

"As the lamp that shineth on the Holy Candlestick,  
So is the beauty of the face in ripe age."

E. M.

### "THE MULBERRY BUSH."

This little book is easy and pleasant reading, slight as the stories are. Nearly each one evokes those vanished emotions of childhood which are so pleasantly melancholy to remember, and nearly each presents, in a misty and transitory way, a mood of half happy pain. If the sketches do not stay long in the memory, they are none the worse for that; they are not meant to be epoch-making or soul-stirring, but rather, like the songs of the birds, they arrest the attention a moment, charm it for a while, suggest perhaps a memory or perhaps a train of thought, then with a little flutter of wings they are all gone.

### A HINT TO HOUSEKEEPERS.

FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

It is not sufficiently realized, I think, by the housewives of this country that they can take an active part in the prevention of various forms of cruelty by refusing to purchase, for food purposes, animals which have been killed in a cruel way.

Take, for example, the trapping of rabbits. Although housewives are ready to buy game which has necessarily been shot, it seems an extraordinary and stupid line of reasoning that they should refuse, as many do, to buy rabbits that have been shot and thus encourage the supplying of cruelly trapped rabbits.

Anyone travelling through Cornwall or Devonshire will see on the station platforms crates of dead rabbits consigned to various towns and, in nearly all cases, the rabbits' mangled legs eloquently tell of the suffering which the poor creatures have endured in the steel-toothed traps.

Some years ago, Mr. Jerome K. Jerome communicated to the Press the result of a personal experiment with such a trap. He said:—

"I must ask you to believe I am fairly plucky at bearing pain. I have had my share of it in various forms. ... I tried placing my own finger within, allowing the trap to close upon it gently. ... I allowed my finger to remain there three minutes by my watch. For my purpose, this was sufficient, and I saw no practical good in sustaining longer what I have no hesitation in describing as excruciating suffering. ... The suffering increases every second. An almost intolerable aching spreads over the whole body. The limb itself becomes one burning centre of pain; you long to tear it off. If this be the result of three minutes, imagine three hours—thirty hours. And to this, remember, in the case of the rabbit must be added

<sup>2</sup> *The Mulberry Bush, and other stories*, by Sylvia Lynd. (Macmillan, 6s.)

the agony of the torn flesh and the crushed bone. I say nothing of the terror, nothing of the thirst and hunger that must creep upon the animal left sometimes in these traps for days and nights."

Happily there is a remedy which the housewives of this country can, by their moral pressure, force upon the trappers. They can, when catering for their households, confine their purchases either to rabbits which have been shot or to those that have been caught by the Humane Snare. This snare is an improvement on the ordinary wire snare as it is fitted with an eyelet and knot placed about 5½ in. apart, so that when the rabbit is caught, the knot prevents the loop from closing tightly and strangling the animal. This snare also has the advantage of allowing dogs, cats, etc., when caught in the snare by the leg, to free themselves, as the noose is sufficiently large for the caught limb to be withdrawn with ease. Specimens of these snares can be obtained from the R.S.P.C.A., for 2d. each, including postage.

A well-known dealer in rabbits for human consumption wrote some little time ago to the R.S.P.C.A. asking for the names of rabbit trappers using these painless snares. He said:—

"I must say that if all trappers used your snares it would be an improvement to the trade, and we retailers could get better prices and, therefore, return better prices," i.e. give higher prices to the trappers.

One user of these snares stated that his keeper "was very pleased with them. ... We snared over 2,000 rabbits last season with the Humane Snares. ... Not a single one was cut or damaged by the snares." He, therefore, strongly urged their use as being the most humane and efficacious way of catching rabbits. An expert snarer says:—

"Out of one hundred and twenty rabbits taken by this (stop noose) snare, we have had no bulged eyes, no swollen heads, no lacerated necks—the common results of slow strangulation by the ordinary snare. This snare is also superior to the ordinary snare from a commercial point of view as the rabbit caught by it is in a better condition for purposes of sale."

Those whose duty it is to see to the feeding of their families have also the responsibility of finding out how the animals, purchased for this purpose, have been killed, and, if they neglect their responsibility, they are almost as guilty as people who wilfully perpetrate cruelty. It is not much trouble to express one's views to the shopkeeper who supplies one's needs and, if after that he neglects to cater according to one's wishes, he deserves no encouragement. May we, therefore, urge that the advice given here be followed and that every opportunity should be taken of impressing upon suppliers the necessity for exercising care and humanity in such matters.

### WOMEN IN 1925.

## "THE WOMAN'S LEADER" NEW YEAR NUMBER.

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## TABLE OF WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

In view of the fact that in our leading article we deal with the prospects for equal franchise in the coming year we think our readers will be interested in the following statement of the position in other countries, for which we are indebted to the Editor of the *International Woman Suffrage News* :—

ISSUE OF NOVEMBER, 1925.

The following is a brief resumé of the present position of woman suffrage all over the world. Founded in the main upon the Alliance publication, *Le Suffrage des Femmes en Pratique*, published in 1923, great care has been taken to bring the information up to date. If, however, any of our readers find inaccuracies we shall be most grateful for correct information.

*Australia*.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for municipal bodies, State, and Federal Parliaments.

*Austria*.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for municipal bodies and Parliament.

*Belgium*.—Equal municipal suffrage and eligibility for municipal councils. Eligibility for Parliament and provincial councils without suffrage, except for a limited class of war sufferers.

*Canada*.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies, both Federal and Provincial, except that women are not eligible as Federal senators, and that they have not suffrage or eligibility for the Province of Quebec.

*Channel Islands*.—Equal suffrage and eligibility.

*Czecho-Slovakia*.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

*Denmark*.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

*Estonia*.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

*Finland*.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

*Germany*.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

*Great Britain*.—Equal municipal suffrage and eligibility. Parliamentary suffrage restricted to women over 30, as against men of 21, with other inequalities.

*Greece*.—Limited measure of municipal and communal suffrage, without eligibility, to come into force in two years' time.

*Hungary*.—Actual terms of municipal suffrage not known. Parliamentary suffrage restricted to women over 30, as against men of 21, and with other inequalities.

*Iceland*.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

*India*.—In British India women have equal suffrage in the Provinces of Bombay, Madras, the United Provinces, Assam, and Bengal, but without eligibility. The Province of Burma had equal suffrage granted by a special constitution, with the right to grant eligibility by a resolution of the Legislature. In certain towns, such as Bombay and Madras, women have municipal suffrage and are eligible. In the native States suffrage has been granted to Cochin, Travancore, Jhalwar, and Mysore.

*Ireland*.—Free State: equal suffrage and eligibility. Northern Ireland: unequal suffrage with eligibility as in Great Britain.

*Jamaica*.—Equal suffrage without eligibility.

*Kenya*.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

*Lettonia*.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

*Lithuania*.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

*Luxembourg*.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

*Netherlands*.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

*Newfoundland*.—Municipal suffrage without eligibility. Political suffrage and eligibility at age of 25, as against 21 for men.

*New Zealand*.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

*Norway*.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

*Palestine*.—Women have equal suffrage and eligibility for the Jewish National Assembly, but they have no voting rights under the constitution.

*Poland*.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

*Rhodesia*.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

*Russia*.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

*South Africa*.—Equal municipal suffrage and eligibility.

*Spain*.—Limited measure of municipal suffrage and eligibility.

*Sweden*.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

*Trinidad and Tonga*.—Women have the vote at 30 years of age, as against men at 21, subject to a property qualification in both cases. Women are not eligible to sit in the Council.

*United States*.—Equal suffrage and eligibility for all elected bodies.

*Windward Islands* (Granada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, etc.).—Women have the vote at 30 years of age, as against men at 21, subject to a property qualification in both cases. Women are not eligible to sit in the Council.

ISSUE OF DECEMBER 1925.

In the table of woman suffrage published in our last issue we had to state that the conditions of municipal suffrage in Hungary were not known to us, and a correspondent has now brought to our attention, the following information from the Report of the International Council of Women's Committee on Suffrage and Rights of Citizenship, as submitted to the Congress in Washington :—

*Hungary*.—The new Municipal Election Law of 1925 treats women both as electors and as eligible members of municipalities on a fully equal standard with men.

We are very glad to publish this information with thanks to Miss Tancred, the British representative on the committee.

## REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR MORAL AND SOCIAL HYGIENE.

The tenth report of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene records a great variety of work accomplished in pursuance of the object of the Association :—“ . . . to ensure the recognition of an equal standard of morality for men and women, and to eradicate prostitution and kindred evils . . . to study and promote such legislative, administrative, social, educational, and hygienic reforms as will tend to encourage the highest public and private morality.”

It is only possible here to touch on a few of the many and important activities engaged in during the past year. The Jubilee of the International Abolitionist Federation, taking place this year, has given the opportunity for a review of the work almost throughout Europe for the abolition of the State regulation of vice. An enormous work has been accomplished, in which the British Society has taken a full share. A great deal still is waiting to be done, but in many cases it seems that a few months will see the closing of the *maisons de tolérance* in many places. The Conference at Graz, held in September, 1924, was attended by the representatives of twenty-five nations. Large meetings were held, and the papers read and discussed were of a high order. Concerning Singapore much work has been done in fighting a local demand for a return to the most drastic form of the Contagious Diseases Ordinances. A successful settlement is looked for, but the recommendations of the Advisory Committee set up by the Colonial Office were not published in time for this report.

Members of Societies are strongly recommended to read this excellent report for themselves, and perhaps particularly that part of it which gives a clear account of the present position in England with regard to the treatment of prostitution and street solicitation. On pp. 10-15 will be found the reasoned grounds on which is based the action of the Association in working for the abolition of the existing statutes dealing with solicitation and the passing into law of the Street Order Bill, recently introduced in the House of Commons by Lady Astor, and given its first reading. A clear summary is given of the proposals being advocated by other bodies of social workers, and of the grounds on which the Association rejects them.

All proposals for any form of compulsion in dealing with venereal diseases have failed decisively in England. But Scotland still is struggling with the question. Doubters as to the better policy are urged to study pp. 20-22, including the memorandum on compulsory versus non-compulsory methods, which was drawn up with a special view to the Scottish position.

Space forbids even mention of other important pieces of work carried out by the Association and recorded in this report. But all who vaguely approve of working for the equal moral standard but are uncertain as to the best ways of doing it should study the report for themselves. It is extraordinarily interesting, and will well repay its readers. It gives the bed-rock foundations for our highest ideals, and helps us to realize them in practice.

E. B.-B.

## THE SOCIETY OF WOMEN JOURNALISTS.

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## ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING, 24th to 27th February, 1926.

Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., has promised to speak at the Mass Meeting on Equal Franchise which is to be held at the Central Hall on Friday, 26th February, in addition to Miss Maude Royden and Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P. Mr. Bernard Shaw regrets that he is unable to do so in the following letter :—

DEAR MADAM,—Mr. Bernard Shaw desires me to say that all through the Women's Campaign he has steadily refused to make himself ridiculous by posing as a male champion of The Sex. The women spoke much better than the men and knew it; but they enjoyed the ignominy of the *male captives* whom they led on tied to their apron strings. In vain is the net spread in sight of this bird.—Yours faithfully,

BLANCHE PATCH,  
Secretary.

## PUBLIC LUNCHEON.

The Luncheon will be held on Thursday, 25th February, at the Holborn Restaurant. Tickets price 5s. for members and 7s. 6d. for non-members. The guests of honour will include :— Sir Martin Conway (M.P. for the English Universities), Capt. Walter Elliot (Parliamentary Under Secretary for Health, Scotland), Miss Gray (High Mistress, St. Paul's School for Girls), Lady Keeble (Miss Lillah McCarthy), and Dr. Jane Walker.

## RECEPTION.

No evening party will be given this year, but an afternoon reception will be given by Miss Rathbone on Wednesday afternoon, 24th February. This will leave an additional evening free for delegates. Particulars will be announced later.

## INVALUABLE CHRISTMAS PRESENT.

We have just purchased a publisher's remainder of the Woman's Year Book, and our readers will remember how very valuable a book this is. It is a perfect mine of useful information to the woman in public work. It was only brought out two years ago, and the greater part is quite up to date. Price 1s., post free 1s. 6d.

## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

The Office will be closed from Christmas Day to Tuesday, 29th December, inclusive.

## NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

NEWPORT W.C.A.

A successful meeting was held at the Wrenford Memorial Hall on 30th November, when Mrs. Hubback spoke to an interested audience of members on Legislation Concerning Women and Children. The new Mayoress of Newport, Mrs. Clissit, presided—her first appearance in the chair at any meeting since she became Mayoress. Mrs. Hubback dealt with the various Bills passed recently for which the N.U. had been working for many years. Looking at the future, she raised the question of Equal Franchise. The number of questions at the close showed the keen interest roused by Mrs. Hubback's address. About twenty members of the Committee met Mrs. Hubback the following morning at Lovell's Café, and had an inspiring talk with her. Mrs. Hubback urged the Committee to try to spread interest in the work of the N.U.S.E.C. in the surrounding districts.

## OURSELVES.

## THE MACLEAN REPORT.

We regret that the report of the Maclean Report, which we stated in our last issue could be had at the office of the N.U.S.E.C. for 3d., is now 9d., 2d. postage.

## THE NEW YEAR NUMBER.

Orders are coming in well for the New Year number, which if ordered in plenty of time should reach our readers on New Year's Day. If you do not order at once you may be disappointed. Orders for societies meeting in January may be sent up to 29th December.

MINORITIES AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.<sup>1</sup>

At the last Assembly one of the most interesting points was the question of procedure with regard to the treatment of Minorities. Count Apponyi, spokesman for the Hungarian delegation, in putting forward amendments, said that “to allude to specific cases of hardship would merely envenom the atmosphere. He wanted to get obstacles removed. But it was clear that the forty millions of citizens who form the Minorities were not reassured as to the situation.” He made a plea for justice as well as for peace. The difficulties under which Minorities are labouring—countries even where there is no acute crisis, are still little realized. They apply both to those Minorities whose rights are protected under Minority Treaties and the League of Nations, and to those which have not such Treaties. Minority petitions are being presented constantly to the League of Nations, and one of the points lately raised relates to demands for removing obstacles and improving procedure in regard to them. But the wider question is involved of a more thoroughgoing treatment of the Minority question generally. The demand for a Permanent Advisory Commission is amongst the constructive proposals that have lately come to the fore. There is urgent need for inquiry and fuller knowledge both as to facts and remedies, and the whole question must be studied in relation to the process of Law and Conciliation which is slowly developing in Europe.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## CHILD ASSAULT.

MADAM,—In common (I should imagine) with every reader of the WOMAN'S LEADER, I was *sichened* at the account you gave last week of the crime of H. Eckett, of Sandhurst, and the so-called punishment meted out to him. But what is so heart-breaking about this business is the state of public opinion. The following fact will show the truth of this statement. A young man was recently, at the Assizes of a neighbouring town, found guilty of a similar outrage. The victim in this case was fourteen. All the men of his native village (no—perhaps not all—but nothing was heard of the others) sympathised with him, and when his punishment took the form of a fine, subscribed the whole sum immediately. I ask almost in despair—how we are to educate these young men up to the point of giving even *one thought* to a little girl's sufferings? The above case was one of three, all of the same character, yet the Assize town is quite a small one.

M. SMITH.

## DEPUTATION ON WOMEN POLICE.

MADAM,—It is a matter for regret that the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship should have headed a deputation to the Home Secretary on Miss Wilkinson's Police Bill without due consideration or consultation with the National Council of Women Women Police and Patrols Sectional Committee.

Reference to the Police Act, 1919, makes it clear that Miss Wilkinson's Bill is unnecessary. “Strength”: *The number shall be sufficient to provide men or women for the carrying out of . . . police duties under responsible supervision in each town of duty.* (The italics are mine.) Chief Constables and Local Authorities have the necessary powers and the position is not strengthened by asking for redundant legislation.

It is public opinion which requires education on this important question. There is a good deal of misconception as to who are policemen. The test question and answer are: “When is a policewoman a policewoman?” “When paid out of the police grant.”

FLORENCE E. L. JOHNSON.

<sup>1</sup> Contributed by the Women's International League, 55 Gower Street, W.C.

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