

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

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THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND
COMMON CAUSE.

NOTES AND NEWS

Lady Astor and Women's Organisations.

As we go to press, a conference of women's societies is being held at Lady Astor's house to discuss and decide upon the best method of political co-operation on non-party lines for securing the political objects of special interest to women. As Lady Astor has found through her experience as M.P., there is a considerable measure of common agreement among organised women, and a much smaller measure of common action. The conference she has called is one of those free gatherings which in no way bind anybody taking part in them to action of which they disapprove. Any machinery which may be set up as a consequence of the decisions reached will be of a purely voluntary nature, and it need, therefore, be regarded with suspicion by no one. Nor is it. We believe that every group of public spirited women in the country will share the gratitude we feel to Lady Astor for her helpful action for our common cause.

Bag Wash.

The Minister of Health has refused to receive a deputation from the local authorities who were in favour of an amendment of the Washhouses Act to legalise municipal laundries. He says that the proposal, in addition to involving considerable capital outlay, would probably entail, in many cases, an annual charge on the rates. We feel that this excuse has been made with the sole object of putting obstacles in the way, for, when the Fulham Borough Council was working its "bag-wash" so successfully, the cost did not fall on the rates, and even during the short time that the scheme was working, quite considerable profits were made. We trust that the Minister of Health will not be allowed to forget this question. It is the sort of thing which really concerns women more than men, and they must see to it. For our part, we suggest that the Minister ought to be induced to do a weekly wash with his own hands. Then he would know!

The Deceased Wife's Sister Amendment Bill.

Much to the surprise, and greatly to the pleasure of its supporters, the Deceased Wife's Sister's Marriage Act Amendment Bill passed its second reading without opposition on April 5th. There is now a hopeful feeling abroad that the Bill will become law, for the number of its supporters, both in the House and outside, grows daily. If a man can marry his deceased wife's sister, why cannot a woman marry her deceased husband's brother? It sounds like a riddle: but to many hundreds of cases it is a hard riddle indeed.

Free Milk.

Dr. Addison, in a last despairing effort to economise before he left the Ministry of Health, revoked the Milk Order of 1919, and the Local Authorities Milk Order, 1919. He came to the conclusion that the expenditure on free milk incurred by local authorities has been excessive, and so, in future, they must obtain the sanction of the Minister to their schemes. This cumbersome arrangement will no doubt cause a great many delays, and a great deal of irritation, but it will certainly have the desired effect of restricting the expenditure. Not only is this bureaucratic obstacle erected, the grounds of sanction also are changed, and they will now only be given on the following conditions:—Milk may be supplied at less than cost price in necessitous cases only, to nursing mothers, expectant mothers in the last three months of pregnancy, and children up to three years of age, or, exceptionally, between three and five years of age; the quantity must not ordinarily exceed one pint per day per person, although in certain instances one and a-half pints may be given,

and the Medical Officer of Health or the Medical Officer of a Centre must certify necessity. This is a considerable reduction of the old scheme. Under the 1919 Order the distribution of free milk, or milk below cost price, was originally restricted to necessitous cases, but in deference to a certain section of public opinion to whom the word "necessitous" conjured up visions of humiliating questionnaires and undue interference in the lives of the needy, this restriction was revoked. The new arrangement carries us back beyond even the first intention of the Order, and will effect a saving at the cost of suffering—as most savings do.

Early Morning Work for Children.

The Manchester City Council, in spite of the advice of its own Education Committee and of the Home Office, has decided that Manchester boys and girls between the ages of seven and fourteen shall be allowed to deliver milk and other goods between the hours of seven and eight a.m. The early morning work on school children are generally, cooking, and their breakfast is inevitably scamped and they arrive late at school, and are naturally tired and when they get wet and are obliged to sit all day in these circumstances no child can profit by its education. It is lamentable that the Fisher Act, while realising the ill-effects of early morning work, and including a general prohibition against it, yet allowed a loophole through which a local authority could depart from this rule, providing it could put forward satisfactory reasons. None of the safeguards which the Education Act established can come into operation until the Corporation of Manchester has adopted by-laws for the purpose, and in the meantime, only the Employment of Children Act of 1903 can protect the children from exploitation, and that Act only debars them from working between nine p.m. and six a.m. So that until the new by-laws are adopted it is possible for a child to work for as many hours during the day as the employer and the parents think fit, beside the five-and-half hours spent in school. We did not expect to find this reactionary spirit in Manchester, which has such an enviable record of public-spirited and progressive work, and we hope that the City Council may see the error of its ways and reverse its decision, or that, at least, the adoption of the new by-laws may not be long postponed.

Settlement at Croydon.

The Croydon teachers' strike is over; the scale known as the Burnham 3½ is to rule their salaries until the L.C.C. shall have decided whether they are entitled to London rates of pay. We congratulate the Croydon mothers on the return of the schools to their normal condition, for though the children showed themselves admirably willing to maintain discipline, they must have suffered from lack of instruction while the dispute lasted.

The Conferences on Venereal Diseases.

The British Red Cross are nominating the following three delegates to the North European Conference on Venereal Diseases, which is meeting at Copenhagen in May—Colonel L. W. Harrison, Dr. F. N. Kay Menzies, and Mrs. C. Neville Rolfe (Mrs. Gotto), Organising Secretary of the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases. We are glad to see that it is becoming universally recognised that women should be represented at conferences on subjects which affect women and children so vitally.

Women Police.

The difficulty with regard to the uniform and title of the Women Police seems likely to be settled by conference. The

Women Police have offered to assume a title in which the word "police" will not appear, and to adopt as the uniform of their rank and file that at present worn by their officers, thus putting an end to any confusion which may have arisen in the mind of the public between themselves and the women officially employed under the Metropolitan Police. If this is the conclusion of the matter, London will not lose either the work of these able and well-trained women, or their remarkably suitable and workman-like uniform. We wish that the status of the official police-women all over the country showed signs of advancing; the Home Secretary is apparently doing nothing to meet the public demand in this matter.

Hospital Certificates.

The future of the hospitals is clearly increasingly dependent on the co-operation of patients in defraying at least the expenses of their maintenance during treatment. The Great Northern Central Hospital, realising that families of the industrial classes do not willingly subscribe to hospitals from which they have not benefited, and whose help they may never need, have decided to issue hospital certificates, ranging from 6d. to 2s. 6d., which will be accepted as payment, or part payment, if and when the purchaser enters the hospital as a patient. The certificates remain good for ten years, and are regarded rather as a payment to a sick club—a familiar idea—than as a donation to a hospital. The plan promises to be very successful.

New Nursing Service.

A new nursing service entitled the "Queen Alexandra's Military Families' Nursing Service" is announced. It will take over the military isolation hospitals, and those for military families, and will consist of matrons, sisters-in-charge, and staff nurses. The rates of pay and pension will be the same as those obtaining in the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service, and sisters-in-charge will receive, in addition, charge pay at the rate of £20 per annum for up to thirty beds, and £30 per annum for over thirty beds.

Clubs for Women Workers.

The Royal British Nurses' Association has acquired the lease of 194, Queen's Gate to be used as the Headquarters and Club of the Association. During the war this house was opened as Queen Mary's Hostel for Nurses, and has, since then, carried on splendid work. A gift of £2,000 was made to it a few years ago by the Australian Red Cross Society, to provide its furniture, and the committee of the hostel have handed this and all the equipment over to the Royal British Nurses' Association, a gift peculiarly appropriate, as the Association has a larger number of Australian nurses on its Membership Roll than any other organisation of nurses in England. Another club of a somewhat different kind, but none the less very necessary and useful, is a club for domestic servants which is to be opened on May 2nd by Lady Bertha Dawkins in Ryder Street, St. James's. The entrance fee is half-a-crown and the weekly subscription is 3d., and rules are to be reduced to a minimum. The club will be self-governed and self-supporting, and is under the auspices of the National Alliance of Employers and Employed, which is seeking to promote industrial harmony and to raise the status of labour. On the opening night the members are giving a dance, and later on trips to the country and round London are to be arranged, and, with the assistance of the L.C.C., classes that will interest the girls are to be promoted. Later on similar clubs will be opened in the suburbs and the provinces. Those of our readers who realise that the lives of their maids are singularly dull and devoid of outside interests, should encourage them, if they live in London, to apply to the Secretary, Miss Arkoll, at 25, Ryder Street, St. James's, S.W. 1.

Women's Pay in Engineering.

The news that the Home Secretary has authorised the employment of women over eighteen in brickmaking at Cambuslang, is to be welcomed by all who recognise that women should be free to choose their own occupation, and that the abolition of restrictions tends to assimilate women's rates of pay with those of men. Women employed in brickmaking during the war did not suffer in health, though the occupation is not one which has any special attraction for the ordinary girl. The negotiations as to women's wages in the engineering trades are still proceeding; the employers have proposed a new scale,

lower than that now existing, to be made up of a basic rate, plus an amount varying with the cost of living, this last to be adjusted quarterly. The rates would give a minimum of 33s. for women of 18 with increases to the age of 21, rising to 36s. This is, of course, exclusive of overtime, and is the basis on which piece-work rates are calculated. It is not surprising that the unions concerned will not take the responsibility of acceptance, and have adjourned to report to their members.

The Co-Masonic Movement.

The Co-Masonic Movement is progressing. Within the past few weeks information has been received that the National Grand Lodge of the Argentine Republic has entered into fraternal relations with the Co-Masons, and that the subordinate Lodges in that jurisdiction now receive the women as well as the men members of Co-Masonic Lodges. Several other Grand Jurisdictions have agreed to admit the men members, but in this instance, women as well as men are to be recognised and admitted as visitors. The Co-Masonic Movement has now established a footing at Montreal; and there are Lodges at Helper, Utah, and at Toronto. The Canadian Lodges will remain within the jurisdiction of the American Federation until there are a sufficient number to form a Federation of their own. Two new Lodges have been started in Finland, one at Helsingfors, and another at Viborg, so that it looks as if the Co-Masonic Movement has really passed through its difficult first days and is well on the path of progress.

Cheaper Travel for the Blind.

A scheme for an international agreement on travelling facilities for the blind has been submitted to M. Albert Thomas, Director of the International Labour Office, by the French National Office for the Industrial Assistance of the Blind. It is suggested that blind workers, of whom there are stated to be more than a million, should be allowed to travel accompanied by their guides on payment of a single fare for the two persons, and, further, that this concession should be sanctioned by recognition as an international principle. The adoption of a formal card or pass is suggested, which would be uniform for all countries, and which would be recognised as assuring to a blind worker the benefit of the reduced charge. This request is of great moment for the unfortunate class of workers on whose behalf it is put forward, and, if it receives fulfilment, it will constitute a true measure of social justice.

Women for the Bar.

We heartily congratulate the following fifteen women, who were successful in the Easter Bar Examination:—Roman Law, Class I., Mary Robina Stevens, Charlotte Mary Young; Class III., Katherine Robertson Andrew, Winifred Nellie Cocks, Elsie May Wheeler. Constitutional Law and Legal History, Class II., Edith Hesling; Class III., Mercy Ashworth, Marjorie Averyl Harcourt. Criminal Law and Procedure, Class I., Ethel Lloyd; Class II., Edith Hesling, Naomi Constance Wallace; Class III., Sydney Alice Malone. Real Property and Conveyancing, Class II., Sybil Campbell, Lilian Maud Dawes, Audrey Clara Harverson. Hindu and Mahomedan Law, Class III., Helena Florence Normanton.

The Matrimonial Causes Bill.

On April 12th, in the House of Lords, Lord Gorell's Bill passed through Committee, with amendments. Lord Buckmaster moved an amendment providing that three years' desertion should constitute a ground of divorce, to which Lord Gorell replied that on the merits of the question he was in agreement with Lord Buckmaster. He felt, however, that the inclusion of the amendment might affect the fortunes of the measure, and if it was carried, he felt bound to relinquish his responsibility for the Bill. After discussion, the amendment was carried by 66 votes to 48, and Lord Buckmaster agreed to take charge of the Bill in its subsequent stages. It was also agreed that no decree of nullity made on the ground that the defendant was, at the time of the marriage, suffering from venereal disease in a communicable form, should render the child procreated before the decree illegitimate. On the motion of the Archbishop of Canterbury, a new clause was added, protecting the clergy against any suit, penalty, or censure arising out of a refusal to publish banns of marriage, or to solemnize marriage between divorced persons.

IN SUSPENSE.

For the second time we write about the coal crisis at a moment when fateful decisions are but half taken: we trust, however, that the reasonable frame of mind which led to the reopening of negotiations may be strong enough to triumph over the extreme difficulties of every possible settlement, and that, by the time this paper is in our readers' hands, the danger of an immediate stoppage of the workers of the Triple Alliance may have been averted.

There are many reflections which arise in the minds of the onlookers at this gigantic dispute. Some of those which spring most forcibly into the mind of the writer of this article are not proper to a leading editorial article in a non-party paper. We may not say whether or not we agree with the widespread insinuations that the whole thing has been a got-up job of the Prime Minister's, in order to make certain of a loud, resounding battle-cry for the snap election he desires in the summer or early autumn. Nor may we lay it down that the strike was a lock-out, or the lock-out a strike. We must not say, on the one hand, that the employers are being obstinate about the pool, or that the Government are taking their side, or, on the other, that the miners are taking direct action for political ends. We must not discuss these matters, though they would lead us far. These things are deeply interesting, but to our official columns they are, of course, forbidden ground.

Perhaps, however, we may, without offence to anyone (or with offence to all, which is equally impartial), dwell upon the reflection that everyone has behaved wrongly. We use the word wrong here in no moral sense, but merely from a tactical point of view, meaning stupid more than anything else. And yet, when such issues are involved, stupidity is almost wrong, and so we repeat that everyone has behaved wrongly. The miners, from their point of view, were unwise about the pumping. Whether or not it is their only trump card, the safety of the coalmines has more than a strategic value, and by letting the mines flood, the miners turned many of their wellwishers against them. Then came the Government, and the statement of Sir Robert Horne, which sounded so much like the statements of the Employers' Federation. It may indeed be the policy of the Government to refuse to renew control, but how can they refuse to consider it? The policy of the Government is, or should be, the policy which the country desires, and the new Chancellor of the Exchequer spoke with too positive a voice. Then came Mr. Gould, over-stating the position from the mine-owners' point of view. If he is right, then it is not much use trying to keep on in any case. Our coal-getting is hopeless, and the sooner we shut up shop the better. Why trouble to pump out mines which can never bring us anything but loss?

After all these errors (and in spite of our critical attitude we realise that they might, all of them, have been much more serious than they were) came Mr. Lloyd George, "the magician," with his conference proposals; and then the very curious phenomenon began which seems invariably fated to accompany labour disputes. A cloud of irrelevant issues sprang up, and the parleying went on at several removes from the point at issue. Had the Government, or had it not, imposed conditions upon the projected conference? What exactly had Mr. Hodges said to the Prime Minister? Were not the miners putting conditions on their side? And what, any way, did any of these conditions involve? Hours of energy were spent, and scores of discussions raged upon these points. Perhaps this is the cloud of incense (or smoke) the magician throws up into the air before he gets to work. It

has an ugly black look and obscures many things, and yet, after all, this may be just as well.

In any case, all these preliminaries led to a most ingenious compromise, of which the credit is assumed by the Prime Minister, though we suspect it belongs to Mr. J. H. Thomas. It was agreed that although the miners would not send back the safety men they would not obstruct the work of other safety men; and the substantial point of the cessation of damage was secured. This stage was reached by last Saturday night, and was followed by three days of anxiety. On the one hand preparation, on the other hand preparation, and in the midst conference.

As we write, the negotiations for a settlement of the dispute have broken down. Whether it is a final rupture, or only, as many people seem to think, the end of the first round, we cannot say. The deadlock occurs on the question of economic principle, namely, the National Pool, and not on the actual rates of wages, and it may be that both sides would prefer to have a tussle on that issue. Meanwhile, the strike has been postponed until Friday night.

The Government, in spite of the stand it has taken on the resumption of control, has made one move forward in suggesting that public funds should be temporarily applied to easing the serious wage situation. After all, at however many removes it is dealt with, wages are the ultimate matter in dispute. Even the principle of nationalisation derives its main force from the subsequent distribution of profits it might make possible, and the definite offer of cash at this moment is, therefore, a substantial contribution towards a peaceful settlement. We cannot help hoping that since the strike is further delayed negotiations will be resumed. It is so serious a matter to paralyse the life of the country, that we shrink from working out, even on paper, what the consequences may be.

We have no business, however, to ignore the fact that we have been dangerously near to civil disturbance, and still are. In the last week we have seen a return of armed preparations, the flocking back of reservists to the colours, and the impetuous and widespread recruiting which reminds us, on a smaller scale, of 1914. The temper of the country is widely different, and the amazing unity and exaltation of those days is not here; but the actual scenes are the same. Railway trains crammed with sailors have been pouring into every naval base, tents have sprung up in Hyde Park, and queues have formed outside recruiting offices. Government forms have run short (as they so frequently did in the war days), and newspapers have sold like hot cakes in the street. It has been, and it still is, a time of acute crisis.

There is one thing, among all this disturbance, which it is important for everyone, whatever their opinions, to bear in mind, and that is the need for keeping calm. It is as useless and as unpatriotic to begin hoarding things now as it was in the early days of the war and it is even more pernicious to talk wildly. Although, fundamentally, the matter in dispute is one of wages and the standard of living, there are other aspects which may easily be introduced into it if wild talking is indulged in. Words are very inflammatory material, and bitterness and obstinacy can be provoked on either side by an atmosphere of heated fury on the part of the public at large. The duty of the ordinary citizen to-day—and among the ordinary citizens, for this purpose, are all the women citizens—is to be both informed and steady. It is difficult to be informed, or at least well-informed, but it is not impossible. And it is very easy to be steady.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

The coal dispute has dominated the position. During the week under review matters got steadily worse, though, at the time of writing, there is more room for hope. The House met on Monday, April 4th, under depressing circumstances, and there was an unusually large attendance. The Prime Minister made a short statement on the coal dispute, in reply to a question from Mr. Bottomley, and brought in a Royal message, putting the Emergency Powers Act into force.

The debate on this took the two next days, April 5th and 6th. The position fluctuated so greatly and, indeed, is still so critical that it is best to say little about it, from the point of view of general public considerations. But a word of praise must be given to the House, for members showed notable restraint, and, though the discussion did little good, it did not do the harm it might have done. Moreover, it brought a new Parliamentary figure to the front, namely, Mr. Duncan Graham, Labour Member for Hamilton. He spoke more than once. His first speech was marred by extreme acerbity, but his second was much better, and, whether you agree with him or not, he undoubtedly has force of character and power of exposition. He took hold of the extremist case, and appeared as their Parliamentary leader. Finally, at 8.15 on April 6th, the Regulations made under the Emergency Act were confirmed, after a Division in which sixty voted against the Government.

On Friday, April 8th, Mr. Chamberlain announced that the Reserve was being called up, and since, on the same day, all hope of negotiation appeared at an end, it was one of the blackest afternoons through which the House has sat since March, 1918. However, having got to its worst, the position rapidly improved. The Prime Minister accepted Mr. Thomas's suggestion for an unfettered conference, a suggestion, by the way, which was first made by Sir Samuel Hoare, to whom the credit should be given, and at the time these notes are being written the conference is still sitting. Meantime, as everyone knows, a Transport Strike had been threatened, first, for the night of Sunday, April 10th, and then for that of Tuesday, April 12th. But now that the conference is sitting, we must hope for the best.

Mr. Whitley is assured of election as Speaker. The group which tried to run Mr. Ernest Pollock in opposition, finding that he was intractable, approached Sir Frederick Banbury, who has agreed to stand if one hundred members back him. This number will be secured. It is no extravagant guess to prophesy that when their names appear they will be found to correspond with those who voted against the Government on the Dyer Debate. It is the same movement under a different form. It is a revolt of the extreme Conservatives, who have never accepted the Coalition, and who, in the present instance, want an extreme Conservative as Speaker.

Something like stupefaction has been caused by the announcement that Dr. Addison, the Minister without Portfolio, is to be paid £5,000 a year and to be given a staff whose cost will run into several thousand more. The House consented to the retention of the office of Minister without Portfolio upon the understanding that the salary was abolished. A bitter feeling has been created, for not only has the present occupant shown no sign that he is worth so large a salary, but the fact that there should be sinecure places in the Prime Minister's gift, which he can bestow on his unsuccessful adherents, is strongly resented. More will be heard of the matter.

By the time these notes are read, presumably a solution of the coal dispute, good or bad, will have been reached. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of Ireland. Every account from that island shows that matters are getting steadily worse.

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

NEWS FROM OTHER LANDS.

ANCIENT AND MODERN IN JERUSALEM.

By MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

We are learning every day while we are here to readjust our interpretation of the words ancient and modern. Take, for instance, the Church of the Nativity, at Bethlehem. We are told that it is the oldest monument of Christian architecture in the world, and, therefore, may be fairly described as ancient: the splendid double row of rose-coloured marble columns may possibly have formed part of Solomon's Temple. But the roof is dismissed with a rather contemptuous phrase as "quite modern"; the timber of which it is made is English oak, and was the gift of Edward IV. of England. As he reigned from 1471 to 1483, we might, if left to ourselves, have been inclined to consider it of respectable antiquity. Indeed, the roof of Westminster Hall, which dates from Richard II., only about a hundred years earlier, we have been taught to revere as an ancient monument: but things are different here, and Edward IV.'s gift, dating from before the discovery of America, is set aside as belonging to the modern world.

These thoughts throng into one's mind when one is brought face to face with things that are really modern in Jerusalem, such as Girls' High Schools, Training Schools for Teachers, and an Anglo-Jewish Elementary School of 700 children belonging to parents so poor that they only pay a sum of about two shillings a year, or about enough to cover the cost of the children's pinafores. It is a very hopeful sign, a sign of vigorous vitality and growth, when a city as ancient as Jerusalem is able to produce flourishing institutions with undoubted twentieth century characteristics.

I will try to give the readers of THE WOMAN'S LEADER a glimpse of these three institutions as I have seen them during the last week. The first, the British High School for Girls, is in its educational aspects very like the High Schools we know at home. Its staff consists largely of University graduates, its principal was a pupil of Miss Dorothea Beale, of Cheltenham; it prepares its pupils for the examinations of the Oxford and Cambridge Joint Board, London University, &c. But here the likeness with its English prototype comes to an end. Its 200 girls are drawn from at least eleven different nationalities. How would the average British High School mistress deal with the problems arising from a school consisting of Arabs, Jews, Greeks, Russians, Armenians, Montenegrins, Persians, Bulgarians, women from France, Persia, England, and America? The pupils range in age from the five-year-olds in the kindergarten, to students of over twenty, preparing for University examinations. The school is distinctly and definitely Christian and is supported by four missionary societies. The house it inhabits was formerly an orphanage for girls, run entirely by the German institution at Kaiserswerth, the same at which Florence Nightingale gained the early training which enabled her to do her great work in the Crimea. Its name, "Talitha Cumi"—"Maiden, I say unto thee, arise"—is singularly appropriate to its present use. A most splendid spirit pervades the school, and no one can be there, even on a brief visit, without appreciating that it emanates from the Head Mistress, Miss Warburton. Before the war she had been for eleven years doing educational work at Beyrout. Within eight months of General Allenby's victory of December, 1917, the Military Government of Jerusalem asked the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund to take charge of Talitha Cumi, and to start it as a Christian school for girls of all races inhabiting Palestine. Thus the school is, in itself, a sort of microcosm of the League of Nations. Here the girls of many races and religions meet on terms of perfect equality, and so meeting, learn to know, respect, and understand one

another. The great building they inhabit (for which, it may be added, a handsome rent is paid) must be returned to its German owners within three years. But the site for a new building in a splendid situation has been secured and funds are being raised to defray the necessarily high cost.

My next visit was to a training college for girl teachers in the heart of the old, walled city of Jerusalem. A class of about forty girls was receiving instruction in a new method of teaching the principles of design, by an American Jewess, Miss Callan. Most of the class was Moslem; the day was a Friday, the Mahommedan Sunday, usually kept by Moslems as a holiday. Therefore, a considerable proportion of absentees would have

been perfectly excusable. But the places were all filled, and the faces of the pupils left no doubt that they were keenly and eagerly interested in what they were learning. Their eyes were fixed intently on their instructress, except when they were bent over the designs which were developed under their clever fingers. There was nothing of the apathetic Oriental about them. Oriental, indeed, they were, as Oriental as they could possibly be, but it was quite an inspiration to see the intense interest and intelligence which their work had awakened in them. My third school I think I must tell about in my next letter, because it was of quite a different type from either of the others, and I feel I want more room to describe it than is left at the end of this.

BURNING QUESTIONS.

In reopening the discussion on marriage and sex relations in our controversial columns, we wish to emphasize the fact that we are not preaching any modernist doctrine or upholding any revolutionary point of view. Our object is to offer a platform for frank discussion of different aspects of this very complex subject. It is one of the utmost importance to men and women alike, and the interchange of serious thought upon it is too often avoided or repressed. The world's attitude towards sex relations is wrong. The double standard of morality and the calm acceptance of prostitution which have hitherto prevailed are proof that something is wrong. However difficult it may be, plain speaking and free discussion should be encouraged, and we hope that our readers, even when they disagree with the articles we print, will think that we are right to discuss these matters.

DIVORCE REFORM.

By LADY FRANCES BALFOUR.

Lord Gorell's Bill is an attempt to give the minimum of justice recommended by the Divorce Commission, which sat for two years to examine all the evidence concerning the present state of our Divorce Laws. The Bill does away with the unequal standard of morality as between the sexes, and it provides for justice being administered irrespective of the wealth or poverty of those who claim divorce from the Law Courts.

So far the ecclesiastics have announced that they will not oppose Lord Gorell's Bill, they may even support it, but if its border is enlarged by the addition of desertion being given as a cause of divorce, as it is in every other country where a divorce court operates, then the wire-pullers of the Anglican Church announce their determination to oppose it.

As is well known, the Royal Commission recommended that desertion, incurable insanity, and the form of insanity which produces the incurable inebriate, should be causes for declaring that the contract of marriage cannot be fulfilled. It cannot be too often asserted that the Commissioners, whether laymen or ecclesiastics, approached this difficult question from the highest standpoint. They all believed marriage to be the fundamental and most binding contract within the State. They never differed on the point that the highest spiritual ideals were part of the contract which made of twain one flesh, and that the breaking of such a contract was the gravest sin against the law of the spirit as well as that of the flesh. Where the Commissioners differed was in the manner in which they faced the difficulty of "the hardness of heart," which produces the necessity and the desire for divorce.

The spiritual side of marriage is equally contracted with the material. If human love is to transcend the pairing of the animal creation, it must fulfil to the letter the laws that bind it. Forsaking all other, living together as man and wife, cherishing in sickness and in health, rearing children in a home which is not divided, these are the elementary grounds on which the family rests—they are the State's security for the race and for the spiritual life of its people. The Commission found that such a contract cannot be fulfilled where the one spouse is dead to the world in an asylum, nor can it be carried out where disease has brought madness in the one or other of the contracting parties. Certainly, it cannot be marriage profitable to the individual soul or the body politic, if there is wilful and malicious desertion.

The ecclesiastics cling to the letter of the Canon Law. They say there can be no release save for the cause of adultery. They

base their hold on the social purity of the people, they say, by the command of the divine Head of all Christianity. To be literal, they should follow all the laws which governed the Jewish people at the time when the Gospels were written. They should advocate that the woman taken in adultery should be stoned to death.

It has been justly objected to Lord Gorell's Bill that there is no finality about it. The Matrimonial Causes Bill, which Lord Buckmaster passed through the House of Lords with infinite skill and patient hearing of many false arguments, covered the whole ground taken up by the Majority Report. The scope of the Bill prevented time being found for it in the House of Commons, and the Church Party is strong enough in the Cabinet to prevent the Government finding time for any Bill. The Bishops have always asserted that they believe justice should be obtainable for rich and poor, and that they believe in the equal standard of morality. It is a shame to the leaders of the Christian Church that they have never done anything to further these two objects of Divorce Reform, and that they have upheld not only the unequal standard, but the direct incentive of adding the sin of cruelty in the one spouse against the other. Unjust laws are a weakness in any State, and when the ecclesiastical organisation sets itself to be an obstructive against a true and just outlook, the last state of that Church is certainly worse than its earlier condition.

The increase in divorces is due not to the law being lax, nor to the desire of the people to be released from matrimony and its obligations. It is due to marriages being made without any knowledge or consideration. Neither the Church nor the State have done their part in educating and uplifting the standard. The Church has been so anxious to retain the last of its power over the civil life of the State that it has consented to give the highest sanction to marriages which it knows have, in their very conditions, everything that makes for a contract broken and dishonoured. The State has permitted on its Statute Book one of the most unjust laws which ever professed to do justice as between the individual and his, or her, nearest "neighbour." It encourages crime, it suggests collusion. Reform must come if the people will to have it so; but let it be a true reformation, one that holds out a prospect of release from conditions which can make no true union, and which eat like a canker at the root of our social purity and the well-being of the home.

WOMEN JURORS.

By VIOLET MARKHAM.

Sir Ernest Wild is more Royalist than the King. As women we thank him for his chivalrous desire to shield us as jurors from contact with the base and unpleasant side of life. But, despite the nervous ladies who write and confide their scruples to him on this subject, many of us hold a very different view. In the days when I was an anti-suffragist I always maintained—and I still maintain—that the suffrage argument so frequently advanced, that women wanted the vote, was quite irrelevant. It is not a question of what women want, or what men want for the matter of that, though man has a happy knack of getting his own way when he applies his mind to the task. There is only one real touchstone in these controversies—the best interests of the community we severally compose. Many women, for instance, like many men, do not particularly want to pay taxes, but no one has yet suggested that women should be exempted from this disagreeable obligation on the ground that their susceptibilities are harassed by the complicated and persistent attentions of the Inland Revenue officials. The vote is not a question of personal likes or dislikes. It is a responsibility and a duty conferred by the State on people who can use it for the common good. My conversion to the suffrage was not due to the "I want" argument, but to the conviction that the full and responsible citizenship of women expressed in every branch of the public life had become a necessity to the State.

Sir Ernest Wild admits himself in his article that there is something to be said for the all or none principle. He has not, I think, weighed the logical conclusions of that admission. There is no half-way house for women as regards their position as citizens. Either they are irresponsible, parasitic creatures living by the grace and favour of the superior sex, with little "enclaves," political, social, and economic, granted to them in which they maintain a precarious existence, or else they are units in the main battle of life, taking a full share of work and responsibility, asking, it is true, for a fair field but claiming no favours. The overwhelming sense of the present generation is that the latter position alone is consistent with a self-respecting existence for women themselves, and the healthy development of the community as a whole. Once the position is granted, it admits of no exception. Women must stand the rough and tumble, and must be prepared to take hard knocks just the same as men have done through immemorial ages.

I am afraid, ungallant to my sex though it may sound, I cannot rate them quite so highly as Sir Ernest Wild. I cannot, despite their great qualities, consider them superior to men in any way. I am even heretical enough to believe that over averages men are stronger and more capable, both mentally and physically, than women. The jealousy and anxiety displayed by some men as to the competition of women always seems to me as foolish as it is contemptible. But the ordinary work of the world is carried on by quite ordinary people, and we are bold enough to feel we have some contribution to make to it. Because we women have so far neither a Shakespeare nor a Beethoven nor a Newton to our count, there is no reason that we should not pull our full weight in the boat as citizens in the daily affairs of life. What, to my way of thinking, is intolerable, is the theory that woman should row with a fancy oar in carefully selected water, and that at the least sign of rough weather she should be put on the bank. Being put on the bank in the interests of the sheltered life is, I might suggest, a very bad precedent. On the next occasion, woman will probably find herself there because her presence in the boat has become inconvenient to some member of his sex less chivalrous than Sir Ernest Wild.

But if not "superior" to men, we are certainly very different, and the whole value of any contribution we have to make to public life lies in that difference. The sexes are complementary: what strikes a man often does not strike a woman, and vice versa. Hence the importance of combining both points of view in the public service.

I am, therefore, quite unmoved by the argument that certain women, even large numbers of women, may not "want" to be jurors. There are always lazy and irresponsible people who are anxious to shuffle out of the disagreeable duties of daily life. A referendum for the benefit of slackness strikes me as a proposal involving a curious waste of time and money. Judges have powers of exemption which are ample to deal with all really hard or difficult cases. But I can imagine nothing more reactionary than the plea that special legislation should be enacted to shield

some women from a duty they may regard as disagreeable in so far as it brings them into contact with the darker, more squalid side of life. This is a return with a vengeance to the old position of privilege and protection. In the end, I am left asking myself: Is this outcry inspired by a genuine wish to help and protect women, or does it spring from a belated desire to relegate them to that position of inferiority from which, in the opinion of some people, they have most improperly emerged?

I must at least beg Sir Ernest Wild to be less anxious about us. We are not nearly so fragile as he gallantly supposes. It is not knowledge of sin and vice, it is a man or woman's attitude to sin and vice which determines modesty or immodesty. The woman who laughs at a lewd joke is immodest, not the woman who is called upon to deal in a judicial capacity with the hard facts of life, however revolting. All this talk about "ice-minded women" not wanting to face sordid and unhappy facts in a public court is meretricious nonsense. What right have women to attempt to shirk full knowledge of the sin and sorrow of the society to which they belong? Is the ignorance which averts its eyes from ugly facts to be exalted into a moral quality of the first order instead of being recognised for what it is—cowardice and false modesty? There is not a single argument against women and jury service which could not equally be brought against women on the Bench. As a magistrate, it is often my duty to listen to details of a most painful and sordid kind. When such cases occur, women figure in them prominently. Because my circumstances are more fortunate than those of the unhappy beings whose shame becomes common property, are these details worse for me to hear than for the other women in court?

I can assure Sir Ernest Wild that the detestation and repulsion I have felt on such occasions are not concerned with self-pity or anxiety as to any possible damage sustained by my delicate moral susceptibilities. It is detestation and repulsion for the sin, and a profound conviction of the vast responsibility of society itself for tolerating conditions which are in so many cases a high road to sin and crime. And the matter does not rest there. The more we see and hear, the more another question forces itself on us with inexorable insistence. We women form part of the society in which these horrors occur. The moulding of standards is regarded as our special business. If such things exist, how far have our ignorance and prudery in the past rendered that existence possible?

Women jurors and magistrates can only respect and value the genuine concern decent men in court may feel when, for the first time, they have to handle unpleasant subject-matter before a mixed jury or Bench. I am equally convinced there is nothing in the performance of this particular public duty which dignity, simplicity, and good sense on the part of the women concerned cannot strip rapidly of every trace of embarrassment. The interest of a novel experience is but a nine days' wonder. Women jurors and magistrates will soon cease to be "news," and the picture papers will point their cameras in other directions. Then let us hope we may be allowed to do our work without the absurd publicity which has created this mock stain.

I entirely agree with Sir Ernest Wild that, from the point of view of justice, women, generally speaking, have nothing to fear from being left in the hands of men. Few things have struck me more during my brief experience on the Bench than the essential fairness and justice of my men colleagues. But this circumstance leaves the main argument quite unaltered. We want women's minds and women's perceptions brought to bear on the conditions which fill our law courts and police courts with the wreckage of society. Women, I am convinced, will not be content to rest as men in the main seem content to rest, with the mere administration of justice. They will want more and more to deal with the conditions which, in the long melancholy last, render the administration of justice inevitable. For us women there can be no longer any question of blinds down. From the Bench and the jury-box we have looked through new windows on the sin and sorrow of the world. From that knowledge, painful though it is, will come, I believe, new powers of work and service and more vigorous determination "not to cease from mental strife" till these dark pools have been drained of their vice and misery.

We thank Sir Ernest Wild, but we think in this matter we can safeguard our own standards without referendums or the special protection he contemplates.

THE RESCUE HOME.

By M. FRIDA HARTLEY.

They brought her into the Home a month ago, bewildered, morally insolvent, a sorrowful little kingdom divided against itself. She had been laid in wait for, trapped and captured by a kindly Rescue Worker in a moment of despair between one act of degradation and another, and at a moment when (partly perhaps because she had no money) self-respect and old conceptions of things had paid her a sudden and unexpected visit. The visit had been wholly unwelcome, because it had caused a mental upheaval which had very nearly thrown her off her balance. It had caused a quick check in a new trend of thought, which had hitherto seemed to her as an oasis in her drab life, and had changed its aspect into a wilderness of horror, without aim or end, and in which her tired little soul must infallibly perish. She had entertained a vague hope that the conceptions of the last few days would return, and pleasure with it. But whilst she awaited them, the Rescue Worker, all eager, all triumphant, arrived instead and bore her off!

So far so good, from the Rescue Worker's point of view but for the girl, Doris, life and thought so newly imprisoned, have been an intolerable maze of contrary sensations and conflicting desires, and the sum total of them has given her something akin to a dual personality. She alternately clings to her captor, with a passion of gratitude for her timely protection against her own self-foreseen fate, and hates her with the bitter hatred of a child balked of its pleasure for having put in her appearance at a moment when she was off her guard. She craves in varying moods for the spiritual serenity of self-respect, and for the renewal of the excitement which had at least spelled oblivion from the aching monotony of work. And somewhere in the heights and depths of her, a spirit to which she cannot attain knows its own choice. What she fails to realise—and the knowledge of her failure keeps the Rescue Worker steady—is that the results of that first fatal moment of natural youthful excitement which might have been merged into so normal, so happy an outlet, have poisoned her own instincts, and have, in the space of a few hours, made her into that which she is not. She is as surely diseased as though she had been consumptive or epileptic, and not the least serious of her symptoms is the morbid conviction that against herself, the child of sixteen, who constitutes but a very little offence in a wicked world, is the hand of every man and woman who lives!

Doris has come of decent working parents, that is to say, there is no actual taint in the family other than the inevitable lassitude of outlook caused by overcrowding, by rank nights in beds, doubly and trebly shared by over-heated humanity, by the poison of irregular and insufficient food, herself the victim of vague, foolish evenings in the streets, and the vicious circle of an unoccupied mind, brought into contact with the sudden menace of street life. It has been from the start but a matter of huge odds bearing down a very feeble power of resistance, and upon an untrained will. The Rescue Worker, knowing that the girl, all unprepared, all eager, has touched upon forces which have swept away her childhood, knows also that she should prove to be within her own powers of saving.

Doris's friends have not much to offer as antidote to self-gratification; the Home is working on towards its own worthy goal against a rush of financial troubles. It can only provide a refuge against sin, homely, inviting enough, but without much mental distraction. The medicine for degradation, as administered by those in charge, is potent enough in its own way, however, whilst the daily duties afford a simple tonic for overwrought conceptions and the loss of the sense of self-respect. Its chief ingredient is a ceaseless, patient, and almost passionate kindness, which to most brings its own blessed powers of healing. But to Doris, untamed, but newly arrived from the depths of

another world, it is incomprehensible; it is even for the moment a source of keen aggravation.

At her daily work, in the cap and apron and neat print dress, which give her the appearance of a little forlorn Saint, she broods incessantly. Free choice to go or stay has tormented her for many a day! She has lost her temper, and has threatened to go; she has been reasoned with, and persuaded! She has been disobedient, and has been forgiven! She has turned in unreasoning fury, and has flung the love and the kindness and the patience back in the faces of her captors with all the insolent force of her coarsened nature, and lo! she has but received them again in full measure, and running over! She is at the same time touched and distracted, and unbeaten! Love of Christ, of which the patience of the Rescue Worker and her kind is but the shadow, is the will of this miserable child stronger than His own? What other weapon save love can we wield? Is it, perhaps, the force of human compulsion for which she instinctively craves, to save her from herself?

At the end of six weeks Doris disappears!

But never for a moment does the thought present itself to the Rescue Worker that she has done anything but cast her bread upon the waters. The faith of the women is as a pillar of smoke going up to Heaven on a still day.

Doris, half-remorseful, haunted, spends three weeks of delirium on the streets. She has thrown away her cap and apron, and the neat print dress that gave her the appearance of a forlorn Saint, has borrowed outrageous clothes from an old acquaintance, has painted her cheeks and lips, and has become bold-eyed again, a ravager of life, another species altogether, this child of not yet seventeen! She goes to live with her old "friend," and then with a second.

She haunts unspeakable places! With ruthless, ignorant hands, poor little iconoclast that she is, she tears down the feebly worshipped idol of her self-respect! After the first week, doubts torture her no more. She flings herself headlong on to the wheel of the old world which has its own finality, and the quick poison is driving all the slow, wholesome tonic from her blood!

So life passes, and death is with it!

Then one day there comes a moment of petrifying realisation, a sickening sense of fear! She has become ill in body as well as in mind! She knows about such things, of course, for do not all the children of her world know at the age of sixteen? A sudden terror, pitiful in its mingling of childishness and worldly wisdom, drives her back to her old friend and enemy, the Rescue Worker.

She, well accustomed to such tales, merely remarks that Doris has been very foolish! She takes her, in short, for that which she is even now, a silly, empty-headed child, knowing all and knowing nothing, a sorrowful waif of circumstance who has quite overstepped youth and has strayed all unawares into the underworld. And because the Rescue Worker sees life in broad daylight, she knows that her own little sister, who is the very apple of her eye and who though "difficult" in temperament, is yet happy and simple in her country home, might so have strayed had it not been for the high hedge of convention and moral standard which has been so firmly planted between evil and herself. There are even, as she perceives with a passing rush of pain, the same traits of character in the cherished child and this Misery whom she sees now before her; there is the unreliability of temperament, the eagerness to possess life which, to one, has but spelled motherly care and gentle chiding, and to the other, in violent contact with reality, ruin of body and soul. The simplicity of the contrast is to the Rescue Worker very pitiful. So she takes Doris back to her great heart, and the medicine of her patience is again applied without the shadow of a change, and mingled now with bodily healing. Doris receives it half-thankfully, half-grudgingly, as before, and chiefly because she fears

for her future. The events of the last three weeks have added another coating of coarseness upon her, and even now she is troubled by the realisation of her own free will to go or to stay. It appears alternately as a haunting shadow and as an incentive, but fear is actually the power that keeps her in the home.

Three months pass! After one or two fits of temper and of ugly craving she has become quieter. The matron, coming one night into the chapel (it is a mere matter of four white walls that close in the soul torn with the world), has found Doris standing open-mouthed before the Crucifix, with apron twisted in her hot hands and tears upon her weary face. They are not tears of penitence, as the matron, being a student of human nature, knows! They but bear witness to the sudden and painful recognition of mystery, of a sublime reality which even her greedy little hands cannot touch, nor her coarsened powers of enjoyment materialise. So full of dignity is the figure upon the Cross, so appealing in His strength and His weakness! The instinctive admission of Holiness has alike attracted and repelled her. It cannot yet penetrate into her darkened perceptions, but unconsciously, it is as a thread of gossamer pulling her tired little soul up to its own level of cleanliness. Then suddenly, and because of her great need, He has sent her a shaft of His own pain! She can bear the strength, but not the humility, and brushing past the matron at the door, she has fled from its reproach, with the tears streaming down her cheeks. That night she is possessed with fury, has disobeyed, has blasphemed, but later on, the Rescue Worker, called in as her nearest friend, has found her asleep and, standing over the bed, has perceived that the lines of hard knowledge are all smoothed away, and that the face, in its unconsciousness, has become that of a little starving child. Alas, for this girl, lying before her with the tears of resentment still wet upon her cheeks, is but one of thousands who have forfeited the right of normal development in the welter of a world where there is neither room for childhood nor youth! Has she no justification for resentment at her own shame?

And still between the hungry and those who are filled, and who but babble of the children of the Kingdom of Heaven, the great gulf lies!

The slow months of effort come and go, the long, long winter of discontent—of doubt—of fear—

* * * * *

Spring has come, and the west winds of mercy! Spring, discernible in the garden that surrounds the Home of birth and renewal by but a single bunch of yellow crocus—and there, also, the erstwhile sinner with arms outstretched to the line in the wind, hanging out the absurd garments of her peace! Tomorrow, her friends are launching her on to the world again, herself and that new life which has come to her, as the atoning outcome of her own failure to live, as the climax to spiritual torment, and as the gift of God for the bitter desecration of man. With infinite love and patience, they have performed the great mercy of healing upon her as upon hundreds of others of her kind, for it is theirs to make whole that which in all our world of youth should never have been sick! Thread by thread, they have bound her again to that which is normal, to that which is decent, but for her, this girl of seventeen, heavy with the burden of the knowledge of good and evil, the normal can be for many a year but the slow passing of a shadow. Not for her the slow, happy growth of childhood into youth, or of youth into womanhood, the glad learning of life by intuition and by the understanding of that which is worthy of love. We are content to leave it so, it would seem! Content that these harbours of mercy should, year by year, patch and mend the little frail vessels which, to our lasting disgrace, we launch all unseaworthy upon the floods of the world! Does not the world and its temptations overwhelm some of us who are strongly built and well seasoned? Generation after generation, is there never an end to this reproach?

JOURNALISTS ALL.

By STELLA BENSON.

Looking back on the process of getting round the world, gives me a picture of myself climbing industriously up the Atlantic, resting for eighteen months on America as though on a hospitable summit, and then letting myself slide off the edge of California, down the opposite hemisphere, to land eventually—in the course of five years or so—with a bump in Piccadilly Circus, London, my point of departure. Now, clinging for a moment en route to the coast of China, I look back across the Pacific to the generous but rather overpowering continent I have left and ask myself which, of all the impressions showered upon my astonished consciousness, made the deepest dint; what will, in retrospect, most readily spell America to me. And I think, if I may be allowed to say so, with real appreciation, that I shall personify America to myself as a Journalist.

Of course, the globetrotter, in the course of his trotting, receives from different portions of the globe, to a certain extent, what he brings to them. This is one of the drawbacks of being human, you never can successfully leave yourself behind. You always have to be, so to speak, paid in your own coin. If I had been a visiting princess, for instance, I should think of America as a land loud with national anthems, municipal addresses, and interminable Mayors. If I had been a button agent, on the other hand, I should remember my sojourn in terms of buttons (a nightmare). But being a minor poetess, with a few books of small but, I hope, select circulation whispering in my past, America showed her pen and ink side to me, and I shall always incorrigibly think of Uncle Sam with a notebook in his hand.

All Americans, it seems to me, are consciously or unconsciously journalists, practically everybody gives one the impres-

sion of being hotly in pursuit of copy. Every babe and suckling has a camera, and plies it with the true reporter energy. I met these workers on my trans-Pacific boat, constantly hurrying in all directions, trampling over unwary fellow passengers in their eagerness to expose their innocent films to the most unlikely scenes. "There is a steamer passing, I'll get a snapshot of it." "A snapshot of a steamer—er—well, steaming . . ." will the caption run so for the enlightenment of friends at home in years to come? Surely a fine—almost a pathetic example of the soaring and optimistic reporter spirit.

Every first meeting between a visitor and a native in America seems to the visitor like an interview. There is always a certain charm to the globetrotter in talking about himself, but there is more excitement if the interviewer is a professional one. We English are, as a rule, rather amateurish at being interviewed. A small paper recently gave me five dollars to write an interview with myself. It was only with the greatest difficulty that I managed to produce anything more racy than my first attempt: "Miss Benson is a thin, green-looking girl. Her favourite food is shrimps."

I am therefore grateful to anyone who will take all the necessary steps to know me and to learn the various points of interest in my life with as little help as possible from me. Most Americans are enthusiastically ready to do this service for bashful strangers. The professional interviewer in the States, indeed, has brought the art of extracting copy to an amazingly fine point. When an interviewer, for instance, asks me if I have had any romance in my life, and on my replying "Well . . . I was once a militant suffragette . . ." produces as a heading:

BRITISH POETESS HUGS A LONDON BOBBY, I can sit luxuriously back in my chair and feel that I am becoming an object of interest without undue effort on my part. Any hint is enough for this generous and optimistic race.

Only on rare occasions does a greater effort seem to be expected of me. A lady tackled me thus, not long ago: "In which of the British Colonies are oranges grown?" I did not know. Americans will be horrified to hear that in England we rarely know even the size of the population of our home town, or the proportion of the local birth and death rate. So I replied to my questioner, "Well . . . let me see . . . oranges . . . aren't there some islands round the Equator somewhere?" There was a courteous but cold pause, and then: "In which of the British Colonies are apples grown?" I did not know. There was another pause, and then, seeing a thirst for information about peanuts dawning in her eyes, I lost my head and fled. I am afraid I am far from being a widow's cruse for copy-seekers.

Once, and only once, I was guilty of providing too much information instead of too little. A lady interviewer from a small new-laid magazine, collecting criticisms from all citizens and visitors suspected of prominence, called to ask me for my opinion of the publication. I had been studying it for twenty minutes, and was unusually ready with encouragement and mild criticism. After listening with pleased surprise to my own volubility for about ten minutes, I was shocked to notice that the lady was looking tired and inattentive and had made no record in her notebook. "Well for goodness sake," I said (for I am not without linguistic ability and have picked up a smattering of the language very creditably)—"Isn't this the sort of thing you wanted?" "Yes and no," replied the lady cautiously. "Really I wanted a criticism in a word or two." I pondered, feeling a little damped. "Well, shall I say that I think that the short stories could be improved, but that the serials and verses are very nice?" Her face brightened. "Very nice. That's what I wanted. Splendid. Just those two words. So delightfully

DRAMA.

"Up in Mabel's Room" at the Playhouse.

To the real admirer of Hawtrey, Hawtrey himself is enough. The other actors do not matter much; anyhow, he will hardly notice them, unless, of course, a rare comedy actress like Ellis Jeffereys, or Miss Lottie Venne, happens to be in the cast. The play does not matter much. It is sure to be a Hawtrey play, one especially constructed so as to give Hawtrey a chance, and that is all that is needed. If Hawtrey will only be there, slope across the stage, sit down, stand up, light a match, use the telephone, be bewildered, cunning, angry, amused, misunderstood, that is enough for one evening's entertainment.

He need not be on the stage all the time. It is enough for him to be in the cast. He can dominate the stage when he is off it as well as when he is on. In his present play there is a long scene where Hawtrey is off the stage, taking a turn in the garden, and in his absence the other characters hold a long and far from sparkling conversation. But our attention is kept alive throughout by the thought, "If only Hawtrey could hear this. . . . If he were to come on in the middle of all this. . . . What will he do when he finds out? Is he coming in now? . . . or now?" And when he comes we are never disappointed.

To my mind Hawtrey is always particularly amusing as a proper and virtuous man misunderstood. It is true one never quite believes in his innocence. One always feels that the author did not quite understand his own character, who was not really so immaculate as he supposed. But this adds a new zest to the entertainment. It was a pleasure to find that Garry Ainsworth, the hero in "Up in Mabel's Room," was a man of this type. He was a stainless hero whose gravest indiscretion was to make a lady a present of a chemise with her name worked on it, but who is suspected by his newly married wife, and eventually by everyone else in the house, as guilty of outrageous improprieties of every kind. Mr Hawtrey, of course, played up

English. Very nice." It was then that I determined to leave all future interviews to the interviewer. They always know what they are going to write so much better than I do.

On first arriving in America, I remember I was fresh from the difficult sport of passport-hunting, and was apt, on seeing anyone with an enquiring look and a notebook, to begin automatically giving him my mother's maiden name, the date of my grandfather's birth, and the reason why I had never occupied a Place of Detention. But no American interviewer would ever be disconcerted by this torrent of unsolicited information. The copy that resulted was always ingenious, convincing, and—to me at least—pulsating with interest.

At newspaper photographs, however, after long and cruel experience, I draw the line. For all I know to the contrary, the actual photographer may be an artist of the finest grain, the photograph of me, as it leaves his hands, may be a thing of gratifying beauty—though I am afraid that is not likely. But there always seems to be a man with a pair of scissors who has not only a consistent aversion to natural backgrounds, but also some kind of adverse complex relating to the silhouettes of women victims. He applies his scissors to one's defenceless outline, and the result in the paper is, therefore, as a rule, a semblance like a peeled apricot recently bereaved, a bulbous face lacking ears, neck, and any redeeming superstructure of hair, or ornament, or background. One's own name has the look of an insult, printed under such an apparition.

Therefore, in looking back regretfully across a lamentably wide Pacific, I return thanks to America with one reservation. To say "Thank you" to her journalists for interviewing me so courageously, and for providing me with so much inspiring information about myself is, according to my theory, equivalent to saying "Thank you" to all America, seeing that—as the saying goes—if you scratch an American you find a journalist.

But as to the man with the scissors, my message is, Cut Him Out. . . .

perfectly. He sat on the edge of the sofa, blinked, wrung his hands, he even laid his head on the lap of one of the young ladies of the house party and wept, with an air of exquisite, irresistible innocence. His "how can a woman bear to see a man—suffer so?" was as funny as anything in the funniest Hawtrey plays.

But if Mr. Hawtrey had a portion of the respect and admiration for his talents which I have for them, he would never consent to hide his light under a bushel as he does in this play. The whole of the second act he spent under the bed. Of course, he was funny. He lifted up and put down the flounce at exactly the right moment. He tried to get out and rolled back again when the door opened, with ludicrous and inefficient haste. But any common clown could have done it, or could have been taught to do it. It was not work for Mr. Hawtrey.

Moreover, it was quite unnecessary. Either he or his servant could have got the "under vest," put it in his pocket, and left the room twenty times in the act. But then the play would have come to an end too soon. It is difficult to describe how one loathes that wretched "under vest" before the play is done. It would not be quite so bad if it could be called by a sensible name, such as "chemise," "combinations," or even plain "vest," but apparently this name was chosen by the censor, and has the force of the Government behind it.

Anyhow, on this horrid little garment the whole play hangs, and it will not bear the weight. The thing is torn to shreds, and actors and audience are choked with them long before the end. It is a pity. We are so pathetically ready and anxious to be taken in and amused by anything Mr. Hawtrey tells us. But in this case we are left (except in parts of the first act) with the uneasy feeling that he is making fools of us by offering this stuff for our amusement, and, worse still, though such a thing seems hardly possible, that he is looking rather foolish himself.

D. E.

REVIEWS.

EXPERTS IN COUNCIL.

The Control of Parenthood. Edited by James Marchant, C.B.E., LL.D., Sec. of the National Birth-Rate Commission. (Putnam's Sons, 1920. 7s. 6d.)

The task of the reviewer faced with such a book as "The Control of Parenthood" is a difficult one. Here are no less than nine essays by nine persons, each distinguished in science, theology, or economics, each calling for separate consideration. Taking the collection as a whole, however, we can make at least three generalisations. In the first place, it shows us that there is no consensus of opinion among experts on the subject of birth-control, and that its disadvantages are mainly social, ethical, and psychological; that is to say, medical evidence can do no more than suggest the possibility of indefinite neurasthenic effects from the constant use of contraceptive methods. In the second place, it convinces us that reverence is not enough. Clearly those who approach this delicate subject must have a keen sense of humour—not in order that they may consciously say funny things, but in order that they may avoid doing so unconsciously. In the third place, it suggests to us that the marriage of science and theology, celebrated after a long and acrimonious Victorian courtship, has given birth to a child whose name is sentimentality.

It is, however, as individual studies that these essays fascinate the reader. There is nothing monotonous about them. They vary from the heights of ecstasy to the depths of cynicism. Dr. Marie Stopes assures us that she could create Utopia in a generation had she but the power to issue inviolable edicts. Professor Leonard Hill, in a series of inconsequent but arresting statements, implies that we are scarcely removed from those prehistoric apes whose unpleasing domestic habits are sometimes used by anthropologists to confound the pretensions of feminists. And if these last are interested in their own origins, they may learn from Professor Hill that, "In the case of the unmarried, the rose blushing uncared for fades away. The temperament either sours, or becomes turned to works of mercy and devotion other than motherhood—some becoming nuns, others hospital nurses. Other women become factory hands, approximating to the sterile workers of the bee community. Some few become sexual perverts and feminists. . . ."

It is refreshing to turn from such stuff to the cheery optimism of Dean Inge. His chief complaint is that our present social order encourages the multiplication of "the most undesirable section of the population—the people of the slums," and penalises the "intellectual elite." This, he says, is largely the result of "family pride," which, though it "may perhaps be blamed from the highest Christian point of view," is nevertheless "a natural and not ignoble sentiment." Is it not possible, however, that this danger may be counteracted by a second social phenomenon, which causes the Dean some uneasiness: the absurd pretensions of the wage-earning classes, who "will not be content even with the standard which existed when things were most prosperous"? Clearly Dean Inge sees eye to eye with his fellow essayist, Sir Rider Haggard, who describes the joys of the "labouring classes" in a passage worthy of quotation:—

"Their children are educated for nothing; often they receive free meals, free doctoring, and milk at a special price. Their teeth, which cost the 'black-coated' families pounds on pounds yearly, are treated gratis; their operations are performed in hospitals for nothing; they are the recipients of a thousand charities; and if they show the slightest ability, all sorts of assistance is thrust upon them through secondary schools and otherwise. Moreover, their future is assured, except in the case of the most useless. Highly remunerative work awaits them as soon as they become adult. Trade unions protect them; politicians, eager for their votes, endow them with every possible benefit in the present, and promise them much more for the future at the cost of the State and the ratepayer. To take but one example: frequently the miner earns more than the learned clergyman, whose education has cost at least £1,000."

Meanwhile there is, of course, the imperial aspect. Dr. Mary Scharlieb considers that five or six children is the ideal family, two "as representing the father and mother in the home population," while "three or four would not be too large a contribution towards the adequate population of the Britains overseas," parts of which "are so sparsely populated that they offer almost

overwhelming temptations to their neighbours." Of a like mind, Sir Rider Haggard fears that "Pussyfoot legislation" may restrict the areas of the globe capable of attracting free-minded British immigrants, but "appeals to the women of the Empire to save the Empire." As "women of the Empire" we must confess that this job of breeding for export does not attract us—even though by our efforts we maintain the British Empire in power from Cork to Amritsar. And what if these surplus children refuse to go when we have bred them?

One word more. All these essays are interesting for diverse reasons, but one of them is really first-rate. Professor Arthur Thompson, by his own unaided efforts, lifts the intellectual average of the whole book into quite a respectable standard.

M. D. S.

Woman of the New Race. By Margaret Sanger, with a preface by Havelock Ellis. (New York. Brentano's.)

This book is a passionate plea for the recognition and encouragement of the practice of birth-control. It is impossible not to respect its sincerity or Mrs. Sanger's deep devotion to the cause of a "free" motherhood. Illustrations of the age-long sufferings of mothers are drawn from all centuries and all races. And everything that happens is the result of the wonderful "sex-urge" in woman, which, with extraordinary blindness, seems to be making for the highest things. Its way is strewn with infanticides and abortions; but the sex-urge is now more civilised and demands birth-control by more scientific methods. The tragedy of all the world seems concentrated in Mrs. Sanger's pages. The struggle of all the ages is never, with Mrs. Sanger, a struggle of the human race, but of an outraged and humiliated female sex. It is the dimly aspiring sex-urge first, last, and all the time, and even a feminist gets a bit tired of it.

On page 2 we read: "Woman's acceptance of her inferior status" (that of "a dominated weakling in a Society controlled by men") "was the more real because it was unconscious. She had chained herself to her place in society and the family through the maternal functions of her nature, and only chains thus strong could have bound her to her lot as a brood animal for the masculine civilisations of the world. In accepting her rôle as the weaker and gentler half, she accepted that function. . . . Woman has, through her reproductive ability, founded and perpetuated the Tyrannies of the Earth." Both sets of italics are mine. Is not one charge inconsistent with the other? Is either true? And can women be so separated from men through the whole history of the world? To quote Mrs. Sanger again: "Even as birth-control is the means by which woman attains basic freedom, so it is the means by which she must, and will, uproot the evil she has wrought through her submission. As she has, unconsciously and ignorantly, brought about social disaster, so must and will she consciously and intelligently undo that disaster and create a new and better world." We agree that a new and better world is desperately to be desired, and it is not going to be created without much unselfishness and hard work, and a real, active sympathy for others. It is the "cheap" human life, neglected, wasted, abused, that makes its appeal in this book, and an overwhelming appeal it is when "life" is translated into individual, struggling, stunted lives. Mrs. Sanger's reproaches against the Law and the Church for their views and their tyrannies regarding women and marriage, are in great measure justified in her pages. But her fight is not for a selfish avoiding of responsibilities: it is rather for making possible a fuller carrying out of responsibilities. Her ideal is pure marriage and devoted parenthood. Her argument is that by blind submission to nature uncontrolled, the children have no chance (physically, economically, or morally), and the mother is defrauded of the real joys of motherhood. The possibility of happy intercourse between parents and children is almost crushed out in the face of poverty, incessant child-bearing, increasing work with decreasing strength, and a tired-out nervous system. The resultant lack of parental control is disastrous but also almost inevitable. Parents who exercise no self-control themselves are not the best teachers of self-control to their children; and it is very doubtful whether a new world of trial marriages, contraceptives in marriage and outside it, prophylactic packets, and irrigation centres, is, after all is said and done, going to be a better one.

The ideal is neither sexual intercourse without the responsibilities of parenthood, nor yet marriage with the possibility of an overwhelming number of children, but responsible marriage and parenthood with reasonably limited liability.

CORRESPONDENCE.

NATIONAL INCOME AND NATIONAL FAMILY ENDOWMENT.

MADAM,—Miss Rosamond Smith has evidently entirely misunderstood the argument used by Mrs. Stocks and myself at the Council Meeting with regard to the National Income in its relation to Family Endowment. That may have been our fault, or it may have been hers. It amounted, in fact, to little more than the following, perhaps platitudinous, but certainly undeniable statement:—

The resources out of which wages are paid are not a bottomless pool. They have a limit, though that limit is not fixed and unalterable, but shrinks or expands with the productivity of labour, the progress of invention, and other conditions. It follows, therefore, that since the whole pool has a limit (though a varying one) that portion of it which can conceivably be spent in wages has also a limit (though a varying one). It follows again that as the sum available is limited, the larger the proportion of it that is spent on childless people, the less will be left for people with children.

I don't see how anyone can differ from the above conclusion, unless he is prepared also to maintain that it is possible to subtract 3 from 5 and yet leave it 3.

The application of this to the doctrine of family endowment is as follows: Our present system of wage-distribution takes no direct account of the number of persons actually dependent on the wage-earner. Under it the employer pays as much to a bachelor as to a married man with a wife and young children, if they happen to be doing the same work. But Society has gradually come to recognise that the welfare of children concerns itself as well as their parents. Hence the doctrine of the "living wage" has crept into general acceptance, and so long as no distinction can be made between the bachelor wage-earner and the married wage-earner, it follows that the "living wage" must be interpreted as a wage adequate to the maintenance of a family. But only about 48 per cent. of wage-earners have dependent families (i.e., a wife and at least one child under fourteen). Therefore a "living wage" means, under present conditions, that in order to provide for these forty-eight, we have to pay a family wage to fifty-two men who have no families. This would not matter if the resources available were limitless. But we have become painfully aware lately that this is not so. We have got to economise somehow. Why not economise on bachelors?

It is precisely this train of reasoning that has led the Australian Federal Government to contemplate the introduction of a Bill to endow mothers and children to the extent of £28,000,000 per annum, or 12s. a week for each child under fourteen. They calculate that, as compared with the plan of paying a family "living wage" to all men, this will save the country (N.B.—save the country, not cost the country) £66,000,000 per annum.

The Australian plan (as readers of THE WOMAN'S LEADER, of course, know) bases the minimum wage on the needs of man and wife only, but requires the employer to pay, in addition, a certain sum on account of each of his employees, whether married or single, into a central fund, and out of this, allowances are paid to the mothers of dependent children. In this way the employer has no inducement to prefer single to married men. Yet the children are provided for and industry is relieved of a burden that threatens to strangle it.

ELEANOR F. RATHBONE.

[There was an unfortunate mistake in Miss Rosamond Smith's letter in our last issue; the sentence should have read: "It conveyed the idea of a vast pool of £ s. d., out of which some individuals are, unhappily, receiving less than their share," &c.—ED., W.L.]

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON PREVENTION OF VENEREAL DISEASE.

MADAM,—Our social code expects continence till marriage and fidelity afterwards, and there are many people who conform to this code: at the same time it is only too deplorably evident that many people fail to observe it. Space does not allow of a detailed examination into the root-causes of this failure to follow the accepted code: they are wrapped up in deterrent social conditions, in intemperance, in bad housing, and, most of all, in faulty education, which has done nothing to prepare the individual to recognise and to meet the responsibilities and the eventualities of sex. We to-day have to cope with the unfortunate results of a bad social and a bad educational policy in the past, and we have to recognise that before a better social order will establish itself, much has to be undone and much has to be constructed.

Moral education of adults, while it undoubtedly is helpful in some cases, is not, on the whole, proving an effective deterrent to promiscuity. During the last six or seven years we have had more education of adults in matters pertaining to sex and to venereal disease than ever before; yet venereal disease is increasing—and the reason is not far to seek. To establish a change in one's life involves more than mere knowledge, more even than the desire to reform: it involves the ability to control one's own behaviour. Such ability establishes itself or not, according to whether the foundations of it have been laid in the formative and the determinative periods of life—childhood and adolescence.

In wholesome and inspired education of the young lies our great hope of bringing about a new order of social and moral life. But constructive moral education is, of its very nature, slow to evolve itself towards effectiveness. It will take many years to secure any marked alteration in our social behaviour. With a supreme consciousness of the spiritual, mental, and physical values of sex, in its personal and its social activities

—which is the intrinsic aim of moral education—promiscuity is incompatible. But it is the few only who as yet know that consciousness.

In the meantime, we are faced with the growing problem of venereal disease—spread, as the Royal Commission on Venereal Disease has emphasised, chiefly by those who are promiscuous in their sex-relations. We do not know the exact extent of the evil, nor the exact extent of its increase. There are indications only. Briefly, they are these:—

1. During the first four years of war, 340,000 cases of venereal disease were dealt with in our Army Hospitals alone. It is the generally accepted statement of the medical profession that venereal disease is more widespread in the civil population than in the forces.

2. According to the Annual Report of the Ministry of Health (1910-1920), there were 6,532 cases of ophthalmia neonatorum (chiefly venereal in origin) in 1918; 8,648 cases in 1910. Each case represents a mother infected, a father infected, and, indeed, a chain of infections.

3. An increase of infant mortality, attributable to syphilis, was recorded in 1917. I do not find any report of subsequent decrease.

4. The professional prostitute is no longer the chief source of infection. Far more venereal disease is spread by women and girls whose custom is sexual laxity.

Venereal disease, in short, is increasing at a much more rapid rate than is effective moral education.

We must, therefore, face the problem of the unchaste. Promiscuity is anti-social. Promiscuity followed by venereal disease is more anti-social. Are the unchaste to be allowed to continue in anti-social behaviour unaware of, or insufficiently appreciative of the evil effects of unchastity, or are they to be impressed with the necessity—if they are determined upon anti-social behaviour—for safeguarding themselves as far as is humanly possible, from the possible consequences of their action? They are unwilling, or—the student of physiology and psychology has no hesitation in saying so—unable to alter their ways. Self-disinfection is, it would seem, for such persons, a matter of moral obligation, in order that they may prevent the possible evil results of their own behaviour from afflicting others.

Women must face the facts of the case, for they are equally responsible with men for the social order. The equal moral standard—that principle so precious to us as women, and for which we have worked so arduously—is establishing itself, but, unfortunately, in the anti-social direction. Instead of decreasing promiscuity among men, we have increased it among women. And the women who are in the forefront of public activity are not the women most representative of their sex. They are a minority only. The really representative woman is the woman concerned chiefly with domestic interests, with her means of earning a livelihood, and with her search for pleasure in her leisure time. She is the woman who, in the mass, counts most in establishing our social code.

Women must face the fact that—greatly though it is to be deplored—promiscuity among adults is likely to continue to be a large factor in the social problem, for the physiological and psychological reasons which I have indicated. Venereal disease is not yet being lessened in amount. We have never given a real moral education a test. A constructive moral education founded in infancy, continued in childhood and adolescence, will result in a generation capable of making conduct inspired by high ideals the voluntary and joyful choice of the individual. To individuals equipped thus with power and with self-knowledge, promiscuity will be impossible. But we have not yet such a generation.

In the meantime we have widespread venereal disease. We have also means of preventing it.

NORAH MARCH.

MEALS FOR MOTHERS.

MADAM,—I am asked to call your attention to the paragraph in "Notes and News" in THE WOMAN'S LEADER of April 8th, referring to the decision of the Glasgow Town Council on the question of "Meals for Mothers, and Children under five."

This proposal is not to be credited to any one party, as it was unanimously agreed to by the Health Committee, which is representative of all shades of opinion.

The disputed point which caused the adjournment of a Council Meeting was on the question of procedure, and in no way affected the final decision of the Corporation, which was agreed to without a dissentient.

RUBY B. CLARKE.

MAINTENANCE ORDERS.

MADAM,—Being interested in the new reforms suggested for the payment of "Maintenance Orders," I would like to call the attention of those who are forwarding on the Bill to provide against a man leaving his work and there being a difficulty in finding him afterwards. I would suggest that when a man leaves his employer his insurance card should not be handed over to him, but either sent direct to the Court, or to the new employer, when a fresh job has been obtained. I think in that way the Court would be saved a lot of trouble, as the man must produce his cards to be employed. Some men are always leaving jobs, and it is not an easy matter to trace them, and knowing how hard it is always to keep in touch with their whereabouts, I hope proper provision will be made to guard against it. Of course, someone else in charge of the Bill may be able to suggest another way, but I would like you to forward my suggestion to the proper quarter if you will be so kind.

JESSIE COWLEY.

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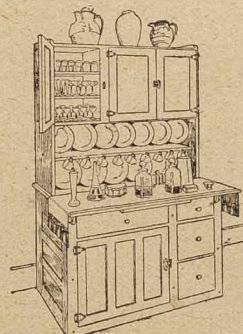
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1. The Enfranchisement of Women on the same terms as men.
2. An Equal Moral Standard between men and women.
3. Women in Parliament.
4. Equal Pay for Equal Work and Equality in Industry and the Professions as between men and women.
5. (a) State Pensions for Widows with Dependent Children. (b) Equal Guardianship of Children.
6. The League of Nations and the practical application of the principle of Equal Opportunity for men and women within it.

CONFERENCE OF OFFICERS.

At a meeting of officers of societies, held at the time of the recent Council meeting, it was suggested that quarterly conferences of officers and workers would be useful. The first of these conferences has been arranged for Friday and Saturday, July 8th and 9th. Any society affiliated to the N.U.S.E.C. will be entitled to send two representatives, who must be officers or active workers in the society. Further particulars will be given in next week's issue, and in the meantime societies are invited to send suggestions for the agenda.

SUMMER LECTURES.

A short course of lectures will be held on Parliamentary and Election work on Wednesday afternoons during May and June. A leaflet with regard to these will shortly be issued, and further particulars will appear next week.

PERSONAL.

The late Miss Louisa Kate Thornbury, of Shire Lane, Chorley Wood, who died on October 27th, 1920, left a legacy of £100 to the National Union. Miss Thornbury was connected with the Suffrage movement from its earliest beginning, and was at one time Hon. Secretary of one of the branch societies in London. She gave up this work to enter into business partnership with Mrs. Atherton, and they founded the Society of Artists in Bond Street, and for many years carried on business as house decorators and experts in furniture. They retired from business shortly before the war, and the death of Mrs. Atherton, a life-long friend, was a blow from which Miss Thornbury never recovered. She continued her interest in the woman's movement to the last, and though no longer engaged in active work for the Cause, shared in the rejoicing when the vote was won. For those of us who are still at work building on the foundations laid by others, there is something at once moving and inspiring in these gifts that reach us from time to time—the last visible mark of the devotion of a lifetime.

SUMMER SCHOOLS.

YORKSHIRE COUNCIL FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.—The programme for the Week-end School to be held at Cober Hall, Cloughton, near Scarborough, from May 27th to 30th, has just been issued. Mrs. Corbett Ashby and Mrs. Stocks are to be the lecturers. Members of the National Union, especially those who have followed the Council discussions intelligently, will be particularly attracted by the lectures on Wages, including Women's Wages and the Problem of Equal Pay. Full particulars can be had from the Directors, Lady Lawson Tancred and Miss Hartop, 18, Park Row, Leeds.

OTHER WEEK-END SCHOOLS.—We hope shortly to be able to announce three other week-end schools to be held between now and the end of October.

MOCK TRIALS.

The Winchester W.C.A. has very kindly consented to lend any of our societies the text of the mock trial so successfully organised recently at the Guildhall by that Association. The play was written by Miss Firmston and Miss Douglas, members of the Association, and judging from the enthusiasm with which it was received, must be admirably suited for the purpose. We recommend some entertainment of this kind as a means of combining instruction and amusement, and at the same time raising funds and interesting and procuring new members for our societies.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

We are glad to be able to announce two new pamphlets which will shortly be ready, which should, we think, fill a need in our literature department:—"The Legal Position of Wives and Mothers" (in England and Wales), by Miss Rosamond Smith, and "Scottish Law as it Affects Women," by Miss Eunice G. Murray.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

PLYMOUTH W.C.A.

When it became known in Plymouth, where two policewomen have been employed for the last eighteen months, that the Watch Committee had decided to close the Women Police Department, the Plymouth Citizens' Association organised at a week's notice a big public protest meeting, which took place on April 7th. The Association was supported in its action by many other organisations and by most of the clergy and social workers in the town. It was a great triumph to secure Lady Astor to speak at the meeting. As some letters in the local Press had questioned the desirability of Members of Parliament coming down to "interfere in local administration," Lady Astor prefaced her speech by the remark that she was present as a citizen and ratepayer of Plymouth. A meeting of about 2,000 men and women listened with great interest to the speeches of Lady Astor and of several of the Borough Councillors, and the following resolution was passed with eighteen dissentients:—"That this meeting of citizens, believing that Women Police are a social necessity, protests against the decision of the Watch Committee to close the department, and demands the retention of this service for the Borough."

CHESTER W.C.A.

A members' meeting was held on the evening of Friday, March 18th, at the Town Hall, in order to hear reports given by the local delegates who had gone to London to attend the Council of the N.U.S.E.C. Mrs. Mott (Hon. Sec.), Mrs. Beckett, Mrs. Noel Humphreys, and Mrs. Raleigh spoke. Councillor Phyllis Brown presided. An urgency resolution was first taken, after an appeal by Miss Francis on behalf of animals to be slaughtered. It was resolved that a letter be sent from the Association to the City Council, urging the consideration of slaughter-house reform, and that the 1915 Model Bye-Laws enforcing the use of the humane killer be adopted without delay. It was also agreed that a letter be sent to the Butchers' Association urging the use of the humane killer, and offering to arrange for a demonstration. The "Greener" humane killer was adopted by the Admiralty many years ago; its use is compulsory in Hereford, Plymouth, Reading, Southampton, Shrewsbury, and other towns.

KENSINGTON S.E.C.

This Society has issued an admirable report of its work during 1920-1921. Active Parliamentary work has been carried on, and an interesting series of public meetings some of these held in conjunction with other organisations, has been organised throughout the year. Perhaps the most interesting feature of the report is the account of an influential and representative deputation of over twenty Kensington organisations to the two Members at the House of Commons.

COMING EVENTS.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

The following meetings on League of Nations subjects will be held:—

- APRIL 15.
At Portsmouth, Rotary Club.
Speaker: Rt. Hon. Lord Robert Cecil, K.C., M.P. 1.30 p.m.
At Gillingham, Y.M.C.A. Hut.
Speaker: Mr. Silas Hooking. 7 p.m.
At Harlesden, Wesleyan Hall.
Speaker: Oswald Mosley, Esq., M.P. 8 p.m.
APRIL 17.
At Upper Holloway Brotherhood, Baptist Church.
Speaker: Canon Bickersteth Ottley. 3 p.m.
APRIL 19.
At Blackheath, Congregational Church Building.
Speaker: Rt. Hon. Lord Hugh Cecil, M.P. 8 p.m.
APRIL 20.
At Chislewick, London Congregational Union.
Speaker: Miss M. Currey, D.B.E. 7.30 p.m.
APRIL 21.
At Hampstead, Town Hall.
Speaker: Professor Gilbert Murray. 6 p.m.
APRIL 22.
At Kingsway Hall.
Speaker: C. Delisle Burns, M.A. 6 p.m.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE STATE PURCHASE AND CONTROL OF THE LIQUOR TRADE.

- APRIL 18.
At Ashton-under-Lyne, Women Citizens' Association.
Subject: "State Purchase of the Liquor Trade."
Speaker: Miss F. L. Carre. 7.30 p.m.
At Erith, Women's Co-operative Guild.
Subject: "State Purchase of the Liquor Trade."
Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell. 3 p.m.
APRIL 19.
At Salford, Women's Co-operative Guild.
Subject: "State Purchase of the Liquor Trade."
Speaker: Miss F. L. Carre. 7.30 p.m.
At Penge, Women's Meeting.
Subject: "State Purchase the Solution to the Drink Problem."
Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell. 3 p.m.
APRIL 20.
At Stoke-on-Trent, National Council of Women.
Subject: Debate on State Purchase.
Speakers: Miss F. L. Carre & Mrs. Shilston Watkins. 7.30 p.m.
At Minerva Cafe, Women's Freedom League. Public Meeting.
Subject: "The Licensing Laws of the Liquor Trade."
Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell. 3 p.m.

EDINBURGH WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

- At Edinburgh, Society of Arts Hall. Public Meeting.
Subjects:
(1) "Proportional Representation with Demonstration."
Speaker: George Chisholm, Esq., M.A., B.Sc.
(2) "Equal Guardianship of Infants Bill."
Speaker: Lady Leslie Mackenzie.
(3) "Criminal Law Amendment Bill."
Speaker: Sub-Inspector More Nisbett, W.P.S.
APRIL 22 & 23.
At Greenock, Conference of Scottish Women Citizens' Association.
Subjects:
(1) "Some Suggestions with regard to Law and Procedure Dealing with Crimes Against Children."
Speakers: Mrs. Chalmers Watson, C.B.E., M.D., Dr. Garden Blackie, Miss Rosaline Masson, Sub-Inspector More Nisbett, W.P.S.
(2) "Women and Income Tax."
(3) "A Pure Milk Supply."

WILLESDEN WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

- APRIL 21.
In St. John's Mission Hall, Carlton Vale, N.W.6.
Subject: "A Practical Housing Policy."
Speaker: Capt. R. Reiss, F.R.Econ.S. 8 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CLUB.

- APRIL 20.
9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.
Speaker: Mr. Frederick Bligh Bond.
Subject: "Some Aspects of Psychological Research."
Chair: Mrs. T. Dexter. 8.15 p.m.

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