

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

Vol. XXIII.

No. 4.

Twopence.

REGISTERED AS
A NEWSPAPER.

Friday, February 27, 1931.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
UNJUST WILLS	27
NOTES FROM WESTMINSTER. By Cross Bench	27
THE STERILIZATION OF DEFECTIVES. By Marjorie U. Welfare	28
ELECTORS—USE YOUR VOTES. By Bertha Mason.	29
OBITUARY Miss Margaret Beavan	30
CORRESPONDENCE :—	
Eugenic Sterilization	31
Women on the Land	31

Annual Subscription for Postal Subscribers: British Isles and
Abroad, 10/10.

Common Cause Publishing Co., 4 Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Unjust Bills.

We deal in a leading article with the Wills and Intestacies (Family Maintenance) Bill, which secured its second reading with a large majority last Friday. It has had a favourable Press, quite undisturbed by the captious and contradictory speeches of the Opposition. This, we believe, reflects the general sympathy with which the Bill has been received in the country. According to our usual custom with Parliamentary measures in which our readers are specially interested, we will print the division list for their information next week. The next step is, of course, the introduction of this, or of a similar measure in the House of Lords, and the appointment of the Select Committee to thresh out technical difficulties.

The End of the Education Bill.

Mr. Scurr and his friends in the House of Commons mutilated the Education Bill to such an extent that its friends despaired of its survival; and on Wednesday of last week the House of Lords administered the final blow and killed it outright. It was an ungracious and reactionary act—coming from a body not one of whose members would dream of allowing any child of his own, however mentally sluggish, to leave school at 14. And in view of the present state of the juvenile labour market it is likely to be a wantonly uneconomic act. Meanwhile, for educational enthusiasts all over the country, anxious to push forward reorganization schemes of advanced education on the Hadow model, it must be regarded as a miserably discouraging act. However, as there seemed to be so little solid support for the Bill in the House of Commons, or for that matter in the ranks of the Government's supporters, doubtless the Upper House felt that they could throw it out with impunity—and subsequent events suggest that they were right. Looking for bright spots in a dark situation we find the Archbishop of York's speech, charged with keen faith in extended education as a thing desirable in itself, rather than with a liking for the present Bill as a financial agreement propitious to Church of England interests. We hope that one of the few things to be salvaged from this wholly deplorable political incident may be the undying memory of his Grace's phrase: "To me it seems astonishingly rash and even reckless to take a measure designed to further the development of the character as the first step in a campaign for economy."

Council v. Watch Committee.

It is a familiar incident in the annals of the women police movement to find councils coercing recalcitrant Watch Com-

mittees on behalf of the appointment or reappointment of police women. This may be because Chief Constables have naturally more influence over Watch Committees than over Councils, and Chief Constables are often ex-military men with strong and inelastic views concerning the demarcation of men's and women's work. Be that as it may, the familiar battle seems to have been played out recently at Walsall, and with a satisfactory ending. It appears that in December, 1917, the Council instructed the Watch Committee to appoint two police women. Two months later the appointments were made. In 1922 a vacancy occurred and the Watch Committee omitted to fill it until specifically instructed to do so by the Council. In 1926 a vacancy occurred which was not filled. A few months ago the remaining police woman resigned and the Watch Committee intimated its intention of doing without police women in the future. Whereupon there was a formidable stirring of religious and philanthropic organizations in Walsall, an influential deputation waited upon the Council, and laid before it irrefutable arguments—too familiar to our readers to need repetition here—in favour of women police. As a result of its representations the offending minute was referred back to the Watch Committee by the substantial majority of nineteen votes to four. The chief supporter of the Watch Committee's case in the council was Alderman Thickett, whose general principle was, he said, "to warn lady police and lady competitors for other posts off the course for ever." Surely the general case against women police—or for that matter women clergy, lawyers, and doctors—could hardly have been more succinctly or representatively summarized.

Smoke.

Last week an important conference representing over a hundred local authorities was held in the Manchester Town Hall to consider the proposal of the Manchester and District Regional Smoke Abatement Committee that a statutory authority should be formed to administer existing smoke abatement legislation over the whole of that area. It has become clear from experience that the various local authorities which the area comprises cannot, with the best will in the world, act effectively alone. Smoke produced in the area of a particular local authority does not, unfortunately, remain there. The result of the deliberations was a decision, taken by the substantial majority of ninety-six votes to twenty-four, to approve the establishment of such a statutory authority. It now remains to draft a detailed scheme for submission to the various local authorities concerned. It may be added that this course of action—as opposed to mere regional advisory work—has the support of the Minister of Health. Its advantages were convincingly summarized by Alderman Jackson, of Manchester. In the first place it would secure uniformity in the qualifications of smoke inspectors and in the treatment of offending firms. In the second place it would open the way to the achievement of high technical efficiency, both mechanical and legal, on the part of the inspectorate. In the third place it would deliver the administration of smoke abatement legislation from local influences. Hitherto the materialization of such a statutory authority has been impeded by a misplaced desire for self-determination on the part of local authorities—doubtless also by a public prejudice, described by one local representative, against "cranks and faddists wanting autocratic powers to harass manufacturers." On the other hand, some of this prejudice should surely be dissipated by the startling fact that the death-rate from lung diseases in Manchester is 21.27 as compared with a national percentage of 15.7. Only unfortunately it sometimes happens that those who share such prejudices are not required to live within the orbit of the smoke of the factories by which they acquire their incomes.

The New Woman M.P.

We are heartily glad that Dr. Ethel Bentham's seat has been held by a woman. With two able and experienced women in the field this was only what might have been expected. Mrs. Leah Manning, the successful candidate, was a suffragist, a member for many years we understand of the Women's Freedom League. She is a stout advocate of family allowances. She is, however, better known to the public as the President of the National Union of Teachers, and it is one of life's little ironies that she should be returned to the House of Commons the very week that saw the Education Bill done to death by the Upper House. But she will find many opportunities of representing the cause of education in days to come.

The Daily Mail and Women Candidates.

The *Daily Mail*, considering (before the event) the changes and chances of the Islington by-election, develops interesting views regarding the qualifications required for an acceptable woman parliamentary candidate. "Political organizers," it asserts, "are finding a marked reluctance on the part of constituency organizations to adopt women as candidates unless they already have a national reputation. Then apparently heroine worship overcomes the distrust which women have for their own sex in public life. For it is the women electors who object to women candidates as a general rule far more than the men. This objection is making itself strongly felt in the Islington by-election, where neither of the women candidates is 'famous' in the sense desired by the constituencies, and it is probable that in the future a lesson will be drawn by those who arrange these matters at headquarters, and no women with whose names the public are unfamiliar will be encouraged to stand for election." Well, well—that particular fight is now over, and it may be that the lesson which has, in fact, been learned is that if an able woman has won a precarious seat, largely by her own personal mark in the constituency, it is perhaps advisable that another able woman—irrespective of press notoriety—should be given the difficult task of holding it. But in this respect the *Daily Mail* shows a more enduring tenacity of opinion than we have learned to expect from it. For as long ago as October last, its distinguished proprietor (à propos of another London by-election) was expressing through his private secretary "the very firm conviction . . . that in Conservative ranks titles are much more sought after than in any other of the political parties, and that apart from her own merits, no woman candidate . . . would have any chance unless, like the Duchess of Atholl or Viscountess Astor, she had a high title." So that the Rothermere view appears to be a countess for the Conservative party and—let us say—a film star or a recently acquitted muddress for the other two. How tenaciously the incorrigible vulgarity of the Harmsworth philosophy survives the sobering lessons of electoral experience!

Social Service in Hospitals.

We hear with much satisfaction that the Public Health Committee of the London County Council has appointed Miss M. C. Lewis, Almoner of the St. George-in-the-East Hospital. So far as we know this is the first appointment of the kind in a public hospital in London, though most of the large voluntary hospitals have had almoners for many years, and St. Thomas Hospital has become a centre for training. Social services are the first to suffer in bad times, but we believe that the action of the L.C.C. in making this appointment, which we believe is the first of a series in different hospitals, will prove to be an actual economy; medical treatment cannot be divorced from social circumstances, but how can the hospital doctor do more than treat disease? Yet, as Sir George Newman has reminded us, the environment and the social and economic forces and conditions surrounding the patient must be understood and used for preventative and curative purposes. The almoner supplements the physician and supplies the facts that help him to see his patient, not as a case, but as a personality, with his own special difficulties and handicaps.

Anæsthetics in Maternity Wards.

Another administrative change proposed by the Public Health Committee is the provision of facilities for the giving of light anæsthesia in normal cases of childbirth. It is considered that this development is one in line with modern opinion and practice, and that it should be conceded at any rate for an experimental period of six months, subject to review in the light of experience. Those who remember the article by Lady Williams in this paper a few years ago, which first brought the need for this reform into prominence, will welcome this forward step on the part of the L.C.C.

Melba.

So many distinguished artists belong to other nationalities that we like to think of the great singer who has been taken from us not as Madame Melba but as Dame Nellie—the daughter of Scottish parents settled in Australia, and it is sad to think that we shall not hear her beautiful voice again. She gave her art freely for many good causes and the last time she was heard in London was at a concert in aid of some charitable institution. Her friends may take some consolation from the fact that death overtook her before old age dimmed her vitality or robbed her of her gifts of beauty and of song.

Mrs. Victor Bruce.

We offer sincere congratulations to the Hon. Mrs. Victor Bruce on her return last week from her solo voyage by sea and air. She has put a girdle round the earth, not perhaps in 40 minutes, but in four and three quarter months, flying at the rate of 420 miles a day for forty-seven flying days—no mean achievement. Her next project is, she says, to fly across the Atlantic from East to West to visit the British Trade Exhibition at Buenos Ayres; from Gibraltar to Dakar, from Dakar to Natal in Brazil; and from thence to Rio de Janeiro and on to Buenos Ayres. Doubtless, by the operation of that strange psychological alchemy which translates interest in a country into confidence in its products, the realization of Mrs. Bruce's plan might do much for British trade in South America. Meanwhile, as regards her past achievements, the Under-Secretary for Air, in his speech of welcome, probably put his finger on the most distinguishing aspect of her work—apart from what he described as "its perfect unpretentious efficiency". Mrs. Bruce "qualified for her Air Ministry private pilot's licence only two months before starting on her long and arduous flight and her actual flying experience up to the date of her departure was only forty hours. A fact so striking must have an important bearing upon the development of air-mindedness and must do much to convince the public of the strides that are being made in air conquest as well as in efficiency and reliability."

"The Weaker Sex?"

A German lecturer has been endeavouring to account for women's ability to wear lighter clothes than men by attributing to them the possession of a reserve of vitamins which men have not got. Some interesting facts which appear to bear out greater powers of endurance possessed by women than men are supplied by statistics contained in a report by the Chief Inspector of English factories. According to these figures, 1.3 per cent of the accidents to men in textile industries ended fatally, while only 0.2 of the women died. Since maternity has been recognized as a more dangerous occupation than mining, we can only rejoice if nature has provided the "guardian of the race" with a few extra vitamins as a set-off to the undoubted handicap of her sex.

Our Next Issue.

Our issue of 6th March will be the next Townswomen's Guild special number. It will appear just before the Annual Council Meeting of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship and will contain some special features, chief of which will be the presidential address by Mrs. Corbett Ashby to be delivered at the first session of the Council. In addition to Cross Bench, the Parliamentary Time-Table, and other regular contributions, articles by Lady Balfour of Burleigh on women decorators and by Miss Florence White on the Scot's kitchen will appear. Once again we remind our regular subscribers that for the annual payment of the small sum of 1s. they are entitled to receive a copy of the green covered Townswomen's Guild number in addition to their regular issue.

QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT.

12th February.

PENSION ISSUE OFFICE.

Dr. Phillips asked the Minister of Pensions what decision he has reached in regard to the proposal to discharge the women clerks from the women's branches of the pension issue office at Acton, in order to make room for ex-Service clerks redundant in other branches of that office, and in other parts of the Ministry.

The Minister of Pensions (Mr. F. O. Roberts): I am satisfied that the pension issue office is staffed with due regard to efficiency and economy, and that I could not accept the proposal to discharge women clerks from the women's branches of that office for the purpose suggested without violating pledges made and honoured in succession by my predecessors.

UNJUST WILLS.

The Wills and Intestacies Family Maintenance Bill had a triumphant vote on the occasion of its second reading on Friday, 20th February, as it gained a majority of 149 Ayes as against 28 Noes. As so often happens during a Private Member's Bill, in fact, during any Bill, the great majority of those voting had not been present in the Chamber for the debate itself. These, having heard none of the arguments put forward, no doubt voted for the Bill in recognition of its essential justice.

As for the debate itself, this was opened by Miss Rathbone, in a speech of considerable power and lucidity. Her exposition of the clauses of the Bill was admirably done, and the arguments she put forward were convincing, while she gave moving examples of cases of sufferers under the present law. The opposition to the Bill arose almost entirely from legal members of the Conservative Party. The great majority of the difficulties they envisaged, such as increased litigation, lack of power of contracting out,¹ the tiresomeness of not being able to wind up an estate, are all answerable, and would have been answered had the eminent legal supporters of the Bill been able to be present. Unfortunately, neither Mr. Norman Birkett nor Dr. Burgin nor Sir Gerald Hurst could be in the House.

Thus the Bill was made to appear far more vulnerable than it really is. The charge that it would lead to increased litigation can be refuted by the experience of all the other countries which have similar provisions, and from the undoubted fact

NOTES FROM WESTMINSTER.

"Odds and Ends" or "Resurrection Pie" best describes the proceedings in the House of Commons during the past week and they have been dull accordingly. Perhaps an Unemployment Insurance Bill to provide borrowing powers for £20,000,000 and to make provision for a debt accumulating at the rate of £1,000,000 a week might be considered a sufficiently substantial *pièce de résistance*, and the industrial position of which it is a symptom grave enough to evoke first-class debates. But in fact the position has been for so long known to the House and all the charges and counter-charges, remedies and objections to remedies so debated *ad nauseam* during the preceding months, that the general effect, so far as debates go, has been one of tedium and mechanical reiteration. Mr. Lawson, Miss Bondfield's understudy, is not an inspiring speaker, and it is perhaps a pity that so much of the Government's case has been left to him. The star turn of the Second Reading debate was Mr. Churchill's speech, which has been generally described as "a comic turn." It certainly was good fun. The picture of what would happen if motions involving expenditure could be submitted otherwise than by the Government was well done. At the instance of the Liberal Party—

"We should soon find ourselves voting £30,000,000 for housing on Monday, £30,000,000 for roads on Tuesday, £30,000,000 for telephone extensions on Wednesday and so on, until finally, on Saturday, when the House was no longer sitting, the Liberal Party would be able to adjourn and hold a meeting in favour of economy."

There were other capital word-pictures—that of Sir J. Tudor Walters, who had just made a big housing speech, as a conjuror producing a 100,000 beautiful cottages for labourers for nothing, that of Mr. Lloyd George making a pilgrimage to the shrine of the Arch-Druid to make thank-offerings for not having been called upon to fulfil his pledge to conquer unemployment in a year, that of the same right hon. Gentleman leading an army of Cobdenites and Clydesiders to the sack of Lombard Street, the jibe that he had created most of the "money barons" he attacked last week, the charge that the Prime Minister had dissolved his private all-party Committee on Unemployment Insurance because it "got near the meat"—all these and a dozen other happy hits did indeed "get near the meat" and kept the House thoroughly happy for over an hour. Whether they served any more constructive purpose seems more doubtful. Certainly they took the shine out of Mr. Lloyd George's effort later in the same evening, which was not anything like on the same level of his Lombard Street speech of the previous week.

Lady Iveagh, who speaks seldom, made a thoughtful speech which dealt specially on the inadequacy of the provision made

¹ "Contracting out" means that a spouse or children accept during the life-time of the other spouse or parent a settlement or other provision in respect of which they agree to give up their rights under the Bill.

that if it is known that the law insists on certain provisions being made in a will, then it is unlikely that wills will be drawn deliberately contravening these provisions. The suggestion that contracting out is not allowed in the Bill is contrary to the truth, and could only have been due to a careless perusal. As regards the difficulty of winding up estates, this has to be met daily with regard to all intestate estates, on the law relating to which Miss Rathbone's Bill was partly modelled.

Miss Rathbone had among her supporters both Mrs. Hamilton and Miss Picton-Turbervill, Mrs. Hamilton contributing a speech of real beauty and power which raised the whole discussion to a higher plane, Miss Picton-Turbervill putting forward valuable points which had hitherto not been raised.

The Solicitor-General, who obviously had not had time to realize certain sections of the Bill, stated that the Government was neutral, but would give the Joint Select Committee if the House so wished. The promoters of the Bill realized as clearly as its opponents that there is no time for the Bill to be passed into law this session. They hoped, however, for a Joint Select Committee of both Houses (which they successfully obtained), as they felt that the searching inquiry and revision which the Bill would thus receive, would result in a Bill which would be both practicable and acceptable, and which could be introduced in one or other of the Houses next session. Lord Astor will be introducing this Bill into the House of Lords shortly.

for training schemes for young persons and for women. She spoke with real feeling of the gravity of the unemployment evil as it affects "young people who have grown to maturity and who are still growing to maturity." Did she perhaps, in this connection, let her mind dwell for a moment on the effect on adolescent unemployment of her party's rejection of the Education Bill, which by keeping the older children at school might have been expected to find more room in industry for their elder brothers and sisters than could ever be found through Government training schemes.

Actually while Lady Iveagh was speaking the Education Bill was in fact receiving its *coup de grace* in "another place." It is surprising how relatively little attention debates in the Lords receive from the outside public. Yet on full-dress occasions they are well worth listening to. The surroundings are richer and more stately than in the House of Commons, the speaking also more stately, more measured, and much less frequently interrupted. Yet from the serried rows of Conservative peers who face the sparsely filled Government benches there did arise not infrequent rumblings of dissent. Their ire was specially roused by Lord Ponsby's charge, in his opening speech, that their Lordships had always opposed the improved education of the people because their ignorance made it easier to keep them in subjection. Perhaps this was hardly tactful, but the fate of the Bill was so completely predetermined that he probably thought caution unnecessary. Anyhow, he did not get out of it very happily by saying, when challenged, that his remark referred only to previous generations. In that case, as Lord Hailsham rejoined, where was its relevance to the present issue? The ablest opposition to the Bill came from Lord Hailsham, who as the son of the late Quintin Hogg of Polytechnic fame, could claim that he at least had no hereditary antipathy to education. The most interesting speech on either side was that of the Archbishop of York, who also reminded us that he was his father's son and had thus an inherited interest. He can hardly be said to have spoken for or against the Bill, for he was exceedingly critical of its provisions, while deprecating the rejection of the Second Reading. His proposal that the Bill should be made to embody a religious concordat, should be relieved of the maintenance grant provisions and should defer still later the agreed date, aroused much interest and some speculations as to whether the Lords would reconsider their rejection. Perhaps the Government would scarcely have been grateful to them had they done so, since the raising of the school age unaccompanied by maintenance allowances, could not have been accepted by their party. The vote, however, showed no weakening and the Bill was rejected by the enormous majority of 168 to 22, in good time for the backwoodsmen who had crowded up from the country to repair to their clubs for dinner.

THE STERILIZATION OF DEFECTIVES.

By MARJORIE U. WELFARE, Secretary, Central Association for Mental Welfare.

In her article in THE WOMAN'S LEADER of the 20th February, Mrs. Hodson said that the Eugenics Society was "working full steam ahead for the legislation of voluntary Eugenic Sterilization." Some people may think, with reason, that the term "voluntary sterilization" as applied to mental defectives, has no meaning, but I will not dwell on this point, and in this article will be summarized the main arguments which have been advanced by persons with practical knowledge and experience of the problems of mental deficiency, against the introduction of any such legislation until far more scientific data concerning the real causes of mental defect and subnormality have been collected and studied.

The publication of the "Wood Report" in 1929, aroused public interest in this question, showing as it did that the number of defectives in this country was estimated to be almost double that ascertained by the Royal Commission on the Feeble Minded twenty years previously; the estimated number of defectives in the community was, according to Dr. Lewis, the investigator, 300,000, or approximately 8 per 1,000 of the total population. Even whilst one recognizes that this is very largely a "paper" increase due to more thorough ascertainment, it must be acknowledged to be a very large proportion, and it is only natural that the question of the prevention of any increase in the incidence of mental deficiency should occupy the minds of those concerned for the future of the race; it is also only natural that sterilization, which at first sight would appear to be a simple and easy method of tackling the problem, should be advocated by a section of the public.

There are, however, two groups among those favouring sterilization, i.e. those who advocate wholesale sterilization, and those who press for what has been termed "selective sterilization." In the first group are those who have given the matter no real thought, who have no practical experience of the problem, and who imagine that if all defectives were sterilized there would be little or no defect in the next generation, with the accompanying saving to the country of huge sums of money at present expended on institutions and other services for the care and control of mentally defective persons. At one time this was the general attitude and undoubtedly persons holding this opinion do still exist, but in large measure they are gradually giving way to the second group who advocate "selective sterilization," for which the Eugenics Society and others interested are pressing to-day.

The adoption of a measure of "selective sterilization" would mean that the operation would be restricted to a selected number of defectives who have had training and treatment in institutions; this is the case in California, where a measure of sterilization has been put into effect. Some 7,000 cases have been operated on in that State, but of these only between 1,500 and 1,600 were mentally defective. On the figures given by the superintendents of big institutions in the United States, it is estimated that not more than 20 per cent of ordinary institution cases might safely be discharged after sterilization; superintendents in this country, however, probably in view of the fact that standards of certification are different, and that American institutions contain some very high-grade defectives who would not be certified in this country, estimate that not more than from 3 per cent to 5 per cent of the institution population might safely be sterilized and allowed to leave the institutions. The superintendent of one very large institution has recently stated that he would not place the figure higher than 1 per cent. In this country, then, "selective sterilization" would touch an exceedingly small number of active cases.

Everyone is agreed that it is imperative that some means should be found, if possible, to prevent, or at any rate to lessen, as far as possible, the growing burden of mental defect, and any measure which would work towards this end should have the serious consideration of thinking people. The main question then appears to be: "What will sterilization do towards the prevention or lessening of mental defect?" The Eugenics Society makes the definite claim that if all mental defectives could be prevented from having children, the number of defectives in the country would be halved in about three generations. As Dr. Tredgold has pointed out, if this assertion were correct, it would afford a very strong argument in favour of sterilization, but there appears to be no scientific and authoritative evidence on which it can be justified. Dr. Tredgold, who is recognized as the leading authority in this matter, states that in his opinion

not more than 4 per cent to 5 per cent of defectives are produced by defective parents; but he states frankly that it is only an opinion based on years of practical experience... there has been no scientific research to confirm that opinion. Medical men of experience are, however, satisfied that the percentage is very small, and that percentage, whatever it may be, is the extent to which the number of defectives would have been lessened had all defectives been sterilized a generation ago, and the extent to which it would be lessened in the future if all defectives of this generation were so treated. Further inquiry is urgently needed on this point before the public should be asked to consent to any measures legalizing sterilization as a means of reducing the incidence of mental deficiency.

Further data is also required with regard to the claim that sterilization will greatly lessen the cost of defectives to the community. This again is extremely doubtful, for whilst the cost of defectives in institutions is known, and is undoubtedly a great financial burden on the community, there are no figures to show their cost outside institutions, though it is a well-known fact amongst all social workers that defectives are in the vast majority of cases always in need of some degree of care, supervision, and control, and are in one way or another a burden, both socially and economically, on the country. With adequate care and supervision a large number are able to lead harmless, controlled lives in the community, but the public must recognize that the provision of social services to ensure this must necessitate expenditure of public funds.

But even if it were allowed that such a small reduction as from 4 per cent to 5 per cent in the incidence of mental deficiency justified the experiment of sterilization, those best qualified to judge are of opinion that it would involve very definite difficulties and risks, and that in view of the very negligible benefits accruing from it, the running of those risks is not justified. Space will not allow of the elaboration of this point, but the main difficulties foreseen are: (i) the difficulty in the selection of cases suitable for living in the general community. Experience of guardianship and boarding out schemes has shown over and over again how high-grade cases, successful in the sheltered life of an institution, often fail hopelessly after even a short time in the outside world; (ii) the danger of the increase in the incidence of venereal disease owing to the presence of high-grade unstable defective girls and boys, known to be sterilized, in the community. (It is claimed as one of the merits of sterilization that it does not diminish sexual desire), and (iii) the difficulty of drafting regulations and safeguards which would successfully restrict the operation of sterilization to suitable cases.

It is also undoubtedly true that already some local authorities are holding up schemes for the provision of institutional accommodation, so urgently needed, in the hope that sterilization may be legalized, and such provision be made unnecessary. So far from delaying, Local Authorities should be urged to press on the provision of accommodation, so that this effect of the propaganda in favour of immediate legislation is a most disastrous one, and much to be deplored.

The Council of the Central Association for Mental Welfare, which is representative of practically all bodies, statutory and voluntary, concerned with the care of defectives, are convinced that before any preventive measures of real value can be taken, it is essential to have complete and accurate data regarding the many factors concerned in causation, and they are therefore concentrating upon an endeavour to secure, as soon as circumstances permit, the appointment of an authoritative inquiry "into the causation of mental deficiency, into its relationship to other abnormal mental conditions and social problems, and into any measures, including both segregation and sterilization, by which it might be prevented." Literature and copies of a resolution which has been forwarded to the appropriate Government Departments on this matter may be obtained from the offices of the Central Association for Mental Welfare, 24 Buckingham Palace Road, S.W. 1.

Note.—This article has not attempted to deal with the objections to sterilization which might be raised on religious or ethical grounds, but these exist and would carry weight with a very large section of the community in the event of any attempt to secure legislation authorizing sterilization.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

The Annual Meeting of the National Council of Women is to take place at Aberdeen this year, during the week beginning 15th June. The Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair will entertain the delegates at an afternoon garden party.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS.

By BERTHA MASON.

"ELECTORS, WE PRAY YOU, USE YOUR VOTES!"

Within a week from the time this article appears in print, the 1931 elections for County Councils will be over.

The selection of candidates has taken place. Nominations are over. Withdrawals from the contest are no longer possible.

One duty, however, perhaps the most important of all, is not yet accomplished, viz. the duty of electing men and women to serve on the Councils for the coming three years. This duty can only be performed by Local Government electors whose names are on the Electoral Register.

There are millions of such electors (in many places women are in the majority).

To these women and men will be given next week the opportunity of showing their approval or disapproval of the way in which the affairs of their respective counties have been conducted during the past three years.

Upon these women and men will devolve the responsibility and duty of choosing the men and women in whose hands for the coming three years will be vested the administration of the affairs of their respective counties, and the spending of the money contributed for those affairs in the form of rates.

Duties of County Councillors.

In our article of 13th September, we gave a list of the duties and functions of County Councils. A brief examination of that list shows how closely these duties are concerned with the well-being of the people from infancy to old age, and how seriously the health, the happiness and the morality of the community may suffer by an inadequate and careless fulfilment of those duties.

Electoral Apathy.

In view of the important, varied and ever-increasing duties and responsibilities devolving upon County Councillors and other local authorities, it seems little short of disastrous that so little interest is taken in the work of local government, and that so few people, comparatively, take the trouble to discharge their electoral responsibilities.

In the 1928 election for the London County Council, 35 per cent only of the electors took the trouble to go to the polling booths, and in some constituencies the percentage was much lower. In Brixton, for instance, it was only 19.6; in Holborn 25.1; in Hampstead 25.2; in Kensington North 26.9; in North Islington 27.1; in the Abbey Division of Westminster 27.5.

This lack of interest was not peculiar to London. The same apathy prevailed in the provinces.

Into the reasons for this neglect of civic duty and responsibility we cannot now enter, but that it exists is a well-known fact.

One has only to compare the total poll at Parliamentary elections with the total poll cast at elections for Local Government authorities to realize the truth of this assertion.

Importance of Local Government Work.

It is true that to Parliament is entrusted the business of law-making; that the duties of Members of Parliament, if properly carried out, are heavy, and involve long hours, great vigilance, and much patience.

This is admitted by most people.

But it is also and equally true in regard to Local Government matters that if Parliament makes the laws, the administration of those laws on which depend in no small measure, the public health, the education, the safety, the comfort, the morality of millions, is placed in the hands of local authorities.

If local government electors, if the community generally, and women in particular, only realized and grasped this fact, they would, we are persuaded, critically examine the character, and the suitability, of the various candidates who claim their support and exercise, without fail, their votes as opportunity arises.

Importance of the Coming Elections.

The elections which will take place next week are more important perhaps than any which have yet taken place—and for two reasons.

(1) County Councils control the expenditure of vast sums of public money.

Never since these authorities were established has the need for economy and wise expenditure of public money been more urgent than it is to-day.

(2) Questions of momentous and far-reaching importance concerning public health, education, safety, relief, housing and

economy will have to be faced and decided by the new Councils, the members of which will be elected next week for good, or for evil, by women as well as by men.

Never has the need for an adequate number of suitable women Councillors with vision and some knowledge and experience of the matters which will arise, been more urgent than it is to-day.

Appeal.

It is not our business to tell women how to vote, but we can and do make an appeal—we can and do urge all women electors between now and the polling day in their respective areas, if they have not yet done so:—

(1) To consider what kind of men and women they want to administer the local government of their respective counties.

(2) To study the individual views of the candidates as set forth in their election addresses and speeches.

(3) To learn, if candidates have been on the Council already, as much as they can of their record and work during their term of office.

(4) To make themselves acquainted with the personal character, and suitability of all candidates standing for election.

Then, having done so:—

(5) To put aside all personal and party political considerations, and support on the polling day those candidates who seem most likely to promote the highest interests of the community.

Women, once again, we pray you—Use your Votes.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

5TH MARCH, 1931.

The names of the following women candidates have been received:—

(* Indicates standing for re-election.)

Division.	Candidate.
Battersea, N.	Mrs. Usher (Comm.).
Battersea, W.	Dr. Sophia Jevons (Lib.).
	*Mrs. Lowe, J.P. (Lab.).
	*Mrs. Salter, J.P. (Lab.).
Bethnal Green, N.E.	Mrs. R. Keeling (Lab.).
	*Mrs. Nathan (Lib.).
Bethnal Green, S.E.	Miss Hilda Browning (Lab.).
Bethnal Green, S.W.	Mrs. McNulty (Lab.).
Camberwell, N.	*Miss Agnes Dawson, J.P. (Lab.).
Chelsea	Miss Enid Goulden Bach (Lib.).
Fulham, E.	*Dame Beatrix Lyall, J.P., M.R.
Fulham, W.	Miss Monica Whately (Lab.).
Hackney, N.	*Mrs. E. Emmet, M.R.
Hackney Central	*Miss Adler, J.P. (Lib.).
	Dr. O'Brien Harris (Lab.).
Hammersmith, N.	*Mrs. Gardner (Lab.).
	Miss Moyra Goff, M.R.
Hampstead	Miss Homfray (Lib.).
Islington, N.	*Miss Rosamond Smith, M.R.
Islington, S.	Mrs. Tate, M.R.
Kensington, S.	*Miss C. Keeling, J.P., M.R.
Brixton	Mrs. Hindle (Lab.).
	Mrs. Warren (Lib.).
Lambeth, N.	Mrs. Grey (Lab.).
	Miss Ida Samuel, J.P. (Lib.).
Norwood	Mrs. Anstey, J.P. (Lab.).
	Mrs. P. Worsthorne, M.R.
Lewisham, E.	Mrs. Wadham (Lab.).
Poplar, S.	Miss Nesta MacBeth, M.R.
	*Miss Ishbel MacDonald (Lab.).
St. Marylebone	*Dr. Adeline Roberts, O.B.E., J.P., M.R.
St. Pancras, N.	Lady Cadman, M.R.
St. Pancras, S.E.	Mrs. Paul (Lib.).
Southwark, S.E.	*Dr. Stella Churchill (Lab.).
Stepney, Limehouse	*Ald. Mrs. C. B. Lankester, J.P., M.R.
	*Mrs. C. J. Mathews (Lab.).
Shoreditch	Mrs. H. Girling, J.P. (Lab.).
Balham and Tooting	Lady Stewart (Lab.).
Central	Mrs. Godfrey (Lab.).
Westminster, St. George's	Dr. Barrie Lambert, C.B.E., M.R.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER
EVERY FRIDAY. TWOPENCE.

SPECIAL TERMS FOR SOCIETIES

Send 10/10 to the Office of the Paper, 4 Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W. 1
2/9 for Three Months. SUBSCRIBE TO-DAY.

COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS, 1931.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

(* Indicates standing for re-election.)

County.	Name of Candidate.
Buckinghamshire :—	
Aylesbury	Mrs. Wise (Lab.).
Wolverton	Mrs. Boyce (Ind.).
Cumberland :—	
Whitehaven	Mrs. James McGowan (Ind.).
Workington	*Mrs. Tredale (Ind.).
	*Mrs. Mason (Ind.).
	Mrs. Skelton (Lab.).
Cambs :—	
Cambridge	Mrs. Carter (Lab.).
	Mrs. Clover (Lab.).
	Mrs. Foister (Lab.).
	*Mrs. Rackham, J.P. (Lab.).
	Mrs. Suttle (Con.).
Cornwall :—	
Truro	Mrs. Harcourt Williams (Ind.).
Devon :—	
Derbyshire :—	
Belper	Mrs. Jack Lees.
Durham :—	
Bishop Auckland	Mrs. E. Roberts (Lab.).
Spennymoor	*Mrs. E. Royston (Lab.).
Tanfield	*Mrs. S. J. Mason (Lab.).
Whickham	Mrs. Thomson (Lab.).
Essex :—	
Colchester	*Mrs. Alderton, J.P. (Ind.).
	Miss Emily Digby (Lab.).
Ely, Isle of	Mrs. Emery (Lab.).
	Mrs. Frost (Lab.).
Kent :—	
Bromley	*Mrs. Chalmers (Ind.).
Middlesex :—	
Acton	*Mrs. Barnes, J.P.
	Mrs. Carlsson (Lab.).
Edmonton	Mrs. Benton (Lab.).
	Mrs. Darling (Con.).
	*Mrs. Ithell (Lab.).
	*Mrs. Rothwell (Ind.).
	Mrs. Young (Lab.).
Golders Green and Garden Suburb Southgate	Mrs. How Martyn, D.Sc. (Lib.).
	*Mrs. Fairfield (Ind.).
Herts :—	
	Mrs. Bearman (Ind.).
Norfolk :—	
Cromer	*The Dowager Lady Suffield, J.P. (Ind.).
	Mrs. T. A. Cook.
Reepham	Mrs. E. G. Gooch (Ind.).
Wymondham	
Northumberland :—	
Belsay and Ponteland	Mrs. Walton (Lab.).
Wallsend	Mrs. Davidson (Ind.).
Nottinghamshire :—	
Beeston	Mrs. E. Littlewood (Con.).
Hucknall	Mrs. Cox (Lab.).
Kimberley	Mrs. Pugh (Lab.).
Suffolk, West :—	
Bury St. Edmunds	*Mrs. Greene, J.P.
Surrey :—	
Mitcham	Miss Farewell Jones (Ind.).
Wimbledon	*Mrs. Edward (Ind.).
	Miss Dorothy Carver (Ind.).

B.B.C. AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

At the request of the Local Government Committee of the N.U.S.E.C., the B.B.C. has arranged for Miss Macadam to speak on Wednesday, 4th March, at 6 o'clock. We are particularly glad that this opportunity has been given for the importance of the elections to all women to be stressed from an entirely non-party point of view.

THE KEY OF PROGRESS

A Survey of the Status and Conditions of Women in India

By SEVERAL CONTRIBUTORS

With a Foreword by H.E. THE LADY IRWIN

Edited by A. R. CATON

Published by the Oxford University Press under the auspices of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

Price 7s. 6d. net.

OBITUARY.

MISS MARGARET BEAVAN.

The death of Miss Margaret Beavan at a comparatively early age, from pneumonia following influenza, will be deeply regretted by our readers. She acquired fame throughout this country, and indeed in other countries, as the first Lord Mayor of Liverpool in 1927, and more recently at the last general election when she put up what Mr. Baldwin called "an unusually gallant fight" in a difficult constituency in her own town. But her claim to distinction, and the gratitude of her fellow townsmen is based on the wider grounds of her notable record of life-long social service. When little more than a girl she interested herself in the welfare of children, especially cripple children, and was instrumental in forming the Liverpool Child Welfare Association nearly thirty years ago. This led to further provision for the needs of crippled and convalescent children, and the open-air hospital for children, a pioneer among hospitals, and other similar institutions, stand as lasting memorials of her astonishing resourcefulness and organizing ability. She continued her personal work for children when in later years her social work, as is so often the case, led her by natural stages into the sphere of politics, and she stood successfully in the Conservative interest for the City Council, mainly for the sake of her chosen work. When her civic career was crowned by the honour of the Mayoralty of her native city she characteristically took up residence in one of her own institutions (she lived herself in Hoylake) and the unique spectacle was seen of the Lord Mayor's coach daily at the door of a home for children, much to the delight of its little inmates. In the Lord Mayor's chair she was remarkably successful. The writer well remembers one occasion when, after her visits to France and Italy in her official capacity, the Labour Party objected to the civic regalia having left the city and her exchange of compliments with Mussolini, she took the attack with perfect good humour and dignity. It was to be expected that during her period of office the Town Hall came a social centre for many hitherto unfamiliar with its splendours. She entertained on a large scale but simply and unostentatiously large numbers of her friends in all classes of the community, including, if our memory is correct, domestic servants.

During the visits abroad alluded to above, she was not only received by Signor Mussolini, but in Milan was presented with the gold medal of the city; on her way home she represented Liverpool at a memorial ceremony at Givenchy-lès-la-Bassée, the village adopted by Liverpool after the Armistice. In 1928 she became a member of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into police methods, a task which her long experience as a Justice of the Peace and of social work generally, eminently qualified her.

But with all her manifold activities and deserved honours, it is as "the little mother of the Merseyside" that she will be remembered by thousands of children, some now grown to maturity, who owe to her their recovery to health and the opportunities of a useful life. Our readers will join us in our expression of sympathy with Miss Beavan's family, especially her sister, Miss Jessie Beavan.

WHERE TO GO IN LONDON.

Theatres.

Ambassadors. "To See Ourselves," by E. M. Delafield. 8.30 (Monday excepted); Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, 2.30.

Criterion. "After All," by John van Druten. 8.30; Tues., Sat., 2.30.

Duchess. "Jane's Legacy," by Eden Phillpotts. 8.30; Wednesdays and Thursdays, 2.30.

Haymarket. "Hamlet," all-star cast. 8 p.m.; Wednesday and Saturday, 2.30. *All seats bookable in advance.*

Lyric. "Strange Interlude," by Eugene O'Neill. 6 p.m. (dinner interval, 8-9 p.m.).

Lyric, Hammersmith. "Tantivy Towers," by A. P. Herbert. 8.30; Wednesdays and Saturdays, 2.30.

Queen's. "The Barretts of Wimpole Street," 8.15; Wednesdays and Saturdays, 2.30. *Book early.*

Sadler's Wells. 7.45, Opera.

The Old Vic. 7.45, "Arms and the Man."

Exhibitions.

Scottish Art Loan Exhibition, 27 Grosvenor Square, W. 1. 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sundays, 2.30. Admission, 2s. 6d. (Fridays, 1s. 6d.).

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: Mrs. CORBETT ASHEY.

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. VAN GRUISEN. Hon. Secretary: Mrs. RYLAND.

General and Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HORTON.

Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1. Telephone: Victoria 6188.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING—11th-13th MARCH.

The programme for the Annual Council Meeting, which will be held at King George's Hall, Central Y.M.C.A. (entrance Caroline Street, off Russell Street, Tottenham Court Road), will be as follows:—

Wednesday, 11th March.

2 to 5 p.m. *Business Session*: Presidential Address.
8.45 p.m. *Reception*, King's College for Women, Campden Hill, W. 8. Songs: Madame Milva.

Thursday, 12th March.

10 a.m. till 12.45 p.m.; 2 p.m. till 5 p.m. *Business Sessions*.

Friday, 13th March.

10 a.m. till 12.45 p.m. *Business Session*.
1 p.m. Criterion Restaurant, *Public Luncheon*. Speakers: The Countess of Iveagh, M.P., Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P.

3 p.m. till 5 p.m. *Conference* for Townswomen's Guild delegates (by request).

The *Agenda* for the Council is now published, and copies price 7d. post free, may be obtained on application from Headquarters. The resolutions cover a wide range of subjects, many of them of exceptional interest, and not a few promising much discussion. Matters of immediate concern, such as Peace and Unemployment, naturally find their place, and Bills before Parliament which very specially concern women, such as Nationality of Married Women, Wills and Intestacies (Family Maintenance) (England and Wales), and Sentence of Death (Expectant Mothers), are all included. Several resolutions deal with various aspects of maternal health, and women in Local Government will, of course, be a subject for discussion, particularly as so many local elections are due to take place this year.

Visitors will be welcome at the Council Meetings and at the functions in connection with it, and all interested are invited to apply for further particulars and for tickets to the Secretary, at 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1. For those attending the Council at a distance, vouchers for reduced railway fares (return for a single and a third) are available, if application is made to Headquarters. The price of visitors' tickets are: Council meeting, 9d. per session, 2s. 6d. for four sessions; Reception, 2s. 6d.; Luncheon, 5s., for N.U.S.E.C. members, 7s. 6d. non-members.

PERSONAL.

MISS FULFORD.

All her friends in the National Union will wish to join in congratulating most heartily Miss Fulford on her election as an Alderman of the London County Council. Since the 1929 Local Government Act came into force, and in consequence the Boards of Guardians ceased to exist, Miss Fulford has served in the most difficult area of London—covering the City, Stepney, and Southwark—as Chairman of No. 1 Area Committee for the administration of public assistance. Her long experience as a Poor Law Guardian and as Chairman for some years of the Fulham Board of Guardians, added to her own special qualities for the work, has made her administration during the last year exceptionally valuable, and we are very glad indeed that her untiring services should have been thus recognized. Her seat on the Council will afford her yet wider opportunities for public service, and we congratulate the County Council on its choice.

MISS IDA DUNCAN.

We heartily congratulate Miss Duncan who, for over a year, has organized our Townswomen's Guild Appeal, on her appointment, along with two other women, as a Commissioner under the Mental Treatments Act, 1930. It is a matter of general rejoicing that a woman barrister should have been appointed, there being no compulsion under the Act for the legal Commissioners to include women, and we are particularly glad that the choice should have fallen on Miss Duncan, who was one of the first women to be called to the Bar, and has created a high reputation for herself in the profession. We wish her every success in her new office.

CORRESPONDENCE.

EUGENIC STERILIZATION.

MADAM,—May I supplement Mrs. Hodson's interesting article in last issue by a short summary of some additional arguments in support of voluntary sterilization of unfit persons and more especially of mental defectives? I base my advocacy of the proposals on the undoubted fact that sterilization is the *only* means by which birth control can be brought about in that section of the population too degraded mentally, morally or physically to be able to or wish to take the trouble to use contraceptive methods, which at present all require at least a minimum of care, cleanliness, and foresight on the part of their users. It is generally admitted that, as the use of contraceptive methods has not and cannot reach this lowest strata of the population, that they are producing relatively a far larger number of children than are the classes where offspring inherit qualities of value to the nation. They are indeed growing in numbers both absolutely and relatively, which means that the quality of our race is inevitably deteriorating. It is also almost universally admitted that in some way or other mental defect is inherited, though not necessarily directly from the parent. It has recently been shown that the feeble-minded (high grade defectives)—who comprise 75% of the total number (of approximately 300,000), and who are those most likely to marry as idiots and imbeciles cannot do so—tend to spring from a group consisting of those who, though not necessarily themselves defective, are sub-normal and in many cases "carriers" of mental defect. Thus they "include a larger proportion of insane persons, epileptics, paupers, criminals, unemployable, habitual, slum dwellers, prostitutes and other social inefficient" than would a group of families not including mental defectives." Although, therefore, it is not proposed at this juncture to offer the opportunity for sterilization to those other than mental defects, to sterilize these would undoubtedly reduce the incidence not only of feeble-mindedness but also of other social evils. For although a proportion of the feeble-minded themselves come from the normal population, they themselves rarely have children free from some defect. Sterilization is a harmless operation; in the case of both men and women it leaves unaffected all sexual functions and sensations save the power of conception. In the case of men it is a very small affair; in the case of women medical research is evolving equally simple methods.

Sterilization is suggested as an addition and not as an *alternative* to the segregation of mental defects in institutions, but even the Board of Control only asks for accommodation for 100,000 of the 300,000 defects, as the others are able to live some sort of a life outside. At present, however, there is only accommodation in institutions for about 25,000; the rest are outside and their child-bearing members together with the child-bearing proportion of the remaining 200,000 are propagating their kind or other types of sub-normality at a far quicker rate than the rest of the population are themselves adding to the numbers of the nation.

EVA M. HUBBACK.

19 Wellgarth Road, N.W. 11.

WOMEN ON THE LAND.

MADAM,—Lady Astor in her speech in the House of Commons on 12th February made a plea to the Minister of Agriculture to consider definite training for women workers on the land at the already existing institutions.

The Minister of Agriculture disburses annually large sums in capital and maintenance expenditure on research stations, agricultural colleges, farm institutes, etc., the whole forming a large and expensive network over England and Wales. It is obvious that at agricultural colleges and farm institutes, where stock, land, and equipment are already available, much might be done by providing temporary accommodation for trainees. Is it not important that in the interests of efficiency as well as of economy every effort should be made by the Minister of Agriculture to utilize existing resources for the training of women (or men) in agriculture to the full, before inviting another department (Ministry of Labour) to set up new and costly machinery for this purpose as proposed in the Land Utilization Bill?

Lady Astor's demand for the training of unemployed women for agricultural work on the right lines cannot be disregarded. The latest figures show that there are 672,298 women registered unemployed, of which number the Central Committee offers training to about 4,000 a year. The difficulty of finding alternative work is enormous, but it is a problem which has to be faced, especially for the large number of textile workers. The fact that the census returns show 101,000 women as working on the land indicates they play no small part in the industry already. Surely then, all parties in the House of Commons would do well to press for and to realize the importance of giving a considerable number of the 672,000 unemployed women a chance of training for work on the land. In the way Lady Astor suggests, the Government can encourage and facilitate the entry of women into agriculture without adding unduly to the taxpayers' burdens.

M. WINTRINGHAM.

Little Grimsby Hall,
Louth, Lincs.

COMING EVENTS.

B.B.C.
Tuesdays: 10.45-11 a.m. "Family Budgets," by representative Housewives. 3rd March: "A Business Girl."
Tuesdays: 7.25. The Census. 3rd March: "The Actuary and the Census."
Wednesdays: 10.45-11 a.m. 4th March: The Week in Westminster, Lady Iveagh.
Wednesday, 4th March: 6 p.m. Miss Macadam: "Local Government."
Wednesdays: 7.25 p.m.: "The Health of the Worker."
Saturdays: 10.45-11 a.m. Mrs. Oliver Strachey: "Books about People."
FABIAN SOCIETY (WOMEN'S GROUP).
4th March. 8 p.m. Caxton Hall, S.W. Miss Naomi Jacob: "The Actress." Chair: Miles Malleson, Esq.
MORLEY COLLEGE FOR WORKING MEN AND WOMEN.
 61 Westminster Bridge Road, S.E. "Science To-day and To-morrow." 3rd March. Professor Winifred Cullis: "Physiology."
NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MENTAL HYGIENE.
5th March. 5.15 p.m. 11 Chandos Street, W. 1. Dr. Potts: "Psychology of Punishment."

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.
11th-12th-13th March. Annual Council Meeting, King George's Hall, Great Russell Street, W.C. 1.
Wednesday, 11th March. 2-5 p.m. Business Session. 8.45 p.m., Reception King's College for Women, Campden Hill.
Thursday, 12th March. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Business Session.
Friday, 13th March. 10 a.m.-12.45 p.m., Business Session. 1 p.m., Public Luncheon, Criterion Restaurant. 3 p.m.-5 p.m., Townswomen's Guild Conference. Tickets from 15 Dean's Yard. All sessions open to the public.

PERSIAN ART EXHIBITION.
To 7th March. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Royal Academy.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.
5th March. 4.30 p.m. Minerva Club, Brunswick Square. Dr. O. Lewin: "Civic Responsibilities."
28th February. 7.30-11.45 p.m. Caxton Hall, S.W. 1. Dance in aid of Funds.

TYPEWRITING.

M. McLACHLAN and N. WHITWAM—
 TYPISTS.—4 Chapel Walk, Manchester. Tel. 3402 City.

MISS HOBBS, 121 Beaufort Street, Chelsea, S.W. 3.—Typewriting, Shorthand, and Longhand Service; visiting, with or without machine; arrangement by correspondence.

TO LET AND WANTED.

VEGETARIAN Guest House; ¼ hour by tram from centre of Bath; central heating; large garden; fine views; boating and bathing in River Avon.—Misses Tollemache, Bath.

ENGLISHWOMAN offers ideal home in charming country villa; every comfort; central heating and English fires; large garden and park; terms moderate; excellent references.—Villa "La Fauvette", Petit Saconnex, Geneva.

WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA.—Premier Private Hotel (Mrs. Farnsworth), 114 Hamlet Court Road. Highly recommended.

SUPERIOR Bed-Sittingrooms, with full or partial board; good cooking, comfort, cleanliness; phone, bath; Notting Hill district.—Write, Box 1,615, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

CORNISH COAST.—To let for Easter holidays, charming modern house, facing magnificent sea view; 5 bedrooms, 2 sitting-rooms, bath, w.c.; rent £5 5s. weekly (including plate and linen).—Box 1,618, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

PROFESSIONAL Lady (young) seeks unfurnished rooms in another's flat, with service.—Apply, Box 1,620, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

EALING.—Bed-Sittingroom, comfortably furnished, to let to lady; school teacher preferred; meals by arrangement; bath.—Apply, Miss Ffolliott, 41 Rathgar Avenue, Ealing.

MRS. HUBBACK recommends furnished house, beautiful part Skye coast; 5 bedrooms, 2 sittingrooms; bathing, fishing, walking; very low rent.—Write Campbell, Table View, Cudmore, Hartosh, Dunegan, Skye.

WEST DULWICH.—Accommodation for young business lady; private house; convenient town; meals as desired; moderate terms.—Phone, Brixton 6019.

FURNISHED Bed-Sittingrooms, with breakfast, 22s. 6d. and 32s. 6d.; partial board if desired; very central.—Box 1,614, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

POST WANTED.

AU Pair.—Mrs. Corbett Ashby would like to hear of English family willing to take French girl (18) for three months (June-August); Professor's daughter; anxious to learn English; French in exchange.—Write, Mme Professeur Laville, Lycée Perier, Boulevard Perier, Marseille.

PROFESSIONAL.

INCOME TAX RECOVERED AND ADJUSTED. Consult Miss H. M. Baker, 275 High Holborn, W.C. 1. Income Tax Returns, Super Tax Returns, Repayment Claims of all descriptions. Telephone: Holborn 0377.

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

SECOND-HAND CLOTHING wanted to buy for cash; costumes, skirts, boots, underclothes, curtains, lounge suits, trousers, and children's clothing of every description; parcels sent will be valued and cash sent by return.—Mrs. Russell, 100 Raby Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. (Stamped addressed envelope for reply.)

MISCELLANEOUS.

RECOMMENDED by Mrs. Oliver Strachey. Swiss family receives paying guests. Large comfortable house and garden near Lake of Geneva. French lessons arranged if desired. Mile Reitzel, le Prieuré, Tour-de-Peilz (Vevey).

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON AND NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 27 Marsham Street, Westminster. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey, Expert advice of what to do with your girls. Addresses to schools and societies in London and Provinces by arrangement.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 1st March: Miss Maude Royden.

HOME HELPS BUREAU, 190 Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W. 1, requires and supplies educated women for all domestic work. Holiday engagements. Registration: Employers, 2s. 6d.; workers, 1s. Suiting fee: Employers, 10s. 6d.; workers, 2s. 6d. (Victoria 5940.)

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.
 15 DEAN'S YARD, LONDON, S.W. 1

Edward Wright & Cavendish Bentinck Lending Libraries.

These two libraries contain some three thousand volumes, including sections on current political, economic and social matters of special interest to women as citizens, as well as a historical section of the Women's Movement, which dates back to the 15th Century. Boxes containing approximately 20 books are available for Societies, Study Circles, etc.

SCALE OF CHARGES

For individuals, 10s. 6d. per annum for two volumes per week, or 3d. per volume per week. Book-boxes 5s. per one month.
 For Societies of the N.U.S.E.C., 15s. per annum or 5s. per book-box per three months.
 For Societies other than those of the N.U.S.E.C., 25s. per annum, or 7s. 6d. per book-box per three months.

Inquiries should be addressed to the Honorary Librarian, at the above address.
 N.B.—Carriage both ways to be paid by the subscribers.

Charges for Prepaid Classified Advertisements INSERTION.

	One.	Three.	Six.	Thirteen.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
12 Words .	1 0	2 0	3 6	7 0
18 " .	1 6	3 0	5 3	10 6
24 " .	2 0	4 0	7 0	14 0
30 " .	2 6	5 0	8 9	17 6

Additional words at 1d. per word.
 Payment may be made by postage stamps. Postal Orders and Cheques should be drawn to The Common Cause Publishing Co., and crossed.
 If a copy of the paper is required, postage should be sent.
 Persons using a Box Office Number and requiring replies to be forwarded by post must send sixpence to cover expenses

THE WOMAN'S LEADER can be supplied direct from this Office for **2½d.** including postage. Send 10/10 to the Manager, WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W. 1 (Telephone Victoria 6188), and the paper will be sent to you at any address for a whole year. Persuade your friends to do the same.

Please send THE WOMAN'S LEADER to me for twelve months. I enclose 10/10.

Name.....
 Address.....