

# The Common Cause

The Organ of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

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*All MSS. and letters relating thereto should be addressed to the Editor, THE COMMON CAUSE, Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1. Telephone: Museum 2702.]*

## Notes and News.

### The Speakers in the Debate.

The illness of Lord Robert Cecil, which prevented him from taking part in the debate on the Sex-Disqualification (Removal) Bill, was a great blow to the supporters of equal opportunities for women. Lord Robert is one of the most convinced and ardent Parliamentary friends the Cause has ever had; and he brings to its aid not only eloquence, but a power of stinging retort and a capacity for laying bare matters that Ministers believe to be hid, which was signally displayed in the debate on this Bill at the end of last Session. He was to have moved several of the amendments, and his presence might have made an important difference to them. For one reason or another, the speakers in support of equal opportunities were few. An enormous proportion of the burden had to be taken up by Major Hills, who had cut short his holiday in Ireland, and travelled home as fast as trains and steamers would bring him, as soon as he heard that the Sex-Disqualification Bill was coming on. He spoke, we believe, on all the points in which organised women are interested, and put the case with strength, clearness, and passionate conviction which could not have been bettered. Sir Samuel Hoare had also hurried back from Ireland, and he took a vigorous part in the battle. Other supporters were Major Lloyd-Greame, Mr. Aneurin Williams, Major O'Neill, and Mr. Lyon. Too many of our friends were absent—or silent.

### Sex or Marriage.

Moving the insertion of the word "marriage" into the first clause of the Bill, so that it should read: "A person shall not be disqualified from sex or marriage from the exercise of any public function, or from being appointed to any civil or judicial office or post, or from entering or assuming any civil post or vocation, &c.," Major Hills expressly stated that he meant it to refer to the rule in the Civil Service which forces women to retire on marriage. He said that the only grounds on which this rule could be defended would be those of the interests of the State, or of the woman, or of her family. As far as the State was concerned, so long as the woman served it properly, she ought to be entitled to carry on her work after being married, as well as before being married. It was well known that in private occupations married women formed the very best servants of their employers, why should not the same rule be applied to public

services? "Then, as far as the woman herself is concerned, it is well-known that the rule acts with very great hardship: it is hard that she should be put to the difficult choice either of not marrying a man whom she wants to marry, or of giving up her employment." Meeting the statement that this rule was imposed in the interests of children, he said: "I wish to be quite sure that it is; I am not at all sure that behind the exclusion of married women there is not a certain wish to restrict competition, and preserve for men places which women have filled in the past. I am sure that in a question of this sort great weight should be given to the view of the women themselves; all the women's organisations, who certainly have got the interests of women and children very deeply at heart, support the removal of this bar." The Solicitor-General, however, seemed quite unable to agree with the view that women might be the best judges about this rule. The old idea of protection was too strong in his mind.

### The Case of Mrs Dickie.

Major O'Neill, supporting the cause of equal opportunities for women in the Civil Service, quoted an interesting example of opposition offered by a Government Department to the admission of women on the same basis as men. The Ministry of Health Act provided that the National Insurance Commissioners for Ireland should be established and placed upon a permanent footing as Civil Servants. These Commissioners are "three men and one woman, a Mrs. Dickie, who is universally acknowledged to be one of the leading women Civil Servants in the United Kingdom. She has been in the Civil Service for years; she has risen to the high position of National Health Insurance Commissioner; and she has discharged her work with great ability and satisfaction to the Department by whom she is employed. When the question of the establishment of the Commissioners arose, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury stated on the Report stage of the Ministry of Health Bill that he was quite willing to place these appointments upon a permanent footing, but with regard to Mrs. Dickie that was impossible, owing to a regulation which precluded a married woman from such establishment; but he promised that she should be granted a term of some length. She could not be put on the same basis as the men simply because she was a married woman. Further than that, she is also suffering by reason of the fact that the Treasury, although they always pay her the same salary as the other Commissioners, will not give her the same pension as the male members of the Commission. That is a specific instance where a woman is suffering simply because she is a woman, and because she is a married woman."

### A Question of Dignity.

Major Lloyd-Greame was the prime mover in getting the Clause enabling Peeresses in their own right to sit in the House of Lords restored to the Bill. A good point in support of it was made by Mr. Aneurin Williams, who said that whereas in the House of Commons the women's point of view was represented by people who had been elected pledged to that point of view, and that it might at any moment be represented by women themselves, in the House of Lords it could *only* be represented by peeresses. The Solicitor-General appeared to think that the House of Commons had very little right to interfere in this matter; and he said more than once that it would best consult its own dignity, by leaving the whole thing to the House of Lords. The suggestion that they should not interfere in another place appeared, however, to raise the feelings of some Members, who had been little interested in the abstract justice of the question. They understood their dignity otherwise—or they preferred their rights to their dignity. In any case, they carried the amendment by 171 to 84 votes.

### Women as Jurors.

An amendment which Lord Robert Cecil was to have moved providing that the wife of a husband qualified to be appointed a Justice of the Peace or to serve as a juror, should herself be qualified for these offices, was ruled out of order. An interesting discussion took place later on the subject of juries. Major Hills moved to leave out the words giving power to a judge, "having regard to the nature of the case and the evidence to be given," to order the jury to be composed of men only or of women only, and also those exempting women from service on juries in certain kinds of cases. Major Hills was quite consistent in this. He believes that women should share the burdens, as well as the rights of men, and that if evil things are done in the world, women had better know about them as well as men. He was vigorously supported by Captain Elliot, who said: "I wish to remind this Committee that the actual facts of life are far worse and far more terribly hard on women than any of the things we can ask them to listen to. The attitude all along has been: 'Do not mention these things, but surround women, or certain women, with a rosy mist of words, and then you can do what you like with other women.' That is not the attitude with which we must go through the coming century, and while the present conventions may forbid us to bring certain evidence before mixed juries, it is a sham and it is not a protection to women. When you have swept away the shame of the streets, and when, if ever, we forbid women in hospitals to perform the revolting duties which they have to do, then we can come with clean hands and say: 'We do not want you to listen to certain rather unpleasant phrases'; but until we do that we have not the right to say: 'We wish to protect women.' Let us remember what hundreds of thousands of women are suffering in their bodies, things which we think we are doing something to remove by protecting their ears.' The House, however, was plainly not ready to leave off altogether protecting women from knowledge, and Major Hills ultimately withdrew the amendment.

### Borough Elections in the Provinces.

The London Borough Elections contain a possibility of drama which is absent from those of the rest of the country, for in the metropolitan boroughs the simultaneous re-election of the whole Council makes possible a complete reversal of policy in consequence of the election. In the country, where only a part of the Councils retired at once, the effect on policy of the greatly increased electorate cannot be so marked. Moreover, in the smaller boroughs, political considerations are less weighty than in large towns, and personalities play a larger part than parties or programmes. The nominations for provincial Borough Councils took place on Friday last, and a good many women candidates are before the electors, though not nearly so large a proportion as in London. Bradford, Winchester, Burton-on-Trent, Morecambe and Rye, are among the places which nominate women candidates for the first time. In Bradford there are fifty-four candidates for twenty-three vacancies, and five women are standing. In Bradford Moor Ward, Mrs. Clayton (Lab.) and Miss Vaughan (N.D.P.) are the only candidates, so that whatever happens a woman candidate must succeed. At Hyde, where nineteen candidates are contesting six seats, the Mayoress, Mrs. Mirfin, is standing as an Independent. Of the four women candidates, three, the *Manchester Guardian* states, are ex-Mayoresses. At Bolton four women are supported by the Women Citizens' Association, and three by the Co-operative party. At Halifax, Mrs. Burn, wife of the Vicar, and Miss Holdsworth, a co-opted member of the Education Committee, are standing, as well as Miss Alsop, well-known as a Liberal worker. The *Yorkshire Observer* states that "It is felt in many quarters that the women candidates may do surprisingly well," though this is their first appearance. It is odd to notice in a report of an election meeting, a male candidate recommending himself as "likely to do as well as any woman." At Leeds, North Ward, both candidates are women—Mrs. Beetham (Liberal), and Mrs. Candler (Labour).

### East and South.

At Norwich, the most distinguished of the three women candidates is the widow of Professor James Stuart, the friend and helper of Josephine Butler, to whom we owe the repeal of the C.D. Acts. This battle, it seems, is likely to be fought again on a new ground, and no one can better speak for women than Mrs. Stuart. Three Labour women are standing for Lowestoft; Mrs. Errington is the only woman nominated for King's Lynn. Mrs. Alderton, who is standing for Colchester, looks upon her candidature as good practice for a Parliamentary contest at the General Election. She is opposed by the Secretary of the

A.S.E., and is likely to have an uphill fight, though she is seeking re-election after a period of good service, and is supported by both the Liberal and Conservative parties. At Southwold, Mrs. G. G. Foster, a Poor Law Guardian and Hon. Sec. of the local branch of the N.U.S.E.C., is standing, though she is in her seventieth year. Mrs. Keynes is standing for the Cambridge Town Council, and a new candidate is Mrs. Rackham, whose recent experience as a Factory Inspector and Poor Law Guardian will be valuable assets to a body recognised as exceptionally enlightened. Her Chairmanship on several occasions of the Council of the N.U.W.S.S. exhibited her as an expert in the conduct of intricate and controversial public business. For Eastbourne also a Poor Law Guardian, Miss Gatliff, is a candidate with a very promising chance of success.

### Local Government Finance.

It is of extreme importance that women elected to Borough Councils should inform themselves upon matters of finance. Their experience in administering a family income, important and valuable as it is, does not furnish them with sufficient data to decide upon the financial rights and wrongs of a municipal programme demanding large capital expenditure only possible through heavy borrowings. Edinburgh, to take an example, must borrow four and a-half millions if it is to embark upon the projected schemes of the Board of Health, to reconstruct its tramways and to build the requisite housing accommodation, besides carrying on its routine administration. All these projects are desirable, even necessary, and will in the long run justify a large expenditure, and the same may be said of most of the outlay contemplated by other towns and recommended by candidates of all parties. Nevertheless, a choice must be made among reforms all desirable, all economical in the long run, and all in a sense urgent. The effects of public borrowing are too little understood either by men or women. Private persons are restrained from requesting loans by the wholesome reflection that they may not find it possible to repay them. Not so the local authority, which has only to think of paying the interest upon its borrowings, and rapidly loses its sense of proportion. To put it in a homely fashion, there seems little need to cut one's coat according to one's cloth when extra yards can be obtained for the asking, and the bill for them will not be presented for some years. In these circumstances a coat will not be likely to content us; we require a whole trousseau, and if we insist we can have it. But we shall make our outfit small if we realise that local borrowing not only entails an addition to the rates to furnish interest on loans; it also, in the case of housing, carries with it a rise in taxation to furnish the central governments' promised refund of a large proportion of local expenditure. What is more important, but much less evident is that borrowing raises prices of all kinds. Consequently, the municipality which embarks on several costly schemes at one time will find its original estimates for these constantly increasing, and the real incomes of its ratepayers constantly decreasing as the cost of living rises. And this process will continue for years before its schemes mature and begin to "pay in the long run." Finance is not a very easy subject, but it is one which women are quite competent to grasp, and our generation is fortunate in having it explained by such a master of clarity as Mr. Hartley Withers, whose series of monographs on credit, banking, and the foreign exchanges are within the reach of everybody. It has been said that women on local authorities are divided into two classes—cheeseparers and reckless borrowers—and while we think that the reproach applies to members of local bodies, both male and female, we would urge women candidates to make sure that they themselves do not deserve it. We have a magnificent programme, but we must begin it by degrees. Women candidates have explained to the electorate the means they are prepared to take to improve the living conditions of the whole country, and they will show themselves worthy of the confidence of the electors in choosing out of urgent reforms that which, in their particular locality, least bears postponement, and pressing that upon their colleagues.

### Oxford University and Degrees for Women.

It has given pleasure to women who have studied in Oxford to learn that, on the question of admitting women to membership of the University and to degrees at Oxford, the initiative has throughout been taken by the authorities of the University. In *The Oxford University Gazette* of October 22nd it is announced that the following decree will be proposed in Convocation on November 4th: "That the Burgesses of the University be requested to promote such Parliamentary legislation as may be necessary in order to ensure that the University has power to provide, if it shall think fit, by means of a Statute made by itself, for the matriculation of women and their admis-

sion to degrees and to other rights and privileges in the University" and a summary is given of various steps which have led up to this proposal.

### The History of the Question.

More than ten years ago—in June, 1909, the Hebdomadal Council resolved to bring before Congregation at an early date the question of admitting women to academic degrees upon the lines laid down in a recent memorandum on University Reform issued by the Chancellor of the University. Lord Curzon had urged that women should be admitted to degrees, but was not in favour of admitting them to membership of Convocation or Congregation or any of the governing bodies of the University. There were many other questions in the Chancellor's memorandum which had to be dealt with first, but ultimately a series of resolutions were adopted by Council in March, 1914, as the basis of a scheme, and on June 25th, 1917, a draft statute was provisionally approved by the Hebdomadal Council, of which the preamble ran: "Whereas it is expedient to provide that women may be matriculated and admitted to degrees in the University." Although the proposed statute has not been published, it is indicated that it would provide for the matriculation of women who are members of one of the recognised societies, that it deals with residence, discipline, academical dress, and with admission to courses of study, examinations, and to degrees, but that it would expressly exclude women from membership of Convocation, Congregation, Faculties, Boards of Studies, and from appointment as examiners in any examination for the B.A. degree.

### The Legal Power of the University.

In order that there might be no doubt as to the legal power of the University in this matter, the opinion of Counsel was taken. Mr. G. J. Talbot, K.C., and Sir John Simon were of opinion that the University had the power not only to provide for the matriculation of women and for their admission to degrees, but also to admit women members of the University to all or any of the positions from which they are excluded by the proposed statute. They recommended, however, that "for the avoiding of doubts" the University should obtain express Parliamentary sanction for what is proposed. It is in accordance with this advice that Convocation was to be asked on November 4th to request the University Burgesses to promote the necessary legislation. The clause added to the Sex-Disqualification Bill, in the House of Commons on October 27th, may, however, make this unnecessary. This clause provides that "nothing in the statutes or charter of any university shall be deemed to preclude the authorities of such university from making such provision as they shall think fit for the admission of women to membership thereof, or to any degree, right, or privilege therein or in connection therewith." So that when the Bill is through Parliament Oxford University will be certain of its power, and the question of the admission of women to its degrees and privileges will be entirely in its own hands.

### A Woman Conservative Candidate.

In accepting the invitation to contest the Sutton Division of Plymouth as the Unionist Coalition Candidate, Lady Astor becomes the second woman to stand for Parliament in the Conservative interest. The first was Mrs. Lucas, who, after the death of her husband, was invited to take his place as Unionist candidate for the Kennington Division, Lambeth, at the General Election last year. The seat for which Lady Astor is standing is, of course, rendered vacant by her husband's succession to the peerage, and the invitation was not in any way sought by her but was the voluntary act of the Conservative Executive. One of the factors working against the election of women to Parliament is their quite understandable tendency to stand under the label "Independent," and though one hopes that as women's influence on politics makes itself felt, this will cease to be a drawback, yet at the present time one is glad to see a woman candidate who will have all the support and assistance of party machinery.

### Courage and Confidence Needed.

At the Thanet bye-election also, a woman was asked to come forward as a candidate, but in this case Mrs. Hatfield, Chairman of the Thanet Guardians, decided not to offer herself for election, believing that she could do more useful work by continuing in her present position. Without in any way criticising Mrs. Hatfield's action, we yet feel that this case illustrates one of the chief factors militating against the best women coming forward as prospective Members of Parliament. It is certain that the most suitable women, women possessing experience, energy and devotion, have already mortgaged their time in the public service,

and the tendency will be to hold on to the work where they know they are useful instead of launching forth in the larger sphere. Women should guard against this danger, and find the necessary courage and confidence for the further step onward, in order that the most suitable women may be chosen for this all-important work.

### A Memorial to the Reparation Commission.

A party of eight representative English women now in Paris has presented to Sir John Bradbury, the English representative on the Reparation Commission, two memorials relating to the cession of milch cows by Germany and Austria under the Peace Treaty, and urging that the reparation in question shall be carried out on such lines as may not entail a vastly increased mortality amongst children. Mrs. Creighton (widow of the late Bishop of London and ex-President of the International Council of Women) presented a memorial signed by Lord Robert Cecil, Lords Crewe, Morley, Selborne and Lansdowne, Adeline, Duchess of Bedford, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, Cardinal Bourne, Dr. Clifford, the Chief Rabbi, several eminent doctors and business men, the Rt. Hon. Arthur Henderson, the Rt. Hon. J. R. Clynes, Sir Horace Plunkett, and other notable men and women. The memorial shows by quotations from the British White Paper (Cmd. 280) on Food Conditions in Germany that the deficiency of the milk supply in that country is already causing terrible suffering among children, and will become more serious still in the winter. One of the authors of this official report, Professor Starling, has since stated that for every litre of milk per day lost a baby will die; while another, Mr. A. P. McDougall, Chief Live Stock Commissioner for Scotland, says: "It is difficult to see how Germany can avoid a milk famine which will endanger the lives of children and mothers."

### An Alternative Suggestion.

The memorial presses upon the attention of the Reparation Commission the alternative to the cession of cows which Mr. McDougall suggests and Professor Starling supports—viz., that Germany should be allowed to pay for cows to be imported from abroad into France and Belgium; and points out that some 60,000 milch cows are at present being imported into France from America. Mrs. Creighton called attention to the names of representative religious and political leaders who have signed it. The postponement of the cession of the cows might, she hoped, avert the increase of despair and revolutionary feelings which would be consequent on the death of German children. The well-known educationalist, Miss Margaret McMillan, L.C.C., urged the importance of an international movement for child conservation. As the custodians of power, the Allies bore great responsibilities, and the saving of children, including those of enemy countries, lay at the basis of all work of real reconstruction. The second memorial, presented by Mrs. C. R. Buxton, had originated with the Fight-the-Famine-Council, and was signed by one hundred men and women well known in political, literary, and religious life.

### Registry Exchanges for Domestic Servants.

An attempt to deal with what is known as the servant problem is announced by the Ministry of Labour in their decision to arrange for co-operation between private registry offices and the Employment Exchanges for an experimental period of one year. By notifying the Exchanges of vacancies which they are unable to fill, the registry offices will widen the field for the women returning to domestic service, and will help them to get the best value for their qualifications. An added improvement is the arrangement that mistresses only shall pay the registration fee. The training classes which have been arranged by the Ministry of Labour in the various branches of domestic work will do much to encourage the right type of girl to go into service. At present there is a tendency to term "unskilled" every kind of housework—due, no doubt, to the mistaken impression that an instinct in domestic matters is a heaven-sent gift to all women. This, of course, is no more true than that all men are born soldiers, and the sooner an experienced domestic servant is looked on as a skilled worker, and is treated as such, the sooner the present difficulties will adjust themselves.

### Corrections.

In last week's issue we should have described Miss Ransom as "Chairman of all the sub-committees of the Local War Pensions Committee for Paddington." The local committee is itself a sub-committee to the central one in Bloomsbury; the Mayor is its chairman, and the committees of which Miss Ransom is chairman are appointed by it.

## "IN SHORT—EQUALITY."

THE keynote of the discussion on the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill in the House of Commons on October 27th—we might almost say the keynote of the whole struggle in which we who support this paper are engaged—was to be found in two sentences repeated again and again by the two chief protagonists in the debate. "In the interests of women themselves," reiterated the Solicitor-General, "it is not desirable that posts in the Civil Service should be thrown open for free competition between men and women." "What women demand," retorted Major Hills, with the passion we ourselves feel, "is *not* protection, *not* special privileges, *not* the restriction of opportunity which you think will serve their interests, but a free field, open competition, a share in burdens and responsibilities as well as in rights—in short, Equality."

Listening to the smooth words of the Solicitor-General explaining and explaining again how deeply the Government have the interests of women at heart, we were reminded of all the other smooth words uttered by one Minister after another through all the months since Ministers have learned that the stability of their Government and the stability of national existence depended on the votes and on the work of women. And it seemed strange that the one short word, equality, is the word that no Government can understand. This inability has been illustrated once more with alarming clearness by their whole behaviour over the Sex Disqualification Bill.

No reader of THE COMMON CAUSE needs to be reminded that this Bill was brought forward by the Government in the House of Lords on July 22nd, not as a spontaneous fulfilment of the election pledge given by the Prime Minister to remove all the existing inequalities between men and women, but as a counter move to the too thorough fulfilment of that pledge offered to them by the Labour Party and accepted by the House of Commons. The Women's Emancipation Bill introduced by the Labour Party on April 7th had passed all its stages in the Commons intact. The Franchise Clause had survived, though the Government Whips had been used against it. The Government had, in fact, been defeated over it. But in such matters as these our Government is not one to accept defeat. A new and changeling Bill was introduced into the Chamber where it would feel most at home, and the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill was hurriedly passed through the Lords, who, having this more congenial measure before them, refused to look at the Commons' Bill. It differed from the Women's Emancipation Bill in several respects; the most important of which was that it omitted any provision for extending the franchise to women under thirty, and that it limited the admission of women to the Civil Service by a restriction which removed all real equality.

It was on this Clause that the women's organisations at once concentrated their attention. They were not indifferent to the omission of the Franchise Clause. There is no weakening in the determination of organised women to have votes on equal terms with men. An Amendment which would have effected this was down on the Order Paper on October 27th in the names of three Labour Members—Mr. Henderson, Mr. Adamson, and Mr. Spoor. It was ruled out of order by the Chairman of Committee, Mr. Whitley, after consultation with the Speaker, as not coming within the title or scope of the Bill; which, by a subtle Parliamentary distinction, was held to refer to disqualifications and not qualifications. The women's organisations had realised that this was certain to happen (women are no longer in a state of innocence about Parliamentary procedure!) and they had, therefore, given all their efforts to improving the Bill in the matter in which it could be improved—the question of admission to the Civil Service. While the first Clause of the Bill stated that: "A person shall not be disqualified by sex from the exercise of any public function, or from being appointed to any civil or judicial office or post, or from entering or assuming any civil profession or vocation . . ." a restrictive Sub-Clause provided that: "Notwithstanding anything in this section, His Majesty may by Order in Council authorise regulations to be made prescribing the mode of admission of women to the Civil Service of His Majesty, and the conditions on which women admitted to that service may be appointed to posts therein, and providing for the exclusion of women from admission to any branch of the Civil Service in any of His Majesty's possessions, or in any foreign country." And the danger of this restriction was emphasised by the fact that Major Astor in explaining the Bill to the House of Commons, referred to the Report of a Committee of the Treasury—known as the Glad-

stone Committee—which had recently recommended that women's admission to the Civil Service should be limited to special posts and restricted by special conditions. On August 11th a deputation of all the most important women's organisations which represent the women who aspire to posts in the Civil Service waited on the Lord Chancellor (who had conducted the Government Bill in the House of Lords) and on Mr. Bonar Law. Both these gentlemen indignantly repudiated any connection between their Bill and the Gladstone Report. The object of their Bill was to open opportunities to women, not to restrict them; they were ready to listen to suggestions which would enable them to carry out this object more thoroughly. So they said. But when the suggestions were embodied in amendments and brought forward in the House of Commons at the end of last session, the Government, by a discreditable manoeuvre prevented all discussion of them; and when they were brought up again on October 27th the Solicitor-General, with admirable innocence, made the abhorred Gladstone Report the text of his defence. He quoted long passages from it as a description of the terms under which women were to enter the Civil Service, and which "in their own interests" they were expected to accept and to like.

They do not like them; they do not like the forms in which the Clause and the Sub-Clause were ultimately passed; they do not, with any enthusiasm, like the Bill. It is true that matters are a little better than they were, both with regard to the Civil Service provisions, and to the other Clauses. The restrictive Sub-Clause now runs:—

"Provided that notwithstanding anything in this Section His Majesty may by Order in Council authorise Regulations to be made providing for and prescribing the mode of the admission of women to the Civil Service of His Majesty, and the conditions on which women admitted to that Service may be appointed to or continue to hold posts therein, and giving power to reserve to men any branch of or posts in the Civil Service in any of His Majesty's possessions overseas or in any foreign country. Any Order in Council made under this Section shall be laid before each House of Parliament forthwith, and if an address is presented to His Majesty by either House of Parliament within the next subsequent twenty-one days on which that House has sat next after the Order is laid before it praying that the Order or any part thereof may be annulled, His Majesty in Council may annul the Order or that part thereof and it shall thenceforth be void, but without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done thereunder."

It gives scope for effort in determining what the Orders in Council shall be, and decides that women shall not definitely be excluded from service in any branch of the Home Civil Service, but only from branches overseas. This is something gained. Another gain is the qualified acceptance by the Government of the fact that marriage shall not, any more than sex, be a barrier to women being appointed to and holding posts in Government service and in the professions. There are also two new Clauses added to the Bill, both introduced by Major Hills, facilitating the entry of women into the profession of solicitors, and securing that it shall be legally possible for Universities to admit women to membership and degrees. The Clause enabling peeresses in their own right to sit in the House of Lords, which had been removed by the Peers, was restored by the Commons.

For these small mercies organised women, who are never prone to refuse half-loaves, will no doubt be thankful; but they will not forget that the Government has misunderstood and rejected the thing which was—and is—the essence of their demand. The Government pledge was to remove existing inequalities between the sexes. That pledge has not been kept. Part of it can still be carried out by a Franchise Bill, giving votes to women under thirty—part of it may still be made up for, by the way in which the provisions affecting the Civil Service are administered (and in this connection we may remark that it would give confidence if the authorities would show a little more celerity and eagerness in appointing women to the Ministry of Health). Let the Government look to these matters before facing the women voters at another general election. Whatever they do, their action with regard to the two Bills concerning women, which Parliament has had before it this summer, cannot, we think, be wholly redeemed. They have killed the real women's emancipation Bill; they have refused to let their own Bill be made into a real one. We urge them to try a little harder to understand what the women's demand is, and to listen to those who speak for women, as Major Hills truly did on Monday night, when they say that it is not protection, not privilege—but in short, Equality. This and nothing else.

## The Future Work of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

By ELEANOR F. RATHBONE.  
(President, N.U.S.E.C.)

When the Representation of the People Bill passed into law, there were many people who imagined that the subjection of women was at an end, and that all the other reforms necessary for their complete emancipation would come to pass as a matter of course. Some of the results which followed last upon the granting of the Parliamentary vote gave colour for a time to this sanguine view. Political parties and all other organised bodies of opinion immediately laid their plans to capture the new force in politics by promising support to every reform which women had shown themselves to desire. Paper promises are lightly made, especially by those who know how easy it is to find plausible excuses for non-performance. But it has not taken long to prove the wisdom of those leaders of the women's movement who held that Parliamentary enfranchisement would prove to be merely the taking of the first line of the enemies' defences, and that a long and obstinate struggle would be necessary before we could achieve our declared object of "a real equality of status, liberties, and opportunities between men and women." The first session of the so-called Reconstruction Parliament has now drawn to a close without seeing the placing on the Statute-book of a single reform necessary to that object. Parliament, it is true, has not once explicitly turned down the Bills that concerned the status of women. It has merely shelved them in the interest of measures demanded by the more vociferous and better organised sections of the electorate.

The lesson to be drawn from this barren record is not that the vote is worth less than suffragists expected. On the contrary, our short experience has shown that no Government or political party dares actively to defend the retention of any of the legal restrictions on the freedom of women. It will merely abstain from removing them until forced to do so by the driving power of women's opinion, expressed through organisations of women. The need for these organisations is greater than ever, because their opportunities for effective action are greater than ever. In former days they represented only opinions; now they represent opinions backed by votes. Their success is only limited by the number of the members in whose names they can claim to speak and the volume and vigour of the support that their members give them.

On the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship a special responsibility rests, because of the obligations which its members have incurred towards those women in whose names and for whose sake they have claimed enfranchisement. On innumerable platforms we who were suffragists demanded the vote not as a sort of decoration to put on our own breasts—a badge recognising our citizenship—but because of the enlarged power it would give us to fight the cause of the sweated and exploited woman worker, the deserted or ill-treated wife, the married mother whose rights over her own children were set aside by the law, the unmarried mother left to bear the whole burden of parenthood, the widow left to the tender mercies of the Poor Law. Suffragists climbed to success on the shoulders of these women; they do not intend to desert them until their needs have been met.

The N.U.S.E.C. has set before itself a long programme of reforms necessary to the attainment of its object. But as effective work cannot be done for all of these at once, it has selected six which appear ripe for immediate action on which to concentrate its chief efforts for the present. These are:—

- (1) Adequate pensions free from the control of the Poor Law, for civilian widows with dependent children.
- (2) Equal rights of guardianship over their children for both parents, and a more effective enforcement of the rights of wives and children to maintenance.
- (3) An equal moral standard and the abolition of the present inequitable and ineffective laws regarding prostitution and solicitation.
- (4) Equal pay for equal work for men and women, and the safeguarding of women's rights to equal opportunities in industry and in the professions.
- (5) The opening of both branches of the legal profession to women.
- (6) The election of women M.P.s, and proportional representation as a means towards that end.

In addition to these six points selected at its Annual Meeting last March, the Union has been working for the Women's Emancipation Bill, introduced by the Labour Party, which would have assimilated women's franchise to that of men, thus enfran-

chising the "under thirties," besides removing the legal barriers against entry into the Civil Service and professions.

The Government brought forward its own inferior measure—the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Bill—which leaves the franchise question untouched. The Union is working to improve this.

Of all these reforms, if verbal support means anything, the Widows' Pensions Bill should have the best chance of immediate success. When Mr. Tyson Wilson brought the subject forward in the House of Commons, he was supported from all sides of the House. Not a member ventured to rise in his place to defend the present cruel system, which leaves the widow with young children to choose between accepting poor relief with all its accessories of humiliation, or embarking on the hopeless effort to combine the work of both parents—to maintain the family entirely by her earnings in the labour market, while she is doing her own work as mother in the house. The resolution was passed without a division. Yet it may safely be prophesied that even this most urgently needed reform will not find its way on to the Statute-book unless and until the clamour of public opinion becomes irresistible. In face of the present demand for economy, the Government, if left to itself, will yield to the temptation of economising at the expense of those who, like widows and their children, are least able to defend their own claims.

Another particularly helpless class is that of unhappily married wives. The conditions of war-time have produced an abnormally large crop of such cases. For four or five years millions of men have been exempt from all the cares and responsibilities of family life. They have been enabled to treat the whole of their now not insubstantial military pay as pocket-money. They return to find themselves compelled by the shortage of houses to live under terribly overcrowded conditions, or to board with their own or their wives' relations. Friction ensues, and completes the work of estrangement which the long separation of the war began. The husband, who perhaps is scarcely known by sight to his younger children, claims his full rights over them and puts them under the care of his own mother, or—as in cases actually known to the writer—under that of a so-called house-keeper who is really his mistress. Or more frequently, he evades responsibility altogether by deserting his family. Against such an outrage, the wife, as matters now stand, has practically no means of redress. Here, again, scarcely anyone is found to defend in theory the present condition of the law. But the victims are helpless and it will go unamended unless the efforts of the Union and kindred bodies receive a sufficient backing from public opinion.

In dealing with the subject of public morality, the Union is on much more controversial ground. The opposition to the equalising of the moral standard seldom comes out quite into the open, but it is virulent and widespread. The difficulties of finding an effective remedy are so great that advocates of things as they are can find plenty of plausible excuses for evading reform or making it take the shape of mitigating some of the more inconvenient results of moral transgression, especially as they affect male transgressors. The N.U.S.E.C. does not pretend, any more than the other bodies which have given special study to this question to have discovered any universal panacea. But we have satisfied ourselves that the first step towards reform must be to sweep away those provisions of the law which fix all the penalties for misconduct upon the woman, while the man is shielded not only from legal punishment but from the inconvenience of publicity. The law which makes it possible for a woman to be branded as a common prostitute upon the evidence of one policeman, who may quite conceivably be revenging himself for a failure to blackmail her, and which absolves the man whom she is supposed to have injured from the necessity of appearing in Court to make his charge, must be abolished, not only because it is inequitable and because it notoriously fails to stop or even to diminish the volume of promiscuous sexual intercourse, but as a first step towards the creation of a more healthy public opinion. The success achieved by the Union and the other bodies with which it co-operates in sweeping away the infamous regulation known as D.O.R.A. 40 D. is an example of what can be accomplished when women are united not only in expressing their opinion, but in backing it by supplying the funds which are necessary to effective political agitation.

Perhaps the most conclusive proof of the continued necessity for separate organisations of women, pledged to make the safeguarding of the point of view and interests of women their special care, is to be found in the industrial situation. It is an ominous symptom of what may lie before us that the one Act affecting the status of women which has passed the present Parliament is the Pre-War Practices Act which forcibly excludes women from many industries in which they have amply proved

their competence. The fact that this was done in fulfilment of a pledge given during war time made resistance impossible. But if the spirit which led the Trade Unions to demand the pledge and to exact its literal fulfilment in spite of all that had happened since is to remain a permanent factor in politics, the outlook is indeed gloomy. It is impossible for women to acquiesce in their permanent segregation into the most ill-paid, unskilled, and unorganised departments of industry. Our task must be to find a means which shall secure to women the right of developing to the full their natural capacities and of adding to the production of the country, while guarding against their being used by unscrupulous employers as blacklegs who will undermine the standards which men have laboriously built up.

The power of women to carry on any or all of these campaigns effectively will be immeasurably increased when they have representatives of their own sex in Parliament to plead their cause. The adoption of proportional representation would immensely facilitate this, because the chances of a woman being elected as one out of a group of representatives for a large area would be much greater than if she stood for a single-member constituency. Therefore the N.U.S.E.C. couples together these reforms and works to achieve them both.

We appeal to all men and women who approve our aims and our methods to give us the support of their membership, their influence, their money, and their work. The constitution of the Union has now been enlarged so as to make it possible for all societies of men or women, whether nationally or locally organised, to become affiliated bodies of the Union so long as they support its object of a real equality between the sexes, even if they work for other objects as well. The affiliation fee has been fixed very low in order to encourage the co-operation of societies which are or wish to be affiliated also to other national headquarters representing a different aspect of their work. We of the National Union think we may justly claim that our long apprenticeship to the suffrage movement in the days when we worked under the leadership of Mrs. Fawcett has given us an exceptional experience in the arts of political agitation in the constituencies and in Parliament. Through our Parliamentary Department, our Information Bureau, our Library and our Literature, we desire to put this experience at the service of all who believe as we do in the capacities of women for a fuller and a wider citizenship.

### The Women of India and the Franchise.

A JOINT STATEMENT BY MRS. HERABAI A. TATA AND MISS MITHIBAI A. TATA, B.A. (HONS.), Representatives of The Bombay Women and the Forty-five Branches of the Women's Indian Association.

[For reasons of space, we have been compelled to omit or summarise some passages in this Statement. These omissions are indicated by asterisks.—ED. C. C.]

As is well known to all who are deep students of India's past history, the position of Indian women more than five thousand years ago, was very high. Women were not treated as inferior, or as unfit to take part in public life, but the fullest opportunities were given to them to develop their intelligence and capacities. We know that women used to attend, along with the men, the great seats of learning which were spread all over India, and which corresponded with our Universities. Women used to take keen interest in philosophical and political discussions. It is recorded that women in the villages in those days took part in the selection of the representatives for the village council; and they could be, and were, at times members of the village representative councils. Equality of opportunity was given to women as well as to men, and no legal barriers were placed in the way of their advancement.

Even in later days when women's activities were somewhat restricted on account of the constant invasions, and the necessity of protecting them from hardships, the Indian woman never entirely lost her high position. In the family as the mistress of the house, she was practically supreme, and this is the case more or less even at the present time in India. In public life and administration there have been shining examples of Indian women, from Razia Begum to Ahalya Bai, and even right up to the present century.

Coming to the present time, the women of India are awake again to their capacities and claims; they feel that their activities should now go beyond the home, which for many centuries has been their sphere of influence. This is especially the case in the big cities, where women's education is progressing, though we

believe it would have been more rapid if free and compulsory education had been introduced into India. In Bombay Presidency the demand for women's education is great, and very often new schools cannot be established fast enough to cope with the demands. The number of women attending high schools and colleges increases yearly, and we feel that many more women would take higher education if the fees were not so high. There are more than 400 women graduates, many more undergraduates and women who possess a wide general knowledge, and are quite capable of exercising intelligent judgment. Women in Bombay Presidency are not bound by many of the social restrictions with which women in other parts of India are supposed to be hampered. The purdah system practically does not exist in Bombay, women are free to move about where they like, and there is practically nothing in their social conditions which would make it impossible for them to exercise the vote.

The municipal vote has been granted to the women of the Presidency for more than fifteen years, and they exercise it intelligently; no special privileges have been granted to them, and it has not been found that their "social conditions" prevent them from exercising their right properly. On the contrary, it has made them take an interest in public affairs, and has enlarged their mental horizon.

The graduates of the University have the right to elect some Fellows for the University, and women as well as men avail themselves of the right.

#### PUBLIC WORK.

The women of the Presidency, especially of the city, have been known to take great interest in social and public affairs. There are many women's associations which do good educational, social, and civic work—e.g., The Seva Sadan, The Women's Indian Association, Gujerate Stri Mandal, Bhagini Samaj, Vanita Vishram, &c. Many of these associations conduct educational classes for women, which are attended enthusiastically. Most of these associations are conducted by women themselves, and the Secretary of the Seva Sadan is an Indian lady M.A., LL.B. The Bombay Presidency Women's Council has been started under the Presidency of Lady Lloyd, to help women to take greater interest and part in civic affairs. The work done by the Bombay Presidency women during the period of the war and the last famine is too well known to need detailed statement. Suffice it to say that women of all classes co-operated heartily in supplying materials, comforts, and entertainment to the troops during the war, and thousands of rupees were collected by their efforts for the war fund. During the influenza epidemic and the famine the women of the city took conspicuous part in the relief.

The women of the Presidency are strongly of opinion that they should not be debarred from political rights. Requisitions were sent up to the Provincial Conferences and the National Congresses, and when the Southborough Franchise Committee visited Bombay, a requisition signed by about 800 educated women from the big cities of the Presidency was submitted to them, expressing the desire of women to be included in the Reform Scheme. The women are very much alive to political questions, they attend public meetings in large numbers, and they take a keen interest in what is going on around them, as can be seen from the different events which have happened not only in the cities, but also in the rural districts.

#### SOUTHBOROUGH FRANCHISE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The Report of the Committee has caused bitter disappointment among the women of India, and especially in this Presidency. The women of Bombay met in a protest meeting in many hundreds, and there were speeches from women speakers in five different languages. A resolution of protest was unanimously passed, and eleven cables were sent to prominent people in England, including the Secretary of State for India.

We feel that the arguments brought forward by the Committee are untenable in the light of criticism; that enough pains have not been taken to do even bare justice to women, but preconceived notions of women's inferiority have been the cause of the total rejection of Indian women from the electorates. Not only have they not been given a fair chance, but some injustice is done to women who have been honoured for their intelligence and capacity by public bodies. One or two instances will suffice. There are two ladies at present Honorary Fellows of the Bombay University—one a British lady M.A., the other the first Indian lady M.D. of London—two women honoured by the University for their intelligence and capacity. They have had the right to vote for the member returned by the University to the Legislative Council; henceforth if the Committee's Recommendations about women are accepted they will lose this right.

[It is the principle of equality rather than numbers which counts.] Besides, if women are excluded from the higher vote, how can

capable women take their seats on the Municipality or District Board in the Presidency—a right which has just been granted to them by the Bombay Provincial Legislative Council—how can these women help feeling the stigma of inferiority cast upon their sex which the refusal of a vote implies, while their men clerks or chauffeurs, who may pay Rs. 120 as rent p.a., can, if they wish, have the right? In what way do the social conditions prevent women from exercising the vote for the Legislative Councils, when they do not prevent qualified women from becoming Municipal Councillors?

#### WHY DO WE DEMAND THE VOTE?

1. We claim it, first, on the grounds of the equality of men and women.

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[When all progressive nations are throwing down artificial sex barriers India should not lag behind others.]

2. The Government ought not to commit the same mistake as was made in England. . . . We in India are now in the happy position of being able to start our political education on terms of equality. There is no reason whatever why women should not also be given that political education along with the men, instead of having to wait an indefinite number of years, falling behind the men, and possibly starting a fresh campaign of agitation which might ruffle the progress of Responsible Government in its initial stages—such a step would, in our opinion, be a grievous mistake. According to the proposed qualifications—which are based on property—at the most a million women would be enfranchised, but that number would be quite enough to start with. We are of opinion that if literacy had also been made a qualification, there would have been a substantial number of women voters, and it would also have been a great impetus to acquire education. As matters stand at present, even graduates are excluded from voting.

3. The vote also has an educative value.

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It is maintained by the Government in their Educational Reports that they are very solicitous about the education and progress of the women of India. Yet they are keeping back the very reforms which, more than anything else, will hasten the progress of women's education; for if women get the vote they can use it to do away with social disabilities which may exist, and the more men and women co-operate together the better for the country.

#### "SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF INDIA MAKE THE GRANT OF THE FRANCHISE TO WOMEN PREMATURE AND UNPRACTICAL."

This plea of the Committee to exclude women is not just. The "social conditions" are not the same in all parts of India. The purdah system does not exist in the whole of India, only in some parts, and it is not right or just that women in one part of India should be made to suffer because women in other parts of the country are supposed not to be ready yet for the vote.

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We are of opinion that even in the purdah districts the social conditions are not so stringent as to make it impossible for women to take an intelligent interest in public life. Indian women are noted for their common-sense and judgment, which is developed by constantly managing with tact large families. The very fact that a woman lives in purdah does not prevent her from taking intelligent interest and part in public life. Who would say that the Begum of Bhopal is not capable or does not take interest in political affairs? This lady is in purdah, but she rules her state with great ability and attends the Ruling Chiefs' Conference at Delhi and makes speeches there. This is not the exception; there are many women estate holders in their own right, who manage their business with great capacity, though remaining in purdah. We are strongly of opinion that the purdah is not such an impassable barrier as the Report states.

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It would not be "unpractical" for women to exercise the vote; there would be no difficulty whatever in non-purdah districts; no special arrangements need be made for women voters. Even in places where the purdah system prevails women who hold land and pay taxes will not be slow to avail themselves of the right. This is a permissive, not a compulsory measure, and only those women who wish to have the facilities will avail themselves of the vote. But how can the Committee judge what the effect will be without giving women even a trial? If women are given the opportunity we are confident that they will rise to the occasion and show their fitness.

#### "IN DISTRICTS WHERE THE PURDAH SYSTEM EXISTS THE VOTE WOULD HARDLY BE A REALITY."

We have already pointed out that the purdah system does not prevail in the whole of India. The vote will usually be exercised by women who possess high qualifications and education, and usually these women have broken the purdah. The vote will help to break down the purdah system.

Even if the vote is not exercised for some years to come, that is no argument for withholding the right. It is stated in the Report that in many districts no more than 40 per cent. of the men vote; according to the above argument, the men also ought not to be given the vote. Whether or not there are many women who will exercise the right at first, we do not look at numbers, we stand for a principle; neither numbers nor sex should count, only fitness should be taken into consideration.

The Committee cannot say that in non-purdah districts the vote "will hardly be a reality." Women in big towns, especially in Bombay and Madras, are taking a keen interest in the affairs of the city, and they are sure to exercise the higher vote intelligently. Even if it is granted to a couple of thousand women, it will remove the stigma of inferiority from the whole of womankind.

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[Reform of the franchise has always been opposed in all countries by old-fashioned people.]

#### "THE WOMEN THEMSELVES DO NOT WANT THE VOTE."

This allegation also is not true, as the women are awake to their rights and desire to have them. There is great desire in many parts of India and many women's associations have been started, and they take an interest in what is happening in the country. Many requisitions have been sent by women from different parts of India to Provincial Conferences, the National Congress, and, lastly, to the Southborough Committee, when it toured the country, that women should not be excluded from the Reform Scheme. It cannot be said that Indian women do not want the vote. The educated women and property holders are very keen that their rights should be safeguarded, and they know that the possession of a vote gives them the power to do so.

Women are, at the present stage of Indian history, the most important factor, and far the most potent influence for good or evil as you care to use them. Attempt to reform without the co-operation of women, and you are simply raising a paper fabric on foundations of sand; the power of an Indian woman in her house is immense. By refusing the reform you are putting the Indian woman further back into purdah, and you will make her more conservative than she is, and reform after reform will be useless. Make her believe that her help is wanted and welcome, make it possible for her to get the vote and you will have an ally who will be of greater use to reform and of greater motive power than many men, because not only will she influence present voters, but it is she who will train the children as they grow up.

Indian women are not in the habit of clamouring aloud for anything, and that is perhaps the reason why they escaped the attention of the Committee; but it cannot with consistency ignore the Congress resolutions and women's requisitions, and say that there is no demand for the extension of the franchise to women.

Besides, it is the duty of every true Government to make a reform which is good for the country, whether there is little or no demand for it. There was no demand for railways or telegraphs or other inventions; why did the Government give these to the people? But both Indian men and women demand the extension, and we hope the Committee will give its favourable attention to it.

### "Middle-Class" Colleges.

By A. E. LEVETT.  
(Vice-Principal and Tutor, St. Hilda's Hall, Oxford.)

There seems to be some division of opinion, even in THE COMMON CAUSE, as to the line which should be taken by the existing Women's Colleges with regard to working-women's education. It is with some trepidation that we note the description "middle-class" colleges, and find that Mrs. Sanderson Furniss\* regards them as "accessible only to the middle-class." None of the women's colleges, we believe, ever wished to encourage or perpetuate class distinctions, though, as a matter of fact, they have tended to appeal increasingly to those women who intend

\* See our issue of September 19th last.

to follow one of the "professions," and who come from what are roughly described as the "professional classes." Actually, almost every class of society is represented in the women's colleges (even at the older universities), though it is true that there is a certain lack at both ends of the scale.

The remedy will come, to some extent naturally, with the opening out of public life to women. University education has not previously appealed much to the women who had the best opportunities for political experience, but this may be left to remedy itself, and will not be hampered either by lack of preliminary equipment or by lack of money. To the working-woman these two difficulties, as Mrs. Furniss points out, have hitherto seemed insuperable. Hence, our most enthusiastic welcome must be given to all the various efforts now being made to overcome obstacles—to the Y.W.C.A. College, to the Co-operators' College, to the Ruskin Hostel, not forgetting the patient work carried on for years with very little encouragement by the College in Fitzroy Square.

But the various schemes, as at present described, do not quite sufficiently define the nature and the purpose of a college education for working-women. In order to see how the need can be met, it is necessary to begin by a careful analysis of the need. "A two years' course of systematic study" sounds delightful, but it leaves the organiser, director, or tutor a trifle uncertain as to the objective of her endeavours.

There are three main types of working-women asking for education. The first class, women who do not intend to leave their present trade or occupation, can be, to a great extent, satisfied by tutorial classes, technical or art classes, continuation classes, and lectures. The new Y.W.C.A. College will be able to do more concentrated work for the individual, while summer schools can supplement the continuous training by an occasional sharp stimulus. More generous provision, rather than a new scheme, is needed for this type of student.

Secondly, there is the working-woman who is marked out by character and ability for an official position in her own world. She needs two kinds of education—first, some leisure in which to improve her general education, and widen her outlook; secondly, an almost technical education or training in the history, conditions, and economics of her own trade or organisation. The new working-women's colleges should be able to provide admirably for her needs, if a two year's course is possible. The one danger to be guarded against, and it is a very real and present danger, is the likelihood that colleges set up by this or that society or organisation are very apt also to set up their own system of economics or political philosophy, and to bar, not only the acceptance, but even the study of any other. This is the demoralising of all education.

Thirdly, there is the working-girl or woman of marked and outstanding ability. In the future, of course, she is more likely to reach the University by the ordinary route through the Secondary School; but it is also true that this ability, which is partly a matter of character and ideal, may not develop till late, when the ordinary courses of adolescent education are past, and the girl may have been swallowed up by manual labour, to the great loss of the community. Such cases ought to be treated, not by a segregated education in a working-women's college, but by an open-armed reception into the ordinary women's colleges. If the best part of a college education is that which students bestow upon each other, it is evident that any kind of segregated college is but a *pis aller*. This is true on both sides; the working-girl loses much valuable experience and sympathy; the "middle-class" girl loses an incomparable opportunity for enlarging her outlook, and deepening her understanding, and her sympathies.

What, then, are the difficulties in the way? Mainly three:—Money, courses of study, entrance examinations. It is simply not true to say that existing colleges are not open or accessible to working women as such. The colleges, on the whole, have been rather passive in this matter, but there is probably nothing worse to be said of them. (The *children* of working-men have been admitted, and will now doubtless form a larger proportion of the students. But they start with the normal educational equipment.)

The initial difficulty of money is in a sense the simplest. No women's college at Oxford or Cambridge can at present afford to pay scholarships large enough for complete maintenance, or to remit or greatly lower fees. To do so would simply mean adding to their debts on buildings, and decreasing their chance of educational development, since they have practically no endowments and few large donations, and, as Mrs. Furniss points out, their accommodation is already hopelessly inadequate to the demand.

To offer or endow an adequate scholarship tenable at any women's college by working-women only, after an individual

and adjustable examination, would be a highly desirable "reconstruction" in education, and one which would be heartily welcomed, we believe, by most "middle-class" colleges.

The second difficulty—courses of study—is in process of disappearing, and is so closely linked up with the third—entrance examinations—that the two may be treated together. There is a tendency to suppose that entrance examinations are a kind of fad, a means of excluding good students and admitting bad, and there is a modicum of truth in the supposition. But on the whole entrance examinations are intended to exact a necessary preliminary training. Even Greek has its uses, while most "advanced studies" are intolerably handicapped by the lack of Latin, French and German. Yet, in some cases, it is better to educate the able students without equipment than the mediocre but well-prepared alternative, if alternatives they must be. Certain University "Diplomas" and Diploma Courses admit this truth, and ask only evidence of good general education in place of an entrance examination. With better planned examinations some of the difficulties will disappear.

It is not necessary, perhaps, to pursue the argument against over-much segregation; the principle advocated in this article speaks for itself. Financially, the difficulties are great. It is fairly obvious that £65 for a college year of thirty-three weeks cannot cover the expenses of tuition and residence; the Ruskin College Hostel will need to be heavily subsidised. The fees of the existing women's colleges in Oxford—about £112 per annum—do cover expenses not unduly luxurious in normal times, but leave a very small margin for development. It is clear then, that the working-class students must be helped from outside, not from within the colleges.

It may perhaps be permissible to end this defence of the "middle-class" colleges with a brief note on an experiment attempted a few years ago by St. Hilda's Hall, in taking two students, direct from University Tutorial Classes without previously exacting any entrance examination. The hearty recommendation, both of tutor and of class-fellows was allowed to replace the ordinary conditions of admission, and expenses were paid privately. Unfortunately, in a way, both candidates were teachers in elementary schools, chosen partly because of the admirable work in Adult Education which they were forwarding, and again, both were rather older than was ideal in such an experiment. But, apart from these points, the experiment was undoubtedly a success, though a very hardly-earned one. One student succeeded at much cost to herself in passing the examination qualifying her to take a Final Honour School, and in the end obtained a Second Class in History. The other, after equally strenuous efforts, failed to pass her preliminary examination, and devoted herself to work for the Diploma in Economics and Political Science, in which she obtained distinction, earning special commendation from the examiners. It was clear that the difference in their success was due not to greater or less ability, but merely to differences of type. The two students themselves, their fellow students and the staff would, I believe, be glad to admit that they all gained much from the experiment. One or two subsequent applications from Tutorial Class students have been entertained, but have fallen through for one reason or another.

This experience is quoted, not as self-glorification, though the College notes with pride the subsequent work of both these students, but as an attempt to prove that the existing colleges are not wedded to their "middle-class" character.

### "Apollo's House."

Some Diversions of a Man of Letters. By Edmund Gosse, C.B. (Heinemann, 7s. 6d. net.)

The preface of this delightful book is an essay on differences of taste in generations. In it Mr. Gosse, who combines a singular faithfulness to the gods of his youth with a ready sympathy for the youngest and most modern writers, discusses whether there is any such thing as a permanent element of literary beauty. More optimistic than Mr. Balfour, who decided in *Foundations of Belief* that no canons of taste exist, Mr. Gosse believes that there is something permanent, and that our inability "to produce a principle of taste like a yard measure and submit works of imagination to it once and for all, in the eyes of a consternated public," is no argument against it.

"When we observe, as we must allow, that art is no better at one age than at another, but only different; that it is subject to modification, but certainly not to development; may we not safely accept this stationary quality as a proof that there does exist, out of sight, unattained and unattainable, a positive norm of poetic beauty? We cannot define it, but in each generation all excellence must be the result of a relation to it. It is the moon, heavily wrapt up in clouds, and impossible exactly to locate,

yet revealed by the light it throws on distant portions of the sky. At all events, it appears to me that this is the only theory by which we can justify a continued interest in literature, when it is attacked, now on one side now on the other by the vicissitudes of fashion."

In a later essay, describing how valueless the "shadowy rhapsodies" of Edgar Allen Poe's verse appeared to a people and generation whose conception of poetry was that it should be "picturesque, intellectual, pleasing," full of moral "truths," and free from all vagueness and passion, Mr. Gosse says:—

"It is not necessary to treat this conception of poetry with scorn, nor to reject principles of precise thought and clear, sober language, which had been illustrated by Wordsworth in the present and by Gray in the past. The ardent young critics of our own age, having thrown off all respect for the traditions of literature, speak and write as if to them, and them alone, had been divinely revealed the secrets of taste. They do not give themselves time to realise that in Apollo's house there are many mansions."

Mr. Gosse shows himself a great critic and a true man of letters, because he not only realises this truth himself, but makes his readers realise it. As the spirit of Virgil led Dante through the circles of Hell and purgatory, so Mr. Gosse will lead those who surrender to his influence through many mansions peopled with diverse shades. In one they will meet the last great, sombre, fantastic hero of the Elizabethan Age, in another that gentle and poverty-oppressed blue-stocking, Miss Catharine Trotter: one chamber is decked with the tinsel splendours of Disraeli, another is full of the austere and poignant echoes of Mr. Hardy's lyric verse. In another mansion will be found the war poets of the present generation, and this is one of the best pieces of criticism in the book.

There are some passions which do not altogether fail those who possess them, in sickness or in health, in poverty or wealth, or even through the unspeakable miseries of war. The love of books is one of the chief of these. Some of our soldiers on the plains of Flanders were able to forget that war for a time, while reading of those who "drunk delight of battle. . . Far on the ringing plains of windy Troy." Others who have not had the opportunity of subjecting their love to so searching a test, yet know that they have at the back of their minds a stronghold against the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. *The Diversions of a Man of Letters* will remind them that their fortress is also a glorious dwelling place, and that it still has in it many forgotten and unvisited rooms. Mr. Gosse deserves the earnest thanks of all those who, however they may differ in other ways, and however little they may be men or women of letters, yet resemble him, in realising that not the least important of the consolations of life are those which are to be found within the precincts of Apollo's house.

### Two Women Writers.

Deadham Hard. By Lucas Malet. (Methuen, 7s.)

Lucas Malet's latest novel is well-named, for the unity and distinction of the story are given by the atmosphere of the house on its Hampshire estuary, with its memories of gracious peace and intermittent hauntings of the crime and squalor of its eighteenth century days. Damaris, her father, Sir Charles Verity, the "pro-consul" with his heroic Indian and Afghan record, and Darcy Faircloth, Sir Charles's unacknowledged son, are vivid and credible while they breathe the air of Deadham and acknowledge the influence of the great abbey of Marychurch, the wind from pinewood and sea, the creeping mist of the marshes, the miasma from the village on its half-island. Damaris, whose childhood in India has already been recorded by the author, is now eighteen and Darcy Faircloth, a merchant captain, saves her from a situation of some peril and makes known to her their relationship. Nothing could be less probable than the romantic attachment that springs up between them; that we believe in it and are moved by their alternate recognition of the barrier between them and rebellion against it, is due to the magic of the recital. But this compelling though unlikely episode is surrounded by impossibilities which are impatiently thrown at the reader. That Sir Charles, idolising and idealising his young daughter, should bring her to live within a stone's throw of the inn-keeper's wife who had borne him a son before his marriage; that the young man, educated by his mother above her station, should "love life too much to torment himself about the manner of his coming by it" and apparently share his half-sister's unquestioning belief that whatever Sir Charles does is right; that Faircloth's mother—"a remarkable woman in qualities and character,"—should make no appearance on the scene, though Damaris and Sir Charles must pass her house any time they leave Deadham Hard, shows that the realistic treatment of the subject is only apparent; the difficulties are set aside, not solved. The tale is one of an enchanted island, Damaris a Miranda, Sir Charles a Prospero with a streak of cruelty, Faircloth a Ferdinand, like his proto-

## National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship,

EVELYN HOUSE, 62, OXFORD STREET, W.1.

## £10,000 Appeal.

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NO! Because your vote and your donation to  
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2. We demand an open field for **PROFESSIONAL WOMEN.** At present they are excluded from the higher branches of the Civil Service.

3. We demand an open field for **WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.** At present women are excluded from many of the most highly paid trades.

4. We demand **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES OF TECHNICAL TRAINING** for our GIRLS.

### We Need £10,000 Immediately.

We look to every reader of "THE COMMON CAUSE" to respond to this appeal. We ask our Societies to call meetings of all their members, and make known the urgent necessity for active propaganda and generous donations.

To Readers, to Individual Members, to Societies we say: **HELP US NOW TO WIN EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN.**


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All cheques and postal orders should be crossed "London County and Westminster Bank," Victoria, and made payable to the Hon. Treas., N.U.S.E.C., Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W.1.

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**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**QUEEN'S HALL, LANGHAM PLACE, W.**  
 (Sole Lessees: Chappell & Co., Ltd.)  
**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14th, AT 8 P.M.**  
 Speakers:  
 Mrs. ANNIE BESANT, Mr. JAMNADAS DWARKADAS, Miss M. A. TATA.  
 Chair: Mr. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD.  
 Reserved and Numbered Seats: Sofa Stalls, Grand Circle (front), 2/6.  
 Unreserved: Grand Circle, Stalls, Area, 1/-.  
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 Women's International League, 14, Bedford Row, W.C.1.

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type, unsmirched by the rough hand of hardship and adventure. This being so, the secondary figures, rather spitefully caricatured single women on tip-toe for sentimental experiences, vain and greedy curates and doctors and scheming society ladies, are an excrescence on the fabric of the story. The constant harping on the deficiencies of persons who cannot boast of being "well-bred" is monotonous and tiresome, and defeats its purpose; the continual effort to represent a sentimental woman as disgusting, while a sentimental man, whether young or middle-aged is romantic. To enjoy *Deadham Hard*, the reader must give himself up to the atmosphere so skilfully created. And this would be easier if the proof-reading of the text had not been so cursory and some of the misprints so perilously like Malapropisms.

**Living Alone.** By Stella Benson. (Macmillan. 6s. net.)  
 Miss Benson's new book is of the small, attractive, and much misunderstood family to which belong "The Cross of Gold," "The Celestial Omnibus," and "Ships that Pass in the Night." It is not a novel nor a collection of short stories, and when it seems to threaten to become an allegory or even a cautionary story a phrase of pure nonsense or uncompromising realism deflects its course just as it seems to be steering straight for an obvious moral. It is, the author says, "written for the magically inclined minority" and should not be read by "real people." Magic stands for the kind of single mindedness or freshness and sincerity of vision possessed by those who, as Miss Benson explains, are not blinded by having a point of view; they see everything as though it were happening for the first time. It is the wisdom of the simple, the treasure of the humble, the vision of those whose eyes are purged with anguish, and is not steady and concentrated but piercing and intermittent.

The heroine of "Living Alone" is Sarah Brown, who as a Charity Organisation worker had fallen into the bad habit of trying to do good in groups, and she is made free in the House of "Living Alone," a refuge for men and women "tired of being laboriously kind to their own bodies, who like to be a little uncomfortable and quite uncared for . . . who do not know how to cook, yet hate to be cooked for." The house seems to be on an island reached by a ferry from somewhere that sounds like Bermuda and so far belies its name that it is thronged day and night by people like the witch who kept the general shop, the knight errant who employed a fire-breathing dragon as farm bailiff, Humphrey, Sarah's suitcase, and Harold, the witch's broom-stick (who are as real as real persons to the magic people, because "to the magic eye, magic alone is commonplace, everything else is unknown, unguessed and undespised"), and Peony Tonks, with the aspirations of a poet and vocabulary like that of Mr. Kipling's "Badalia Herodsfoot." This is the beginning of a disjointed fairy-tale whose absurd incidents are a medley of rather impish "scores off" conventional manners, morality and moralising, with policemen and relieving officers as the muddle-headed villains of the play, and the recurring moral that the man with a mind closed to new impressions is a potential tyrant and torturer. Sarah Brown, poor, sick, smitten with a hopeless love, short-willed, "staringly inoffensive" in appearance, is not flattered by her creator and has a curtness in dialogue that suggests a reaction from the extremely vocal heroines of our youth, but she is passionately, courageously human, sometimes too human for a fairy book, if one may venture a criticism of a phantasy that should be read and not argued about. The episode of the grocer's proposal of marriage to a witch eating apple dumplings in an A.B.C. shop, the mad omnibus, and the magic broomstick which made a bad landing on a policeman are, as schoolboys say, priceless; but "Living Alone" is, all the same, nearer tragedy than comedy.

**Correspondence.**

(Letters intended for publication should reach the Editor by first post on Monday.)

**MR. JUSTICE HORRIDGE ON POOR PERSONS DIVORCE.**

MADAM.—Almost every newspaper in the Kingdom has called attention to the fact that out of 2,025 suits down for hearing during the present term, 1,228 are undefended petitions by husbands, as against 378 petitions for divorce by wives. The bulk of these cases have come through the Poor Persons Department. Mr. Justice Horridge pointed out a very serious defect of the Poor Persons Rules (one of many) when he remarked that "they seemed a farce and he declined to try a charge of adultery against a wife without giving her the opportunity to defend." The wife in this case desired to defend but was unable to provide any money for the out-of-pocket expenses of the solicitor.

We have ample evidence that many of the petitions of returned sailors and soldiers are undefended for the same reason, and we have repeatedly pointed out that a fund should be raised to assist these cases. It must be apparent to anyone who considers the matter that very few working class women can bring actions for divorce, especially when they must come from the provinces to London. Possibly not one in a thousand know that they have any right to defend an action, and certainly not how to proceed.

Until we have decentralisation and County Courts can deal with divorce it should be possible for poor persons, particularly women, to obtain advice and assistance from the Courts of the district where they reside. We should like to see a Court of Domestic Relations established in every town on the plan of those which have achieved such remarkable success in the U.S.A. Until something of the kind is done there can be no justice for the poor in this matter of divorce.

M. L. SEATON TIEDEMAN,  
 Secretary.

The Divorce Law Reform Union,  
 9, Victoria Street,  
 S.W. 1.

**Reports, Notices, etc.**

**National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship**

The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.  
 President: MISS ELEANOR F. RATHBON.  
 Hon. Secretary: MRS. A. K. GAMB. Secretaries: MISS INEZ M. FERGUSON, MRS. HURBACK (Information and Parliamentary).  
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**Headquarters Notes.**

**Classes on Election Work.**

Readers are reminded that these Classes start on Friday next, and that applications for tickets should be made as soon as possible. Tickets can be obtained and paid for at the door. The list of lectures will be found in the advertisement column.

**Library.**

The following books are now added to the Library:—  
 The Armour of Man. (Saleby.)  
 The Life of Liza Lehmann. (By Herself.)  
 Cambridge Essays in Education.  
 Human Nature in Politics. (Graham Wallas.)  
 Poverty and Waste. (Hartley Withers.)  
 Outlines of Central Government. (Clarke.)  
 Primer of London Citizenship. (Gomme.)  
 The State and the Nation. (Jenks.)  
 The Child she Bore. (A Foundling.)

**Deal, Walmer, Kingsdown, and Sandwich Branch.**

The Deal, Walmer, Kingsdown, and Sandwich Society of the N.U.S.E.C. which was formed in 1911, and of which Mrs. Clare Royse has been the Honorary Secretary for the eight years of its existence, is dissolving.

Besides holding many important meetings in the district and subscribing to various Headquarters Funds, this Society, during the war, sent large sums of money to the Scottish Women's Hospitals, both through the Kentish Federation and direct to the Serbian Relief Fund, and the Dr. Elsie Inglis Memorial Fund.

A W.C.A. affiliated to the National Women Citizens' Association is being formed in Deal and Walmer.

**TRADE UNIONISM FOR NURSES.**

On Saturday, October 25th, a Mass Meeting was held at Mortimer Hall, "To consider the advisability of forming a professional union (registered under the Trades Union Act) for the mutual help and protection of the trained nurse."

The Hall was crowded with nurses from all branches of the profession, and the resolution:—

"This meeting resolves that immediate steps be taken to form a professional union, registered under the Trades Union Act, for the mutual help and protection of the trained nurse." was carried by a large majority, by a show of hands. A persistent element of opposition was, however, present, expressed mainly by hissing, and though opportunity was given before the resolution was proposed, definite objections were not formulated.

The Chair was taken by Miss McCullum, a member of a well-known co-operation of private nurses.

Mr. Goddard, Solicitor to the Actors' Trade Union, read the list of proposed objects of the Union, and the Chairman then spoke outlining the dangers with which the profession of trained nursing is faced. One of these is the under-selling of the independent, private nurse by the practice of hospitals sending out to private cases nurses on their staffs who do not receive a fair share of the fee paid by the patient. Another danger was from competition by partly trained women who undertake at a lower fee to do the work of a trained nurse.

Miss Macdonald, Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association, then followed with a moving speech on the struggles and difficulties of the working nurse of the present day. She drew attention to the way in which, for many years past, the strain of the long hours of routine work, often of the more exhausting and exacting kind, have been responsible for driving out the power of thought and self-determination from the nurses.

Miss Paterson also spoke on the Economic Position of Nurses, and their difficulty in getting fair treatment in any dispute with employers in hospitals. Instances were given of ludicrously inadequate salaries offered by Public Authorities for highly skilled and specialised work for which post-graduate qualifications were required.

The next speech was by Mr. Lugg, General Secretary of the Actors' Union. His testimony to the efficacy of a trade union in comparison with any other kind of organisation was both startling and convincing. He showed that while for twenty-eight years as an association actors had tried without success to remedy what he described as "foul evils in the profession," in exactly nine months after they had formed themselves into a trade union all these evils were redressed and the profession, as a profession, stood higher than ever before. It was no longer despised, but respected and feared by the managers. He asked the nurses to believe that there was nothing derogatory to a profession in registering under the Trades Union Act. It was impossible for a quack to practise as a medical man—why should a quack be allowed to practise as a nurse?

Owing to unavoidable pressure on our space we have been compelled to hold over a number of Reports, Notices, &c.—Ed. C.C.

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**List of Women Candidates at Local Government Elections.**

TOWN COUNCILS, 1919.  
LIST OF WOMEN CANDIDATES.

The following names of Women Candidates have been received at the Office of the Women's Local Government Society, 19, Tothill Street, Westminster, up to Monday, October 27th. The Society has published special leaflets for use in the Elections.

[The Women's Local Government Society does not support individual candidates, leaving such work to the affiliated Associations.]

Ashton-under-Lyne	Mrs. Smethurst. L.
Banbury	Mrs. J. A. Wild. L.
Bangor	Mrs. Gillett. U.
Barnstaple	Mrs. Chamberlain. Ind.
Bath	Miss Selma Williams. Ind.
Bexhill	Miss Harston. Ind.
Birkenhead	Mrs. Cordiner. Lab.
Birmingham	Mrs. Mead. Ind.
Bolton	Miss Richardson, B.A. Lab.
Brighton	Mrs. Mercer. Lab.
Bristol	Mrs. Mitchell. Lab.
Burton-on-Trent	Miss Mary L. Wilson. Ind.
Bury	Mrs. Agnew.
Bournemouth	Mrs. T. Jones.
Bromley	Mrs. Mothersole.
Canterbury	Mrs. W. Taylor.
Cambridge	Mrs. Hutton. Ind.
Cheltenham	*Mrs. Ryle. Ind.
Coventry	Mrs. Anthony. Lab.
Eastbourne	Miss M. Tothill. Lab.
Ealing	Mrs. Stack, M.B.E. Ind.
Falmouth	Mrs. Darlington. Lab.
Gateshead	Miss Taylor. U.
Gillingham	Mrs. Hull. Lab.
Gloucester	Mrs. Tiller. Lab.
Godalming	Miss Stafford Smith. Ind.
Guildford	Mrs. Gardiner. Ind.
Halifax	Mrs. Prentice. Ind.
Hartlepool	Mrs. Wells. Ind.
Hastings	*Mrs. Keynes. Ind.
Hull	*Mrs. Stevenson. Ind.
Kingston-on-Thames	*Miss Geddes. Ind.
Leeds	Mrs. Hughes. Lab.
Leicester	Miss Boldero. Lab.
Leominster	Miss Gatliff, P.L.G. Ind.
Lichfield	Mrs. Sharpe. Ind.
Liverpool	Mrs. Whittburn. Ind.
Llanelli	Miss Tooke, P.L.G. Ind.
Manchester	Mrs. Kenyon. Ind.
Margate	Mrs. Dykes Bower.
Middlesborough	Miss Hartland.
Norwich	Mrs. Jarvis.
Nottingham	Mrs. Prosser.
Portsmouth	Mrs. Siveter.
Oxford	*Miss H. Robinson. Ind.
Penzance	Mrs. W. H. Harris. Ind.
Ramsgate	Mrs. Hicks. Ind.
Reading	Miss Vaughan. Ind.
Reigate	Miss Alsop. L.
Richmond	Mrs. Burn. Ind.
Ripon	Miss Holdsworth. Ind.
	Mrs. Beckett. Lab.
	Miss Ruth Kenyon, P.L.G. Ind.
	Miss A. M. Lile. Ind.
	Mrs. Hatfield. Ind.
	Mrs. Astbury. Ind.
	Mrs. Denny. Ind.
	Mrs. Hyslop. Ind.
	Mrs. Beetham. L.
	Miss Kitson. Ind.
	Miss Margaret Gimson. Ind.
	Miss Newman. Ind.
	Mrs. Herbert Reynolds. Ind.
	Mrs. S. J. Garrett. Lab.
	Mrs. Stuart Shaw.
	Mrs. Billinge. Lab.
	Mrs. Blair. Lab.
	Mrs. Mason. C.
	Mrs. Richardson. C.
	Mrs. Baker. Lab.
	Mrs. Luard. C.
	Mrs. Tuke. Ind.
	Mrs. Arundale. Lab.
	Mrs. Jones Davies. Ind.
	Miss Annie Lee. Lab.
	Miss Zanetti.
	Mrs. Hatfield.
	Mrs. Schofield Coates. Lab.
	Mrs. Hewitson. Lab.
	*Mrs. James Stuart. L.
	Mrs. Shepherd. Ind.
	Mrs. Holmes. Lab.
	Miss Thackeray. L.
	Mrs. Arthur Wilkens. Lab.
	*Mrs. Dunn. Ind.
	Miss Marriage. L.
	Miss E. M. Allen.
	*Mrs. James Powell.
	Mrs. Edwards. Ind.
	Lady Nott-Bower, P.L.G. Ind.
	Miss Vate-Lee. Ind.
	Mrs. Bayly. Ind.

**The Treatment of Consumption, Asthma, Bronchitis, & Nasal Catarrh**  
**The Edwin W. Alabone Treatment.**

ARTICLES are frequently appearing in the newspapers and magazines, written by persons who, whilst they deplore the serious loss the United Kingdom sustains annually through the ravages of consumption, hold out no hope of a cure being found. What these people write regarding tuberculosis naturally tends to have a very depressing effect on consumptives who are unfortunate enough to read pessimistic statements. We hasten to say that the belief in the impossibility to cure phthisis is absolutely without foundation, and the sooner the established fact that consumption can be cured is everywhere appreciated the better it will be for the masses.

It is not due to the much-vaunted open-air measures that we are enabled to state that victims of consumption can be restored to health and strength, but to the specific treatment for phthisis and allied complaints promulgated by Dr. Edwin W. Alabone, which undoubtedly offers the best possible chance of cure. It has been put to the severest tests, and it success has been phenomenal, especially in view of the fact that so many of the patients cured have not commenced the treatment until the eleventh hour, after their cases had been given up as hopeless in other quarters.

As we have before mentioned, any reader who happens to be personally interested in the vitally important

question of the cure of consumption should acquaint himself with the *modus operandi* of the Alabone method of treatment. It would certainly be worth his while to do so.

The most complete information on this important question will be gladly supplied on application to the Secretary, The Edwin W. Alabone Treatment, Ltd., Lynton House, 12, Highbury Quadrant, London, N. 5.

Thousands of people have been cured by this treatment, very many of whom have written telling of the benefit they have received.

The following letter is of interest:—

"Crossways,  
"Tylers Green, Penn. Bucks.  
"June 27, 1919.

"The Edwin W. Alabone Treatment, Ltd.

"Dear Sirs,—May I have the privilege of adding my testimony to those who have permanently benefited from your Treatment?

"Four years ago I unexpectedly developed tuberculosis and spent some time in one of the best-known Sanatoriums, from whence I returned home much worse than when I left.

"Your Treatment was brought to my notice and I decided to give it a trial.

"In three months I was wonderfully improved in health; after six months

my medical attendant pronounced me to be completely cured.

"For two years I have tested the permanency of this 'cure,' being engaged during part of that time on strenuous War Work, and I have never had the slightest indication of a recurrence of the trouble.

"I have much pleasure in recommending your Treatment to all sufferers from tuberculosis, and will be very pleased to give further details to anyone who would like them.

"Believe me,  
"Yours gratefully,  
"DOROTHY ARNOLD."

Of course, we need hardly point out that what has now come to be known as "The Alabone Treatment" for Consumption and Asthma is not a success in every instance. Naturally, some do not recover. Nevertheless, the claim is perfectly justified that in the great majority of cases it is possible to effect genuine and lasting cures, even where the disease is far advanced.

One cannot do better than advise any reader to obtain a copy of Dr. Alabone's important book, "The Cure of Consumption, Asthma, Bronchitis, and other Diseases of the Chest," now in its 49th edition, 178th thousand, which will be forwarded for 2s. 6d., post free, from Lynton House, 12, Highbury Quadrant, London, N. 5.

Scarborough	Miss Brown. Ind.
Sheffield	Miss Rotherford. Ind.
Southampton	Mrs. Cumming. Lab.
Southport	Mrs. Wilkinson. Lab.
Tunbridge Wells	Mrs. Barton. Lab.
Westcliff-on-Sea	Mrs. Baldock. Ind.
Wimbledon	Mrs. Palmer. Lab.
Winchester	Mrs. Perriman. Lab.
Worcester	Miss Hartley. Ind.
York	Miss Kate Rimmer. C. (Unopposed.)
	Miss Power. Ind.
	Miss A. Scott. Ind.
	Mrs. Alderman. Ind.
	Mrs. Gaunt. Lab.
	Mrs. Chalkley. Ind.
	Miss Richardson Evans. Ind.
	Miss Du Boulay. Ind.
	Mrs. Hooley. Ind.
	Miss Fernstone. Ind.
	Mrs. Herbage Edwards. Lab.
	Mrs. D. S. Crichton. Ind.
	Mrs. Fawcett. Lab.
	Mrs. Winterton. Ind.
	* Standing for re-election.

**London.**

The information contained in this list has been supplied by the Women's Municipal Society.

Battersea	Candidates and Wards.
	Mrs. Diedericks-Duval, 37, Park Road, St. John's Hill.
	Mr. Ganley 5 Thirsk Road, Lavender Hill. (No. 5.)
	Mrs. Champ, 11, Heaver Road, Battersea. (No. 5.)
	Mrs. Hockley, 88, Wariner Gardens, Battersea.
	Mrs. Marriott, 175, Broomwood Road, Battersea. (No. 4.)
Bermondsey	Miss Edith Brown, 13, Park Road, S.W. 18. (No. 6.)
	Mrs. Gamble, 84, Southwark Park Road.
	Mrs. Gledhill, 103a, Ascot Road.
	Miss Scott Baker, 90, Lower Road, Rotherhithe.
	Mrs. Edwards, 232, Lower Road.
	Mrs. Gregory, School House, Bush Road.
	Mrs. Bummage, 35, Thorburn Square.
	Mrs. Salter, 5, Stocks Road.
	Miss Stephen.
	Miss Broughton.
	Miss Groves.
Bethnal Green	Mrs. Nicholson. (N.E.)
	Mrs. Hollings, 19, Victoria Park Square.
	Mrs. Sutherland.
	Miss Mary James. (South.)
Camberwell	Mrs. E. Morris, 23, Eynella Road, Dulwich Park.
	B. of G.

Chelsea	Mrs. Bracey Wright. (N. Peckham.) B. of G.
	Miss Anderton. (Ruskin.)
	Mrs. Swales. (St. Mary's.)
	Mrs. Reay. (The Rye.)
	Miss Hannah Taylor. (St. John's.)
	Mrs. Mockford. (Alleyn.)
	Mrs. Ricketts. (Marlboro'.)
	Mrs. Piggott. (College.)
	Mrs. Lusignea. (St. Mary's.)
	Mrs. Phillips. (No. 8.)
	Mrs. Robert Jones. (13.)
5 Wards.	Mrs. Hubert Walter, 19, Cheyne Place, S.W. 3.
	Mrs. Curteis, 3, Glebe Place, Chelsea, S.W. 3.
	Mrs. Hewitt, 155, Sloane Street, S.W. 1.
	Lady Phipps, 21, Carlyle Square, S.W. 3.
	Mrs. Gilbert Samuel, 32, Sloane Gardens.
	The Hon. Miss Brand.
	Miss Maud. (Stanley.)
	Miss F. Huddart. (Stanley.)
	Miss Mackenzie. (Church.)
	Miss M. Mackenzie. (Hans Town.)
	Miss Crawley.
	Mrs. Smith.
	Miss Patterson Nickalls. (Hospital.)
Deptford	Mrs. Warcup, 8, St. James' Road, S.E. 14. (S.W.)
6 Wards.	Miss R. K. Cockerton, 103, Up. Brockley Road, S.E. 4. (S.)
	Mrs. Charlton. (S.E.)
	Miss Jacob, 16, Tressillian Crescent, S.E. 4. (S.W.)
	Mrs. Tiffen, 51, Sprules Road, S.E. (S.)
	Mrs. Drapper. (N.W.)
	Mrs. Humphries. (E.)
Finsbury	Mrs. Lord, 24, St. John's Street, E.C. 1.
11 Wards.	Miss Freshfield, 36, King's Square, E.C. (City Rd. West.)
	Mrs. Dicker. (St. Philip's.)
	Mrs. Chapman. (St. John's.)
Fulham	Mrs. Perham, 302, Fulham Palace Road, S.W.
8 Wards.	Mrs. Smiles, 62, Waldemar Mansions, S.W. 6.
	Mrs. Gilliatt. (Lillie.)
	Mrs. Renton. (Sand's End.)
	Miss Henneker.
	Mrs. Linshaw.
	Mrs. Greenwood. (Munster.)
	Mrs. Cooper Key. (N.W.)
Greenwich	Mrs. Edwards, 135, Shooter's Hill Road, S.E. 3.
8 Wards.	Miss Sherman, 2 Gloucester Place. (S.)
	Mrs. Cunis, Hulyton, Beaconsfield Road, S.E.
	Mrs. Kelly, 142, Woolwich Road, S.E. (Marsh.)
	Mrs. Smith. (Charlton.)
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ON  
**ELECTION WORK**

October 31st,  
November 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, 1919.

Chairman: MISSHELEN WARD, N.U.S.E.C.

These Classes are intended for women who wish to take part in either Parliamentary or Local Government Elections, whether as Candidates or as Workers. It is hoped that further Classes for training Women Election Agents will arise out of this preliminary course.

**October 31st. 1.—Preparation of Ground.**  
Opener: Mrs. OLIVER STRACHEY.  
(a) Selection of Candidates.  
(b) Preliminary Propaganda.

**November 7th. 2.—Legal Aspects.**  
(a) Parliamentary Elections.  
(b) Local Government Elections.  
Lecturer: Miss BERRY.

**November 14th. 3.—General Campaign.**  
Opener: Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY.

**November 21st. 4.—Canvassing.** Opener: Miss MACADAM.

**November 28th. 5.—"Should Women follow Ordinary Election Methods."**  
Opener: Mrs. HOW MARTYN.

The Classes will last 14 hours, of which half an hour will be devoted to questions and discussion.

Lectures will be held at 5.30 p.m. at the Offices of the N.U.S.E.C.  
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  - Miss Cicely Fawcett, 17, Lyndhurst Road, N.W. 3. (No. 2.)
  - Mrs. Fisher, 49, Haverstock Hill.
  - Mrs. Bedford, Lake View, Vale of Heath. (7.)
  - Mrs. Foster. (7.)
  - Mrs. Vernon, Manor Lodge, Vale of Heath. (7.)
  - Mrs. Anderson. (7.)
  - Mrs. Blues, 12, Dennington Road. (3.)
  - Mrs. Munro, 99, Haverstock Hill. (3.)
  - Mrs. Thompson, 21, Downshire Hill. (3.)
  - Mrs. Burns, 34, Downshire Hill. (2.)
  - Mrs. Etheridge, 20, Mackerson Road. (2.)
  - Mrs. White, 16, Nassington Road. (2.)
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  - Mrs. Parsons. (5.)
  - Mrs. Smith. (5.)
  - Miss N. March.
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  - Mrs. Martin. (Upper.)
  - Miss Miriam Price. (Highbury.)
  - Mrs. Campbell. (Lower Holloway.)
  - Mrs. Holloway. (Lower.)
  - Miss S. Trafford. (Lower.)
  - Miss Johnson. (Canonbury.)
  - Miss Smedley, 30, Hillmorton Road. (Canonbury.)
  - Mrs. White, 84, St. Thomas Road. (Highbury.)
  - Mrs. Gorham, 9, Upper Hornsey Rise. (Holloway.)
  - Mrs. Ives. (South.)
  - Mrs. Ansell. (South.)
  - Mrs. Annie Collins. (Vauxhall.)
  - Therese La Chard. (Vauxhall.)
  - Eliza Winnen. (Vauxhall.)
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  - Miss Joseph. (Holland.)
  - Mrs. Davidson. (Pembroke.)
  - Miss Cunliffe. (Earl's Court.)
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  - Mrs. Fuller. (Red Cliff.)
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  - Mrs. Drury, 45, Fernhead Road. (Harrow Road.)
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  - Miss McLean, 13, Southwick Crescent. (Church.)
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  - Miss Herbert, St. Catherine's College, Brunswick Road, E. 14.
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  - Mrs. Furse, 53, Benledi Street, E. 14.
  - Mrs. March, 2, Plumson Street, E. 14.
  - Mrs. Surr, 153, Bow Road, E. 3.
  - Mrs. Cresswell, 210, E. India Dock Road, E. 14.
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  - Miss Bright Ashford, 79, Abbey Road Mansions.
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  - Mrs. Taylor, 41c, Polygon Buildings, N.W. 1. (6.)
  - Mrs. Salmond, 36, Brunswick Square, W.C. 1.
  - Miss Crosby, 19, Gordon Square, W.C. 1.
  - Mrs. Gilson, 18, Ospringe Road, N.W. 1.
  - Miss Martin. (Ward 7.)
  - Miss Keough, 8, St. Bartholomews Villas, N.W. 5.
  - Mrs. Ebury, 69, Lady Margaret Road, N.W. 5.
  - Mrs. Carveron, 42, Lewisham Road, N.W. 5.
  - Miss E. Howell, 79, Tottenham Court Road. (7.)
  - Mrs. Greenstreet, 86, Patshall Road, N.W. 5. (3.)
  - Mrs. E. Spokes, 6, St. Andrew's Place, N.W. 1. (5.)
  - Mrs. Webb. (Wenlock.)
  - Miss Wragge, 114, Shepherdess Walk, N. 1.
  - Miss Thwaites, 78, Haberdasher Street, Hoxton, N.
  - Miss Chambers. (Kingsland.)
  - Miss Bolton, Hoxton House, Hoxton Street, N. 1.
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  - Miss B. Lewis, 175, Chatham Avenue. (Hoxton.)
  - Miss A. Lewis, 175, Chatham Avenue. (Wenlock.)
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  - Miss G. E. Walters. (Central.)
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  - Therese La Chard. (Vauxhall.)
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  - Miss S. Turnbull. (River Ward.)
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  - Mrs. E. Dormer. (Burrage.)
  - Miss A. Andrews. (Central.)
  - Miss G. E. Walters. (Central.)
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