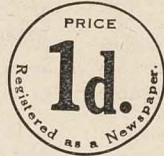


A MESSAGE FROM MARGARET BONDFIELD, M.P.

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WOMAN'S LEADER
AND
THE COMMON CAUSE

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FROM

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NOTES AND NEWS

The Three-Party System.

The chief interest with regard to the Parliamentary outlook has centred this week, and is bound to centre for many months, if not years, to come, in the working of a three-party system. This particular form of fantasy-making offers a rich reward to whoever indulges in it. Two different, though allied, schools of thought have emerged so far. Professor Ramsay Muir, writing in the *Saturday Westminster*, is of the opinion that our three big parties have come to stop, and points out the necessity of "some readjustment of the relations between parties if we are not to fall into chaos." Each party vies with the other in repudiating the idea of a coalition, but it is necessary to abandon the idea that it is the primary right of an Opposition Party to get rid of the Government and take its place. The third party's promise of support would amount simply to this—that it would undertake not to support a vote of confidence unless it is satisfied that the Government is pursuing a policy which is likely to be disastrous to the interests of the nation. There would under such an arrangement be some guarantee that each question would be supported on its merits.

Professor Pollard, on the other hand, holds that for most of the eighty years between 1835 and 1915 there had been more than two distinct parties in the House of Commons, and for thirty years of that period no single party had a majority. He thinks, however, that there has always been a tendency for the third party to disappear by the three great stages of "alliance, coalition, and amalgamation," and pointed out that both the Labour and Conservative party were inclined to select the Liberal Party for this rôle. At the same time he pointed out that "if three people are walking down a twisting road on a dark night, with ditches on either side, the person in the middle is the least likely to fall into the ditch." He further showed that no Government has a right to a dissolution. If a Government could not carry on it could resign, and only if no alternative Government could be formed with the existing Parliament does the need for a dissolution arise.

The Scapegoat.

Discussion concerning the woman voter's part in the General Election has continued to rage in the correspondence columns

of *The Times* and of the provincial press. It is a peculiarly fruitful subject of argument, because the secrecy of our ballot system ensures that the question can never be satisfactorily cleared up. But though we dealt with it ourselves at some length in our leader of last week, we should like to refer to the interesting suggestion put forward by the *South Wales Daily News* that women should be required to record their votes on a type of ballot paper reserved exclusively for their use. The introduction of marked ballot papers for particular categories of voters would of course provide fascinating data for politicians and social investigators. It would be illuminating, for instance, to isolate the votes of all persons economically dependent upon the drink trade, or of all registered readers of Rothermere-Beaverbrook syndicated publications. But such a practice would be wholly incompatible with the maintenance of the British Citizen's constitutional right to cast his or her vote in perfect freedom. Meanwhile, this generation will continue, under the decent obscurity of the ballot system, to assign blame or praise to the woman voter. For, as Rose Macaulay has remarked, women are "good copy."

Votes for Women.

Miss Margaret Bondfield's inspiring message to suffragists to rekindle the flame of their enthusiasm for the last lap in the effort to secure the franchise for women on the same terms as men will inspire many women to renewed activity. Last week Sir Robert Newman in his message to our readers suggested that this was an opportune moment for the WOMAN'S LEADER to press for this reform *before another General Election takes place*. To quote his words, "We should then, at any rate, get a verdict from practically the whole people, which cannot be the case with millions of women deprived of their right as citizens to vote simply because of their sex."

The prospects of an Equal Franchise Bill are dealt with elsewhere in this issue. This journal, which stands for a real equality of liberties, status, and opportunities between men and women, has always considered the removal of the present franchise anomalies a key question, and we hope for the active support of our readers at this critical juncture when we at last dare to hope that the end is within reach.

Equal Pay and the Teachers.

Miss Emily Phipps, B.A., has just published under the auspices of the National Union of Women Teachers, a pamphlet entitled "Equal Pay." Its price is 1d., and it can be obtained from the N.U.W.T. office, at 39 Gordon Square, W.C.1. In the course of it, Miss Phipps brings forward a number of hard facts and figures to prove the crudity and inequity of the existing assumption that all men are responsible for dependents while no women are economically responsible for anybody but themselves. She concludes with a fierce indictment against the N.U.T. in connection with its treatment of this question. The contents of Miss Phipps' pamphlet, taken in conjunction with what we know of the organized male teachers' attitude towards the problem of equal pay for equal work, demonstrate only too clearly that all the elements of a sex-war are present within the ranks of the teaching profession. It is a very regrettable fact, but there it is. And Miss Phipps has set forth with admirable lucidity the case for what we believe to be the right side.

Children in Divorce Cases.

Considerable attention has been given in the press lately to a case on 10th December in which Sir Henry Duke, President of the Divorce Court, decided that the mother who was the guilty party had no rights of access to her child.

The question of custody of or access to children in such cases is, however, entirely a matter for the discretion of the Court. As a rule this discretion is executed by denying to the guilty party either custody or access, but this is by no means always the case. There is no difference in the law as between mother and father, and we are informed on very good authority that there is no difference as to custom. Nevertheless, it is more than likely that the tradition of a double moral standard should linger in many courts, and induce judges to consider that a mother guilty of adultery is unfit to have charge

CHRISTMASTIDE, 1923.

It is historically uncertain on what grounds 25th December was settled upon for the celebration of the Nativity, but when somewhere at the end of the fourth century it was fixed it was ordained that the four weeks preceding it were to be devoted mainly to thoughts of judgment to come. Though the Advent message has its joyful side, yet men were to think of it, as is plainly shown in the Advent hymns and services, with fear and trembling. The mind of man has so greatly reacted from belief in a judgment day of terror, that it is in danger of having no belief in a judgment of any kind. Yet, as Emerson reminds us, the world is full of judgment days: into every community a man enters he is soon stamped and gauged. Be the desire to appear greater than he is ever so deep, in every action he is soon accurately weighed and stamped with the right number by those who surround him. Doubtless there will be a supreme day of reckoning, yet judgment is the natural result of a spirit law, and daily do we, whether we know it or not, create our own.

It is good that the season when thoughts centre on judgment to come ends with the birth of a child who, growing to manhood, brought a supreme message to the world and loved so greatly that life was of no account. Men may seek to terrify each other into godly living, but it is tenderness, the sense of being cared for and loved that awakens in the heart of man the desire to love in return and become God-like. It is easy to point historically to the failures of the Christian Church, yet He whose birth all Christendom now celebrates has been the greatest ennobling influence in human history. The best, however, that Christianity can give to the world has yet to come. As thought centres more on the Christ message and life rather than on theological disputations the power of the spirit laws which He unveiled must surely become more manifest; and becoming more manifest to mankind, mankind still living in much darkness will seek to put them to the test, and in doing so will learn of the power that can and will at long last ring out that darkness that surrounds him.

Visions mean little or much, who knows? and as one grows older they become more rare until perhaps they pass away and are seen no more. One that was very clear has for me an abiding memory. By the Lake of Galilee it occurred just before the catastrophe of 1914. It was Easter time and early in the morning. Arising early in search of solitude, silence

or even access to her own children, where a father in such circumstances would be given the right. We can only assume that the outcry raised by many of our contemporaries—whose sense of justice and fairness we heartily commend—was due to ignorance of the law.

A Lady Mayor and Women Police.

Councillor Christina Hartley was presented by Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., on behalf of her townswomen, at the close of her year of office as Mayor of Southport, with a miniature portrait and a cheque and address in recognition of her services as first Mayor of the City. Miss Hartley stated that though she had offered to pay the salary and provide the uniform for a woman policeman the Watch Committee had refused to make the appointment.

"This Freedom" and Mr. Hutchinson's Views on Married Woman's Work.

In the *British Weekly* recently Mr. Hutchinson discusses the question of married women's work and Rosalie's failure in the much discussed novel "This Freedom." He disclaims the antagonistic views attributed to him on this subject. On the contrary, he replies to the following questions in no uncertain voice: "Should a woman have an occupation and be an independent wage-earner? Certainly she should.—Can a woman continue a career after marriage and at the same time do her duty as a wife? Certainly she can.—Can a woman be a mother to her children and at the same time earn her own living? Certainly she can.—Then why was this book written to present, and to attempt to prove, the contrary? It was not." The tragedy of the story, he tells us, was due to the heroine's absorption in herself, not to the fact of her work. We are glad to hear that this explanation will appear as a preface to the popular edition of the book which will shortly be issued by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton.

by the lakeside, but for the gentle ripple of the water, reigned supreme. How false, I thought, is the idea that the Holy Land is to-day too modernized and changed to bring to those who visit it an idea of what it was when the Master trod its paths. The hills are ever the same, the flowers do not change, the sky-line that met His eyes meet mine to-day, and in such moments the like sound of lapping water fell upon His ears. Quite naturally thoughts on His message of peace and goodwill to all mankind then took possession of my mind. How elusive it had been! Was the hope of peace for mankind after all nothing but a delusion? Thoughts crowded in of the world as it really is: the sordid struggle for existence, the fear of grinding want amongst men not only willing but anxious to labour for daily bread, the soul-destroying toil of women in the great cities of the world, little children in surroundings that robbed them of the joys of childhood. In spite of the glorious surroundings, life as it actually is for millions haunted me for some moments like an evil dream. Then, somehow, I know not how, came a sudden vision of what this same world will be when men hail the Child of Bethlehem as the Redeemer of mankind, yes, but also as the Statesman of the world. Cities of great beauty arose before my eyes, of which those who dwell therein were proud, for all could live a free and happy life. Radiant men and women trod the streets. Fear of cold and of hunger had vanished, dread of an uncared-for old age had passed away, the children were as well tended plants, free, giving their best to all and happy in the streets.

Only an early morning vision—a dream, or what you will, not even new. Yet it was not what is often called a "heavenly" vision, relating to another sphere. It is what will be realized when men learn—which through much suffering is, I think, being slowly learnt—that the spirit law of love actually is one of limitless power. So great that classes and nations will experience what individual men and women have experienced down the ages, the transforming power that changes self-seeking to fellowship and understanding. The fullness of the message of peace and goodwill has not been realized, but it was not given in vain, for every Christmastide does, I think, in spite of many appearances to the contrary, ring in a fuller understanding of "the Christ that is to be."

E. P.-T.

THE NEW PARLIAMENT AND WOMEN'S BILLS.

Only a few weeks ago in these columns I endeavoured to make a forecast of the fate of "Women's Bills" in the Autumn Session of the last Parliament. The coming of the General Election, whatever its advantages or disadvantages on general grounds, involved a frustration of all these hopes of success. Those whose fate is to try to bring about ends by political action are quite accustomed by this time to the fate of Sisyphus, but it was nevertheless, to say the very least, distressing that two years running the Sessions should have been cut short with many of the Bills in which Women's Organizations are interested still only partly through their Parliamentary careers. It is no use bemoaning the past, but it must not be laid at the door of these Organizations that it is necessary to draw the attention of readers of the *WOMAN'S LEADER* once again to the old, familiar measures.

Nevertheless, this year the situation is profoundly changed, and the rôle of prophet is a peculiarly thankless one. We know the present Government will be in power for the first week of the Session, but everything indicates that the Labour Party will next assume office. How long it will remain in power, and whether an early appeal to the country will be made, however, no one can tell. The Session may even see all three parties in office in turn. Still, whatever Party may be in office, the fact remains that, given any stability at all, there are possibilities that we may see this Session triumph undreamt of before, in view of the fact that, for the first time, we have a Parliament, a large majority of whose members are pledged to our reforms, and, moreover, with eight women members to take their share of the work. Clearly the measure which appears most likely first to achieve success is one on *Equal Franchise*. When the Labour Party comes into office there is very good reason to hope that it will introduce legislation to this end in some form or other. The Labour Party shares the opinion of many members of the past and present Governments, including Mr. Lloyd George, Sir Philip Lloyd-Græme, and others, that *Equal Franchise* would benefit the Labour Party, as so large a proportion of the young women would vote Labour. Our experience does not enable us to support this view, as we think the younger women will, when enfranchised, distribute themselves among the political parties in the same proportions as have other classes of the community. Nevertheless, the fact that a Labour Government is genuinely an advocate of *Equal Franchise* on its merits, and also regards it as a good Party move, means that, given any time at all, an endeavour will more than likely be made to add the new members to the electorate before the next election.

Whatever Government is in power, we must hope that a Guardianship of Infants' Bill will be introduced—as a Government measure we hope; failing this, as a Private Member's Bill if success can be secured in the Ballot. This Bill will be on the same lines as the 1923 one, but is being slightly redrafted by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, in order to provide a few additions and omissions introduced as a result of evidence given by competent witnesses before the Joint Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament last year. If the Bill fails to obtain a place in the Ballot it will be introduced by Lord Askwith into the House of Lords, though in what form has not yet been decided.

The *Legitimacy Bill* (England and Wales), 1924, will, it is hoped, also obtain a place in the Private Member's Ballot. The National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child, who is promoting the Bill, has decided that it shall be exactly the same as last year's Bill, except that the sub-section providing that "Nothing in this Act shall operate to legitimate a person whose father or mother was married to a third party when the illegitimate person was born" is to be omitted, in order to avoid the creation of yet another class of illegitimate children whose parents would have taken the opportunity to regularize their position, but who would have themselves been denied such an opportunity. A further Bill, dealing with *Affiliation Orders*, will be drafted later by the same body, and introduced probably after 11 p.m.

The National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship is seeking also a place in the Private Member's Ballot for the *Separation and Maintenance Orders Bill*, 1924. Our readers will remember that last year's Bill on this subject did not win a place in the Ballot, and had to be introduced after 11 o'clock. It was, therefore, a small non-contentious measure. Next

year's Bill goes back to the 1922 version, and provides that the grounds for Separation in a court of Summary Jurisdiction shall be the same for men as for women, that adultery shall be included among these grounds, that Maintenance Orders shall be paid whether husband and wife are living together or separately, and that increased facilities for the enforcement of the payment of Maintenance Orders shall be given.

Later in the Session, should there be time, the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship will have in preparation three Bills affecting the *Status of the Married Woman*. One will give the married woman the same right to retain or to change her domicile as has a man; the second will provide that husbands and wives shall be bound to leave a certain proportion of their fortune to one another and to their children; while the third will remove the anomalies at present existing in the position of married women with regard to crimes, torts, etc.

The Association of Social and Moral Hygiene is engaged in preparing a *Bill to repeal the Solicitation Laws*, and special legislation directed against prostitutes; this will not, however, be ready at the beginning of the Session.

Last, but not least, comes the great problem of *Pensions for Widows with Dependent Children*. Both the Liberal and Labour Parties are pledged to this reform, and our readers will remember that at the National Unionist Conference in Plymouth a few months ago a resolution in its favour was passed. The refusal to give these pensions has been one of the obviously extravagant economies of the latter day Governments, which we hope will be swept away by a Government which has long stood and worked for this reform. EVA M. HUBBACK.

MESSAGE FROM MARGARET BONDFIELD, M.P.

We have pleasure in inserting the following message from Margaret Bondfield, M.P., which arrived too late for last week's issue:—

"I would like to send a message of encouragement to the readers of the *WOMAN'S LEADER*. One of the most hopeful aspects of the fight in my constituency was the great proportion of young men and women under 30 who took an active part in the campaign. One feels that the younger generation will be far better grounded in the questions of the day, and that as the young men are using their political power, so the young women would use their political power with great advantage to the state, given the opportunity. I would urge all suffrage women to rekindle their enthusiasm for the last effort to remove the present franchise anomalies and to win for women at 21 and over the full rights of citizenship on the residential qualification. MARGARET BONDFIELD."

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE, 55 Gower Street, W.C.1.

We are concerned to-day with the difficulty of rousing public opinion far enough to save Germany without arousing hatred against the French people. It is a help to know that there is "the other France," of which Miss Pye writes in the *News Sheet of the Fellowship of Reconciliation* this month. Besides Socialist opinion, which has been opposed to the occupation of the Ruhr, there are groups of "Anciens Combattants" all over the country which are turning to the support of the League of Nations idea, and many strong resolutions are reported. An International Congress of the *Ligue des Droits de l'Homme* has recently been held in Paris, with German delegates present, who were afterwards taken a tour of the devastated districts. Another section of the public is represented in the Catholic Pacifist movement, led by Marc Sagnier, which gives whole-hearted support to the League of Nations' ideal, and gets very large meetings in all parts of the country. The subsidized Press prevents the dissemination of news that tells against the Government, but the new daily, the *Quotidien*, upholds the League of Nations, and its circulation is steadily increasing, while the *Oeuvre* is also ready to support pacifist opinion.

NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE.

Next week, with the exception of a possible paragraph or two, we shall lay politics aside. Mrs. Fawcett's Reminiscences, short articles on general subjects by Miss Eleanor Rathbone and others, with Reviews of new books, will, we hope, produce a number suitable for holiday reading. On Friday, 4th January, we will inaugurate the new year by an article by Miss Maude Royden, at one time Editor of this paper. Please send us at least one new subscriber as a Christmas present. Orders for the 4th January issue should be sent at once.

WHAT I REMEMBER.¹ XV.

By MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT, J.P., LL.D.

CAMBRIDGE IN THE 'SIXTIES AND 'SEVENTIES—(continued).

It is tempting to go on piling up anecdotes of our Cambridge friends, but if I let myself go my story would be too long for my readers' patience. The very names re-awaken in my mind so many memories. There were Dr. and Mrs. Bateson, and a family of very attractive children, several of whom were destined to become my lifelong friends. Dr. Bateson was Master of St. John's and the leader of the University Liberals: Mrs. Bateson was a very keen supporter of the Women's Movement in all its branches; I used to call her "my best woman" and James Stuart my "best man" among our Cambridge friends. Then there were Professor and Mrs. Miller, and their daughters; Emma, the second, became my fast friend. She helped me when I was reading Dante, as she was far more proficient than I in Italian and had, moreover, the scholar's mind and exactitude. Mrs. Miller was a real wit: her sayings went all over Cambridge; though I often thought the more stodgy members of the University did not appreciate them as highly as they deserved. She was an artist, too. Her etchings had been shown to Ruskin, who had given them his blessing. One of her sayings I am tempted to quote. It has Mrs. Miller's special quality of the unexpected: "Oh! how glad I am Newnham and Girton didn't exist in my time!" she said to me. I exclaimed, as I was sure she meant I should, "Why, Mrs. Miller?" She rejoined at once, "Because I know my husband would have married one of them and not me." I have already referred to Dr. and Mrs. Ferrers, our next door neighbours in Brookside, and the kindest of kind friends. Their eldest child, Gilbert, was the most extraordinarily gifted boy I have ever known: he was as wonderful (so I was informed) in his special line, mathematics, as the infant Mozart had been in music. His early death nearly killed his parents, and I was in my degree pierced to the heart by it more than by any other death which had touched me closely since I lost my dear sister Louie in 1867.

In looking over these notes I should like to mention that one of the great pleasures of our Cambridge life was the amount of good music we were able to hear, not only the first-rate musical services at King's and Trinity, but chamber music in our own home or in the rooms of our friends. One of our very kindest music makers was Mr. Sedley Taylor. He was a musical enthusiast for all sorts of music. His voice was not his strong point: but he had the born musician's gift, without exactly singing, of being able to present the very soul of a song whether it were Father O'Flynn or Adelaide. He was devoted to my husband, and was always ready to come to play to him whatever he liked best. Then we also had the advantage of hearing Mr. (now Sir) Charles Villiers Stanford, who rapidly became the leader of the musical life of Cambridge. I remember particularly hearing him with delight in Mr. J. F. Moulton's rooms at Christ's. It was fitting in Milton's College that the "Blest pair of sirens voice and verse" should wed their divine sounds there.

We had some very charming neighbours living about ten miles from Cambridge in Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hall, of Six Mile Bottom. Mrs. Hall was French, and Mr. Hall in his youth, had fought, as a volunteer, in Garibaldi's army. They had a wide circle of foreign friends, many of them were of great distinction. They once brought Tourguéniev over to us to luncheon, and he allowed us to talk to him about his books, especially about *Virgin Soil*, which we had just read and admired very much. I took him round to see Newnham, and introduced him to Miss Jane Harrison, whom we found in her rooms deep in Plato.

I remember Tourguéniev saying to me as we came away: "What would I not give to see colleges for women like this in my own country!"

But there are still two names knocking at the gate of my memory: those of Dr. and Mrs. Geldart, the master of Trinity Hall and his wife. A volume in the style of Cranford would be needed to do them justice; they belonged so entirely to a past generation—almost to the 18th century. Dr. Geldart had

¹ This article is one of a series which will extend over several months.

acquired his considerable fortune in a romantic way. Having secured the best, that is the middle seat on the outside of a stage coach for a night journey, he found when he took possession of it that his neighbour, a man much older than himself, had the less desirable place, where, if the coach lurched or if the passenger dropped asleep, he was not unlikely to be pitched off. With characteristic courtesy the younger man offered the elder the more desirable seat. This led to friendly conversation, and at the end of the journey the two exchanged cards. One of the travellers was named Geldart and the other Gildart. This led to further friendly talk, and the older man asked the younger to visit him: their friendship ripened, and eventually Gildart and Geldart were merged in one, Geldart leaving his fortune to Gildart on condition of his assuming the former's name.

The younger fellows of Trinity Hall used to say that they were spending their lives convoying old ladies across Regent Circus or performing other deeds of desperate daring on behalf of strangers, but no one had ever left them a fortune. The Master of Trinity Hall was a devoted fisherman, and he became in time a great judge of wine and of food. When he ventured into the sphere of theology he was commonly believed to have said that to him the strongest evidence of design in the work of creation was that when salmon went out turbot came in.

The Rev. Henry Latham was the senior tutor at Trinity Hall when I first knew anything about the College. The Master was not infrequently heard to say: "I never have had any opinion of Latham . . . as a judge of wine." He left directions in his will that if he died in term time the young men (as he called the undergraduates) who attended his funeral were not to have the College sherry. "I never have thought well of the College sherry," said the Master; but they were to have a very good brown sherry from his own cellars. Once, having the honour of sitting next him at a dinner party at his own house, and seeing the array of, I think, four wine glasses allotted to each plate, he said, very gravely, "No doubt you have wondered, Mrs. Fawcett, that I am not offering my friends hock: I need hardly say how gladly I would have done so: I have some really fine hock; but," glancing round the large table, "I think there is no one here except myself and your professor who could fully appreciate it."

Mrs. Geldart was hardly less unique. Her loyalty, for example, to the Royal family seemed to belong to the time of le Roi Soleil: but all the same she did sometimes venture to criticize. For instance, she was shattered and temporarily estranged by the marriage of Princess Louise to the Marquis of Lorne. She did not recover from the shock for quite a long time. Trinity Hall had a custom of tremendous feasting between Christmas and the New Year. Perhaps this originated at a time when fellows and scholars had less than enough on ordinary occasions. A huge dinner at 5 o'clock would be followed by a huge supper at 10, day after day for several days. These festivals were appropriately and picturesquely entered in the College accounts as "Christmas exceedings." The Master and Mrs. Geldart superintended the preparations with careful solicitude. The menus were always sent in to them for criticism and approval. A year or two after the Royal marriage just referred to, a forgetful steward or cook had placed among the names of half a dozen soups "Potage Princess Louise": an agitated summons was sent by Mrs. Geldart to the responsible official to come at once on a matter of urgency: he found the good lady literally dancing about in her drawing room and waving the objectionable menu in her hand. "What does this mean?" she asked (she lisped a little, especially when excited), "Potage Windsor, all very right and proper; Potage à la reine, not a word to say against it; but Potage Princess Louise, I will not have it: I never have approved of that marriage." She was strongly opposed to women's suffrage; but she herself had a very grave concern about the orthodoxy of several of the Bishops. What good advice she could have given the Prime Minister! but she had never been approached about these appointments. People like that are not now made now, and even fifty or sixty years ago they were extremely rare. Let us not forget to be thankful for having had even a glimpse of them.

THE BIRD OF TRAVEL.¹

Not long ago Mr. de la Mare published a short story called *The Bird of Travel*: "a poet's story," as its audience said, "in sober earnest: incoherent, obscure, unreal, unlikelike, without an ending." It started from an old, deserted-looking house, called, if we remember right, "The Wood." The name of its sole occupant was not given. The journey, to which he now invites his readers, starts from a similar house, called "Thrae," of which the master, Mr. Nahum Tarroone, is always away on his travels, but may return at any moment. But in his round room at the top of the house he has left the key to his wanderings in three large manuscript volumes entitled "The Other World." The boy that studied the poems he found there, and the notes written about and roundabout the poems, and the pictures on the walls that illustrated them; who left when school claimed him "on the journey that has not yet come to an end"; that same boy, now grown up, composes this book "for the young of all ages" on Mr. Nahum's model and partly from Mr. Nahum's materials. We are glad to think that his *Come Hither* calls us also to journeys without end. In the immortal words of Tom o' Bedlam, already endeared to friends of Miss Midget—

With a heart of furious fancies

Whereof I am commander:

With a burning spear,

And a horse of air,

To the wilderness I wander.

With a Knight of ghosts and shadows,

I summoned am to Tourney:

Ten leagues beyond

The wide world's end;

Methinks it is no journey.

Mr. Nahum's chief stand-by in his travels was, clearly, Mr. Anon, the versatile and inscrutable author, not only of the poem just quoted, but of many immortal jingles, familiar in every nursery, and of ballads and lyrics without end and without peer. No fewer than 160 of his inventions are to be found in these pages. Other writers specially dear to Mr. Nahum, or to the boy whom he inspired, are Shakespeare, Blake, Shelley, Coleridge, Herrick, and Thomas Hardy. The order in which we have placed these is determined by frequency of citation—not altogether a fair test: and Shakespeare, who comes first, has only thirty-three entries to set against Mr. Anon's 160. But if we add that the name Robert Browning does not occur at all, while Tennyson and Mary Coleridge each appear seven times, the would-be traveller will perhaps divine the nature of the journey to which he is invited. It is through the eyes that his fancy is invited to be most active.

The poems are followed by notes, "about and roundabout." These invite to further journeys, yet longer (since one infinite may be greater than another) and more devotional than the poems themselves. They are full of curious learning, apt quotation, and provoking snatches of song, with transitions as abrupt as those of life. Here is a specimen, a story in illustration of Blake's contention—"you certainly mistake when you say that the visions of fancy are not to be found in this world: to me this world is all one continued vision":—

"In the year 1872 an old lady might have been seen driving across the Rye in her silvery carriage, and she came to where, under a flowering tree, sat a small boy—the locks of hair upon his head like sheaves of cowslips, his eyes like speedwell, and he in very bright clothes. And he was a-laughing up into the tree. She stopped her carriage and said to him, almost as if she were more angry than happy, 'What are you laughing at, child?' And he said: 'At the sparrows, ma'am.' 'Mere sparrows!' says she, 'but why?' 'Because they are saying,' says he, 'here comes across the Rye a blind old horse, a blind old coachman, and a blind old woman.' 'But I am not blind,' says she. 'Nor are they not "mere sparrows",' said the child. And at that the old lady was looking out of her carriage at no child, but at a small bush, in bud, of gorse."

Those who are looking for "An Anthology" had better not buy this book; they will grudge their guinea. But those who have heard and seen the bird of travel will follow again, and not complain of the fare.

J. L. STOCKS.

¹ *Come Hither: a Collection of Rhymes and Poems for the Young of all Ages.* Made by Walter de la Mare and embellished by Alec Buckels. Pp. xxxviii+699. Constable: London, 1923. 21s. net.

ME AND THE ELECTION.

By A. NONNE.

THE LABOUR PARTY HAS DONE THIS! Such was the loudly expressed opinion of a Voice in the Trafalgar Square election crowd as the cloud of thick darkness settled heavily upon the revellers on that fateful night of December. The thing it (the Labour Party) had done this time was the FOG. The Voice's companion expostulated timidly: "Oh, do you really think so?" But the Voice's "think" was a know. "Yes, I do think so: look at those men there, they are laughing and they are LABOUR MEN!"

Well, well, well—it is true that the power of Labour to cause the timid to rest uneasily in their beds is great, and is growing greater, and it is also true—Oh, sinister portent—that the Labour manifesto hinted at harnessing to its cause the triumphs of scientific invention, but still I have my doubts about their hidden hand being in that fog, because . . . but I will leave it all to Lords Gatherem and Botherem, it is too high for me. My mind instinctively turns away.

As in a feverish dream it turns to apples. Are apples a material? What I mean to say is, Are apples a *raw* material? or rather are raw apples a . . .? Let me put it in another way. "Does the Empire stand or fall by whether the apples we eat are cooked (i.e. manufactured) or uncooked?" Alas, uneasy as any crowned head lies the one that eats or thinks of apples just for a week or two. There are pigs—more seasonable and more simple-minded. Is a pig raw while it is alive and manufactured when it is dressed up in red rosettes (or, let me hasten to add—as this is a non-party paper—in blue or yellow) for the Christmas butcher's show? But, I am reminded by the political expert that it was not pork pigs at all, but iron pigs on which votes turned in the hectic week. If you put 33½ per cent. on iron pigs, that is, on their bodies, and 11½ per cent. extra for each foot (or trotter), how much profit to us will the foreigner pay? and will it give him (the foreigner) an ugly twist if you throw in the tail? Enough of pigs, there is really nothing like leather to score off your opponent with. Is leather a boot? or rather, are boots always made of leather? But that reminds me of Northampton, and that reminds me of women M.P.s. And women M.P.s are just as interesting in their way as pigs or leather. Of course, nine women M.P.s would be as alike as ninepins, and eight are as alike as eightpins. Myvouth's little work on "Formal Logic" was taught to me in my youth, and I quite see how convincing it is to a certain type of mind. Women are not as logical as men, but they must try to follow the line of argument:—

Margaret B. (or the Duchess, or Lady Terrington, or Mrs. Phillipson) is a woman.

Lady Astor is a woman.

The "Trade" says Lady Astor is a Prohibitionist.

Lady Astor is (therefore) a Prohibitionist.

Women (therefore) are Prohibitionists.

Margaret B., etc., are Prohibitionists.

The POOR MAN has no BEER.

In the constituency of Troytown, where I worked, this was proof positive as holy writ. It wasn't a case of arguing: "I'm not arguing," they would say, "I'm a telling of you." I see in the paper that Mr. Wells said he didn't like being a Parliamentary candidate because the vote complex, or reaction, or something—I have not his exact words—made an impediment in his speech. Even the humblest canvasser or speaker knows that impediment. Mrs. X stands for the poor child's right to as good an education as the rich child. Does she gain votes? No, she loses votes, because, being interpreted, she desires to deprive the poor man of the right to the wages of his own child—she being rich and a capitalist. Mrs. X stands for good housing and a higher standard of homes for the people. Does she gain votes? No, she loses them, because, being interpreted, she desires to turn honest and worthy families, whose shoes she is not worthy to black, into the street to gratify some new-fangled crank about sanitation—and besides, woman's place is the home. Mrs. X stands for peace in Europe and a restoration of our foreign markets. Does she gain votes? No indeed, why should she, when she loves the Hun better than her own flesh and blood. Mrs. H. stands for Tariffs, no one can doubt that she is a paid minion of the Trusts!

Things and people being what they are, the path of the political speaker is not, as Mr. Wells observes, a bed of roses, or at least each rose has a thorn or two.

But perhaps the most thorny job of all is to attempt to preside over a political meeting called to support a woman candidate, especially one whose programme of social reform wins for her support from the more broad-minded of various political schools of thought. It was my lot to take the chair at the final grand rally of a woman candidate in far away Troycourt. The efficient organizer supplied me with an agenda on which were inscribed the names of some fourteen distinguished speakers, men and women. "Are not these," I murmured, "rather many?" "Oh, no," she replied, "hardly enough, because it may go on till midnight." Momentarily I blanched, but pulled myself together, thought over all that Nelson and Wordsworth have said about duty, and gave in spirit the salute of a loyal soldier. Arrived at the Hall, crowded from floor to ceiling with young and old, men and women, but especially with lively young men, I consulted with the gentleman in charge, and showed him the list of my dramatis personae, murmuring that they seemed rather many. "Oh, no! not at all," he replied, "they are all at the other end of the constituency at other meetings; they can't possibly turn up here, so don't you worry." At ten minutes after the advertised hour we agreed to begin, as the cheerfulness of the younger members of the audience was getting a little noticeable. (I had netted one fish.) "Ladies and gentlemen," I cried brightly, mounting the platform, "I will not detain you with any words of mine as we have an all star set of speakers to-night, and I will at once call on Mr. Z to address the meeting. He needs no introduction to such an audience as this." (My readers will recognize the valuable formula by which alone an unhappy chairman can extricate himself when he has been left in total ignorance of any of the qualifications of the speakers on his list.) Mr. Z then spoke rather nervously and inaudibly for the space of three minutes and sat down. I, scanning the doorways and walls with eagerness, but in vain, for late arrived stars, rose with an affectation of cheerful calm and observed: "I will now explain to the audience thoroughly, completely, and with all relevant (or indeed, I muttered to myself, irrelevant) facts, dates, arguments, and what not, in complete fullness, showing how, from her earliest childhood our candidate has been guided by Providence to contest this seat in particular, choosing it only from the very wide choice offered to her and pressed upon her by the leaders of her party. While still in her nurse's arms she was seen to grab at a raw apple" . . . (reminiscent, this bit, of Sir Isaac Newton, but singularly apt in an election fought on the tariff issue). I will not weary my readers, they will at once appreciate the idea—if, I inwardly argued, this meeting is to continue till twelve o'clock and I am, as it seems highly probable to be, the only speaker, this is, without dispute, the wisest method to adopt. No sooner, however, had I uttered the word "apple," than there entered at the door seven ladies and gentlemen, each of whom I, with my ever roving eye, identified with one or other of the names on my list of orators. So, without pause, I continued: "You know, gentlemen, every woman likes her little joke, but I never really meant to go back on my promise not to bore you with my voice when we have such stars as are with us to-night, and I will at once call on that most distinguished advocate of Free Trade, who until 6.15 last night was the hope of our opponent's party, but who at that moment suddenly saw the light and has come over to us. I have much pleasure in calling on Sir D. V." Sir D, being at once both well-informed and highly conscientious, entered with zest upon an exhaustive analysis of the for and against of the tariff controversy. It was, however, a little unfortunate, especially on the eve of the poll, that as he developed his argument for Free Trade, the Protectionist inclined members of his audience forgot all their lately acquired breadth of outlook and uttered low growls of insensate rage, and precisely the same phenomenon was observable among the Free Tradites when he gave a scientific exposé of all that was vulnerable in their position. The evening wore on. Whispers reached me from other speakers about trains to catch, and at last my chance came during a burst of mingled cheers and growls, and, cutting the baronet short at Point 17, I rose and, remarking that we had seldom heard a more lucid exposition or one more likely to confirm us in our resolve to vote for Mrs. X, I introduced Mrs. L. Mrs. L, with charming voice and a genial smile, restored harmony in a short six minutes, and gave way to the next. By this time, it should be mentioned, in addition to all the speakers on my original list of fourteen, I had received intimation that some seven others, of considerable local importance, and each representative of a section of opinion still hanging in the balance, were willing to oblige with a few

words, and, if not called on to oblige, would incline very definitely to the view that the whole election organization had been defective. These things being so, when I announced Mr. Q I said in a firm voice, "Mr. Q will make a few very brief remarks." But Mr. Q had heard me at the beginning of the meeting worrying because there were not enough speakers, so he, gallant and chivalrous by nature, resolved to hold the fort until the night drew to its close. Fortunately, the platform was only a couple of extra-size boards on trestles, and somehow after some thirty-five minutes I managed so that one of the boards accidentally tipped up. In the excitement which ensued, not only did the orator lose his thread but the candidate arrived, and the tumultuous cheers which greeted her drowned all care, and all ended merry as the marriage bell. When she departed a common impulse seemed to seize the audience, and they followed out to cheer in the street as her car drove off on the stroke of ten-thirty. As I joyfully mingled in the throng I heard a sad and querulous little piping in my ear: "I thought it was to have gone on at least till midnight, and I really could have said several useful things if you had let me speak!"

It was a jolly evening, and our "mass canvasses" had been jolly too, as in fog and rain we had cried aloud at each street corner, "Ladies and gentlemen, we cannot see you, but we know you are there!" (for a mass canvass is plenty of people to knock at the doors, and a speaker with faith and a voice fit to raise the dead, for the "canvass" is expressly designed for the lukewarm who will not venture to a meeting or even into the street, but who, as experience shows, will imbibe the pure milk of our political gospel from behind a curtain in the first-floor front.) No wonder, whatever else the voters intended by their votes, they made their intention quite clear to have another election at the earliest possible moment in 1924. If any young mother wishes to take part in that election I will mind the baby for her.

REVIEW.

Women House Property Managers. By J. M. Upcott. Published by *The Building News*. 1s. net.

This little book, sponsored by both Lady Astor and Mrs. Wintringham, who write short forewords, gives a clear account of the beginnings of House Property Management by Women, its subsequent developments and future possibilities. It shows how the whole idea sprang from the heart and brain of Miss Octavia Hill, one of the pioneer women of the mid-nineteenth century, who saw, when most of her generation were blind to the fact, that philanthropic effort and even sanitary legislation would be ineffectual until housing conditions had been radically improved. Her clear recognition of the necessity of the tenants themselves being improved as well as their dwellings, and the great part that the skilled woman manager could take in his process are well brought out.

The first great step forward seems to have been when, after more than twenty years of managing small properties for private individuals who believed in her aims and methods, Miss Octavia Hill was asked by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to take over the management of some of their groups of houses. Other of their estates were soon added to these, and many assistants had to be brought into the work. When Miss O. Hill died, in 1912, there were responsible workers ready and able to take over the properties, and since then, as old leases fell in fresh areas, have been given into their charge. When in the war years the Ministry of Munitions found itself called upon suddenly to house, in temporary dwellings chiefly, crowds of workers, it was from these trained women and their helpers that they were able to draw managers for these improvised estates.

Since 1916 an Association of Women House Property Managers has been in existence, and readers of Miss Upcott's excellent little book, who would like to know more of the possibilities of entering this profession or of obtaining the services of its members, are referred to the Secretary of the Association, at its office in 3 Bedford Square, W.C. 1. F. C. P.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

EVERY FRIDAY. ONE PENNY.

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CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

Please note that the office will be closed from Saturday, 22nd December, to Thursday, 27th December, inclusive.

CONFERENCE AND RECEPTION TO WOMEN MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND WOMEN CANDIDATES.

A Conference of Women Candidates for Parliament will be held at Church House, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W. 1., on Wednesday, 23rd January, at 3 p.m. A limited number of visitors interested in the subject will be admitted; application should be made as soon as possible.

This will be followed by a reception in honour of the women members and candidates in the same place at 4.30.

Members of the N.U.S.E.C. desiring to attend are asked to apply for cards of admission as soon as possible, but after 27th December.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING, MARCH, 1924.

Owing to the critical Parliamentary situation and the additional work it is bound to involve at the beginning of the session, the Council Meeting will be held rather later than usual next year. The dates fixed by the Executive Committee are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 25th, 26th, 27th March.

LECTURES ON ELECTION WORK.

A course of six lectures on Election Work for voluntary workers will take place on Mondays, beginning 21st January, at Church House, Westminster, at 5.30 p.m. If a sufficient number of names be sent in this will be preceded by a class on Public Speaking at 4.15.

Full particulars as to speakers and lecture fees will be issued shortly. It is hoped that the chair on each occasion will be taken by a woman Member of Parliament.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR WIDOWS' PENSIONS.

In view of the need to impress on the Government the immediate urgency of this question, it has been arranged to secure the services of a temporary organizer, Miss R. I. M. Hardy, of St. Hilda's College, Oxford, to help with a special campaign. Miss Hardy is available for engagements to speak on this subject during January, and in and near London after January. Applications should be made to Headquarters as soon as possible after 27th December.

REPORT OF HEADQUARTERS SALE OF WORK.

A very successful Sale of Work organized by the Entertainments Committee was held last week, at which short speeches were made by the President and Mrs. Fawcett. We wish especially to thank those who undertook stalls, Mrs. Soddy and Miss Sutherland, Mrs. Wrightson, and the Kensington S.E.C., and the many kind friends who sent articles for sale or helped with the organization, including Newport (Essex) Group for E.C., Miss Cameron, Mrs. Kinross, Miss Deakin, and Miss Beaumont.

WOMAN'S YEAR BOOK AND CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

We would like to suggest that the Women's Year Book, which is receiving most enthusiastic reviews on all sides, would form an admirable Christmas present. Copies can be sent direct from Headquarters, price 5s. 6d. (post free), to any address required.

CARDIFF W.C.A.

During the General Election campaign a meeting was organized by the W.C.A. in each of the three Divisions of Cardiff, for the purpose of hearing the views of all the candidates. Each candidate attended in turn, and after a short speech answered the many questions sent up by the audience. The meetings roused much interest, and were well reported in the local Press.

The Annual Sale of Work, held on 8th December, was opened by the Deputy Lady Mayress, Mrs. W. H. Lever, who will be President of the Association for the coming year.

ERRATA.

In a recent notice of activities in some of our Yorkshire Societies, Mrs. Alexander, who recently received a presentation on the occasion of her departure from Barnsley, is called President of the Society. Miss Celia Wray is President, and Mrs. Alexander was Chairman of the Society.

CORRESPONDENCE.

SAVE THE CHILDREN.

MADAM.—Early last summer, as President of the Save the Children Fund, I addressed a personal appeal to supporters of the Fund on behalf of the thousands of helpless little children who were then in acute misery and distress—many, indeed, in peril of their lives.

I am thankful to say that this appeal met with a ready and generous response, thereby enabling us to cope satisfactorily with the most immediate and pressing wants.

Six months have passed since then, and I now repeat that appeal. For this I make no apology. While the need continues so clamant, the danger so menacing, importunity may be almost deemed a virtue, and in the face of so much present and prospective suffering, I feel I cannot remain silent.

Winter comes on apace. In many areas the suffering populations are already in its grip. In the Near East, only charity, such as our Fund offers, carefully organized, but unhesitating, can save thousands from dying in utter misery before permanent relief can be secured. In Japan a sudden overwhelming catastrophe has plunged multitudes into utter destitution. In Central Europe the spectre of starvation stalks grimly through the chaos. In Hungary, in Poland, in Austria, hunger, cold, and disease still take their ghastly toll. In our own country, too, there is heart-breaking need. Can you wonder then that I ask again—and ask with all the earnestness at my command—for the help, great or small, that in the terrible winter months may rescue these little ones from the fate that threatens them?

I offer you again the wonderful privilege of saving young and innocent lives, and I dare to hope that you, who have been so generous in the past, will not refuse.

ATHOLL.

Save the Children Fund,
42 Langham Street, London, W. 1.

THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY DEFEAT.

MADAM.—Many people must have agreed with Lady Astor's castigation of the Party in last week's *WOMAN'S LEADER*. As a canvasser in a North London district, I was struck with the impression of aloofness, if not apathy, maintained (in the opinion of the electors) by the Conservative Party. The electors as a whole were in the mood to re-mould old ideas. The result proved not so much that "they vehemently opposed any tampering with Free Trade," as that they felt sure of how the one would act, and had not been sufficiently and explicitly instructed by Conservative leaders and candidates as to how the other might work. This was the more a pity because the great chance for the Conservative Party to show that it was *not* the Party of reaction was lost.

If canvassers could not, in the limited time, conquer the doubt in the minds of many of the electors that the Government were not quite sure of their programme, they could at least bear witness that Conservatives were workers, with the welfare of "the people" as much at heart as the other Parties, though they say less about it. Lady Astor, for instance, is too busy *doing* things to be continually professing her creed. With a good deal more "pull together" and a clearer enunciation of their plans, the Conservative Party would not have been in the equivocal position they find themselves in to-day.

"A CANVASSER."

"THE WORLD OUTSIDE."

MADAM.—Being an interested reader of your paper and member of the Deutsche Demokratische Partei (German Democratic Party), I should like to comment on the notice in the *WOMAN'S LEADER* for 30th November, p. 1, "The World Outside," chiefly on the phrases: "But why in the name of democracy does he (Dr. Stresemann) not dissolve his tired and unrepresentative Reichstag? Germany has much to learn from Great Britain regarding the conduct of a Parliamentary constitution."

Probably you do not know in England that according to all our experiences the French and Belgian occupying forces will not allow the population of their districts on Rhine and Ruhr to vote for a new Reichstag. A new House would consequently present an anything but democratic aspect, as the very countries whose fate is being so strongly influenced by this body would in all likelihood not be represented. Our object must consequently be to come to an understanding with the French and Belgian Governments before the regular election—Spring, 1924—so that no obstacle may arise from that direction.

It is true we also dread dissolution of Parliament for the reason that it may give the signal for new insurrections to radicals from the right or left. But this motive is of lesser importance than before mentioned.

However willing we may be to learn from nations with a larger democratic experience, we believe there always will arise situations where these nations—perhaps for the very reason of their democratic tradition—will not be able fully to understand and appreciate our motives.

DOROTHEE VON VELSEN.

MISS SUSAN LAWRENCE.

MADAM.—On p. 371 of last week's issue of the *WOMAN'S LEADER* it is stated that Miss Dorothy Jewson took the Classical Tripos at Girton. Why, then, does the writer omit to mention that Miss Susan Lawrence took the Mathematical Tripos at Newnham?

Miss Lawrence is, or has been, an Associate of her College, and her name appears on its Roll.

G. N. JOHNSON.

COMING EVENTS.

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CLUB, 55 GOWER STREET, W.C. 1.

Club closed from 21st to 30th December.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

EDINBURGH W.C.A. JAN. 9, 8 p.m. Royal Society of Arts Hall, 117 George Street. "The Future of Domestic Service." Speaker: Mrs. R. K. Hannay, O.B.E., J.P., Member of the Committee of Inquiry into Domestic Service.

LEEDS S.E.C. JAN. 7, 5.30 p.m. 18 Park Row. "Story Telling." Opener: Mrs. Firth.

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ISIS CLUB, 79 Fitzjohn's Avenue; two minutes Hampstead
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GUESTS, English or Foreign, received in Country House
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LONDON, S.W.—LADIES' RESIDENTIAL CLUB has
holiday vacancies during December and January. Good
cooking; unlimited hot water; 2 minutes from Tube and Under-
ground. Single rooms, with partial board, 35s. to 38s.—Apply,
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LEARN TO KEEP ACCOUNTS.—There are especially
good lessons in book-keeping at Miss Blakeney's School
of Typewriting and Shorthand, Wentworth House, Mauresa
Road, Chelsea, S.W. 3. "I learnt more there in a week," says
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FOR SALE AND WANTED.

PILLOW COTTON.—Remnant bundles of pillow cotton,
superior quality, to make six pillow-cases, 20 x 30 ins.,
6s. 6d. per bundle, postage 6d. Write for Bargain List—**TO-
DAY.**—HUTTON'S, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ireland.

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

LACE.—All kinds mended, cleaned and restored;
embroidery undertaken; church work, monograms,
initials.—Beatrice, Box 1017, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's
Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

DRESS.

MISS MALCOLM'S DRESS ASSOCIATION, 239 Fulham
Road, London, S.W. 3. Bargain Gowns, Evening and
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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.—
Conferences every Tuesday, 4.30 to 7 p.m. Admission
free; Tea 6d.—Wellington House, Buckingham Gate,
Westminster.

THE PIONEER CLUB has reopened at 12 Cavendish
Place. Town Members £5 5s.; Country and Professional
Members £4 4s. Entrance fee in abeyance (*pro tem.*).

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Eccleston Guild House,
Eccleston Square, S.W. 1: Sunday, 23rd December, 6.30,
Miss Maude Royden.

LONELY? Then send stamped addressed envelope to
Secretary, U.C.C., 16L, Cambridge Street, S.W. 1.

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