

WOMEN'S SERVICE
FILE COPY
NOT TO BE TAKEN AWAY

THE
WOMAN'S LEADER
AND THE COMMON CAUSE



TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD
NUMBER

Price 2d.

Number 10.

July, 1931.

EDITORIAL.
OURSELVES.

We are always very anxious to make the T.G. Supplement of service to Guild members, and we welcome both criticism and suggestions. We received a suggestion the other day which we think may interest other Guilds. A Sussex Guild Committee arranges to take THE WOMAN'S LEADER weekly and one member is asked to watch each number carefully and read any article of special interest at the monthly Guild Meeting. Another Guild reported that THE WOMAN'S LEADER is taken weekly and articles from it are read aloud at their handicraft meeting. Another Guild reports that they take five dozen copies monthly, and sell every one. There are still some Guilds who do not take this monthly issue of THE WOMAN'S LEADER, and we would urge them to do so if they wish to keep in touch with the work at Headquarters and the doings of other Guilds.

DISARMAMENT.

There is a Declaration Form for signatures in the body of the LEADER, for which you are urged to collect signatures. Also please read all the notices about the Demonstration and Procession on Saturday, 11th July. You are cordially invited to join the National Union's contingent in the Procession—it will be recognized by the N.U.S.E.C. banner—and will assemble at 12.30 on the Embankment at Charing Cross. Those who have not tickets for the Albert Hall can march on to the mass meeting in Hyde Park to which the speeches of the three Party Leaders are to be transmitted. It will be a great historic occasion. Take the opportunity of being able to say that you took part in it! Read, too, the account of the important Disarmament Debate in the House of Commons by Cross Bench, and "1931 is Disarmament Year," on page 170.

RALLY.

2ND OCTOBER—6TH OCTOBER.

We are glad to be able to tell our members that speakers who have already promised to come to the Rally at Paignton include Lady Astor, M.P., Miss Picton-Turbervill, M.P. (Parliamentary engagements permitting), Mrs. Hornabrook, and Mrs. Le Mesurier (H.M. Boys' Prison, Wormwood Scrubs). The subjects to be discussed are "Juvenile Unemployment," "The Cinema as it is and as it might be," "The Young Offender," "Parliament," "Local Government," and "Handicrafts." We feel that all these subjects are of very great interest to all women, and should lead to most interesting and instructive discussions.

In addition there will be drives over Dartmoor and through beautiful surrounding coast and country scenery. We are hoping to visit Dartington Hall, a wonderfully old and historic place that has now become a rural community, making their own dairy produce, cider, honey, and weaving cloth. The community has its own school and has recently built a nursery school, and possesses its own sawmill. An enchanting place!

On the Sunday evening we shall have a social evening and as many of our members are very musical we are hoping to have some really excellent music.

On the Monday night we are having a public dinner to which we are inviting many interesting celebrities both local and otherwise.

The hotel is situated opposite the sea in beautiful grounds; indeed one can lie in bed and look at the sea! But, obviously, there will be little time or inclination to lie in bed when so many other attractions present themselves.

Total cost, including return fare, for London and area, £3 10s. Corresponding rates for other districts, of which secretaries will be informed, together with further details of programme, before the end of July.

Applications are coming in fast, so give your name in at once to the Secretary of your Guild, together with the 5s. booking fee.

CORRESPONDENCE.
TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD SONG.

MADAM,—Should not a union of societies which is working for the cause of Disarmament cease to sing about "this seat of Mars"? The whole of the first verse in fact seems to belong in spirit to the Elizabethan age and its tone is quite alien to the modern movement for international co-operation. Could not this stanza be omitted when the song is sung officially as a Guild anthem?
(MRS.) DAISY A. LANE.

Amberwood Cottage,
Highcliffe,
Hants.

ARE WE GETTING THERE? 1

A critical position with regard to disarmament has been reached to-day. On all hands it is realized that there are only two alternatives before us—Disarmament, or another War. Statesmen of authority have told us repeatedly that competition in armaments is a most potent cause of War. Lord Grey told us so in his analysis of the causes of war in 1914. Mr. Henderson has said that we can never get international co-operation "if national armaments should remain unrestricted." Lord Cecil has said that there is no human reasonable probability that we can have Peace unless we disarm. Mr. Scullin said: "The building up of armaments is not an insurance against war. On the contrary, it is a lighted torch waved through the inflammable material of the nations."

So reason speaks, while fear and suspicion and unreason go on piling up armaments.

We realize also to-day that the cost of armaments is too great for us to go on with. Mr. Snowden, in a broadcast address to the United States some months ago, put the cost strikingly: "It takes the whole-time labour of 2,000,000 workers, year in, year out, to produce the means to pay the annual cost of our (war) debt service. Add to this the £115,000,000 we annually spend on the fighting Services, and £56,000,000 we pay yearly for war pensions, and we get a total of £520,000,000 a year, £1,000 a minute, which the people of Great Britain have to provide for war purposes."

And remember, this is only a calculation of actual expenses. It does not allow at all for the cost of things destroyed or for the money wasted through the waste of labour for nearly five years. An American statistician has calculated that allowing for all this, the war cost eighty thousand million pounds. If this had been spent in construction he calculated: "We could have given a new house, costing £500 to build, to every family in the United States, Canada, Australia, Great Britain and Ireland, France, Belgium, Germany, and Russia. And to every house we could have given £200 worth of furniture, and added 5 acres of land at £20 an acre. That is a total of £800 per family. And we should have enough money left over to give every city with a minimum of 200,000 inhabitants, in the countries already named, a

£1,000,000 Library,
£1,000,000 Hospital,
£2,000,000 University.

And still we should have a large balance on hand. Enough to set aside a capital sum which at five per cent interest would pay for as long as the interest system lasts £200 a year to 125,000 teachers and £200 a year to 125,000 nurses. But still we should have a great balance out of our eighty thousand millions. Enough left to buy up all France, and Belgium and every French and Belgian farm, house, church, railway, tram-car, and every bit of real property in the two countries." (Quoted in *No More War*, June, 1926.)

And the cost in lives has not here been taken into account. Nearly ten million soldiers, and in all between twenty and thirty million people, died because we use armaments in our national quarrels instead of brains only.

When the League of Nations was set up, statesmen already realized that this madness cannot go on.

Fifty-four countries, including Great Britain, France, Germany, and Italy, are members of the League of Nations, whose headquarters is in Geneva. By joining the League these countries pledge themselves to work for international co-operation, peace, and security.

Sixty-one countries, including Great Britain and all the important States, excepting the Argentine and Brazil, have signed the Kellogg Pact, which means that these sixty-one countries are pledged never to go to war in order to settle disputes between them.

Before Germany signed the Treaty of Versailles (the Peace Treaty at the end of the Great War between Germany and the Allies), which forced her to disarm, she was promised that this would be followed by general measures of disarmament.

Therefore Great Britain, in common with a great many other countries, is bound in honour to work for Peace and Disarmament.

Over twelve years have gone by since the end of the War. Did the years before the War, or have the years since the War, shown us that armaments can bring either Peace or Security?

(Continued on page iv.)

¹ Contributed by The Woman's International League.

NATIONAL BABY WEEK, 1931.¹

Her Majesty The Queen welcomes the 15th National Baby Week with the following message to the National Baby Week Council:—

"Buckingham Palace.

"I desire to express my appreciation of the splendid educational work carried on by the National Baby Week Council on this its fifteenth anniversary.

"The gratifying decrease in the rate of Infant Mortality can confidently be ascribed in part to an effective awakening of intelligent public opinion, and I am interested to observe that this year the Council is laying stress upon the welfare of the child from one to five years old, and also upon the demands for a National Maternity Scheme.

MARY R."

The first week in July, since 1917, has been earmarked as National Baby Week—a week during which in a great variety of ways public attention is drawn to matters concerning the welfare of mothers, babies, and little children. The first National Baby Week was held in 1917, at a time when we were losing many lives through the Great War. It then became imperative that we should save the babies. Medical science had discovered that much ailment in adult life and much early death was preventable, and that the main secret of prevention lay in the proper management and rearing of babies and little children. Thus came the National Baby Week Council's first cry—"Save the babies."

The next year—1918—saw the Maternity and Child Welfare Act passed, that Act which gave Local Authorities power to provide, out of rates and taxes, services designed to promote maternity and child welfare. That Act, however, was not obligatory. It gave permissive powers to Local Authorities. Thus Local Authorities being free to adopt maternity and child welfare measures, or not, according as they decided, it was necessary for propaganda to continue. National Baby Week has, in consequence, become an annual event, though few of us thought in 1917, when the first Baby Week was held, that 1931 would still see that Week conspicuous in the calendar.

The nature of the National Baby Week Council's propaganda has naturally changed somewhat with the passing of time. Thanks to the efforts of the Council and of many kindred societies, public opinion is now thoroughly enlightened on the value of maternity and child welfare services. In short, the general principle of maternity and child welfare as a factor in national life has been accepted. However, though the principle has been accepted, maternity and child welfare work is not yet fully established. We have been very successful in the measures we have devised for reducing the infant mortality and in consequence for improving the health of the survivors (our infant death-rate was 60 per thousand births last year as compared with 150 at the beginning of the century); but in certain directions the situation is not so good. Each year the National Baby Week Council draws special attention to the outstanding needs.

During this, the fifteenth National Baby Week, the two following problems are particularly brought forward:—

- (a) The physical, mental and spiritual care of the child from one to five years of age.
- (b) A National Maternity Service Scheme.

The first subject has been selected because though we have undoubtedly improved the health and the life prospect of the infant, by the time the child reaches school age at five, he is very often found to be suffering from disabilities and ailments which have crept in between the age of 12 months and that of reaching school. These are in the main preventable ailments. It becomes essential, therefore, that we should turn our attention to the needs of the toddler and seek to put at the service of the toddler welfare measures such as have proved so valuable in the service of the infant. We want more health visitors so that they may cater for the toddler, more medical officers, more toddlers' clinics, nursery schools. Further, realizing as we now do that mental health can be guarded by preventive measures in the same way as physical health can be protected, we are seeking to develop the psychological care of the little child. This may be done through instruction of mothers (and fathers too), through the provision of child guidance clinics and clinics for nervous children. The difficult child is not really the naughty child but the child whose mental health

(Continued on page iv.)

¹ Contributed by The National Baby Week Council.

NEWS FROM GUILDS.

HAMPSHIRE FEDERATION OF GUILDS.

The Hampshire Federation of Townswomen's Guilds is organizing a handicraft stall at the Brockenhurst and New Forest Agricultural Society's Show at Hinton Admiral on 29th July. We think that the following rules, which have been drawn up, may be of interest not only to Hampshire members, but to other Federations which are considering a Federation Exhibition of Handicrafts.

Rules.

- (i) Guild members are invited to send exhibits of the following handicrafts:—
- (1) Sea grass stools. (7) Embroidery.
- (2) Knitting. (8) Raffia work.
- (3) Etchings. (9) Toys.
- (4) Plain needlework. (10) Leatherwork, gloves, etc.
- (5) Wood carving. (11) Lampshades.
- (6) Cane work.

- Prizes will be given in the following three classes:—
- (1) A co-operative piece of work by not less than ten members.
- (2) A frock for a child under five (not knitting or crochet).
- (3) A toy.
- (ii) Each Guild wishing to send members' exhibits shall pay 2s. 6d. entrance fee to the Hon. Secretary on or before 20th July.
- (iii) All exhibits for sale must have a special label attached, which can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, price 1d. each. These labels must be ordered on or before 20th July. Other exhibits must have a label with the owner's name and Guild.
- (iv) The Federation claims 1d. in the shilling on all exhibits sold.
- (v) Guild Secretaries must send their members' work to Mrs. Donovan Lane, Amberwood, Highcliffe, Hants, to reach her on 28th July.
- (vi) Each Guild Secretary must be responsible for her own Guild's exhibits and for their return.
- (vii) As the Federation is anxious that the Handicraft Stall shall compare favourably with other Stalls in the same tent, each Guild is requested to appoint a responsible person to see that all work sent in is of good standard.

SUSSEX FEDERATION OF GUILDS.

The Sussex Federation of Townswomen's Guilds were very unfortunate in having bad weather for their "Maye Fayre", which was arranged at "Conyboro", Cookebridge, on 30th May, by kind permission of Lord and Lady Monk Bretton. A most attractive programme had been arranged and as the weather cleared later in the afternoon, it was decided to carry it through as far as possible. "The Arcadians", an orchestra from the Mental Hospital, Haywards Heath, played selections during the afternoon. The first item on the programme was pet dog racing: an ingenious dog racing track had been constructed and dogs of all sizes took part, from large French poodles—all shaven and shorn—to diminutive animals which could scarcely be seen in the long grass. After tea all present gathered on the lawn for the crowning of the May Queen; about eighty took part in this picturesque ceremony, attired in suitable fancy dresses; Miss Elsie King had the honour of being May Queen and was accompanied by a large retinue bearing garlands of spring flowers, several little children acting as her train-bearers. During the ceremony part songs were rendered by the Guild Choirs from Newhaven and Moulsecoomb and Maypole dances were performed by the Ardingly Rangers. The "Queen's" little attendants presented a book to Lady Monk Bretton from members of the Sussex Federation and bouquets to several of the lady visitors. Unfortunately a play and some folk dancing had to be abandoned owing to the rain. Several attractive stalls were arranged for the sale of useful and fancy articles.

CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH T.G.

Chapel-en-le Frith Townswomen's Guild welcomed the President, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, at their Garden Party, in June, which was held at "Stodhart", by kind permission of Mr. J. Farrar. Unfortunately, the weather was bad and the meeting had to be held indoors. Mrs. Corbett Ashby spoke on the work of the Townswomen's Guilds and the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Very many attractions were arranged, including various stalls, an exhibition of old pottery and china and a concert, and a good sum was realized.

DOWNHAM T.G.

The Downham Townswomen's Guild took part in a "Citizen" service for women, arranged by the Bromley W.C.A., in the Parish Church, Bromley, on Wednesday, 3rd June. The service was attended by over two hundred women, including members of all the women's societies in the locality. A most inspiring address was given by Prebendary B. F. Relton on "Civic Service".

HAMPSTEAD T.G.

The Hampstead Townswomen's Guild welcomed Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President of the N.U.S.E.C., at their June meeting, when she spoke on women's work—local, national, and international. Much interest was shown in her address, and many questions were asked. It was announced by the Chairman that by the ballot taken at the last meeting the subjects desired for debate included "The Cinema as it is, and as it might be", "Canada", "Holland,"

and, for the next meeting, "Preservation of Rural England." A letter from the Secretary, asking for help in connection with children's country holidays, was read, and many members volunteered to help.

HASSOCKS T.G.

At their June meeting, the Hassocks and District Townswomen's Guild entertained the Finsbury Guild. The meeting was held at Great Ote Hall, by kind invitation of Mrs. Enthoven, Chairman of the Guild. The visitors travelled from London by motor-coach. The weather did not permit of the meeting being held in the garden as arranged, but Mrs. Enthoven very kindly entertained over 100 Guild members in her beautiful old Elizabethan house. After tea a meeting was held, at which Miss E. Sinclair Rohde spoke on "The Scent of Flowers", and Mrs. Enthoven was thanked by her guests for their "glorious day in the country". The members of the Finsbury Guild gave a short entertainment and returned home regretfully, at the end of a delightful afternoon, laden with flowers from their hostesses.

HORWICH T.G.

The Horwich Townswomen's Guild invited members of the District Council to their June meeting, at which an electrical demonstration had been arranged. They had also invited Mrs. Stocks, of the Headquarters' Executive Committee, to speak on women's influence in public affairs. The members of the District Council and of the Guild were much interested in Mrs. Stocks' stimulating address, when she told them the part women had taken in the past and of the work which lay before them in the future. She urged the Guild members to take their share in solving the most important questions of the day.

HOXTON T.G.

The Hoxton (St. John's Road) Townswomen's Guild entertained members of several neighbouring Guilds on 6th June. Tea was arranged by the Chairman and willing helpers, and the visitors were entertained by the choir of the Hoxton Guild, which recently won the challenge picture at the People's Palace. This was followed by a display of Folk Dancing.

PRESTON (PAIGNTON) T.G.

The Preston Townswomen's Guild had arranged a Garden Party for 10th June, but unfortunately the weather was unkind and they had to transfer the proceedings to the beautiful new hotel where the Townswomen's Guild Rally is to be held early in October. There were several tempting stalls and a dancing display by children. Mrs. Grey, from London headquarters, spoke on the work of the Townswomen's Guilds in the more populous districts.

RICHMOND T.G.

Instead of holding their usual monthly meeting in June, the Richmond Townswomen's Guild invited members of the Lees Hall (Canning Town) Guild to visit Kew Gardens with them. A very happy afternoon was spent visiting the different glass houses and seeing the gardens, and the Guilds had tea together afterwards at a restaurant on Kew Green.

ST. THOMAS', EXETER, T.G.

The St. Thomas' Townswomen's Guild held a most delightful garden meeting at "Mornex", Pennsylvania, on 1st June, by kind invitation of Mrs. Archie Thomas. The weather was ideal and the beautiful gardens were at their best. Over 100 members were present to hear Mrs. Clowes, of the Empire Marketing Board, speak on "My Empire Tour". This was followed by a charming little ceremony, when Mrs. Clowes, on behalf of the St. Thomas' Guild, presented Miss Ursula Millett, the Devon Organiser of Townswomen's Guilds, with a wedding gift, consisting of four Georgian silver tablespoons, suitably inscribed. After tea the "Ide Players" gave an amusing sketch, "The Lost Collar". This was followed by a "leaf" competition and a Roll Call "Proverbs and Superstitions". The Guild Secretary writes: "It was one of the happiest meetings we have had, and we do thank all who so kindly helped us to get a Townswomen's Guild."

TOLWORTH T.G.

The Tolworth Townswomen's Guild had a most interesting demonstration in cutting out and making summer frocks at their June meeting. Miss Lipman, the demonstrator, helped members to take their accurate measurements for pattern sizes. After tea an amusing fashion parade took place; members paraded in various articles of clothing which they had made themselves. Twenty-two members took part and displayed garments ranging from a "matron's hat made from an old black silk frock and trimmed with a quill made from a man's silk sock" to shawls and scarves, and from 1931 summer frocks of impeccable cut to an astrologer's costume complete with beard.

TOTNES T.G.

The Totnes Townswomen's Guild, which was formed last November, has now seventy-three members, and received its first official recognition as a public body last week, when at a mass meeting called by the Mayor it was agreed that a Committee, representative of the Ratepayers' Association, the Chamber of Trade, and the Townswomen's Guild should be formed to organize a petition protesting against the use of the Totnes Poor Law Institution as a tuberculosis hospital and for the accommodation of low grade

male mental defectives. At the June meeting the Headmistress of the Totnes County School for Girls, gave a most interesting address on "Vocational Aspect of Girls' Education". This Guild sends flowers to the Hoxton Sunshine Mothers' Townswomen's Guild each month.

WESTCLIFF (LEIGH-ON-SEA) T.G.

On Friday, 1st May, the formation meeting of a second Guild at Leigh-on-Sea was held in the Willow Hall. Mrs. Ward was in the chair, and reported that the Countess of Iveagh, M.P., had consented to become the President of the Guild. Miss Danielsen, of the N.U.S.E.C. Executive, and Mrs. Grey, the London Organiser, were present and addressed the meeting. The Officers and Committee were elected and an entertainment was given by the Benfleet Women's Institute. The first monthly meeting was held on Friday, 5th June, when several new members joined. An interesting demonstration on "Cooling Drinks and Salads" was given by Mrs. Laycock.

WITHERNSEA T.G.

The WitherNSEA Townswomen's Guild has now 148 members, and the attendance at all the meetings is excellent. They have been fortunate in securing lecturers from Hull University College, including talks on "Why Good books are Good" and "Citizenship". Demonstrations have been given on French Polishing and Sweet Making and competitions have been held on Bulb Growing, The Best Limerick on Townswomen's Guilds, and A Shawl Parade. In March a successful Café Chantant was held, the item, a sketch, "The Bakehouse", gaining much applause. Several members visited a neighbouring Women's Institute in June. The Guild was represented at the Annual Council Meeting by the Secretary, who gave a full report at the following meeting of the Guild.

ARE WE GETTING THERE?—(Continued from page ii.)

All the countries of the world are to be invited by the League of Nations to meet next February at a World Disarmament Conference. The object is to agree on a plan for limiting and reducing armaments in every country.

This Conference means a great opportunity. Never before have all the countries of the world been called together to plan for disarmament.

During the last years the Preparatory Commission on Disarmament has been working to prepare a draft Treaty for this full Disarmament Conference. The outline, as far as it goes, is prepared. We shall have a chance in 1932 of getting a drastic limitation of military, naval, and air forces; of fixing budgets at totals far less than countries are at present spending on materials and on the different forces; and of agreeing to certain limitations in naval vessels of different categories, as well as making progress in some other directions. Agreement has been reached that a Permanent Commission shall be set up to see to the carrying out of the Treaty.

We have a chance—but shall we take it? If public opinion is insistent enough and vocal enough, there is hope.

The peoples have their chance if they will only use it. Let them show their Governments—who will appoint their representatives to attend the Conference—that they want the Conference to reduce drastically the futile and expensive burden of armaments.

NATIONAL BABY WEEK, 1931—(Continued from page iii.) is somewhat disordered. Here the principle of child guidance comes in to help.

The National Baby Week Council views the welfare of the child as a three-fold principle—physical, mental, and spiritual—and we learn from the Council that this year, more than ever previously, ministers of religion are lending their aid in the Council's propaganda. Religious newspapers of all denominations likewise are taking up the cause of child welfare during this week. Sunday, July 5th, is Baby Sunday, and from a great variety of pulpits up and down the country on that day the child welfare message will be preached.

In another direction our maternity and child welfare work has proved inadequate to the needs. We refer to the problem of maternal mortality. Another subject of which we shall hear much during National Baby Week this year is a National Maternity Service Scheme, a subject to which we refer elsewhere in these pages.

These two important problems will be fully discussed at the great Baby Week Conference on Maternity and Child Welfare organised by the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality. This Conference will meet at Cardiff on July 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, the first year it has met outside of London. To this Conference from every part of the country come child welfare workers, medical and non-medical, municipal officials, and voluntary workers, all eager to pool their experience and to gain fresh points of view.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER AND THE COMMON CAUSE

Vol. XXIII. No. 23. Twopence.

REGISTERED AS
A NEWSPAPER.

Friday, July 10, 1931.

CONTENTS.

FROM ALL POINTS OF THE COMPASS	PAGE
NOTES FROM WESTMINSTER. By Cross Bench	179
WOMEN'S SERVICE HOUSE	180
BRITISH WOMEN FOR NEW ZEALAND. By Jessie MacKay	180
REVIEW:	
Farewell Manchester. By M. D. S.	181
IS IT WORTH WHILE? By Bertha Mason	182

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

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

NOTES AND NEWS.

Disarmament.

The success of the Hoover proposals culminating in the satisfactory news from Paris has created a happier atmosphere for the great Disarmament Demonstration in the Albert Hall and in Hyde Park on Saturday. Such a harmonious a settlement of financial international differences and difficulties is surely a happy augury of a day not far distant when armaments will be regarded as a wholly obsolete and unthinkable method of provision against disputes between nations. The great meeting on Saturday addressed by the leaders of the three political parties will show the world that in this matter Great Britain speaks with one voice.

The Anomalies Bill.

Although we are writing before the second reading debate on the Anomalies Bill, there is no doubt but that this will be passed. Though many will feel it to be a waste of effort to strike at certain small abuses while the whole question of the proper treatment for those who have not made sufficient number of contributions for ordinary benefit is still in the melting pot. It is largely on account of the temporary nature of the reforms proposed that the discriminations against married women are peculiarly irritating. The Bill gives the Minister power after consultation with an advisory committee, to make regulations with regard to certain classes of insured persons, including married women. She may select all or sections of insured married women and make regulations providing that in order to remain in insurance they must make a certain number of contributions since marriage. We feel that this clause is both unnecessary and ineffective. We are informed that the abuse of married women continuing to draw benefit while not intending to take work when offered, is comparatively rare, owing to the fact that in most districts domestic service can be, and is, offered as an alternative occupation, the refusal of which involves the withdrawal of benefit for six weeks. The provision is, moreover, largely ineffective as in those cases where a woman is being employed up to the day of her marriage there is nothing to prevent her working the number of weeks required to make the necessary number of contributions, and thus if she so wishes to return into insurance with all its privileges and the possibilities of abuse. Miss Eleanor Rathbone will be putting down amendments to delete altogether the subsection relating to married women, and also to provide that not less than two women shall form part of the Advisory Committee to be set up under the Bill.

Black Spots.

The Ministry of Labour's unemployment returns for June show some spectacular black spots of unemployment in localities dependent on a single or on a small group of depressed industries. The situation is summed up in the statement that on 15th June, thirty-nine towns and villages had more than half of their insured population unemployed. They are mainly colliery villages, where the closing—sometimes the permanent closing—of one pit will affect practically the whole population of the village. Meanwhile, to say that more than half the insured population is in such cases unemployed, is not to tell the whole abominable tale. "More than half," means in the case of Maryport, 76.7 per cent; in the case of Yarrow, 71.5 per cent; in the case of Hadfield, 63.8 per cent. And all these cases occur in those counties in which the tradition of not leaving home is inbred by a century of expanding local industry. The Durham pit boy, the Lancashire mill girl, represent to-day a most stubbornly immobile type of labour; and undoubtedly one of the large problems of the present age is how, in respect of labour mobility, to make the best of both worlds; how to secure a flight of population from these industrial black spots without abandoning those standards which unemployment insurance, housing legislation, and comparatively generous public assistance have so far managed to preserve.

Oldham Takes the Wrong Turning.

The Oldham Town Council has on several occasions during the past few years been the scene of lively battles over the employment of married women teachers. There have been tides of progress and reaction. Last week, however, reaction reached high-water mark. Two years ago a minute was passed involving the conditional dismissal of married women teachers, when it was found that there were insufficient vacancies for young teachers leaving college. Since January, 1931, resignations from the teaching staff had numbered only three, as against a normal wastage of 12. Therefore the Education Committee advised the dismissal of fifteen married women, and this was last week accepted by an overwhelming majority. In putting this proposal before the Council, the Chairman of the Education Committee deplored the fact that teachers able to remain at home should not do so, and indicated a case in which to his knowledge a man and wife were in receipt of a joint income of £17 a week.

Income Tests for its Teachers.

The affair raises a number of speculations in our own mind. In the first place we wonder whether any of the Oldham Councillors who voted for the proposal were themselves in receipt of an annual income of £884 a year, and whether they found any difficulty, on that account, in producing the necessary expression of shocked surprise in response to the news that a married woman teacher and her husband were luxuriating in £17 a week. Probably not. It is one thing for a man to earn £884 a year, and quite another thing for a man and woman between them to earn £17 a week! In the second place, we wonder whether any of the unmarried teachers were cross-questioned with a view to finding out whether they too were "able to remain at home"—if not, why it was so readily assumed that a young unmarried woman who may be living with her parents must necessarily be more deserving than an older married woman with a separate household to maintain. In the third place, we wonder whether any of those persons who voted in the majority gave a thought to the efficiency of the education service, and considered the effect upon it of dismissing, without any respect to their professional status, fifteen experienced teachers possessing the additional qualification of marriage, and perhaps maternity. In the fourth place, we wonder whether, having agreed that married women teachers

should be "given the right to appeal to the Education Committee on the ground of hardship" steps were taken to co-operate with the Public Assistance Committee which is doubtless more experienced in the appraisal of financial necessity. Probably not—since the Education Committee being clearly more interested in the distribution of wealth than in education is eminently well fitted to perform that somewhat invidious task itself.

The Census.

The release of the first census figures for England and Wales is always an event of lively sociological interest even though the results can be anticipated—and it appears very accurately anticipated—from periodical vital statistics and migration records. The population for England and Wales this year only exceeds that estimated in 1921 by something over two million, a smaller increase than any recorded since 1861, with the exception of the War decade. This is due to the fact that though marriage rates have been well maintained, there has been an almost unbroken fall in the birth-rate for the last ten years. The preponderance of women over men has fallen to 1,087 women to 1,000 men, but is still higher than the pre-War ratio 1,068 women to 1,000 men. We shall take an early opportunity of discussing these figures.

Industry in India.

The Report of the Royal Commission on Indian labour conditions which appeared at the end of last week is a valuable addition to the series of illuminating reports which have been produced about India in rapid succession. We are fortunate in being able to announce that in our next week's issue it will be reviewed by Dame Adelaide Anderson, who is shortly to leave this country for a visit to China. We may recall the personnel of this Commission to the memory of our readers. Six of the members were Indians and three of the remainder had life-long experience of Indian industry. The only woman was Miss Beryl M. de Poer Power of the Ministry of Labour. The Chairman was Mr. Whitley, the former Speaker of the House of Commons, who originated the well-known Whitley Industrial Councils. The report represents an immense task, second only in importance to the Simon Commission and the Hartog report on education in India, and its recommendations, which will be discussed by Dame Adelaide next week, will be of deep interest to all students of India.

Rent Rebates and Corporation Houses.

On 1st July, the following resolution was passed unanimously by the Manchester City Council: "That the Housing Committee be instructed to report whether it is practicable and desirable to charge in respect of all post-war houses owned by the Corporation a full economic rent coupled with a scale of rebates based upon the accommodation necessary for, and the income of, the family." In introducing this resolution, Councillor Hope pointed out that there were a good many people living in Corporation houses who did not require the subsidy, and a good many more in urgent need of rehousing who could not afford even the present subsidized rent. He has, of course, put his finger on the weak spot of our present national housing policy, and we are convinced that it is only by some such system as is foreshadowed in the Manchester resolution that a really effective rehousing scheme can be carried through without involving a wasteful subsidizing of persons able to do without it. We are further convinced that in practice the most workable way of securing an adjustment of rent to need such as is foreshadowed in the above resolution, is by a system of rebates based on the number of dependent children such as was suggested by the Housing and Town Planning Association, and is outlined in Mr. E. D. Simon's book, *How to Abolish the Slums*.

Women Police for Montevideo.

Commandant May Allen's visit to Uruguay has already borne fruit. It is stated in the Press that a speech delivered by her at a Conference in Montevideo made such a deep impression that the President decided to form a corps of Women Police as a means of dealing with the moral and social problems of the city.

The Nationality of Married Women.

The Women's Consultative Committee on Nationality recently created by the Council of the League of Nations met last week in Geneva for the purpose of drawing up a report for the Assembly of the League next September. The Committee is composed of sixteen delegates from women's organizations in all parts of the world, of which four are British—Mrs. Corbett Ashby, Mrs. Percy Bigland, Miss Dorothy Greene, and Miss Chrystal

Macmillan. The existence of this Committee appointed by the Council of the League certainly does seem to bring the question out of the region of vague discussion into the ring of action.

Miss Dorothea Beale.

Former students from all parts of the world collected at Cheltenham last week for the centenary celebrations of the birth of Dorothea Beale, one of the greatest pioneers of women's education. Lord Askwith, the President of the College Council, presided over a crowded meeting in the great Princess Hall, named after Queen Alexandra when Princess of Wales thirty-five years ago, and a centenary service was held at Gloucester Cathedral. The College is celebrating the event by taking a coat of arms and building two large new boarding houses.

Leeds Honours Dr. Jane Walker.

The Leeds University School of Medicine is itself honoured by its recognition of the work of Dr. Jane Walker, who received an honorary degree at its Centenary Celebrations this week. Dr. Walker has been identified with many causes, not least our own, but her great work has been the East Anglian Sanatorium for working men and women started thirty years. Readers of Mrs. Strachey's life of Dame Millicent Fawcett will be glad to read in her introduction that Dr. Walker has in preparation a volume of personal recollections of Dame Millicent who was her intimate friend.

Mrs. Despard.

Mrs. Despard, who recently celebrated her eighty-seventh birthday, was given her usual birthday party by the Women's Freedom League. Her speech on this occasion showed no diminution of interest in the Cause, and the gifts she received were handed back to the League for its numerous activities. We hope this gallant lady may live to celebrate many more birthdays with her friends, and to see the economic emancipation of her sex which is still to be won.

Mrs. Pankhurst's Birthday.

Many suffragists of all camps will be glad to have the opportunity of attending the service in St. John's Church, Westminster, on Tuesday, 14th July, at noon, in memory of Mrs. Pankhurst, whose seventy-third birthday falls on that day. After the service wreaths and flowers will be laid at the statue in Victoria Tower Gardens.

The Florence Nightingale of Midwifery.

The Midwives Institute celebrated its jubilee at a gathering at Bedford College last Saturday, when a message was read from Her Majesty the Queen. The work accomplished by this Institute starting in 1881, as a small and unpopular body, with a name that offended the delicate taste of the period, is beyond praise. Without doubt this organization has raised the status and quality of the midwife to a high level, and has gained for mothers and babies a more efficient and complete service. A jubilee fund has been inaugurated as a tribute to the pioneers which will be used to develop the activities of the Institute, and already the figure of £1,400 has been reached. At the recent meeting, Miss Rosalind Paget, one of the founders and still its honorary treasurer, received subscriptions and a book of contributors from Lady Salisbury, who said that she had done for midwives what Florence Nightingale had done for nurses.

Maternal Mortality.

The National Conference on Maternity and Child Welfare held last week in Cardiff was presided over by Mr. John Rowland, Chairman of the Welsh Board of Health, who quoted some arresting facts concerning the incidence of maternal mortality in Wales. The Welsh maternal death-rate was, he said, 40 per cent higher than that of England. It amounted to a total loss of about 400 mothers a year. This excess he accounted for partly by difficult communications and sparse population, and in the south by industrialism. "Circumstances," he said, "are against us." Dr. Morrison, Medical Officer for the County of Cumberland, said that in his own area a somewhat unusual scheme of ante-natal care had been instituted. It amounted to a domiciliary service in the hands of private practitioners and was, he thought, working well.

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

FROM ALL POINTS OF THE COMPASS.

We may regard the National Demonstration at the Albert Hall on Saturday as the culminating point of the summer's work for Disarmament. This work will not stop, for its goal—the achievement of disarmament by mutual agreement between the nations—rests with the World Disarmament Conference next February, and no efforts will be relaxed until the very eve of that Conference.

But having reached the climax of the summer's work, we may well review the success—or otherwise—of the various parts of Great Britain in securing signatures to the International Declaration in favour of World Disarmament. This Declaration is for presentation to the World Disarmament Conference, and its object is to give an indication of the strength of public opinion throughout the world in favour of its achieving a genuine reduction of armaments.

The British signatures—1,042,853 to date—represent 2·4 per cent of the total population. But when we come to divide up the country we find that the Welsh signatures represent 6·25 per cent of the population of Wales, the North Wales signatures 16·5 per cent of the population of the eight northern counties, and that in the following five counties more than 20 per cent of the population have signed: Anglesey, Caernarvonshire, Merionethshire, Montgomeryshire, and Cardiganshire. Practically the whole of Scotland is being covered, mainly through District Councils of the L.N.U., but no figures are yet to hand. A thousand signatures were obtained one June Sunday in Edinburgh on the occasion of a United Peace Service, to which a long procession marched through the streets and which filled two churches to overflowing. The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland resolved to help in collecting signatures. Indeed, the part played in the campaign by the Churches

NOTES FROM WESTMINSTER.

The Parliamentary week has been notable for several things—two Third Reading debates on important measures (the Unemployment Insurance (No. 4) Bill and the Finance Bill), several remarkable speeches, and the worst outburst of disorder since the days of the War. On Tuesday, during the Report Stage of the Finance Bill, we had a bit of first-class debating at a most unusual hour, in the dearest part of the dinner time. Consequently few Members were present, especially of the party which holds the dinner hour specially sacred. I was myself about to slip away when I noticed Sir John Simon in his seat with a budget of notes and an air of expectancy. First Mr. Chamberlain rose to make the first move in an attempt to corner the Liberals by substituting their original amendment for the famous compromise on the subject of double taxation and to make over again the point so often made that the tax would fall hardly on forms of business, such as shipbuilding, which occupy a great deal of land compared with less valuable forms of manufacture. Sir John followed with a much more lucid and salient exposition of the same point, in which he pressed home the main thesis of his quarrel with his party, namely that they had in fact abandoned both the principal and a substantial part of the substance of their objection to double taxation. When he sat down, his neighbours on the Liberal benches rose to answer him. Mr. Milner Gray is a burly gentleman of genial personality, very generally liked and respected, but not regarded as a notable speaker. One felt a little sorry for him, compelled to follow so brilliant an exponent and quondam colleague. Sir John himself drooped in his seat, as though prepared to listen with polite tolerance to an antagonist unworthy of him. And the impression did not at first change, as Mr. Gray began what sounded a rather confused exposition. It developed, however, into the most effective defence of the Government and Liberal case throughout the debate. His argument delved into the roots of the case and explained the compromise as

"a perfectly simple and rough and ready, but fair, method to adjust the incidence of this new tax so that in the case of a site that is practically undeveloped or slightly developed it pays the full amount of the tax; and as the return of that site increases and is expressed in that increase in Schedule A, it gets an increase in deduction from the amount of the land-tax."

He admitted that in its completed stage, the underlying principle demanded the abolition of Schedule A, but this would have been for financial reasons impossible unless the land tax had been at the rate of, say, 3d. instead of 1d. in the pound. The element of double taxation was thus displayed as an interim stage in the process of securing for the community a fairer share

generally is an outstanding one. All the non-conformist churches are officially working for it, and in the case of many towns and villages it is the Church of England which is taking the initiative in getting the local campaign started. Sixty-three organizations are now helping and this means that their local branches in all parts of the country are being active. This has resulted in many places in the coming together of large numbers of societies, churches, and political parties, in order to work for the Declaration. Joint Disarmament Councils have already been formed in Brighton, Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Kingston, Bolton, Letchworth, Southampton, Stockport, Birkenhead, Leeds, Macclesfield, Tunbridge Wells, Cheltenham, Preston, Highgate, Kensington, and Paddington. In several places, notably Birmingham, "Disarmament Shops" have been opened, and civic support obtained with great success.

On the whole the north and west are doing best. The least successful counties so far are Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Bucks, Cambridgeshire, Dorset, Huntingdonshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Wilts. Perhaps it is only a coincidence that in some of these counties women's societies are weaker than in the more active areas above described. But there is still time! During the next two months our readers will be scattered over the country and new opportunities of securing signatures will offer themselves. Then refreshed after the holiday break, many will return to new efforts during the months that intervene before the Disarmament Conference. The demonstration on Saturday at which the present and two past Prime Ministers will speak—representing the three great political parties—will give the campaign a tremendous push forward, and before long the number of signatures to the Declaration should be doubled or even trebled. Is every reader doing her share?

of the site values due to communal developments. He countered the opposition cases of unfair working of the new tax by at least equally effective instances of the unfair working of Schedule A and pointed out that "these great land values are all taxes on industry," which compel a man who wants to develop an industry to pay an unreasonably high price, if he wants land in a particular area now being used for purposes where it is returning little to the community because of the relatively unremunerative use to which it is being put. Whether convincing or not to those who prefer existing methods, the speech succeeded in making out a more coherent and popularly effective case for the proposal than any previously delivered. It was hailed by the Solicitor-General as "a most extraordinarily able speech," and was certainly an instance of the power of a real enthusiast on a particular subject to put his case across so as to outface the efforts of those more generally brilliant but less soaked in the study of the theme in question.

The other most notable speech of the week was that of Mr. Lloyd George himself in the final debate on the same Bill. It was mainly confined to an onslaught on Sir John Simon, and has been generally acclaimed as one of the speaker's greatest efforts and worthy to rank with Disraeli's famous attack on Sir Robert Peel when he castigated him for his abandonment of former friends. I would not myself rank the effort so high. Though delivered with an air of great good humour which half concealed its venom, the venom was too apparent and the phrase about "slime of hypocrisy" came ill from one who has himself changed his front so frequently and in circumstances so ambiguous. Certainly to readers of this paper who remember Sir John Simon's record in the matter of women's suffrage, of conscription, of opposition to the Black and Tan outrages, and of India, the suggestion that the man is a mere time-server, willing to change his principles as popular favour changes, must seem singularly inappropriate. The hint that in India rather than in the present Bill lies the real reason for Sir John's change, was much more delicately conveyed and went home with a surer thrust.

The "scene" created by McGovern at question time on Thursday was an ugly incident. McGovern is not liked, and no demonstration from him creates much sympathy in the House. The participation in the scrum of Maxton, Buchanan, and a few of their lesser followers was a different matter. Maxton's Parliamentary manners and those of his intimate friend, George Buchanan, are usually as excellent as their sincerity is indubitable. They did their best to repair their mistake by an ample apology, delivered with great dignity and

feeling, at the opening of Monday's sitting, and the House accepted the apology with its usual generosity. Perhaps the Prime Minister slightly spoiled the effect by the rather over-emphasis of his acceptance. The killing of the fatted calf for a prodigal is always a doubtful benefit to the prodigal. It seems to imply that the sin has almost endeared the sinner, and the House was certainly not willing to go that far. Still, the incident closed in an atmosphere of more general benevolence than had seemed possible and it is not likely to be repeated.

CROSS BENCH.

WOMEN'S SERVICE HOUSE.

From a Correspondent.

On 4th June the London and National Society for Women's Service entertained at tea a large party of guests, who were invited to help them to celebrate the completion of their buildings in Marsham Street, now known as Women's Service House. Lord Cecil, the President of the Society, received the guests, with Mrs. Kinnell, the Chairman of the Executive Committee, and afterwards gave a short address. He called special attention to the Society's name, Women's Service, and pointed out that it expressed the ideal of the new women's movement. In the past the Society had worked for Women's Rights, now that these were in part secured it was working for the right of service—full opportunities for every woman to give her best work to her country and to the world.

The Society's buildings have only been completed quite recently, though a great part of them, including the Hall and its stage, the Library and the Restaurant, have been in use for over a year. The final addition consists of new offices and a pleasant and much appreciated reading room, and completes and makes available the archway entrance to the whole block. Now the Society has entered into its inheritance and can spread itself and develop its work yet further.

The main part of these good things it owes to its most generous benefactor, Miss Sarah Clegg, and it is a source of deep regret that she did not live to see her gift completed. Miss Clegg founded the Women's Service Trust for the benefit of the Society, and endowed it with the freehold site and funds for building. Other friends have contributed generously to the equipment of the buildings. To Annie, Viscountess Cowdray, in particular, the Society owes the decoration and furnishing of the Hall, which have given it special charm and distinction and the shelving and panelling of the Library form part of a generous grant from the Carnegie Trust for books and equipment.

There is much activity in these new buildings, for the work of the Society is constantly growing. Through its Executive Committee it deals with many questions of a political character or connected with Local Government and administration in which women's interests are concerned. Under its auspices important evidence on the position of women in the Civil Service was collected and sent in to the Royal Commission on the Civil Service. It has a sub-committee on employment attended by representatives of other organisations, and yet another committee known as the Employment Research Committee, open to all members, which conducts monthly discussions on different women's professions.

The Bureau, which advises on Trainings and Openings for Employment is always busy. Its expert staff is constantly engaged in collecting up-to-date information and in supplying this information to a large number of enquirers. The Society has been appointed Official Adviser to the Cambridge University Women's Appointments Board, the Oxford University Women's Appointments Committee and the Appointments Committee of Trinity College, Dublin, and sends a representative to these Universities from time to time to advise students who are considering their future careers. A great number of schools, too, are visited and addresses given to parents and pupils, and individual enquirers are daily seen (without charge) at Women's Service House.

Then there is the Library, a department in itself, housed in a most charming room. It is a special library concerned primarily with providing all that an active citizen or public worker needs to know, including works on economics, local government, and political service, Government publications, Parliamentary debates, etc., etc. It contains also, however, much that is of general interest. Among its treasures is a unique collection of literature on the woman's movement. It has lately been enriched by the advent, as guests, of the Edward Wright and Cavendish Bentinck Libraries, the property of a special Trust. The whole library offers special opportunities for research in many subjects

and it is in charge of a librarian who is able and willing to give invaluable help. Members can and do borrow books freely. In addition to these various branches of work, there is a whole group of activities carried on by the Society's Junior Council. This is a body consisting of some 600 young women engaged in a great variety of professions and occupations who are members of the Society, but have their own Committee and Officers. Their committee arranges parties, dinners and debates and has been successful in securing distinguished speakers to address them on a variety of subjects. They run a debating society, a swimming club, walkers' club, and other societies, and for all these enterprises the buildings now so happily finished provide admirable facilities. There is the hall with its stage for meetings and entertainments, the new reading room, and last but not least the restaurant, where lunch, tea and dinner can be had.

Women's Service House has now, indeed, become a centre offering many pleasant facilities to its members and it is to be hoped that it will become widely known and increase its membership and prove of great use to a large number of people.

BRITISH WOMEN FOR NEW ZEALAND.

By JESSIE MACKAY.

An extended holiday in January unfortunately prevented me from making an earlier reply to an article by Dame Meriel Talbot in THE WOMAN'S LEADER of 28th November, 1930. Reading it now, I am deeply concerned for British women who may be led astray by the misapprehensions contained in it and give up substance for shadow.

The article is an appeal to young British women to consider the supposed wide and promising field in the Dominions of Canada, South Africa, and New Zealand. Dame Meriel Talbot has been rightly advised to exclude Australia from this rosy picture. Canada and South Africa will answer for themselves. It is my duty, however, as New Zealand correspondent of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance to point out the danger of such misleading information at a time of unparalleled stringency and distress in our country.

It is true that in bygone years young British women easily found remunerative work and happy homes in New Zealand, nor are they barred out now if they bring themselves and have friends to go to. But no free passages are offered by the New Zealand Government and, save for a few schemes like Flock House, there are no agencies to assist girls to New Zealand.

The growing economic strain of the last ten years has entirely altered the conditions described by Dame Meriel Talbot; no immigrant need expect "a good time" here to-day. There was a small excess of men before the war, but that was practically wiped out between 1914 and 1918, and young men are finding it hard indeed to start new homes. The aftermath of war has struck equally hard at women's business and professional chances. When it is known that for this year it has been announced there can be no absorption of boys and girls leaving school, when it is proposed that they be allowed to remain in their classes another year to avoid the demoralisation of enforced idleness, when we are seen piloting with bitter controversy our newly passed Unemployment Act through its first administrative stages—an Act that benefits men workers only—above all, when the queues of unemployed are swelled in our cities by thousands of British immigrants, decoyed here by foolish propaganda during the middle years of last decade—when all this is known, it will be seen what chance British girls have in competition with our own girls, remembering the crushing load on employers, even those counted wealthy till recently.

Dame Meriel Talbot has not been informed that we are far past the time when pioneering need calls for women in any professional walk of life, save for a few specially trained experts in education or public welfare. We are training all the women doctors who can hope to make a living, all the women lawyers too, a negligible quantity in any case. For many years past it has been the problem of the Education Boards here to find work for the surplus teachers swarming out of our well-equipped training colleges. Nurses are being trained in our hospitals at the same rate. Once in a while an Anglican school will send home for a specially trained principal or teaching sisters, and a bright graduate can still find a place, perhaps, on the staff of a private or secondary school. As Dame Meriel Talbot says, too, an English saleswoman may be engaged for a shop, in each case displacing an experienced New Zealand woman.

Finally, the one certain opening up till the last year or so, that of plain domestic service, is no longer a claimant need. The abnormal times have turned even girls of ambition towards the

REVIEW.

FAREWELL MANCHESTER.

domestic sphere, and it is no longer difficult to obtain home assistance, especially as so many homes have ceased to pay for it till the situation improves. The evil case of farmers, the backbone of the country, is reflected in the cities.

These are the considerations to place before would-be migrants at the present moment, not rosy pictures of poetic imagination. The clouds will lift, but they must be faced in the meantime.

[Dame Meriel Talbot writes:— "I appreciate your courtesy in letting me see Miss MacKay's article and affording me an opportunity of making a few comments on the points she raises.

"I wrote the article on 'Opportunities Overseas' more than six months ago. At that time the Government of New Zealand was paying half the cost of the passage from here (the Imperial Government contributing the other half) for approved domestic workers. The same also applied to the small number of professional women—mainly teachers—who had been nominated by residents in New Zealand. This would show that six months ago I was only revealing the opportunities then offered by the New Zealand Government itself.

"Since then, New Zealand has suffered grievous loss, both human and economic, from the earthquake in the North Island, while she has shared in the increasing economic depression of the world at large. Miss MacKay refers constantly to 'this year' in writing of unemployment, parliamentary legislation, proposals for raising the school age—thereby implying that in 1930 conditions were more favourable. Even under present conditions it may interest your readers to know that to-day we hold nominations for a few qualified teachers for whom the Government of New Zealand offers a free passage.

"The numbers are small, and there never has been nor ever would be any question of 'competition' with New Zealand born girls eligible for such posts. As regards domestic workers, there again the situation has altered. To-day the free passage is only available for those who are nominated from the New Zealand end.

"I notice that even Miss MacKay believes that 'the clouds will lift.' In the meanwhile, let us be patient, and prepare for the time when the full beauty of life and opportunity will be revealed.

MERIEL L. TALBOT."

QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT.

Thursday, 2nd July.

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

Mrs. Manning asked the President of the Board of Education the number of special schools for mentally defective children which have been opened during the years 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, and 1930 respectively.

Mr. Lees Smith: The number of special schools for mentally defective children opened during the years in question were five in 1926, four in 1927, none in 1928, four in 1929, and one in 1930.

Mrs. Manning: Having regard to the fact that there are 105,000 mentally defective children in this country, and only 16,000 of them are in schools for mentally defective children, is the right hon. Gentleman satisfied with the progress that local authorities are making?

BIRTHS, REGISTRATION.

Mr. Day asked the Minister of Health whether in view of the present regulations existing for the registration of illegitimate children, he will consider the introduction of legislation, which will have as its object the registration of the birth of these children in such a way that they do not bear the stigma of illegitimacy.

Mr. Greenwood: I would remind the hon. Member that the primary object of birth registration is the establishment of a record for the purpose of furnishing legal evidence in regard to matters of civil status, and that so long as a distinction is drawn by the law for many important purposes between legitimate and illegitimate children, the obliteration of this distinction in the birth register would merely destroy its utility to a very large extent, without affording any compensating advantages to the individuals affected.

ARE YOU INTERESTED in this week's issue?

Why not subscribe for a further 3 months? Send 3s. (to include monthly Supplement) to The Manager, The Woman's Leader, 4 Great Smith St., S.W. 1. 6 months (including Supplement) 6s. 12 months (including Supplement) 12s.

Mr. Allan Monkhouse writes¹ of Manchester with greater reserve than is habitually used in portraying the life of that oddly seductive city. It may be that because he happens to live in it he is less continuously aware of its distinctive personality than is the case with those who come to it from that vastly differing world which is not Manchester—or not South Lancashire. For Manchester is after all, the centre of a kind of urban solar system which presents a strange spiritual unity. It may be that this geographical personality is somewhat sparsely drawn, because he is primarily interested in the individual people of his novel—father, mother, sons and daughter. Nevertheless, he does not allow us to take our eyes off their background or for any length of time regard them as other than the "human interest" in a picture of industrial Lancashire in a decline. That it is in a decline Mr. Monkhouse appears to be perfectly convinced. At any rate, he convinces his readers, for he succeeds in imparting a doom-like quality to the lowering cloud of trade depression, failing markets, gathering competition, and labour unrest which dominates the post-war fortunes and misfortunes of the Tunstall family.

It is a sad tale without, however, being a dreary one, for the five people who are its active agents are all alive. And without doubt, the most vividly alive is John Henry Tunstall, head of a hitherto successful firm of cotton weavers, flesh and bone and blood of Lancashire's great industry. He constitutes very naturally the author's principal personal link with the larger background. Yet *qua* novelist Mr. Monkhouse is more intimately concerned with the two young Tunstalls, Jack, through whose consciousness the story is mainly told, and Walter, whose introspective unbalance provides eventually the startling incident which gives shape and colour to the story. So startling indeed is this incident, and so highly and explosively improbable, that it comes near to wrecking the accurate and carefully drawn Lancastrian scene which Mr. Monkhouse has been at pains to integrate.

M. D. S.

THE DOUGLAS-PENNANT CASE.

A correspondent writes:—There has been an arresting recrudescence of the Douglas-Pennant case, precipitated last week by a meeting in the Central Hall, Westminster, organized by the supporters of Miss Douglas-Pennant. The meeting, announced as "for adults only," was concerned with the disclosure, after thirteen years, of the reason for Miss Douglas-Pennant's dismissal by Lord Weir, from her post as Commandant of the Women's Royal Air Force. She was, it now appears, dismissed because someone told Lord Weir that she was guilty of immorality. This charge was never publicly formulated, and if it had been, we are well assured that it would never have been believed. It is not, of course, believed now by any responsible or reasonable person. And it is clearer even than ever it was, that Miss Douglas-Pennant suffered, thirteen years ago, a grave injustice. But so did a great many other people during that abominable period. Greedy and callous people made large fortunes; pushing people were promoted; able and devoted people were wastefully and thoughtlessly sent to their death; lucky people got medals and titles; unlucky people were maimed, blinded, and forgotten; reputations were absurdly made, and as absurdly blasted; able people were wantonly dismissed and stupid people haphazardly installed; blundering officers led or drove men to destruction; British bullets decimated British troops moving into action. If the mountain of injustice, incongruity, perversity, and wantonness of those mad years were raked to its foundations, Miss Douglas-Pennant's genuine grievance would perhaps be microscopically perceptible. But what a much happier woman she would have been if she had spoken little and forgotten much of what happened during the War period, and devoted the last thirteen years of her life to the impersonal reconstruction of a secure and ordered society in which monstrous injustices (of which her own is only one among many) do not occur.

¹ Farewell Manchester, by Allan Monkhouse. (Martin Secker. 7s. 6d.)

A DISARMAMENT PROCESSION.

The citizens of London—both men and women—are enrolling in their hundreds for the Procession which is to march from the Embankment to Hyde Park next Saturday, 11th July.

THE "CALL TO THE TWELFTH CONGRESS."

The Twelfth Congress of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship is to be held in Athens next year from 17th to 23rd April.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

At Home—

Miss W. L. Feber, of Girton College, is the only woman wrangler in mathematics at Cambridge this year. She shares the distinction with twenty-eight men.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP
President: Mrs. Corbett Ashby.

A TEA PARTY
TO MEET

MISS WINIFRED HOLTBY and MR. MICHAEL FRANKLIN
WHO WILL DISCUSS "Poor Caroline," WILL BE HELD ON
MONDAY, 13th JULY, 1931, at 3.45 p.m., at
PEMBROKE LODGE, PEMBROKE GARDENS, W. 8.

Tickets 7s. 6d. and 5s. to be obtained from the Secretary, N.U.S.E.C., 4 Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

As accommodation is limited, applications should be made immediately.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS.

By BERTHA MASON.

IS IT WORTH WHILE? CAN WE AFFORD IT?

One of the most interesting addresses given at the Conference of Educational Associations which met in London in January of this year was that delivered by Sir Ernest Benn to the Independent Schools Association Section on the educational system of the country.

With the views and conclusions presented by the speaker, our readers may, or may not, agree. It cannot, however, be denied that Sir Ernest Benn submitted observations which in this time of critical industrial and economic depression call for earnest consideration.

(1) In the first place, Sir Ernest expressed the opinion that there is "crying and urgent need for a thorough inquiry into the organization of education in this country".

What is the country getting for this expenditure? Are the boys and girls of to-day better able to speak their mother-tongue in the way it should be spoken? Does the present system of education make boys and girls more industrially fitted, or better able to earn a living for themselves?

Sir Ernest stated as a result of his personal experience that in applications for employment applicants who had been educated at independent schools mentioned the fact in the first line of the application, whereas applicants educated at public elementary schools rarely referred to it.

It would be interesting to learn from the applicants why boys and girls who have been educated at public elementary schools should desire to conceal the fact.

It would be interesting also to know whether the experience of other employers is the same as that of Sir Ernest Benn.

Board of Education.

(2) "The Board of Education," Sir Ernest Benn is reported to have said, "boasts of fifty-six officers, each drawing from £1,000 to £3,000 a year, and one hundred drawing £900 per annum. None of these officers are themselves educative. They are exclusively concerned with the direction of education authorities.

These are bold words, but bold words are necessary from time to time, and they have at least the merit of making people think, which is all to the good, even if the conclusions eventually arrived at are diametrically opposed.

View of Lord Ulleswater.

A few days later the twenty-fourth annual North of England Conference took place at Carlisle.

The conference established a record attendance: 1,388 persons had enrolled themselves as members, these being representatives of teachers' organizations and local education authorities.

The outstanding event of the first session, it is stated, was the presidential address of Lord Ulleswater, ex-Speaker of the House of Commons, who like Sir Ernest Benn, subjected the existing educational system and expenditure to severe criticism, his remarks being received from time to time with dissent.

Lord Ulleswater admitted at the outset that he approached the subject from the standpoint of a taxpayer, a ratepayer, and possibly even as a Manager of a non-provided school, rather than as an educational expert.

We venture to agree with Lord Ulleswater that the time

(Continued on page 183)

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: Mrs. Corbett Ashby.
Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Van Gruisen. Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Ryland.
General and Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. Horton.
Office: 4 Great Smith Street, S.W. 1. Telephone: Victoria 6188.

DISARMAMENT DEMONSTRATION.

SATURDAY, 11TH JULY, AT 3.30 P.M.

All who have been unable to obtain seats in the Albert Hall are urged to attend the overflow mass meeting in Hyde Park, to which the whole proceedings in the Hall will be relayed.

PEACE PROCESSION.

SATURDAY, 11TH JULY, AT 1.30 P.M.

All members of the National Union who are attending the Demonstration, either in the Albert Hall or in Hyde Park, are invited to join the N.U.S.E.C. contingent of the Peace Procession. It will be recognized by the 'National Unions' banner. The Procession will assemble between 12.30 and 1.30 on the Embankment at Charing Cross.

MISS WINIFRED HOLTBY AND "POOR CAROLINE."

MONDAY, 13TH JULY, AT 3.45 P.M.

Any who still want to be present at the tea-party which Mrs. Adrian Corbett is very kindly holding at Pembroke Lodge, Pembroke Gardens, W. 8, to meet Miss Winifred Holtby and Mr. Michael Franklin, are asked to apply immediately to the Secretary, N.U.S.E.C., 4 Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

WOMEN DELEGATES TO LEAGUE OF NATIONS ASSEMBLY.

CONFERENCE, 20TH JULY, 5 P.M., AT CAXTON HALL.

The National Union is again organizing an informal private Conference, which Miss Susan Lawrence, M.P., and Mrs. Mary Hamilton, M.P., have very kindly promised to attend (always providing parliamentary engagements permit), at which there will be an opportunity of discussing with the two British women delegates' questions of special interest to women that are likely to arise at Geneva.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WOMEN'S TRAINING.

MADAM,—The summary of Miss E. S. Fraser's address on "Women and Unemployment Insurance" in a recent issue of your paper, particularly that portion relating to the work of the Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment in providing domestic training centres for unemployed women, has been read with interest by members of the Scottish Committee on Women's Training and Employment, a Sub-Committee of the Central Committee, which deals with the work in Scotland.

The summary appears to refer to the recently opened Residential Centre at Appleton Hall, Warrington, as the second such centre to be established by the Committee. Three Hostels, however, originally set up for the training of young women for domestic work in the Dominions were, at the beginning of this year, converted into residential Home Training Centres, among them the Scottish centre at Millersneuk, Lenzie, Lanarkshire.

The Lenzie Hostel accommodates 30 to 40 trainees at a time and has already trained some 60 girls since January. About 16 trainees complete their course each month and are put in touch with suitable posts by the special Domestic Section at the Glasgow South Side Employment Exchange (Turrieff Street, Glasgow C.5). Very satisfactory reports of the trainees so placed are being received.

Close on 20 non-residential Centres have also been provided in Scotland since the beginning of the year, and a very satisfactory house in Glasgow has been acquired for use as a continuous centre for non-residential training. The number of women who have received training under the Committee's Home Training scheme in Scotland since 1921 now exceeds 7,000, the great majority of whom have since entered domestic employment.

(Signed) ISHBEL ABERDEEN & TEMAIR (Chairman), JANE E. HANNAY (Vice-Chairman), MARY A. SNODGRASS (Deputy Vice-Chairman).

Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment, 44 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

DURHAM S.E.C.

At a meeting of this Society held at St. Hild's College on 29th May, Mrs. Hubback spoke on "Bills now before Parliament." Bills to which Mr. Hubback specially referred were the Town and Country Planning, and Wills and Intestacies (Family Maintenance), and she also dealt with the Royal Commission on the Civil Service and Women Police, Nationality of Married Women, and the Sterilization of Mental Defectives.

MALVERN S.E.C.

The Annual Report of this Society for 1930 shows a year of steady work and continued interest, during which eleven new members were elected. An event of special interest was the Supper held in June, in which the retiring women Guardians of Malvern were invited as the guests of honour. Short speeches were made, and about fifty were present at this very enjoyable evening.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS—(Continued from page 182.)

devoted to the Persian and Babylonian dynasties might be more usefully employed in teaching young children to speak and understand English.

In saying this the present writer does not undervalue a knowledge of the Persian and Babylonian dynasties. She herself had a happy and illuminating time in studying and also writing essays on this subject, but the study of this epoch was deferred until some time after her fourteenth birthday.

Memorandum (Board of Education), 1931.

In view of the above criticisms, it is interesting to find from a memorandum issued in March of this year by the Board of Education, in the estimates of that Department for 1931, provision made for a net expenditure of £48,362,377, an increase on the previous year (1930) of over £2,866,724.

The estimated expenditure of the local education authorities for both elementary and higher education, assumed for the Boards Estimates, is £83,690,000, an increase of £4,030,000 over 1930. This estimated expenditure of the local Education Authorities during the coming year constitutes a new record and shows an increase on the year 1913-14 of £53,679,000. The cost per pupil of elementary education has advanced by 7s. 3d. to 267 shillings and 9d., another record, as compared with 95 shillings and 2d. in 1913-14. In the meanwhile, the attendance has dropped from 5,318,479 to 4,950,000.

Just Published

MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT

By Ray Strachey

A great biography, which gives the whole history of the Women's Movement from the inside.

WITH 10 ILLUSTRATIONS.

15s. net.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER EVERY FRIDAY. TWOPENCE.

SPECIAL TERMS FOR SOCIETIES

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

The ENGLISH FOLK COOKERY ASSOCIATION

will be glad to receive information respecting Scottish, English, Irish and Welsh food and cookery customs, ceremonial dishes, and cakes (local and traditional). 2s. 6d. weekly will be given for the best received written on a post card addressed Miss White, E.F.C.A., care of THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Great Smith St., Westminster, London, S.W. 1.

COMING EVENTS.

B.B.C.

Monday, 13th July. 7 p.m. Miss V. Sackville-West, "New Books."
Tuesdays, 14th July. 10.45-11 a.m. Professor and Mrs. V. H. Mottram, "Meals in Summer."
Wednesdays, 15th July. 10.45 a.m. The Countess of Iveagh. "The Week in Westminster."

BRITISH SOCIAL HYGIENE COUNCIL.

29th July-5th August. Summer School, St. Hughes College, Oxford. Speakers: Professor T. Arthur Thompson, Professor Cyril Burt, Professor Winifred Cullis, and others. Particulars from Cartaret House, Cartaret Street, S.W. 1.

NATIONAL DISARMAMENT DEMONSTRATION.

11th July, 3.30. Albert Hall, S.W. Speakers include the Prime Minister, Mr. Baldwin, M.P., and Mr. Lloyd George, M.P. Overflow Mass Meeting, Hyde Park, 3.30. A procession will assemble 12.30 at Victoria Embankment and march to the meetings. All inquiries to Women's International League, 55 Gower Street, W.C.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

13th July, 3.30. "Poor Caroline" Tea Party at Pembroke Lodge, Pembroke Gardens, W. 8. Speakers: Miss Winifred Holby and Mr. Michael Franklin. Tickets from 4 Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

SIX POINT GROUP.

16th July. 6 p.m. 92 Victoria Street, S.W. 1. "What the Equal Rights Treaty Means—to Industrial Workers." Miss Whately. Chair: Mrs. Drummond.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

16th July. 7.30. Pinoli's Restaurant. Dinner to Miss McEntee, Ph.D. (Professor Hunter College, New York).

SUFFRAGETTE FELLOWSHIP.

14th July. Mrs. Pankhurst Memorial Celebration. 12 a.m. Service, St. John's Church, Westminster. 12.30. Laying of wreaths at Statue on Victoria Tower Gardens. Particulars from Miss W. Mayo, 1 Selwood Place, S.W. 7.

TYPEWRITING.

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

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

TO LET AND WANTED.

NEAR Hampstead Heath, Belsize Park Station; in lady artist's new studio house, charming sunny bed-sittingroom (furnished); gas fire, ring, fitted lavatory basin, electric light; bathroom; attractive garden; some attendance; extra bedroom optional. Prim. 3876.—28 Glenilla Road, N.W. 3.

WESTMINSTER, near Abbey.—Furnished Flat to Let; 2 bedrooms, sittingroom, kitchen, bath; 15th July-15th September. Tel. £3 3s. or offer.—Box 1642, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

TO LET, Furnished Bed-Sittingroom in flat; pleasant outlook; sunny; near Tavistock Square.—Box 1,640, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

KENSINGTON.—Attractive Furnished Flat to Let; suit two or three professional women; kitchen, bath; electric light, telephone; 3 minutes tube, bus; rent 2½ guineas.—Write, 3 Sinclair Gardens.

FREEHOLD Detached Bungalow, £520; main drainage; company's water, gas; two bedrooms, two living rooms, bathroom (hot water); offices; beautiful views.—Jack Cottage, Newlyn, Penzance.

UNFURNISHED ROOMS for Ladies; one or two still available in excellently appointed and well recommended house just opened; best part St. John's Wood; rents 16s., 20s., and 28s.; telephone; nice garden.—Box 1,644, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION.

COAST OF DORSET.—Comfortably Furnished Cottage to Let (not August).—Apply, Mrs. Cancellor, 7 Ladbrooke Road, W. 11.

COTSWOLDS.—Tudor Guest House; Picturesque village; good walking centre. beautiful wooded country.—The Croft, Sheepscombe, near Stroud, Glos.

FRENCH Lady (widow) and three children (10-15) would like to hear of English family (seaside or country) where children could board inexpensively. Mother would help in house and give lessons in exchange; or can any reader recommend really cheap lodgings, or offer suggestions for assisting Mme. C. and children to have a holiday in England?—Write, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, c/o, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

WENSLEYDALE.—Board - Residence, comfortable Georgian house; near Aysgarth Falls; centre unspoilt scenery; sunny garden, own vegetables; garage; annexe to let as bed-sittingroom; motor-coach or rail to Aysgarth.—Smith, Warnford, Thoraby, Aysgarth, Yorks.

LAKE DISTRICT.—Comfortable; good cooking; inside sanitation; electric light; very moderate terms; highly recommended; excellent centre.—Davies, Priory Boarding House, Cartmel, Grange-over-Sands.

TO LET, furnished, for July and August or for a longer period, Cottage in the village of Clapham, near Worthing, Sussex; three minutes' walk from the Downs, three miles from the sea; two bedrooms (two beds in each room), 1 sitting room, 1 kitchen, dining room, large scullery, cooking stove, etc.; electric light, main water; garage near, 5s. a week; no bath room; good outside sanitation; woman available to cook and "do" for tenants. July, 3½ guineas; August, 4 guineas; longer period less.—Apply, Principals, school of Gardening, Clapham, near Worthing, Sussex.

NORTH DEVON.—Lady offers room, board, 25s. weekly; lovely outlook; near town and buses.—Box 1,637, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

CORNISH COAST.—To let, Furnished Bungalow; 8 minutes sandy bay, lovely views; 4 bedrooms, sitting-room, kitchen, bathroom; 6 gns. weekly.—Write, Hawke, Kosikot, St. Merryn, N. Cornwall.

MISCELLANEOUS.

CAN any reader of THE WOMAN'S LEADER tell another of some place (either in England or abroad) where lessons (without exams.), sports, and intelligent companionship could be obtained for a daughter aged 16? Particularly desires to learn German and swimming. A family possibly, or small school. Recommendation from personal knowledge specially valued.—Address, Box 1643, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

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

PROFESSIONAL.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON and National Society for Women's Service, 27 Marsham Street, Westminster. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Bedrooms are now available for the use of House Members. Terms including breakfast 6s. 6d. per night. £2 2s. per week.—Applications by letter only to the Secretary.

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 12th July, 6.30: Maude Royden, C.H., D.D.

Charges for Prepaid Classified Advertisements

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

Additional words at 1d. per word.

Payment may be made by postage stamps. Postal Orders and Cheques should be drawn to The Common Cause Publishing Co., and crossed.

If a copy of the paper is required, postage should be sent.

Persons using a Box Office Number and requiring replies to be forwarded by post must send sixpence to cover expenses.

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

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

Name

Address