THE WOMAN'S LEADER AND THE COMMON CAUSE



TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD NUMBER

Price 2d.

Number 9. June, 1931.

EDITORIAL.

We are very anxious to tell Guild members of the plans approved by the Executive Committee, on 2nd June, for a week-end rally of Guilds the first week in October. We feel that Guild members would derive immense benefit from a week-end holiday in such beautiful surroundings, where they would meet other Guild members and have an opportunity of discussing some of the most important questions of the day.



WILL GUILD MEMBERS BOOK THE DATE ?

Accommodation is limited-early application should be made.

continued from next colum

paratively slowly. Milk should be strained, because even with great care some loose hairs from the cows or small particles of dirt may find their way into it, but it should always be remembered that straining never makes dirty milk clean and it does not remove the bacteria which may have got into it with the dirt. The bacteria cannot be removed because they are so very small. It is calculated that many thousands could pass through a single mesh of the finest butter muslin.

If the straining is done through a cloth, the cloth should be very clean; it should be boiled every time after it is used. The best type of strainer is one which is fitted with cotton wool discs and wire meshes. The cotton wool should never be used more than once and should be changed during milking if

Milk should be put at once into clean churns (or into sterilized bottles), which should be covered immediately In warm weather, when the milk is carted from the farm to the railway station, or to its destination, the cans should be kept covered with a light coloured cloth so that they may be shaded from the direct heat of the sun, and the milk kept as cool as possible.

The ultimate purity of milk is largely a matter of hygiene in the home ; the consumer, therefore, must share with those who produce and handle milk the responsibility of keeping it pure and sweet until used.

(1) As soon as possible after delivery, milk should be put in a cool, clean place, and kept there until it is required for use.

(2) Milk deteriorates by exposure to the air. It should therefore be kept covered. A further danger that arises if it be left uncovered is contamination by flies.

(3) If the milk is delivered in a bottle, the mouth and neck of the bottle should be wiped carefully with a clean cloth before it is emptied.

(4) Milk should never be put in a warm jug or basin.

(5) Milk should only be put into scrupulously clean vessels. (6) All utensils used for milk should be carefully washed as already directed. They should not be wiped with a cloth that has been used for other dishes.

(7) New milk should never be mixed with old milk unless it is to be used at once.

PRODUCTION OF CLEAN MILK.

Contributed by the National Milk Publicity Council.

The whole secret of the production of clean milk is to make sure that the milk comes into contact as little as possible with dust or dirt from the moment it is drawn from the cow until it leaves the farm. Bacteria are to be found on every particle dust, and exist in very large numbers in any form of dirt. Unfortunately, they thrive particularly well and increase with great rapidity in milk. Milk, as it is drawn from a healthy cow, contains no bacteria, or a very small number ; if none are allowed to get in afterwards it will stay sweet and wholesome for a long If milk is kept cool, the bacteria that do get into it will not increase rapidly in numbers because bacteria need warmth in order to multiply. Milk that is produced and handled under the most cleanly conditions, bottled immediately in a sealed bottle, and kept cool, will keep sweet and wholesome for many days, or even for weeks. The cleaner and cooler any milk is Kept the longer it will remain sweet. All animals in a dairy herd should be in good health and

free from any disease which may be carried by milk.

The buildings in which the cows are housed or milked should be light, clean, and well ventilated. Sunlight is the best and least expensive disinfectant. Sufficient artificial light is necessary, so that when the cows are milked during hours of darkness the milkers can see that the cows are clean.

The shed in which cattle are milked should be kept as clean as possible. The ceiling or rafters should be kept free from dust and cobwebs. The floors, walls, and stalls, should be kept clean. It should be ventilated so that the animals may breathe air that is as fresh as possible.

Before milking the cows should be groomed with a currycomb and brushed. All dirt should be washed from the flanks, tail, and udder. The udder and teats, after being washed, should be wiped with a clean cloth.

The hair on the udder should be clipped regularly for a close clipped udder can be kept clean much more easily than e covered with long hairs. The hair on the end of the cow's tail should be kept short so that it may not brush the ground or the animal's hocks and thus become dirty.

The milkers should be healthy and should not come into contact with any person suffering from a contagious disease. They should put on clean overalls and caps after washing the cows. Immediately before milking and as often as may be needed, they should wash their hands.

The milking stool should be kept very clean, for the milker always handles it just as he sits down to milk, and if it is dirty, the dirt gets on to his hands and thus into the milk.

The milking should be done with clean, dry hands. The first squirt from each teat should not be allowed to go into the milk pail, because this milk contains a large number of bacteria which have found their way into it, not through the udder but from the outside. The first stream cleans out the teat. As soon as each cow is milked the milk from that cow should be removed immediately from the shed.

All utensils should be so constructed that they can be easily They should have no crevices and the seams should cleaned. be well soldered.

It is very important that the type of milk pail used should be a covered one, having a small opening, for the smaller the opening, the less dirt or dust can fall into the milk. It is necessary that it should be of such a pattern that it can be

washed easily and that every part of the interior can be seen. All utensils with which milk comes into contact should be kept scrupulously clean. After being used, they should first be rinsed in cold water, for if hot water is used the albumen in the milk becomes coagulated and sticks to the utensil. They should then be well scoured with soap in hot water to which some washing soda has been added. The water should be hot so as to dissolve the fat in the milk and the washing soda added to help this process. The utensils should then be rinsed again in clean water. To make a thorough job they should then be sterilized by steam for at least 20 minutes or immersed in boiling water.

In the production of clean milk no factor is more important than having really clean milk vessels, for if any milk is left in crevices it makes a breeding ground for bacteria which will contaminate the milk when the vessel is next used.

As soon as the milk is taken from the milking shed it should be strained and then cooled to as low a temperature as possible. At a temperature of 50° F., or lower, bacteria increase com-

(Continued in previous column.)

TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD SUPPLEMENT.

THE UNMARRIED MOTHER AND HER CHILD.

The death-rate among illegitimate infants under one year was 126 per 1,000 births in 1929 in England and Wales, about twice as high as among children born in wedlock. During the period 1911–1920, the death-rate in childbirth per 1,000 births among married women was 3.93, and among single women

Illegitimate children in Great Britain may be divided roughly into three classes : (a) Children born to parents who live together without marriage, either by preference or because of some legal bar; (b) children of border-line or morally defective mothers whose illegitimate children are born to them at more or less regular intervals, and who may be considered a rather hopeless problem ; (c) the first-born of single girls or women who come under neither of the first two categories. It is the last class which presents the most hopeful field for any attempt at lowering these deplorable death-rates. The whole problem, however, is one of extreme difficulty. A feeling still exists with many people that to provide special care for unmarried mothers and illegitimate children is to encourage immorality, whilst others of less narrow views would nevertheless deprecate any lowering of the moral standard of any movement which might seem to endanger the sanctity of the marriage tie and family life. Then there are people who go to the opposite extreme, and show an excess of sentimentality and a lack of foresight which lead in many cases to disaster. Surely what is needed is common sense, sympathy, and friendship, with the offer of practical advice and help according to the needs of the mother, and above all a real personal effort to instil and foster a sense of responsibility and hope for the future.

One of the greatest dangers to the life and health of mother and child is lack of proper ante-natal care. For reasons of secrecy or from ignorance as to where advice is to be sought, the unmarried mother may fail to receive the special examinations and care upon which so much importance is laid in these days by all obstetricians. Separation of the child from the mother in its first hours or days has much also to answer for. The infant is doomed very often even before its birth by the relatives or advisers who take every step to ensure its immediate removal. thus depriving it of its natural sustenance. Hundreds illegitimate babies most certainly die every year from unsuitable feeding

The best help for an unmarried mother expecting her first child is usually to secure her admission to one of the excellent residential homes for such mothers, which have been founded by voluntary organizations and are subsidized as maternity and child welfare institutions by the State through the Local Authority. Here not only is the health of the mother and infant safeguarded but every effort is made to give the former a new outlook on life and to knit the bonds of affection between herself and her child, a policy which will do more probably than anything else to keep her straight in the future. The length of stay varies from a few weeks before and after confinement to two years. The fees are usually from 10s. to 15s. weekly, which may perhaps be covered by the mother's confinement benefit and sick benefit. contributions from relatives and the father of the child, or a call may be made on the local Health Committee or Public Assistance Committee or a voluntary organization. It should always be remembered that under the Maternity and Child Welfare Acts and the Local Government Act, 1929, Local Authorities have wide powers to spend money on cases such as these, and Townswomen's Guilds might well make it their business to find out whether grants are available in their areas to send unmarried mothers to voluntary homes instead of into local Institutions. Enquiry might also be made as to whether unmarried mothers are encouraged to attend the local ante-natal clinics and child welfare centres; or, as is sometimes considered better, to make special application for advice in their own homes from the Health Visitors, and whether food, milk, etc., are given to expectant and nursing mothers in need of extra nourishment.

Although admission to a Public Hospital is not considered by most social workers a good arrangement for an unmarried mother expecting a first child, much useful and co-operative work for such inmates is carried on in the maternity wards by visitors attached to voluntary organizations, as well as by the women relieving officers to be found in some areas. This (Continued in next column.)

OUR BILL OF FARE.

We hope every Guild reader will read Miss Ward's article on the Disarmament Campaign and Miss Bertha Mason's "Litter Strewers". Cross Bench does not appear this week, because of the Whitsuntide recess.

HAYWARDS HEATH TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD.

On May 12th forty members of the Haywards Heath T.G. made an excursion to Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament. Reaching Victoria Station at 10.30, they swarmed into Westminster buses, and, upon alighting, divided into two parties, in accordance with instructions received beforehand. One party was shown round Westminster Abbey by the genial and informative Dean's Verger, Mr. Drake, and the other was conducted through the Houses of Parliament by Sir Robert Newman, M.P. In the afternoon the same arrangement was repeated, except that Miss Rathbone, M.P., took the place of Sir Robert Newman. The architectural beauty of the Abbey called forth enthusiastic appreciation, and much interest was shown in its historical associations, while due homage was paid to the tomb of the Unkown Warrior. Some parts of the Abbey which are not usually shown, were visited, such as the crypt under the Chapter House, which was impressive but chilly. The wax figures excited a good deal of curiosity, and Mr. Drake explained their origin. He said that in olden times the actual bodies of sovereigns and notable persons were carried in their funeral processions, but that, subsequently, wooden effigies were substituted, and later still these were made in wax. Queen Elizabeth was the first sovereign to have a waxen effigy carried, and Oueen Anne was the last

The afternoon party to the Houses of Parliament was met by Miss Rathbone and given a warm welcome. She took us first into Westminster Hall, explaining that it was originally a Hall of Justice and Banqueting Hall, and that it was built by William II and enlarged and enriched by Richard II. The fire of 1834 destroyed St. Stephen's Chapel, where Parliament had met for centuries, but the site was shown, and we were taken into the crypt below, which is one of the few parts of Old Westminster Palace which still remain. Here we saw the chapel in which the families of M.P.s are privileged to be married and baptized, and the cellar in which Guy Fawkes was concealed. Ascending to the ground floor, the various galleries and lobbies were traversed, committee-rooms and libraries entered, and the Upper and Lower Chambers visited, Miss Rathbone entertaining us with the relation of many quaint customs and explaining various points of procedure. Some of us hurried back to see the imposing procession of the Speaker, preceded by the Mace, on his way to the Chair, and the four who were lucky enough to have tickets given them had the interesting experience of witnessing a sitting of the House. It was Ouestion Time, and one could not help being struck by the general good temper ; indeed, the frequent bursts of laughter might have scandalized anyone who did not understand our English way of hiding our seriousness under a cloak of levity. After the expeditious disposal of the questions the Prime Minister moved that the 11 o'clock rule be suspended for that day. A division being called for, we saw the clouse quickly empty, and very soon afterwards it was announced that the "ayes" had it. In all that we had seen there was very little waste of time. Now the Speaker retired, the Mace was lowered, and the House went into Committee. We listened to an exposition of the Representation of the People Bill by Mr. Hilton Young, and at 4.30 left the House for our next appointment, which was the new Headquarters of the N.U.S.E.C., which we thought delightfully home-like and almost rural in its quietude. We should have liked to have spent longer there, but had to hurry away to meet the rest of the party for tea at Stewart's, close to Victoria Station; and a very merry meal it was. Indeed, our happiness seemed to be a kind of trade-mark for when one of us who had got separated from the rest, asked a policeman if he had seen anything of our party, he answered in the affirmative, adding "I thought you must be one of them by your smiling face ! M. PERRIN.

(Continued from previous column.

also applies to the trained almoners attached to most voluntary hospitals and some of the Public Institutions.

Every effort should be made to get the father to carry out his financial obligations. Public Assistance Committees have power to take legal action to secure an affiliation order if the mother or child, or both, are chargeable. It is frequently most important that such assistance should be given to a mother to secure an order before she leaves the care of the Local Authority, and pressure should be brought to bear upon Public Assistance Committees and their officials on this matter.

Space does not allow of any further notes in these columns, but further information on any particular point or case may be obtained from The National Council for the Unmarried Mother. and Her Child, Carnegie House, 117 Piccadilly, London, W.1. .

SUSAN MUSSON.

NEWS FROM GUILDS. ALVASTON GUILD.

At the April meeting of the Alvaston Townswomen's Guild a glove-making demonstration was given by Mrs. Wells, Secretary of the Derby Suburban Guild. Mrs. Wells gave a demonstration in the methods of glove-making, but classes are really necessary before a successful pair of gloves can be accomplished; the demonstration successful pair of gloves can be accomplished; the definition stration may be followed by a series of classes. Mrs. Wells also judged a competition for "the best article made for 3d."; the prize was won by Mrs. Sims for a hanger made of "A pennyworth of hooks and a little ingenuity". The hanger was fitted to hold scissors, button-hooks, keys and other household necessities that are apt to get themselves lost if they are not in the right place.

AYLESHAM GUILD.

AYLESHAM GUILD. The Aylesham Townswomen's Guild was formed in February, 1930, and has had special difficulties to overcome, as it is in a new building area where the community spirit is not yet very strong and removals are frequent. Several interesting meetings have been arranged including demonstrations in stencilling, cork and bead mats, felt slippers, folk dancing, home dyeing and lectures on the League of Nations, the Life of a Guardsman, Gardening and Our Own District have been given. The Guild has approached the League of Nations, the Life of a Guardsman, Gardening and Our Own District have been given. The Guild has approached the County Council with regard to some road improvements and other local difficulties. The members recently had a stall "Ye Tucke Shoppe " at the Community Fayre. This Guild is evidently serving st useful purpose in forming a social centre for the new

BEACONSFIELD AND KNOTTY GREEN GUILD.

The Beaconsfield and Knotty Green Townswomen's Guild has been a healthy growing body from the beginning of its career, when it was formed in March, 1930. The membership is now 150, and there are others waiting to join when a larger room can be found for the meetings. The programme has been very varied and as a result of demonstrations, classes have been held in leather work, embroiders and millinger. There is also a counter dension class embroidery and millinery. There is also a country dancing class and a choir which is competing in the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Musical Festival. This Guild makes a special feature of members' birthdays; a collecting box is kept for the purpose, and each member on her birthday receives a bunch of flowers, to cost not more than 6d., and greetings from the Guild. A system of visiting members who are ill is now being organized. The Beaconsfield Guild is inviting some members from a town Guild to visit them in the

BETHNAL GREEN GUILD.

The Bethnal Green Townswomen's Guild was born less than a year ago, but is already a healthy and vigorous infant. There have been meetings of various types, demonstrations on bulb-growing, home dyeing, milk cookery, lectures on housing and on the work of the Industrial Christian Fellowship, a "mystery" afternoon, and an American tea with music. The "mystery" afternoon proved an immense success. The Guild is already coming to be recognized as a body of women whose opinions matter. It was asked to send delegates to a big meeting of the local League of Nations, and since then to appoint a representative to its Executive Committee. The Bethnal Green Gardens Guild has also asked for a representative on its committee. Its relations with other Guilds are growing; it has accepted invitations from Harrow and Southall, and is in correspondence with its next-door neighbour, Hoxton. Besides the monthly meetings, a regular keen attendance has been maintained at the weekly classes of the local L.C.C. Women's Evening Institute, from the membership of which the Guild originally grew.

BUCKTON VALE GUILD.

The Buckton Vale Guild was formed last November and now has seventy-one members. They have already had lectures on sanitation, Women Police, League of Nations, and gardening, and demonstrations in sweet-making, embroidery, and stool weaving. A choral society has been formed, and has many enthusiastic members. At the April meeting there was a competition on the best Easter egg not to cost more than 6d. ; many charming efforts were shown.

DERBY SUBURBAN GUILD.

The second monthly meeting of the Derby Suburban Towns-women's Guild was held on 27th April. Mrs. Henderson, President of the Alvaston Guild, gave a most interesting talk on "the work of a district nurse", and a competition on the best article made for 3d. was held. Twenty-one new members were enrolled, making the total membership of ninety-six.

DORKING GUILD.

DORKING GUILD. At their March monthly meeting, the Dorking Townswomen's Guild had the pleasure of welcoming, for the second time, the Rev. A. W. Shaw (Rector of Peper Harrow), who at the request of many members who had heard him last year, spoke on "Bird Life in Surrey." After tea a competition took place on "something new from something old", the judging was by the vote of the members; the prize was won by Mrs. Attlee, who from one pair of worn-out stockings succeeded in making a baby's vest and a pair of dusting gloves. of dusting gloves.

EASTLEIGH GUILD.

The Eastleigh Townswomen's Guild is a healthy infant of just one year old and is noted for the high percentage of members present at each meeting. Various interesting talks have been arranged, they have ranged from Southampton to Rome, and from Stool-making to Fruit-Bottling. Community singing and games are popular features of the social half-hour.

ECCLES GUILD.

The Eccles, Lancs, Townswomen's Guild, which was formed in September, 1930, has had a most interesting series of lectures and demonstrations. The members organized a very successful Whist Drive and Dance, realizing $\frac{f}{26}$ for the Guild funds. The original membership of thirty-five has been nearly doubled, as they have now sixty-seven members.

HARROW GUILD.

Although only formed three months ago, the Harrow Guild is growing rapidly and each meeting finds increased membership. Mrs. Corbett Ashby visited the Guild in April and spoke on "Women and Citizenship". The Guild took part in welcoming the Duke and Duchess of York when they visited Harrow in May to open the extension to the hospital.

HORSHAM GUILD.

The Horsham Townswomen's Guild has embarked upon a campaign to see that provision is made for urgent maternity cases. At the May meeting Mrs. Adrian Corbett, of the Headquarters Executive, spoke on "Maternal Mortality". The Hon. Secretary of the Guild reported that in response to a former resolution from the Guild, a reply has been received from the hospital authorities stating that as the hospital had only recently undertaken a large and expensive as the hospital had only recently undertaken a large and expensive scheme for the provision of a Children's Ward, the authorities did not feel justified in making further provision of beds for maternity cases at the hospital at present. It was pointed out that urgent maternity cases had to be sent to Steyning or Brighton, and the following resolution was passed: "The Townswomen's Guild of Horsham is not satisfied with the letter received from the Committee of the hospital and areas that are use for a to be with write the of the hospital, and urges that a way be found to cope with maternity cases of particular urgency other than by sending patients such distances as from Horsham to Steyning."

MOULSECOOMB GUILD.

The Moulsecoomb Townswomen's Guild is now in its third year ; the average attendance at the monthly meetings is about fifty, and steady progress is being maintained. Some months ago a handicraft steady progress is being maintained. Some months ago a nationcraft section was formed, and lessons are now given in stool-making, wicker and raffia work, etc. In the course of the year competitions have been held in cake-making, potato growing, and garden produce. A choral society has recently been formed and a second prize was gained in one competition at the Brighton Musical Festival.

NEWHAVEN GUILD.

At a special meeting of the Newhaven Townswomen's Guild held At a special meeting of the Newhaven Townswomen's Guild held in April a report was given of the Annual Council Meeting of the N.U.S.E.C. Resolutions were passed in regard to Nationality of Married Women and Testamentary Provision for Spouses and Minor Children. At the May meeting a demonstration was given on what to do with a piece of tin, and many useful articles were made from coccas tins by using a pair of spissors an oil lawn, and solder from cocoa tins by using a pair of scissors, an oil lamp, and solder. There was a competition for the best short story of 200 words, and the choir gave several items, which were greatly appreciated.

ORMSKIRK GUILD.

At the last monthly meeting of the Ormskirk Townswomen's Guild, Mrs. Whiteley, a member of the Liverpool City Council, deputizing for Miss Rathbone, M.P., who was unable to be present, spoke on the work of Women Councillors. Mrs. Whiteley gave a most interesting talk on the work of the Liverpool City Council from a woman's point of view, and stressed the need for women to serve on the principal Committees and Sub-Committees, as there was so much they could do in the interests of women and children. A demonstration in stitchery was given by Mrs. Glover, members being provided with samplers of crash linen, needles and wool for the various stitches. A competition for the best home-made cake was most successful. This Guild has increased its membership from 23 to 160.

WICK GUILD.

A very successful meeting of the Wick Townswomen's Guild was held on Wednesday, 13th May. The Monthly Letter from Headquarters was read and several members volunteered to canvas the community for signatures to the National Declaration of World Disarmament. The Competition for the evening was something new from something old. Mr. A. Robertson, M.A., Rector, gave an inspiring lecture on the life of Florence Nightingale. The Guild has arranged an afternoon picnic to Latheronwheel Glen to take the place of their June meeting.

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Annual Subscription for Postal Subscribers : British Isles and Abroad, 10/10. Common Cause Publishing Co., 4 Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W. I.

NOTES AND NEWS. The Unemployment Insurance Report. In our leading article we comment on the interim report issued by the Royal Commission on Unemployment Insurance. Although the main report cannot be expected for some time, the Committee had been asked to give its views as soon as possible on three points, the increasing indebtedness of the Unemployment Fund, the increasing cost of transitional benefit, and the suggestion that benefit is now being paid in circumstances that the scheme is not intended to cover. The Committee guards itself against the mistake made by its predecessor the Blanesburgh Committee, and has assumed that at any rate for some years to come, a live register of two and a half million must be expected. A majority and a minority report have been published, the minority being the work of Mrs. Rackham and Mr. W. Asbury. In addition, Mrs. Rackham has contributed notes, signed by herself alone, on the position of married women. The main recommendations of the majority report include: limiting the period of the insurance benefit to twenty-six weeks ; increasing contributions of the employers, the employed, and the State; reducing the rates of benefit to all classes of workers; reducing the allowance of adult dependents from 9s. to 8s., and imposing special provisions for intermittent, casual, short-time workers, and for married women. With regard to married women, it is proposed that a married woman should be entitled to benefit only if she has satisfied the statutory authorities that she has not abandoned insurable employment, and (b) that, having regard to her industrial experience and to the industrial circumstances of the district, she can reasonably expect to obtain insurable employment in the district in which she is residing.

The League in June.

Several League gatherings of exceptional importance and interest, as well as some of lesser import, are meeting in June. The month opened with two of these gatherings in progress. In the first place, there is the International Labour Conference of the League of Nations which began work on the 28th May and will remain in session during the best part of June. Then there is the International Conference on the Limitation of Narcotic Drugs which is being attended by delegates from fifty countries, including the United States of America, Russia, and Turkey. Important as both these gatherings undoubtedly are, they will be overshadowed by the meeting of the Permanent Court of International Justice which opens on 15th June, for the chief business before the Court is, of course, the question of the

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legality of the Austro-German Customs Union, which is being considered by the Court at the request of the Council as a matter of urgency. The Court is to give an advisory opinion, not a judgment. Whatever the verdict, the whole issue will again come before the Council when it meets in September at the time of the Assembly. Next in importance to these gatherings may be placed the meetings of the Permanent Mandates Commission. Chief interest will undoubtedly centre round the presentation of Sir John Hope Simpson's report on land development in Palestine. Of the other League meetings this month, there may be mentioned a conference on Vitamins, to take place in London on 17th June, and a Conference on Rural Hygiene at Geneva on 29th June, whilst a meeting of the Permanent Standards Committee of the Health Committee is to meet on the 23rd of the month.

Sentence of Death (Expectant Mothers) Bill.

This Bill passed its Third Reading in the House of Commons on Tuesday, 2nd June. Although the Bill is so non-controversial that any but the minimum of discussion has been necessary, this does not mean that we do not owe Miss Picton-Turbervill very hearty congratulations on her persistence and skill in overcoming the many difficulties involved in getting the Government to allow time for any Private Member's Bill at this time of the Session. We foresee an easy passage for the Bill through the House of Lords.

Women and the Priesthood.

At the Convocation of York which met last week in York, a resolution was moved by the Bishop of Manchester approving the functions of deaconesses as outlined by the Lambeth Conference. Even this mild step elicited a protest from the Bishop of Durham, who held that it might lead to the admission of women to the priesthood, and probably the Episcopate. He thought they were on a slippery slope, and advised his colleagues to learn a lesson from "secular experience," referring we can only suppose to the presence of women on the Front Benches. He appears, however, to be in a minority, for the House not only approved this resolution, but approved another moved by Dr. Herbert, the Bishop of Blackburn, urging the issue by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York of a statement of the theological principles governing the Church's development of the ministry of women. Our readers will remember that in replying to the deputation from "the Anglican group for the ordination of women to the priesthood," reported last week in our columns, the Archbishop of Canterbury took the view that the subject could not be left where the Lambeth Conference had placed it, and that he believed a fuller statement was called for before the next Conference

The Peace Meeting at Belgrade.

We print to-day some extracts from a first-hand impression of the Peace Conference at Belgrade, written by Miss Ruth Morgan, Chairman of the Peace Committee of the Alliance for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship and Chairman of the Conference for the International Women's News. There is, as Miss Morgan points out, a dramatic interest attached to a women's peace meeting in Jugoslavia and evidently the gathering of women from so many countries created a favourable impression. For a fuller report, our readers are referred to the July number of the International Women's News (price 6d., 190 Vauxhall Bridge Road, S.W. 1), which will be a special Belgrade Peace Conference issue. Apparently the League of Nations has taken notice of the intense desire of women of all countries for peace; a proposal which may come forward at the Assembly in September, to summon a conference of women, was reported to the Board of the Alliance at the recent Belgrade meeting. It seems improbable that this proposal will materialize, but it at least shows that the League recognizes the work that women are doing in the cause of peace.

The Next Congress of the International Alliance.

At the Belgrade meeting of the Board of International Alliance, referred to above, it was decided unanimously to accept the invitation from the Greek Auxiliary to go to Athens in 1932. A congress in Athens conjures up the most alluring possibilities, and, notwithstanding the distance, we believe Great Britain will send a large delegation. Next year will be a year of congresses, for the International Conference on Social Work will meet in Frankfurt in July. Athens must necessarily be much earlier, unfortunately for those who would like to combine the two.

Domestic Service from Two Angles.

The domestic worker always a favourite topic of discussion, is once again in the limelight. A charter for her protection was unanimously adopted at the National Conference of Labour Women, held at Blackpool last week, of which we hope to print a report next week. Her cause has also been espoused Mr. Geoffrey Mander, M.P., who introduced a proposal for the formation of a Domestic Service Commission in the House of Commons on Tuesday, and in another column of this issue appears a brief report of a meeting arranged by the National Council of Women on the same subject. There is nothing particularly revolutionary in the so-called Labour Charter, nothing we have examined which would not be accepted by most good mistresses, except the " abolition of the servant's cap as a badge of servitude," which seems to us a fatuous objection unworthy of Labour women. The best antidote to this kind of snobbery is to be found in the training centres for unemployed women, of which the fifth was opened by Miss Margaret Bondfield last This centre, Appleton Hall, was described by Miss week. Bondfield as specially dedicated as a " college " for Lancashire and Cheshire for the assistance of that large body of women who were thrown out of employment by the depression in the cotton trade. She pointed out that Appleton Hall would open to women the entrance to a new, though equally skilled trade, and she urged those who entered it to do for domestic service what their mothers and grandmothers had done for the cotton trade in years gone by.

The Law-abiding Sex.

In the report of H.M. Prison Commissioners for England and Wales, which has just been issued for 1929, an interesting comparison is made between average figures for non-indictable offences for the four years before the War and 1929. A very marked decrease in cases of drunkenness, assaults, prostitution, begging, and sleeping out is revealed. The figures for drunkenness in 1929 are 57,839 as compared with an average of 193,354 before the War. The prison population has decreased from 18,155 to 10,861, and local prisons have decreased from 56 to 29. We commend to the attention of those who fulminate against the social services of post-War England the following sentences quoted from the report: "From these figures" (the figures for the above offences) "it is clear that an improvement in social conditions and social behaviour is one of the causes of the decline of the prison population." It must be admitted, however, that the report shows no diminution in "crime" in the sense of indictable offences, but the method of treatment of these offences has changed, and fines and probation take the place of the inevitable imprisonment of a past generation. Women are even better behaved than before; only fifteen women were sentenced to penal servitude, and there has been a decrease of 41 per cent of women sent to prison. We refer our readers to Mrs. Rackham's article on the Prison Report, which appears on page 149.

The Idle Sex.

At a joint conference of the British Hospitals Association and the Incorporated Association of Hospital Officers, at Eastbourne, the question of the long waits inflicted on out-patients was discussed. One speaker, who wisely urged more attractive out-patient departments, pointed out that now that women are entering into industry the day was past when "female patients were quite willing and happy to wait three or four hours, provided a cup of tea and a neighbour for mutual gossip was available." We question whether there ever was such day. Social workers whose experience dates some way back know well the hardships to the working mother involved by the long hours spent on the hard benches of the dismal odorous corridors designated as the out-patients' department. Probably some readers may remember that some weeks ago, 13th February to be exact, we discussed a successful experiment in the Manchester Jewish Hospital, which instituted appointments for out-patients. We suggested then that women's organizations

might take this matter up, and we understand that the matter has already been brought to the attention of the Townswomen's Guilds. The out-patients' department in many hospitals has already become a different place. The decoration of one recently visited was restful and really beautiful with refreshing cool tiles and colours. The same speaker above quoted referred to the magnetic effect on the children of the aviary in the centre of the waiting-room of the Eastman dental clinic of the Royal Free Hospital. The psychology of the waiting-room, whether in a great hospital or in Harley Street, is a subject that has so far received inadequate attention.

JUNE 12, 1931.

"Two at Least Shall be Women."

In a letter to The Times, Mr. Henry Strauss, M.P., complains that the Government has not got rid of its sex complex because the new Consumers' Council Bill provides that the Council shall consist of seven members to be appointed by the Board o Trade " of whom two at least shall be women." Mr. Strauss is young and an idealist, THE WOMAN'S LEADER is old and realist. He takes the view lately expressed by Miss Susan Lawrence, and lauded in these columns, that in selecting the personnel for important bodies sex is irrelevant. He asks why not leave the Board of Trade free to choose the most competent persons irrespective of sex. Does he not realize that the Board of Trade consists for practical purposes of officials not popularly elected and male, and therefore not to be trusted to secure the representation of a sex for whom they still entertain a considerable though perhaps subconscious jealousy? Perhaps if the appointment of members were the result of an examination in, say, elementary economics (his third amendment is to omit the words of whom two at least shall be women " and substitute therefor of whom not more than three shall be ignorant of elementary economics ") statutory provision of a number of women would no longer be necessary. But he forgets that housewifery is an occupation, and that housewives have as good a right on a Consumers' Council as miners to decide on the issues of the mining industry.

Women and the Scottish Church.

We print to-day Lady Aberdeen's speech at the Bar of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. The appointment of the Committee to consider and report on the petition looks like business. The ten women appointed (a third of the total number), are Lady Aberdeen herself, Mrs. W. H. Buist, Mrs. J. T. Cox, Miss Alison Harvey, Mrs. A. R. S. Kennedy, Miss Lamond, Mrs. Meredith, Mrs. W. L. Reid, Mrs. Strachan, and Mrs. J. T. S. Watson. The Convenor and the Vice-Convenor are both popular appointments, Professor Archibald Main and Mrs. Watson, who President of the Women's Foreign Missionary Association. We hope great things from this Committee.

An Interesting Point.

The Departmental Committee which has been set up to inquire into matters dealing with Friendly Societies has been asked to receive a deputation by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship in order that the question may be raised of the voting rights of the women members of the great friendly In some of these, such, for instance, as the Royal societies. Liver Friendly Society, with its two million women policy holders out of a total of some 4 million, only men are allowed to vote. At present the Chief Registrar cannot refuse to register such a rule, and there can be no doubt that sex differentiation in this matter should be removed.

Where Shall we Play?

We have every sympathy with the principle underlying the Foundling Site appeal which has appeared many times in the Press. It seems to us, however, unlikely that the promoters will succeed in obtaining the f400,000 which is needed to make up the £525,000, which is the purchase price asked. The Appeal is based on the fact that there are 13,000 children under fourteen in the Foundling Site area who have no other playground. Over half a million pounds would be a very long price to pay to achieve a children's playground, even if there were no alternative. Just next to the site, however, is Mecklenburgh Square, with its green lawns and beautiful trees, and only a few minutes away are Russell Square, Bedford Square, Tavistock Square, Queen's Square, and Gordon Square. Why should not these squares be thrown open to the children of the neighbourhoods ? Frequently they stand with gates tight locked, unoccupied by a single person. The time is indeed ripe for legislation to throw open the squares of London to its inhabitants.

JUNE 12, 1031.

It was a queer coincidence which brought the interim report of the Unemployment Insurance Commission blazing into the daily Press, on the day when our last issue appeared containing belated forecast of what it was likely to contain-or omit. And it might have been, from our point of view, a very distressing coincidence! But as a matter of fact, it was not. We had walked cautiously and were, in the main, not so far out in our surmises—except in one important respect—the married women. We had surmised that the main change of abuse would lie not with particular classes of individual beneficiaries, but with industrial organization as a whole; even we ventured to add, in the much discussed case of the married women." Events have proved that we were in this respect over optimistic. We had, perhaps, momentarily forgotten the force and ubiquity of popular feeling against a married woman's right to compete as an economic unit in the industrial or professional field. any rate we have no excuse for forgetting it now. It breathes through the Commission's interim report from page to page, and through almost all the subsequent commentaries of Press and public.

Concerning the recommendations for general reductions of benefit, it is hardly necessary to say very much. They play a large part in the scheme put forward by the majority of the commission, and financially they account for more than half of the total economies which aim at bringing the insurance scheme some degrees nearer solvency. But they are unlikely to play a large part in subsequent legislation because the Government has clearly no intention of carrying them through. It is over the proposed new conditions for the receipt of benefit and particularly of transitional benefit, that the battle is likely to rage. And it is here that the attack upon the married woman beneficiary is centred. To begin with transitional benefit, it is proposed that conditions with regard to previous contributions and with regard to the acceptance of alternative employment should be stiffened up in such a way as to diminish the numbers eligible for transitional benefit. It is further proposed-and here we get the most spectacular recommendation of the report -that certain classes of workers should be given transitional benefit only after an enquiry into their means and subject to possible reductions of scale in respect of those means. In other words, it is proposed that for certain classes transitional benefits shall be paid on a relief basis under conditions somewhat resembling those governing public assistance in cash. There is this much to be said for such a proposal: The surprisingly large number of persons who, when deprived of insurance benefits do not in fact seek relief suggests the possibility of a considerable saving of public money. On the other hand it must be remembered that the deeply rooted prejudice which in the public consciousness differentiates insurance benefits from public assistance is a potent and valuable psychological factor in the present situation. An insurance benefit which approximates to the nature of relief may, with disastrous sociological results, bridge that wholesome gap in the public consciousness, and in so doing finally defeat its own economical ends. But that is by the way. To return to the classes of insured workers selected for special treatment :-

They comprise three groups, (1) Single persons, widows or widowers residing with relatives to whom they may reasonably look for support; (2) Married women with husbands in employ ment-and, it is added, "a similar limitation should also be applied to married men whose wives are in employment" Persons in receipt of pensions other than for War disability, or fixed income other than from saving.

Now, on the face of it, this would seem in effect to apply a

NOTES FROM WESTMINSTER.

The first week of Parliament since the Whitsuntide recess has been a shortened week, because we reassembled on 4th June. The first day was given to the concluding stages of the Electoral Reform Bill. One might expect a general discussion on a "Representation of the People Bill" to be an important and interesting occasion. But, in fact, a Third Reading debate is seldom this and was not so on the present occasion. All the best arguments have been used up in the earlier stages of discussion and what is left is a kind of Resurrection Pie. Members who have spoken already say the same thing in slightly different words, with the added spice of personal criticisms of opponents and a few back-benchers who have been passed over before because they had the least claim to be heard, manage to get in their previously prepared speeches with little reference to the

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A NEW THREAT TO MARRIED WOMEN.

means test to the whole class of transitional beneficiaries with the proviso that incomes from War disability pensions and savings are not to be taken into account, and that mar ied persons are not to be expected to subsist at the expense of relatives o her than their spouses. It does not, as a bare recommendation, appear to embody any particular animus against married women claimants. But it is followed by a group of recommendations for dealing with what the report calls "unreasonable claims", both in respect of benefits proper and of transitional benefits. It is here laid down that a married woman shall be entitled to benefit only if she has satisfied the authorities that she has not abandoned insurable employment and can " reasonably expect" to get such employment in the district in which she resides. This may seem reasonable enough on the bare face of it, though the words "reasonably expect" are obviously capable of unreasonable interpretation, but the sting lies in the fact that the reader of the report is referred back to a group of paragraphs (117–120), in which it is argued that " indus rial employment cannot be regarded as a normal condition for married women ", and that the recent increase of insured married women shows that they have, in fact, secured benefits to which they are not properly entitled.

Now this is not *evidence*, properly speaking, it is *inference*. It may, in view of evidence to which the Commission has had access, be correct inference, but the reader is given no means of judging whether it is or not. Meanwhile, in the view of Mrs. Rackham, the one woman member of the Commission, who has naturally had access to all the evidence seen by her colleagues, it is not correct inference. In the contrary view which she embodies in a minority report, she asserts that " the figures do not support the suggestion that married women are to any extent misusing the Fund ". They are being forced back into industry by financial stringency in the home, at the same time they are the type of employees most readily dismissed when staff reductions have to be made. In a hard hit area what 'reasonable expectation " is there for either sex of getting work ? Why then should married women qua married women be penalized by a special requirement ? For dealing with really unreasonable claims by married women, there is, in Mrs. Rackham's view, already adequate machinery in the reviewing of claims and interviewing of claimants. There is, in fine, no case to be made out for the treatment of married wom n as a special class to whom special conditions should be applied, a course of action which would, she reminds us, constitute a grave departure from the principles of the Unemployment Insurance Acts which have never since their beginnings in 1911 comprised " any discrimination against any claimant for benefit on the ground of sex or marriage'

If Mrs. Rackham's view is to prevail, the women's organizations will have to be prepared for a fight, for they are up against a very deep-rooted manifestation of the "Turk complex" with its ready acceptance of the view that married women are, in fact, a class apart, to be treated for ever and ever with reference to the position of economic dependence which they occupy in respect to their husbands. Moreover, the fight is going to be a mental fight ", requiring for its jumping-off place, a real grasp of the administrative and economic structure of a complex unemployment insurance system. Its weapons will be facts and figures as well as platitudes and principles.

Meanwhile, pending that fight, which cannot be very long delayed, let us thank whatever higher power is responsible that there was at least one woman on the Commission and that the one woman was an ex-Suffragist !

fact that everything they have to say has been said a dozen times already. Moreover, the heart of the Government has never been in this Bill, designed (so Miss Rathbone declared) to complete the "dictatorship of the proletariat." Its effectiveness for that purpose has been considerably impaired by the concessions which the Government has been compelled to make, such as the retention of the University franchise and the much enfeebled limitations on the use of motor-cars. In the latter respect there are some even on the Opposition benches who believe that too much has been conceded. Candidates in scattered rural constituencies may now use motor-cars to the fullest extent which their possession of wealthy friends makes possible, and with the ingratitude for favours received which is so much part of the parliamentary game that no one seriously resents it, the THE WOMAN'S LEADER.

"The true distinction which should be drawn between those wage-earners who are really bearing the burden and their grown-up children or dependents who live in the same dwelling.

agree with his proposal that the head of each household should

have an additional vote, so as to draw

If some fairy could turn Mr. Churchill, just for a week, into a working-class housewife it would perhaps change his opinion as to who really "bears the burden" of these households. But disagreement never spoils our enjoyment of his happy hits, such as his description of the Ministry as "standing on a trap-door with the halter of public displeasure round their necks" with the Prime Minister holding the lever; or again, his comparison of the Prime Minister to an aeroplane pilot, forced to come down in a short time, anxiously hovering till he finds some better landing-ground before the petrol is exhausted. Anyhow, the labouring Mountain of the Commons is now delivered of its ridiculous mouse (the allusion here is Captain Bourne's) and will see no more of it till it emerges, either dead or still further attenuated, from the womb of the Lords.

Wednesday was a Scottish day, chiefly devoted to the subject of fisheries. It requires courage, as Sir Herbert Samuel remarked, for an English Member to intervene in a Scottish debate. But several representatives of fishing towns did venture. The rest of us, when we did not absent ourselves, were rewarded by learning some interesting facts, such as that kippers can only be properly cured by a fire of oak chips and that many of the kippers on the market were dyed. We had heard of pine dyed to look like oak, but the idea of a faked kipper was news to us.

Thursday was devoted to the guillotine motion on the Finance Bill. In the eyes of many experienced Parliamentarians there is a peculiar sacredness about a Finance Bill and a daring and dangerous innovation-though one confes edly with several precedents—is the proposal to subject it to the guillo ine. The prosaic but (to my mind) convincing defence of the Attorney-General was that the Finance Bill must be got through by 5th August at latest and that unlimited discussion (alias obstruction) might frustrate that necessity. To those not deeply dyed in the Parliamentary tradition, there seems moreover something rather fictitious about the assumption that unlimited time for debate is any guarantee for greater adequacy of examination. Too often the very length and multiplicity of speeches seems merely to result in the wood being obscured by the 'rees. The debates grow so wearisome that Members more and more absent themselves and it becomes harder than ever for a Member rushing late into the Lobby to take part in a division to obtain any answer to his question, "What are we voting about?" except "I haven't the least idea." I have often put that question to half a dozen Members in succession without obtaining any different answer.

Friday was a day of odds and ends-and rather dull ones at that. On Monday we settled down to the Committee Stage of the Finance Bill, the first day being devoted to some of its least contentious clauses, on which nevertheless no less than sixty amendments had been set down. With plaintive reiterance the Prime Minister kept calling attention to those sixty amendments as another justification for the application of the guillotine.

Having slipped away from Parliament for an hour to see and hear on the films Mr. Gandhi being interviewed by an American journalist, the reflection occurred to me how much more interesting Parliamentary debates would be if we were all not merely clad as lightly as Mr. Gandhi, but had as little flesh on our bones. Clothes and flesh are great aids to concealing the emotions of the human heart. Now when that American journalist put to Mr. Gandhi the question, "Would you be prepared, Mr. Gandhi, to die in prison for your country? " one had only to watch the heavings of Mr. Gandhi's diaphragm in order to read his real answer, "You are an impertinent bounder," at least thirty seconds before the words "That is a bad question" issued in low, hesitating and foreign accents from his moving lips.

CROSS BENCH.

JUNE 12, 1931.

THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S PETITION.1

Speaking on behalf of those who have signed the Petition which we now desire to bring before this Assembly, I wish to express our deep appreciation of the permission given to state our case for ourselves.

May I also say that I feel an added personal responsibility in taking advantage of this permission, inasmuch as I cannot but realize that I am taking the place of a devoted daughter of the Church ² with whose name mine happened to be associated at the head of this Petition, and the absence of whose familiar figure at the sittings of this Assembly has created, I am sure, a sense of loss and blank. I cannot emulate her impassioned eloquence, but I represent, as she did, a generation of women members and Church workers which is fast passing away.

We have seen in our own lifetime an amazing change in the position held by women in all departments of everyday avocation, whether in connection with education, business, or public service, and in all positions of civic and national responsibility. In two professions alone there has been no change-the Army and the Church. We have no ambition to become officers in the Army, but the young women who are training in our Universities, and who are considering for what career they should qualify, find that the profession which most appeals to their highest ideals is barred against them, with no opportunity to take a share in the direction of Church affairs, even as voluntary social workers.

Fathers and brethren, you are calling the people of Scotland to support you in your sacred endeavours to make the re-united Church of Scotland truly the Church of the people, anointed with the power to inspire the restless eager life of the youth of to-day with the desire to devote themselves to the service of our Lord and Master. You are depending on the women members of the Church to respond to that call, and there is plainly discernible a disposition so to do. But we beg you to consider whether it would not be in keeping with the attitude of the great Head of the Church in His recognition and encouragement of the ministry of women to Himself if you were to invite duly qualified women to share with you the duties and responsibilities of Church government and work on equal terms with yourselves.

The Presbyterian Churches of England and Ireland are taking long steps in this direction, and other Churches have gone even

Perhaps these Churches may have thought that had St. Paul been amongst us to-day he might well have recommended for the eldership Priscilla and Lois and Eunice, and notably Phoebe, "the succourer of many " and " of himself also ", and whom he selected to carry from Corinth his wonderful letter to the Romans.

May we also call your attention to the fact that Glasgow University is about to confer the degree of D.D. on England's leading woman minister, Miss Maude Royden.

We older women, who pray that we may yet see our beloved Church of Scotland rising to the fullness of its opportunity in fashioning the future life and spirit of cotland, entreat you not to discourage those who hear the call to a high and holy vocation, but who feel that in order to use that vocation aright it must be exercised where there are no sex barriers. And are we not taught that in the Christian Church "there is neither male or female", but that "all are one in Christ Jesus!'

Moderator, we place this petition for the privilege of full service to the Church in your hands.

AN INTERNATIONAL GARDEN PARTY.

Attention was drawn in our issue of 8th May to an International Garden Party to be held this month at Aubrey House, Campden Hill under the auspices of the Kensington branches of the Women's International League and the League of Nations Union. Will readers please note that the date has been changed to Tuesday, 23rd June, 3-7 p.m.

¹ Lady Aberdeen's speech at the bar of the General Assembly of the ² Lady Frances Balfour.

THE PEACE MEETING AT BELGRADE.1

The International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship held a conference under the auspices of its Peace Committee from 17th to 19th May in Belgrade. The Alliance believes that courage and energy are necessary to-day as never before for the solution of two great problems-Peace and Prosperity. It believes that these two problems are linked ogether with a third; the profound conviction that women can contribute to both. Its recent meetings in Jugoslavia were evidence of that conviction.

In the very heart of this new kingdom, the Alliance went to discuss the problems of War and Peace with a full realization that it was at the spot where old quarrels culminated in the World War. Old enmities and present difficulties were alike forgotten in the expression of the sincere desire for international co-operation, and a genuine advance towards disarmament; and one of the most pleasant features was the specially warm welcome given to the Turkish delegate and the little contingent of Bulgarian women, intent on taking their share in the common work. Besides, there were leading feminists from the other Balkan countries, Greece, Roumania, Czechoslovakia, and Poland, and from France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Switzerland, the U.S.A., and Uruguay, to talk to each other of " the things which belonged unto their Peace." Above all, it was the coming Disarmament Conference of the League of Nations which commanded their attention. They were wholly bent on furthering international disarmament and especially by means of signed declarations by women in each country demanding real disarmament. Had we forgotten the great petition of the Women's International League for Peace nd Freedom ? Not at all ; this effort was to add strength to the movement, to show the union of all women in the cause of disarmament. And how did the women of Jugoslavia further the cause ? With a warmth of cordial greeting, with a generosity and cordiality impossible to describe. If one thing can be found wanting in the reception accorded to us, it would be a genuine surprise to the present writer. I had the honour to preside at this Conference, and I can bear testimony.

At the opening meeting the representative of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Mayor of Belgrade joined with the women's organizations and the University in welcoming us. In a row on the platform sat the women representatives of fourteen ountries and a man delegate from Italy and from the League of Nations, who were presented to the vast audience by Mrs. Corbett Ashby, President of the Alliance. In a great first row of gilded chairs sat the first Lady-in-waiting to the Queen, the Archbishop of the Orthodox Church, and representatives of the Ministry for the Army, the Foreign Office, and the Diplomatic

We were honoured by an invitation from the Queen to tea at the Palace, where members of the Board and the delegates were presented to Her Majesty. Many of them had also the opportunity of personal conversation with her. The President du Conseil gave an interview to our representatives, and listened very sympathetically to the feminist doctrine of suffrage and Equality in Civil Rights and in the public services. The Minister for Foreign Affairs gave us a magnificent luncheon at the Foreign Office in a beautiful suite of apartments dedicated to the purpose, and made a speech of welcome and sympathy with the cause of Disarmament. The Vice-Mayor, who seems equally at home whether he speaks his own language or French or German, entertained us royally. The National Council of Women gave a delightful reception in the Art Gallery, where we listened enchanted to singers from the Opera, to a choir of delightful school girls, and to an exquisite programme of national and other songs by the Women's Musical Society of Belgrade. There was a gala performance at the Opera, where a fine single-act opera, composed and conducted by the last of the noble Dalmatian family, with which it deals, was followed by a brilliant and amusing ballet with a delightful mixture of fantasy and manycoloured peasant costumes, chosen as significant of local tradition. Zenski Pokret gave us a luncheon in its own "Home"-the Zenski Klub, where we had the great pleasure of being introduced o those who had been doing the heavy work of organization. An exhibition of women's work made all our mouths water with the desire to take home masses of the exquisite embroideries and

beautiful carpets so enticingly displayed. In all this brilliant hospitality were the great underlying aims of the Conference forgotten ? By no means. The delegates ¹ Extract from an article in *The International Women's News*, June, 31. By kind permission of the Editor.

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pursued a genuine purpose through every meeting. They appreciated the eloquent information on the Disarmament Conference brought them by distinguished speakers from the League of Nations and the League of Nations Societies. They considered the difficult problem of security, presented by the former Foreign Secretary, Monsieur Minchitch, and they remained long after the allotted time to discuss with Monsieur Delaisi, of France, and Dr. Ulich-Beil, of Germany, the world economic crisis, and Monsieur Briand's proposal for the reconstruction of Central Europe.

There was only one cloud on the Conference, and that was a black one indeed. The day before the Conference was to begin, our dear Rosa Manus, the indefatigable secretary of the Peace Committee, in whose hands the threads of the organization were held together, was taken seriously ill and had to go into a nursing home. We are glad to say that she is recovering steadily, but we all felt the loss of her presence at every turn. All our sympathy goes out to her.

RUTH MORGAN, Chairman of the Peace Committee and Member of the Alliance Board.

THE PRISON REPORT FOR 1929.

The most cheerful feature in the Prison Report is the fact that the number of prisoners received on conviction is the "lowest ever", namely, 36,942. This may be compared with 186,569, the last pre-war figure, or with 40,449 in 1928. The decrease is marked both among convicts and local prisoners, and among men and women. In the last seven years the imprisonments of women have decreased by 41 per cent. There has also been a slight fall as compared with the previous year in the number of debtors sent to prison. It was 12,860 in 1929 and 13,483 in 1928. It will be seen that debtors compose more than one-third of our total prison population. The number of debtors committed by County Courts continues to decrease, while the number sent by Courts of Summary Jurisdiction for failure to comply with Wife Maintenance and Affiliation Orders has shown of recent years (until last year) a large increase. There were 11,599 cases of imprisonment in default of fines, and in only 4,034 had time to pay been allowed. The number of short sentences (that is, not exceeding a fortnight) remains very high-11,465. No less than 41 per cent of all the receptions of women prisoners were "short" in this sense. It is largely drunkenness which is the cause of this high proportion. Of all the women prisoners, 49 per cent are accounted for by drunkenness.

Recidivism is still an unhappy feature of our prison system. Out of the total of 36,942 persons sent to prison, 19,456 had been in prison before, and of these 40 per cent had had more than five previous sentences. Nearly 2,000 persons had been in prison for more than twenty times. These figures illustrate the failure of the prison system either to reform or deter as far as a large part of the prison population is concerned. It is also stated that 1,042 had been previously detained in Borstal Institutions.

It is unfortunate that no less than twenty-three boys and three girls under sixteen were received into prison under the rules relating to "unruliness" or "depravity", besides seven others who gave a wrong age in Court. It is difficult to be ieve that imprisonment at this early age has any result except that of further hardening these children, and that the time has not come when the imprisonment of children under sixteen should be altogether forbidden.

It is deplorable that the number of floggings inflicted in local prisons is the highest since 1911, namely fifteen. The number in convict prisons was two. The grounds for the sentence are, given in each case in the usual conventional language. It is significant that ten of the floggings were inflicted in one prison, Wandsworth, while in twenty-six local prisons there was no case of corporal punishment at all during the year. The fact that one prison should have such an unenviable record and that in so many prisons there was no need for flogging at all is still further evidence that this savage and degrading penalty should be abolished from the statute book.

It is good news that a new Borstal Institution is being built, as the existing ones all contain more inmates than they should and one is seriously overfull. No less than 730 offenders (679 males and 51 females) were sentenced to Borstal detention during the year. A most unfortunate consequence of the present over-crowding of the Institutions is that the lads have to wait for months in Wormwood Scrubbs Prison before they can be THE WOMAN'S LEADER.

admitted to Borstal. This must seem gross injustice to boys who have been told that they have been committed to Borstal instead of being sent to prison. They then spend months in prison with a three-years' Borstal sentence still in front of them. The age at which the largest number are committed to Borstal is nineteen : more go at twenty than at sixteen, so that a very large number must be over twenty-one before they are discharged. It seems as if we ought to speak and think of them as young men rather than as lads or boys. Not much is said in the Report as to the after effects of Borstal detention. It is clear that the prevailing unemployment must make the task of the Borstal Association in finding work for their protégés extremely difficult.

The Report contains an account of the experiment of paying wages to prisoners which is now being carried on at Nottingham Prison by the aid of a voluntary fund. The payment of wages is on very artificial lines. Measurement of some of the work is very difficult, and there is danger lest the payment of these very small sums should become a matter of routine. It is clear that much thought and trouble are being given to the experiment, and everyone who is interested in penal reform must hope that it will be found sufficiently successful to be generally extended.

Another interesting feature of the Report is an account of prison visiting written by prison visitors themselves. This gives an idea of the teaching work, the individual talks, and the care after discharge which are carried on by the prison visitors. Stress is laid on the value of the prisoners having something to occupy their thoughts. "However difficult or intricate, manual work tends in time to become automatic, thus leaving the mind stagnant and prone to discontent." There cannot indeed be two opinions as to the importance and the merits of the prison CLARA D. RACKHAM. visitor's work.

A YOUNG LADY'S TRAVEL DIARIES.

Elizabeth Fry's Journeys on the Continent, 1840-41. From a diary kept by her niece, Elizabeth Gurney. Edited by R.Brimley Johnson. (John Lane. 12s. 6d. net.)

Miss Elizabeth Gurney, daughter of Mr. Samuel Gurney, had the good fortune to travel abroad with her father, her uncle, Mr. Gurney, of Earlham, and her celebrated aunt, Mrs. Fry.

In the early and middle years of the nineteenth century young ladies were frequently taken for continental tours by their parents. They were expected to equip themselves with journal books and sketching materials, and to record their impressions for their stay-at-home relations. Many such records are preserved in English families. On the whole they are less interesting to the present generation than the much rarer and shorter-lived diaries of home life : though they sometimes give interesting glimpses of European conditions a hundred years ago, many of their pages are taken up with a description of sights " with which we are familiar ourselves; and, however our opinion of them may change, the Sistine Madame and Cologne Cathedral remain the same. When we have done marvelling at the strange taste of our ancestors, we soon weary of reading their descriptions. But a few of these travel diaries have a special character. This is the case with those kept by Florence Nightingale when she and her sister were taken abroad by their parents between 1837 and 1839. Her intensity of feeling about people and things illuminates these little journals, as it did all that she wrote, and she had then, as always, a poet's power of expression.

Elizabeth Gurney, who travelled on the continent two or three years later, was not so remarkable a young woman as her con-temporary, Florence Nightingale ; but she had the advantage of possessing a very great aunt. Reading her journal as I have done after Miss Nightingale's, I have sometimes wished that Elizabeth could have gone abroad with Mr. and Mrs. Nightingale and Florence with Mrs. Fry. For whereas Florence was taken abroad to enjoy art and music and society, and was only allowed to go off on her own account occasionally to visit schools and orphanages, Elizabeth was taken to visit prisons and hear speeches about slavery and religious persecution, and was allowed to go off occasionally to look at pictures and admire views. In each case the elders showed a kindly toleration of the young person's peculiar tastes, but could not really share them or regard the pursuit of them as otherwise than an amiable waste of time. Had Elizabeth been with the Nightingales, her admiration of Raphael would not have been damped, and she might even have been allowed to stay in a Popish Cathedral during High Mass; had Florence been with the Frys and Gurneys, how she would have enjoyed the speeches !

There was one occasion in March, 1840, when the party of travelling Friends were presented to Leopold, King of the

Belgians. Mrs. Fry at once produced her address on Prisons, Mr. Samuel Gurney "gave a capital and concise account of the Slave Trade," and William Allen talked about Schools and Education. King Leopold, though appearing much surprised at all that he was told, took all the books that were given him under his arm, and listened politely for an hour before he gave his final bow and clattered his gold spurs against each other as he walked out of the room. Wherever the party went they were well received. Their plain Quaker " dress and manners-the ladies' unfashionable large coalscuttle bonnets, and the gentlemen's hats glued to their heads in the presence of Kings-were regarded with sympathy alike by bare-headed courtiers glittering with Orders and by black Nuns in their own peculiar religious costume. They dealt faithfully with princes, perhaps a little less faithfully with business men-since Mr. Gurney in discoursing about slavery to them spoke less of its cruelty than of the benefits to them which would follow its abolition-but sincerely and generously with all. They were rich, they were magnanimous, if uncourtly, they were exquisitely courteous, Christian understanding and Christian charity radiated from them all.

From one of them it did so in a degree which is seen but rarely among the children of men. Those who looked fixedly at Mrs. Fry's stately and gracious form, who felt her eager, tender eves fixed upon them, who heard her gentle and impassioned voice, realized, if they had any light within themselves, that here was a Saint of God.

What would one not give to have been travelling on the Continent between 1837 and 1841 and to have met in some wayside inn, waiting perhaps for fresh posting horses, the young Florence Nightingale or the aging Elizabeth Fry ? I. B. O'M.

JUNE 12, 1931.

HOUSEHOLD SERVICE.

A correspondent writes : "Household work is a great national and a great personal service," said Miss Rose Squire at a crowded meeting, which Miss Katharine Thring held recently to consider what steps could be taken to raise the status of domestic work and to ensure a supply of workers.

Miss Thring and Miss Rose Squire addressed the meeting, and the first speaker dealt with the various difficulties which make household service an unpopular career. Mention was made of the "living-in" problem, the lower wages given in proportion to those in other spheres of work, and the question of hours and free time. Clubs were urgently needed for these workers, and reference was made to the Magnet Club, in Penywern Road, which is open daily from 3 to 10 p.m. In view of the number of young girls who are coming from the North and Wales to situations in London, Miss Thring urged the establishment of local committees to ascertain that the conditions were satisfactory and to be responsible for the girls' welfare. Miss Squire spoke of the work in the forty-five training centres, and stated that 80 to 90 per cent of the girls who passed through them did well.

SMEDLEY MEMORIAL LITERARY PRIZE.

A dinner was given to Mrs. C. Romanné-James recently in honour of her feat in winning the Smedley Memorial (Literary) Prize. More than seventy friends and members were present. The speakers included Mr. R. D. Blumenfeld (final adjudicator of the Prize), Mr. Shaw Desmond (who is just home from an adventurous trip in South Africa), Miss Joan Kennedy, Miss Josephine Bullen, and Mr. Philip Harrison. The winning effort being a character sketch entitled The Char, most of the speakers had something to say on the subject of written portraits. Mrs. Romanné-James herself spoke on this subject.

NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.

Readers will remember that the Council of the League has invited all the women's organizations to press for a report on this subject to be sent to the Government before the Assembly of the League in 1931. Three distinguished women lawyers have been working on preparing the report for some time. Miss Alice Paul, the brilliant woman lawyer of the U.S.A., perhaps the greatest world authority on this particular subject, and Mrs. Bakker-nort, the well-known Dutch woman M.P. and lawyer, have been visiting Miss MacMillan, our pioneer woman lawyer. They have had the assistance during part of the sessions of Mrs. Corbett Ashby and Miss Evans and Miss Whittemore, the American, who came over especially from Zurich for this meeting. The members of the Committee, including Maitre Maria Vérone, who has been practising at the French Bar for over a quarter of a century, have been meeting during the last fortnight to draw up a Women's Nationality Charter.

JUNE 12, 1931.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: Mrs. CORBETT ASHBY. Hon, Treasurer: Mrs. Van GRUISEN. General and Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HORTON. Offices: 4 Great Smith Street, S.W. 1. Telephone : Victoria 6188.

"LONDON WALL."

Lady Denman's lovely drawing-room was crowded on the afternoon of Thursday, 4th June, when Mr. Van Druten and Mrs. Blanco-White discussed London Wall. Everyone was tremendously interested to hear Mr. Van Druten, who gave an intensely interesting speech on the developments of his play, and Mrs Blanco-White with her witty and probing comments was, as usual, extremely stimulating. We are more than grateful for Lady Denman's generous hospitality, which made this one of the most successful tea-parties we have yet held. "POOR CAROLINE."

Monday, 13th July, at 3.45 p.m.

Those who attended Lady Denman's tea-party were all glad to hear that another tea-party has been arranged, at which Miss Winifred Holtby will debate with Mr. Michael Franklin on her popular novel Poor Caroline. On this occasion Mrs. Adrian Corbett is very generously being our hostess at her house, Pembroke Lodge, in Pembroke Gardens.

ANNUAL REPORT.

Copies of the Annual Report presented at the annual council meeting are now available. The bulk of the report is, of course, taken up with an account of the many and varied activities of the Union for 1930 ; in addition, there are the Financial Statements and Immediate Programme, and copies of the resolutions passed at the 1931 council meeting, and an up-to-date list of all the affiliated societies of the National Union. Copies may be obtained on application to Headquarters, price 7d. post free. ROYAL COMMISSION ON UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

A Memorandum has already been submitted by the Executive Committee to the Royal Commission on Unemployment Insurance, urging in particular that the grading of the contributions of men and women be according to wages, and not, as at present, according to sex. The Committee proposes to wait until the publication of the Interim Report before submitting further evidence dealing with other points specially concerning the National Union.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON RECRUITMENT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

Evidence is being prepared for submission to this Depart-mental Committee. As the terms of reference to the Departmental Committee are " to inquire into and to make recommendations on the qualifications, recruitment, training, and promotions of Local Government Officers," the main line of the N.U.S.E.C. evidence will be on the principle of equality of opportunity between men and women.

DAME RACHEL CROWDY.

May we remind readers of the dinner to be held in honour of Dame Rachel Crowdy on Thursday, 25th June, at the Café Royal? In addition to Dame Rachel herself, the principal speakers will include Mr. Arthur Henderson, M.P., the Foreign Secretary, Dame Edith Lyttleton, Miss Maude Royden, and our own President, Mrs. Corbett Ashby. Tickets, price 7s. 6d., may be obtained on application to the N.U.S.E.C., 4 Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ST. JOAN'S QUINCENTENARY CELEBRATIONS APPEAL.

MADAM,-May I be allowed to correct an error in your account of the celebrations in honour of St. Joan of Arc at Rouen on 30th May. Lady Haig, on behalf of St. Joan's Quincentenary Celebrations Appeal presented ± 500 , not $\pm 5,000$, to the Archbishop of Rouen towards St. Joan's Memorial Church to be built in the Market Square of Rouen.

May I add that the Golden Book has been brought back to England temporarily to enable further names to be added. All those who desire to be so associated in this historic memorial should send 5s. or upwards before 16th July to the Hon. Secretary, Joan's Quincentenary Celebrations Appeal, 55 Berners Street, London, W. I.

BARBARA BARCLAY CARTER

THE HONOURS LIST.

MADAM,-In your note on the Birthday Honours in last week's WOMAN'S LEADER, I presume that Miss Clarkson's name must have

THE WOMAN'S LEADER.

Hon. Press Secretary.

been omitted by an oversight. Miss Clarkson, the present Lord Mayor of Norwich, was the first woman to be elected to the Norwich Council after the passing of the Enabling Act in 1907, and for some years previously she had served on the local Board of Guardians. addition, Miss Clarkson has filled the office of Sheriff with distinction.

MARIAN BERRY.

16 Denning Road, N.W. 3.

A CRYING SCANDAL.

MADAM, —I have recently heard Commandant Allen speak on the need for Women Police, and she said amongst other things that child assault was on the increase, and cited a recent case in which the little victim was barely two years of age. A committee was appointed to inquire into the matter as you know, and although ve years have elapsed since the report was presented, no steps have been taken to carry out its recommendations. This is the more surprising because for a considerable time a Labour Government has been in office and the workers' children are the victims. Other children are looked after by nurses, but the working mother with her multitudinous tasks cannot be everywhere at once and little feet are apt to wander.

are apt to wander. How much longer are women going to put up with this abomina-tion? They have ceased to be inarticulate. The mother's voice is heard in the Mother of Parliaments. Might I suggest that women's societies should impress upon every woman member the necessity for keeping on pestering the Home Secretary with questions on the subject so that the House may be constantly reminded of the existence of a crying scandal existence of a crying scandal.

A. M. VATCHER

OUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT.

Tuesday, 2nd June.

Ealing.

BERMUDA (FRANCHISE).

21 St. Leonard's Road,

Miss Rathbone asked the Under Secretary for State for the Colonies what action the Government proposes to take in view of the rejection by the Legislature of Bermuda of the request made to them by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, through the Acting Governor, that they would revise the franchise qualifications fixed in 1834, under which no women and only 6 per cent of the population of the colony are enfranchised. Dr. Drummond Shiels : Any alteration in the franchise rests

entirely with the Legislature of Bermuda, over which my noble Friend has no control. His Majesty's Government are therefore not in a position to take any action in the matter.

Miss Rathbone: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that the Legislature of Bermuda evidently anticipated that some action would be taken, and they quoted a precedent in overriding action in the matter.

Dr. Shiels: I am not aware of that fact. As the hon. Lady knows, the Secretary of State in a dispatch pointed out the position in regard to the franchise, and went very closely into this matter. I am afraid that it is not possible to take any further steps.

Miss Rathbone: In the case of a Crown Colony, is it not possible for the Colonies and the British Government to take any steps where a Legislature refuses to bring itself into line with modern opinion

Dr. Shiels: Bermuda is in a special position, and nothing can be done in this matter without an Act of Parliament. Thursday, 4th June.

EDUCATION, LEAGUE OF NATIONS INSTRUCTION.

Mr. McShane asked the President of the Board of Education whether, in view of the approaching Disarmament Conference, he will consider inter alia the advisability of setting up a committee representative of education authorities and the teaching profession to make suggestions as to the best methods to be adopted in and through the schools of the country for the instruction of public opinion in this problem.

Mr. Lees Smith: I do not think that it would be advisable so far as concerns the work of the schools, to set up a special committee dealing with one particular aspect of the work of the League of Nations, such as disarmament, but instruction is already generally given in the schools on the whole work of the League of Nations, and I am inquiring into the methods adopted to give this instruction.

MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT-By Ray Strachey.

Next week Mrs. Stocks, J.P., will review Mrs. Oliver Strachey's Life of Dame Millicent Fawcett, which will be published on 16th June by John Murray (15s. net).

THE WOMAN'S LEADER.

COMING EVENTS.

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B.B.C. Monday, 15th June. 7 p.m. "New Books." Miss V. Sackville-West. Wednesdays, 10.45. 17th June. "The Week in Westminster," Miss Picton-Turbervill, M.P. *Tuesdays*, 7.25. 16th June. Sir William Beveridge, "Unemploy-ment" (5). Miss

ment⁽⁵⁾. **BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.** 23rd June, 9 p.m. Reception at Suffolk Galleries. Guests include Right Hon. M. Bondfield, Lady Astor, Lady Iveagh, Miss Ellen Wilkinson, Miss Lloyd George, Miss Maude Royden, and many others. 24th-25th June. 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Conference on "Union and Unity within the British Commonwealth of Nations" at Institute of Journalists, 4 Tudor Street, E.C. Chair: Mrs. Corbett Ashby. Tickets and particulars from 17 Buckingham Street, W.C.

from 17 Buckingham Street, W.C.
COUNCIL FOR REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.
25th June, 8 p.m. Café Royal. Dinner in honour of Dame Rachel Crowdy. Speakers include: The Foreign Secretary, Dame Rachel Crowdy, Miss Maude Royden, and others. Chair: Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon.
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AFRICAN CHILDREN.
22nd-25th June. Geneva. Particulars from 26 Gordon Street, W.C. 1, or 31 Quai du Mont-Blanc, Geneva.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN. 15th-20th June. Aberdeen. Annual Conference.

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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. Tickets (10s. 6d., 5s., 2s. 6d. and 1s.) from the Secretary, League of Nations Union, 15 Grosvenor Crescent, S.W. 1.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP. Acton W.C.A.

26th June, 8 p.m. Y.W.C.A., East Acton Lane, W. Miss M. Gilbert (Librarian and Curator), "Life and the Public Library."

Kensington and Paddington S.E.C.

15th June, 5.15. 5 Inverness Gardens, W. 8 (by kind permission of Lady Hartog). Mr. G. Currie: "The London Housing Problem"; and Dr. Hislop: "Health and Housing." Chair: Mrs. Houston.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

18th June, 4.30. Minerva Club, Brunswick Square. Percy A. Harris M.P., L.C.C., "The Importance of Local Government."

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE AND LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION. 23rd June, 3-7 p.m. International Garden Party at Aubrey House Campden Hill, W.8 (by permission of Misses Alexander).

PROFESSIONAL.

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FOR SALE AND WANTED.

SECOND-HAND CLOTHING wanted to buy for cash; costumes, skirts, boots, under-clothes, 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.) MARY EVELYN'S Experiment.—A home hand-canner (never used) for sale; cost over {3, will sell for £2, three dozen new cans included; also two dinner services, and other surplus glass and china bought to stage press photographs. — Box 1,639, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 4 Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

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tion," THE DUNFORD HOUSE (COBDEN MEMORIAL) ASSOCIATION.—Dunford House is now open to receive Guests; it is situated at the foot of the South Downs in beautiful wooded country, within easy access of Cowdray Park and Ruins, Goodwood, Chichester, Arundel, Petworth, and Bognor (golf and tennis). —Apply to Mrs. Hanman, Dunford House, Heyshott, near Midhurst, Sussex.

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