

Vol - to be taken away

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

IN POLITICS IN INDUSTRY IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
IN THE HOME IN LITERATURE AND ART IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS

The Census.

The Census discloses, as was expected, a low rate of increase in the populations of England, Wales, and Scotland, and an increasing preponderance of women over men. In Scotland the growth of population during the decennial period is the smallest on record, amounting to only 2.5 per cent. The surplus of women is the result of male emigration, of the risks of industrial life for men, and of the superior longevity of women whatever their class or status. These causes are always with us, and the loss of men in the prime of life during the war has but emphasised it. In 1921 there is no need to deplore the presence of nearly two million English women over and above the male population as a calamity for the community; it is only that if they are incapable of self-support and public service, or are debarred by law or custom from usefulness. The position is to be met by opening opportunities of paid and unpaid occupations to women as to men. The calamity falls not on the community but on women who are, by no fault of their own, deprived of opportunities of marriage and motherhood. They will bear their deprivations with courage and dignity, and in the course of a generation the numerical relations of the sexes will again approach equality.

Women Candidates for Parliament.

The week has produced two admirable women candidates for seats in the House of Commons. Mrs. Eleanor Barton, who is especially interested in housing, will stand for Labour in Sheffield. Mrs. T. Wintringham, whose husband represented Louth until his sudden death rendered a by-election necessary, is a Liberal. She is President of the Louth Women Citizens' Association, and in that position has shown a wide interest in public affairs. Though there is a special fitness in her choice to carry on her husband's work, she is not simply a "memorial candidate" like the half-dozen women members of Dail Eirann, who, as the *Manchester Guardian* remarks, owe their influence to what they have suffered personally and on account of bereavement, rather than to conspicuous ability in political work. Mrs. Philip Snowden has withdrawn from her candidature for a division of Leicester; it is to be hoped that some other constituency will return her to Parliament at the General Election, which, like the rain, always threatens and then recedes into the distance.

The Criminal Law Amendment Bill.

We have received from Lady Astor, and gladly publish, a letter sent to her by Lord Robert Cecil. As he truly points out, the fate of that Bill contains a moral—indeed, it contains several morals. And one of them is that we need more people like Lord Robert Cecil and Lady Astor in Parliament. The letter runs as follows:—

"My dear Lady Astor,—I wish I had been in the House on Wednesday during the debate on the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, for really the Government's behaviour was unconscionable. First a clause is moved on report by the opponents of the Bill. It is accepted, perhaps unwisely, by the promoters with the hope of conciliating opposition. The Bill goes to the House of Lords, and before it is considered there Leslie Wilson asks me to urge the supporters of the Bill in the Lords not to make amendments there. This is done, and they accordingly deprecate any changes; but the Lord Chancellor urges vehemently the omission of this very clause which had been accepted as a concession in the Commons, and it is accordingly omitted. So that it is chiefly due to the spokesman of the Government in the Lords that the advice of the Chief Whip in the Commons is neglected. Thereupon the Government make this the excuse for dropping the Bill in the Commons! No wonder women complain of the trickery with which they are treated by Parliament. But nowadays they have the remedy in their own hands!—Yours very sincerely,

ROBERT CECIL."

The Borstal Report.

The Borstal system of dealing with prisoners between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one at the time of conviction has been in force for nineteen years, and has, on the whole, justified itself as a preventive of crime. The four Borstal institutions now in existence contain about a thousand boys and nearly two hundred girls; they are organised as industrial schools rather than as prisons, and though the sentence, or "period of training," of a Borstal inmate is of two or three years' duration, offenders may be released after serving six months (or in the case of girls three months), remaining then under the care of a probation officer. During last year a large proportion of boys and girls thus released on licence were reported as satisfactory. It is not just to say that Borstal has failed because some are returned for a

second, or even a third, period of detention. In its earlier years Borstal dealt with many offenders who would now be classed as mental defectives; these, it is not surprising to learn, commonly relapse into crime. At the present time very many young criminals are released under the First Offenders Act; the young people committed to Borstal are "hard cases," who, under ordinary prison conditions, might be expected to be convicted again and again. The prolonged detention breaks up undesirable friendships, and the industrial training prepares the young prisoner for an honest life. But Borstal is undeniably costly.

After-Care of Prisoners.

The work of the Central Association for the Aid of Discharged Convicts, on the other hand, is comparatively inexpensive. It provides the discharged convict with working clothes and tools, and gives him board and lodging until he can support himself. During the last year the Association has had the charge of 462 men released from penal servitude or from preventive detention; eighty-four of these were ex-service men convicted of desertion or disobedience to orders. Work was found for 140, a remarkable achievement in a year of severe unemployment. Women convicts are few, but more difficult to help to an honest livelihood than men when discharged. One may hope that women magistrates will turn their attention to after-care of female prisoners, especially that specially helpless class, the feeble-minded.

Casual Wards.

The Ministry of Health records, without any indication of future policy, the fact that only in fifteen instances have casual wards which were closed during the war been formally reopened, though a substantial proportion of vagrants has, in fact, been relieved in wards which were nominally closed. This is not as it should be. The "tramp" has the bad reputation of travelling to escape work, but there are many men who tramp in search of employment, and there would be many more if the Government or local authorities offered them any help in their quest. It is obvious that out-of-work labourers cannot afford rail fares and hotel expenses. Common lodging houses, where they exist, are often intolerably dirty and undesirable, and in consequence a good workman may remain workless at home while good employment is ready for him at thirty or forty miles distance. Local authorities which will, as in Islington, give to their local unemployed relief equivalent to a good wage, fear to attract undesirables if they supply a decent shelter and a plain meal to the tramping workman. The Ministry of Labour should co-operate with the Ministry of Health to assist in rendering labour more fluid, and the admirable system of food tickets, now in use in Warwickshire, West Sussex, and Somerset should be extended to provide a mid-day meal for work-seekers on the road. The Dutch Government has organised a similar system with marked success, and has succeeded in removing from its casual wards any stigma of pauperism. The workman who is able to pay his way should be allowed to do so.

Health Visitors.

There are now more than three thousand health visitors concerned mainly with the care of children under five not living in institutions. Besides children living at home with their parents these visitors supervise children under seven boarded out with foster-parents, motherless children of school age pensioned by the Army, Navy, or Air Service, and those children who are under the supervision of the Admiralty through the death, desertion, or misconduct of their mothers. Most of the present health visitors are trained nurses or midwives, and in general they have also a Sanitary Inspector's certificate or other qualifications. Under the new regulations of the Board of Education a special examination and certificate for health visitors has been instituted.

Government in the Kitchen.

Though the Ministry of Food is now no more than a ghost lurking in the offices of other Departments, Government officials still inquire, or subsidise scientists who inquire, into food production, preventable waste of food-stuffs, and even into methods of cooking and preserving edibles. The Rat and Mouse Act is attacking the intolerable burden of a rat population (larger than the human one) billeted upon British citizens and hungrily devouring the same kinds of food; the Colonial Office, which has to its credit a research department directed to means of destroying insects which prey on crops, has now instituted a Bureau of Mycology, which will be the enemy of crop-destroying moulds and fungi; the Ministry of Agriculture and

Fisheries, turning its activities towards anti-waste methods, has been inquiring into facilities for cheapening fish by preserving surplus supplies during periods of glut. If there is as good fish in the sea as ever came out, there is also almost as much good fish wasted as eaten. Professor Johnstone has reported to the Ministry that Great Britain is behind Norway and France in machinery for pickling, drying, and smoking fish; we think too often that any oil is good enough to preserve it in, and that it will do without spicing or flavouring. As an island country we have cheap food always at our doors, and if we have not skill enough to catch it, or common sense enough to cook it when caught, it is well that the Government and its professors should teach us.

Women Pastors in America and Switzerland.

Both in Sweden and in Denmark the Riksdags have recently excepted the priesthood from those offices to which, according to the Constitution, women shall be admitted. But the question will be revived shortly in Sweden, in all probability at the next meeting of the Riksdag, when the Committee which has the matter in hand hopes to have a detailed proposal ready. In the Free Churches of America women priests have long been recognised, but their number is now so considerable that they have founded the "International Women Preachers' Association," which held a Congress in Chicago in 1920. A statistical inquiry shows that no less than 43 sects in America have ordained women pastors; but some of these are permitted only limited activities. Among the more important of these Churches are the Quakers, the Unitarians, and the Congregationalists, who were the first to allow women to take a theological degree at the Universities, in order that they might be ordained. The pioneer was Antoinette Brown (Mrs. Blackwell), who was ordained as a Congregational minister in 1833. The Methodist Episcopal Church, at its General Conference in 1920, declared in favour of the equality of the sexes within the Church; the Lutheran Church, on the other hand, has shown, both in America and elsewhere, but little interest in this extension of women's work. In the meantime, it is interesting to note that the Reformed Church of Switzerland has advanced in this direction, although only in the Canton of Zurich. Since 1918 two ordained women have had the right to exercise all priestly functions, and in March, this year, the Zwinglian Synod passed a resolution declaring that unmarried women may be ordained.

Women at the British Association.

The British Association, which is holding its meetings next month in Edinburgh, will hear many papers on scientific and economic subjects from women. Miss G. Jebb will speak on "The Cost of Living and Sliding Scales," Dr. Mary Rankin will deal with compulsory arbitration in industrial legislation, and Mrs. Barbara Wootton with self-supporting industries. Miss E. L. G. Ross has an interesting subject in "An Estimate of Vocational Fitness among Mental Defectives." Miss M. Macfarlane's paper on "Sex Differences in Tests of Constructive Ability" will rouse much discussion. Miss Margaret Murray and Miss R. M. Fleming will read papers on anthropological subjects. Women's sphere in learning seems to be wide enough to encourage a little more boldness among those who hold the gate against their entry into responsible positions in the public service.

Miss Wyatt Papworth.

By the death of Miss Lucy Wyatt Papworth, late secretary of the Women's Industrial Council, the woman's cause loses a brilliant and accurate student of social affairs, a master of statistics, and a strong, attractive personality. Her thirteen years' service for the Council were marked by the issue of several most valuable reports on women's occupations, and she had conspicuous success in organising the Training School for Children's Nurses, and workrooms and training schemes for unemployed women.

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 women'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.

ELECTIONS.

There can be no reasonable doubt that we are in sight of a general election, though whether it will take place this winter, or in the spring, or early next autumn, is as yet uncertain. But in any case it is near enough to deserve serious consideration and those people who have "causes" to promote should now be prepared for action.

The recent by-election in the Abbey division of Westminster has shown that there is a great deal to be done by women's organisations, and that it is not at all difficult to do. Given agreement among the Societies (such as substantially exists) a little energy and a few pounds for printing, and a great deal can be accomplished. The procedure followed there, and it is worth attention in other constituencies, is perfectly simple. First, the various women's organisations in the district had a joint meeting, and arranged a common deputation which went to all the candidates. This deputation asked each the same questions—in this case, the election questions of the N.U.S.E.C. Any variations of the questions suited to local permutations of societies could, of course, be substituted, but the main object should be to ascertain the candidate's attitude to social reform in general, and to the equal status of men and women in particular—the franchise, equal pay, and the equal moral standard. Having secured both their answers and an opportunity to form a personal judgment as to the value of the answers, the societies can then issue a joint leaflet to the women voters. This can, with advantage, take the following form:—"To women voters: it is important to you what your Member thinks of women! Mr. X. holds such and such views: Mr. Y. such and such; Mr. Z. such and such. Which of these men is the best? Vote for him. This advice is given by the so and so societies." By giving the plain facts without comment more good is often done than by any other method; and in this way also all infringement of election law is avoided, and, moreover, valuable propaganda among constituents is ensured.

The next step is to print off 5,000 or so of these leaflets, as cheaply as possible, and to get them widely distributed in the constituency. They should be given at the doors of all meetings, put into the letter-boxes of private houses, and sent to all the local newspapers. This procedure, which takes very little organisation, and which can be carried out by any society, however weak, ensures that these matters become an issue in the contest. The member, whoever he is, goes to Parliament with the knowledge that these problems are thought of in his constituency: that votes have been cast (for or against him) because of his attitude towards them, and that they are factors in this political situation.

The Westminster election proved very clearly that this is really so. There is, in every constituency, however little organised and politically apathetic it may be, a considerable element among the voters to whom these matters are important. And it is the business of the various women's organisations to see that this scattered but powerful support is mobilised at the election, and exerted upon the House of Commons.

So much for ordinary elections, for which the machinery of co-operation can immediately be prepared. In addition to this there are the elections in those special constituencies where the sitting member is an avowed opponent of all these causes, and where his failure to secure re-election would be a blessing, no matter by whom he was replaced. In these places, no doubt, a different and more aggressive policy should be followed. We do not propose to outline it here. Local conditions and local organisations vary, and the laying down of general rules is not much use. But this much can certainly be said, that the next few months are the time to take the matter in hand, and to prepare for the contest which is shortly to take place.

We cannot leave the subject of elections without expressing our satisfaction at the decision taken by Mrs. Wintringham to contest the seat left vacant by the sudden death of her husband. Mrs. Wintringham is known, both locally and outside Louth, as a thoroughly progressive and public spirited woman. She is the sort of person who speaks of things of which she knows; and she knows just the very things which a woman Member of Parliament must deal with. She is President of the Louth Women Citizens' Association, which gives her a special claim on our regard. It is said that she has an excellent chance of winning the by-election. How splendid it would be to have another woman to help our valiant Lady Astor in the House!

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

Political forces have two aspects. They can be looked at from the surface, the currents noted, the pace and drift of the tide, the height of the waves. This is to estimate no more than the fortunes of political parties. Or you can look below the surface and see those bigger, permanent movements, which, always going on, though often unrecorded, settle the fortunes of a country for years to come. Sometimes the two sets of currents converge, but not always; and the greater the movement on the surface, and the more acute the clash of parties, the harder it is to plumb to the depths.

The Session which has just finished was remarkable from both aspects. In the arena of party controversy it saw the Coalition definitely abandon the idealistic reconstruction programme on which Mr. Lloyd George was returned to power, and commit themselves to a policy of economy. Now such a policy has two results, speaking again from the purely party point of view. It involves the scrapping of the reconstruction programme. That, of course, is inevitable, but it has another possibility, which is nearly, if not quite, inevitable, that it flings the party into the hands of the reactionaries. This undoubtedly has happened to the Coalition during the past year. The centre of gravity has shifted more and more towards the right, and there are many signs which point to an era of stolid, do-nothing conservatism.

So much for the surface. Below the surface it is hard to pierce, and the shadowy vision which is possible reveals an ocean of extraordinary complexity. The world, impoverished by the war, must conserve its resources. It must, therefore, refrain from doing many things which are eagerly desired. And this policy of standing still and giving the cold shoulder to all reform is reinforced by another movement, which is reaction against the idealism which the war induced. These two currents together are set strongly in favour of a narrow and parsimonious view of Government action. All communal agencies are discredited, from the Treasury to the Telephone, and it looks as though only a touch were wanted for a tide to rise which, while cleansing some of the excesses of extravagance, would sweep away much which is infinitely valuable.

But there are other forces at work, visible even to our obscure gaze, and they are illustrated by what is happening on the surface. The Anti-Waste Party, to deal with party politics for a moment, has broken in two. The ostensible cause is the quarrel between Mr. Bottomley and Lord Rothermere, but the real cause lies deeper. It lies in the inherent sterility of anti-waste as a political creed. At the Westminster election the stuff talked by the "ring-tailed roarers" of the anti-waste party (our gratitude is due to the *Observer* for disinterring that label) was not economy at all, but black reaction. No housing, no health, no agricultural wages, and, as a parenthesis, no equality for women—that was the imaginative and constructive programme expected to attract the votes of the most educated constituency in the world. It failed. Possibly its failure is a turning point.

What of the future? If Mr. Lloyd George pursues anti-waste in this spirit, he is lost beyond the hope of salvation. On the other hand, how can he who has swung back from idealism take a return swing immediately?

The Independent Liberals? They are like stamp collectors, industriously gathering the labels of the past and valuing each in proportion to its antiquity. The Labour Party? Possibly. They have a chance, if they can take it. If they can bridge idealism with practical sense they may rule England. A Coalition under Lord Grey or Lord Robert Cecil? Not to be ruled out; but not at present a practical possibility.

One thing, however, is certain. Mankind will find anti-waste mighty poor provender. The present rage (which has, of course, a most justifiable basis), has swept long past its original mark. There are signs that the tide will ebb. Then either the Coalition or the Labour Party will get their chance; which it will be impossible to say. At the moment the Coalition goes on, unchallenged and unchallengeable.

[The views expressed in this column are those of our Parliamentary correspondent, and are not our editorial opinion. Like so many other things in this paper they are expressly controversial, and comment upon them will be welcomed.—ED.]

BURNING QUESTIONS.

We call the attention of our readers to the fact that in the heading of "Burning Questions" we endeavour to present the political thinkers. We do not ourselves express an editorial to be well-informed and then to come to her own opinion.

COMPULSORY RESCUE OF GIRLS UNDER EIGHTEEN.

Miss Hartley's articles on Clause 3 of the 1918-20 Government Criminal Law Amendment Bills are somewhat difficult to criticise. I need not say much concerning the second article, as the scheme which is outlined there for the better protection of adolescents seems to be taken chiefly from the publications of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, and represents the alternative proposal to Clause 3. The first article does, however, require a reply, and I shall confine my comments to it.

Miss Hartley does not seem to have grasped the fact that those who opposed Clause 3 opposed it chiefly on the ground that they want the solicitation laws abolished, not extended. We do not want any laws which, either by inclusion or exclusion, treat "common prostitutes" differently from any other persons; what laws we have must apply equally to all persons. The laws which make certain non-criminal acts legal offences if committed by "prostitutes," and certain other criminal acts not legal offences if committed against "prostitutes," are utterly abhorrent to us. In these laws, not only the equality of the sexes is undermined, but the whole foundation of British justice. "We will not deny to any man justice or right," says Magna Charta, and Lord Chatham, at the historic constitutional trial of John Wilkes, in 1763, made this striking appeal:—

"In his person, though he were the worst of men, I contend for the safety and security of the best; and God forbid, my Lords, that there should ever be a power in this country of measuring the civil rights of the subject by his moral character, or by any other rule than the fixed law of the land."

All exceptional laws and by-laws specially directed against immoral women as such are entirely contrary to our great Statutes, and it is upon the sure foundations of British Constitutional Law that the Abolitionist movement has been built and still continues its work. The laws against "prostitutes" are a relic of regulation. They attempt to make of alleged immoral women an outlawed class, and we who are Abolitionists would be false to all our principles if we allowed an attempt to extend those laws to pass unchallenged. This is the fundamental ground of our opposition to Clause 3, and it explains why the Woman's Movement and the Abolitionists joined forces—as they always have done in these matters—and fought Clause 3 to its death.

We are asked why we did not accept the suggestion that Clause 3 should be drafted to apply to both sexes. The reason is that the opponents of the clause do not believe that either young men or young women should be liable to be arrested, publicly branded as given over to prostitution, and (on the uncorroborated statements of a mere spectator) sent for a long period of compulsory detention for soliciting the commission of an act which is not itself a legal offence.

Now I turn to Miss Hartley's contention that when dealing with girls under eighteen all arguments as to the liberty of the individual and the equality of the sexes fall to the ground. She says, "The compulsory detention only applied to those whose youth entitled them to special protection, and not to women who had reached an age to choose for themselves." Many rescue workers clutched at the opportunity of compulsory powers and Government grants offered to them by Clause 3, and apparently failed to see the dangers and difficulties in which such methods were bound to result. Above all, they failed to see that they were encouraging, and once more giving legal sanction to, the double standard of morals. If girls up to eighteen are entitled to special protection because of their youth, then the law must be truly protective and not penal, and it must regard all persons under eighteen as "young persons" in a legal sense, and consistently treat them as such in every respect, and not only when girls solicit men. Such a definition must obviously apply to boys too, and the simplest method would be to deal with all persons under a given age under the provisions of the Children Act, 1908. If this Act were to apply to children under the ages of sixteen and eighteen respectively, and if the provisions under Sections 17, 18, 58, 60 and 99 of that Act were effectively applied and administered, all possible protection against seduction and prostitution and other anti-social courses would then be given

topical and controversial matters which we treat under the principal views on each question held by differing groups of opinion, beyond this, that it is each woman's business first

to young persons and they themselves would not come under any criminal stigma.

A section which is intended for the protection and instruction, "in lieu of punishment," of girls under eighteen, is obviously out of place in a penal Bill. If the clause had become law we should have had the following state of affairs, which few people could regard as being a protection to girls: Men could not only have solicited girls between sixteen and eighteen, but even seduced them, and yet have committed no legal offence, whereas any girl under eighteen who merely solicited men would have been liable to compulsory detention in an approved institution or home for a possible period of three years or more instead of, as now, to a fine. I say "any girl" advisedly, because although the clause only applied to "common prostitutes," yet the fact remains that there exists no legal or statutory definition of the words "prostitute" or "prostitution," and in practice the definition is left to the discretion of the ordinary police-constable.

There is another aspect which one has to bear in mind. The Government Criminal Law Amendment Bills introduced during the war, and especially Clause 2 of the first Bill, introduced in February, 1917, by the then Home Secretary and Solicitor-General, show the genesis of Clause 3 and the intention behind it. The original clause in the 1917 Bill proposed a complete scheme for the arrest of prostitutes and their compulsory medical examination at the discretion of the Court, with imprisonment for two years if venereally diseased. Yet the clause never mentioned prostitutes, and it is only when reference is made to the schedule at the end of the Bill, and it is seen that no other offender is at all likely to fulfil the necessary conditions (namely, of arrest twice in three months), that one realises the object of the clause. The same Bill proposed to give magistrates the right to send prostitutes to prison without the option of a fine. The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, with the Suffrage Societies, killed these proposals. After the Bill was amended in Committee, this Clause 2 was divided and rearranged; one-half of the clause dealing with communicating venereal disease or soliciting while diseased, while the other was the first appearance of the notorious Clause 3. Clause 3 was, I submit, never intended for the protection of girls, but for the protection of soldiers, and, as it was persistently opposed, Regulation 40d was slipped into operation instead, under D.O.R.A. Even in the later and amended form of the clause, which Miss Hartley supports, it left detention to the discretion of the Court, after hearing reports from various people. We know that one of the reports for which magistrates frequently asked was a report as to the presence or absence of venereal disease, and to my mind there was never any doubt that the official object of Clause 3 was the arrest from time to time of young prostitutes and their compulsory detention if examination revealed venereal disease.

Clause 3 has been cleared out of the way, but I do not believe that there is any occasion to regret its withdrawal. There are other and better ways of helping girls. If the Criminal Law Amendment Bill had passed, it would probably have done a good deal to eliminate the young prostitute under eighteen, and the abolition of the defence of "reasonable cause to believe" a girl was over sixteen would have had a very salutary effect. It would have made men extremely careful to avoid relations with any young girl, and the result of this will be that girls up to eighteen or so offering themselves for prostitution will have considerable difficulty in finding men willing to take the risk of consorting with them.

We know that those who believe in the compulsory rescue of girls from a life of prostitution are out for the better protection of the sexual and mental immaturity of young people. We who opposed Clause 3 are out for the same thing, but in pursuit of this end we are not prepared to support penal clauses against young girls who have committed no legal crime, or to brand them as "common prostitutes," and thus to strengthen and perpetuate the double standard of morals, which is, after all, the root cause of the existence of prostitution.

ALISON NEILANS.

Y.W.C.A. HOLIDAY CAMPS FOR WORKING GIRLS.

IMPRESSIONS OF A CAMPER, AUGUST, 1921.

Holiday Camps! How can one do justice to these on paper? They are oases of delight in the lives of thousands of women and girls all over England. Between forty and fifty of these camps are arranged by the Y.W.C.A. every summer at various holiday resorts, and are attended by about five thousand women and girls. Some of these are real outdoor camps for the benefit of the younger ones and Girl Guides, while others are held in large houses and schools taken for the purpose. Good fortune took me this year to the Summer Camp at Aberystwyth. Now here I am enjoying the glorious scenery all around us. Viewing a scene like this for the first time in one's life takes the breath away, and leaves one awe-stricken.

Many people have only the vaguest notions of what a Camp is like. They have visions of sleeping on straw under canvas, and having to do without many of their minor comforts. The one at Aberystwyth is only a sample of many. We are staying in a splendid house right on the sea front, with the wide expanse of Cardigan Bay stretching out before us. It is one of the hostels belonging to the Wales University.

Of course, the pivot on which the whole camp turns is our Commandant, whose charming personality and high spirits endear her to all hearts. Then, there are several officers with us who organise the sports and musical evenings, or act as guides, and are always ready to be of service. And what delightful excursions we are having! Motor drives to places of interest, picnics on the rocks or in the woods, blackberry hunts, boating, bathing, &c.

The camp is attracting a good deal of attention from the visitors here. A concert is given by the girls each Thursday evening, to which the public are invited. All the campers wear

fancy dresses made by themselves, and the skill displayed in the designing of some of these is amazing. The visitors are asked to vote for the best two dresses, and the wearers of these receive a first and second prize. Then follow songs, recitations, charades, &c., accompanied by a wonderful jazz band composed of bells, whistles, trays, combs, baths, rattles, &c. A silver collection is taken on behalf of the Overseas Work of the Y.W.C.A.

Camp life gives us the opportunity of meeting girls from all parts and hearing all about their work, their home life, and ambitions, and we get to understand each other better and gain a broader outlook on life. There is no need to seek outside excitement or amusements, for we have such fun together. Often discussions on various topics are started which generally become quite animated, and each morning and evening we have a hymn and prayers.

The Y.W.C.A. is to be congratulated on its enterprise and broad-mindedness in starting these camps, for they are doing a great work for England. Through them many girls are enabled to spend a holiday under the best conditions and influences. Friendships are made at them, some of which will last a lifetime. Everyone seems so ready to welcome us on our arrival, and to make us happy and comfortable, that all we have to do is to settle down and enter into the spirit of the Camp, each doing her part to make it a success. Once a girl has been to Camp, no more will she prefer to spend a holiday alone in a dingy apartment house, with a fussy landlady demanding her pound of flesh. It is the atmosphere of love and fellowship permeating them which makes them thrive, and there is every possibility of this becoming a permanent institution of our land.

REVIEWS.

SOME NOVELS.

- Memoirs of a Midget.** By Walter de la Mare. (Collins. 8s. 6d.)
Dark Side Out. By Eleanor Acland. (Sidgwick & Jackson. 7s. 6d.)
Prisoners of State. By E. Shaw-Cowley. (Bodley Head. 7s. 6d.)
Intensity. By Constance I. Smith. (Melrose. 6s.)
The Brimming Cup. By Dorothy Canfield. (Cape. 8s. 6d.)
Through John's Eyes. By Huntly Robertson. (Grant Richards. 8s. 6d.)
The Promised Isle. By Laurids Bruun. (Gyldendal. 7s. 6d.)
The Ponsoon Case. By Freeman Wills Croft. (Collins. 7s. 6d.)

"Memoirs of a Midget" is a strangely attractive book. Mr. de la Mare has succeeded in the difficult task of making his little lady entirely human, so that we sympathise with her emotions and her thoughts as if she had been a normal woman, and at the same time never letting us forget that she was a midget. The result is a picture of more or less ordinary, more or less modern, life, with a kind of fairy glamour thrown over it. When "Miss M." sits on the pomatum pot on her father's dressing table at the beginning, or wanders in a wood where the grasses and ferns are themselves a kind of forest to her, or goes up and down her tiny stairs, we feel something of the thrill we experienced as children when we heard Hans Anderson's "Little Tiny" (sometimes called "Thumbelina"), or succeeded in believing that our small dolls were living people: yet, as the book goes on, we cannot doubt that Miss M.'s emotions and the mind with which she controlled them were both life-size. I began the book with a feeling that though it might be curious, and have a poetic charm, it could hardly be psychologically interesting. There is no such thing as a normal creature, but the chief interest of psychology seems to me to lie in deciding how so-called "ordinary" people differ from each other and from oneself. In a midget or a giant, or a "Little Three Eyes," the largeness or the smallness or the three-eyed-ness might, it

would seem, be so much the most prominent fact that it would hide everything else and obscure the essential problem. But in "Memoirs of a Midget" this does not happen. The book is like a landscape seen in a strange light. Not exactly a familiar landscape, but one sufficiently like those we know to make us feel that however unearthly the radiance upon it, it yet belongs to our planet. Or, perhaps, one should rather say that it is like a beautiful room into which we have just come, seen in a diminishing mirror upon the wall. "Miss M." seems at times to be as like the rest of us, as any of us are to any of the rest, and yet there is something strange about her and about the House of Life reflected in her eyes. We cannot quite tell whether the strangeness is in the reflection or arises from our having got into a different place from any we have visited before; but whether it is the place or the light that is strange, neither are quite outside the sphere of our being; we can take them in and enjoy them as real things.

"Dark Side Out" is a story of North Country family life. There is a prodigal and a stay-at-home son, but the interest centres neither in these nor in their respective children, though the latter are attractively described, but in the father, and in the faithful friend and servant of the family, Rebecca Groves. William Atkinson is one of those strong characters which the North Country produces, and which those who write about it seem to expect us to find admirable. His love for the prodigal son is believed by that son himself, and, apparently, by Mrs. Acland, to have been deeper than we can conceive. The ordinary South Country person does certainly find it difficult to realise a feeling that expresses itself neither in words nor actions. Mrs. Acland's vivid, humorous, and, I think, affectionate portrait of the old man is interesting to read, but leaves one with a sensation of thankfulness that one is not Mr. Atkinson's relation and that one has only met him in a book. Rebecca Groves, on the other hand, is delightful, and would be an endless comfort in real life.

"Prisoners of State" is a plea for a change in the present divorce law, written, not from the point of view of the injured wife, but from that of the woman co-respondent. Margaret

Stobart, a miniature painter, resolves to throw in her lot with James Portlock, who is sinking into an unworthy existence because the wife he married only for "suitability" has grown tired of him and refuses to bear him a child. Margaret saves James, and is very happy with him, but she suffers because her only sister throws her off, because she has to endure some social ostracism, and, finally, because Mrs. Portlock, out of revenge, neglects to have the decree nisi made absolute until after the birth of Margaret's child. That part of our marriage law which makes the child suffer for the sins of the parents and refuses it "legitimacy" even when they have married, is now defended by hardly anyone; presumably it only waits for alteration because people cannot agree about the other changes required. Whether people who begin divorce proceedings should be forced to carry them through to the end without unnecessary delay is a question which has not been so much discussed. It is impossible to feel great sympathy with the couple in this book; they might at least have waited to have a child till all was secure. As for Margaret's other sufferings, either her sister's and her friends' disapproval depended on something more fundamental than the illegality of her action, in which case no difference in the law would have prevented it, or their approval and affection were not worth having and were a cheap exchange for her chosen happiness. Law can only be altered slowly in accordance with general progress. Those who believe themselves more enlightened than the generality, should, of course, strive to hasten the advance; if, in the meantime, they decide to defy the law in order to gain their own desires, or even to achieve their own ideals, they are not much to be pitied if they have to pay the price. One should either submit to the general opinion or not mind about it.

"Intensity" is a careful and graphic study of all the sensations, emotions, and thoughts of a woman in the home during one day of her life. The home is in a London suburb, and the woman is a young and attractive specimen of the great mass of half-educated girls who are finding life so hard just now, whether inside or outside "the home."

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Offices: Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W.1. Telephone: Museum 6910.

THE BY-ELECTIONS.

The Abbey by-election is now over, and we heartily rejoice that Colonel Applin was defeated by the substantial majority of 1,200 votes. Mr. Arnold Lupton, the Independent Liberal candidate, feels that we did him some injustice in the leaflet issued to the women voters of the constituency. We deeply regret that he should feel this, remembering that in 1906 he was one of a comparatively small number of candidates who put Woman's Suffrage in his election address, but his refusal to meet our deputations, or even to answer our questions, made it impossible for us to give any guarantee to the women electors that he was in favour of the constructive reforms for which we were working, and the leaflet merely recorded our failure to get in touch with him. We congratulate General Nicholson on his success, and look forward with confidence to his support in the House.

WEST LEWISHAM BY-ELECTION.

We find ourselves immediately in the thick of another by-election. A committee room has been opened at 86, London Road, Forest Hill, S.E. 23 (kindly lent by the Misses Mead), with Miss Auld as Hon. Organiser. Hours, 10.15 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., and 6 to 8.30 p.m. This election is a unique opportunity for propaganda work in South London, and we earnestly beg any of our members or friends who are in town to get in touch with Miss Auld at once. Help is urgently needed to distribute leaflets, attend meetings, &c.

LOUTH BY-ELECTION.

Still another by-election of very unusual interest will shortly absorb our energies. We were just about to offer the services of a by-election organiser to the Louth W.C.A. when the news reached us that Mrs. Wintringham, widow of the late Member and President of the Louth W.C.A., has consented to become Liberal candidate. This will provide the opportunity we have been waiting for to carry on a strenuous campaign to secure the return of another woman to Parliament. Fuller particulars will be given later.

HEADQUARTERS IN AUGUST.

The following quotation from a letter received from the Head Office indicates how much is going on even at the fag-end

"The Brimming Cup" is a story of an American woman in the home. Marise, like Celia in "Intensity," suffers from the repressions incidental to her state. The story extends over years, and is ill-constructed and brimming with sentimentality, whereas "Intensity" is concentrated and realistic, and, therefore, much more striking. It may be national prejudice, but I greatly prefer Celia to Marise.

"Through John's Eyes" is life seen through the eyes not of a woman in the home, but of a boy; the appeal it makes will depend on the reader's fondness for boys and for books about boys; it is not a work of art which will carry all before it, even with a sympathetic reader, but it is quite good of its kind.

"The Promised Isle" is the story of four Dutchmen—a literary man, an organist, a painter, and a writer—who, disgusted by society's non-recognition of their talents, decide to escape from it and to live in a desert island. They find a beautiful one, and live there for a year. Overcome by the coral and palm trees, and general discomforts of the island, the author writes a series of poems called "Home," dealing with the Amsterdam canals and the scent of the lime trees; the artist paints a picture of "starlings whistling amid the sweet scent of hyacinths"; and the musician composes a symphony to the Fatherland. Eventually they all get safe home again and find society more tolerable than the desert. The book is translated from the Danish.

"The Ponson Case" will bring joy to those among us who find in detective stories one of the most important consolations of life. It is by the same author as "The Cask," and is quite as ingenious. Its chief defect is that the mystery of the poison murder could not possibly be solved without more knowledge of previous events than is given to the reader till the very end; but this does not spoil it. Its setting is the quiet English landscape, studded with country houses and bathed in opulence and sunshine, which always makes a history of crime more effective by contrast. I can strongly recommend it for holiday reading.

I. B. O'MALLEY.

of August, when we might reasonably have enjoyed the slackest week of the whole year. "We are receiving an enormous number of inquiries relating to the present position of the Bills in which we are interested in view of the adjournment of Parliament, as well as in connection with by-elections and the Library." With exceptionally heavy Parliamentary work until August 19th, followed by by-elections, August has been as strenuous as any month in the year.

OUR SOCIETIES ON THE EAST COAST.

GREAT YARMOUTH S.E.C.

On Wednesday afternoon, August 10th, some of the Committee and Members of the Great Yarmouth S.E.C. met to welcome Miss Rathbone, President, and Miss Macadam, Hon. Sec. After a speech by Miss Macadam a discussion followed upon the following subjects: Criminal Law Amendment Bill, Guardianship, Maintenance and Custody of Infants Bill, and Equal Franchise.

The Hon. Sec. of the Branch, Mrs. Cross, then gave a short account of the recent work of the Society. It has worked for the appointment of two women Councillors, four Poor Law Guardians, one woman Magistrate, and one Policewoman.

The following resolution was passed unanimously: "That owing to the very beneficial work done by the Policewoman in Yarmouth, another should be appointed." The meeting then terminated with a vote of thanks to Miss Rathbone and Miss Macadam.

LOWESTOFT S.E.C.

A most successful garden meeting was held on August 12th at 61, High Street, by kind permission of Miss Coates, who took the chair. The well-known President of the National Union, Miss Eleanor Rathbone, and the Honorary Secretary, Miss Macadam, who is President of the local branch, gave stirring addresses on the programme of the Union.

Members of the Yarmouth Branch joined the Lowestoft members in giving Miss Rathbone a hearty welcome to the East Coast.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WOMEN IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

MADAM,—In these days of reaction against women, I suppose nothing should surprise us, but the last Lytton report on substitution contains one description that is truly surprising.

All the temporary women in the executive and administrative grades in the Civil Service are described as "super-clerical" (in inverted commas, to lessen the shock, one presumes, and to convey some subtle shade of meaning), and they are now informed that, as they did not know at the time that they were to sit for the "clerical" examination, they will graciously be permitted to do so later.

One knows perfectly why Civil Service men who are opposed to women getting in on their proper grades should invent such a description, but why all the signatories to the report should lend themselves to so contemptible a manoeuvre, is a matter for amazement.

What have those of us who are administrative, for example, got to do with clerical work, "super" or otherwise? One might as justly describe a special correspondent of a newspaper, or the editor, for that matter, as "super-compositor."

If it were only humorous, it would not matter very much; but it is another of those actions against women that are far too common now, and far too serious to be a matter for jesting.

Among the women classed as "super-clerical" are women holding the highest educational qualifications—first division qualifications—and women who have done for years, and are doing now important and they are assured, valuable administrative work. Temporary men in the executive and administrative grades are described as so, and are to be admitted on their proper grades—why not the women?

TEMPORARY WOMAN ADMINISTRATIVE.

COMING EVENTS.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

SEPTEMBER 3.
At Croyland Hall, Wellingborough, 5.30 p.m. Speaker: Lt.-Col. Sir Alfred Warren, O.B.E., M.P.

SEPTEMBER 4.
Outside St. Mary's Church, Stoke Newington, 3.30 p.m. Speaker: E. Everett Reid, Esq.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE STATE PURCHASE AND CONTROL OF THE LIQUOR TRADE.

SEPTEMBER 5.
At Highgate Road, Women's Adult School, 8 p.m. Subject: "The Carlisle Experiment in State Purchase." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

SEPTEMBER 6.
At Women's Co-operative Guild, Liverpool, 7.30 p.m. Subject: Lantern Lecture on Carlisle Experiment. Speaker: Mrs. Heron.

SEPTEMBER 8.
At Brentford, Women's Adult School, 3 p.m. Subject: "The Carlisle Experiment in State Purchase." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

PROPOSED SOCIETY FOR CONSTRUCTIVE BIRTH CONTROL AND RACIAL PROGRESS.

This Society is now being organised and a number of distinguished men and women have already signified their intention of joining. A Meeting will be held in the Summer to constitute the Society in preparation for the Session's work beginning next October. Those who would like to join the Society, please fill in the following:—

I should like to join a SOCIETY for CONSTRUCTIVE BIRTH CONTROL and RACIAL PROGRESS when it is organised, and would pay a yearly subscription of at least 1s.

Name (in capital letters)

Address

Date

All communications should be addressed to Dr. Marie Stopes at the Mothers' Clinic, 61, Marlborough Road, Holloway, N.

Annual Subscription:
17/4 post free.

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Prepaid classified, 1d. per word each insertion. 6d. extra for a Box number. These must be received at the office on or before Tuesday morning in each week.

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Address

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THE MALTHUSIAN LEAGUE FOR RATIONAL BIRTH CONTROL

This Society has carried on an educational campaign on this subject for the last forty years.

Since the end of 1913, when it also commenced a practical propaganda among the poor, it has sent out more than 35,000 practical leaflets to struggling parents who have applied for them.

The League is opening a Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic in October under medical and nursing management which will give, in addition to ordinary medical advice, the best advice on and treatment for birth control wherever needed.

All enquiries and Subscriptions to

The Hon. Secretary,
124, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

(This Society has no paid officials.)

DELICIOUS FRENCH COFFEE RED WHITE & BLUE

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In making, use LESS QUANTITY it being
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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston Square, S.W. 6.30, Miss Cicely Ellis. "Experiments in Living."

THE BOOK FOR SERVANTLESS HOUSEHOLDS.—The Bachelor Girl's Cookery Book. Simplified Recipes for Amateurs, by May Henry and Jeannette Halford. A recent testimonial says: "Any fool can cook from it." Price, 1s. 10d., post free from Mrs. Henry, 14, Fordwych-road, London, N.W. 2.

FOR SALE AND WANTED.

MRS. ROBERT GREG makes Children's Silk Smocks, 30s.; also French Silk Underwear and Blouses.—Coorona, Thornfield-road, Heaton Mersey, Manchester.

HOME-MADE CHOCOLATES AND SWEETS, suitable for Bazaars, Fêtes, &c.; large quantities supplied at reduced prices.—Write Miss Martin, 93, Chelsea Gardens, Chelsea Bridge-road, S.W.1.

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GENUINE IRISH HOMESPUNS, All pure Wool, for ladies' and gents' wear. (for Golfing and Motoring, extremely strong and durable, will stand any amount of hard wear. The "Mayo," 56 inches wide, 13s. 6d. per yard. Suit length, 34 yards, 46s. 6d. Coat and Skirt length, 4 yards, 51s. 6d. Safe delivery of parcels guaranteed.—HUTTON'S, 41, Main-street, Larne, Ireland.

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"**MORE MONEY TO SPEND**" (Income Tax Recovery and Adjustment).—Send postcard for this booklet to Mrs. Ayres Purdie, Women Taxpayers' Agency, Hampden House, 3, Kingsway. Phone, Central 6049.

GARDENING FOR WOMEN at Heden College, Kingstone, near Canterbury. 300ft. up. Practical comprehensive training, individual consideration. Gardening year begins mid-September.—For illustrated prospectus apply Secretary.

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DETACHED FURNISHED COTTAGE, near Felixstowe; seven rooms; clean; private garden; disengaged September 2nd.—

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HAVERSTOCK HILL.—FURNISHED MAISONETTE TO LET; 1 year; electric light; phone; 3½ guineas.—Write only, R. Fuller, 99, New Bond-street, W. 1.

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