

PARLIAMENT, MOTHERS AND BABIES ... NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS Sir German Woodhead, K.B.E., M.D., LL.D. THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN AUSTRIA

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# NOTES AND NEWS

## The Washington Conventions,

The House of Commons has supported the Government in refusing to ratify the two outstanding Labour Conventions, namely those relating to the eight-hour day and to maternity insurance for employed women. This refusal is a serious thing, not only because of the merits of the proposals themselves, but not only because of the merits of the proposals themselves, but because it is clear that many countries are making their own ratification contingent upon that of others. International agree-ments are like all others—they will not work unless the parties agree : and it is most unfortunate that in this instance Great Britain should be standing out. The matter, however, is not quite without alleviation, and the Parliamentary discussion has done much good, for whereas last month the Government were proposing simply to leave the matter alone, they now announce that they will explain to the Secretariat of the League of Nations the grounds for the British attitude, and seek to secure a new and live conference in which variations of the Convention may be suggested to enable us to come into line. In the eight-hour day we are, in fact, very near to practical uniformity, and the procedure outlined by Dr. Addison may put matters right. We earnestly hope it will. The maternity convention, however, received no such attention, and the only suggestion made was that of Lady Astor that a conference of women experts should be asked to see how our present custom could be adapted to come into line. We should heartily welcome this conference. We do not altogether take the convention as it stands, but we are in full agreement with Washington that the matter urgently requires careful and official treatment by agreed legislation.

#### The Irish Women's Report.

A delegation of Irish women from the Irish Women's Franchise League and the Women's International League (Ireland) has come to England armed with a report on the sufferings of women and children in Ireland under British military rule. They had hoped to have been allowed to present it personally to the Dominion Premiers, but permission was not granted, and the report had to be sent separately to each Premier. It is sad reading, and not even the last seven years have rendered us so used to suffering and pain that we are left unmoved by this bald account of horror-laden nights, of terror-stricken children, of criminal assaults on pregnant women, of rape, and death, and mental anguish. If we were Irish it would make our hearts

bleed, but when we are English or Scotch, a shame is added to our pain, because it is in our name that these things are done. A new hope has arisen with the news of General Smuts's visit to Ireland. A big man of wide sympathies, perhaps he too has been stirred by the Irish women's report, and will find a way to end this misery where all others have failed.

#### The Challenging of Women Jurors.

Great indignation is felt in Leicester over a case which occurred on June 8th, at the Leicestershire Assizes, when Edith occurred on June 8th, at the Leicestershire Assizes, when Edith Roherts, a young woman of twenty-one, was sentenced to death for the murder of her illegitimate child. All the women jurors were challenged as they were called, and the case was tried by men alone. There were no indecent details in the evidence, nor anything which could in any way justify the challenge, but the case was a very distressing one owing to the utter prostration of the prisoner, who fainted many times while in Court. The local woman te davide whether or not the child hid ever lived legal point was to decide whether or not the child had ever lived, and whether, if so, it had been wilfully killed by its mother. If she killed it, it was after a night of extreme mental and physical agony, when, as the medical evidence allowed, "it was perfectly possible that the girl was unconscious through the pain she suffered and might not know what she was doing." If ever there was a case in which the presence of women would seem right it was this case, and we do not wonder that all the women's organisations in Leicester are roused. The death sentence has been commuted to imprisonment for life, and petitions for the girl's release are being widely signed, and, in addition, great efforts are being made to rouse public opinion on the question of the challenging of women as jurors. In a case of felony a prisoner is legally entitled to challenge twenty jurors peremptory challenge" without reason given, and it is this right which was mistakenly exercised in the Leicester case. But it is clear that there should be an alteration in the law so that a woman so challenged is replaced by another. The right was given to protect a prisoner from his private enemies : and who is there to whom the whole of the female sex is a private enemy? Certainly not the poor girl, Edith Roberts.

#### Juvenile Prisoners.

Lt.Col. Sir Samuel Hoare told the House of the case of the boy of sixteen who committed suicide in Winchester Prison, to which 346

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we recently drew our readers' attention, and stated that there is a girl in the same prison who has been detained for six months without trial. Mr. Shortt said that on inquiry he found that the Justices refused to allow the boy to be released on bail pending his trial, on account of statements he had made as to what he would do if he were so released. The Home Secretary knew nothing of the girl's case, but said a young woman of twenty-one, who was committed on a charge of arson on May 26th, would not be tried until the middle of October. He was singularly uninformed as to whether any medical inquiry into the boy's mental health had been made, and he seems to be unwilling to take any responsibility whatever. "All I can do is to advise ; I cannot enforce," is his usual formula. As Lord Robert Cecil said, some legislation is necessary to stop these scandals. Mr. Devlin's equally urgent plea for the people in Ireland who have been kept for months and months without trial was left unanswered. It is time, indeed, that the reforms of our judicial procedure, of which we hear so often, actually took effect. We look to the women magistrates and the coming women barristers to see to it.

### Children's Courts.

The work of the Old Street Children's Court under the old order came to an end last week, and this week, for the first time in London, two justices sat with the stipendiary magistrate to hear cases in a Children's Court, in the Lambeth Town Hall at Brixton. Everything was done to secure a homely atmosphere ; cheerful colours, pictures, and policemen in plain clothes did their best to make the children feel at home, while the presence of the woman Justice, Mrs. La Chard, was calculated to inspire ooth the children and their mothers with confidence. Another Juvenile Court at St. Anne's Vestry Hall, Soho, has also been opened this week. We feel sure this new development will be a great success.

### Juvenile Employment.

Lord Chelmsford has undertaken to make inquiries and to give dvice as to the arrangements which should be made under the Labour Exchanges Act of 1909, and the Education (Choice of Employment) Act of 1910, in order to assist juveniles in their hoice of suitable employment. The Fisher Act of 1918 and the Unemployment Insurance Act of 1920 have also to be taken into consideration, and Sir Walter Kinnear, of the Insurance Departnent, Ministry of Health, Mr. E. K. Chambers, of the Board of Education, and Mr. Alexander Paterson, of the Ministry of Labour, are to act as assessors. We congratulate the Ministry of Labour on their attention to this important subject. It has long been one of their best performed tasks, and we hope now it will be managed even better.

## The World Congress on Child Welfare.

The Second International Congress on Child Welfare will take place in Brussels from July 18th to 21st, and will have for its object the discussion of a series of questions concerning child welfare. The British Government is sending a representative, and a committee has been formed under the presidency of Lord Sandhurst to draw up a statement of Britain's activities in this branch of social work, and to organise the British section of the Congress. The questions to be discussed at the Congress are child offenders and juvenile Courts ; the problem of the abnormal child; child hygiene; war orphans; and the creation of an international office for the protection of children. A systematic organisation of the care and welfare of childhood is a comparatively new thing in these Islands. It will be of the utmost assistance to local authorities and voluntary associations to learn what our neighbours across the Channel are doing. Some aspects of the problem are very pressing in their case, and the organisation provided for meeting the special needs may furnish suggestions and guidance to us. The Belgian Government cordially invites any who are interested in the problem to attend the Conference, of which we hope to give a special report in THE WOMAN'S LEADER.

## Summary Jurisdiction (Married Persons) Bill.

This Bill, promoted and drafted by the N.U.S.E.C., was introduced by Sir Robert Newman on Tuesday, June 28th, and is down for its Second Reading next week. It proposes to amend the law relating to Separation and Maintenance Orders for married persons. The present law has hardly been altered since 1895, and at present contains many hardships and omissions. The Bill adds the following to the grounds on which a Separation Order can be claimed by either a man or a woman : (a) that either party has committed adultery, (b) that either party is suffering from venereal disease in a communicable form, (c

that either party is cruel, not only to the other party, but also to the children of the marriage. Moreover, it enables a man to claim a Separation Order on the same grounds as a woman, instead of as at present, for habitual drunkenness only ; it enables the Court to grant a Maintenance Order whether the parties are living together or separately (instead of as at present, only after separation has taken place); it strengthens the power to enforce orders relating to maintenance, or the custody of the children. At present the orders relating to maintenance are, in many cases, a dead letter, as the means at the disposal of the Court are so inadequate. Cases are reported in which a month's imprisonment wipes out long arrears of debt. It is, of course, unlikely that there will be time this Session for the further stages of this Bill, but in view of the fact that the hardships which it proposes to remedy are very real ones, it is much hoped that the Bill will receive strong support in the country, in order that it may be introduced next Session with a real weight of public opinion behind it.

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## The Deceased Husband's Brother.

The Second Reading of the Deceased Brother's Widow Marriage Bill, to give it its official title, which has successfully passed through the House of Commons, passed its Second Reading in the House of Lords last week. The Archbishop of Canterbury opposed it, saying that there was neither any need nor any public demand for the Bill, and that there were certain eugenic and physiological aspects which could hardly be discussed in public, and which differed from the case of marriage with a deceased wife's sister. Lord Buckmaster and the Lord Chancellor said that the Archbishop had set up a physiological bogey which need not frighten anyone, and that competent authorities had stated that there was no physiological objection whatever to such marriages. Lord Haldane maintained that there was a considerable demand for the Bill, and deep feeling about it in the Dominions, and the Bishop of Durham urged that was expedient in the interests of national morality that the Bill should be passed and that it violated no Christian principle. On a division the Second Reading was carried by 55 votes to 17.

## Progress of the Bastardy Bill and the Plumage Bill.

Standing Committee D has been considering the Bastardy Bill, and Captain Bowyer's amendment was under discussion last week. His suggestion, which was supported by Mr. Neville Chamberlain, was to apply the clause which provides for the legitimisation of illegitimate children of parents who subsequently marry, to the illegitimate children of parents who had married before the passing of the Act and are now living. Sir John Baird opposed this amendment, saying that this might deprive a legitimate child of rights, or even of a title, to which he might expect to succeed. This question will be raised again on report, and all amendments having been withdrawn, the Bill was ordered to be reported to the House of Commons. The Plumage Bill, in which our readers have taken so much interest, has now been read for the second time in the House of Lords, and awaits only the Royal Assent to become law. We wish we saw many of our special Bills on the list with it.

### Women in Consultation.

Everyone does everything by committees : but some committees are more useful than others, and the Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations, set on foot by Lady Astor, promises to be one of the useful ones. The first regular meeting, which took place last week, showed that sixty-one societies are joining in it, and that they are determined both to discuss freely and to act vigorously. It is, however, the first principle of the group that no action shall involve any dissenting society, and consequently its activities will seldom, if ever, be carried on in the name of the Committee, but only by spontaneous groups set up within it. Of such was its first action, referred to in our next note, and the conference on women police convened by the N.U.S.E.C. for July 15th. We expect great things from this Committee. Its Chairman, unanimously elected, is Lady Astor, its Vice-Chairman, Miss E. Picton-Turbervill, and its Treasurer, Lady Galway. No one who works for any of our causes but knows that there is a great field for more effort. We hope and believe that this co-ordinating machinery will enable our efforts to be of the maximum effect.

## A British Woman at the Geneva Conference.

Twice recently Lady Astor has brought pressure to bear on the Home Secretary to induce him to appoint a woman as official representative to the Geneva Conference on the traffic in women and children. Denmark has appointed a woman as full voting delegate, and France has sent a woman as alternate delegate, but apparently nothing will persuade Mr. Shortt to give way,

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He will not even state what the real objection of our Government to a woman representative is, nor what their policy is to be, and such an attitude on such a subject is a serious thing for women. Lady Astor pointed out that those who have dealt specially with this subject here in England have never been consulted, and a man has been sent who knows practically nothing about it. Mr. Shortt tried to protect himself from further awkward questions by holding up the presence of one woman member of the National Vigilance Association as adviser to our representative, as a proof of the Government's broadmindedness where women are eoncerned. But, as usual, the answer is thoroughly misleading, for this is not an official appointment, and the Government have no responsibility for it. The Conference is at this moment in session, and on the motion of Mr. Harrin, the British delegate, it is considering whether it shall urge the League of Nations to appoint a permanent international committee to advise the Council of the League on all matters dealing with White Slave traffic. The Conference has before it a heavy task, and its decisions will be eagerly awaited by all women's societies throughout the world. In this country a large number of them have already banded together, through the machinery of Lady Astor's Consultative Committee, to send to the Conference the following telegram : " Representatives of fifty British Women's Organisations urge Traffic in Women Conference necessity of abolishing licensed brothels and Règlementation system as most effective method of checking traffic." We understand that following the receipt of this telegram a discussion and vote upon this subject arose, and seventeen of the States represented voted against the continuance of State regulation, and eleven in favour. This is still too small a majority on the right side, and a great deal of national and international propaganda remains to be

#### Infant Welfare.

The campaign against excessive infant mortality carried on by voluntary agencies and by the State, has been successful to a degree which has surprised the worker and the statistician. But at one point no progress has been made for many years. The mortality under one year has fallen during the present century from 128 to 80 per thousand births ; the mortality under one month has dropped only from 41.8 to 40 since 1905. differs from the infant mortality of later months in being as high or higher in many country districts as in large towns, and the machinery which has safeguarded child life at subsequent stages is obviously inadequate herc. There is reason to suppose that the rural death-rate during the first month is dependent largely upon lack of proper care of mother and child at the time of birth in towns the controlling factors may be venereal disease and debility of the mother. At any rate, no single expedient is likely to be successful in all areas in preventing the ten to fifteen deaths per thousand in the first months which are admittedly preventable. Past successes will encourage infant welfare workers to concentrate hopefully on this obstinate stronghold of the enemy. There is room for the solitary worker as for associated effort, and those who have time for social service in this field can choose their tools and weapons at the Child Welfare Exhibition which is being held this week at the Central Hall, Westminster, and will remain open till 9 p.m. on Saturday.

### International Federation of University Women.

The International Federation of University Women has cannot afford these expensive measures. Let us assume they made a remarkable advance since its foundation last July, and are right, but at the same time let us examine their political although it started with only three members, Great Britain, implications. The Coalition came into office on a policy Canada, and the United States, twenty other nations have applied of social reconstruction. This has now been scrapped, and for membership during the year of its existence. On Monday Mr. Llovd George is the protagonist of economy. No doubt evening the British Federation of University Women entertained in this character he satisfies many of his followers, but it is open the members of the Council at a dinner at the Lyceum Club to question whether his temperament fits him to be a preacher Professor Winifred Cullis, Chairman of the British Comof retrenchment. The world is in a curious state, and it may nittee on International Relations, took the Chair. Lord be that we are in for twenty years of stationary policy, a policy, Haldane, who proposed the toast of "The International that is, of doing little and saving much. Apart, however, from Federation," spoke of the importance of the pursuit of the higher the inherent weakness of such a policy, on which much could be knowledge as a bond of union between the minds of people in said, is Mr. Lloyd George the man to carry it out? New all parts of the world. He thought that the expression of a measures require new men. It is impossible to say what the common living spirit would be a more wonderful and enduring future will bring, but the present juncture is so extraordinary means of bringing about union and peace than any outward and topsy-turvy that the machine cannot continue to run on its manifestations. Professor Caroline Spurgeon, President of the present lines. The country is set for the moment on economy, Federation, told of the help being given by the French, and demands that and nothing else; but how long will that last? Italian, and Spanish Governments to scholars to and from other countries. To the American women the Federation [The views expressed in this column are those of our Parowes its very existence and a continuance of most generous Professor Cullis expressed the hope that within a mentary correspondent, and are not our editorial opinion. support. short time the Federation would embrace the educated women Like so many other things in this paper they are expressly controversial, and comment upon them will be welcomed.-ED.] of the whole world, a desire which we all heartily echo.

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## By OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

On Monday, June 27th, the Unemployment Insurance Bill was considered on Report. There was a lively debate, and many amendments were moved, on some of which the Government obtained what were for them small majorities. But, on the whole, the Bill got through without difficulty. The Labour Party objected strongly to it, as they have done all along, but they did not produce new arguments.

On Wednesday and Thursday, June 29th and 30th, the first two days of the Committee on the Safeguarding of Industries Bill was taken, and the battle was joined. Both wings of the Opposition are united in fighting the Bill, but they did not get home on the Government, who had the best of the argument, as well as of the Division Lobby. During the week the coal dispute was finally settled. On the

whole the terms of settlement are approved. On Friday, July 1st, the  $\pounds$  10,000,000 was voted, though by arrangement the debate was put off until the following Thursday. On the same Friday occurred the discussion on the Washington Conventions. It will be recollected that about a month ago Mr. George Barnes attacked the Government for withholding the Eight Hours' Day and Maternity Conventions from Parliament; when, after a most unsatisfactory debate, the Government promised to give another day. Dr. Macnamara put down a motion expressing approval of the Government's action and moved it in a speech which must be described as inadequate. It is not fortunate that, at a time when international action is in the balance, Dr. Macnamara should be at the Ministry of Labour; for whatever success he may have in internal questions he is mightily at sea in international ones. Mr. George Barnes followed in one of his reasonable and persuasive speeches, dealing mainly with the Eight-hours' Day Convention, and making a strong case for accepting it. It was on this Convention, and not on that concerning Maternity, on which the debate ran. It ran also strongly against the Government. Mr. Chamberlain wound up in a speech which must cause apprehension in the mind of every one who has the international movement at heart; for though, when challenged, he denied it, the speech pointed to our country being less active in securing the consents of other nations than had previously been the case. The position is extremely serious. Labour clauses, under which the International Labour Office at Geneva is constituted, are not a part of the League of Nations, but of the Treaty of Versailles. Now America is no party to this Treaty, and for the moment Russia and Germany can also be ruled out. If, therefore, we do nothing, nobody will. The forces of inaction are powerful.

By the time these notes are read the discussion on the repeal of the Corn Production Acts will have taken place. It is impossible to consider this without reference to the big political movements of which it forms part. Not only is the repeal a complete reversal of a policy brought in only twelve months ago and supported by weighted argument, but it means that the last of the reconstruction measures of the Government goes by the board. The Education Act of 1918 is dormant. Housing policy has been reversed. Public Health reorganisation is at a standstill; and now reform of agriculture, on which so many high hopes were staked, is to be undone. Now, these reversals may be right or they may be wrong. It may be that the country

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## PARLIAMENT, MOTHERS, AND BABIES.

The week in which this article appears is Baby Week, and is, therefore, a time when we should think particularly about infant welfare. In actual fact, however, every week is a Baby Week, and the subject of infant welfare can never be neglected. Every day, and every hour of every day, children are being born; every moment as it goes by is the first moment of some new life, and the importance of the great task of continuing the race worthily can never be over-estimated

In the personal life of each family the advent of children is one of the major happenings. To the mother, of course, it is of supreme importance. Through the long and heavy months of pregnancy, with all the varied discontions and the mental and physical troubles which so often accompany that state, through the anxious and painful hours of childbirth, and the months of detailed care which follow it, the mother cannot but think constantly of her child. To her, the whole year in which her child is born is a baby year. She has the thought of the little creature constantly in her mind and in her heart, and no woman can go through the experience and afterwards forget it. She may turn to other occupations, or her children, as they grow, may push out with new interests the recollection of their infancy ; but when Baby Week comes round, or when, for any other cause, the fact of childbirth comes to her notice, her own experience must come vividly before her, and she must know, without any doubt, that the cause of infant welfare is one of the real causes of the world

It has often been said that literature contains no great record of the experiences of a mother, and that no woman has yet found a way to record the mysterious facts of motherhood in any form of art. All the other emotions of the human soul, love, hate, and all the greater and the lesser passions have had their poets : but motherhood, and the strange secrets of the transmission of human life, remain, as they were in barbarous days, the intimate secret experiences of each individual woman.

We do not know whether this is accident or necessity. We cannot tell whether this strange experience of giving birth is in its essence incommunicable, or whether the silence with which women treat it is merely the remnant of the savage days when a mother and her child were held to be unclean, and in need of ceremonial purification. Certainly, however, it is true that in spite of all the mothers' talk of babies and their ways, of ailments and their treatment, of the symptoms and discomforts of pregnancy, and the physical details of the business, the actual inner significance of the handing on of life is a thing of which women do not readily speak. It is, indeed, almost impossible to find words in which to treat of a thing at once so natural and so supernatural, so commonplace and so divine, and we cannot easily imagine the art which could do justice to such a theme.

Whatever may be the place of maternity in art, however, there can be no doubt of its place in life. The bearing and rearing of children is the central point of the whole thing : without civilisation is meaningless, and art itself of no avail, and it is therefore true to say that Baby Week, and the interests and causes it stands for, cannot by any possibility be over-estimated.

Up to now the history of the world has shown very little organised care for the welfare of the very young. Society, it is true, has built up the system of individual homes, monogamous in some countries, and polygamous in others, in which the family unit becomes the shelter for the children ; but apart from this the organisation of the business has hardly progressed. The babies have been left to the individual care of their mothers, and the mothers have been isolated one from another by the family system itself. Medical science and research have only recently begun to assist that very inadequate thing maternal instinct, and the public conscience has only recently become aware of its common duty towards the young

Within the last century, however, things have been changing, and with the increasing political and civic power of women they will change still more. It is no disparagement to men to say this : it is but the normal course of events ; and though, without doubt, many other factors have contributed to it, it is quite impossible to deny that medical research, educational improvement, and domestic hygiene have advanced side by side with the freedom of women. And now, with political enfranchisement, legislation will move in the same direction. Equal Guardianship Widows' Pensions, Maternity Insurance, these and the other measures designed for infant protection will pass into law; housing and education will improve, and that worst enemy of child life, adult dissipation, will be treated with the severity it deserves. And then, perhaps, we shall no longer need to have Baby Weeks.

# NEWS FROM OTHER LANDS.

## THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN AUSTRIA.

There has been a considerable improvement in the position of women in Austria since the break-up of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the establishment of a German-Austrian Republic in 1918. The upheaval which swept away the old, hide-bound system of government swept away with it the clause in the Law of Association which prohibited their forming or joining political organisations, and in November, 1919, the National Assembly elected to draft a constitution for the new Republic, passed a Franchise Bill which conceded the vote to women over twentyone. This example was followed by the provincial Diets and the communal and municipal representative bodies, so that women now have full political rights, and were able to vote when the National Council was elected to take the place of the National Assembly in 1920. All the political parties included women candidates in their lists, and, as a result, nine women were elected, of whom seven belong to the Social Democratic Party, which has always been the foremost champion of women's rights, one to the Christian Socialist, and one to the German Party. There are also three women members of the Federal Council (Bundesrat), which is elected by the Provincial Diets. and a number of women have been elected to these Diets, and about 125 to the Municipal Councils. A woman has been appointed Assistant Burgomaster of Vienna, and another woman was nominated by the Social Democratic Party, on the occasion of the Budget debate, to act as reporter for the Finance Committee on Social Administration.

In spite of the desperate economic conditions which have compelled women to devote themselves to the problem of how to live rather than how to improve their former position, many of the disabilities formerly imposed on them, such as compulsory celibacy for school teachers, post office and other Government and municipal women employees, have already been abolished. The Government has recognised their right to equal pay for equal work in public offices and works, and has also conceded them the right to act as jurors. There has been little extension of the careers open to women, but they are now admitted to all the educational establishments which had been closed to them in the past, and can study law and attend the technical and other higher schoels for special subjects, on the same terms as men, although they cannot act as judges or as professors.

Equal pay in industrial work appears to be out of the question at present. On the contrary, the result of the keen and increasing competition is that, even under the system of collective treaties, which is now general, the higher wages for men are only fixed at the cost of proportionately lower rates paid to women. The measures of protection for women, which were abolished during the war, have been restored at their own request. Women and children may not be employed on night work or in certain industries injurious to health; and their hours of work are restricted to forty-four per week as against forty-eight for men. The employment of women is also prohibited for six weeks before and six weeks after child-birth.

The legal position of women has somewhat improved. They have been conceded the right to act as guardians to their own children, but a married woman cannot act as guardian to children other than her own without the consent of her husband. The law which formerly gave the father the custody of boys over four and girls over seven, in cases of divorce or separation, has been amended, the judge having now the right to decide which parent shall be the guardian, but no reform of the marriage laws has been attempted. On the other hand, far-reaching measures have been taken to protect illegitimate children, although the obligations imposed on the parent are still unequal. An illegitimate child has the same claim on the mother, and on its maternal relations, as one born in wedlock, but has none on the father other than for maintenance till it is of an age to earn a living. The amount is fixed by the judge according to the father's means. The judge also appoints the guardian, who may be the mother or some other person. State regulation of prostitution was intensified during the war, in the hope of checking the alarming spread of disease. Since the revolution the system has been somewhat discredited, and efforts are being made to introduce something akin to the Australian system, combined with moral education C. V.

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We call the attention of our readers to the fact that in the topical and controversial matters which we treat under the neading of "Burning Questions" we endeavour to present the principal views on each question held by differing groups of political thinkers. We do not ourselves express an editorial opinion, beyond this, that it is each woman's business first to be well-informed and then to come to her own opinion.

## THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS. By SIR GERMAN WOODHEAD, K.B.E., M.D., LL.D.

There are few who have given thought to the prevention of disease who would express themselves as fully satisfied with the results of our campaign against tuberculosis. Numerous attacks against the foe, at first making headway, have been suddenly checked by unforeseen obstacles. But the main cause of failure has been the proneness of the medical profession to accept placebos and panaceas as curatives, and to rely unduly upon phrases and catchwords. The study of individual cases, and the success or non-success of various methods of treatment when applied to these single cases, have no doubt had their share, as has the bias of the physician in favour of one or other treatment without a careful consideration of the whole circumstances of the case or cases treated. And the desire of patients to regain health at any cost or by any means accounts for much misdirected effort on their part.

From the early days when good results were ascribed to 'touching " for the " King's Evil," down to later times when cod liver oil, open-air and sanatorium treatment, enforced rest and even forced feeding, graduated labour, the use of tuberculins and sera, and more favourable social conditions are discussed and advocated as essentials in the campaign, the subject has been studied in compartments and not as a whole. Moreover, there has been a concentration of effort on early cases which, essential as it is to the individual, has left the main problem unsolved. No system that does not make provision for tuberculosis of all types at all stages of development can ever be completely successful. Though far ahead of other countries in some details of our work, we are wrong and wanting in regard to our general scheme.

The early case of which we speak so glibly is met with but rarely, and under exceptional conditions. Many accepted as such are, so far as possibility of cure is concerned, in an advanced stage, and many persons in whom physical signs of advanced pulmonary tuberculosis are evident may look forward to comparatively long and useful lives if shielded from anxiety, overwork, and malnutrition.

Concentration on early cases has had the result of leaving middle " cases in their homes, with too little guidance to prevent their being centres of infection, and the small provision in hospitals for advanced cases is unattractive to patients who dread complete isolation from the outside world. We have very insufficiently considered the very variable progress of the tuberculosis case, which is characterised by a variable rate of advance, depending on the patient's power of resistance, which in its turn reacts to the conditions in which the patient is at the noment placed.

The methods adopted at the Papworth Tuberculosis Colony experience. There has been little team-work in this field. may claim to avoid many of these errors. Patients in all stages of the disease are welcomed so long as they conform to the rules laid down for their guidance, and, subject again to this Individual investigation of problems is of infinitely greater value if it is examined, tested, and co-ordinated with the work of others. We have to realise that it is often very unsatisfactory, or condition, fitness to put up a good fight in the outside world is even dangerous, to allot to a specialist, however skilled, the the only call for discharge. We believe we can make the most of every case. Many patients, whether in the "early" or the devising and administration of large schemes and organisations. In this country, and, no doubt, abroad, those who have been middle stage, can be tuned up gradually by careful dieting, rest, and exercise, whilst resistant cases in an advanced stage also brought in contact with emergency committees, new Ministries respond to treatment. Few of these cases are stationary; they and control departments, are impressed by the comparative or constantly oscillate between advance of the disease and recovery, complete failure of many men, successful in their own businesses, at one time in the shelters, at another in the hospital, the rest when called upon to administer or to organise big concerns devised for emergency governmental work. Removed from house, or the temperature ward. The changes are often so frequent that it would be impossible to remove the patients from slowly built-up businesses, run by carefully selected staffs, and one institution to another, but in Papworth, where different called upon to carry on, in conditions quite new to them, work with which they may or may not be familiar, they begin by laying departments take the place of separate institutions, rapid change of treatment and environment is easy. The arrangements make down plans on a scale much more extensive than those with accurate classification on admission unnecessary, and "closed." which they have been accustomed to deal. They end by finding themselves overwhelmed by a mass of detail which they cannot cases capable of doing useful work may be transferred to the pass on to special individuals trained to assist them, but must village, there to live with their families; to earn their living not directly under the eve of the medical officer, but within easy deal with themselves or entrust to a staff necessarily untrained and, therefore, extremely inefficient despite its size and reach of advice and instruction, in well-controlled conditions. No other form of institution has ever been devised which has

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# BURNING QUESTIONS.

this adaptability to the various stages and phases of the disease in individual patients.

The long continuance of the tuberculous process, its pertinacity and the variable resistance of the patient, seem to some observers to make specific remedies and therapeutic methods of treatment of little value. Others trust to these to effect cures that can be effected by no treatment. The problem cannot be resolved until we have the results of treatments and remedies upon large numbers of patients placed under different conditions, taken from different classes, and treated by different methods, brought together and analysed. To-day, results, both favourable and unfavourable, of anti-tuberculous vaccines are constantly reported without any information as to the conditions under which the treatment is applied. Recent interesting experiments in Japan and Italy give no practical guidance owing to vagueness as to what can be looked on as a "permanent cure." Statistics published in this form are of small value ; the cure." bias of the observer is allowed to prejudice his observations. Has not the time come for us to pool our knowledge?

The creation of a pool would not, of itself, eliminate bias, but it would enable data provided by observers of different capacity to be sifted by specially gifted men of wide experience and sound judgment. The wider the area from which the selection of such men may be made, and the greater the material they are allowed to concentrate, the sooner order will be evolved from the present chaos. Those who have been successful in their treatment of tuberculosis have, at an early stage of their investigations, come to rely upon their own knowledge, and even they have become to a certain extent biassed, working as they do under different conditions and with different classes of patients. The result has been lack of self-criticism and lack of interchange of ideas. The stock of common knowledge has remained limited. As soon as it assumes dimensions commensurate with the importance of the subject, immense advances in treatment are inevitable.

The problem of tuberculosis is one of extreme complexity, not merely from its medical side, but on account of its farreaching social bearings. The social importance of tuberculosis is unequalled by any other malady except, perhaps, venereal disease, and our methods of dealing with it have been, and continue to be, conservative and conventional in the extreme.

The long interval which exists between the infection and any obvious manifestation of the disease has made it difficult to relate social conditions with tuberculosis as cause and effect. The restricted experience of those who have devoted themselves to some special form of the disease has resulted in the erection of grandiose schemes for the battle against tuberculosis, conceived on no broad general plan and with little regard to

## THE WOMAN'S LEADER

## MORE EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF A WOMAN IN THE HOME.

### July 1st.

I keep putting off writing to Celia because postcards are so shockingly dear, and yet, if 1 write a letter she will expect it to contain full details about the mumps.

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I doubt whether anything has so brought home to us how completely the age of ease and comfort has vanished as the news that we now have to put three halfpenny stamps on to a postcard. From my earliest infancy I remember hearing of the Dark Ages when there was no penny post, and how Rowland Hill, that great Apostle of Civilisation, rescued us from them ; and behold, here they are back again ! I wonder whether the effect of this last halfpenny will be to make us write long letters. The only bad result I ever heard attributed to the penny post was that it destroyed the Art of Letter-writing as practised by our grandmothers. Communications became cheap and frequent, and consequently careless. When letters were made to cost twopence they might have been expected to improve in quality. But one cheap mode of communication remained, and everybody began at once to use it for purposes for which it had never been employed before. During the last six months the most formal invitations, the most important business, and the most private emotions have alike found unreserved and inelegant expression on postcards. If post-office officials were blessed with time and imagination, how they might have enjoyed themselves ! They have neither; so instead of indulging in Sherlock Holmesian speculation, or psychological theories, they have merely worked themselves into a frenzy of passion because nobody used their twopenny stamps. Now they evidently think they will force people to use them by making it seem even more extravagant to write a postcard than to write a letter. They are saying a kind of triumphant " There now ! " to the public.

If post-office officials have no imagination, however, the public has long ceased to have any sense of humour-at least, where extra halfpennies are concerned. That part of the public which is composed of working mothers has, it may be feared, almost forgotten how to laugh at all, except with that desperate merriment which sometimes seems the only thing left to us, when all serious ways of facing a too serious situation have failed.

For, seriously, how is the present situation of the majority of working and middle-class mothers to be faced? Is there anything the mother can do to prevent the brunt of it from falling on the children? Is there any consolation for her, when it does fall on them? Is there any one to counsel, any one to help?

I am thinking, at the moment, not so much of the most unhappy mothers of all, those whose children were most exposed by our hideous social conditions, and have been utterly overhelmed by the wave of calamity coming from the great war. There are, I fear, too many of these in our own country, and so many in Central and Eastern Europe, that our strained and burdened minds shrink at the thought of an agony which seems to have got past help. The lesser misery, which I am thinking of at present, is that of parents who, when they first undertook family responsibilities, believed that they could bring up their children with a higher standard of life than they had themselves reached, and carry out certain ideals of education. These parents want their sons and daughters not only to live, but to be better citizens, more useful people, more complete human beings than they have succeeded in being themselves, and they do not easily give up hope. But their difficulties at the present time are such that every halfpenny added to direct or indirect taxation may easily prove a last straw to break their backs before they have done their task.

A mother of this kind wrote to The Times lately to ask for work. She says she has five children. Her husband, a man of sixty-two, earns three pounds ten a week, living for that purpose away from home. He keeps twenty-five shillings for his. own expenses. Another ten shillings goes to the eldest boy, who is working in Birmingham. On the remaining one pound fifteen the mother has been trying to maintain and educate a boy of fourteen at a technical school, two girls of ten and eight (one of whom has just gained a scholarship at a High School), and a little boy of five. It is no wonder that she feels desperate, and appeals for any kind of work which will not separate her from children. I have been thinking a good deal about her letter, because it seems to me that her case must be typical of thousands and thousands of others. suppose that at the present time a great majority of mothers in the professional classes are face to face with the necessity of lowering their standard of life, not for themselves only, but for their children. Of course, the position varies according to what the standard of life has been, and what

superfluities one has that one can cut off ; but in its essential characteristics it is the same for an enormous number of women. and it would be interesting for each of us to know how others are

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It is difficult to face, because conditions at the moment are so extraordinarily inelastic. It is the feeling that there is nothing, or next to nothing, one can do, which drives one at times to take refuge in desperate laughter. Take, for instance, the question of work. I suppose that most educated women who have given hostages to fortune in the last fifteen years have done so with a comparatively light heart, because at the back of their minds there has always been the thought. "If the worst comes to the worst, or even if it doesn't, I myself can always earn for my children. In this respect we have not unreasonably felt that we were in a strong position compared with Victorian ladies, who when the men of the family lost their appointments, or their incomes, could only sit at home and economise. This confidence was a good deal strengthened in the five years between 1914 and Women were so much wanted outside the home that 1919. salaries could always be earned to support it, and, as few of us ever really believe that the conditions in which we are living will change, it was natural to feel that this would go on for ever. 1 am sure that the conscious or subconscious sense of salary earning power helped to decide many women to have children, or to have more children, during those years. But now it seems that it was all a mistake. There are fewer jobs going for educated women, and very few indeed that can be made compatible with a mother's work in the home. It is, of course, just as senseless to be thrown into despair by this state of things, as it was to be over confident in one's family arrangements because of the former one. But it has to be faced. The financial problem of middle-class homes cannot be solved at the moment by the mother going out to work. Very few of us can get work.

Whatever we may have thought would be the case in the years that are past, we are most of us forced back on to the one resource of our grandmothers when they found themselves poorer than they had expected to be, we have to "economise.

There is just one thing that makes this easier for us than it was for them, and a great many that make it more difficult. The one way in which our position is easier than theirs is that neither for ourselves nor our children do we have to keep up any show. I suppose no reasonable person ever thought it a disgrace to be poor, but a great many otherwise reasonable people minded the fact that some unreasonable people thought it so. Now, nobody thinks so. Either the complaint is too universal to be considered a disgrace, or this much remains to the good, from the common effort of the war. Nor do we any longer think that there are certain things, not wrong in themselves, which a "lady" must not do; and certain things, not necessary in themselves, which "gentlefolk" must have. We do what we can, and what we must, limited only by our strength, our capacity, our training, and the other demands upon our time. We have, and our children have, the things we consider most necessary for efficiency and happiness, and the things we and they really want. This is no doubt a perfectly enormous gain, but it may also be a drawback. The very fact that for years past we have been having only the things we want, and not things other people think we ought to want, makes it much more difficult to cut any of them off. We have no superfluities, so the things we have to give up are just the ones we feel we cannot do without.

s doubtful, then, whether, even in having no show, we are in a better position for economising than our grandmothers. In every other respect we are certainly in a worse one. They at least knew where they were. If they were suddenly reduced to poverty by the death or unfortunate speculations of their husbands or trustees, it was done once for all. They had to call up their resources immediately, and they knew, at least, how much cloth they would have for their coats. But our cloth shrinks in our hands like stuff in a nightmare. We never know how much there is going to be of it, and we cannot cut our coat to any pattern at all. New taxes are constantly imposed on us, our rent goes up at one fell swoop by thirty or forty per cent., and, at the same time, even though we have never been guilty of what used to be considered speculation, our steady-seeming dividends vanish, like the products of mythical gold mines. We never know where it will stop, and in this nightmare of uncertainty it is difficult indeed to have any settled plan of action. But before I begin thinking about this dreadful never-ending

problem of economy again, I must really decide whether to write a letter or a postcard-and write it !

MARGARET CLARE.

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## NOVELS OF YOUTH.

Pleasure. By Alec Waugh. (Grant Richards. 8s. 6d. net.) The Rough Crossing. By Sylvia Thompson. (Blackwell. s. 6d. net.

A City in the Foreground. By Gerard Hopkins, (Constable. 8s. 6d. net.)

One must believe in youth. If one doesn't, one is an outsider when young, a fogey when middle-aged, and a nuisance when old. But it is sometimes a hard thing to do, for all that, and the imperative necessity of believing in the wonderfulness of the young sometimes sticks a bit in one's throat. This is what I feel after reading these three novels carefully and continuously; they stick in my throat, and I say to myself that really, if this is youth--!

These books are all written by young authors; and they are about young people. " Pleasure " is, cf course, far the best of the three. It is even perhaps a good book. Mr. Waugh writes with care, and his sketches are shaped and pointed. He has a sense of style and of romantic atmosphere, and as a pattern his work is admirable. What I do not like about it is what he says. He draws a picture of the young men of this generation escaping from the horrors of war into the horrors of brothels, and trying in vain to find romance and pleasure there. All this may perhaps be true enough to life, but it doesn't present youth in a form which is very inspiriting. The generation Mr. Waugh describes, f it is as he describes it, won't be such a great improvement on the last one, after all.

The other two books have not the merits of "Pleasure," and although the subject-matter is innocuous in both of them, they are sadly dull to read. They both describe the process of transformation from youth to the state of being grown up. Rough Crossing " is the emergence of a girl from the stage when she sat in her bath and counted with interest the bruises on her shins until the moment when she left school and put up her hair. "A City in the Foreground" describes a youth at Oxford, during his undergraduate years, until suddenly the war came and forced him out into life. They are simple themes, and treated entirely without incident, but for all their exceeding dullness these two books make interesting reading. For they are such a complete contrast to each other. The one is a girl's book, the other a boy's, and evidently the worlds they have lived in (even though both are "Oxford," and of the same " cultured " class) are as the poles asunder. One would think, to read either of them, that England is a unisexual place. The crazy educational segregation we practise upon our middle and upper classes has done its work, and, except for a vague shimmer handsome youths in the girl's book, and a hard rattle of elderly females in the boy's, the other sex may in each case be counted out. How silly and fantastic a world!

Although they have this same peculiarity, however, the two worlds depicted in these first novels are otherwise remarkably different. The young men talk endlessly upon art and philosophy; they drink a lot, and move about in fairly large groups. They go and come, taking very long walks, ranging round Oxford in a wide circle. There is a certain stir of learning war swallows them all.

The savages among whom Mr. Salt spent seventy years are and enterprise among them. They have careers before them and the inhabitants of Great Britain during the latest period of their a great tradition behind, and their smug affectations and stereohistory-a race of men who eat flesh, rejoice in "blood sport," typed frivolities are built up upon a solid pattern. Lords of the earth—that is what they think they are, the young men within the covers of "A City in the Foreground." But in the end the flog prisoners, and are ready to emerge as primitive cave men in response to the bugles of war. Through such an age Mr. Salt moves, observing, criticising, but always smiling, first as an The world of the young women is very different. It is, of Etonian and a Cambridge undergraduate, later as an Eton course, depicted at a younger moment of life ; but it is not the master, and, finally, as Secretary to the Humanitarian League. Through 240 pages he retails, with unquenchable humour, his reminiscences of Eton and Cambridge, of the pioneer Fabians, sort of childhood which could turn into any such youth. Only one of the characters reads anything-and she can get no farther of Shaw, Carpenter, Aveling, Chesterton, and a hundred others with intellectual talk than a very feeble speculation about marriage. It is a thin, empty, self-centred, aimless sort of world, not so pompous as the boys', no doubt, but even hollower. -and hardly a page passes without giving birth to a phrase or anecdote capable of cheering a world-weary reader. There is Surely the world of youth has something better than any of the projected talking contest between Shaw and Meredith; the these three pictures? reference to a Zoo-keeper who "lost his faith" on account of "the way he's seen clergymen going on with girls in the elephant house"; the Etonian who was converted to humani-But one must believe in vouth, and I should be unjust if I left matters at that. The things they say may be disagreeable, but at any rate the writers are clever. Mr. Waugh, as I said tarianism as a result of being coughed upon by an elk. . . . But before, has much talent. His sketch, "An Early Chapters" is the fund is inexhaustible. Old Etonians in search of personal a great artistic advance on the "Loom of Youth," and I shall memories, or common mortals in search of human comedy, will eagerly read his next book. Mr. Hopkins I am afraid I shall be well advised to possess themselves of this book. Apart from the pleasure which it will bring them, they will emerge with avoid, in spite of the steady work he has put into this one, but a hearty personal liking for its author-even though they may about Miss Thompson I do not feel so sure. There are some really acute touches of observation in her book, and an effort at themselves be flesh-eaters or blood-sportsmen.

## THE WOMAN'S LEADER.

## **REVIEWS**.

good writing. Next time she writes I hope she will have more to say. And so there it is : three depressing books by the young about the young. But one must nevertheless keep on elieving in youth

The Black Diamond. By F. Brett Young. (Collins. 7s. 6d. net.) The Wild Coose. By Gouverneur Morris. (Fisher Unwin. Ss. net.)

Deadlock. By Dorothy Richardson. (Duckworth. 8s. 6d. net.) "The Black Diamond" is a novel about the labouring classes. There are 396 very closely printed pages of it, and it is dedicated to Mr. Compton Mackenzie-which is exactly what

we would have expected. Mr. Brett Young is a worthy disciple of that master of lengthy and irrelevant detail. It is impossible not to admire the diligence and competence of this school of writers. It is also impossible not to shudder at their dreariness. Mr. Brett Young's peasants are everything that they ought to be in a realistic novel. His book is an honourable attempt, but alas! conscientiousness, hard work, and worthy motives are not enough to make a good book.

The Wild Goose " is an American novel on the subject of divorce. For two or three chapters it has that little whiff of freshness which belongs to all foreign literature, irrespective of its merits. But after a time the slang and the habits of New York society begin to pall. Mr. Morris's worldly wife and his wild goose of a husband (the wild goose is apparently a faithful monogamist in the animal creation, and hence the symbol of Mr. Morris's hero) seem equally tiresome and superficial. It is curious, however, to note once more the extent to which the theory of the unwritten law is accepted by American society, at any rate according to the author of this novel, who himself alludes to it without either protest or astonishment. It is without a trace of satire that the husband is depicted as a kind of saint-foolish indeed to the point of sublimity-because he does not shoot his wife's lover. The book, which ends in melodrama, seems to point the moral that the husband who is original enough not to shoot can only expect to be shot himself.

There is nothing new in Miss Dorothy Richardson's new novel, "Deadlock." There are the same curious observations, and the same curious way of noting them—the same characters --almost the same episodes. Miss Richardson has got herself into an impasse. Is that the meaning of the title of her novel? Here is a form of art which seems to allow no opportunity for progress, no possible outlet from the narrowest of cul-de-sacs. It is a pity that ability like hers should turn to mannerism. We feel inclined to demand of her a violent effort-that she should fling her Miriam behind her and try some other method. If she were to write a historical tale of adventure or a book of travel, or a tragedy in blank verse, for a change, she might not make a success of it, but perhaps she would come to her next novel with an eve and mind refreshed.

#### Seventy Years among Savages. By H. S. Salt. (Allen & Unwin. 125. 6d.)

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## DRAMA.

## "The Night of the Party," at St. James's,

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The safety curtain at St. James's, as every schoolboy knows, bears the legend, "What, hath this thing appeared again tonight?" Presuming that "this thing" is the play and not the curtain, I have always thought it a very dangerous and daring inscription. It would perhaps do for "The Garden of Allah" and "Chu Chin Chow"-some planet whose steady brilliance is assured, but for those plays which flicker like guttering candles on the stage, which a puff of wind may blow out, it is not safe : it puts all kinds of unpleasant thoughts into our minds. Even at the second performance of "The Night of the Party " the safety curtain sent a chill through the theatre. Its note of surprise seemed to be too near the facts. One felt it must have found an echo in the minds of all those in any way connected with the play.

It is difficult to understand the state of mind of the manager who revived this play. Twenty years ago, when Weedon Grossmith was a name to conjure with, a play in which he not only took the principal part, but which he had actually written for himself, was pretty sure of success. Besides, "The Night of the Party," when quite fresh, had enough fun in it to keep any reasonable audience amused. But it is not the kind of fun that will keep. In twenty years it has gone unmistakably sour. It is based on one of the many traditions of the comic which have gone out of fashion. One of these was that the existence of any unmarried woman over thirty-five was a joke. Whatever she said or did was bound to be funny. This tradition still lingers in places, and is exploited in the theatre by the delicious acting

of Miss Sydney Fairbrother, but I doubt if it will outlive her. Another tradition was that the position of a servant is essentially ridiculous; that anything which servants do or say is therefore absurd, that one merely has to repeat their words or imitate their voices to create roars of laughter. This too is outgrown, and since the war, of course, the whole case is altered.

Anyhow, it may perhaps have been taking too serious and jaundiced a view, but I could not be very much amused by the agonies of the servants who, giving a party in the master's flat in his absence, were found out. It seemed such a shame that two or three people in the play should have a right to all the cigars, liqueurs, and silk dresses, while the majority should have nothing but beer and shag and caps and aprons. I think that Mr. Lauri de Frece was partly to blame. I do not imagine that the reddest of Socialists could possibly have felt this when the part was taken by Weedon Grossmith. He would have been carried away and, in spite of himself, made to feel that the whole thing really was a great joke, that they had much more fun in the servants' hall than in the drawing-room. But Mr. Lauri de Frece was too realistic. His snobbery was too pathetic, his rage at the footman who came to the party in livery because he had to "pick up " at 10 o'clock, his anxiety to stand well with the valet of the Duke of Hungerford, who was in the inner circle," were too real to be comic. So also was his fear of his master. The eyes with which he followed him were those of a dog who has often been whipped. He made us laugh now and then, but almost against our will. It seemed cruel to laugh at a man who was in such a very tight place.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

#### THE LEAGUE AND AFRICA.

MADAM,—It is well known that when people write letters to newspapers they usually do so with a want of temperateness, accuracy, and courtesy which they would never tolerate under other circumstances. Mr. Durand's letter with regard to my articles on "The League and Africa," is a good example of this pathological condition of the letter writer. He says that my articles "bristle with mis-statements"; he then pretends to give three examples, but in no case does he quote a single fact to show that they are mis-statements—he relies on an *ex cathedra* pronouncement that my statements are usually vague, and that I hit below the belt. The three instances chosen by him are not mis-statements; they are absolutely accurate, or, if anything, they are understatements of the case against

three instances chosen by him are not mis-statements; they are absolutely accurate, or, if anything, they are understatements of the case against imperialism :—

(1) "It is true that British agents usually paid a bottle of rum or a piece of cloth as the price of empire." Mr. Durand simply denies the truth of this, but, as a matter of fact, the statement was far too kind to British agents. Practically the whole of our tropical African Empire is based upon treaties obtained by official or unofficial agents from African kings or chiefs, treaties which purport to transfer the sovereignty from the chief or king to the British Government or a joint-stock company. If Mr. Durand will take the trouble to consult Hertslet's "Map of Africa by Treaty," he will find long lists of these treaties, *e.g.*, nearly four hundred between the Royal Niger Company and native chiefs; if, further, he will take the trouble to consult Hertslet's "Map of Africa by Treaty," he will case where they have been published (or if he will consult page 230 of my book, "Empire and Commerce in Africa," in which I quote a typical example of such a treaty), he will find that in the majority of cases not even the bottle of rum or piece of cloth was paid. I gave the British agents the benefit of the doubt of British reason : Stanley, who, though not an Englishman, was typical of British rather than Continental custom in his methods of extracting territory from African kings and chiefs, seems usually to have paid in rum, cloths, or "old cotton caps," for Africa, Ro. 4 (1884), No. 5 (1884), and No. 4 (1892).
(1) "If the Government paid a good wage for its labour, it could obtain it," and "The antive is not accustomed to the wite settler; only complision will, therefore, obtain the ladout which the white settler; only complision will, therefore, obtain the kait with regard to British are the statement with regard to British at the consistent I cannot conceive. The native, if allowed to rease anot when we can active when whence the

paid a fair wage.

paid a fair wage. (3) "The native . . . is supplied with gin, but not with education." Mr. Durand says that this is a half truth, because the native cannot legally obtain drink in most of the British territories. As a general statement of conditions throughout Africa, the statement is diterally correct, and it is notorious that even where prohibition has been enacted

by law, as Mr. MacDonald writes in "Trade, Politics, and Christianity in Africa," "the restrictions have been largely nullified by the exemption of white men, through whom it reaches the natives." And, if the British Government's policy is really prohibition, perhaps Mr. Durand will explain this: according to Article 22 of the Covenant the mandatory shall guarantee "prohibition of . . . the liquor traffic," yet in the Mandate for East Africa, which the British Government has drawn up for itself, this guarantee of prohibition has been deliberately watered down, despite protests, to "strict control over the sale of spirituous liquors." LEONARD WOOLF.

#### THE REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

MADAM,—A Conference on the Traffic in Women and Children, convenee by the League of Nations, is being held in Geneva, and the organised societies of women have for several months been interesting themselves in it

by the League of Nations, is being held in Geneva, and the organised societies of women have for several months been interesting themselves in it, and have been doing all in their power, both as individual organisations and as a united body in the Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, to targe the Government to send women from Great Britain, as well as men, in official capacity to the Conference. The Government has declined, through the Home Office, to receive any depu-tation on the subject; and the answer of the Home Scretary to a question in the House of Commons, on June oth, showed that no woman was being sent officially from this country. The invitation issued by the League of Nations was, unfortunately, limited to one delegate and one technical adviser from each of the countries. None the less, certain States-for example, France-took advantage of the usual practice in the League and sent a woman as alternate delegate, while Denmark sent a woman as full delegate. Surely such a conference is one of those main activities of the League in which women should be given a place. The subjects to be dealt with are, moreover, of serious concern to Great Britain-particularly in relation to conditions in its Grown Colonies, dependencies, and in territories which will shortly be brought under its mandate. It would have been of the greatest service if some British woman or women from the first acted as representing Great Britain in this work under the League. Xeen disappointment is felt among women's organisations that this opportunity of helpful co-operation between men and women has been lost to our country.

wish, on behalf of the Council for the Representation of Women in We wish, on behalf of the-Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations, to appeal to public-spirited citizens, both men and women, not to allow this matter to rest with the unsatisfactory reply given in Parliament. In failing to send a woman either as representative alter-nate or adviser to the League of Nations Conference on the Traffic in Women and Children, we believe that the Government has not merely failed to respond to the urgent requests of organised women, but has shown that it is out of touch with public opinion in this country in the attitude it now takes towards the solution of this grave social problem.

M. M. OGILVIE GORDON (President), ELIZABETH ABBOTT (Hon. Sec),

Council for the Representation of Women in the League of Nations.

[Owing to pressure on our space many letters have unavoidably been held over,-ED.]

## JULY 8, 1921.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL COMMITTEE

TO SECURE

## STATE PURCHASE & CONTROL OF THE LIOUOR TRADE.

The Women's Co-operative Guild met for their Annual Congress at Manchester, June 14th, 15th, 16th. There were present 1,300 delegates representing nearly 1,000 branches and 52,000 members. Among the questions discussed was the Drink Problem. Mrs. Fyfe, of Carlisle, a Labour representative on the Carlisle Liquor Control Board Advisory Committee, claimed to know something about "drink traffic." She said they wanted temperance, but temperance did not mean prohibition. They were all interested in the elimination of the abuse of drink. She gave a convincing account of the benefits brought about in Carlisle by State ownership, and said that although it was a war measure, they, as women, and the Labour people, approved of the State purchase of the trade as being the best means of getting control. Mrs. Fyfe was supported by several other speakers, who showed that the general desire of the country was for reform and not for prohibition. The following resolution was carried unanimously :--

"That this Congress urges the Government to extend the principle of public ownership of the drink traffic to the whole country on the same lines as the experiment in Carlisle."

The opinion of such a representative body of women deserves attention. They are in touch with the class that uses the public house-the class whose housing conditions and lack of opportunities for recreation make a public-house an actual necessity. The men of that class are no more going to do without their beer than the women would submit to a prohibiton of their pots of tea. Prohibition in England is not possible for many years. What can be done is to remove the evils of the competitive system in the Liquor Trade. This has been done most successfully by State management in Carlisle. The opponents to all its reformative and constructive work are the extreme Temperance Party and the Trade itself.

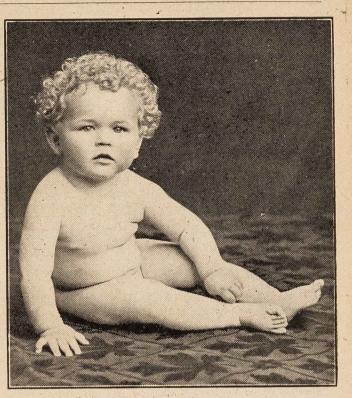
The Bishop of London visited Carlisle on June 17th in connection with his Temperance Crusade, and addressed two meetings, at both of which the new Bishop of Carlisle presided. Bishop Williams struck a right note in saying that what was wanted was a real tolerance of the various forms of temperance opinion, real co-operation, and a serious study of what was the best practical step to take at the moment. He went on to say that he was not yet convinced that the rest of England was really alive to the value of the work which had been done in Carlisle. He was glad to have that opportunity of saying in public that he was wholly in favour of the Carlisle experiment, and believed it to be a great success. . Practically all the serious political efforts of temperance reforms which had been advocated in the last twenty years had been adopted in Carlisle, and he believed any further legislation would have to be based upon what they were doing in Carlisle as a model.

If the Bishop of London were to instil his fine spirit of enthusiasm into the Church of England Temperance Society in the direction of pressing Government to buy out the private interest in the Drink Trade, we could have the "nine points' programme in operation immediately. Without State Purchase the programme must remain an unattainable ideal.

A suggestion for drawing together their members who support State Purchase and those who stand only for Local Option has been put forward by the Temperance Committee of the Wesleyan Methodist Church under the title," A Plan of Agreement." The Plan claims to provide machinery for putting into operation the Nine Points Programme of the Temperance Council of the Christian Churches. Mr. Arthur Sherwell has issued a memorandum showing that for all practical purpose the proposals are as far off as ever from the Statute-Book. Moreover, the problem of the "no-change" area under an Option scheme has not been touched at all. The vast majority of public-houses would remain as they are to-day Nothing will satisfy supporters of State Purchase but disinterested manage ment and public-houses of a reformed type for those districts where the public has not voted for "No License "-and those districts will be many for many years to come !

GLAXO (Dept. 33), GLAXO HOUSE, LONDON, N.W.1. For free literature and speakers for meetings apply, Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E., Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, Proprietors: Joseph Nathan & Co., Ltd., London & New Zealan S. W. I.

## THE WOMAN'S LEADER.



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## THE WOMAN'S LEADER.

## JULY 8, 1021.

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

President: MISS ELEANOR F. RATHBONE.

Hon. Secretary: Miss Macadam.

Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. Hubback. Offices : Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1.

Hon, Treasurer: Mrs. Soddy.

Telegraphic Address: Voiceless, Phone, London,

Telephone : Museum 6010.

#### THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN THE POLICE SERVICE.

The Conference on the Position of Women in the Police Service, which has been arranged for Friday, July 15th, at 10.30 a.m., at Caxton Hall, Westminster, is not open to the public, but if any organisation or individual specially interested in the subject has inadvertently not received an invitation, we will be glad if they will write at once to the N.U.S.E.C. Headquarters, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1. This Conference promises to be most useful and interesting, as different points of view will be represented among the speakers, who will include Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, D.B.E., D.Sc., LL.D., and Commandant Allen of the Women's Auxiliary Police Service. Lord and Lady Astor have promised to attend.

#### CONFERENCE OF OFFICERS AND N.U.S.E.C. WORKERS, July 15th and 16th, 1921.

It is not too late to remind Societies of the above Conference to be held in the large drawing-room, Y.M.C.A. Headquarters, Tottenham Court Road (entrance Caroline Street). The first meeting of the Conference will deal with our Parliamentary work, and Mrs. Oliver Strachey, late Hon. Parliamentary Secretary, will speak. As we are determined to develop active Parliamentary work in all the constituencies of the country, this Conference is of the utmost importance and should be well attended. On Saturday morning the subjects under discussion are not less important, and include Press work, local organisation, &c. On Friday afternoon the officers and Executive Committee will entertain those attending the Conference to tea at the Plane Tree Restaurant, Great Russell Street, to meet Mrs. Henry Fawcett, and to hear her impressions of her recent journey to Palestine.

The attention of all those who propose to attend this Conference is called to the notice of a Conference on the position of women in the Police Service to be held in Caxton Hall, Westminster, at 10.30 a.m. on Friday, July 15th. (See notice above.) An invitation is extended to all representatives of our Societies who attend the Conference of Officers.

#### GUARDIANSHIP, MAINTENANCE, AND CUSTODY OF INFANTS BILL.

This Bill has arrived at a very critical stage in its career, and we are sending out an S.O.S. to all Societies and individuals interested in its success. The Bill, as our members know, has reached its Report stage, but certain wrecking amendments have been put down by Sir Frederick Banbury. At this late stage of the Session, unless the Government gives special time for its discussion, a Private Member's Bill can only be dealt with after eleven o'clock p.m., and if there is no opposition. It is, essential, therefore, that our Societies and Members should help us directly, or through their Members of Parliament, in bringing pressure to bear on the Prime Minister and the Leader of the House of Commons, in order that they may give time for further facilities for the Bill as soon as possible.

The following letter has been sent to the Press, signed by the N.U.S.E.C. and twenty-two women's organisations

#### June 30th, 1921.

SIR,-The undermentioned organisations ask for the help of your readers in bringing influence to bear on Members of Parliament to induce the Government to give time in the House of Commons this Session for the remaining stages of the Guardianship, Custody, and Maintenance of Infants Bill. This Bill, which gives the mother the same rights and responsibilities

as the father with regard to their legitimate children, passed its Second Reading in the House of Commons without a division on May 6th, and has recently passed, unusually quickly, through its Committee stage. The Bill is faced with only an insignificant number of enemies, but

at this late stage of the Session any opposition may be sufficient to wreck the Bill unless a definite time is given by the Government for its Report stage. If, however, such time is given, in view of the overwhelmi

feeling of the House, and of the country in its favour, the success of the Bill is assured.

The support of practically every organisation interested in the the support of particular, irrespective of party, has been given to the Bill, which has aroused the enthusiasm of women voters up and down the count

### SUMMARY JURISDICTION (MARRIED PERSONS) BILL.

This Bill, which has been promoted and drafted by the N.U.S.E.C., was introduced into the House of Commons by Sir Robert Newman on Tuesday, June 28th. An account of the Bill is given in another column. It is unlikely that the Bill can pass through many of its stages this Session, but if Members of Parliament, our own Societies, and all organisations and individuals interested in the welfare of women make its provisions known, and, if they wish, suggest amendments, during the winter, the Bill will stand a good chance of a successful career next Session. Our Societies, therefore are asked to remember the need for a discussion on this Bill in drawing up their winter programmes. Copies of the Bill can be obtained from Headquarters, from H.M. Stationery Office, or from any bookseller, price 2d.

#### EQUAL FRANCHISE MEMORIAL.

The following additional Members of Parliament have signed the Equal Franchise Memorial: Sir Harry Brittain (C.U., Acton), Mr. J. W. Denniss (C.U., Deritend), Mr. J. H. Edwards (C.L., Neath), Mr. W. Halls (Lab., Radcliffe and Heywood), Mr. L. Haslam (C.L., Newport), Mr. C. F. Higham (C.U., Islington, S.), Rt. Hon. Sir Donald Maclean, K.B.E. (Ind. Lib., Peebles and Southern), Mr. E. Manville (C.U. Coventry), Major Hon. W. Ormsby-Gore (C.U., Stafford), Col. Hon. S. Peel, D.S.O. (C.U., Uxbridge), Mr. C. B. Stanton (C.N.D.P., Aberdare).

### CORRESPONDENCE.

#### INDIAN WOMEN'S FRANCHISE.

The following interesting letters have been received at Headquarters :---

### Advar, Madras.

MADAM, —We have received your cable of congratulation on our attaining Woman Suffrage in South India. . . . We thank you most sincerely

It was certainly a great triumph for us here in the Madras Presidency. We had been working for three years, but the men in India do not seem to have the same prejudice against Woman Suffrage as women have had to meet in other countries.

We are beginning a Suffrage Campaign in Bombay, and with every hope of success, and are also just starting in Bengal, where it will be more difficult owing to the purdah system.

With many thanks to you, and all good wishes .- Yours sincerely,

DOROTHY JINARAJADASA.

#### A WOMAN M.P. IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

#### Parliament House Perth.

Perth. May 2185, 1021. DEAR MISS MACADAM,—Will you be good enough to convey to the Executive Committee of the "National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship" my very grateful thanks for its warm congratulations on my election to the Western Australian Parliament? I am deeply sensible of the feeling that prompts my fellow women to apprise me of their feeling, and do indeed feel it is very encouraging to know how pleased so many of them are. It is a great responsibility to be the pioneer, and I shall be glad when we can get some more women in , and I shall be glad when we can get some more women in

Thanking you again, and also for your kind invitation should I be fortunate enough to pay a visit once again to the Homeland,—I am, Yours sincerely,

EDITH D. COWAN.

## COMING EVENTS.

### LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

JULY 8. At Ottoxeter, Town Hall, 3 p.m. Speaker : Miss Muriel Currey, O.B.E.

At Ealing, Garden of Mr. Maurice Hulbert, afternoon. Speaker: Mr. P. Gooch, M.A. IULY 11.

At Burnham-on-Sea, Parish Hall, 8 p.m. Speaker: Frederick Whelen, Esq. At Chelsea Vicarage, 3 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Whitehead, C.B.E.

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

JULY 12. At Catford, Women's Čo-operative Guild, 7.45 p.m. Subject: "Public vnership of the Liquor Trade." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

JULY 14. At Oswestry, National Council of Women, 6.30 p.m. Subject : "State Purchase f the Liquor Trade." Speaker : Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

At Shrewsbury, Women Citizens' Association, 3 p.m. Subject: "The Future Public House." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E. SUMMER SCHOOL OF CIVICS, GUILDFORD.

Lectures on Civics, Sociography, and Sociology will be given. Speakers include: Mr. G. H. Green, B.Sc., B.Litt., Miss Norah March, E.Sc., Miss E. M. White, Miss E. Bright Ashford, B.A., Capt. J. H. Menzies, Mr. Alexander Farquharson, M.A., Mr. Morris Ginsberg, M.A. The fee for the whole period vill be 42 2s. Accommodation is being arranged for students by the Com-nittee. Charges, which will be as moderate as possible, will be stated on pplication to Miss Margaret Tatton, Sec., S. S. of Civics, Leplay House, 5, Belgrave Road, Westminster, S.W. 1.

## INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON THE CARE AND PROTECTION OF INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD.

**INFANCY AND CONTRACTOR** JULY 18-21. The Belgian Government is organising the Second International Congress on Ad Welfare, which will take place in Brussels in the week beginning July 18th. representative Committee has been formed to organise the British Section of e Congress. Local Authorities and Voluntary Organisations who wish to send legates to Brussels, and anyone who desires to have further information, ould write to the Secretary, British Committee, Belgian Embassy, Grosvenor Place, S.W. 1.

## **OBITUARY.**

#### MRS, R. G. ROBERTSON, OF KILMARNOCK.

Mrs. Robertson's knowledge of other peoples and other languages was considerable, so that her services during the war to the Scottish Women's Hospitals were of the utmost value. In her various missions to Italy, Corsica, and France, the offices of delegate, organiser, and administrator were carried out by her with distinction and success. Her sympathies were very human and widespread. In Corsica she became fired with the desire to save for their country the young Serbs, who were being stricken down by tuberculosis, and on her return to this country she did not spare herself in order to raise money for the establishment of a sanatorium for the treatment of tuberculosis. Her ambition was realised. The Scottish Women found a site for the sanatorium at Sallanches, a beautiful Alpine village near Chamonnix. Mrs. Robertson spent several months there, assisting in the installation of the hospital, and in acting as termediary between the Serbian and French authorities. Mrs. Robertson brought her own town of Kilmarnock early into the field in its interest in the Scottish Women's Hospitals; and in pre-war days she displayed a like zeal in the cause of Women's Suffrage. Many a dramatic entertainment, concert, and lecture did she organise to raise money for these two causes so dear to the heart of her beloved leader, Dr. Elsie Inglis.

For more than a quarter of a century she edited a little manuscript magazine called The Scots Thistle, and in connection with this an annual was published-Thistledown-which she also edited.

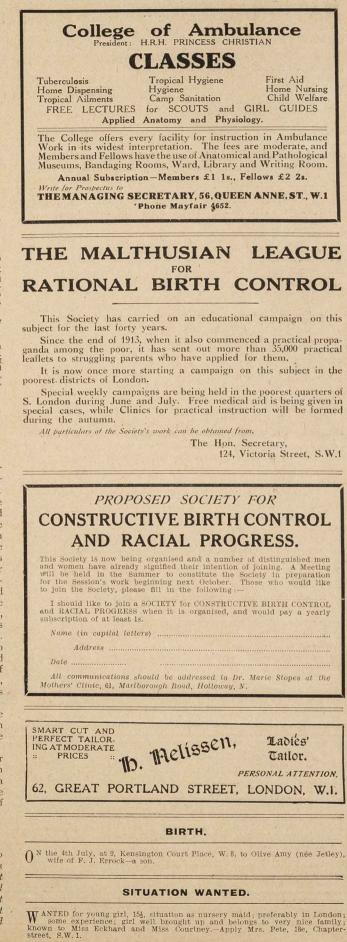
The King of Serbia bestowed the Order of St. Sava on her for her splendid services in connection with the Scottish Women's Hospitals and the Commissioner-General for Serbia sent her a telegram expressing "sincere congratulations on the well-merited decoration." A capable and cultured woman of great personal charm, her death will be widely mourned.

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.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE WOMAN'S LEADER when ordering goods.

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## THE WOMAN'S LEADER.

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.-Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston Square, S.W. 6.30, Miss Maude Royden, "What is a Christian?"

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN, Social Workers, Approved Society. Deposit Contributors; Exemptions; New entrants cordially welcomed.—Secretary, 16, Curzon-road, London, N. 10,

THE PIONEER CLUB has re-opened at 12, Cavendish Place, W. Entrance fee ir, abeyance (pro. tem.). Town Members, £5 5s. Country and Professional, £4 4s.

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

ADY'S CAR FOR HIRE; any period or distance at moderate fee.—Miss Lewis, ex-Motor Transport Officer in the French Army, 25, Mount-avenue, Ealing, W. 5. 'Phone: Ealing 158.

"THE VICAR'S DILEMMA." A story which deals with pros and cons of question, "Women and Holy Orders." 1s. 3d. post free.—Athenæum Press, Bream's Buildings, E.C.

H OLIDAY POSTS, --WOMEN'S SERVICE (Employment Bureau). Permanent workers replaced during holidays. Temporary cooks, outdoor workers, governesses, clerks, housekeepers, &c. -- Apply 58, Victoria-street, S.W.1. Vic. 3942. No fees.

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