

THE
WOMAN'S LEADER

IN POLITICS
IN THE HOME
IN INDUSTRY

IN LITERATURE AND ART
IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND
THE COMMON CAUSE

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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.

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THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND
COMMON CAUSE.

NOTES AND NEWS

Leicester.

The Leicester By-Election promises to be very interesting to women by virtue of the candidature of Mrs. Philip Snowden. Mrs. Snowden, who did much work for Woman Suffrage, is one of the few speakers who can make an effective appeal to an Albert Hall audience without visible effort; she is a close student of politics, and a woman of considerable independence of judgment. Another candidate, the Scottish Communist, Mr. William Gallacher, will attract the votes of the more extreme Socialists in the constituency, and as it will not be easy for official Labour to ignore their left wing, we may look forward to a clarifying of the Labour position on a number of points. After the recent Government defeats the official candidate is sure to work hard, but for our part we earnestly hope to welcome in Mrs. Snowden our second woman M.P.

Questions.

Lady Astor is hard at work asking considered questions in Parliament, and following them up by the pertinent "supplementaries" which drive things really home. On Monday last she asked how many permanent women civil servants had been assimilated into the executive grade. She received the usual long and verbose answer, and asked again and again until she secured the plain None which is the truth. This week she has a large number more upon the order paper. What a comfort that she is there!

A Disgrace to the Civil Service.

Useful as Parliamentary questions are, however, everyone knows that the answers to them are sometimes "cooked." There is, however, a limit even to the practice of falsifying replies, and the Treasury has overstepped it. On March 10th, Mr. Briant asked a question with regard to the continuous overtime still being worked in Government offices. Mr. Baldwin, answering for the Treasury, said that he could not give detailed figures, but, for example, *no overtime was being worked in the P.O. Savings Bank in the current week.* In order to make this answer technically true, the overtime was stopped in the Savings Bank for that one week. It was resumed again on March 14th. In this Department there has been only one other such period (September 20th—October 3rd, 1920) within the year, the one before being in October, 1919. The overtime has been practically continuous for five years. In itself this overtime is a disgrace to the administration during this period of unemployment. It averages twelve hours a week per woman now, is compulsory, and, in the higher grades, is not paid for. But even more discreditable is the behaviour of the Treasury. We really cannot tolerate such a mockery of honesty if any species of decent Parliamentary Government is to survive.

Equal Pay for Scientific Workers.

This week's questions have really been very revealing. On another day Major Hills asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether intimation had been sent to the National Physical Laboratory drawing attention to the equal pay now given to men and women on the scientific staff, and suggesting that women appointed in the future shall receive lower pay than the men of the same ability and qualifications doing the same work; whether the Treasury is aware that the House passed a Resolution on May 19th last to the effect that women in the service of the Government should receive equal pay for equal work, and why this Resolution has been ignored. Mr. Baldwin, who replied, said that the scales of pay for future women entrants to the scientific staff would be regulated in the light of the principles adopted in the Report of the Reorganisation Committee of the National Whitley Council governing the relation of the pay of men and women in general Civil Service classes. It is a monstrous answer. The Whitley Report deals with clerical grades only, and even for them it has been once disapproved of by the House of Commons. To extend its vicious principles

to other people for whom it was not intended vitiates the whole meaning of Whitleyism, and to do so in the face of the expressed decision of the House of Commons vitiates representative Government. What are we coming to?

The Civil Service Estimates.

All these questions led up to an important debate in the House of Commons, which took place on Saturday, March 11th, on which occasion the vote of £275,000 to provide for "assimilation" in the Civil Service was passed. Criticisms on the ground of economy were, of course, raised, but the main point of argument was the position of the permanent women under the new re-grading schemes. Col. Hurst, Sir Donald Maclean, Major Hills, Major Entwistle and Sir Samuel Hoare, all pointed out that it is a legitimate cause for grievance and distress that while enormous numbers of men have been re-graded upwards, and have received their well-earned promotion by assimilation, *not one woman has yet been placed in the executive class, even when the men and women are doing identical and interchangeable work.* The Treasury could only reply that their position was still being considered, and that when (and if) any of them are graded up they will receive back pay. Mr. Baldwin maintains that it is not yet known what are to be the "women's posts" after reorganisation. But how, then, can it be known what are the "men's posts"? The two things hang closely together, if the Service is to be reorganised in this stupid fashion; but we hope for better things from the House of Commons.

Women Auditors.

Questions in the House seldom get satisfactory replies, and Mr. Mosley's the other day, on the subject of women auditors, was no exception. He asked the Minister of Pensions whether he was replacing all women auditors by men without regard to efficiency, whether twelve months' training was not necessary to make a competent auditor, and whether the women now employed were promised that they should be retained in the audit section. Major Hills, Mr. Williams, and Viscountess Astor pointed out that some of the men replacing the trained women were untrained men, that the women were equally dependent on their earnings, and that no widow of an ex-Service man who has children dependent upon her, should be turned out for a man. Mr. Macpherson replied that his first duty was to ex-Service men, that he was prepared to train the untrained substitutes, that only in exceptional circumstances was it profitable in the interests of the State to keep on the trained women, but that he always kept to the very last the widow of an ex-Service man. Still, he gave no guarantee that in the last resort the widow would not have to give way to a man.

Croydon Teachers.

The misplaced economy of the Government is having a very devastating effect. In Croydon, all the elementary school teachers will leave the district on the last of this month, and no others will be likely to replace them. The cause of dispute is, of course, salaries. The Croydon Education Committee, up to now on the very best of terms with its teachers, was paying them the "3½" scale of the Burnham Report, when suddenly it was informed by the Board of Education that nothing higher than the "3" scale would be counted towards the grant from the Exchequer. The local authority therefore gave notice to all the teachers, offering to re-engage them at once on the lower scale. They naturally refused with indignation, especially as they demand the "4" scale in any case. The National Union of Teachers is taking the matter up, and, as usual, the Board is sheltering its folly behind the intricacies of local and central government procedure. They make out that it all turns on whether Croydon is or is not a part of the London area. But the mothers and fathers who live in Croydon will not take much stock of that when the schools are indefinitely closed. Why can't somebody teach the Government that the important thing about education is the children?

Theatres as School Work.

The action of the L.C.C. auditor in objecting to expenditure on play-going for children at the Council schools may do good in drawing attention to the great benefit accruing from this practice, and the very small cost at which it has been obtained. Objectors beg the question by arguments about "seeing" a play, whereas the educational side of the adventure is almost entirely in hearing it. The visual appeal is, no doubt, the bait to the child, but the opportunity of hearing magnificent poetry and prose adequately spoken is rare, and is unequalled as a means of arousing a love of literature. No one can suppose that ordinary school lectures, ordinary Church sermons or lectures, or public meetings, give the immature intellect even a glimmering of the truth that language can be musical, or that there is any real difference, apart from rhymes, between prose and poetry. Until a child knows this its power of reading is a splendid instrument on which it plays only a few notes, and the money spent on teaching it "English" at school is largely wasted. It is an odd consequence of the principle of free education that children may not pay for school plays themselves. That obvious expedient being declared illegal, the auditor is presumably within his rights, and it remains for the L.C.C. to find a way of legalising expenditure of this nature. For English school children, if they learn nothing else at all, should learn to love Shakespeare.

The Children Bill.

A short Bill amending the Children Act, 1908, has passed the House of Commons. It is designed to increase the amount (formerly restricted to 2s. per week per child) which is payable by the Exchequer to industrial and reformatory schools maintained by local authorities, in cases where the children have been committed to schools at the request of their parents. It also equalises the amounts of the payments, thus abolishing the variable nature of the contributions and removing one of the bars to efficiency. It is not denied that these schools admit of much improvement, and that they are relatively costly. The feeling of the House with which women will have every sympathy was that the system which officers such schools with retired prison warders is a bad one. Captain Elliot said, very justly, that the schools should have the co-operation of the Education Department. Instruction and not disciplinary internment should be their first object, and though discipline is essential, it is better enforced by an authority familiar with boys and their ways, than by one whose experience has been full of the tricks and evasions of hardened adult prisoners. Women magistrates are taking much interest in reformatory and industrial schools; the authorities are aware that the first step is to reform the reformatories. One of the first reforms should be to check the official tendency to separate the delinquent child entirely from his family. This idea no doubt animates the L.C.C. when it boards out its unruly London children in Wales, with results which inspectors condemn time after time. We trust that the new influence of women in the Courts will cause us to see an improvement before very long.

Children's Pensions and Allowances.

The Minister of Pensions has stated, in answer to questions in the House, that motherless children receive special rates of pension whether they are under the charge of their own relatives or of strangers. The Act of 1918, however, puts neglected children of deceased soldiers under a system whereby they come under the care of the Minister and receive supplementary grants. These additions are provided to secure for them medical or other attention made necessary by previous neglect, and to secure suitable foster-parents for them. The special rates payable to motherless children in general are considered adequate where neglect has not occurred. This is a plain statement of a reasonable procedure, but great care should be taken lest the idea is encouraged that the State prefers to separate children from their relatives. What a child requires is a home, and not a Home, even though the capital H implies greater luxury.

The Infant Death Rate.

We are glad to see that there is one woman's subject, at least, which has, so far, escaped the economy knife. Mr. T. Thomson asked the Minister of Health how the death rate of infants under one year of age during 1920 compared with recent preceding years and whether, as a part of promoting public economy, he proposed to reduce the number of infant welfare centres and maternity beds. Dr. Addison gave figures showing that the death rate per 1,000 births had steadily declined from 109.72 in 1915, to 80 in 1920, and said that there was no suggestion of a reduction of these services. London has provided

a new low-record, for the latest figure is 75 per 1,000 births. Whether this improvement can be maintained is a subject for speculation, for there is no doubt that a period of industrial prosperity, with its higher wages and better conditions, must be a great help to motherhood. The trade depression, with its inevitable unemployment and distress, will, in all probability, send the death rate up again, so that, not a lessening of our efforts, but an increased endeavour, is needed if we are to counteract the present conditions in any way. Grants amounting to £855,000 will be made during the current financial year towards the expenditure of local authorities on maternity and child welfare. The grants represent less than ¼d. in the £ on the total sums voted by Parliament for the supply services of the country. Surely this is one of the best examples of productive expenditure?

Co-operative Housekeeping.

We record with great satisfaction the successful launching of the Women's Pioneer Housing, Ltd., at whose meetings this week eminently practical details were given of the work already in hand and the financial stability of the undertaking. It is highly encouraging that women should be turning their attention to business, and to that part of business which concerns housing and housekeeping, and we hope that many experiments on similar lines will spring up. One such already exists, and shows interesting developments in co-operative housekeeping. This is the company known as Service Flats, Ltd., which has a block of flats now under construction in St. John's Wood to be equipped with (a) a domestic service bureau, which will supply maids to work for the tenants; (b) a crèche in charge of a trained nurse, where the children can be left in safe custody while their mothers shop, &c.; (c) a central kitchen, from which whole or part meals can be supplied (this department, in order that it may not be run for profit, is to be managed by a committee of the tenants themselves); (d) a laundry. Besides these "specialities," hot water, central heating, and electricity will be supplied throughout. Such a venture is distinctly encouraging in these days of domestic difficulties. May it be the beginning of many.

A Woman M.P.

Mrs. Cowan is the first woman to sit as a Member of Parliament in Australia. At the elections she defeated the Attorney-General of Western Australia; four other women candidates did well. The sun does not rise in the west, but it has been quick to shine upon Australian women in politics.

Irishwomen in Prison.

Twenty-two Irishwomen are under lock and key for alleged political offences in Ireland. One of these, a girl of sixteen years, has been sentenced to detention in a reformatory for three years—for a political offence! Four are in prison awaiting promulgation of sentence, and eleven are in prison not yet having been put on trial. The list recalls to mind the suffrage days, but even then children of sixteen were not imprisoned for political offences.

The Bishop of London's Bill.

On Tuesday night the Bishop of London's Criminal Law Amendment Bill passed its Committee stage in the House of Lords. Two changes were incorporated in it, both of which were accepted by those in charge of the Bill. The first was the result of a compromise: it provides that the age of consent shall not be raised to seventeen, but shall remain at sixteen, on condition that the "reasonable cause to believe" no longer holds good as a valid defence. While we regret the change, the clause retained is clearly the more important of the two. Lord Phillimore and Lord Desart both urged that the abolition of this defence will give rise to increased opportunities for blackmail, but the House rejected their contention without a division. As Lord Birkenhead said, "if a man chose to have carnal connection with one who was in fact a child between the ages of fifteen and sixteen, he should do that at his own peril." The other alteration in the Bill was the inclusion, on the motion of the Lord Chancellor, of a repeal of the law by which incest trials must be heard in camera. He explained that this was the considered opinion of most of the judges and of the Law officers of the Crown, but that if it excited opposition and in any way jeopardised the Bill it would be withdrawn, and moved as a separate Bill. This sounds like a real intention on the part of the Government to get the Bishop's Bill through; and we hope that its good send-off in the Lords will do much to hasten its passage into law.

PREVENTION OF VENEREAL DISEASE.

SHORT SUMMARY OF COMMISSION'S REPORT.

The National Council of Public Morals has just issued in one volume the Report of the Birth Rate Commission's Special Committee on the Prevention of Venereal Disease, together with the evidence. The terms of reference were as follows:—

"To consider the following questions:—

1. Whether sexual continence before marriage is consistent with normal health.
2. Whether self-disinfection as a method of preventing the development of venereal disease in persons who have exposed themselves to the risk of infection is more efficient or less efficient than medical treatment at Venereal Clinics and Early Treatment Centres.
3. The possible advantages and disadvantages of various suggested methods of self-disinfection: (a) before, (b) after sexual intercourse.
4. Whether methods of self-disinfection involve any serious disadvantages of a moral kind, that is to say, whether they are calculated to weaken moral control, and thereby to lead to an increase in promiscuous sexual intercourse; and, if so, to what extent these disadvantages should render the use and advocacy of self-disinfection undesirable when considered from the point of view of ultimate national welfare."

The subject with which the Committee was really concerned was the question of "Self-disinfection," and the decisions arrived at on the medical side may be summed up briefly as follows:—

(a) No difficulty should be placed in the way of the spread of knowledge as to the use and value of disinfectants or the obtaining by individuals of approved disinfectants from authorised chemists, which disinfectants should be sold on the recommendation of the Ministry of Health or Local Authority, with an enclosure giving full instructions as to use.

(b) Ablution centres (such as in Manchester) should be continued for a time as an experiment, and that then their medical and moral effects should be inquired into.

(c) That the immediate or early application of a solution of permanganate of potash and calomel ointment is recommended for self-disinfection after exposure.

(d) That self-disinfection for women is very difficult, if not impossible, even under medical supervision.

(e) That it is not desirable to make it legally obligatory for all persons contemplating marriage to produce health certificates, but that the gravity of the results of an infected marriage should be made generally known.

On the moral side, the Committee recommends that in any propaganda to prevent the spread of venereal disease the first place should be given to the appeal for chastity as itself a moral obligation, as consistent with good health, and as the most certain safeguard against venereal disease.

All the members of the Committee signed the Report, but no less than seven members (six of whom were eminent doctors) added notes of reservation, not only on moral grounds, but on the definitely medical ground that the public advocacy of self-disinfection for the civilian population would fail to arrest, and might increase, the prevalence of venereal disease.

I do not think it is an unfair criticism to say that the Report, in its recommendations as to approved disinfectants being sold with the *imprimatur* of Public Authorities, is going contrary to the weight of evidence received. The Report admits that if the communication of knowledge about disinfection should give the impression that the prevention of disease is regarded as more urgent and important than the avoidance of wrong-doing it would be a moral disaster and must by every possible means be avoided. We must presume that the members of the Committee who signed the Report without reservation have really been convinced that the advantages of teaching self-disinfection outweigh all the obvious disadvantages, but the Committee evidently felt somewhat anxious on this point and the Report ends with these words:—

"The Committee recognise that its constructive proposals in respect of moral instruction and influence can alone justify the proposal made regarding the prevention of venereal disease. The Committee accordingly recommend that, in view of the serious situation, parents, teachers,

ministers of religion, social reformers and medical practitioners, legislators and administrators, should combine in a national effort to assert the moral obligation of chastity, the sanctity of marriage and parenthood, the equality of the moral standard for the two sexes, the disastrous moral and physical consequences of any lowering of standards in regard to sex relations."

The whole point of the Report lies in the recommendation referred to above as (a) and (c). Other recommendations deal with the instruction "personally, or by posters, or by printed leaflets," which may be provided by or with the sanction, or under the control of Public Health Authorities. In all these instructions "along with instruction in the value and the method of disinfection the greatest importance should be laid on chastity, not only as the right way of life, but also as the only certain means of preventing venereal disease."

The recommendations on other points are not acutely controversial. We can all agree with the need for more effective public propaganda as to chastity, personal responsibility, and chivalry to women. What is extremely doubtful is, first, whether such propaganda would not be fatally undermined by the psychological effect of teaching self-disinfection and, secondly, whether such teaching is really going to help materially in reducing venereal infection. Let me take these two points separately.

MEDICAL RESULTS OF SELF-DISINFECTION.

Of the twenty-three witnesses who gave evidence no less than seven medical men and two medical women were opposed to instruction in self-disinfection for the civil population. Six experienced non-medical witnesses were also opposed to it. Only eight out of the twenty-three were in favour. Let us admit that a few instances have been brought forward by Sir Archdall Reid and others, where a marked reduction of cases in the Forces seems to have been produced by self-disinfection. Against this we may put the following statements: Mr. Charles Gibbs, surgeon to the Lock hospitals, "that self-disinfection for males is not an effective means of preventing infection, and that the teaching of it will increase promiscuous intercourse;" and the statement of Dr. John Robertson, M.O.H. for Birmingham, "I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that in the (army) units where the largest number of packets were issued there was more venereal disease than in the other units."

Then we have Col. Harrison's evidence. Col. Harrison was the official Adviser in Venereal Disease to the War Office. He bases what he says on experience in regard to nearly five million men, and was personally responsible for introducing Irrigation Rooms in 1916 into the army, and later, in 1918, the packet system. He believed these methods would enormously reduce disease and practically empty the venereal hospitals. What was the result? I quote his own evidence:—

"The rate did not go down, and it was bitterly disappointing to me, because I had hoped for a good deal from self-disinfection, and up to the time that I left the work at the end of 1919 the rate had not been reduced at all."

Col. Harrison adds that in some units, where the M.O. "almost individually instructed the men," a small reduction followed, but in other places, where instruction was by poster, there was no reduction whatever. He continues:—

"Some people say, 'But if the rate were reduced by one per thousand, surely it would be worth while?' In regard to that question, I do not think so, because you have a certain price to pay for introducing such a system as this. For instance, I certainly myself think that the introduction of such a system would lead to an increase of exposure to venereal infection. How much that increase would be, I cannot say, absolutely. I grant that this is a matter of opinion, but I think it is a matter of common sense, that the offering of safeguards would lead to an increase of exposure. In this case the protection afforded in individual instances might easily fail to compensate for the increased number of infections resulting from the increased number of risks taken with failure of protection."

In the face of that evidence, I think, we are fully justified, even on the purely medical side, if we continue to remain some-

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

It has been a full Parliamentary week. On Monday, March 7th, there was yet another debate on Ireland, the occasion this time being the vote for the Royal Irish Constabulary. The result was a discussion which was soberer and more useful than some which have preceded it. The most notable incident was a suggestion made by Mr. Ormesby Gore that the Auxiliary Police and the Black-and-Tans should be put under military discipline and made amenable to military law. It probably will not be done; for the Government, sure of their followers, are unlikely to change their course, in spite of advice which is both wise and sincere; but though the debate may not have this result, Sir Hamar Greenwood's speech showed that he realised the growing feeling in this country against unauthorised reprisals, and also the terrible position in Ireland. On this, since no good can be said, it is perhaps as well to say nothing.

Tuesday provided a heated discussion on the Bill for De-control of the Coal Mines. The Labour Party, whether it be due to Mr. Clynes' leadership or to recent by-elections, has certainly become more effective. The debate on the Bill was keen, and several good speeches were made. Mr. Walsh moved its rejection in a speech of some feeling; but perhaps the two best speeches came from the back Benches. Mr. Hartshorn showed that he can, if he likes, be a debater of high class. It is a pity, by the way, that he confines himself to coal questions, for an incursion into general debate would broaden him without decreasing his special efficiency. But however that may be, he undoubtedly made the best of his case, and on the other side he was well answered by Mr. Gould. Mr. Clynes was less effective than he sometimes is, and perhaps the same may be said of Sir Robert Horne, for though his speech contained admirable passages, it was unequal. The Bill in the end was carried by a large majority.

On Wednesday, March 9th, Mr. William Graham, one of the ablest men on the Labour Benches, took advantage of the Vote on Account to raise the question of trade with Russia. A debate followed of a character to which the House is, unfortunately, well accustomed. A great many speeches were made, but it is permissible to say that they have, most of them, been made before. Sir Robert Horne wound up the debate and was at his best, as he usually is in questions of this sort.

On Thursday, March 10th, the House spent the day and part of the night on Estimates and Small Bills. Matters started by a discussion of the Foreign Office Vote, on which Lord Robert Cecil raised the question of German Reparations. Mr. Clynes followed and gave the Prime Minister an opportunity of making one of his most effective speeches. He taxed Mr. Clynes and his friends, with approving reparations, yet refusing every suggestion for collecting them, a criticism in which there is considerable truth. He also explained his plan for compelling importers of German goods to pay half the price into the British Treasury. He is evidently impressed with the efficacy of his scheme, but it must be added that he failed to impress the House, who are suspending judgment until the debate takes place on the Bill, which will have been held before these notes are in print.

Friday saw a typical discussion on Estimates. A good deal of business was got through and a keen debate arose on the Vote for the Colonial Office. A proposal of the Government to prospect for oil in Papua was particularly criticised. However, the House was not in a vindictive mood, and was prepared to let the Government down easily, the Government in their turn being chastened by their nearness to defeat a fortnight earlier.

The House had to sit on Saturday—an unusual circumstance. Mr. Stanley Baldwin brought in his estimate for Assimilation in the Civil Service, and Colonel Hurst and Major Hills seized the opportunity of starting a useful discussion on the position of women. Probably nothing will be done, but it certainly is remarkable that women Civil Servants, who have already to their credit a resolution of the House in favour of equal pay, should find both their pay and their prospect worsened in the interval which must elapse before the Regulations are discussed. In other words, the Government, who have promised to submit the Regulations to Parliament, and to be bound by Parliament's decision, are using the interval to stabilise conditions which are detrimental to women.

[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.]

what sceptical in regard to the alleged wonderful results of self-disinfection in reducing venereal disease.

THE MORAL ASPECT.

When we come to consider the possible effects on sexuality if the recommendations of the Report were carried out, the question becomes more difficult.

The maximum incidence of venereal disease in the male is found to be between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five, and in the female between sixteen and twenty-three. These are then the people it is essential the instructions shall reach, and reach effectively. We may leave the young women out of the question; self-disinfection is practically no use to them, and there is nothing in this scheme which will protect any woman, wife or otherwise, from infection by an infected man. All efforts must, therefore, be directed towards the thorough teaching of men, and especially young men, in self-disinfection.

The prevalence of disease does primarily depend on the amount of promiscuity in any community; what effect is such teaching likely to have in promoting or reducing promiscuity? We can perhaps see more clearly by an illustration of a similar thing. Suppose the public authorities, alarmed at an increase in illegitimacy, decided to put up posters in all women's lavatories, &c., calling attention to the serious problem of illegitimacy, stressing the fact that chastity was the only remedy, but concluding with minute and detailed instructions in the use and value of contraceptives in preventing illegitimate conceptions. What would be the effect of a few years' teaching of that kind? I think there would be a great increase of illicit intercourse, not so much because the fear of pregnancy is removed (although this would have considerable influence), but because such instruction, given by public authorities, would act as a continuous suggestion to young women that they were not expected to abstain from illicit intercourse, but that they were only expected to prevent conception. Such a propaganda would also tend to remove all sense of moral responsibility from men, and I believe that the teaching of self-disinfection will enormously lessen any scruples that infected men may have in exposing women to infection. They will conclude, vaguely, that women can protect themselves in a similar way and will take no trouble on their account.

As women are supposed to be peculiarly biased in their views as to the probable psychological effect of this propaganda which the Report desires public authorities to undertake, I will quote from Dr. Coutts' evidence, as representative of the Ministry of Health, rather than give my own opinion. He said:—

"It would be easy to put up posters or to issue leaflets giving more or less precise instructions showing how to use certain disinfectants. . . . Assuming that it were possible, and the matter were pushed so energetically that every boy got a leaflet, and that every boy understood what the leaflet meant, and was able to carry out the precise instructions so as to make self-disinfection effective, what is the next step? That boy, if he is going to use it, must of necessity carry the material with him. Then you come to this point. You are encouraging every boy, whether he has any intention or not of having irregular intercourse, to make a practice of carrying these materials for self-disinfection. There you are up against the opinion of the moralist, who says, 'If you do anything of that kind you are encouraging exposure to risk.' I think it is common sense, that if you do anything which encourages every youth and boy in the country to carry these materials in his pocket, it is likely to lead to a greater number of exposures to infection. We must go further. . . . You would not get entire success with this self-disinfection, because some would fail to carry the materials with them. . . . The next step would undoubtedly be a demand that the materials should be provided by the Government—that is, the universal adoption of the packet system for the civil community as a policy officially sanctioned by the Government."

With the evidence of Col. Harrison and Dr. Coutts before us, I think women will do well to take long views in this matter. At its best, self-disinfection is medically a very doubtful experiment; at its worst, it may do more harm both to health and morals than almost anything else which has yet been proposed. Let us take to heart that part of the report which calls for a vigorous new moral effort, and instead of basing our hopes on prophylaxis try to win the allegiance of youth to a high moral standard, based on knowledge, equality, and justice.

ALISON NEILANS.

BURNING QUESTIONS.

We call the attention of our readers to the fact that in the topical and controversial matters which we treat under the heading 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 IRISH PROTESTANT POINT OF VIEW. BY AN ULSTER WOMAN.

One is very much struck in reading English newspapers at present, by the fact that so much is made of the reprisals against Sinn Feiners, and of the terrible sufferings they are enduring, and, indeed, of the Sinn Fein cause altogether, while one never sees the Irish Protestant point of view put forward. The writer, as an Ulster woman, begs to trespass on the leniency of your readers, in order to protest against this injustice—chiefly urged thereto by reading a recent article in THE WOMAN'S LEADER by H. M. Swanwick.

To begin with, the issue is not political so much as religious, as every Irishwoman knows. We hear a great deal about the Protestant minority in Ireland, and how they are prejudicing Irish interests; but what of the Protestant minority in the South? What chance, political or even of citizenship, have they had under a Roman Catholic majority? None. Protestants in the South are compelled to pay into Roman Catholic and anti-Protestant funds, which they detest; because, if they did not do so, their lives would be insupportable, and their very livelihood taken away by a system of "boycott." For years there has been a printed "Black List" of those who do not so contribute in some southern districts, and their lives are made intolerable; added to this, no Protestant dare voice his grievances for obvious reasons.

No Roman Catholic would vote for a Protestant candidate in an election, even if he respected him, and knew he was the best candidate. His clerical party would not permit him to do so, as the Irish hierarchy rules the Roman Catholic vote. He must vote as he is told (very often from the altar). From this it is evident that a Protestant has no chance either as a politician or as a citizen under a Roman Catholic majority. A Protestant Bishop, whose See was in the South, some years ago preached in his native Northern town, and, in the course of his sermon, discussed, in mild enough terms, the awkward position of a Protestant in the South. On his return home he was persecuted and boycotted, even being deprived of necessary food. This happened, as I said, some years ago, to-day it is an every day occurrence. To quote a very recent case of intolerance to Protestants in the South: a young baker was disliked by the local Sinn Fein party because he supplied military and R.I.C. as well as his usual customers. In revenge, they waylaid him as he was driving his bread van, shot his horse, and because he claimed and obtained compensation, three of them called at his widowed mother's house, and shot him on the threshold. This happened last week.

The former oaths of the Ancient Order of Hibernians extenuated a lie told in a court of justice, and condoned murder, as long as "the cause" was promoted thereby; and I believe that the oaths of the Sinn Fein party go much further. How could a Protestant look forward to justice under such conditions? Or what faith could they put in the promises of De Valera and Arthur Griffiths (1) of so-called "safeguards" and "concessions," and that (2) Ireland should never be used as a base for any attack on Great Britain?

Mrs. Swanwick says that "Ulster's arrogance is largely the artificial consequence of the impolitic declaration of Mr. Asquith's government that Ulster should never be coerced."

This is a most misleading statement. I was born and brought up in Ulster, and I say that this feeling in Ulster does not date from Mr. Asquith's Government, nor even from Mr. Gladstone's, but from 1798, and, indeed, long before that, when the forefathers of the present inhabitants of Ulster paid so dearly for their differing religious beliefs. A people sprung from hardy settlers from Southern Scotland and the North of England, hard-working, God-fearing, sober, strictly moral, and withal, most hospitable and kindhearted, they pay about two-thirds of the taxes in Ireland although their population is less than one-fourth of the whole. Why? Because they are very industrious, and the Southern Irish, who are of a much more easy-going, irresponsible and, I regret to say, untrustworthy type, will not work so hard. Perhaps climatic conditions are partly responsible for this. Business begins at 8 or 8.30 a.m. in any Northern town,

but you would be fortunate to find a business man at work in a Munster town before 10 a.m.

One is struck, in travelling through the country from North to South, to find in the former that the land is most wonderfully cultivated (the Northern farmers are the hardest workers I know), whereas, gradually, as one travels further South, the farms drift into interminable grazing lands, with an occasional patch of potatoes or field of corn, the lazy farmers finding grazing the easiest way.

Ulster people, who do not desire separation, and never did, have, for the sake of peace, accepted the idea of a separate Parliament, and are prepared to give it a fair trial. John Redmond fought for this for years, but now the extreme party will not accept Dominion Home Rule, nor even give it a trial.

The original reason for the drafting of troops into Ireland was that the wholesale destruction of property was becoming such a menace. In the South, during the eleven months preceding November, 1920, there were 771 killed and wounded by the Sinn Fein party, 697 barracks destroyed or damaged, 67 court houses destroyed, 830 raids on mails, 45 raids on coastguard stations and lighthouses; these figures do not include 20 deaths in Derry, 62 in Belfast, and 16 in Macroom. Irish law and order in vain tried to cope with the matter, and failed signally, so that forcible methods had at last to be adopted.

As regards the compensation claims, the present administration is not entirely to blame, for, as far as I can gather, the Sinn Feiners started this terrible destruction, and the greater part of this compensation money was claimed before ever the much maligned "Black and Tans" appeared. Now that the Sinn Feiners are getting paid back in their own coin, they go snivelling for sympathy to the world at large about the very things they themselves began. The best people are being driven out of the country through fear of them. This "shifting of population" was the solution suggested by an English Nonconformist, called Dr. Houghton, in a letter to the *Times*, during the Home Rule agitation of 1912, but it seems to me a very puerile remedy. Why chase out of the country the people who have, by their industry, created the present firm financial position in Ireland, and increased her manufactures and exports, until Ulster linen is of world-wide fame, and Ulster bacon and eggs furnish many an English breakfast table? Why send these friends of England away, and leave only bitter enemies?

The Ulster question, as I have already stated, was not created by us. It has been there for centuries, and will, I am afraid, always remain. Protestants feel so strongly on this point that there is a great movement in the North of Ireland for the amalgamation of Protestant Churches. And I was informed only this summer by a prominent Presbyterian Divine, that a high dignitary of the Church of Ireland had prophesied that this amalgamation would take place within the next few years.

The Presbyterians have become more broad-minded, and there is a very narrow bridge dividing them from the extremely "low" Church of Ireland, this bridge being called "Apostolic Succession," and Methodists are also strong Unionists.

Lastly, let me say, Ireland is the spoiled child of the Empire—a very beloved, erratic, and beautiful child, but pampered and spoiled by an indulgent mother, who is afraid of pranks when she is busily engaged elsewhere. How would one bring a naughty child to reason? By remonstrance—if remonstrance fails, then certainly punishment. An amusing doggerel version of Queen Victoria's Speech from the Throne at the conclusion of the South African War, runs thus:—

"I've a power of Sons," sez she.
"All sorts of wans," sez she.
"Some quiet as cows," sez she.
"Some always in rows," sez she.
"And the wan gives most trouble," sez she.
"The Mother loves double," sez she.

It is heart-rending to one who loves Ireland dearly, to see such a beautiful country the scene of terror and strife, and I think it is time that the real situation was understood in England.

HOSPITAL ALMONERS.

BY G. A. BOMPAS.

The first Social Service Department in a hospital was opened in 1895, when an Almoner was appointed at the Royal Free Hospital. The appointment was the direct result of an enquiry into the social position of patients attending in the Out-patient Department, which found that many people who could afford to pay for their own medical treatment attended, though obviously unsuitable for charitable relief, while others were unable to benefit by the advice given by the medical man through poverty, so that much valuable time and money was wasted without benefit to the patient.

The work of an Almoner in its initial stage was therefore chiefly to prevent abuse of charitable funds, and to restrict the attendance at a hospital of those who required no special medical treatment, and encourage those who could not afford to pay their doctors for any ordinary medical treatment—a useful and important work, but only the beginning of the Almoner's work as it is seen in many hospitals to-day.

The last fifty years has been an era in which medical science and public health work have made great strides and it has been realised that if the standard of health of the nation is to be raised, all the forces which tend to raise the standard of living must be united. The work of an Almoner has, therefore, evolved from the negative side, the detection of abuse, to the more constructive side, and now the Social Service Department has its place in the long chain of medical, sanitary, and charitable forces which are focused on the improvement of the health of the nation.

It is obvious to any student of sociology that the physical ills and social conditions of mankind are closely connected, and the Almoner's Department acts as a link between the medical centre and the many allied services which may be focused on the patient during his treatment. The Almoner must be in touch with the Medical Officer of Health, who has the duty of supervising housing, the Sanitary Inspector, the Tuberculosis Committee, the Education Committee, the District Nursing Association, and many other public bodies and charitable societies, whose aid may be needed if a patient is to benefit fully from a specialist's advice.

The work is varied, but the objectives may be summarised under the following headings:—

1. To direct the patients to their suitable centre of medical relief, e.g., the insured person not needing special treatment to the insurance doctor, and to invite those needing a specialist's care to give as far as their means allow towards the upkeep of the hospital.
2. To ensure, as far as possible, that the patient is able to carry out the recommendations of the doctor.
3. To provide convalescence and instruments when ordered.
4. To give health instruction.
5. To survey the social conditions of patients receiving treatment, and in conjunction with all outside agencies and Public Health Authorities to make every effort to improve the economic, social, and sanitary conditions of the home.

In any Out-patient Department of a general hospital there passes a constant stream of men, women, and children seeking relief from pain and sickness, and a visitor watching the throng must realise how many and varied are the problems which face both doctor and patient. To the Almoner who sees the patient after the doctor has given his verdict and recommended treatment, the problems of how best to advise and help the individual to carry out the prescribed orders is no less difficult. Poverty and sickness are interdependent. Illness may be due to ignorance, vice, or the result of economic pressure, and unless the cause of illness is tackled the outlook is not hopeful and the return to health problematical. The object, common to doctor, nurse, and Almoner, is to return the patient fit to take up work again in the world, and unless the patient has consideration from every standpoint, the delicate machinery of the family unit may be broken, and when health returns he may have lost his place in the working world. For example, the advice given by the doctor must be followed, but in many instances it needs the worker with the knowledge of the working class home to realise the difficulties. The doctor may recommend "rest" as the only hope of cure to an overworked mother of a large family. She will leave the doctor's room knowing the impossibility of giving up her daily grind, but after a friendly talk the Almoner may convince her that if she drifts on in her present way of life she

may become a chronic invalid and the resultant harm to her family will be more than if she carried out instructions. The patient will need help to carry out the treatment, and the Almoner must get into touch with all the social forces which can be called upon to help such cases. A woman must be found who for payment will go in and care for the family, the School Care Committee be asked to arrange dinners so that the children may be away from home all day, and many and various ways must be found to make it possible for the mother to carry out her treatment. Again, extra milk is ordered for a child—an expensive luxury that cannot be afforded. The Almoner must get into touch with the Medical Officer of Health, who may provide the milk under the Maternity and Child Welfare Act.

Long convalescence may be needed for the father of a family, and he cannot go away until some provision is made for his wife and children; and monetary help or readjustment of the family's way of living and earning must be undertaken.

A boy with heart disease may be recommended for sedentary occupation, and some new work must be found for him if he is not to break down through continuing in an unsuitable environment.

A girl who is suddenly faced with the fact that she is to become a mother, will need all the care and help that can be given to help her build up her life anew.

Nursing of seriously ill or chronic cases who are at home must be arranged with the aid of the District Nursing Association.

Each problem is as individual as the human being, and an interest in psychology, a love of human nature, are weapons needed by the Almoner, as well as a knowledge of all the public and private sources of help, and an understanding of all legislation bearing directly on the social life of the people.

The best possible results for each individual are only accomplished by close co-operation between the doctor and the Almoner—on the one hand, the Almoner may need more detailed instructions about treatment to be carried out at home, and, on the other hand, it will be of use to the doctor to hear of the conditions at home which must prevent the treatment given having effect.

The work among the ward patients is on the same lines as among the out-patients. Dealing with emergencies plays an important part, because there is little time for careful plans when operative treatment is urgent, and the pressure on the beds in most hospitals is so great that patients must be admitted or moved with little delay. Many a patient who has had to come in for an urgent operation will lie for long hours worrying, not about his own personal illness, but about the position of his family which he has had to leave suddenly.

It is obvious that anyone taking up the life of a hospital Almoner must train and prepare for a work, which involves interference, to some extent, in the lives of other people, and with such responsibility there must be a true foundation of knowledge and of principles on which this work can be based.

The Hospital Almoners' Council, Denison House, undertakes the training of suitable candidates, and this is divided into three parts:—

1. Instruction in charitable work of a general nature, and in the objects and importance of relief societies. Experience in visiting in the homes of the poor and in the work of the Guardians, the Borough Council, Trades Unions, and Insurance Societies. Practical experience in office routine.
2. Theoretical instruction. Nine months' course at the Ratan Tata Foundation of Social Science of the London University, with lectures in hygiene and physiology, coaching, and private study.
3. Work under the direction of an Almoner at a hospital training centre. This includes practical work in health visiting, infant welfare work, rescue work, &c.

The whole course takes a period of two years, and the fees amount to forty guineas, and the students should be able to obtain the certificate of the Ratan Tata Foundation for Social Science as well as the Hospital Almoner's certificate.

The Almoners' Council, Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road, is prepared to take suitable candidates, and applications for training should be sent to the Secretary. The profession is not overstocked, and many London and Provincial hospitals are opening Almoners' Departments.

IMPRESSIONS OF THE NATIONAL UNION COUNCIL MEETING.

By A DELEGATE.

A three days' Council meeting is an exhausting affair, even in a hall where the windows open and only a few people lose their tempers. The annual meeting of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship was exhausting; but it was also very interesting.

As always happens at such gatherings, a lot of time was spent, especially on the first day, upon uncontroversial resolutions intended for the Press, and spoken to with great ability by people whose year has been largely devoted to the subject. These discussions were not exactly deliberative, but they were very informative to the delegates, who stored up new points and fresh matter for their own use. Of such, also, was the debate on the third day on the important subject of the Equal Moral Standard. The National Union is to be congratulated upon the strength given to these discussions by the presence of Miss Nielans, representing the Association of Moral and Social Hygiene, and Miss Evans and Miss Maguire representing the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries.

The main interest of the Council, however, centred not so much on the resolutions to which there was general agreement, as on the two resolutions upon which there was sharp disagreement. These were the resolutions defining the Council's interpretation of the formula of Equal Pay for Equal Work, and the one on the principle of the National Endowment of Families. On these subjects the level of the discussion was very high, and the arguments on both sides were keen and searching; it was evident that much careful thought and expert knowledge had been brought to bear upon the problems involved. The Council, by a considerable majority, adopted the interpretation of Equal Pay known as the Occupational Rate, and rejected the proposal to weigh up and standardise by differential payments the average difference in value to their employers of women's work and men's.

The Family Endowment debate was no less heated, though in this the division of opinion was much more even and in the end the voting was so close that a recount showed the resolution of support to be lost by only three votes. The argument turned both on the merits of the question and on its suitability for inclusion among the Equality objects of the Union: the case for was argued with almost passionate enthusiasm, and the case against, as is so often the fate of negative cases, seemed cold in comparison. And yet, on balance, the decision of the Council went against the support of the Union being given to this subject, although societies were urged to discuss and consider the question, and a resolution urging the appointment of a Royal Commission of Enquiry was passed by a substantial majority.

In both these two main debates, Miss Rathbone, the President of the Union, was on the losing side. It says much, both for her own generosity of outlook and for the essential unity and agreement of the Union that this fact makes no difference whatever to the plans and prospects of the year's work. The situation is no doubt a difficult one, especially for so energetic and forceful a personality as Miss Rathbone; but loyalty, in spite of all that has been said to the contrary, is one of the things to be expected of women, and it is as inconceivable that the President will fail in support of the Council as that the Union will fail her. There is an immense common bond of agreement among feminists, however much they differ as to the order of urgency of reforms, or the practical application of them. And in the face of the reaction against women now sweeping over the country, the National Union must show an even braver front.

THE EQUAL PAY RESOLUTION.

(a) "This Council declares that the only interpretation of the expression 'Equal Pay for Equal Work,' which is acceptable to this Council, is that men and women shall be paid at the same rate, whether this be computed by time or by piece, in the same occupation or grade."

(b) "Further, this Council holds that it is imperative, in the interests both of men and women, that equal opportunity should be given to women in industry and in the professions, that restrictions based on sex alone should be abolished, and that the Government, Municipalities, Trade Unions, Industrial Councils, Employers and all other authorities concerned should be urged to adopt this view and to put it into practice."

(c) "Further, this Council considers that the adoption of Equal Pay for Equal Work as defined above, combined with the opening of equal opportunities to women, should be immediately pressed forward, especially in connection with the employees of the Central and Local Governments and in connection with all employees falling under official wage awards."

THE WOMEN'S COLLEGES AT OXFORD.

During the last few years the progress made by the Woman's Movement in securing a career open to the talents of women has been very great. In spite of the temporary defeat at Cambridge—which surely, at the worst, can only be very temporary indeed—women have every reason to feel relieved, thankful at the measure of success that has been achieved.

But the success has been so marked that there is danger that those who are interested in these questions will forget that the abolition of privilege and the admission of women to the Universities or professions, is merely a preliminary step. Women are very far from being on an equality with men, even when they are admitted and welcomed as members of an ancient University, as they have been at Oxford. Cambridge women can console themselves at this moment with the feeling that they are suffering the usual fate of pioneers, and that their sisters at Oxford owe their success largely to the fact that the back of the first resistance was broken at Cambridge. But, except for actual admission to the University, the Cambridge women's colleges are in a better position than those at Oxford. If women are really to take their proper place in Oxford University, a great effort must be made to secure endowment for the women's colleges, and the foundation of fellowships and scholarships. Not one of the five societies for women students in Oxford has any endowment worth mentioning.

The women's colleges have been terribly hampered from the start by poverty. The college tutors have never been properly paid and the work could not have been carried on if women with some private means had not been able to serve. It is impossible to speak too highly of the devotion and ability of those who have carried on the work and have brought the women's colleges through the period of trial to their present position of security and triumph, but it is obvious that the time has come when this state of affairs must end.

There seems to be a tendency towards reaction in regard to women's education in some influential quarters. It is said that, judging on the results of the last fifty years, women have not shown more than a fairly good average intellectual capacity. Those who think this usually point to the comparatively small amount of first-rate work in scholarship and research which can be ascribed to University women. But the critics fail to note how heavily women are handicapped. Women, as a whole, have little command of money, even if they belong to the wealthy classes, and there are almost no endowments for post-graduate work for them. At Oxford, for example, the only Research Fellowships offered are the Mary Somerville Research Fellowship and the Lady Carlisle Research Fellowship at Somerville, and the Gilchrist Post Graduate Studentship. The University Scholarships have now been opened, but these are not very numerous, and they are given in subjects which few women take up.

It is extremely unfortunate that an appeal should have to be made now, when the general situation of trade and industry is exceptionally bad, and the response has, so far, been disappointing. It is hoped that the Queen's visit will call attention to the needs of the women's cause at Oxford. The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge hold an unique position in the national life, and the admission of women to Oxford makes a landmark in the history of the country. The struggle for admission to a University is dramatic, and it focuses public attention on itself. The struggle for funds has no such attraction. But we appeal strongly to all those who have the women's cause, or the cause of education, at heart, to see that the money needed shall be raised, and the women's colleges put on a sound financial basis. So that women may make full use of the privileges which Oxford University has conferred upon them, cheques should be sent to the Treasurer of the Oxford Women's Colleges Fund, Viscountess Rhondda, at 92, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1. Contributions can be sent to the General Fund, or earmarked for any of the five women's societies—Lady Margaret Hall, Somerville College, St. Hugh's College, St. Hilda's Hall, and the Society of Oxford Home Students.

H. S.

THE DIARY OF A WOMAN IN THE HOME.

16, Plane Tree Road, G—.

March 8th.

At dinner at the Allens last night, I sat next a man who had just placed both his children, a boy and a girl, at a well-known co-educational school. He said several things with which I quite—or nearly—agreed, but, on the whole, he made me understand, and for the moment share, the prejudice of people who think that co-education is too inseparably bound up with every form of crank to be desirable for the ordinary children of ordinary people who have to live in an ordinary world. His enthusiasm for it appeared to be closely connected with an enthusiasm for Psycho-Analysis, and I soon found myself struggling against the condemnation incurred by all those who will not accept Freud's theories as complete and final truth about education (and everything else!). "You do not like the idea of all the world being dominated by sex-instinct, and therefore you will not believe it!" he said, with such severity that I was paralysed with fear, and eagerly seized an opportunity of conversing with my neighbour on the other side, till we left the dining-room. When my spirit had returned on the staircase, I felt indignant with him, and, still more, with myself for not bearding him. Why must we be forced to accept everything Freud says, or is supposed by his disciples to have said, on pain of being told that we have proved ourselves not only victims of sex-pathology but also sinners against the light? I don't know whether I dislike the idea of the world being dominated by sex-instinct, because I don't in the least know what the phrase means. When I am told that all emotion is based on sex, I feel at once that those who say this must be using the word "sex" in a very wide sense, and one which I do not thoroughly comprehend. I am not repelled but simply puzzled. I admit that some of the implications of Freud's theories, as explained by his disciples, do repel me, and I also admit that this is a reason why I should examine them carefully before rejecting them, but I cannot be expected to accept the mere fact that they repel me as a *proof* that they are true. Yet this is what psycho-analysts seem to demand of one. They are quite as absurd as those Christians who try to convert Agnostics by telling them that religion is "such a comfort," and that they would be "so much happier if they only believed." It is an insult to one's intelligence to expect one to accept a belief as true because it is comfortable, or the reverse! I wish I had said this to my neighbour the other night. I wish still more that we had not gone off on psycho-analysis, but had continued to discuss co-education.

He said he was most keen about it for his boy, because he thought that in ten years' time boys who had been educated at Eton or Harrow or Winchester or Rugby would be "quite out of it in every way." This is putting more strongly what I wrote to Chloe a little while back about the advantage it will be to children of this generation to have had what will be considered, even in the next generation, a modern education. But I am not inclined, as was my neighbour, to prophesy, or to wish for, the extinction of the great public schools; I am much more inclined to hope that in ten or, at any rate, in fifteen years' time Eton and Harrow and Winchester and Rugby and all the rest will be following the example of Oxford and Cambridge and admitting girls to a share in their advantages, including those which result from a glorious tradition. Meanwhile, the girls are busy building up a tradition of their own. It seems almost a pity that it is so like that of their brothers that when St. Leonard's and Roedean, St. Felix's and Wycombe Abbey, in their turn, open their doors to boys they will not have anything

very different from what they have had to offer them—except, of course, the companionship of girls.

Girls' education in the last twenty or thirty years has been separate and yet not very different from the education of boys. One may waste a few minutes in speculation as to how things would have developed if the leaders in the struggle for it had not founded separate schools at all, but had begun straight off by demanding that there should be a girls' side to every public school and grammar school; or if, on the other hand, they had founded their separate schools on a system entirely different from that of boys, and had worked out new educational theories in them. Suppose, for instance, that the modern ideas about freedom in education had arisen a generation earlier, and had been adopted exclusively by the founders of girls' schools. The girls' schools would now have had a different experience to offer as their contribution in the building up of mixed schools. I am afraid, however, that the very fact that it was their experience, and theirs only, would have discredited it in the eyes of those bred in the masculine tradition. Though it is rather a melancholy admission, I think the only way in which women and girls will get their proper place in the scheme of existence, a recognition of the value of their special experience, is by showing that they can do most of the things men and boys do nearly as well as they can. It has been so in politics. Women had plenty of special experience to offer as their contribution towards the working of the State, but it was not till they had shown, during the war, their ability to take part in men's occupations that the value of that experience was admitted by their enfranchisement.

Perhaps, then, it is just as well that the founders of modern girls' schools set themselves to emulate the best boys' schools, instead of seeking a special system of their own. Now, however, the time has surely come when they ought to try to join up. I cannot help wishing that more women educationalists were taking a leading part in the endeavour to establish co-education. The important co-educational schools now in existence seem mostly to have been founded by men, and though, of course, women help in them, they do so, I imagine, in rather a secondary way. I wish some really able successful headmistress of a large public school for girls would come out and start a co-educational school. But I suppose it would be even more difficult to attract boys who were the sons of "ordinary" parents to such a school than to the existing centres of co-education. The prejudice in favour of the education of males by males is very deeply rooted in this country—generations and generations of tiny boys have been taught that it was a glorious thing to eschew "Petticoat Government," and I am afraid one must add that generations of older boys have been taught that, in things which concerned them, the opinion of their mothers was not so important as that of their fathers. (In this respect we have always been far behind the French.) It will take generations more to undo this prejudice. I am afraid that years after the ordinary father is reconciled to sending his son to school with his daughter, and with other people's daughters, he still will not want his education to be controlled by some other boy's aunt! Perhaps this makes it inevitable that, for the present, schoolmasters rather than schoolmistresses should take the leading part in co-education. But it is rather trying for some of us feminist women who believe in co-education, but cannot help cherishing our own particular prejudice, and wanting the education of our little girls to be controlled mainly by women. How very, very hard it is to get away from sex-prejudice, especially when one belongs to a generation of women that have had to struggle for the rights of their sex.

MARGARET CLARE.

DRAMA.

"A Social Convenience" at the Royalty, by H. M. Harwood.

Mr. Harwood, whose play, "A Grain of Mustard Seed," was the best of the modern plays of last year, has now given us a new play, "A Social Convenience." It is an amusing entertainment, but . . . yes, there is a but, and it is not so easy to express the qualification that I want; before I try to do so, I must say what the play is about.

In the first act we see the Bureau of Social Convenience in Bond Street. Two clients arrive—Bellamy, an exceedingly pompous, middle-aged bachelor M.P., and a young married woman, Mrs. Hannay. They want to arrange for her divorce, as she is bored with her husband and says that Bellamy is her (purely mental) affinity. If Bellamy was to be the co-respondent it would ruin his career, so the good Mr. Prothero of the bureau is commissioned to find a suitable one. Prothero is played by Mr. Nigel Playfair, who thus adds one more perfect portrayal to his credit in his speciality of plausible and urbane rascals. Prothero at once finds the requisite co-respondent in the impetuous L'Estrange, who is willing to do it for a sum. It takes all Mr. Dennis Eadie's charm in the part to gloss over the questionable taste of L'Estrange in taking on the job.

The rest of the play takes place in the Hannays' country house. L'Estrange, introduced by Bellamy, has become popular with all, including the husband, and particularly with Joyce, a young niece who lives with them. The intention is that Hannay should find his wife and L'Estrange in some compromising situation which would make him take divorce proceedings, but Hannay is good-natured and unsuspecting. Bellamy is very dissatisfied with the progress of the scheme, as he is afraid that Mrs. Hannay is falling in love with L'Estrange—which she is. L'Estrange's affections incline towards Joyce. Bellamy, to push the plot along, gets L'Estrange to write a letter saying: "Come down to me in the hall at midnight." This is given to the husband as having been dropped by his wife. Unfortunately, this letter is left lying about and is read by Joyce, who suspects the affair as real; it is Joyce who comes to the midnight meeting, and Mrs. Hannay is not implicated. In the end, Mrs. Hannay, who does not want Bellamy, remains with her husband; L'Estrange professes his love for Joyce; it is blessed by the Hannays and accepted by Joyce. Neither Joyce nor Mr. Hannay are told the real truth.

Now to come back to my "but." As long as we are in the atmosphere of cynical intrigue it is entertaining, but as soon as there is talk of love and pairing-off, it makes the characters incredible. Mr. Harwood's strong points are urbanity and wit. His side hits at the political world are delightful. His wit does not incline to verbal fireworks in the Wilde manner; it is quieter, unobtrusively putting before us amusing incongruities. In the first act Prothero is a continual delight; in the second, L'Estrange's teasing of Bellamy is perfectly realised comedy. But in the last two acts, where the action is complicated with emotions, I do not feel that Mr. Harwood's touch is so sure. I think it must be because he has made both his women so stupid; Joyce is, indeed, incredibly stupid.

The letter-finding business by Joyce is a stale problem trick, although, as part of the deliberate plan to arouse the husband's suspicions, it may pass. The actual scene of the midnight meeting is admirably contrived with artistic economy; the action is quick, and there is no wasted talk. The explanations of the last act did not seem to convince the audience. My "but" may be summed up by saying that the play is rather let down towards the end.

Mr. Dennis Eadie is delightful in his suave manner. Mr. Nigel Playfair I have mentioned above. Mr. Hubert Harben made the most of the ridiculous Bellamy, and Mr. H. G. Stoker, as the husband, gave a neat portrait of a stolid country gentleman. The ladies were disappointing.

"The Circle" at the Haymarket, by W. Somerset Maugham.

Every time I see a Somerset Maugham play I am once again struck by the skill with which he presents a theme on the stage. His method seems to be, to choose a semi-controversial theme, more or less topical; to select the necessary group of contrasting characters; then to invent a story to show them in action; finally, to polish up the whole to give it a clear-cut finish. In this instance the theme is that of the young wife, not loving her husband, and to her comes love—should she go off with the man? At the end of the play she does. "The Circle" revolves in the world—so agreeable to look at across the footlights—in which incomes run to many thousands. The husband, Arnold, is a rich, ambitious, but priggish M.P., whereas the lover, Teddy, is a poor young business man; Elizabeth, the wife, is young and pretty. As the awful warning of irregular love there come on a visit to the house Arnold's mother, Lady Kitty, and Lord Porteous; she has not seen her son since he was five years old, when she ran off with Lord Porteous. This reprehensible old couple have lived together without benefit of clergy, for, although Lady Kitty was divorced, Lady Porteous would never divorce her husband; the whole affair had been a big Society scandal thirty years back. To make the situation awkward, Arnold's father also joins the party. It is made clear that Lady Kitty and Lord Porteous are not too happy; he, who might once have been Prime Minister, is now soured, intemperate, and quarrelsome. The drama is seen in the reaction of this sordid old love story on the fresh young love growing up between Elizabeth and Teddy.

I am not concerned with the moral of the theme as such, but with the opportunities for drama that it provides; however, I record that on the night I saw the play, there was, at the final curtain, a perceptible chill which seemed to originate in the region of the upper circle. It is a hard and brilliant play, and to me delightful. Most of the characters are worldly and disillusioned; there is no trace of sentimentality; there is wit. In the best sense of the phrase it is a well-made play; however, in the first act there is a little clumsiness in Arnold telling to his wife and others the story of his mother's divorce—which is really for the benefit of the audience, as all the characters must have been familiar with it.

The acting, both individual and as team work, is the best that I have seen in London since the Gaiety season last summer. It is a first-class cast. Miss Fay Compton's Elizabeth is adorable in the restrained love scenes, in her lapses to semi-tearfulness, and in her womanly love for Teddy, which is made clear without any demonstrative love-making; the way she calls Teddy an "owl" is a delight, and tells the whole tale of her feeling. Miss Lottie Venne, as the frail Lady Kitty, whose unrealised ambition was to be Vicerine of India, makes the most of her chances to show us again her genius as a comedy actress. As is usual with Mr. Leon Quartermaine, he gives a fully realised intellectual conception of his part, capturing all our sympathies for Teddy. To appreciate the fineness of Mr. Quartermaine's art, watch him carefully in the bridge playing scene; he does not speak, but is listening to the bickering of Lady Kitty and Lord Porteous; you will know all his thoughts and feelings. Mr. Ernest Thesiger, as Arnold, has the most difficult part in the play; at the beginning he has to make him ridiculous; later, although still ridiculous, he shows genuine emotion. I do not think anyone could have made more of the part. In Lord Porteous, a straightforward character part, Mr. Allan Aynesworth gives a humorous picture of aristocratic decadence. Arnold's father is played by Mr. Holman Clark as a benign villain in his quiet, humorous style. Mr. Holman Clark wears a beard, which suits him amazingly well.

"The Circle" is a play for the sophisticated; it is a modern comedy of manners. It is produced by Mr. Holman Clark, and the result is excellent. I note the dignified ceremony of bringing in tea—which succeeds in hitting off the character of the house; a butler and two footmen are employed for the purpose, and they bring in the tea tray and lay the tea cloth without mishap. There are other pleasant little details which have been carefully thought out: for instance, the cut of Mr. Quartermaine's clothes, which in themselves revealed the Englishman who lives in the Far East. It is satisfying to the mind to see so competent a play.

R. A. A.

REVIEWS.

Advancing Woman. By Holford Knight, with a foreword by Millicent Garrett Fawcett. (Daniel O'Connor. 3s. 6d.)

Under this perhaps rather aggressive title a most useful book on the new legal responsibilities and powers of women has been written by our staunch friend, Mr. Holford Knight. Mr. Knight comments on the fact that now, when reform has been attained, "numerous persons in places high and low emerge as supporters from the outset." Nothing, in fact, succeeds like success. But it is well to remember that in 1913, when Mr. Knight moved his first resolution at the Annual Meeting of the Bar, thus beginning the movement to open the Bar to women, he seemed to others, as well as to himself, to be embarked on a forlorn hope. Then, so few years ago, such an admission of women to new functions in society was seriously regarded as "a menace to the world and an interference with the order of nature." How many of these awful menaces have been quite quietly lived down; and as for the "order of nature," men are still men, and perhaps more surprising, women are still women. But certainly with a difference, as far as women are concerned, for which we are all devoutly thankful. And we do not forget that though the war seemed to give us many things, they were just exactly those things for which many strenuous fights had already been waged, and it is to the pioneers who fought those battles that we owe and give our grateful thanks. Mr. Holford Knight, now that victory is won, will help us to "win the peace." His little book is full of practical information as to the workings of Courts, and the varied responsibilities of magistrates, jurors, barristers, and solicitors. He gives also, in the pleasantest and least lecturing way possible, much good advice as to the minor but none the less important ways of working successfully in these new spheres. Six months' experience on the Bench has probably taught many women the wisdom of Mr. Knight's advice. It would be very helpful to future jurors to read this book and pass it on. Fortunately, however, for the jurors, the unpleasant recrudescence of the die-hard prejudices of certain people has led to more publicity and explanation about their liabilities and duties than might otherwise have been the case. The solicitors and barristers now on the way to qualification will have their fight to make, too. I think Mr. Holford Knight's book will make it easier for them. Perhaps the title is justified. The advance at one step is surely unprecedented. It is a big movement which takes in its stride four such privileges as have now been won. And privilege is the right word. The trusted exercise of a great responsibility adds to the fulness of life.

How Women Can Help in Political Work. By Constance Williams. (Melrose. 2s.)

This straightforward little book contains many practical tips about electioneering work. The author is evidently experienced, and although she asserts in the preface that she has concealed her political views, we would stake our whole fortune upon the guess that she is a Conservative. The mere fact that the book makes no mention at all of the existence of the Labour Party, or of Trade Unions, or even of Women's Co-operative Guilds, stamps her as curiously out of date. It is, however, full of good sense and has some very amusing pages on agents and their peculiarities. There is not much technical information in it, and, unfortunately, there is a serious error implied on pages 29 and 30 as to the qualifications of men voters. The author must, of course, know that men vote on residence and women on occupation, but she does not explain or even state it. When she says: "Two women living together in a house or flat (or two men), or a man and his sister, can be on the register as 'joint occupiers,' but not more than two persons in respect of one house or flat," she certainly implies that men servants do not vote, whereas they do, and when she says: "Caretakers—men and women—who live on premises, such as schools, banks, &c., where the person who employs them does not live, may vote," she is absolutely incorrect. One hundred men living in one house would all vote in Parliamentary elections (though not in Local Government), because they reside there—if, even in these days of housing shortage, one hundred men could live in one house.

The book, however, is meant for women who are, for the first time, thinking of helping in politics, and it will be useful to them. But we think Miss Williams might have made it a little bit stiffer without doing any harm.

R. S.

The Truth About Venereal Disease. By Marie Carmichael Stopes, Ph.D., D.Sc. (Putnam. 1s. 6d.)

Dr. Marie Stopes is well known as a writer on sex-questions from an advanced point of view, and her earlier books on "Married Love," "Radiant Motherhood," &c., are said to vanish like hot cakes from booksellers' counters, and mostly into the hands of the very young. It is doubtless on that very account that she has been asked by leading medical men of the Prevention of Venereal Disease Society persuasion (though Mrs. Gotto of the older Society also seems to bless the work), to write this pamphlet on the praise of cleanliness if godliness is unattainable. The cleanliness is not of the quality usually understood in the term "clean life," but is to be procured by soap and water plus large quantities of grease and quite a small quantity of permanganate of potash in connection with every doubtful union. "The repulsiveness of the requirements and the dangers of illicit union are surely a great argument on the side of clean, pure love," says Mrs. Stopes. The repulsiveness and the "meticulous" care required are made clear in this book, which the educated young will buy. Safety in promiscuous intercourse seems promised to the entire male population of all ages and little education by the Manchester methods. It involves, however, going quite immediately to some ablution centre at a given address, kept open all day and all night. The latter method is the policy advocated by the National Council for Combating Venereal Disease. The former, which means the prophylactic packet always in the pocket, is the policy of the Society for the Prevention of Venereal Disease. The packet, which has a bad name with the public, is ingeniously disguised by Mrs. Stopes as always having a disinfectant in your pocket, because you never know to what danger you may be exposed. She herself always carries one, accompanied by cotton wool, and the latter soaked in the former she aggressively inserts in her nostrils in the very face of a person who may be inconsiderate enough to wish to talk to her when suffering from a bad cold. Both the methods preach counsels of despair. If an unchaste life is inevitable, use these methods and honour prostitutes. If it is possible, it is at least made more difficult by the standing suggestion of unchastity with impunity which both methods make.

An increased unchastity in men is bound to increase the incidence of venereal disease, a fact which becomes much more clear after reading the account of the repulsiveness and the difficulty of prevention as set out in Mrs. Stopes' book. And an increased unchastity in men leads inevitably too, to an increased prostitution of women.

School and Fireside Crafts. By Ann Macbeth and May Spence. (Methuen. 8s.)

To open this attractive book is to be tempted instantly to write off orders for potter's clay, cane raffia, coarse textiles, and coloured wools. One cannot but feel how it would have been prized in the Edgeworth family. Happily there are still households in which active brains and fingers delight to make things, and discerning uncles will note the title among their Christmas memoranda. For handwork classes of all sorts, village industries and boys' and girls' clubs it will be equally acceptable and the teachers and leaders of such enterprises will be the better for reading and re-reading the page of the introduction. Finally, the little children in our schools should be allowed to learn these simple, serviceable crafts, and to enjoy the pleasure of making things for every-day use. Only, perhaps, in this way shall we succeed in opening their eyes to the goodness or badness of their surroundings. As Miss Macbeth and Miss Spence point out: "The very slightest experience of a good system of education in designing with tools gives the student such a discriminating interest in the craft, that he will immediately look at all kindred crafts and their treatment with a greater understanding of their technical value, and this alone will, in the end, make him demand from the manufacturer a better standard of work. Therefore, the more people who learn a craft (however little they learn) the better in the end it is for the professional and the tradesman." "Tradesman," it may be well to remark, is in Scotland equivalent to the English "craftsman."

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS.

IRELAND.

MADAM,—May I be allowed to protest against the violation of the principle which has hitherto ruled in your paper, i.e., impartial statements of differing views of "Burning Questions"? Instead of stating the other side of the question opposite to that put forward in the article of March 4th, the article of March 11th appears to be a reiteration of the same point of view.

The article on Ireland of March 4th was fiercely unfair to England, as one question (out of many that could be made) will show: "We (England) once reduced her (Ireland) population in 70 years from 8 millions to 4 millions," the writer asserts, as if England were responsible for the famines! Both articles entirely ignore Irish responsibility for present conditions, and seem to suggest that the present intolerable state of things was brought about solely by British brutality.

Are the writers of these articles really so ignorant of facts as not to know that the Reprisals are the result of two years of a murder campaign, in which, up to the beginning of February, 1921, 224 police were killed and 336 wounded; 54 soldiers were killed and 143 wounded; 59 civilians were killed and 111 wounded; 535 R.I.C. barracks were destroyed and 173 damaged; with destruction of civilian property and with a system of terrorism of well-disposed citizens in Southern and Western Ireland which reduced them to trembling silence, to privation and hardship, to perpetual fear of murder, which thus blighted the lives of rich and poor, Catholic and Protestant, Nationalist and Unionist, when they refuse to bow the knee to the revolutionaries?

Do the writers not know that martial law, with its harsh conditions of curfew regulations, &c., was instituted for the sole purpose of endeavouring to put a stop to this hideous tyranny?

Do they not realise that, had a similar state of things occurred in any of the European Empires, had utterly unprovoked treachery (such as the Irish rebellion of 1916) broken out there, the rebellious country would have been subjected to such drastic measures of repression as would have made the worst Irish reprisals appear incomprehensibly mild in comparison?

I am not attempting to defend Reprisals. I hate them as much as do any of your readers. Yet it is fair to remember what the meaning of the word "reprisal" signifies, i.e., that they are "retaliation for injury." The injury came first and provoked the reprisal.

Cannot the writers of the articles give England credit for the long patience with which she bore the injuries, and for her persistent efforts for the last forty years to remove Irish grievances, shown in a long series of Parliamentary Acts, which she passed in the face of little help or encouragement from Irish patriots?

Cannot they acknowledge that England lies under the obligation of carrying on the Government of Ireland alone, because her Irish opponents persist in the policy of refusing to take any share in the administration of constitutional law-abiding government?

Cannot they concede that, if the United States of America were justified in going to war to prevent the Southern States separating from them, because such a course menaced the stability of the whole Commonwealth, the British Empire stands equally bound to refuse to risk the safety of the 435 million citizens of her great Commonwealth of Nations, for the realisation of a desire of less than three millions of her subjects (a group half the population of London in numbers), who want to carve out a separate tiny republic in the midst of the British Isles, and who endeavour to materialise their ideas by methods of savage lawlessness and crime?

Self-Government has now been granted to Ireland. It is not England's fault that Ireland, deluded by visions filmed before them by Sinn Feiners, refuses to accept the gift.

All who really wish her well must pray that she may be induced to take up this new responsibility, and, within the Commonwealth, show her will and power to stop the régime of misrule and crime and to transform her land into the free, contented country that every right-minded English man and woman have for so many years desired her to become.

Laura E. Riddings.

MADAM,—In reply to your correspondent "Lex." Some of us who love Ireland and are heartbroken at the result of the treatment she is getting from "serious minds" feel that it is not "virulent vituperation," but righteous indignation when we protest that some of the principles for which we were said to have fought Germany, i.e., self-determination for small nations and freedom from bureaucratic militarism, should now be applied to Ireland.

M. Frances Elliott,
Mary Ward Settlement.

PEERESSES IN THE LORDS.

MADAM,—In your issue of March 5th, you state:—

"The Committee of Privileges recently appointed by the House of Lords to consider the question of the right of peeresses to sit in that House, has decided against them."

May I say that so far as my knowledge of the position goes this is not an accurate statement? The question of the admission to peeresses to the House of Lords is now being examined according to the usual procedure, with a view to deciding whether it shall be referred to the Committee of Privileges.

Rhonda.

ACROSS THE TIDE.

MADAM,—The writer of "Across the Tide" suggests by her name that she is out for contradiction. She shall have it—or as much as can be embodied in a letter to the Editor. "R.S.V.P." reminds me of Belial, who, according to Milton, "could make the worse appear the better reason." The latter part, that in which she appeals to the labour interest, reflects, of course, the Marxian doctrine of the class war naked and unashamed. If anybody still believes that the continued degradation of the life-standard of a large section of the working classes will eventu-

ally bring economic salvation to the great mass, they will no doubt swallow "R.S.V.P.'s" arguments. Meanwhile, let us turn to the earlier part.

In the first place she questions the existence of a national income. This is mere lack of imagination. The fact that it is composed of twenty million individual incomes in no way proves that it does not exist. We might as well say that water does not exist because it is composed of so many million H₂O molecules. Nor need we question the utility of the conception of a national income because its statistical calculation does not tell us everything about everybody. It is exceedingly useful—to take only one example—for purposes of comparison. It is true that the comparison is to some extent vitiated where you are comparing social groups at different stages of civilisation, in which very different proportions of labour are directed to production for exchange as opposed to production for use. But if you take such contemporary groups as the people of Great Britain, the people of Germany, and the people of America, you cannot go very far wrong.

In the second place "R.S.V.P." makes great play with the proposition that our material civilisation depends upon the individual's will to produce wealth—a will which she believes will be sapped by a measure designed to blunt the "beneficent forces of greed and fear." I suggest that our material civilisation depends still more upon the individual's physical and mental capacity to produce wealth, and that such capacity is indeed blunted in an economic system which produces a bare national subsistence, and distributes it so badly that huge numbers of people don't get enough and suffer in consequence. But there—space forbids me to say more. I can only beg your readers not to be deluded by such specious stuff!

Mary Stocks.

DOMESTIC SERVICE.

MADAM,—I passionately sympathise with your views on domestic service, and on the slave-owner attitude of those who would force unemployed women to take "living in" posts by fear of starvation. But when you ask, "Why cannot domestic work be done daily"—and say it only needs "a little thought and consideration" on the part of householders to arrange this, I think you are underrating the difficulties of the situation.

Domestic work can be done daily (indeed, it is difficult to imagine it being done otherwise), but the point is that, in the average middle-class household, much of it has to be done at times when the average daily worker does not want to be there. Most families include either children who go to school or grown-up people who go out to work, many include both. This makes it necessary that breakfast, at any rate for the children, should be served at about eight, and that the principal meal of the day for the grown-up people should be in the evening at half-past seven or eight. Before breakfast can be served fires have to be lit, water heated, food cooked, and one sitting-room at least swept and tidied. In the evening, between six and nine, it is not only necessary to do the most important part of the day's cooking and the largest amount of washing-up, but also to get the children to bed, and to get things generally tidy for next day. The hardest and most essential part of domestic work, then, has to be done not only daily, but daily before 9 a.m. and daily between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m., and a daily domestic worker, who comes, as many of them want to do, between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., is of very limited use. My experience of households of six or more where there are two domestic workers, one daily and one living in, is that a very unfair share of the work falls upon the liver in.

My own feeling is that the comfort and efficiency of middle-class families can be bought too dear, and that if it can only be obtained by the sacrifice of other poorer families, it is not worth having. But I do not think this is really the case; I believe that gradually the present difficulties will adjust themselves. Only I do hope that those who are confronting them will be patient and will not be misled into taking up the slave-owner attitude.

May I also venture to hope that you, Madam, will help in the problem by recognising that the difficulties of middle-class mothers at this time, though not so cruel as those which confront the working-class mother, are yet real and serious?

Margaret Clare.

MADAM,—According to the "Liverpool Post," there are now 900 girls under eighteen in Liverpool drawing unemployment pay. It is not likely that more than a few of these are prevented from entering domestic service by their home ties. Of course, it may be that they cannot find mistresses willing to train them. But it is probably disinclination that keeps them from it. I do not think that this is the time for laying too much stress on our tastes, though I hate the spiteful attitude that would like to see girls starved into domestic service. But there are hundreds of us middle-class mothers, who were used to keeping at least one maid, but now cannot afford any, even if we could get them. We are forced into domestic service with a vengeance. Still, we do not expect the State, that is, other people, to support us in idleness till we can fit into a comfortable groove again. The fact is that though the girls prefer industrial life, there is no place for them there—that is why they are unemployed. But there is room in domestic service. Could they not try it as a purely temporary thing? Many would find it much more to their taste, under post-war conditions, than they expected. The others who really found it uncongenial could go back to industrial life as soon as there was room for them.

Families where the members are all adults ought to learn to use daily help, and try and select those maids who could only give them daily help. But there are all sorts of drawbacks where there are young children. For one, while the maid gets all her evenings free the mistress gets none, which doesn't seem fair. Then there is the real danger of the daily maid carrying infection from the congested district in which she probably lives. And there are others, though certainly efficient daily help is better than none at all.

E. A. B.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED HUSBAND'S BROTHER.

MADAM,—I have read with very great interest the article which appeared in your issue of January 28th with reference to the above subject.

I understand that one of the most powerful arguments which was used in support of the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, was the provision which the passing of the Act would make for motherless children, as it was felt that in many cases a sister would probably undertake the duties of a mother towards her deceased sister's children more faithfully and more naturally than any other person. And the fact that war has deprived thousands of children of their fathers, gives this argument special weight and urgency when applied to marriage with a deceased husband's brother.

Your correspondent has shown, by actual quotation from the opinions of well-known eugenic authorities, that there is not the slightest objection upon physiological grounds to marriage with a deceased husband's brother.

The quotation from Lecky's "Liberty and Democracy," shows precisely what has happened in the matter of public opinion with regard to marriage with a deceased wife's sister. And this precedent having been established it is inevitable that public opinion would accommodate itself, with equal readiness, to marriage with a deceased husband's brother.

Having disposed of any possible physiological or social objection, it is difficult to understand why the Government persistently refuses to take steps to remove an anomaly which cannot be defended upon grounds of logic or common sense, and which is the cause of much unhappiness and suffering.

Not one of the alternatives forced upon those suffering under the present anomaly is satisfactory, either from the point of view of the State or of the individual. And it is not in accordance with reason or justice that, simply as the result of an ecclesiastical and groundless prejudice, sufferers should be condemned to spend the best years of their lives apart and the State deprived of their potential children.

E. Grant.

EQUAL FRANCHISE DEPUTATION.

On March 9th, a deputation, organised by the Women's Freedom League, of young women under thirty, put before Members of Parliament the case for granting the Parliamentary Franchise to women at the same age as it is granted to men. About thirty M.P.s were present, Lady Astor being in the Chair. Speeches were made by Mrs. Stocks (N.U.S.E.C.), Mrs. Hewlett Hobbs (W.C.A.), Mrs. O'Donoghue (N.U.W.T.), Councillor Jessie Stephen (N.F.W.W.), Miss F. E. James (F.W. Civil Servants), Miss Spencer Jones (Women Shop Assistants' Union), Miss Haslett (Women's Engineering Society), Mrs. McMichael and Mrs. Flowers (Women's Freedom League); Miss Pierotti.

All the speakers urged the Members present to urge the Government either (1) to adopt any Private Member's Bill which had for its object the enfranchisement of women at the same age as men, or (2) to bring in a simple franchise measure with this object and pass it into law this Session.

The Deputation had a very friendly reception from Members of all Parties, and it was agreed (1) that Lady Astor should write to the Prime Minister asking him to see that the Government brought in such a Bill, and (2) that all present should sign a memorial with a similar object.

YORKSHIRE COUNCIL FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

The following has been inserted in the local Press, in order to counteract recent propaganda against women jurors:—

The position of women as jurors and the objections that have been raised to their services in certain cases were considered on March 1st at Gray's Court, York, at a meeting convened by the standing committees for branches of the National Council of Women in the North-Eastern counties and the Yorkshire Council for Equal Citizenship.

It was decided to issue the following memorandum:—
"It is vitally important at the present day that women should take their full share in the administration of our laws, more especially when cases come before the courts in which women and girls are concerned as witnesses or as accused. Much has been written lately about the undesirability of women forming part of the jury when a case of an indecent character is being tried. We maintain that because cases of this kind usually concern some woman or girl it is precisely in these cases that women are most often really needed on the jury sitting alongside with men.

"Every wholesome-minded man or woman shrinks from having to examine unpleasant evidence, especially when it has to be done publicly, but we consider that, when a public duty to the State has to be performed, the feelings of individuals are a secondary consideration.

"Cases have often occurred where a woman or girl has had to give evidence of a very intimate nature before a court composed of men only, her own mother or female friend being deliberately excluded. For the sake of the guilty, as well as of the innocent, this state of things should not be allowed to continue, and every woman should be able to feel that if ever she has to give evidence in court, either as witness or as accused, she will have the support and sympathy of her own sex. In cases where a jury is not present, there should be women on the magisterial bench, and all female prisoners should be in charge of policewomen whenever possible."

OBITUARY.

LADY HENRY SOMERSET.

We are conscious of a great and irreparable loss. In the time of success our thoughts go back in humble gratitude to the early days; when those who took part in what is now called the Woman's Movement earned no praise thereby but trod the path of inspired effort lonely and apart. For close on forty years Isobel Somerset fought the evil of intemperance, and was, at one time, President of the British Women's Temperance Asso-

cation and of the World's Women's Christian Temperance Union. A close and intimate knowledge of the issues involved in a policy of Prohibition led her to the conclusion that the only practical method of obtaining any effective temperance reform in this country was to place the sale and control of alcoholic liquor in the hands of the State, and for the last few years of her life she worked to this end. The Homes at Duxhurst for inebriate women, now devoted mainly to the housing of children, were founded by Lady Henry Somerset, and the farm colony, weaving rooms, embroidery schools, are the outcome of her many-sided activities. Artist, orator, writer, philanthropist, she devoted all her gifts to the causes she had at heart. Those who had the privilege of working with Isobel Somerset at the height of her powers will never forget the music of her oratory, the fire of her enthusiasm, and the absolute selflessness of her devotion. Strength of purpose, a deep quietness of mind, large-heartedness, and an infinite capacity for tenderness were the outstanding characteristics of a beautiful personality. We owe her much; the Angel of Death brings sorrow and a great loneliness, but of loneliness is born strength, and behind sorrow, for those who seek, lies deep peace; in passing she leaves these gifts. For her we are at rest, the homing instinct of the soul has found peace and is alive for evermore.

BEATRICE PICTON-TURBERVILL.

COMING EVENTS.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

The following meetings on League of Nations subjects will be held:—

MARCH 19.

At Manchester.

Speaker: J. H. Harris, Esq.

MARCH 20.

At Wanstead, Grove Hall.

Speaker: Capt. Johnston.

At Clitheroe, Town Hall.

Speaker: Llewellyn Williams, Esq. 8 p.m.

MARCH 21.

At Macclesfield, Town Hall.

Speaker: J. F. Green, Esq., M.P.

At Highbury, Quadrant Church.

Speakers: Major-Gen. Rt. Hon. J. E. B. Seely, C.B., D.S.O., M.P., 8 p.m.

Capt. Reginald Berkeley.

MARCH 22.

At Hampstead, Old Grove House, The Grove.

Speaker: Frederick Whelen, Esq., 8 p.m.

MARCH 23.

At Wolverton, Science and Art Institute.

Speaker: Miss M. Curry, O.B.E., 7 p.m.

At Manchester University.

Speaker: Lord Eustace Percy, 8 p.m.

MARCH 24.

At Louth, United Club.

Speaker: E. Everett Reid, Esq., Evening.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

MARCH 19.

At the Women's Institute, 92, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

Public Discussion: "Is the proposal of Endowment of Motherhood consistent with the Christian Social Order?"

Chair: Miss Kathleen Fitzgerald, B.A.

Speakers: Miss Margaret Fletcher, Councillor Mrs. V. M. Crawford.

CAMBRIDGE WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

MARCH 22.

At St. Andrew's Hall, Cambridge.

Public Meeting (preceded by Annual Business Meeting, at 3 p.m.).

Subject: "The Housing Scheme of the Rural District Council."

Chair: Mrs. Heitland.

Speaker: Mrs. Dimsdale (Cams. County Council and R.D.C.), 4 p.m.

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

MARCH 21.

At Shore-ditch Women's Co-operative Guild.

Subject: State Purchase of the Liquor Trade.

Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, 2.30 p.m.

At Grays, Women's Co-operative Guild.

Subject: "State Purchase the only way to Local Option."

Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, 7.30 p.m.

PEACE WITH IRELAND COUNCIL.

MARCH 18.

A Women's Meeting will be held at the Central Hall, Westminster. Those organising the meeting include Viscountess Bryce, Lady Frances Balfour, Lady Robert Cecil, Dr. Garrett Anderson, Lady Henry Somerset, Miss Margaret Bondfield, The Marchioness of Aberdeen, Miss Maude Royden, Miss Eleanor Rathbone, Miss Picton-Turbervill, Lady (Mark) Sykes, Lady Bonham-Carter, and Dr. Marion Phillips.

Tickets can be obtained at Room 30, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster. Evening.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

MARCH 21.

At the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn.

Speaker: Dr. Marie Stopes.

Subject: "The Future of the Sexes."

Chair: Dr. Lewin, 7 p.m.

MARCH 23.

Speaker: Miss Alice Clark.

Subject: "Women's Education in the 17th Century."

Chair: Miss Kilgour.

BRITISH FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN.

MARCH 18.

At the Women's Institute, 92, Victoria Street, S.W.1. To meet the President and Committee of the Institute. Professor Winifred Cullis, D.Sc., will speak on the Aims and Progress of the International Federation of University Women.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS.

The Council Meetings secured an excellent Press, and reports appeared last week in this paper and will also be found elsewhere in this issue. A full report of the proceedings will be circulated to societies within a week or ten days, and the Monthly Letter about to be issued will touch on one or two decisions which may lead to questions from our Societies. It falls, however, naturally to this page to give a brief account of matters of more intimate and immediate interest. While welcoming three new members, Miss Beaumont, Mrs. Paisley, and Miss Reynard, to our Executive Committee we regret the loss of Miss Deneke, Miss Jessie Beavan and Miss Franklin, to whose work on our behalf we shall refer in a later issue. The election of Viscountess Astor, M.P., Lady Beilby, and Dr. Mair as Vice-Presidents will be approved by all. Most of our members will be glad to learn that the immediate programme of reforms for which we are working remains the same. Important resolutions were passed on Equal Franchise, the Candidature of Women for Parliament, on matters connected with Equality in Industry and the Professions, on the Equal Moral Standard, Equal Guardianship, and Women in the League of Nations. A resolution urging Societies to do all in their power to promote the success of the League of Nations National Pilgrimage was carried with much enthusiasm.

Turning to matters of constitutional interest, a proposal to alter the name of the Union was rejected, and after much discussion it was decided that affiliation fees should be considerably raised. (This will be dealt with fully in the forthcoming Monthly Letter.) A resolution giving the Executive power to admit Societies to affiliation subject to the ratification of the next Council meeting was also carried.

It was agreed on all sides that the public luncheon was an event not only of social but also of political interest. The stirring speeches by Members of the House of Commons belonging to different political parties urging our Societies to increased activity cannot fail to have impressed those who were inclined to think that our work as a Union was done, or could safely be left to the women inside the political parties.

The reception in the beautiful and spacious Hall of Bedford College, lent through the kindness of Miss Tuke, was almost entirely social in its character and was attended by most of our delegates and many other friends. Miss Collier, herself an old Suffragist, provided music of a quality which was a real joy to those of us who are too busy to go to many concerts. Short speeches were made in the course of the evening by Miss Eleanor F. Rathbone, Miss Tuke, Mrs. Fitzsimon, a leader of South African Suffragists, and by Miss Violet Markham, who was warmly welcomed to a National Union gathering.

The conferences on Organisation and Parliamentary work were unfortunately crowded out during the Council days, but an informal conference was held at Headquarters Office on Friday morning, when there was a surprisingly large attendance and many matters relating to the work which lies before us were discussed.

It is impossible, from a Headquarters' angle, to give a true impression of the Council. In spite of increased fares it was larger than last year, and more Societies—about ninety-three in all—were represented. Scotland had a strong delegation, and Societies in Wales and Ireland, as well as all over England, were represented, many of them by several delegates. An interesting feature was that representatives of affiliated Societies, working for some special aspect of equality, including the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, Women's Local Government Society, the Union of Jewish Women, the League of the Church Militant, Women's Industrial League, Federation of Women Civil Servants, National Union of Women Teachers, Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, attended the Council, and in many cases were able to contribute expert opinion to the discussion.

Mrs. Fawcett was greatly missed, and the Council was glad to be able to send greetings to her in Jerusalem.

The Council was one of the most stimulating and interesting which has ever been held, and its members are returning to their work, whether at Headquarters or in the Societies, with renewed faith and hope.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Two new pamphlets have just been issued by the N.U.S.E.C. "The Powers and Duties of Justices" (Price 4d.), by Sir Edgar Sanders, is the address delivered at the Conference of Women Magistrates at the Mansion House last autumn, and should be

in the hands not only of every woman magistrate, but of all women citizens and social students who are interested in the administration of justice. "Notes on Election Work" (Price 6d.), for the use of women candidates for Parliament and their workers, contains a foreword by Lady Astor. This pamphlet deals with statutory regulations and methods of election work, including choice of candidate, nursing a constituency, publicity, election agent, and address and organisation of meetings, committee room and canvassing. A feature of special interest is the section which deals with election budgets, giving the figures of an actual budget. A short bibliography and an appendix with suggestions for election note-books, &c., complete what should prove to be a useful and necessary guide to those who are contemplating work for women candidates for Parliament.

SCOTTISH FEDERATION.

KIRKCALDY BY-ELECTION.—During the Kirkcaldy election propaganda work was undertaken by the Scottish Federation and members of the Edinburgh Society for Equal Citizenship in the constituency. On the High Street, near the harbour, a literature stall was set up, but abandoned in favour of a movable stall in the shape of a motor lorry decorated with red, white, and green bunting, and placarded with Equal Franchise posters. Leaflets were given away, and dinner-hour meetings held outside some of the works. The weather was against us, and Thursday found one survivor with five outdoor meetings in front of her. However, the driver distributed bills at the dinner-hour meeting, and the owner of the lorry spent his half-holiday accompanying the lorry to Wemyss and some other villages, where he not only helped to collect the meeting by taking bills from door to door, but made a most excellent chairman.

The N.U. questions were presented to both candidates, who both answered everything in the affirmative, Sir Robert Lockhart sending his replies by post, and Mr. Kennedy receiving a deputation including representatives from a Women's Guild (connected with the Kirkcaldy Girls' Club) which is affiliated to the N.U., the Women's Co-operative Guild, and the Scottish Federation.

Sir Robert Lockhart has always been a staunch friend of the woman's cause, and Mr. Kennedy belongs, of course, to the party who stood solid for the full enfranchisement of women.

YORKSHIRE COUNCIL.

WOMEN AND JURY SERVICE.—The Yorkshire Council for Equal Citizenship and the Northern Section of the National Council of Women convened recently an informal conference at Grays Court, York. The subject under discussion was Women and Jury Service, with special reference to recent attacks and the uninformed opinions which had been expressed. Mrs. Edwin Gray, who presided, in a characteristic speech strongly rebutted statements as to women's unsuitability for this kind of public service. The number of unpleasant cases was grossly exaggerated, and many distorted views were current as to the difficulty of obtaining exemption. In actual administration, when suitable reason could be given, a wide-minded attitude was adopted by the authorities. She gave much useful information as to the method of summoning Juries. Lady Lawson-Tancred very ably epitomised the present position, and made suggestions as to meeting the attack. This could be most effectively done by women shouldering the responsibilities implied by Equal Citizenship. Representatives from various cities and towns of the North of England joined in the discussion, and it was unanimously decided to send a communication to the Northern Press on the subject of Women and Jury Service.

WEEK-END SCHOOL IN YORKSHIRE.—The Yorkshire Council for Equal Citizenship has arranged a Week-end School, which will be held at Cloughton, near Scarborough, from May 27th to 31st. The place selected is Cober Hill, a beautiful residence on the coast, six miles train journey from Scarborough. The accommodation for the school is excellent, and the intellectual fare promised includes lectures by Mrs. Stocks and Mrs. Corbett Ashby. As only a limited number can be entertained, early application for particulars should be made to the Directors of the School, Lady Lawson-Tancred and Miss Hartop, at 18, Park Road, Leeds. Visitors from London and the South will be cordially welcomed. The school will be open to men and women. Charges for Board-residence and School fee will be from £1 14s. to £2 6s., according to accommodation.

WOMAN'S LEADER.—The Yorkshire Council desires to announce that THE WOMAN'S LEADER is now on sale at W. H. Smith & Sons, Commercial Street, Leeds.

OURSELVES.

This week we have the pleasure of printing a long list of donors to the paper. Some have taken up shares in their own names, others have joined to subscribe for the block of National Union shares suggested by Miss Rathbone at the Council Meeting, and others have given donations. All these methods are equally welcome to us, and we trust that further members of each group will come in during the next weeks. Though the list of donors is encouragingly large, the total sum of money is not quite enough yet; but it makes us hopeful to see that we have so many friends. Thirty-one new direct subscribers were promised at the Council: we should now like three hundred and ten in addition! It is upon circulation that our ultimate security rests, and we want to get to that ultimate security as soon as possible, and stop this unwelcome (but necessary) begging for ourselves in our columns. When we think of the other pitiful causes for which money is needed: of the children of Central Europe, or of our own slums alone, we can hardly bear to ask; and yet we are a medium for helping these very causes, and unless we live we cannot help. And so we beg again, gratefully and hopefully.

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