

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

### Disingenuous Tactics.

Events of the week emphasise the danger that a prisoner's right to challenge members of a jury without reason given, should exclude women from trying cases where their presence is most necessary in the interest of a prisoner or of the victim of a crime. As the result of such challenges, a jury composed entirely of men tried the case of a man and woman accused of causing a young woman's death by means of an illegal operation, and of an offence against a girl of eleven. In both these cases a male jury, even if ideally impartial, must have been unable adequately to weigh and appreciate much of the evidence. One may well ask whether counsel, who challenged, would, if they had been obliged to give a reason, have alleged that either impartiality or competence was the goal of their efforts. Mr. Justice Shearman, in releasing a woman from trying a case of indecency in which men only were concerned, used the discretion allowed him by the legislature in a way which everyone will approve, and which gives no support to disingenuous challenges such as took place at the Central Criminal Court.

### Women's "Impenetrable Obstinacy."

The Cambridge exclusionists did not make a very good show last Saturday. They were a house divided against itself, and thus were easily demolished. Scheme "B," expressing the perfectly idle wish that Girton and Newnham should form themselves into a separate University, was defeated, only 50 voting for it to 146 against. As we pointed out last week, the "B" party broke up and 52 opponents of women's admission to the University declared their intention of voting against their former allies. That men who had changed their mind once might change it again appeared likely, and on the day before the vote one of the 52 issued a flysheet, saying he should, after all, vote for "B." To this gentleman of fluid judgment the firm resolve of women and their friends was naturally antipathetic; and our critic spoke acidly of the "impenetrable obstinacy" of the Newnham and Girton leaders. How many more among the 51 actually kept their word to vote *Non placet* on the 12th will probably be learnt later, as a request has been made for the publication of the list.

### A Case for State Intervention.

It is now for Sir Geoffrey Butler, the Master of Corpus, Mr. Spens, and their "compromise" party to make the next move. They must move quickly; for any attempt on their part to "mark time" cannot be allowed. The policy of these men, as we have already explained, is perfectly clear. Their scheme is to take fees from the women for examinations and titular degrees, but gradually to edge the women out of the lecture-rooms and laboratories on the plea that their places are required by men. There is nothing to choose between these people and the out-and-out "Bs" so far as hostility to the cause of woman's progress is concerned; but it is possible that among Sir Geoffrey Butler's followers may be a certain number of men who feel that they look more decent to themselves if they say that they wish to recognise (though in some quite useless way) the claims of women citizens upon the University. Meantime, many of the monopolists and obstructionists must be uncomfortably conscious that they have presented the Commission with the strongest possible case for State intervention.

### America's Civil Service.

A Bill for equal pay regardless of sex in the United States Civil Service is now before Congress. Known as the Lehlbach Reclassification Bill, it provides for equal pay and equal compensation for civil servants of both sexes, and for appointment and promotion according to efficiency. The permissive language of the old civil service law, while throwing a sop to the equal-

itarians, has permitted discrimination against women, both as to pay and practical eligibility for appointments, though examinations are the same for both sexes. The Bill also aims at standardisation of pay in callings traditionally occupied by women under Government. If it becomes law library assistants will receive £216 to £1,000 a year, though their present minimum is as low as £168; nurses will range from £264 to £588, and translators from £360 to £576. Government cleaners will get 12s. a day. The Federal Government, like our own, contemplates retrenchment on research into labour conditions of industrial women and children, a retrograde step which is being resisted by women's organisations.

### Central Committee on Women's Training.

The Central Committee on Women's Training and Employment has been strengthened by the appointment of Dr. Louisa Garrett Anderson, Miss Isabel Drummond, headmistress of the Frances Mary Buss School, and Miss Lena Ashwell. It had hitherto been somewhat handicapped by the fact that, though the training it provided or financed was vocational as distinguished from industrial, its membership included no women who were active members of the professions, though the professional and industrial classes were both represented. The new members are not chosen to represent their own professions, but the general view of the professional working woman, who necessarily regards training schemes from a different angle from that of either Labour or what may be called home-staying gentlefolk, if that word may be used without offence. The Committee has issued a guide to the choice of careers offering "reasonable prospects of security of employment," and including the branches of the Nursing and Teaching Professions, Institutional Administration, Cookery, and Nursery Nursing. The appearance of music teaching in this list argues a certain optimism in its compilers, but the recommendation of training as teacher in schools for defective children will be helpful. Candidates for assistance in training may be interviewed at the nearest centre to their residence, even though this is temporary. The Interviewing Boards are composed of women of wide experience, and even those candidates whom they do not recommend for financial assistance have in very many cases benefited by the counsel and information given.

### Women's Unemployment.

The Government and the Labour Party have approached the question of women's unemployment in opposite directions, but have arrived at much the same point. The Government included no women at all in the Committee appointed for its inquiry. The Labour Party put two women, Miss Margaret Bondfield and Miss Susan Lawrence, on its Joint Committee, and it is advocating equal maintenance grants for single men and women. Miss Bondfield, leading a deputation of unemployed women who are asking for an indefinite extension of unemployment benefit at the expense of the State, went further in practical proposals for the provision of work for women than either her official party or the Government, suggesting that Government contracts should be expedited and carried through while work in other directions was slack. This is a very sound principle, though the contracts specifically mentioned, those for jam, preserved fruits, cable work, electrical apparatus and canvas goods do not present any very hopeful possibilities, for the Government stores are overflowing with uniforms and canvas goods. When the huge war surpluses are dispersed, all parties should demand the utmost care in placing all Government contracts in a manner which will tend to equalise the demand for labour throughout the year. It is probable that accounting branches of Departments will resist this and that it will at first add to their difficulties. But our national accounts are kept in a manner which succeeds only in making darkness visible, and if they are presented in almost any

other form statisticians will be grateful. Neither the Government, the Labour Party, nor Miss Bondfield mention that the situation would be eased if the men's unions abandoned their somewhat dog-in-the-manger attitude towards women in jobs that have been, or might be, reserved for men.

### Private Unemployment Schemes.

Messrs. Rowntree & Co. have made public the details of the unemployment insurance scheme drawn up by their directors and by representatives of the Central Works Council acting in concert. The scheme, which was adopted on January 1st, applies to all employees from the age of twenty until they become eligible for benefit under the Company's Pension Fund. The qualifying period is six months, except in the case of the Building Staff, who do not receive benefit until after three years' service. The term of benefit varies with length of service from fifteen weeks downwards, full unemployment and partial unemployment both being provided for. Among other progressive points in this scheme is the stipulation that two of the members of the Committee who administer it shall be women. The whole of the cost, except for the contributions now made by workers in respect of the Government Unemployment Insurance, and the customary contribution of twopenny a week to a Trade Union, will be borne by the Company, which has set aside £10,000 for the purpose, and intends to add a sum equal to one per cent. of its wages bill annually. The benefit will range from a maximum of £5 weekly to a minimum of 25s. If the cost to the Company should not exceed Messrs. Rowntree's estimate, we may hope to see other employers following their example, which is one of the first genuine attempts to make an industry carry its own unemployment burden.

### Japan and the Washington Conventions.

Japan has drawn up a Bill to amend its existing factory laws in accordance with the Washington Conventions, and the Government has also been collecting statistics of women employed in industry. From the figures so far obtained, there are 136,000 women workers in commercial undertakings, of whom 37,000 are married. The main features of the new Bill are the widening of the scope of the law to include all factories and workshops, &c., employing ten or more workers; the raising of the age limit of children employed to fourteen; the fixing of a maximum of nine and a-half hours work per day for adults, and eight hours for juveniles; and the prohibition of night work for young persons under sixteen. This Bill, although not bringing factory legislation in Japan up to our Western standards, or quite up to the Washington Conventions, is bringing East and West much nearer to a similar standard.

### The Census.

The census to be taken on Sunday, April 24th, will, for the first time, cease to classify the woman who works at home as "unoccupied." It is not merely a passing annoyance to the wife and mother who has often no week-end holiday, no Bank holiday, no summer vacation, to be classed as an idler. That this injustice should be done to her leads insensibly to a misapprehension of the status of the home-maker, and permits theorists to suppose that a widow with dependent children is doing nothing if she is obliged to leave wage-earning to tend them. Oddly enough, the persons who are always telling women to sit at home under the penalty of becoming "unsexed" if they disobey, are those who are eager to describe her "sacred task" as idleness when their advice is taken. The question is one of words, but words are, on occasion, mightier than swords, and certainly sharper than arrows.

### Advisory Bodies.

In 1919 the Ministry of Health appointed a Housing Advisory Council; the two women, Mrs. Sanderson Furniss and Mrs. Barton, who represented Labour on that body, have now withdrawn from it, giving for their action the very good reason that their Council has not been called together since November of that year, and that they have the responsibility, though not the opportunity, of fulfilling the duties they undertook. This attitude is far removed from that of resignation because their advice has not been followed, a position that no advisory body is wise in taking up, because it tends to whittle away the authority of the executive without really increasing the power or responsibility of the adviser. On the side of the Ministry of Health it must be pointed out that they did in fact accept several suggestions of the Council on the planning and interior fitting of the working-class houses built, or to be built, by them and by local authorities

in co-operation, and that those which were turned down or dropped were of a kind to add materially to the cost of any housing scheme. The reports on Slum Areas and Rural Rents presented by their sub-committees, and not yet considered by the Ministry, will be of great value when those questions come to be dealt with. The Ministry of Health is much in arrears with its business, and any effort at speeding up that the Advisory Council can make, either by resigning or by continuing to exist is to the good. It has not, perhaps, always recognised that advice given by the spoonful is more easily digested than when the dose is heroically large.

### A Chink in the Armour.

It is astonishing how easily the obvious may for years escape the attention of careful social students. Dr. Jewesbury, speaking in favour of infant welfare centres and asking that a course of instruction in infant welfare should be made possible for medical officers and health visitors, remarked that at the present time "the medical curriculum does not require the medical student to devote any part of his course to the study of children." Somehow or other, in spite of this, compilers of health statistics manage to divide infant mortality into two classes—deaths that are preventable and deaths that could not be prevented. Into the latter class, presumably, go the deaths of all infant patients of medical men, who know about as little about a baby as is possible to a member of the human race—and who owe that ignorance to no fault of their own. The baby clinics, instituted to teach mothers a little elementary hygiene, must have done quite a lot to inform doctors about one of the most important branches of their profession. If an accurate census could be taken of brilliant young medical men who have never seen a healthy infant unclothed, the docile lay public would be astonished.

### An Experiment in Medical Service.

An interesting experiment has been inaugurated in Sussex by Dr. Gordon Dill, by which medical and hospital service can be obtained for all residents who care to pay £1 per year for a single person and £2 per year for a "family." This astonishing scheme has been made possible by the help and co-operation of the principal hospitals in Brighton, Hove and Preston. People entitled to medical attention under the National Insurance Act cannot profit by Dr. Dill's scheme. The main points of the scheme are that the family doctor may arrange for private consultations at any of the co-operating hospitals, where any subsequent treatment that is necessary will be carried out. Residents in Hove and Brighton who cannot leave their beds, can arrange for consultations at home, and any living in country areas pay a charge only equal to one-half the usual mileage rate; from Brighton Central railway station. All X-ray, bacteriological and pathological examinations are available when necessary, and the Brighton and Hove Provident Dental Hospital will supply members sent by their doctors with all ordinary dental treatment. The scheme sounds almost too good to be true, and we hope it will meet with the success it deserves. It should undoubtedly prove a great blessing to the New Poor, to whom the heavy expenses of a serious illness are too terrifying to contemplate.

### The Reality of Progress.

Social reformers for nearly a generation have worked under the discouraging cloud of the Weismann theory of the non-heritability of acquired characteristics. If Weismann was right, no parent can hand down to his child any enhancement of skill or improvement in mind, body, or soul acquired by him in his passage through life. The most he can do for the younger generation is not to handicap it by education or environment or by infecting it with racial poisons. For a generation the Weismann theory has held almost undisputed sway in the scientific world, though parents and potential parents have had the good sense to act as though it had never been heard of. The reaction has now set in, but for the present the battle is being fought in laboratories, aquariums, and zoological gardens. A Viennese professor believes he has demonstrated that acquired characteristics may be handed on by toads and salamanders to their offspring, a discovery which makes it difficult to rule out at least the possibility in the case of man and the higher animals. A prolonged investigation now being undertaken in our own Zoological Gardens, will not be finished for seven or eight years. In the meantime, mothers will welcome a return to the belief that they are, while fighting their individual battles against the ills that beset our mental, moral, and material well-being, also forging weapons for generations yet unborn.

## THE KING'S SPEECH.

It is hardly true to say that the King's Speech is disappointing to all who believe that the world could yet be saved, as by fire, if, in each land, a great statesman, a shepherd of sheep and not a hireling, were to arise. Scanning the nicely balanced platitudes, cancelling each other out, we feel little disappointment, because we knew that, given all that has gone before, the Speech would be like this.

The pious hope that concord should be re-established in Europe is coupled with the "earnest trust that further progress will be made in giving effect to the Treaties of Peace." The economic and financial poise of Europe totters, the best minds throughout the world have cried their warnings, experts in economics, in finance, in labour problems, in business enterprise, in philanthropy, have proposed safeguards, have pointed the way up from the abyss, and, differing in much, they have all agreed that certain clauses of the existing Peace Treaties have merely laid the foundation of "a just and durable war" in the future. But the King is made to prate of "further progress in giving effect to" the misnamed treaties as his sole contribution towards the building up of concord. Truly, we are reminded of the cynic's observation that peace is only to be found in the graveyard.

Meanwhile, the spectres stalking in Europe creep nearer us at home. Unemployment increases, belief in constitutional means of redress wilts away. We are assured that remedies for the "acute and distressing" phenomenon of unemployment engage the anxious attention of His Majesty's Ministers. But, though the suggestion is made that the present inequitable dole system may be somewhat extended, and that strong roots of "protection" are to be planted, no constructive policy, based on a survey of the whole international and national position, is even hinted at.

As of yore, the poor are offered spiritual blessings in place of those physical. In parts, the Speech reads like a sermon, indeed, its admonitory clauses jump to the eye more readily than any phrase hinting that the shepherd himself may have led the sheep astray, rather than that they have got themselves into a mess by sheer sheeplike perversity. "I earnestly trust that these efforts will be seconded by loyal and frank co-operation between employer and employed, for it is through the co-operation of capital and labour in a spirit of mutual confidence," &c. Have His Majesty's advisers forgotten the Sankey Report? What mutual trust and confidence is possible any longer between miners and mine owners if the miners' memories happen to be longer and they do not forget the Governmental assurances that if only they would be good the Sankey Report should be taken seriously? The five lines in the Speech dealing with coal are not such as to teach the miners that right is the only might.

What of Ireland? "A misguided section of the Irish people persist in resorting to methods of crime and violence, with the object of establishing," &c. Who, reading this, true as it is, would believe that the ink upon the Strickland Report is hardly dry?

We have touched upon matters of general policy, matters highly controversial in certain of their aspects, and such that we cannot hope that all our readers will take the same view as ourselves. But it is impossible to ignore these things, because the general policy of the Government, in international as well as in national affairs, acts and reacts upon the daily lives of British citizens, women as well as men.

The King's Speech deals with unemployment almost as if it were merely a regrettable accident. A million, more rather than less, of men and women whose present existence is miserable,

whose future is black, seems an abstraction to many politicians, themselves in the comfortable hope of increased salaries, which merely dulls their imagination. But, leaving aside the problem of the men, no one can read the letter which appeared in the Press a few days ago, signed by Margaret Bondfield, Maude Royden, Gertrude Tuckwell, and other leading women, dealing with the distress among women, without having it brought home to them that the women's plight is a hideous thing: "Large numbers of these unemployed women (some half-million in all, counting those on short time) have already exhausted, or are about to exhaust, their eight weeks' benefit, and in their effort to live on 12s. a week it will be easily understood that they have drawn fully on any available resources"—they are "confronted immediately with the prospect of starvation for themselves, and, in many cases, for those dependent on them." And, he it noted, professional as well as industrial women. Well may the Labour Party refuse to feed upon fair words only in this matter of unemployment, and well, too, if those women workers, still voteless, and still unrepresented by their own sex in Parliament—except for gallant Lady Astor—may feel confident that their cause is safe in the hands of the handful of Labour men in the Commons.

We are at the parting of the ways. The happiness of mankind lies in creative effort, not in destruction. The King's Speech babbles still the time-worn tale to the oppressed, do your duty in that state of life into which it has pleased God to call you, and—we will do you, and everything and everybody else. It talks of giving effect to Peace Treaties, and it means something about £11,000,000,000. But never a word of that part of the Peace Treaties which has, if any part has, the promise of the future, nothing of the bond in which three-quarters of the population of the world have bound themselves to live as brothers, to have faith, and to show this faith by works, that the nations are interdependent, that the well-being of one is the well-being of all. The King's Speech speaks glibly of mutual trust and co-operation. Mutual trust and co-operation is indeed that which makes the world go round—for it has been pointed out with true philosophic insight that on the day that there is, actually, more of hatred than of love in the universe, it must cease to be. But to win trust it is necessary to be trustworthy, and the essence of co-operation is to give as well as to take. And that which makes a person trustworthy, and able to give as well as to take, is not only a warm heart but a clear head—a well-informed mind, a trained and sane imagination. The politicians now in power do not exhibit these qualities in a superlative degree, nor, indeed, invariably do their critics. Even a well-informed mind depends not wholly upon mental training. Facts are elusive things, and really to know even one fact requires character as well as brains, moral integrity as well as acuteness of intellect. We indulge in these aphorisms, apparently remote as they are from our immediate subject of the King's Speech, because we have confidence that to some of the younger women will come the call to fit themselves consciously for statesmanship—statesmanship, not on the old, narrow lines, bounded by strategic frontiers, but founded on the richness of the potentialities of to-day. Shibboleths are no good; the old conception of magic with which they are bound up has passed. To-day is the age of science, science which can wipe out mankind, but science which, if mankind so will, can bring health and wealth and happiness, not to the few at the expense of the many, but to all. If the King's Speech, in its poverty of ideas, and its plausibility, acts as a challenge to some of the younger women to fit themselves for, and to shoulder, in its fullest implications, the burdens of civic leadership, it will not have been penned in vain.

## NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

As the result of the Cardigan election will be announced before these notes are in print, it is hardly worth while venturing on prophecy which can only be read after the event. But it may be said that at the moment of writing things look none too favourable for the Coalition.

But whether Mr. Llewellyn Williams wins or loses, it is clear by now that those who two years ago thought that the Wee Frees had no future, made a miscalculation. True, the Liberal Party was split. True, it had lost many of its most vital elements. True, also, and this was the most heavy blow of all, it had lost its leader. But that it had not thereby lost its future, even a casual glance back to 1886 would have shown. The losses the Liberal Party suffered in 1918 were not as great as those caused by the secession of the Duke of Devonshire and Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, who though they were poles asunder, yet each represented a force which was and always is essential to Liberalism. So, though, as has often been said in these notes, the Wee Frees are at a low ebb; though they have neither policy nor leader, though they seem to be struggling against the tide and getting nearer the rocks, yet it would be a mistake to reckon them of no account. It will take them a long time to rise, but rise they will. At the same time, they cannot rise until they have found a leader.

Has such a leader appeared? It has been said before in this column that he will be found among the younger men. Mr. Asquith is ruled out, by his very qualities as well as by his past. Sir John Simon? Fifteen years ago, when that clear and acute intellect first appeared in Parliament, a long-sighted observer prophesied that he would lead the Liberal Party before either Mr. Lloyd George or Lord Grey or Mr. Winston Churchill. Such a forecast, read now, seems an echo from a remote past, and indeed it had become remote even before the war; but the fact that it once seemed probable, shows that Sir John Simon must be considered. That he must be ruled out (as will probably prove to be the case) is due to the change in the times. He owed his chances in the past to his inheritance of the Gladstonian tradition. Present-day Liberalism is moving on other lines.

Will the leader be Mr. Pringle or Commander Kenworthy? Mr. Hogge's failure on the Front Bench makes one a little chary of expecting success for his colleague Mr. Pringle. One would like to see first. And Commander Kenworthy may resemble Mr. Churchill in being essential to a party in any place except that of leader. No, the political chief has not yet appeared in the field.

These speculations and calculations may seem remote to any who read them; and, indeed, they are remote from the atmosphere in which the House will meet on February 15th, whilst this paper is going to press. There the Wee Frees, disheartened, distracted, and, it may be added, badly led, will have to meet the Coalition, masterful, assured, equipped at all points. We shall probably see that, where they have a case against the Government, they put it less well than do members of the Coalition itself—as happened last year on the Home Rule Bill, the Dye-stuffs Bill, and numberless other occasions.

The Coalition Liberals are hard at work on their organisation. This fact also, by the way, is evidence of the increasing strength of Mr. Asquith's party. Be that as it may, it is quite time they bestirred themselves. Their duty to the Coalition did not end when they provided Mr. Lloyd George as its leader. They must remain a force, and in order to do so they must continue to grow. Up to now they have been content to rely on Coalition organisation in the country, and have allowed Mr. Asquith's party to capture the Liberal machine. They must change this. And as a first step must find someone who will do for them what the Birmingham organisers did for the Liberal Unionists in the 'eighties and 'nineties.

However, interest is now transferred back from the country to the Commons. There the debate on the Address will last some time, for the Opposition intend to raise many subjects. Incidentally, Ireland will be raised by Mr. Thomas, in connection with the shootings at Mallow; and there will be a full dress debate. After the Address, the House must settle down to finance until Easter, and, in that field, a sharpened sense of economy may produce unexpected results.

[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.]

## NEWS FROM OTHER LANDS.

THE WOMAN'S LOT IN PERSIA.

In the "Nineteenth Century and After," for November, Mrs. Webster estimates the influence of womanhood as follows: "The civilisation of every country is determined by the influence women exercise over its social order, not merely in the matter of outward refinement, but in the region of intellectual and spiritual aspiration. This is the civilisation that women at the present world crisis are called on to maintain. The cause of women and the cause of civilisation is one."

In the light of this opinion, what can be the future of civilisation in Persia and other Moslem lands, where the place and power of women is as seen in the following sketches of present day conditions?

To the Persian the bazaar is the hub of the universe. Here are to be seen men and boys of every age and condition, camels, horses, mules, donkeys, cats and dogs, all adding to the noise and confusion which prevails. Open-fronted shops display goods of all kinds, from fruit, nuts and vegetables grown around the city, to silk, wool and cotton goods, crockery, lamps, clocks, tea and sugar, and thermos flasks, from England, Russia, India, and Japan. Where are the women? Here and there two closely-shrouded black forms with long white veils stand in front of a shop; or in some of the large drapers' shops in the caravan-serais, groups of veiled women may be seen discussing materials and bargaining over the price. A few poor creatures sit on the ground, almost under the horses' hoofs, and sell their own needlework, or in times of distress second-hand things from their own houses. Sometimes a carriage with shuttered windows and a eunuch on the box gallops through the narrow bazaar way.

It is the Governor's palace, and we have come to see his wife, or rather one of his wives. We find her in a beautifully decorated room, spread with exquisite carpets. She is dressed in white silk brocade, with a necklace of enormous emeralds, and sits in front of a table covered with silver dishes on which are sweets and biscuits and fruit. Tea is handed round in glasses in silver holders on beautifully chased silver trays. Several children run in and out, and her ladies-in-waiting stand round. They sing their mistress's praises, and say how proud the Governor is of her. She is descended from Fath Ali Shah and is a princess in her own right, and since the Governor married her he has had nothing to do with any of his other wives. The princess is very polite, but has not much to say; yes, she sometimes has a walk in the garden, with its twenty feet high wall. Yes, she is educated and wishes her children to be educated. No, she never goes out, not even for a drive in the desert, except when her husband changes his governorship, and she drives in a closed carriage the 200 or 300 miles from one city to another, and with closed windows when she is passing through a town. Who has the right to enforce such conditions?

During Muhurram, the Moslem month of mourning, readings and recitations from the lives of their prophets and saints are given in the bazars and in private houses. Numbers of men were assembled in a large courtyard, where a high pulpit had been erected and draped with black. From this, first a dervish, and then a mullah, holding two hideous brass hands in his own, recited the sufferings of Hosein. At the side of the compound were two small rooms, closely curtained, in which the women were sitting, many of them shrieking and crying as they listened. Some of them, though, did not listen, but questioned as to why they should always "sit behind the curtain." Some said that

it was "Kismet," and others, that until the men had clearer minds they had no choice.

During a visit to a well-to-do village house, we are attracted by a very pretty girl of twelve, who has crept in from a neighbour's compound. This child had some money of her own, and was married at an early age to a man thirty years her senior. He said he wished to start business as a muleteer, and annexed all his wife's money to buy mules and pack-saddles. After a very short time he and his mules disappeared and were never heard of again. This had happened two years before, and the deserted child's future seemed very uncertain. It was suggested that she should come to school, and after some persuasion her relatives agreed. She was very happy at school, and showed considerable ability, but one day the mother of another girl came and said, "We don't think it good that a girl who has been married should come to school with our daughters; her mind has been poisoned with all that she has seen and knows, she is not fit to mix with our girls." Evidently pressure was brought to bear on her relatives and she was soon withdrawn from the school.

Away in the highlands, where the Bakhtiari tribesmen live, there was illness in the house of a chief, a man who had spent many months in Paris, who often wore European clothes, and passed for an enlightened man. An urgent message was sent to the Isfahan hospital, and an English medical woman quickly set off in the carriage which had been sent to fetch her. Her patient soon rallied, but she felt it necessary to stay a few days until the danger was over. Everything was done for her comfort, and she was treated as an honoured guest.

One day the chief said that he would like her to see his new wife, and she was taken into a room to find a timid child of twelve, dressed in gaily coloured silks, and wearing beautiful jewels. She was too shy to say more than a word, especially as her husband's widowed sister, who was ruling his women's apartments, was present. Among the crowd who pressed into the room was a sad, weary-looking woman with sore eyes, and the meanest of clothing, who kept pointing to her eyes and trying to attract the doctor's attention. Soon she was noticed, and questions were asked. The only answer given was that she was "Nobody," and that nothing concerning her mattered. The doctor urged that she should be sent to hospital for treatment, but was told that this was impossible. At last, after many questions, it came out that she was a cast-off wife of the chief; two years before she was the proud mother of three children, all were dead, her eyes were bad, she had been divorced, and her place taken by this new plaything, a child of twelve!

A village girl was asked by a traveller how old she was. "Forty, who knows?" "Can you read?" With a laugh she replied, "Girls can't read."

An old woman, standing by, was drawn into the conversation. She said, "How many years have I, how should I know? God knows. This is our life: to beat the clothes on the stones in the river, to mould cakes of manure for the fire, to carry heavy loads, to spin, weave, sew, make bread and cheese, bear children, grow old and toothless; and for all this we only get blows and abuse, and always we are afraid lest we should be divorced! What can we do?"

One day a group of women came up the street and asked, most excitedly, about a dentist. On asking why they wanted one, they pointed to a nice looking girl of fifteen, and said that she had broken one of her front teeth and was in terror lest her husband should divorce her, and so they were anxious to get the defect remedied before he saw it!

Many Persian carpets are made under good conditions, but some of the finest and best are the product of child labour. In the so-called factories, the children begin work at four or five years old. In a small room there may be several upright looms, sometimes the room is below the ground, and only lighted by a

glass bottle in the roof, the only ventilation is by the door, or through cracks in the wall or roof. In the summer the heat is insufferable, and in winter, often with snow on the ground, the only heat is that given off by the bodies of the weavers. The working hours are from sunrise to sunset. The children, mostly girls, sit on narrow planks, often at a height from the ground, and to steady themselves twist their legs round, or sit on them. When the signal is given to stop work, some are unable to clamber down, and must wait until a parent or other friend comes to lift them down and carry them home. Many are opium-smoking parents who draw their children's earnings in advance. A very bad form of rickets and consequent deformities are induced by the bad air and food and posture and long hours of work. Many weavers never grow taller than three feet. Mission hospitals do much towards alleviating the sufferings, and the townspeople realise that without their help many of the most expert weavers, especially the girls, must die. Surely, if there were only one such factory public opinion would close it. But, if there are many such and no public opinion, what is to be done?

A maidservant brings an invitation from her mistress to dine with her and some friends from the capital that evening. It is during the month of Muhurram, and all the ladies are in black, some wear long dresses, quite European in style. The cloth is spread on the floor and all sit round it. There is a large tray of rice, a dish of curry, small pieces of lamb fried with onion, a stew of chicken, and walnuts and syrup and pomegranate juice, and a dish of fried eggs. Everyone has a plate and a large flap of bread, and all have become accustomed to use forks and spoons. There is little talk during the meal, but as soon as it is cleared away and rose-scented water poured over everyone's hands, the chatter begins. The ladies from Teheran are asked about their journey, and how and when they are going south, the state of the roads, and the likelihood of meeting robbers. One lady's husband is away on official duty, and so she has been able to accept her friend's invitation; this leads to discussion on the tyrannical character of men. All object to the enforced wearing of black, when its cause is not appreciated. There is much lively conversation and repartee. One lady is very keen on the advancement of her country and the liberation of its women, she herself having suffered greatly. Two educated girls speak English well and confide some of their aspirations. A stringed instrument is brought out, and there is both vocal and instrumental music. At last it is time to leave, but the English guest is the only one to go, as all the others sleep there that night, and go away early the next morning.

Soon after, in a city in the south, a girls' school is opened. The Mullahs are furious, but the prince-governor, a strong man and not a bit afraid of them, asks why they oppose it. "The religion of Islam does not allow the education of girls," is the reply, and, as the law of Islam is still the law of the kingdom of the Shah, that school has to be closed, but the cause of Islam is hindered and not helped by those responsible for this decision.

An educated woman, editing a woman's newspaper, is attacked by the Mullahs. They cannot allow the rights of women to be upheld. But the British Consul and the Governor, men of wider vision than the Mullahs, stand up for her, and the paper goes on with its enlightening work.

Talking with some friendly upper-class women about the backwardness of their country, and the small share its women take in its social or political life, one of them said, "We have no apparatus." Asked what she meant, she replied, "We are not educated, we have not been trained like Western women, how can we help our country?" Another said, "If Western women will help us, we can together do a great deal for the advancement of our country." And another wrote afterwards, "I believe the only help for the women of the East is education." And we, who know, might add a Christian education, for there is no other faith which gives woman her rightful place in the world.

DOUST-I-IRAN.

## 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.

### EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

#### THE CASE AGAINST THE "OCCUPATIONAL RATE" AND FOR THE "EQUAL VALUE RATE."

By ELEANOR RATHBONE, J.P., C.C.

There is something at first sight seductively simple in the principle of "the occupational rate or the rate for the job." But those who adopt this formula in the innocent belief that it is a true interpretation of "equal pay for equal work"; or that it is compatible with the sister principle "equal opportunities for women in industry," should study closely the Majority Report of the War Cabinet Committee on Women in Industry. Although most of the members of the Committee were men, I do not think that any fair-minded reader can doubt that their Report shows a rather remarkable absence of sex prejudice and an unmistakably genuine anxiety to improve the status, pay, and opportunities of women in industry, not only in their own interests but in order that the nation may derive full advantage from their capacities as producers. After explaining that the evidence before the Committee left no reasonable doubt that the universal adoption of the principle in question would mean, in effect, paying equal time rates to women in many occupations in which their output was distinctly less than that of men, the Report says:—

"Of the result of the universal adoption of this policy of equal time rate we were left in no doubt. There was complete unanimity on the part of the employers in every department of industry proper that it would drive women out, and the opinion of the general unions was that it would have this effect on trades unsuited to women. The skilled men's unions were also of opinion that the policy would involve exclusion, and it was frankly admitted by some of them that this was what was desired. The Management Committee of the General Federation of Trades Unions, however, appear from the evidence of the Federation's representatives to have seen the hardship of this on the women displaced."

The Report goes on to explain that some of the factors which at present tend to lower the powers of women as producers, such as their inferior physical health and consequent irregularity, their lesser opportunities of training, &c., will probably lessen or disappear as they secure better wages and conditions of life. This process of improvement, however, will be checked if in consequence of too rigid an application of equal time rates they are driven out of the skilled industries in which men work and are compelled to crowd together in unskilled occupations, thus tending to drive down the already low rates of pay in such occupations. In this way the premature enforcement of equal time rates will defeat its own end by preventing woman from achieving that increase in her productive power which will make her capable of earning equal time rates. The Report concludes:

"We are unable to recommend at this juncture of the national life a change bringing such doubtful advantages to men and fraught with such serious injury to women as we believe would result from the adoption of the formula, 'equal time rates' . . . such a rule would restrict the employment of women more than it was restricted before the war, and woman would lose a definite place in industry which she could never hope to recover without an increase in her productive power which the application of the rule would lessen her power of obtaining."

What is the alternative to the occupational rate? The alternative is sometimes described as "the differential rate"; but that is a misleading and question-begging phrase. A better description is "equal pay for work of equal value," or the "ad valorem rate." The Majority Report defines it as "pay in proportion to efficient output," which in occupations where there is a system of payment by results would involve "equal payment to women as to men for an equal amount of work done." The opponents of this principle usually try to discredit it by assuming that it means abandoning women to the chances of "individual bargaining" with employers, who will exploit them on the excuse that for one reason or another their work is not of equal value to that of men. This is, of course, a gross misrepresentation. The proposals of the Majority Report, and

also those of Mrs. Barbara Drake, lay it clearly down that the employer will be required where women are doing the same or similar work as men to pay them at the same rate, whether by time or piece, unless his case for doing otherwise has been established to the satisfaction of a Trade Board, or a Standing Industrial Council or some other accredited tribunal for determining wages on which employers, Trades Unions, and, I would add, the women concerned, should be adequately represented. The area of industry already covered by such tribunals is already great, and is extending day by day. The task on which many of them are engaged in working out complicated piece-work lists is at least as difficult as anything they would encounter when required to measure the average efficient output of male and female workers on a certain process. In the words of the Majority Report:—

"In every case in which the employer maintains that a woman's work produces less than a man's, the burden of proof should rest on the employer, who should also have to produce evidence of the lower value of the woman's work to which the fixed sum to be deducted from the man's rate for the particular job throughout the whole of the industry should strictly correspond."

Space does not permit me here to discuss in detail the various grounds on which the employer should be permitted to claim the right to pay a lower rate. The case chiefly discussed by the Majority Report is that of a claim for lower time rates based on a definitely smaller quantitative output. This is no doubt the case easiest to establish and most irrefutable in point of logic, since it merely applies to time rates a principle already seen working where women receiving the same piece rates as men on the same job earn less wages because of their less output. If it be fair that a woman, engaged on piece work, who completes forty articles in a week should only get two-thirds of the earnings of a man who completes sixty articles, it cannot be unfair that a woman on time work, whose output is measurably only two-thirds of a man's output, should also receive earnings which are only two-thirds of his. Cases more difficult of application are those where the claim to pay less to women is based on their inability to perform some operation usually associated with the job; or on expense incurred by the employer in providing special labour-saving contrivances, or special accommodation, or increased supervision. Still more difficult factors to compute are the alleged inferior economic value of women to the employer owing to their irregular time-keeping, or higher "marriage mortality," or legal disability to take their share in night-work and overtime. The question, how far any or all of these factors are measurable in terms of wages is one that could probably be best dealt with on the principle of *solvitur ambulando* by the Trades Boards and other bodies concerned. Or if this were thought too dangerous, such questions should be referred to an expert commission, with full representation of all parties concerned, who should lay down general principles as to the grounds on which employers might be permitted to put up a claim for separate men's and women's wages.

Women who are hesitating between these rival interpretations should seriously ask themselves the following question: (1) Are they prepared to advocate the "occupational rate," in view of the great consensus of testimony that it is equivalent in effect to a policy of exclusion? (2) If they doubt the weight of that testimony, how can they account for the fact that the Trades Union defenders of the occupational rate have nowhere (so far as I know) even attempted to deny that the policy will have this effect. Their line of argument is invariably to glide as lightly as possible over this unpleasant point, and to insist that

the principle of "the occupational rate" must be judged not by its effect on women workers, but in its relation to the Labour movement as a whole. By taking their stand on this ground, they have won the adhesion of several important bodies of women workers, who having won a late and precarious footing in the world of trade unionism are not likely to jeopardise it by questioning a principle which their leaders proclaim as essential. (3) If, however, women who do not themselves belong to the Labour Party feel compelled in this instance to follow the lead of those who do belong on the ground that "these are the experts," how far is this subserviency to be carried? Must it also compel us to follow their lead on questions such as that of night work; the two-shift system; and other restrictions on women's employment which, under the guise of protection, tend still further to limit its area? (4) It may be said:—But even those of us who belong to organisations pledged to think in terms of women rather than of party or of class, must not advocate anything that would involve the under-cutting of men by women. True; but here again the opponent of the "equal value rate" scarcely even pretends that it would involve such undercutting. His preference for his own principle of "the occupational rate" is based on the fact that it is part of the general scheme of standardisation of earnings at the level attained by the most competent workers in the industry. On the same principle, equal rates are claimed for the signalmen at a lonely Highland station and at an important junction, and for the one-legged soldier as for the man with two legs. The principle may be a good one or a bad, but it is plain that it is advocated on grounds which have nothing to do with the interests of women as such, and will not necessarily be accepted by women who do not share the economic and political theories of the Labour Party. (5) Of those who are purists in the interpretation of formulae we would ask, "which is the truer and stricter interpretation of the formula 'equal pay for equal work'; that which claims for women equal pay only where their work is really equal, or that which claims for women equal pay even when their work is provedly unequal or inferior?"

### THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S REPORT for 1919.

The Report on Births, Marriages and Deaths for 1919 appears late upon the scene, and for very many reasons it cannot claim, in the same sense as most of its predecessors, to be a guide to the social student. Sir Bernard Mallet in this, his last Report before his retirement, moves very cautiously among his mazes of figures and takes up, time after time, what seems to be a clue to our national progress or decadence, only to drop it again as possibly misleading. We must be thankful for the figures and for his hints and warnings as to their interpretation, and, for the most part, defer to the future any conclusions we may be disposed to draw from them. Already the provisional figures for 1920, before us this month, have shown that features of these statistics which might seem to presage disaster, in reality pointed backwards to the years of war and not to the probable future. When the vital statistics for the first two quarters of 1919 were disclosed, with their bare margin of hardly more than 19,000 births in excess of the number of civilian deaths, the newspapers asked the question, "Are we a dying race?" The last two quarters of the year answered the question in a very different sense from the first, and 1920 echoed them in much louder tones. The figures as to the marriage-rate, and many others, were equally inconclusive, and we shall, therefore, pass over them briefly. The findings of the Report on infant mortality are, on the other hand, extremely definite, and they are, in the main, extremely hopeful. Where they are bad they are not inexplicably bad, but give us indications of remedial measures.

The mortality of children under one year was the lowest ever recorded, being 89 per 1,000 births. When we remember that this death-rate in 1841 was 153, that in an exceptional year like 1899 it rose to 163, and that between those dates and down to 1907 it never fell below 118, we may be sincerely thankful and may conclude that our present way of living is, on the

whole, the right one. It should be noted that the school of sociologists who deemed that this low rate was inextricably bound up with a low birth-rate must reconsider their position in view of the 1920 figures, which give an infant mortality rate down to 80, though the birth-rate is 25.4 as against 1919's 18.5.

The plan recently adopted of dividing the first year of life in considering infant mortality, continues to throw fresh light on the causes affecting the child's chances of survival. The mortality during the first week is as terrible as it was in the dark days of the 'eighties and 'nineties. This figure includes, of course, deaths from prematurity, and deaths from injury at birth, as well as those of infants deformed, or deficient in vitality. The table given of maternal mortality in child-birth, rising to a height in 1919 comparable with all but the worst figures of the last century, seems to show that much of this wastage might be checked if the health of expectant mothers were reasonably safeguarded. On this point Sir Bernard Mallet says: "Rural mortality from birth-injury was high—the excess seems likely to be dependent on an inferior midwifery service in the rural areas, especially those in the North." This is an old story, but every year shows the importance to women and to the whole community of an adequate midwifery service, and, as yet, we have got little further than forbidding inefficient midwives to practice, without securing worthy substitutes. The cost would not be great and the benefit enormous in saving deaths of mothers, and of children in the first days of their existence, and very marked in its influence upon the later periods of the first precarious year.

The Registrar mentions, only to dismiss it, the theory that the higher mortality attributed to premature birth is conditioned by increased industrial employment of women in the North. Generally speaking, the mortality rate for children at all early ages increases as we go North, whether from climate or social conditions is not clear. The Scottish figures are not given in this return, except in comparison, but we note that in 1919 the death-rate under one year for England and Wales was 89, and that for Scotland 102. The Irish figure of 88 is characteristically low, but England by itself, excluding Wales, would probably have sunk below it on this record year.

Other points of interest in the mortality rates for later ages are the most favourable figures on record for ages one to five, if the epidemic of influenza is allowed for. Even including the influenza deaths this rate is the lowest for any year, except 1916, a result of the rarity of infectious and diarrhoeal diseases. Only one death was directly, and six indirectly, attributable to vaccination. Deaths from tuberculosis are less at all ages than in 1918, and very much lower than in the years immediately previous to the war. The mortality of both sexes at ages over 75 was above the average, the excessive mortality among inmates of lunatic asylums during the war had, in 1919, considerably abated.

The explanations given of the vagaries of the published statistics relating to marriage will interest students of sociology. The marriage-rate for 1917 was the lowest ever recorded, and that for 1919 the highest, the excess showing itself largely in marriages in which either one or both partners were over forty-five. This does not indicate that younger men had refrained from marriage either in 1917 or 1919, but rather that they had married in great numbers in the earlier years of the war. The marriage age remains lower in industrial than in agricultural and residential counties, the mean age of bridegrooms being nearly thirty, and of brides 27.16, about a year older than in 1896, in spite of the boy and girl marriages which so much impressed the public and the Press.

When the population figures of next census are available and can be substituted for the estimates with which the Registrar-General has been obliged to work, this Report will take on an added value, especially as regards those deductions which depend on an accurate knowledge of the distribution of population.

E. M. G.

### THE DIARY OF A WOMAN IN THE HOME.\*

16, Plane Tree Road, G.—  
February 8th, 1921.

When I was buying stuff for the children's overalls this afternoon, it gave me quite a thrill to be offered red gingham. When I was a child I longed to know what gingham was and how it was pronounced. Little girls in story-books had gingham frocks—Leila on the Island wore them. At least, she did so during parts of her career. I rather fancy that while she was actually a desert islander, her new dresses were made up out of skins and feathers by her skilled and indefatigable Papa. But when she went to live with her cousins in Scotland (and, ignorant of modern rules, called herself "Leila in England" instead of "Leila in Britain"), her everyday wear was almost certainly gingham. I used to picture it as something very hard and rough, rather like sackcloth. Now I see that it is not rough or coarse at all, and bears a striking resemblance to a material we used to know by the poetic name of "Zephyr." The gingham I saw this afternoon was of a rather pretty light red shade and much cheaper than the pink linen I had been looking at, so I had every excuse for buying it, and did so at once.

The gingham made me remember that I had no story-book to read to the children at night, so I hurried on to the library to search for one. There is no pleasure in their regular day that the children prize so much as the half-hour after their evening bath when they sit by the nursery fire and eat their bread and butter and drink their milk, while I read to them out of the right kind of book. The fear of being too late for "the reading," is a priceless incentive to going to bed early, and will even cause them to come away from tea-parties without too much reluctance. But it is by no means easy to find the right kind of book, or rather to find enough books of the right kind. Ellie has a catholic taste, Shakespeare, Scott, Miss Yonge, and Mrs. Ewing are at present her favourite authors, and although she revels in "Quentin Durward," which I am now reading to her, she will cheerfully miss it, in order to listen to something which "Bridget will like, too." But Ellie has read and re-read all the children's books in the house (and a good many besides), and Bridget bars anything which requires close attention, anything historical, and most fairy tales. The objection to historical stories is, I think, partly because of the imaginative effort required, but it is also in a great measure the same objection as Shelley cherished for "that record of crimes called history." She can't bear horrors. When I was trying to teach her to read in the summer, I hoped that the excellent pictures in the "Nursery History of England," would beguile her on from page to page. I found, however, that they were far from having that effect. After beginning at something comparatively pacific, Alfred and the Cakes, or Canute and the Tide, she said, anxiously, "I think we'd better turn over the next page without reading it," and on my asking why, she murmured mysteriously and with knitted brows, "I think they killed somebody in it." The occasions when "They" killed "Somebody" are so numerous in English history that it hardly seemed worth while to go on! A little later I was reading "Tales of a Grandfather" aloud to Ellie. Bridget was not supposed to be listening, but as we were on Cowslip Hill and she was tired of playing at ball, she wandered round within earshot. After I had read of the surprise and massacre of an English garrison by Wallace or the Bruce (described in detail and very light-heartedly by dear Sir Walter), I remarked that it seemed rather horrible. "Oh," said Ellie, with some indignation, "but you know they had to do it. It was in the Cause of our Freedom!" "Well," said Bridget, decidedly, "I call it very wrong and cool to go about killing people like that!" It looks as if Ellie and Bridget would grow up to be different kinds of pacifists.

Bridget's objection to fairy tales is less easy to understand. It may partly depend on the fear of horrors, too, though need-

less to say I should not anyway read dreadful tales of ogres and witches at bedtime. My own nights, when I was between six and eight years old, were rendered miserable by dreams of witches, and I have always thought it a great mistake to give the terrifying and often revolting Teutonic or Slav folk lore to children of tender age. Nor am I much surprised at many children not liking Hans Andersen; he is very self-conscious, and his satires on worldly people, disguised as moles or field mice or dolls or flowers, do not appeal to the infant mind; but I am surprised at anyone between seven and ten years old not liking George Macdonald's "The Princess and the Goblin," or "At the Back of the North Wind." I think, however, that the word "goblin" and perhaps the pictures made Bridget feel uncomfortable. She shrinks a little from anything that is outside her ordinary experience. The other day I read to her and Ellie and their cousin Patience, who was staying with us, a delightful book by Violet Bradby called "The Enchanted Forest." It was a new book out this Christmas, and I got it because Ellie loved "Matthew the Miller" by the same author. It is about a little girl who finds another little girl turned into a statue in a wood. Ellie and Bridget and Patience all loved it, but when we got well into the story and the enchantment was deepening on every page, Bridget remarked, "I don't like this quite so well as I did—because, you see, now the children are not in their own homes." "The children," who are very lifelike and modern, appealed to her, but she did not quite like the atmosphere of wizardry in which they became involved.

The only fairy tale which has really succeeded as evening reading is "The Water Babies," which we all adore. I think Bridget likes it because everything in it is so very natural, even the enchantment. Ellie likes it because, as she says, "it gives one such beautiful thoughts." They both like the strong moral tone and the religion—Kingsley's is the kind of religion which can be understood by a child.

The other books they have both enjoyed are some of Miss Nesbit's. (These have magic in them, but it is such very modern, everyday, matter-of-fact magic, that it doesn't matter.) Miss Yonge's "Stokesley Secret," Mrs. Ewing's "Mary's Meadow," "Madam Liberality," "Our Field," and "Mrs. Over-the-way's Remembrances," and lately a delightful story by Annie Keary called "A York and a Lancaster Rose." This is not historical, but relates the fortunes of two large families of children in London in the 'seventies or 'eighties of last century. One family, that of a Professor Ingram, lives in a square in Bloomsbury, has a German governess, attends classes, and comes down to the drawing-room after dinner, while the invalid Mamma lies on her sofa and Papa converses with his learned friends. The other family is poor. The children have to fend for themselves in their rooms in the "Models" while their mother is in hospital, and are helped by the Sisters from St. Audrey's Sisterhood. The two sets of children are brought into contact by the Ingrams' philanthropic Aunt Rachel, and their relations, characters, adventures, temptations, and joys are related with great naturalness and in delightful detail. It is all very Victorian, but the children like it none the worse for that. Indeed, it seems to me that almost all the books they really like are Victorian. Is this my influence, I wonder? Or is it because most of the really good children's books do belong to that period? I do not know many quite modern children's books. I have not even read all Mrs. Bradby's, and Miss Nesbit, though she is still writing, does not seem to write children's stories now. Her children belong to the 'nineties I think, as Miss Yonge's, Mrs. Ewing's, and Mrs. Molesworth's do to the 'seventies and 'eighties. I should like to know if anyone is writing for children now whose books will delight several generations of children? I should like to know—but, alas—I feel pretty sure that in the present generation there is no Aunt Judy or Aunt Charlotte!

MARGARET CLARE.

\* Our readers' comments are invited on the subjects referred to from week to week in this diary.

## REVIEWS.

**Modern Drama in Europe.** By M. Storm Jameson. (Collins. 10s. 6d. net.)

Miss Jameson's book is provocative. Inevitably it will annoy many, for it is based upon the philosophy of Nietzsche, who is always an irritant. Pro-Nietzscheans will praise it, perhaps extravagantly; anti-Nietzscheans, with whom may be numbered the multitude of unthinking neutrals, will find it clever but too unaccommodating to accept. The great good of her work is that it will provoke thought—particularly among dramatic critics, a salutary, if uncomfortable, proceeding.

This book is youthful in spirit, but at the same time I should say the outcome of some years of industrious toil. It surveys the European drama of the last fifty years, and in so doing the plots of innumerable plays are analysed; I don't know how many, as it lacks an index. These analyses are the least interesting part of the book; there are too many of them, and some of them are too detailed. Miss Jameson, however, is always interesting in her generalizations and summings up. She does not give a prophetic solution of the problem of what will be the new drama, but at any rate an intelligent contribution towards it.

Before commenting upon Miss Jameson's critical standard, it will be instructive to consider her mind as revealed in this work, because, in many ways, she is typical of the intelligentsia of the age now reaching to its prime. Her mind is healthy, vigorous, and confident enough to hold a plentiful crop of prejudices. These prejudices are the feelings which, in the decade before the war, many young people held in defiance of the orthodox intellectualism of their elders. In politics, although glorying in the label of Socialist, the feeling expressed itself in a dislike of the Fabians; Collectivism and all its works were anathema. In Art it was manifested by a movement away from realism, which by then had degenerated into a so-called naturalism of the sort that revelled in the ugly and the sordid for its own sake. Miss Jameson has also a fierce distaste for feminism. It is probable that she formed her decided opinions before she found her critical standard, rather than the other way about; anyway, the Nietzschean standard does serve to reinforce her opinions.

Our authoress feels that this is an age of critical anarchy; indifference and cheerful mediocrity are the order of the day. The lawgivers of the eighteenth century being discredited, it is all the more important to have a standard of criticism, for, without one, there can be no valid criticism. The influence of Nietzsche on the drama, which other critics have implied in scattered sentences, is here stated as a coherent doctrine. Nietzsche's aesthetic involves the denial of the popular philosophy which sees in the will to live the motive power of the world; he substitutes the will to live finely, the will to power. From this Miss Jameson takes her standard; great drama will be a drama of masters and not of slaves; it will have nothing to do with the mean, the sordid, and the petty; it will be concerned with the finer spirits, and will show the way to a higher type. So impressed is she with the need for a standard that, having one, she applies it with relentless logic to all the major and many of the minor European dramatists since Ibsen; it cannot be said that any of them really attain to the level demanded by her.

Miss Jameson has admirably succeeded in visualising the dramatic movements of the period treated. She makes two main divisions: the Drama of the North, the Scandinavian countries, Germany, and England; the Drama of the South, France and the Latin countries generally. In the North, with Ibsen came the great movement of realism which drove off the stage the sterile "well-made" plays of the Scribe-Sardou school. In the South, the realist movement did not have the same direct influence; it came to the South in the feeble imitative form of naturalism, which aims at being a transcript of actual life. Then there was the drama of revolt from realism, which took various forms; Rostand and Maeterlinck are

examples. In England the drama of realism, under the influence of Mr. Shaw, became the drama of ideas, which criticised the conditions of life. Apart from the main European stream was the Russian theatre, which carried on its own fine tradition of realism, culminating in Tchekhov, the most significant of the modern realists, who is concerned with the value and meaning of life itself.

When it comes to the application of the critical standard, Miss Jameson is far too logical. She seems to forget that there can be greatness outside standards: to see this she has but to think of Shakespeare and the classical standard. However, her criticisms of the dramatists are lively and pointed. Her valuation of Ibsen is good, but I think that her enthusiasm for the Nietzschean standpoint, together with her own exuberant anti-feminism, has led to an over-estimate of Strindberg. True, she admits that he lacks the gift of laughter, but does not realise how fatal a defect this is. I am sure she would never suffer dreariness in a modern author. Indeed, she deals faithfully enough with dreariness in others; Brieux, for instance, who is really no more than a tract-making machine. Her particular scorn, however, is reserved for Mr. Masefield's "Nan"; he is at the bottom of the slope of realism. With Mr. Shaw, her dislike of Fabian didactic methods weakens her power of judgment; only "Major Barbara" receives an unqualified blessing, and that on account of Andrew Undershaft. I think it a serious critical blindness in her, not to see that Mr. Shaw is a great creator of character; it is the commonplace of criticism to say that his characters are so many projections of Bernard Shaw, but his influence has been so widespread that we are most of us unconscious Shavians, even Miss Jameson herself. I would ask Miss Jameson to allow Mr. Shaw as the one Fabian on Parnassus, if only to set them arguing about the drainage of that hilltop.

One dramatist, although unacceptable according to the Nietzschean standard, is blessed because he has captured Miss Jameson's heart; he is Sir James Barrie. She is softened, too, by wit; she places Wilde too high. Schnitzler rightly earns a good word. Sir Arthur Pinero, Mr. Galsworthy, Mr. Brighouse, and Stanley Houghton are severely chastened. As the book was no doubt written before "The Skin Game," Mr. Galsworthy may pluck up courage and offer that play as an earnest of good intentions.

There is no doubt that in her main contention Miss Jameson is right. Certainly it is good to get away from the drama of which "Hindle Wakes" is the type; we have now learnt all the lesson that the naturalist school of writers had to teach us. But in the matter of the Nietzschean standard for all drama, Miss Jameson is too ruthlessly logical. I think that she must have overheard someone saying that it was feminine to be illogical, so she was determined to be logical at all costs. The truth is that there can be no system or standard so perfect that it will apply to all; if it were so, it would be making genius too easy, measurable with a footrule, and rather dull. She states, however, one aspect of the truth when she says: "The truth is that there is no great drama because there are no great dramatists." But the great dramatist, when he comes, may be supremely contemptuous of Nietzsche and all his works.

What hope is there for great drama in the near future? What form will it take? Miss Jameson says "the finest drama is, of necessity, symbolic drama," but happily she goes on to point out that "poverty-stricken allegory . . . has masqueraded as symbolism in the modern theatre." But still she sees promising signs of change, and all the "methods of advance have a common principle: the desire to create a rhythmical harmony between the parts of the drama; to mould action, character, and setting into a continuous whole, expressive of the dominant motive of the play." As portents of the future, I should like Miss Jameson's opinion of Mr. Herbert Trench's "Napoleon" and of Mr. Halcott Glover's "Wat Tyler." Art does not work by realism alone, and the needful lesson for the modern dramatic artist is well expressed in Nietzsche's own words, which are quoted in this book, that artists "should not see things as they are—they should see them fuller, simpler, stronger." Miss Jameson has written a sane and strong-minded book, pleasantly salted with prejudice; it deserves to be read by everyone who takes a serious interest in the drama.

R. A. A.

**Vision and Design.** By Roger Fry. (Chatto & Windus. 25s. net.)

Providence, with inscrutable benevolence, has provided that the arms of the ordinary drawing-room chair comfortably support the covers of "Vision and Design" when spread wide, still leaving room for the human body underneath. Otherwise, we should have to complain, for the first time these six years, that a publisher has given us too much for our money. Indeed, it is a splendid production; for twenty-five shillings an amazing one. I should be wise, perhaps, to say no more, or merely add, for the benefit of intending purchasers, that the book contains 37 plates, 199 pages of letterpress, consists of articles written by Mr. Fry during the past twenty years, and is probably the most important art criticism of our time. There I should be wise to stop, since even at the outset I must say "probably" instead of "certainly." It is true that Nature set in my head at birth two more or less oval balls of jelly-like matter, which have served me to find my way and read my book ever since. But it has seldom struck me to use my eyes to look at pictures, and I hope that I am not guilty of discourtesy if I suppose that most readers of THE WOMAN'S LEADER are, to some extent, in the same case. If I write of Mr. Fry's book, therefore, it is simply that I wish to register, and make bold to think that there is some purpose in registering, the effect of his criticism upon the ignorant.

To begin with, it was due to Mr. Fry that these spheres of jelly began painfully to concentrate, about the autumn of 1912, upon the canvases of Cézanne. It was not merely that he caused the pictures to be brought across the Channel. It was that by writing, talking, and sometimes pointing a finger, he turned on a light behind the canvas which has burnt ever since. He liberated a stream of pleasure of an entirely unknown kind. The greater part of "Vision and Design" is an attempt to extract this pleasure (no doubt that is not the right word for it) from works of art of all kinds and of all ages, to differentiate one pleasure from another, and to group them together into something which may become, one of these days, a system of aesthetics. I cannot attempt the most meagre outline of what Mr. Fry himself holds to be a changing and provisional theory. Only at certain points my own preconceptions, suggested by literature rather than by painting, thrust themselves across the path. For example, in the profoundly interesting essay on aesthetics, Mr. Fry writes: "But in our reaction to a work of art there is something more [than disinterested contemplation]; there is the consciousness of purpose, the consciousness of a peculiar relation of sympathy with the man who made the thing in order to arouse precisely the sensations we experience. . . . We feel that he has expressed something which was latent in us all the time, but which we never realised, that he has revealed us to ourselves in revealing himself. . . . And this recognition of purpose is, I believe, an essential part of the aesthetic judgment proper." But consider Lycidas. Here, it seems to me, we are conscious of purpose; and yet Milton neither reveals himself, nor reveals us to ourselves—except in so far as he makes us aware of certain capacities for feeling which otherwise we should have ignored. As for a feeling of sympathy with Milton himself, that, in my own case, is practically non-existent. As I read "Lycidas" I have no vision of Milton, old or young, blind or beautiful, irritable or tender. The words might have been written by Anon. Nor do they wake in me any consciousness of personal experience. On the other hand, the "Religio Medici" offers a much more complex case. As I read that I am constantly receiving an impression of Sir Thomas Browne's character. I make up a figure of him. I intend to read his life directly I have done. I am curious. I compare my own experience with his. Whether these sensations distract me from the aesthetic quality of the writing, or are part of it, I am puzzled to say. But I am certain that many books from which I get the greatest pleasure contain not a word either about "himself" or "ourselves." At the same time I am highly conscious of what I take to be the writer's purpose.

I know not how far it is relevant to compare literature with painting. But as I read through "Vision and Design" I found myself saying that there is to-day no literary critic who does for literature what Mr. Fry does for painting. In range and learning, as well as in a peculiar suppleness of mind which absorbs everything, allows nothing to congeal, and keeps the whole rich accumulation perpetually on the bubble, Mr. Fry seems to me to excel all now writing about books in England. A picture (if he chooses) is shown to be the final product of influences radiating through many centuries and from many countries; it is the starting point also of vibrations making themselves felt to-day in Paris or Camden Town or Brazil. A broken pot, a negro's carving, a child's drawing, a fresco by Giotto, all

transmit the thrill. And no convention, no prejudice is allowed for a second to come between his sensibility and his sensation. He is always taking in new matter and throwing it out again in fresh speculation. It is true that an art critic is not thwarted by language. If he wishes to talk about Persian art he is not under the necessity of learning to read Persian. And it is thus that I solace myself for the inferiority of our literary critics. They are comparatively ignorant, but what they lack in breadth and generality they make up for in richness and intensity. There is, it seems, much less to be said about a picture even by a critic of Mr. Fry's sensibility, than there is to be said about a book. Mr. Fry will do his best to explain why it is that he admires a fresco of Giotto's. But if one has read what Coleridge has to say about a poem of Wordsworth's, or Mr. Bradley has to say about Hamlet, one is left with a sense that pictures either hold much less than books, or that the language for expressing what they hold has still to be invented. The last guess is probably the right one, for Mr. Fry seems again and again to reach a point where he cannot continue for lack of apparatus. The psychologists have lagged behind; mysticism, into which he will not plunge, looms ahead.

Finally, brushing past innumerable temptations to digress, I ask myself, at the end of the absorbing book, whether criticism has any power to help artists to paint good pictures? Apparently not. Pictures seem to be painted independently of criticism, and scientific discoveries have misled painters rather than helped them. Indeed, referring once more to literature and making use of my own experience, I should imagine that to attempt to write a novel in the midst of a society given up to the discussion of the theory of fiction, would be impossible. And yet, though an artist may not profit directly by the conclusions of a critic, it is evident that without the active interest which criticism implies, his case would be still worse than it is. He would be still further removed from the average person than he is to-day. He would be more lonely, and, unless I am mistaken, more tempted to indulge in displays of virtuosity. Mr. Fry's great importance is, I think, not only that he makes it possible for the ignorant to communicate with the artist, but also, if I dare hazard such profanity, that he makes it possible for the artist to mix with the ignorant. But I have not space to discuss the meaning of this, nor, alas, is there much reason to consider what revolutions would be upon us if, instead of one Roger Fry we had, say, twenty dozen.

VIRGINIA WOOLF.

## ART NOTES.

## THE GOUPIL GALLERY.

Mr. John Nash is one of the most interesting of our younger artists, and his work, now to be seen at the Goupil Gallery, forms an altogether satisfactory collection of paintings, drawings, and wood engravings, showing him as an accomplished draughtsman with a fine sense of beauty, a deep appreciation of English landscape, and, in the pen-and-ink drawings, with a great sense of humour. The wood engravings are also admirable. Among the oil paintings, No. 45, "The Farmyard," and No. 47, "Winter Scene," are perhaps the best; but for pure enjoyment one must turn to the monochrome drawings and the water-colours. These are full of the spirit of country places; the wind blows through them; the woods are full of sunlight; Mr. Nash has an intimate knowledge of trees and of all their ways. No. 36, "The Great Beech at Night," and No. 39, "Painswick Beacon," the several drawings of "Wood Interiors," No. 65, "Soldiers' Hill, Risborough," and No. 84, "The Beach, Dunwich," are all fine drawings. Mr. Drinkwater is lucky in the possession of No. 87, "Norfolk Cliffs."

Mr. Mark Gertler's paintings, in another room, are a great contrast to Mr. Nash's work. They are less spontaneous, less full of life, and show less of the joy of work which makes Mr. Nash's drawings so attractive. The painting is woolly and rather unpleasant, although the colour is occasionally fine, notably in some of the flower paintings. If El Greco ever painted still-life studies, they would probably have had much the appearance of those by Mr. Gertler, especially of the china figures in No. 13, "The Mantelpiece."

The negro sculpture is interesting, and some of the masks, and the "Bronze Head of a Warrior," No. 39, are admirably executed.

E.

## DRAMA.

### "The Tempest" at the Aldwych.

Miss Viola Tree's production of "The Tempest" is singularly conservative. She disregards all recent experiments in the production of Shakespeare. She takes no notice of the attempts of the Elizabethan Stage Society to approach nearer to the original setting, nor of the efforts of Mr. Fagan and other modern producers who have given up all endeavour after old ways and simply make use of modern art in the production of old dramas. The present production steers between these two extremes, or rather might never have heard of either. It is the kind of performance which has been seen at any time in the last fifteen years. The play is acted on the ordinary picture stage with a drop curtain. It is quite free from any of the fantastic effects made in recent productions of old plays at the Court and at the Lyric, Hammersmith. All is perfectly commonplace and plain sailing. The play is divided into four acts instead of Shakespeare's five, but the business is well-managed and the pauses between the different scenes are almost unnoticeable. There is none of that endless waiting in the dark which transforms an audience and massacres a play. The scenery is of the most ordinary jog-trot kind. There is a very pretty background for Prospero's island, which might be a view of the Dorsetshire coast in a London and South Western Railway carriage. The costumes for the "Strange Shapes" in Act III., Scene 3, were executed, the programme tells us, by Victoire Ltd., 229, Brompton Road, and they certainly look like it. The music is not Elizabethan. And music, scenery, and acting, too, are much alike. All the actors showed by clear signs that they were unaccustomed to act Shakespeare, and unaccustomed, too, to speak blank verse. A good deal of the verse became inaudible in their modern mouths. Even Mr. Henry Ainley, even he, was difficult to hear at times. As Prospero, Mr. Ainley was, of course, very handsome and imposing, and, not of course, slightly sentimental. I think Mr. Ainley really enjoys himself when he can be funny, but on this occasion his sense of decorum held him back. So deep at times were his meditations when he was invisible, that nothing could recall him to his surroundings, except that potent magician the Prompter. Miss Joyce Carey, as Miranda, was very much like Miss Joyce Carey as the Young Person in Pink. She was very prettily dressed; she is young, slender, full of attraction. But her voice is that of a modern young lady, a young denizen of Chelsea, and her movements are those of the drawing-room, made by physical training and just subdued by social practice. They are not the movements nor the voice of Shakespeare's shadowy, exquisite girl, the child of a magician, the solitary creature of wildness and wisdom. Ariel, too, had lost its strange magic. Miss Winifred Barnes as Ariel was little more than an accomplished chorus girl, and Caliban had lost his peculiar character. Of course, Mr. Louis Calvert acted within reasonable keeping with a Shakespearean play; and he had quantities of sea weed on his arms and legs, but he was more like Mr. Louis Calvert with salad-dressing than like Caliban, for Caliban is unhuman and belongs altogether to another order of Nature, and Mr. Calvert was very human indeed!

Caliban gives the actor exactly the difficulty which the scenery gives to the artist—the difficulty of getting beyond ourselves and our world. Caliban is not one of us, and the island is not touched with any natural light. How impossible to paint or design any scene which shall carry the mystery of this magical

storm and the charmed quiet that follows upon it; or to make a stage a place where Ariel can enter invisible singing and playing.

How can his song re-echo "dispersedly" among canvas rocks and painted sand, and far too much sunlight from the front? How can it bewilder the hearer, until he does not know what he sees or does not see, or hears or does not hear? Is it music? Is it that indefinable rhythm into which accidental sounds sometimes fall in the silence of the country? Where or what is it?

It seems impossible to stage the Enchanted Island. It is quite impossible to stage it in the matter of fact way which Miss Viola Tree has chosen.

I suppose the average person sees "The Tempest" acted a good many times during his career, counting from the first time, when he is taken with the school, to the last, when he treats his grandchildren. At which point, I wonder, does he begin to understand the play? The young playgoer gets bored by the Masque, which interrupts the story, and he rather grudges Ferdinand and Miranda all that fuss, which may be interesting to them, as it is all about their wedding, but is otherwise rather footling. For the people in the Masque are only make up spirits made of air. "The Tempest," perhaps, dawns first on people about the thirties; it can only be the old who really understand and feel every syllable that Shakespeare put into it. "The Tempest" is supposed to have been the last play that he wrote. It comes after Romeo and Juliet, Antony and Cleopatra, Hamlet, King Lear.

In the last two acts, the whole theme is parting, and more than parting, change. The instrument upon which the theme is played is Prospero. Act IV. begins as Prospero takes the natural farewell that every father speaks to his daughter on her marriage. He says to Ferdinand:—

—  
Have given you here a thread of mine own life,  
Or that for which I live . . .  
Sit then and talk with her; she is thine own."

And Shakespeare arrests the action of the play for a moment upon this wedding. Prospero forms goddesses out of air, to pour out his own unendurable force of feeling in blessings upon "this contract of true love." He invents them so that they may bring the riches and fertility of the whole earth to the feet of the new husband and wife. Is it a mere awkwardness that the Masque is suddenly swept away? "Prospero starts suddenly and speaks, after which, to a strange, hollow, and confused noise, the spirits heavily vanish"; and in the dreariness Prospero is moved beyond measure by Caliban's plot—which gave him no real care. And then follows:—

"We are such stuff as dreams are made of,  
Our little life is rounded by a sleep . . .  
Bear with my weakness; my old brain is troubled."

Prospero's whole heart went with the lovers as far as it might, and then, when he was forced to turn back, he sees all life as a dream, void of real life, and then he feels the burden of his age, long before others have seen that it is becoming a burden.

One of the saddest of passages is where Prospero promises Ariel his freedom. It is heavy with retrospective thought over a whole long life of a man who had been able to enchant magical powers of poetry into his service; heavy, as all endings are, and heavier when a spirit like Shakespeare's is parting from a thing so great and so untamable. Ariel parts with "merrily, merrily," on its lips; that lovely song in which no farewell, no love, no human sense whatever break the beauty and the solitariness. Prospero is to return to this world. "I shall miss thee, yet thou shalt have thy freedom."

N. N.

## CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS.

### TRIAL MARRIAGES.

MADAM,—Surely the majority of those who read the letter from Mary M. Rowntree and others supporting her view, in which the articles on "Trial Marriages" are described as "revolting," "pernicious," &c., &c., will only conclude that the writers, if married themselves, have led very sheltered lives. They have clearly failed to grow out of the teachings of our early Victorian parents and grandparents, who seldom attempted to disabuse their children of the false and romantic idea that marriage is an unmixed state of bliss.

Many who have married to escape from conditions which were considered intolerable have found that the last state is worse than the first. There are three remedies for this:—(1) To educate youth in these matters; (2) to make divorce easy; or (3) to adopt a system of trial marriages.

Miss Picton-Turbervill rightly says that these ideas are being discussed by the younger generation, and to them the explosions of outraged morality shown in these letters of protest will merely be a source of mirth. Norah March and the Editor of THE WOMAN'S LEADER have rendered a public service in ventilating the subject, and I hope such articles will not be withheld from publication on account of threats of withdrawal of support from reactionary and prudish readers.

T. ELLIOT.

MADAM,—Permit me to say how deeply I deplore the acerbity of the criticisms which Miss Norah March's thoughtful article has evoked. Such criticisms betray an unworthy indifference to the sad lives led by large numbers of our unhappily mated fellow-citizens. Some solution should be found. My solution of the problem, however, would be somewhat different.

I would sweep away, root and branch, the present laws relating to marriage, separation and divorce, with their feudal traditions, remnants of coverture and masculine headship.

In its place I would put an adaptation of the ordinary law of partnership, with modifications suited to secure the well-being of offspring where necessary.

Marriage should be regarded as a function of the adult, not of minors. That being so, surely adult men and women should claim the right to formulate such terms of association, financial and otherwise, as suit their respective circumstances, aims, and ideals, and should decide for themselves as to continuance or termination. I agree with Wilhelm von Humboldt that the iron hand of the law is entirely unsuited to the adjustment of details or differences in such an intimate relationship as that of marriage.

If we would adopt the French law of equality of inheritance among children, girls and boys alike, educate girls and boys alike for trade, industry, or professional life, and adopt the French idea of creating some approach to financial equality in the marriage contract or settlement, a new era of respect for the conjugal union, with its rights, duties, and privileges, would dawn upon the world, and the knell of the double standard of morality would be sounded. It is not good for a man to be always "top dog," nor for a wife to be compelled to gain her desires by cajolery, or by sulking, or, what is very probable, not to gain them at all. Service for service, equal pay for equal work, equality before the law: these are essentials, and, having these, surely the vast mass of human beings should be capable of working out their own salvation.

Of course, where the wife gives her time and abilities to the home and family, the income of the husband should be regarded as the joint income, and half of it should be as much at the wife's disposal as the other half is at the husband's disposal. Each could contribute on equal terms to the expenses of the joint ménage.

DR. ALICE DRYSDALE VICKERY.

### MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED HUSBAND'S BROTHER.

MADAM,—You are doing a great work for sufferers in giving publicity to this question. Considerably more would be heard about it were the number of hard cases, and the misery that the anomaly is causing known.

It is often said that the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill was passed mainly on the ground that it is so often desirable for a deceased wife's sister to take charge of a young family, and to live with the widower, but no such conditions arise with a deceased husband's brother, and this case is, to that extent, weaker than the other.

People expressing this view show a lamentable lack of knowledge of the actual facts of the case. Does it not occur to them that thousands of war widows were left with young families, and was it not natural that the dead husband's brother should help the widow with advice, and possibly financially? I would ask them if they do not consider it most desirable that the young family should have the benefit of a father's influence, and who would give that influence better than their dead father's brother?

I grant that the children in either case must be looked after by a woman, to have their food prepared and their clothes mended; but I contend that it is equally important, if not more so, that there should be a father's influence and a breadwinner in the house, so that there may be food to cook and clothes to be mended for the children.

The economic conditions obtaining to-day are such that it is very difficult to make both ends meet on a State pension.

SUFFERER.

### WOMEN AND THE CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

MADAM,—May I beg the favour of space in your columns to make public an important decision in regard to Criminal Law Amendment, arrived at on January 31st at a private conference held in London of well-known social workers, representing some fifty national organisations?

After considering the Government Criminal Law Amendment Bill (as

amended and adopted by the Joint Select Committee last December), the Conference unanimously passed the following resolution:—

"This meeting calls upon the Government to take no further action in regard to the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, No. 2, H.L. 1920 (as amended by the Joint Select Committee), but to introduce and give facilities for the passage into law of a Criminal Law Amendment Bill which shall deal only with the following points:—

(a) Extending the age at which a boy or girl can consent to indecent assault.

(b) Raising the age of consent to criminal assault, and applying the same protection to boys.

(c) Abolishing the defence of 'reasonable cause to believe' in cases of criminal assault.

(d) Extending the limit of time in which a prosecution for criminal assault can be instituted.

(e) Increasing the penalties against brothel-keeping."

The resolution means that women are sick and tired of Government Criminal Law Amendment Bills (the main idea of which always seems to be the protection of men of all ages from seduction by girls under eighteen!) and are determined now to have the Bill they really want, and to have "the whole Bill and nothing but the Bill."

The proposals contained in the resolution have been advocated and strenuously agitated for by voteless women for more than twenty-five years, and have the united support of practically every women's and religious organisation in the country. Now that women know their political force they are determined to make the effective protection of the sexual immaturity of young people one of the chief planks in their programme of necessary reforms.

By the introduction of highly controversial matter (such as the compulsory detention for long periods of girls convicted of solicitation, and penalising sexual relations, or the invitation to sexual relations, between diseased persons), the Government doubtless reckoned on dividing the women's forces. These proposals actually have held up the amendment of the Criminal Law for over three years, but we venture to think the unanimous and enthusiastic adoption of the above resolution indicates the end of differences and the uniting of all sections in one concise and clear demand for the better protection of young people.

It is hoped that every local organisation will discuss this resolution and will notify this Association of their support. Further information can be had on application.

ALISON NEILANS, Secretary,  
Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.

### MEETING FOR WOMEN JUSTICES AND JURORS IN BIRMINGHAM.

A half-day Conference of women on their new duties as jurors and magistrates was held in Birmingham on February 3rd. The meeting, which was arranged by the Society for Equal Citizenship and the National Council of Women, was held by the kindness of the Lord Mayor in the Council Chamber, which was crowded to its utmost capacity with women from the surrounding towns as well as with those from all parts of Birmingham itself. The Lady Mayoress presided, and in her opening remarks said the idea of reformation rather than punishment, of seeking for the causes which led to wrongdoing and striving to remedy them, was what she hoped and believed would be the special contribution women would bring to such work. Mr. C. A. Carter, late Clerk to the Justices for many years, gave some helpful hints, especially to jurors. Jurors, he said, must try to keep their minds very cool and calm; there would always be time for feeling indignation after the trial was over. They must specially try to avoid forming a conclusion early on in the case; let the evidence pour into their minds, and, if possible, questions should not be asked until they could be asked quietly of the foreman in a private room. A good deal that did not come out in the evidence might often be revealed by the demeanour of the prisoner, the shiftness or callousness of a prisoner telling sometimes more than the actual evidence itself. The question of the mentality of prisoners was also one which should more and more engage the attention of those responsible for dealing justice. The knowledge that if a man committed crimes he was liable to have his mentality inquired into, would probably prove even more deterrent than the prospect of punishment.

Mrs. Barrow Cadbury, in a most interesting address, described the work among delinquent children, and said she felt that while we had slums the wonder was not that there were so few, but that there were so few.

After tea, Mr. A. R. Churchill, barrister-at-law, gave a most informing address on the technical points connected with jurors, together with a very helpful outline of the difficulties and how they should be overcome. He said that in the jury there must be no such thing as sex-consciousness, nothing but human beings trying to deal out justice as between other human beings. He felt that women had new points of view and a great contribution to bring to the realms of justice, but it could only be by forgetting everything personal and shirking nothing in the carrying out of their duties. Mr. Carter had stated that the first case of a revolting kind with which he had had to deal had made him physically ill, and the idea was evidently felt very strongly in the meeting that that if women wanted to help their own sex they must be willing to know life as it is, until they could improve it. Mr. Churchill thought that with women justices and jurors, it was probable that before long some unequal laws would have to be altered.

The meeting finally passed the following resolution:—  
"This conference of women, realising the grave nature of their work as possible jurors, resolves to undertake the same with any attendant unpleasantness it may entail—seeking only to fulfil faithfully their duty as citizens and Englishwomen."

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

**FEBRUARY 18.**  
**President:** MISS ELEANOR F. RATHBONE.  
**Hon. Secretaries:** Miss Macadam. Miss Rosamond Smith. **Parliamentary and Information Bureau Secretary:**  
**Acting Hon. Treasurer:** Mrs. Soddy. **General Secretary:** Miss Stack. **Mrs. Hubback.**  
**Offices:** Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1.  
**Telegraphic Address:** Voiceless, Westcent, London. **Telephone:** Museum 6910.

### ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING.

It has been suggested that the last day for application for delegates' tickets should be postponed from February 12th to February 28th. All arrangements for the Council are not yet completed, but will be given in full in the forthcoming Monthly Letter to Societies. A public luncheon will be arranged for one of the days of the meeting, and an evening reception on one evening. At least one Conference on Parliamentary work and general organisation will be arranged, and every effort will be made to make the Council both profitable and enjoyable.

### PUBLIC DEBATES.

The first of the two public debates announced last week attracted a large attendance, including a considerable sprinkling of teachers, on Thursday. Miss Pieton-Turbervill, O.B.E., presided. Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P., C.C., proposed "That Equal Pay for Equal Work between men and women is not practicable unless preceded by some scheme of National Family Endowment." Miss Agnes Dawson, late President of the National Union of Women Teachers, opposed, in the regrettable absence of Miss Froud because of illness. An unusually interested and animated discussion took place which showed that most of the speakers supported the principle of National Family Endowment, but objected to its association with the demand for equal pay. The proposal was rejected. The second debate, which will take place on Wednesday, February 23rd, at 8.30, presents a clearer issue and will be an event of unusual interest. Subject: "That National Family Endowment is desirable in the interests of the Family." Proposer: Mrs. Stocks, B.Sc. Opposer: Miss Helen Fraser.

The President and members of the Executive Committee will be glad to welcome any members or friends of the N.U.S.E.C. before the debate, at 8 o'clock, when coffee will be served (4d.). Tickets (2s. 6d. and 1s.) should be obtained from Headquarters in advance if possible.

### DEPUTATION TO SIR DAVID SHACKLETON

A deputation to urge the necessity for allowances to the dependents of unemployed persons was received by Sir David Shackleton at the Ministry of Labour on February 9th, 1921. The following organisations were represented: National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, Women's Freedom League, Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, National Women Citizens' Association, Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, Young Women's Christian Association, Family Endowment Committee. Miss Eleanor Rathbone in introducing the deputation asked that the Government should supplement unemployment insurance by allowances to wives and children. The present rates of 15s. to a man and 12s. to a woman, paid indifferently to married and single, left no margin at all for the support of a family. As a result there was great suffering and privation among children and child-bearing women, and this could not but have permanently injurious effects on the health of the people. The maintenance of children ought to be a first charge on the wealth of the nation. If someone must suffer from the results of industrial depression, it would be better that the suffering should fall upon the able-bodied adults rather than upon young children. Yet at present the Government made some provision for the former and none at all for the latter. This gave rise to the suspicion that the Government only yields to those who are able to threaten them. Mrs. Emil Burns, on behalf of the Family Endowment Committee, put forward sundry alternative proposals for providing for the dependents of the unemployed. Taking the December figure of 750,000 as the number of registered unemployed men (a number which has since increased to above a million), a proposal to provide for all wives and children under fourteen at the rates of 12s. 6d. a week for the wife, 5s. for the first child, and 3s. 6d. for other children, would cost £520,555 per week. A second suggestion to give allowances at the same rate to children under fourteen and their mothers (excluding wives who have

no children under fourteen) would cost £356,737 per week. In all cases the allowances given were all outside estimates, and the actual figures would probably be lower. Mrs. Mustard, of the Women's Freedom League, and Miss Macdonald, of the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, urged the claims of unemployed women, many of whom have themselves dependents.

In reply, Sir David Shackleton said that he could not, of course, give any undertaking that proposals on the lines suggested could be adopted. He would, however, deprecate any proposals that might be made by the Union being based on a grant from the State. Provision such as that which had been suggested, if it were ever made, should, he thought, be on the principle of a contributory scheme. It was obvious that as there was no such scheme in existence at the moment the proposal which had been made would involve a burden on National finances which they could not bear. He added that he was in agreement with the deputation that the suffering inseparable from unemployment should not fall upon the children. Sir David, in conclusion, promised to lay the suggestions made by the deputation before the Minister of Labour.

### PERSONAL.

Readers of this page will be interested to know that Mrs. Fawcett left on Monday for a visit to Palestine. She will be away for two months, which, unfortunately, means that she will not be present at the Council Meetings. All members and friends of the Union will wish to convey their wishes for a pleasant journey and an interesting tour, and will look forward to reading her impressions in THE WOMAN'S LEADER later.

In view of the discussion that is taking place on the question of women on juries at the present time, it may interest our readers to know that Mrs. F. W. Hubback, our Parliamentary Secretary, was empanelled as a special juror at the Lord Chief Justice's Court during this week.

### LITERATURE STOCKED AT HEADQUARTERS.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY LIST.

- V.—PUBLIC HEALTH.  
 The Work of a Public Health Committee. SMPE. (W.L.G.S. 6d. per doz.)  
 The Law Relating to Maternity and Child Welfare. SHADWICK HIGGINS. (National League for Health, 8c. 2d.)  
 An Outline of the Practice of Preventive Medicine. SIR G. NEWMAN. (Ministry of Health, 6d.)  
 Women in the Public Health Service. SAYLE. (Women Sanitary Inspectors' Association, 3d.)
- VI.—HOUSING.  
 Women and Housing. (Garden Cities and Town Planning Association, 6d.)  
 What Women Must Do Next. (Practical Programme for Committees on Housing.) (Garden Cities and Town Planning Association, 1d.)  
 Nothing Gained by Overcrowding. UNWIN. (Garden Cities Association, 6d.)  
 Housing in England and Wales. (Ministry of Reconstruction, 2d.)  
 Housing in Scotland. (Ministry of Reconstruction, 2d.)  
 The Working Woman's House. SANDERSON FURNISS and PHILLIPS. (Swarthmore Press, 1s. 6d.)  
 Housing: Powers and Duties of Local Authorities. (Ministry of Health, 2d.)  
 The Home I Want. REISS. (Hodder & Stoughton, 2s. 6d.)  
 New Towns after the War. NEW TOWNSMAN. (Dent, 71s.)
- VII.—EDUCATION.  
 How to Get the Best out of the Education Act. (W.E.S., 2d.)  
 The 1918 Education Act Explained. A. S. ROWNTREE. (Athenum, 2d.)  
 Final Report on Adult Education. (Ministry of Reconstruction, 1s. 6d.)  
 Education and Race Regeneration. SIR E. GORST. (Cassell, 6d.)
- VIII.—INDUSTRY AND PROFESSIONS.  
 Industrial Councils. The Whitley Scheme. (Ministry of Reconstruction, 2d.)  
 Laws Concerning Factories and Workshops. PHILLIPS. (Y.W.C.A., 2d.)  
 Labour and the New Social Order. (Labour Party, 2d.)  
 International Regulation of Labour under the Peace Treaty. DELEVINGNE. (Manchester Univer. Press, 1s. 6d.)  
 The Boy in Industry. (Ministry of Munitions, 3d.)  
 N.B.—This list will be completed next week.

## COMING EVENTS.

### LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

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

- FEBRUARY 18.**  
 At East Ham Central Hall.  
 Speaker: Canon Bickersteth Otley. 8 p.m.  
 At Keighley Municipal Hall.  
 Speakers: Rt. Hon. Lord Hugh Cecil, M.P., Miss M. Curry, O.B.E.  
 At East Grinstead, Queen's Hall.  
 Speaker: J. B. Clynes, Esq. 7.30 p.m.
- FEBRUARY 19.**  
 At Nottingham, Adult School Union.  
 Speaker: Mr. Norman Angell. Evening.
- FEBRUARY 20.**  
 At Wembley.  
 Speaker: Rt. Hon. G. N. Barnes, M.P. Evening.
- FEBRUARY 21.**  
 At Stamford Hill, Congregational Lecture Hall.  
 Speaker: T. A. Symons, Esq. 8 p.m.  
 At Southampton Parish Hall.  
 Speaker: Miss M. Curry, O.B.E. 3 and 7.30 p.m.
- FEBRUARY 22.**  
 At Battersea, Men's Evening Institute, St. Luke's Parish Hall, Ramsden Road.  
 Speaker: Mr. F. W. Raffety. 8 p.m.  
 At Chelsea Town Hall.  
 Speakers: Ben Tillett, Esq., M.P., Lord Parmoor. 8 p.m.
- FEBRUARY 23.**  
 At Huddersfield Town Hall.  
 Speakers: Rt. Hon. Lord Robert Cecil, K.C., M.P., Miss Curry, O.B.E. 7.30 p.m.  
 At Wigan Technical Institute.  
 Speaker: Frederick Whelen, Esq. 7.30 p.m.  
 At Seaford, Women's Institute.  
 Speaker: Miss Helen Ward. 3 p.m.
- FEBRUARY 24.**  
 At Shefield, Victoria Hall.  
 Speaker: Rt. Hon. Lord Robert Cecil, K.C., M.P. 7.30 p.m.
- WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.**  
**FEBRUARY 21.**  
 At the Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn.  
 Speaker: Mrs. M. W. Neilson, L.L.A., J.P.  
 Subject: "History of the Suffrage Movement."  
 Chair: Miss Agnes Dawson. 7 p.m.
- BRIGHTON AND HOVE UNION FOR WOMEN'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.**  
**FEBRUARY 21.**  
 At Y.M.C.A., 55, Old Steine, Brighton.  
 Subject: "Equality of Service in Church Life."  
 Speaker: Miss Pieton-Turbervill, O.B.E.  
 Chair: The Rev. Canon Dormer Pierre, Vicar of Brighton. 5.30 p.m.
- BRITISH DOMINIONS WOMEN CITIZENS' UNION.**  
**FEBRUARY 21.**  
 At the Minerva Cafe, 144, High Holborn.  
 To meet Mrs. Fitzsimmons and Leaders of the I.W.S.A.  
 Tea and Short Speeches. Admission, 1s. 6d. 3.30-6 p.m.
- UNION OF JEWISH WOMEN.**  
**FEBRUARY 21.**  
 At 44, Lancaster Gate. (By kind permission of Mrs. F. S. Franklin.)  
 Annual General Meeting.  
 Speaker: Miss Macadam (Hon. Sec., N.U.S.E.C.).  
 Subject: "The Industrial Outlook of the Present Day for Girls and Women of the Professional Classes." 3 p.m.
- WOMEN'S NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE STATE PURCHASE AND CONTROL OF THE LIQUOR TRADE.**  
**FEBRUARY 21.**  
 At Hitchin, W.C.A., Old Town Hall.  
 Debate: "Prohibition by means of Local Option."  
 Opener: Miss Hessel (B.W.T.A.).  
 Opposer: Miss Cotterell, O.B.E. 8 p.m.
- FEBRUARY 23.**  
 At Hoxton Hall, Women's Adult School.  
 Subject: "State Purchase of the Liquor Trade."  
 Speaker: Miss F. L. Carre. 7.30 p.m.
- CROYDON WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.**  
**FEBRUARY 22.**  
 At The Shola, Heathfield Road.  
 Subject: "Women J.P.s and Jurors."  
 Speaker: Miss Beaumont. 3 p.m.
- PLYMOUTH WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.**  
**FEBRUARY 22.**  
 Public Meeting at St. Matthias Parish Hall, North Hill.  
 Speaker: Miss Florence Tann.  
 Subject: "Women's Responsibilities towards the League of Nations."  
 Chairman: The Rev. Albert Hall. Admission free. 8 p.m.
- NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.**  
**FEBRUARY 23.**  
 At the Women's Institute, 92, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.  
 Debate: "That National Family Endowment is desirable in the interests of the Family."  
 Proposer: Mrs. Stocks, B.Sc.  
 Opposer: Miss Helen Fraser.
- WILLESDEN WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.**  
**FEBRUARY 21.**  
 At Dudden Hill Council School.  
 Annual General Meeting.  
 Speaker: Mrs. Stocks, B.Sc.  
 Subject: "The Present Economic Position of Women." 8 p.m.
- NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.**  
**FEBRUARY 23.**  
 At the Church Institute, Hood Street.  
 Speaker: Miss Hartop.  
 Chairman: Miss Milbanke. 7.30 p.m.
- INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CLUB.**  
**FEBRUARY 23.**  
 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.  
 Speaker: Miss Lind-a-Haghey.  
 Subject: "Small Causes of Misunderstanding between Great Nations."  
 Chairman: Mr. Norman Morrison. 8.15 p.m.

## APPOINTMENT VACANT.

THE COUNCIL OF BEDFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN invite applications for the post of resident Assistant Bursar, to start work early in March. Latest date for receiving applications February 21st.  
 For further information, apply to the Secretary, Bedford College, Regent's Park, London, N.W. 1.

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KENSINGTON TOWN HALL.—Fellowship Services, 6.30, Miss Maude Royden. Addresses on Prayer, (2) The Prayer of Faith.

All communications respecting advertisements should be addressed—"The Woman's Leader" Advertisement Department, 170, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4.

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