

# The Common Cause

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## Notes and News.

### The Education Bill.

The debates in the House of Commons on the Committee stage of the Education Bill have brought out the shortcomings of the Bill from the educational point of view. In spite of its ambitious preamble, the Bill, as Mr. King and Colonel Wedgwood showed, does not provide a national system of education. The fact that it deals only with certain classes of the nation makes it possible that, under the control of vested interests, it may in practice be "rather a scheme for training children to become useful producers of wealth than a scheme for producing a national improvement in the real education of the country." Colonel Wedgwood expressed a widespread distrust when he urged that "opposition to this Bill comes from one feature, and one feature only, and that is the fear of this vocational education." This point came up over and over again in the debate, particularly in connection with continuation schools; and, although Mr. Fisher made it clear that he was not in sympathy with any attempt to limit the education in continuation schools to vocational training, yet he could not make any positive statement as to the teaching that would be given in these schools, and the danger remains that local authorities may to a great extent defeat the educational aims of the proposal. The agricultural point of view was frankly stated by Captain Bathurst, who urged that girls in the country should be trained in essentially womanly tasks, such as "the feeding of stock, particularly of pigs," with a view to "fitting these young women to be the wives of smallholders and, indeed, wives of large farmers." This is vocational instruction with a vengeance; and there is real danger that education authorities will tend to regard matrimony, whether agricultural or otherwise, as the sole vocation of girls. Mr. King asked that free secondary education should be provided "for all persons desirous of such education;" but after an interesting debate, in which it was stated that only 8 per cent. of children in elementary schools go on to secondary schools, the proposal was defeated, mainly on the ground of expense. Mr. Fisher, however, said that he would make it clear to Education authorities that poverty should not be a bar to higher education; the Board of Education would insist on the provision of an adequate number of secondary schools at which there should be a reasonable proportion of free places.

### The Characteristics of a True Democracy.

The Labour Party is to discuss Reconstruction at a Conference in the Central Hall, Westminster, on June 26th. The ideal of good life for the State, which the Party has set before its eyes, is summarised in the last part of the first resolution as "the gradual building up of a new social order, based, not on internecine conflict, inequality of riches and dominion over subject classes, subject races or a subject sex, but on the deliberately-planned co-operation in production and distribution, the systematic approach to a healthy equality, the widest possible participation in power, both economic and political, and the general consciousness of consent which characterise a true democracy." Suffragists, to whatever political party they belong, will find much to sympathise with in these words: for are not "co-operation," "healthy equality," "Government by Consent," the things we have been working for these fifty years, and for which we are working still?

### The Field for Reconstruction.

The Labour Conference will go on to discuss the need for increased production; the maintenance and protection of the standard of life; the provision for soldiers and sailors after the war; the discharge of civilian war workers; the restoration of trade union conditions; the prevention of unemployment; unemployment insurance; the complete emancipation of women; the restriction of personal liberty; political reforms in Ireland; constitutional devolution; local government; education; housing; the abolition of the Poor Law; municipal health service; temperance reform; the control of electricity, coal and iron mines; life assurance; agriculture and rural life; the control of industry; and national finance. It is a vast programme, and one in which women are as deeply concerned as men. We are glad to know that in the Labour Party they will discuss all these matters on a footing of equality. We hope that there will be many women amongst the delegates.

### The Complete Emancipation of Women.

The Executive of the Labour Party, indeed, hold that women are not only equally concerned with men in the problems of reconstruction, but that in a sense they are specially concerned in them. The ninth resolution, headed "The Complete Emancipation of Women," states "that the changes in the position of women during the war, in which they have rendered such good service, and the importance of securing to women as to men the fullest possible opportunities for individual development, make it necessary to pay special attention in the reconstruction programme to matters affecting women." The resolution goes on to urge that work or maintenance at fair rates should be provided for all women displaced from their employment to make way for men returning from service with the forces or other national work; that full enquiry should be made into trades and processes previously held to be unhealthy or in any way unsuitable for women, but now being carried on by them, with a view to making recommendations as to the conditions of their further employment in such trades; that all women employed in trades formerly closed to them should only continue to be so employed at trade union rates of wages; that trade unions should be urged to accept women members in all trades in which they are employed; and that the principle of "equal pay for equal work" should be everywhere adopted. If the last clause passes as it stands it will be a great step forward towards the economic freedom of women, taken by those who have, perhaps, greater power to affect the issue than any other body of people in the State.



### The Civic and Political Rights of Women.

A Labour Conference, very largely composed of representatives of trade unions, can advocate the industrial rights of women with a weight which cannot be gainsaid; but Labour as a political party has also to give its testimony as to what women's rights should be in the State. This it will do with energy, if the Executive Committee's resolutions are passed. The resolution on the complete emancipation of women demands that all legal restrictions on the entry of women into the professions on the same terms as men should be abrogated; that women should have all franchises, and be eligible for election to all public bodies (including Parliament) on the same conditions as men; that systematic provision should be made for the inclusion of women in Committees or Commissions, national or local, dealing with any subjects that are not of exclusively masculine interest; and that the present unjust provision of the income tax law, under which the married woman is not treated as an independent human being, even in respect of her own property or earnings, should be at once repealed. Another resolution, headed "Political Reforms," demands absolutely equal franchise rights for both sexes, and protests against the failure of the Representation of the People Act to give votes to women under thirty and its denial to them of the right to sit in Parliament. This last protest is, we believe, unnecessary—there is nothing in the Representation of the People Act to prevent women sitting in Parliament, though it does not secure that they shall do so. The Labour Party is itself placing women on its list of candidates, and Miss Mary Macarthur has been nominated for Stourbridge. It is thus already taking steps to secure this important political right for women, and to remedy the defects of which it complains in the franchise reforms of this year. No doubt it will, if necessary, follow this up later by party action in Parliament. If the resolutions on the programme of Reconstruction are endorsed by the Conference on June 26th, Labour will confirm its proud position as the first political party to stand as a party for the complete emancipation of women.

### Labour Women Candidates.

We are most interested to read, this week, of the adoption of Miss Mary Macarthur (Mrs. Anderson) as a Labour candidate. She is the third woman candidate for the Labour Party, the others being Miss Margaret Bondfield, and Mrs. Philip Snowden who wrote for us, a few weeks since, an article upon the Woman M.P. In that article Mrs. Snowden said "It is impossible to be too clear that nothing valuable need be expected from the woman in Parliament unless she be qualified for her work." The Labour Party has been at pains to select, as Parliamentary candidates, women who are qualified for their work—women of wide and varied practical experience. Miss Macarthur is the Secretary of the Women's Trade Union League and the National Federation of Women Workers, Hon. Secretary of the Central Committee on Women's Employment, and a member of the National Insurance Advisory Committee. Miss Margaret Bondfield is Organising Secretary of the Women's Labour League, and Mrs. Philip Snowden a well-known public speaker, and a prominent member of the Independent Labour Party. Their experience should be of the greatest public value, and we wish them all success in their candidature.

### L.C.C. and Teachers' Salaries.

It is with great regret that we read of the final decision of the L.C.C. on the vexed question of teachers' salaries. After three hours of keen discussion the L.C.C. decided to accept the Education Committee's revised salary scale, which proposes for qualified assistant teachers a salary of £120 for men and £108 for women (as compared with the present salaries of £100 and £90), and fixes the maximum at £300 for men and £225 for women. The urgent need for the settlement of these salary-rates, and the fact that the revised proposals do not increase the inequalities of pay between men and women but leave the proportions as before, won for the Education Committee's suggestions their acceptance. Yet the fundamental injustice of inequality of pay, based on sex difference, remains, and it also remains true that this inequality is for the first time receiving Government sanction, and is becoming part of a Reconstruction programme. For these reasons we would associate ourselves with those teachers who are still maintaining a resolute opposition, and would, with them, lodge the strongest possible protest against the action of the London County Council.

### The Women's Movement in the Straits Settlement.

Fresh illustrations of the fact that the women's movement is a living force in all parts of the world come to us every day. The latest is a report in the *Times of Malaya* of a meeting in Penang, to demand a reform of the Marriage Laws for the Chinese in the Straits Settlements, and to express sympathy with similar movements in Singapore and Malacca. The chief speaker, Novia Chuah Guat Beng said that the day was not very far distant when almost all the Straits Chinese girls would have some sort of English education, and it was time that the Government should recognise the principle of "one man, one wife." Another speaker, Novia Lam Houi Lam, spoke of the evils of polygamy in China. She said that most of the Chinese who had secondary wives did not look after the first wives, and that the children also were apt to be neglected, while the husband enjoyed the company of his younger wives. It was resolved that a petition should be forwarded to the Governor, "praying that a modified form of the English law of marriage be adopted in the Colony for all Straits-born Chinese." A Committee of four Chinese ladies was formed to organise the collection of signatures, and a subscription list was opened. There was also some discussion as to the proper age for marriage; the meeting considered that women should marry at about twenty, and men at about twenty-five. One of the speakers used the Hokkien language and another the Cantonese. Those present were mostly women and British subjects, though of Chinese race. We send our greeting to these fellow-subjects across the seas, who are also our fellow-workers in the women's movement.

### The Feminine Appetite.

We would protest against the present rationing system, by which the man who is "exempted" from manual labour is to have an extra ration but the woman who has replaced his "mate," and is doing identical work, must go without. There appeared this week a most interesting article in *The Daily Telegraph*, which explained the situation with great lucidity. The extra ration scheme, as outlined in March, promised fifty per cent. increase in food rations to those engaged on hard physical labour, and yet a further fifty per cent. to those on very hard physical labour. No distinction was drawn between the sexes. Alas! since then, it has been subtly introduced. When the scheme finally came into operation physical workers were classified and rationed accordingly. Women were not excluded from the extra ration—only they were graded one class lower. That is to say, the women "on very heavy industrial work" only received the ration of the man "on heavy agricultural work," while the woman on "heavy industrial work" received no extra ration at all. The Ministry of Food claims to be acting on scientific advice. Can it really be scientific advice which allots the consulting surgeon an extra ration and refuses it to the woman bus conductor, or grants it to the postman but refuses it to the postgirl on the next round? If so, it is curiously like an old legend which used to tell how the woman, who could only afford a bun and a glass of milk for lunch, rejoiced, threw and flourished on so delicately feminine a diet. And, somehow, the women in the case was, and is, strangely sceptical. If our women workers are unsatisfied, something is wrong with our science. A hungry woman is a poor worker, and one essential just now is to keep the worker healthy and productive, no matter whether woman or man.

### The Minimum Wage.

At a meeting of the Trade Board, which regulates the rates of pay in the Sugar, Confectionery, and Food Preserving trades, a proposal was made to raise the present minimum wage for women from 19s. 6d. per week of fifty-two hours—that is to say, 4½d. an hour—to 21s. 8d. (or 5d. an hour). The minimum wage for men is 8d., and it is not proposed to vary this.

### The Law of Divorce.

The Separation and Divorce Bill, which has been drafted by Lord Sydenham's Committee, proposes some important changes in our present laws, the chief among these are: That a divorce shall be obtainable after five years' separation; that any party to a marriage who has been deserted by his or her partner for a period of five years (or longer), but who is not separated by an Order of Court by agreement, shall be entitled to apply for divorce; that every decree pronounced under this Act shall be a decree absolute. Cases are to be tried by the Stipendiary Magistrate or the County Court Judge, and provision is made in the Bill for an appeal to the High Court for any decree, or the refusal of any decree.

## The Status of Women after the War. II.

BY MRS HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

The illustrations of the high productivity of women's work given at the end of my last article bring us up against one of the very greatest problems of reconstruction which will have to be faced after the war. We have masses of conflicting facts facing each other like opposing armies. There is, on the one hand, the general trend of trade union rules and regulations dead against women labour, honestly looking upon it as the "accursed thing." There is also the other trade union practice of wilfully and deliberately reducing the output of male labour; then there is the proved efficiency of women's labour and the fact that women's labour at good wages has been accomplished by a slightly higher birth rate, a reduction of infant mortality and a diminution in the cost of sick leave in women's Insurance Societies, showing that women's health has not suffered from their new work. Notwithstanding all this, those men's unions which still oppose female labour have a tremendously strong weapon in their hands. The Government is pledged, and the pledge is embodied in the Munitions of War Act, and is enforceable on employers for one year after the war, to restore trade union rules and regulations, including the prohibition of female labour. In a sense, this would make the industrial position of women worse than it has ever been before. Formerly the exclusion of women from the skilled trades was enforced by the regulations of private societies; after the war this pledge will exclude them by law. Ought this exclusion to be maintained? Can it be maintained with justice and with a due regard to the national needs, or to that principle of individual liberty which is no less dear to women than to men? Women are no longer politically helpless. Six million of them will have the parliamentary vote. They can say, justly, they were not parties to the pledge just referred to which was given by the Government in their negotiations with men's trade unions. Some amicable way out of the difficulty must be discovered. Let us try to look at the whole facts squarely in the face.

First consider the trade union position. Masses of men, the most intelligent and high-minded of the industrial population, have devoted themselves for generations to building up a higher standard of comfort for the whole class to which they belong. They have achieved a very considerable measure of success; and the whole nation is the better for it, including the businesses whose heads loudly protested that it would spell ruin to them. But this has been done at the cost of reducing a very large proportion of industrial women to a position of serfdom; they have not been free to engage in such industries as their natural capacities fitted them for. Pressed out of the skilled trades they have been more and more forced into the already over-crowded ranks of the unorganised and unskilled, sweated workers. Before the war, Mr. Sidney Webb calculated that the average wage of the adult manual working woman was only 10s. 10½d. a week, or less than the minimum of what it even then cost to live. When the Queen's Work for Women Fund was started at the beginning of the war, the committee reported that many working women were normally in the receipt of wages below subsistence level. Surely here you have a condition of things full of national peril. A large part of the high infant mortality and the high rate of sickness among working women are due to it. Some part at least of the low moral standard in the relation between the sexes is also due to it. It is inconsistent with the whole trend of modern thought, which is in the direction of the free citizenship of women and the opening to women of freedom of opportunity for the exercise of any faculties they possess. Above all, Parliament, in the House of Commons by a majority of seven to one, and even in the House of Lords by a majority of nearly two to one, has proclaimed that women are to be free politically. How can they be free politically and remain in a state of serfdom economically? Because I say deliberately that the exclusion of women from the skilled trades, which was a part of trade union policy and practice up to 1915, did reduce a great mass of industrial women to a position of virtual serfdom. Women in skilled employments have been turned out of them by the pressure of trade unions, and the freeing of women from these shackles has only

been accomplished at the price of a world war on an unprecedented scale. Women may well say "At a great price bought I this freedom." There has been nothing like it since the Black Death, in the fourteenth century, broke down villeinage and serfdom.

But let us not be unjust to the trade unions. They have fought a great fight to raise the standard of men's wages. They have resisted the introduction of women into their trades, not because they were women, but because they were regarded as an immense reserve of cheap labour—in other words, as black-legs. If trade unionists have erred as regards the employment of women they have erred in company with the leaders of all the learned professions. The doctors here and in America fought a bitter fight to keep women out of their profession. When my sister, Mrs. Garrett Anderson, in the early 'sixties, was trying, as a young woman, with the strenuous help of my father, to open the medical profession to women, he has told me how on many occasions on which they called on some leading doctor to ask his advice and help, the learned man would frequently make some excuse to get my father by himself, and would then say solemnly: "Mr. Garrett, this thing is madness: it can never be done. I would rather see my own beloved daughter in her coffin than attempting what your daughter is trying to do." Even a good half-century later, when Doctor Elsie Inglis went to the War Office to offer her services to the R.A.M.C. in September, 1914 she described, quite modestly I am sure, what her qualifications were, and what her experience as a surgeon had been, and said her only wish at that moment was to help her country, and asked advice as to the best way of doing this. The reply she received was "Dear Lady, go home and keep quiet." With lawyers the resistance to women is still maintained. The barriers are tottering. The House of Lords has twice passed the Women Solicitors Bill, and it has a fair prospect in the Commons. Then look at the Church: the Church of England rigidly excludes all women from its priesthood. Even in the Life and Liberty Movement, where something better might be expected, no certain note on this subject has been sounded. It is considered a sign of desperate daring in church circles to sanction the appointment of women as sidesmen or sextons! I am told the Roman Catholic Church is still more hostile to anything approaching equality in the position of women. I am no authority on the subject, but I have been told that no woman in that Church is permitted even to touch the linen, the vessels, or any of the objects connected with the altar. So that in the professions we are up against the very same spirit of exclusion on the one side, and privilege on the other, which we encounter in the skilled trades.

I believe that in all these cases the men who have sought to exclude women from their own employments have taken the wrong turning, even from their own point of view. In the industrial world they have debarred women from opportunities of training and acquiring skill, forcing them down into the ranks of the unskilled; the mass of poorly paid, and therefore unorganised, women has continually excited a downward pull on women's wages, and therefore exaggerated the difference between the wages of men and women, and thereby increased the advantage to employers of engaging women rather than men.

Let it be fully recognised that the trade unionists have done a valuable national service in building up, by years of effort and self-sacrifice, their own rate of wages, and that it would be a national misfortune to lower the rate thus laboriously secured. But would they not have done better if they had taken the women along with them in their unions and extended the hand of brotherhood to them? I understand this has been done in the textile trades, and with good results; and the movement is growing in other trade unions. Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P. for Derby, for instance, fully recognises this: he has advised the Railwaymen to welcome women into their union, and to raise the slogan of "equal pay for equal work." This, I believe, is the real solution of the whole tangled mass of difficulties.

It interests me extremely to see in the Press of last Tuesday (April 2nd, 1918), that in the new American Labour Charter, drawn up and agreed to by employers and employed with the view of preventing labour disputes during the war, one important item in the agreement is "equal pay for equal work for women."

(To be continued.)

Erratum.—THE COMMON CAUSE, May 10th, Mrs. Fawcett's Article, p. 49, Mr. Drake's book should read Mrs. Drake's book.



## Obituary.

### LORD COURTNEY OF PENWITH.

The death of Lord Courtney of Penwith, which took place on May 11th, is a great loss to the Women's Movement, and to other movements, some of which were once counted lost causes, but which he had helped to win. In the quite early days of the suffrage movement he was a member of the London Committee. Between 1870 and 1880 he took an active part in supporting Mr. Jacob Bright's Women Electors Disabilities Bill, and in 1877, when Mr. Jacob Bright's health broke down, he took charge of the Bill. In 1880 he accepted office in the Government, and was obliged to give up the charge of the Bill, though not, of course, his support of Women's Suffrage. In all the stages of his varied, distinguished, and self-sacrificing career he gave help and advice to suffragists. Whether the chief occupation of his time at the moment was as Professor of Political Economy at Cambridge, as leader writer to *The Times*, as a Government official, as Deputy Speaker, or as a distinguished member of the House of Lords, he was always ready to spend his strength freely in doing everything that lay in his power for the enfranchisement of women, and for the opening of equal opportunities to them in every sphere of life. The higher education of women had no more valued friend. On January 15th of this year he took a distinguished part in the House of Lords' debate on the Referendum Amendment to the Women's Suffrage Clauses of the Representation of the People Bill. He rejoiced with us when that Amendment was defeated and the Bill passed. In a message to *THE COMMON CAUSE*, published on March 15th, he said "The triumph . . . has been magnificent. Forty years ago, when I had the honour of conducting the Women's Suffrage Bill in the House of Commons, our aims were so modest as to incite even then something like contempt on the part of the more enthusiastic. But I think we were right in desiring to remove the slur put upon the sex incapacity in political judgment; and, assuredly, modest spade work did help towards preparing the ground for the more bounteous harvest of to-day. That has been overwhelming in its extent and suddenness. We can now see how, bit by bit, the work was extended and the obstacles cleared away, till, at last, it seemed as if there was no real resistance to be encountered. . . . I am satisfied that experience will prove the enfranchisement of women to be as safe as it is wise; and that it will not be long before all will wonder why the revolution—and revolution it undoubtedly is—was not effected before."

## The Women's War Service Legion.

### HORTICULTURAL SECTION.

Formerly the Women's Legion, now War Service Legion, started many useful activities, and none of them will appeal more to women than their picturesque revival of the art of herb-growing for medicinal purposes. This ancient industry has become one of vital importance since the war began, and the Horticultural Section of the "Women's Legion," in encouraging this branch of national industry is doing a much needed patriotic work. All sorts of delightful old articles of faith are still held by the country folk with regard to the growing of medicinal herbs, though the days of the "Herbe woman of Chepeside," who used to carry her fragrant wares round the streets for sale, are no more. Country folk will still, in some places, assure you that certain herbs must be sown when the moon is on the wane, such as samphires, hartshorn, and citron.

In olden days a privet hedge usually surrounded the herb garden, or a hedge of hemlock, the leaves of which have been used for centuries either to deaden pain in fomentations or as a medicine. As a medicine it is most dangerous for ignorant people to touch, and should only be used as ordered by a doctor. This plant has a very precarious growth, sometimes only growing in little patches in meadow lands; but Anne Pratt speaks of one example of it as growing six feet high on a cliff near Dover.

The Women's Legion has a Herb-growing Section and a garden at Oakham, and Mrs. Drysdale-Bowden is the Honorary Secretary of this Section. There is a very great demand for medicinal herbs now, as many which were allowed to go out of cultivation in pre-war days, such as belladonna, henbane, camomile, dandelion, aconite, foxglove, are urgently needed. Most of our supplies came from Central Europe, Germany, Austria, and The Balkans. Before the war, 1s. 6d. was paid for some drugs now costing about 25s. The chance of making a profitable industry which will be retained in Great Britain after the war is over, is to pay

attention to details which ensure a better article than can be procured elsewhere. It is of no use, Mrs. Drysdale-Bowden tells me, for anyone to start growing the herbs, unless they can be placed in a drying shed within twenty-four hours of their being gathered.

There are heaps of herbs which have always grown well in our own country, such as coltsfoot, meadow saffron, burdock, &c., which we could have collected and utilised if we had taught our country people the right way to collect and dispose of them, but we have allowed this important trade, comparatively lately, to fall into alien hands. This industry has the prospect of opening out occupation for many people. For instance, at the East Anglian Branch of the Herb Growers' Association, some convalescent soldiers volunteered to collect the plants, and brought in all sorts from the neighbouring hedgerows to the drying station.

Belladonna, known to most country folk as the deadly nightshade, is now 600 per cent. advanced in price. It is in enormous demand, as it is much used with morphine. Dandelion, sage, mint, lavender, hawkseed, and marshmallow should all be cultivated as they are all in great demand, and would yield good results. The industry can, if worked in a business-like way, be placed on a sound financial footing. Lady Barbara Smith has a very successful centre at Upton-on-Severn, and a good business is done in her drying shed in the drying of belladonna, henbane, poppies, &c. Lady Barbara Smith is on the Council of the Women's Legion.

The training which is given by the Horticultural Section (President, the Marchioness of Londonderry), in agricultural work, herb-growing, &c., is given at the large dairy farm which has been taken over at Oakham, Rutland. The Hostel consists of a large central building, well-equipped and comfortably furnished. Thirty students can be accommodated. Here the most thorough training possible, under fully qualified instructresses, is given at a minimum cost. The entire uniform of the Legion only costs about £2, which includes leggings.

Anyone wishing to join this movement, either from the point of view of being able to undertake the management of their own dairy, or to start their own herb garden, or to qualify as an Instructress in either branch, is invited to write to Miss Brocklebank, Commandant, Wing Grange, Oakham.

The need for the industry to be developed is great, and the training costs comparatively little; and it is only the development which is wanted as the industry has been always taught, though not particularly encouraged, in England. Swanley has always had its herb garden. This industry is far more likely to suit women workers than most farm operations, as the latter require more strength and health than many women possess, and many would be able to do the necessary work in a herb garden who could not possibly undertake work on the land.

MADELINE GREENWOOD.

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## The Open Question.

SHAKESPEARE'S SONNETS AND A LOVER'S COMPLAINT. Edited by C. Knox Pooler. (The Arden Shakespeare. Methuen, 3s. net.)

Wordsworth's "With this key Shakespeare unlocked his heart," and Browning's "Did Shakespeare? If so, the less Shakespeare he!" and Swinburne's "No whit the less like Shakespeare, but undoubtedly the less like Browning"—what philosophy of art underlies these hackneyed contradictions about the Sonnets? Does Swinburne's saying mean that there are two kinds of poetry; that one kind is better than the other; that the better kind is that which lets the reader into the secret of the writer's heart, and the worse is that which does not; that Shakespeare's poetry is of the better kind, and Browning's of the worse? If it meant all that (and some of that is unanswerable enough) it would have to mean incidentally that Browning was more "dramatic" and less "lyrical" than Shakespeare! A strange conclusion! Does, then, Swinburne's saying merely mean that Shakespeare was great enough to unlock his heart on occasion, while Browning wasn't? And how came Swinburne to think that Browning never unlocked his heart? How, for that matter, came Browning to think it? Browning was unlocking his heart in *One Word More* as surely as he was dramatising in *Andrea del Sarto*. In *The Ring and the Book* itself there is at least one passage of directest self-revelation. The passage ("O lyric Love, half angel and half bird!") is among the noblest of its author's utterances. Is he here "the less Browning," or the more? What different powers are brought into play, what different scope is attempted, what different Heaven of imagination is taken by storm, when the voice is not Browning's but Andrea's or Pompilia's, and yet so vitally and essentially Browning's still?

And so we come to the problem of Shakespeare's Sonnets. I refer to the problem—the interesting problem: not the problem of whether the evidence can make good the Earl of Pembroke's claim, or the Earl of Southampton's claim, to the fame of having been "Mr. W. H.," or the shame of having been Shakespeare's false friend. (The evidence cannot, in mere fact, make good the claim of either to either.) What I want to consider is the problem of whether there was a false friend at all. It is a delightful theory, which has charmed many generations, that here Shakespeare, in his "sugred sonnets among his private friends," revealed those secrets of his own story which are so securely hidden away in the splendours of his dramatic poetry: wrote them for himself, or for one or two others, or for the whole fortunate fellowship of his "private friends," as Browning wrote *One Word More* for "E.B.B.," or as "Rafael made a century of sonnets," and "Dante once prepared to paint an angel"—"once, and only once, and for one only." It is a delightful theory. It may be a true one. But to suppose it true is to land oneself in strange perplexities, and to forget how difficult, how fine, how dubious, is the division between different artistic forms, between drama and lyric.

Not that we can countenance the heresy and fallacy of Sir Sidney Lee, who almost reduces the Sonnets to a literary exercise, or, at least, minimises their personal and passionate significance by over-emphasising the likeness of their subject and of their formal conceits to the subjects and the conceits of a whole school. It is just because Shakespeare's Sonnets are so like other people's that they are so unlike other people's: the external resemblance emphasises the essential uniqueness. If we cannot discriminate sharply between the Shakespeare of the Sonnets and the Shakespeare of the Plays (and who with an ear for poetry can?), that is not because the Sonnets are less self-revealing than is usually supposed, but because the Plays are more so. This is the solution, so far (and it is not very far) as a solution is possible, of the "problem" of the Sonnets. Go straight from reading *Hamlet* to the reading of the Sonnets: if *Hamlet* despises himself because he "unpacks his heart with words"—is not that the very note of the Sonnets? The self-contempt, the "conflict" (in the technical sense of that word, as the modern psychologists use it) is frightful in the Sonnets. It is tempting to trace out one type of character through the plays—Henry VI., Richard II., *Hamlet*, would all more or less fit into it—and to say: "Here is the real Shakespeare; here is the Shakespeare of the Sonnets." We shall not yield to the temptation, however, unless we have lost sight of the essentials. Not that crude kind of self-revelation which consists of "giving away" one's private fortunes and personal idiosyncrasies—not that is the self-revelation we have to look for in Shakespeare.

In truth, the academic distinctions and definitions, the arguments to and fro about "dramatic" and "lyric," have, when conducted in abstraction from larger questions, done the poets some wrong. For in reality, the discussion of technical points cannot be dissociated from the discussion of spiritual facts. Technique which fails to reveal the spirit is a technical blunder. And when we are led aside to the consideration of whether a poet can more legitimately reveal himself in one technical form or another, or when we debate whether the story outlined in the Sonnets is "true" or "imaginary," we give a wrong value to truth, and to imagination. There is only one kind of truth that matters in art, and that is the truth of the imagination. It does not matter whether Shakespeare did certain things in actual external fact: what matters is whether he lived those things as experiences in his own soul. Some critics have said that Shakespeare "could" not have written certain bitter and passionate sonnets ("Alas, 'tis true, I have gone here and there," for instance), unless he had in his own personal relations experienced the bitterness and passion there described: but to say this is like saying that Shakespeare "could" not have written *A Winter's Tale* unless he had been as jealous as Leontes, or *Othello* unless he had been as cold as Iago. It is even like saying that he could not have written *Hamlet* unless he had been as silly as Polonius: to which the answer is that Polonius could not have written *Hamlet*, but a man who could write *Hamlet* could write anything.

A great living writer once said to me: "It is impossible to write about anything but oneself." And he added: "That's a dangerous thing to say, because people immediately suppose you have experienced the accidents you describe; they don't understand that all you need have is the capacity for experiencing them." The truth is that each of us contains all of us: in subconsciousness, in suggestion, in remote, unrealised sympathies and recollections, in possibilities. Each of us contains all of us: but only genius can express any of us.

It is amusing to observe how easily the current arguments about Shakespeare's "self-revelation" in the Sonnets can be turned to either of two opposite conclusions. You want to prove that Shakespeare realised his own greatness? Half a dozen quotations are to your hand, of which, perhaps, the most conspicuous is:

"Not marble, nor the gilded monuments  
 Of princes, shall outlive this powerful rhyme."

But how easy to prove the opposite, with another half dozen of quotations! The *monumentum aere perennius* note was a convention, traditional centuries before Shakespeare, and particularly popular in his time: but consider what he has to say in the opposite sense—"My barren rhyme" is declared unable to "make you live yourself in eyes of men": "these poor rude lines of thy deceased lover" may, even in the lifetime of the person addressed, "be outstripped by every pen": or, again,

"If my slight Muse do please these curious days,  
 The pain be mine, but thine shall be the praise."

or, lastly:

"Oh, how I faint when I of you do write,  
 Knowing a better spirit doth use your name,  
 And in the praise thereof spends all his might,  
 To make me tongue-tied, speaking of your fame."

That "better spirit," say some critics, was Chapman! And Shakespeare goes on to speak of "my saucy bark" as "inferior far to his." Did Shakespeare really think so—of Chapman! or of anybody else? (Of course, this sonnet may be ironical; but it does not read as if it were, and such an explanation seems to be too easy, and to prove too much.)

The same game can be played with the characters in the "story." The theme of the friend who loves the lover's beloved and is better loved by the lover than is even the beloved herself—that theme can be found elsewhere. There is something like it in Shakespeare's own *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. Can we argue that it was Shakespeare's own experience? It is found in another contemporary play—Lyly's *Campaspe*. Was it Lyly's own experience? Or was it just another of those Elizabethan "conventions"? No: as before, if you accept Sir Sidney Lee's theory of the "convention," you cannot explain the passion and the poetry. There must be reality of emotion: the error is to limit or stereotype the kind of reality.

Take again that famous sonnet in which Shakespeare appears.



to decry his mistress's charms—"My mistress eyes are nothing like the sun." It is often and often quoted as showing that Shakespeare fretted against enslavement to a woman whom he did not even think beautiful: and indeed, there are other sonnets of which such a reading is possible. But this sonnet is quite evidently (like several of Sir Philip Sidney's sonnets) *literary criticism*: it is an ironic rebuttal of the exaggerated conceits common in contemporary verse, and, lest the point should be missed, Shakespeare makes it quite clear in the concluding couplet:

"And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare  
As any she belied with false compare."

It is true, however, that he does here, and elsewhere, refer to his mistress's "blackness"; and, as Mr. Frank Harris pointed out, we are possibly in "the dark lady" theory on the track of a fact of Shakespeare's life and concrete experience. For that Shakespeare was concerned with some dark lady can be guessed from the Plays. He is not fond of describing his heroines with any particularity of feature, but Rosaline, in *Love's Labour's Lost*, is described as

"A whitely wanton with a velvet brow,  
With two pitch-balls stuck in her face for eyes;"

and the invisible Rosaline of *Romeo and Juliet* has not merely the same name, but the same appearance: Mercutio describes Romeo as "stabbed with a white wench's black eye." It was the late Professor Masson who argued that Shakespeare's personality and special interests could be detected by an analysis of what, I think, the Professor called "recurrences and fervours" in the Plays. It is reasonable, perhaps, to argue that, with all the world of experience to choose from, Shakespeare would most frequently or most fervently dwell upon what interested him most: but it is also reasonable to go further, and to argue that the *clearest* indications of Shakespeare's personality and interests are to be found in passages that are dramatically *irrelevant* or *inappropriate*. There seems no dramatic reason for the complexion of the two Rosalines: it may be that Shakespeare had a real "dark lady" in mind—and at heart.

Such discussion, I believe, is not merely academic and pedantic. It is an old, but a foolish, fallacy, cherished by most of us at one time or another in defence of our own ignorance, that the study of technical details doesn't matter—that only the general impression counts. In no art can this be true, if only because the technical details are part of the general impression. One cannot read a great work such as Shakespeare's Sonnets without coming to care for the little indications of his mind's large movements; and, reasoning outward from this reading or that to a general conception of the poet's function, one gets light on the vast moral issues that for ever agitate the world.

Take a single instance: are there not many beliefs about the right relations of the sexes which can be illuminated, fortified, or (as the case may be) dissipated, by a perusal of the Sonnets? And is it not worth while to study in *detail* the spirit and intention of a work which can do so much for us? "Sheer beauty!" "Art for art's sake!" Yes: poetry must assuredly be read for sheer beauty—but we all know there is no sheer beauty without deep meaning and infinite implication. And art must be for life's sake, or it will never be for art's.

Mr. Knox Pooler has given us an admirable edition in which to re-read the Sonnets. It is not an edition for those who want the Sonnets by themselves, "unadulterated" by criticism: but it is an edition for those who care for whatever scholarship can tell them about Shakespeare and his work. The text is thoroughly good, and the notes are full—too full sometimes; but that is a fault on the right side. And the conflicting "theories" are set out in a learned and impartial fashion.

GERALD GOULD.

### Reviews in Brief.

AT ODD MOMENTS. (Grant Richards. 2s. 6d.)

This book is composed entirely of Sonnets, which are, for the most part, neat, lucid, but not poetic, expressions of thoughts upon various subjects, including the war. Many of them are not, in the strictest sense, sonnets, in that they violate the tenet which demands a pause, both in form and content, between the octet and the sestet; and also in occasional faultiness of rhyme, which, however, seems to be deliberate (p. 17 and 57 for example). We prefer "The Pessimist" to the more serious verses. In this, Mr. Godfrey is quietly humorous without being trite. At the risk of seeming to carp we must deprecate the split infinite on page 75.

MOTLEY AND OTHER POEMS. By Walter de la Mare. (Constable. 3s. 6d. net.)

Unwillingly we admit that Mr. de la Mare's latest volume does not preserve the high standard of *The Listeners*. It contains, however, many charming passages, and several wholly delightful and moving poems. Among these may be mentioned *The Stranger*, *The Sunken Garden*, *Motley*, "For All The Grief," *The Scribe*, *The Three Strangers*, and *The Remonstrance*, of which the final stanza is characteristic of the poet's music and manner:

"This only I say—Though cold and bare  
The haunted house you have chosen to share,  
Still 'neath its walls the moonbeam goes  
And trembles on the untended rose;  
Still o'er its broken roof trees rise  
The starry arches of the skies;  
And 'neath your lightest word shall be  
The thunder of an ebbing sea."

We are pleased to find that *The Quarry*, and the *Dreamer*, which, with the poem called *Alexander*, appeared some time ago in *The English Review*, have been embodied in a more permanent form. E. B. C. J.

THE GIRL IN INDUSTRY. By D. J. Collier, with an Introduction by B. L. Hutchins. (G. Bell & Sons. 9d. net.)

This interesting pamphlet, which is clearly written and full of information, comes at an opportune moment, when the thoughts of all feminists, social workers and other serious-minded persons are turned to the question of woman and girl-labour, the changes and developments brought about in it by the war, and the problems of its future. The foreword and introduction being by Miss B. L. Hutchins, an expert on this subject, as indeed she is on many other subjects which closely concern her sex, constitute in themselves an inducement to read the pamphlet.

### Correspondence.

[We regret that, owing to paper restrictions, our space for correspondence is very limited; Correspondents are, therefore urged to write briefly. Letters must reach us by first post on Monday, and must be written on one side of the paper only. If these conditions are complied with, we will do our best to print the most important letters.]

#### THE ETHICS OF PROPHYLAXIS.

MADAM.—Would you be so good as to allow me space to clear up a small misapprehension which I think may arise from Dr. Saleeby's reply to my letter? I must thank him for pointing out that we are in substantial agreement. I must disagree with his statement that the treatment of gonorrhoeal conjunctivitis in infants by the use of silver salts immediately after birth is prophylaxis in the ordinary sense of the word. It is early treatment and absolutely comparable with the early treatment which is offered at the Venereal Clinics. The infection takes place in the act of birth. The organism is still on the surface of the conjunctiva and has not penetrated into the deeper layers. It is then easily reached and destroyed by silver salts, but this is not prophylaxis before infection but treatment immediately after.

May I add one other word? I do not cast doubt on the efficacy of prophylactics if they can be used with competence, though even then I should oppose them on moral grounds. I do say that there is grave doubt whether excited, and often half-drunken, young men will apply the calomel ointment, which is the usual prophylactic used, in such a manner as to be efficacious, though we are all ready to acknowledge that Roux and Metchnikoff could carry out this prophylaxis successfully in their experiments on monkeys, but these were trained experimenters conducting experiments under the most favourable conditions.

ETHEL M. N. WILLIAMS, M.D., D.P.H.

MADAM.—Dr. Saleeby suggests that ultimately we may be driven in the direction of morality in connection with the fight against disease. If morality be the highest line of outward conduct, why put off urging its adoption? Why not at once promote a Morality Campaign in preference to supplying prophylactic packets?

To those who regard Metchnikoff as a leader whose theories were of value, it may be natural to approve of prophylactic packets. At a King's College Lecture in June, 1906, he declared that "in questions of health morality should not attempt to lead hygiene, but should rather follow her. . . . Modern hygiene, having become an exact and infinitely more precise science than it was formerly, ought to reign supreme over all doctrines of morality." Metchnikoff advocated syphilitic injections, "not only for soldiers, sailors and prostitutes, but also as a condition of admission to any public school."

And in the matter of prophylaxis, the question still remains: Will the expected results be achieved? Dr. Saleeby is evidently far from being sure of this, since he says that if prophylaxis "did not prevent to-day, certainly it would next month, or next year." How can he be sure of this? "Research" was expected by its advocates to be able to discover a preventive or a remedy for cancer: has it succeeded in so doing, after the expenditure of untold time and wealth? Some of us believe that only such measures as are in harmony with the Soul of the Universe (and so of perfect morality) can finally avail to secure the welfare of mankind: among such measures which of us would venture to include the prophylactic packet?

Robert Browning rejoiced to think of himself and of humanity as having an affinity for all things noble and divine: he sang—

"A brute I might have been, but would not sink i' the scale."

Would it not be well, and even more *worldly-wise* (since the only reliable course), to urge our young soldiers and sailors to realise their God-given qualities rather than to teach them the possibility of prophylaxis: and to bid them to be "on the side of the Angels" rather than to fall to the level of the brutes?

ALICE M. LUCAS.

#### REGULATION 40D, D.O.R.A.

MADAM.—As my statement as to the position of women under Regulation 40D has been editorially characterised as misleading, I ask you kindly to allow me to make that position clearer.

It is true that (a) soldiers suffering from venereal disease in a communicable form are not supposed to be at liberty. (b) A woman may complain to a soldier's commanding officer that he has given her venereal disease. But let the following points be considered.

A soldier on leave comes to the conclusion that he is suffering from venereal disease, and knows that he must inform the authorities. He decides, however, to postpone his notification for a few days until his leave transpires. During that time he passes on the infection. He then notifies; and since it is impossible to prove that he had known for some days of his diseased condition, he cannot be charged with concealment which is the only charge in his case. In other words, he may willfully infect a woman, but unless the difficult charge of concealment can be sustained, he has committed no offence under Army regulations.

Further, I gather from Lord Derby's statement in the House of Lords to the effect that soldiers suffering from venereal disease in France are visited with the *additional* penalty of forfeiture of leave, that in England a soldier may actually have leave while under treatment, when, whomever he infected, there could be no question of concealment.

It should be noted by those who believe that a woman's position under Regulation 40D does not compare unfavourably with that of a soldier, that, apart from the fact that concealment is a necessary part of the charge against him, what remains of the "fairness" of the arrangement is nullified by the following considerations. First, how is a prostitute to bring proof that, of a number of people, one in particular gave her the disease? The varying length of the incubation period is a fact that tells more against the prostitute than against the soldier in determining the source of the disease. Secondly, is it to be supposed that a prostitute will wish to bring a charge which means ruin to her in her trade? No. The position of the soldier and the prostitute under Military Regulations is so far from being equal that, were the incidence of that inequality reversed, every man would be up in arms.

Finally, though this is beside the point at issue, I would enter a protest against the assumption underlying this discussion that if a woman could be given equal facilities with a man for getting her partner "punished" all would be well. While we must strive our utmost for justice in laws, the idea of *revenge* (for the punishment of the soldier is of no benefit to an infected woman) is evidence of an attitude of mind which will keep us as unfit to tackle this problem as are the possessors of those unruly passions through which it has arisen.

RACHEL DYCE SHARP.

#### EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

MADAM.—Not a week passes in which *THE COMMON CAUSE* does not express its deep concern and regret in connection with some instance of unequal wages for equal work. Yet no breath of reply has appeared in its pages to a letter of mine which appeared in it before the Council

Meetings, and which asked the question, "As things are, would equal wages be fair? And even if endowment of maternity followed as an immediate consequence, would that balance matters in the professional classes?"

The answer is, of course, in the negative, unless a much higher endowment was fixed for those classes than for the working classes. I asked whether Miss Rathbone looked forward to such a graded endowment scheme, and I now ask the editor of *THE COMMON CAUSE* the same question.

Unless that question is fairly and squarely answered, there is to me something Pecksniffian in the attitude of outraged justice adopted by the advocates of equal wages. The mistress of an elementary school receiving £300 a year would be altogether "better off" than the master of the corresponding boys' school on the same salary, if he has, as he generally does have, a wife and family to keep. Is that what is desired?

Presumably, the "intransigent" advocates of equal wages see a way out. I only ask what it is. And until they reply to my question, I shall continue to feel that their attitude is more ridiculous than edifying.

EMMA COMMON (MRS. WALFORD COMMON).

[The unmarried woman teacher may be better off (in the material sense) on £300 a year than the married man teacher, though this would not necessarily be the case if the married teacher's wife were earning, or if their children were endowed; but in any case the inequality would not be greater than that between the married man teacher with one child and the married man teacher with a family of six. These inequalities are inevitable in any conditions except a state of advanced socialism in which people are paid according to their needs, instead of according to their work. What we have at present is a competitive system unfairly weighted against women. People are paid, more or less, by results unless they are women. Then they are paid by results with deductions on account of sex. Nothing could be more unfair than this.—ED., COMMON CAUSE.]

#### WOMEN AND THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

MADAM.—It may interest your readers to know of a resolution which was passed by the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of England which met last week in London. It was passed, without a dissenting voice, in connection with the Report of the Committee on Religion and Morals, and ran as follows:—"The Synod greatly rejoices in the enfranchisement of women as voters in the State, and expresses the earnest hope that all women connected with our Church who are placed upon the Register will realise the opportunity now given to them of making their influence felt on behalf of all legislation which makes for social righteousness and the moral and spiritual well-being of the people."

It may also be interesting to note the action of one of the largest and most important Committees of this Church, that on Home Missions, which has requested permission to co-opt women members. The previous year the Foreign Mission, Jewish Mission, and the Instruction of Youth Committees were empowered to take such a step: this year the Home Mission Committee desired the same privilege, and its request was acceded to.

J. M. E. RAES.



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**"THE COMMON CAUSE" AND CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECTS.**

MADAM,—In reference to the first paragraph under the heading "Notes and News" of THE COMMON CAUSE of April 26th, may I be allowed to send a special word of thanks for the articles lately published in THE COMMON CAUSE, to which, I gather, some of your readers take exception as being too "controversial?" To my mind, the paper has been largely gaining in interest and value lately, because of the inclusion in it of articles dealing with matters of such varied subjects, all of them highly important to women. Surely the first essential to a wise use of our newly acquired voting power is a careful study of both sides of such questions in order that we may weigh the evidence and come to a reasoned decision in our own minds! I much hope that the objections of those who want to see only one side of a question presented in your paper, will not have any weight with you in curtailing these contributions of such great general interest and importance, but rather that all your readers will heed your exhortation at the end of the paragraph!

E. MARY HART.

**Reports.**

**National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.**

**The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.**  
President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, L.L.D.  
Hon. Secretaries: MISS MARGARET JONES, MRS. OLIVER STRACHEY (Parliamentary), MISS EVELYN ATKINSON (Literature).  
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. ALYS RUSSELL.  
Secretary: MISS EVANS.  
Offices—Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W.1.  
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, Ox, London

**Headquarters.**

A lady, who is doing work of great national importance, writes: "Will you kindly forward me particulars for re-joining the N.U.W.S.S. I joined more than ten years ago; then let my subscription drop. But now is the time for every woman to come forward." (The italics are ours.) There must be many women who are of a like mind; it remains for us to bring them into touch with the Union. Secretaries of Societies please note.

**Literature Department.**

The new leaflet, "Ten Reasons for Joining a Women Citizens' Association," will be ready shortly. Price 1s. 6d.

**QUERIES AND ANSWERS ABOUT WOMEN VOTERS AND THE PARLIAMENTARY REGISTER.**

QUESTION.—Miss A. lives in her own house. Miss B., her friend, lives with her. They share the work and the expenses of the house between them; and the furniture belongs to Miss A., rather more than half of it belongs to Miss B., and some of it they have paid for jointly. Should Miss B. claim her vote as joint occupier or as lodger?

ANSWER.—The Act does not seem to lay down the law for such cases, where B. is neither joint owner nor joint tenant of the house. Miss B. should claim as lodger, presumably her own bedroom is furnished entirely with her own furniture. In any case, if Miss A. and Miss B. have lived together for some time and both names are put on the pink form, it is quite possible they will go on the voters' lists without further enquiry.

**Obituary.**

A correspondent has sent us a notice of the death in action, on March 23rd, of Major Harold Brown, D.S.O., M.C. Major Brown became a member of the Pile Society for Women's Suffrage soon after its formation in 1909, and was its Honorary Treasurer for several years before he joined the army in 1914. The National Union will regret having lost a valuable member.

**"THE COMMON CAUSE" £2,000 FUND.**

This fund, which is to develop and improve THE COMMON CAUSE, is in urgent need of support. Will all who desire it to become the leading serious women's weekly paper send us a contribution, however small?

The following kind donations have been gratefully received:

Already acknowledged ...	£ s. d.	Alfred Barney, Esq. ...	£ s. d.
Mrs. Inverarity ...	361 19 8	Miss Angell Lane ...	1 0 0
Miss A. Maude Royden ...	5 0 0		10 0
Miss E. Rathbone ...	10 0 0		10 0 0
			2388 9 8

**THIRD "COMMON CAUSE" HUT.**

The pearl and peridot brooch, which a kind friend sent us to be sold for the benefit of the hut, has not yet found a purchaser. It has been valued at £3 10s. Any offers?

This, our third Hut, is for the W.A.A.C. on Salisbury Plain, and contributions towards it are earnestly requested. We gratefully acknowledge the following donations:—

Already acknowledged ...	£ s. d.
Mrs. Marsden ...	578 18 6
Three Hellbron Teachers ...	2 0 0
Mrs. Garrett and Miss Giles, Necklaces ...	14 0
	£381 15 0

**N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals.**

**LONDON UNITS**

Miss Vera Holme, who has been addressing Scottish audiences with great success during the spring months, is to make a tour in the Home Counties, and offers of drawing-room meetings and meetings in small halls will be gratefully accepted. They should be sent to the Organising Secretary at 66, Victoria Street.

Miss Curwen also asks for offers of help in her August Campaign in South Coast towns. Any friends of the Scottish Women's Hospitals willing to act as voluntary helpers, collectors or chairmen at meetings, are invited to get into touch with her soon, as arrangements have to be made well in advance.

The meeting for Oxted and Limpsfield, announced for May 25th, covers an important district, and enthusiastic support is hoped for it.

On March 27th a successful collection was made on behalf of the London Units at the Imperial Theatre, Clapham Junction, and on May 2nd, Miss May Curwen spoke to an enthusiastic school-girl audience at St. Olave's and St. Saviour's Grammar School. On May 4th, Miss Curwen held her first meeting at Brockley, and the audience collected at St. Cyprian's Hall followed with close attention the story of the Scottish Women's Hospitals. It was new to most of them, and the spontaneous applause at the stirring tale was unfeigned was a genuine tribute to the Scottish Women.

Already acknowledged ...	£ s. d.	Newbury — Mothers' Service Union ...	£ s. d.
American Collections, per Miss Burke ...	67,307 8 2	Miss E. M. Murray ...	1 0 6
The Misses Archer ...	5,235 12 0	Norland Place School, per Miss Flavell ...	2 2 0
Mrs. Buscholt ...	2 2 0	Proceeds of Norwood and District S.S. Jumble Sale, per Mrs. Cowell ...	2 2 0
Blackheath Suffrage Society, per Mrs. Bolton ...	3 3 0	Mrs. Jones ...	5 0 0
Richard A. Bosanquet, Esq., per Mrs. Bradford, per Hon. Treas., W. Herts S.S. ...	1 10 0	Pupils of St. Andrew's House School, Streatham ...	5 8
British School of Archaeology in Egypt, per Mrs. Flinders Petrie ...	2 0 0	Putney County Secondary School, per Miss Farmer ...	5 5 0
The Rev. H. R. Cavalier ...	161 7 9	Mrs. Riddick ...	2 2 0
The Misses Crompton-Walker ...	1 0 0	Miss E. Sainsbury ...	1 0 0
Eastbourne W. Suffrage Soc., per Miss Hickson ...	10 0 0	St. Peter's Anglican Church, Glenelg, S. Australia ...	2 0 0
Messrs. John Edgington & Co. Form 3c Upper, Wolverhampton High School for Girls ...	5 14 3	Mrs. Enstace Smith ...	3 0 0
Fulham County School Old Girls' Association ...	5 5 0	Miss Harriet Spicer ...	3 3 0
Mrs. Basil Hall ...	3 7 7	Mrs. Stirling ...	5 0 0
Harrogate College, Bed for Quarter ...	3 17 2	Mrs. Stevenson ...	5 0 0
The Misses Hawkins and Jones ...	10 0	C. P. Storey, Esq. ...	2 0 0
Mrs. Hinde, monthly donation Imperial Theatre, Clapham, Collector ...	12 10 0	W. A. B. ...	10 0 0
Mrs. A. E. King-Smith ...	7 0	Mrs. James Ward ...	2 0 0
Kingston and Surbiton Bed, per Miss Farmer ...	6 18 0	Mrs. Warren ...	2 2 0
John D. Lavelle, Esq. ...	2 2 0	Miss C. Wickham ...	3 0 0
	22 3 6	Wood Green County School, per Miss D. Mitchell ...	1 1 9
	10 0	Woodseats Friends Adult School, Bed ...	6 5 0
		Dr. Elsie Inglis, Chair of Medicine ...	1 0 0
			£72,857 6 4

Subscriptions are still urgently needed, much new work being undertaken, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, Red House, Greenock. Cheques to be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland." Subscriptions for the London Units to be sent to the Right Hon. Viscountess Cowdray, or to Miss Gosse, Joint Hon. Treasurers, 66, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W. 1.

Per Miss Geraldine Cooke: Kincairdine and District Flag Day, per Mrs. Paterson (£28 12s.), Flag Day, Old Meldrum, per Mrs. George Scott (£15 6s. 6d.), Flag Day, Mair o' Ord, per Mrs. Simpson (£13 15s. 4d.), Miss Holme's Meeting, per Mrs. Waterston (£11 6s.), Collecting Cards (6 children), per Miss Forbes, Dunkeld (£4 7s. 6d.), Miss Holme's Meeting, per Miss Spence, Portobello (£3 5s.), Postcards (£3 4s. 8d.), Staff of Gilmore Place School, per H. E. Sim, Esq. (10s.), "Cairns Memorial Girls' Club," Miss Cooke's Meeting (7s.) ...	£ s. d.	Coats (£1,000), Edward Cochran, Esq. (£5), *Employees, Messrs. Campbell & Calderwood, Soho Engineering Works (£3, £1,000), *The Local Committee, Coatbridge, Sale of Work and Concert, per Robert Denholm, Esq., Hon. Treas., to name "Coatbridge" Recreation Hut and Gymnasium in Dr. Louise McIlroy's Orthopaedic Hospital (£54 14s. 6d.), A. W. Miller, Esq. (£100), *Glasgow Tramways War Saving Scheme, per James Dalrymple, Esq. (£100), *Miss Jessie Wood, Proceeds of Matinee Dansant (£25), Proceeds of Flag Days: *Parish of Campsie, per Mrs. Brown (£20 1s.), Southwick, per J. G. Ferguson, Esq. (£2 10s.), Furnace, per W. G. McKinlay, Esq. (£1 18s.) (£24 9s.), *Ayr and District W.S.S., per Mrs. Alexander, for upkeep of "Ayr W.S.S." Bed (£3 0s. 6d.), Mrs. Abbott (£15) (£18 0s. 6d.), *Park School P.S.S.A., Proceeds of Entertainment, per Miss	£ s. d.
	80 14 0		
Miss J. Hossack ...	5 0 0		
Women's Educational Union, per Miss G. M. W. Anderson, Treas., Glasgow, to continue "Women's Educational Union" Bed (America Unit) ...	50 0 0		
Glasgow and West of Scotland W.S.S. Joint Committee, per Miss M. C. Morrison, Hon. Treas. (April donations): *Paisley Fund, *Peter Coats Trust, per Mrs. Herbert			

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12x8 in. 5/3	14x10 in. 6/11		
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- Further donations received to May 9th, 1918: Per Miss Etta Shankland, Organiser, S.W.H., Greenock: \*Messrs. Hally & Co., Auchterarder, Sale of Paper Tubes, for upkeep of bed in Sallanches (£9 0s. 4d.), \*Messrs. Wm. Hamilton & Co., Port Glasgow, 44th-47th donation for upkeep of "Glen Shipbuilding Yard" Bed (Sallanches) (£5 18s. 11d.), 12 0 3 Leven W.S.S., per Mrs. Reid, Hon. Treas. 25 0 0 Dunfermline W.S.S., per Mrs. MacKinnon (Glen, S.W.H.), Butters (2s. 6d.), Mrs. H. Reid (2s.), Mrs. Adams (2s.), Miss McGeachan (1s.) 7 6 Anonymous 25 0 0 1st Greenock B.P. Girl Guides, per Miss Ferguson, Result of Sale of Work held in December, 1917 10 1 0 Per Mrs. Aldridge, Organiser, S.W.H.: Result of Meetings addressed by Mrs. Aldridge on 22nd, 23rd and 26th April, collected from Employees, Messrs. Jas. H. Andrew, Ltd., Toledo Steel Works, Sheffield (Serbia) (£5), Messrs. Wm. Cooke & Co., Ltd., Tinsley Steel, Iron and Wire Rope Works, Sheffield, per Jas. H. Stobbs, Esq., Sec. "Works War Fund" (Serbia) (£5 5s.) 11 5 0 \*Miss Elizabeth Rae (Monthly donation) 2 6 Per Mrs. Robertson: \*Employees and Staff, Saxons' Shoe Co. Ltd. (£3 6s. 1d.), \*Employees, Messrs. Boyd & Forrester (£2 3s. 11d.), Mlle. Capon, Galliac, Tarn, France (8s.) 10 18 0 I. Cathcart White, Esq. 20 0 0 St. Brycedale Women's Meeting, Kirkcaldy, per S. C. McMillan, Esq., Treas., Bank of Scotland House 1 0 0 \*Mrs. Douglas 10 0 0 \*The Misses Hope 10 0 0 \*Staff and Pupils, Greenock Higher Grade School, per Jas. Beattie, Esq., M.A., Headmaster, for upkeep of School Bed (Serbia), per Etta Shankland, Organiser, S.W.H., Greenock 2 0 0 \*Holt W.S.S., per Miss Florence Lloyds, Treas., for upkeep of the 3rd Holt Beds (Sallanches and Sallanches), Result of Jumble Sale held in April, 1918 56 0 0 \*Sir R. Rowand Anderson (Monthly donation) 2 0 0 \*Preston W.S.S., per Mrs. Hindmarsh, Hon. Treas., for upkeep of "Broad Preston" Bed (Royaumont) (£50), for General Funds (£8 18s. 6d.) 58 18 6 Miss M. J. Wilson 10 0 0 \*Alex. Cupples 2 0 0 4213.453 13 10
- \* Denotes further donations.

### FURTHER LIST OF BEDS NAMED.

- Names of Beds. Holt W.S.S., per Result of Jumble Sale, Preston W.S.S., per Mrs. Hindmarsh, Hon. Treas.

### SUPPLEMENTARY LIST.

- List of Subscribers to the "Marjorie" and "Margaret" Beds, collected by Mrs. Fleming, Hon. Treas. Kelso W.S.S.
- Sums of £5 each: Miss Margaret H. Ritchie, Robert Duncan, Esq., Mrs. Speid, Miss A. Margaret Marshall, Mrs. Meg Robertson and Daughter Margaret, Mrs. Meta Nicholson, Margaret Green, Mrs. Margaret Douglas Bell, Mrs. Margaret Hay, Miss Margaret Stables, Mrs. Margaret Walker, Mrs. M. Q. A. Dear Friend, Marjorie, Mrs. M. A. M. Grigor, Mrs. M. J. Houghton, Miss Margaret F. Sprout, Patrick Gifford, Esq., Miss Margaret L. Cowan, Mrs. Pat Gifford, Mrs. Margaret B. Erskine, Miss B. McQueen.
- Mrs. Annan, 15s., "Two Margarets", 12s. 6d.; Mrs. Margaret Stuart, 10s. 6d.; Sums of 10s. each: Miss Robertson, Mrs. Margaret Maclean, Mrs. Margaret, Miss Oliver, Mrs. Christie, Margaret Macdonald (a little girl), Mrs. Margaret Dick, Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Marjorie D. McCreath, Mrs. Leven, Mrs. Davidson, "Margaret", Miss Peggie Pearson, Mrs. Mather, Mrs. Croall, Miss Scott, Miss Forrest, Mrs. Mathers, Mrs. Margaret Kerr, Mrs. Margaret C. Macdonald, Mrs. H. G. McLaughlan, Mrs. Margaret Morton, "For Sake of M. E. M.", Miss Marjorie Heard, Mrs. Margaret Clark, Mrs. Margaret B. Murray, Mrs. Rintoul, Miss Jeffrey, Miss Margaret Brown, Miss E. M. Mercer, Mrs. Margaret Craig, Mrs. Margaret S. Giesing, Mrs. J. F. Bowers, Mrs. Promfield, Mrs. S. M. Fowler, Miss Margaret S. Thomson, Miss Margaret Mitchell, Miss Margaret S. Olyphant, Mrs. B. Douglas Bruce, Miss Newton, [Remainder of list next week].

## Reports from Societies.

CARNFORTH AND DISTRICT.—The Carnforth and District Suffrage Society, in amalgamation with representatives from other Women's Societies in the neighbourhood, called a public meeting of women in the Co-operative Hall, on April 22nd, at 7 p.m. Over 100 women attended, many of whom had walked distances of four or five miles in order to be present. In the absence of Mrs. Briggs, Miss Willis presided. Miss M. B. Dickens (Secretary) gave a brief account of what steps had already been taken by the Society to form a Provisional Committee of Representative Societies to consider the advisability of forming an Association of Women Citizens in Carnforth. Miss Margaret Jones (London) gave a lucid and interesting account of the responsibility given to women by enfranchisement, and in what measure women voters would influence, and be influenced by, party politics. The resolution: "That a Carnforth and District Association of Women's Citizens should be formed," was carried unanimously. Miss Sidney Knight spoke on the spiritual and moral influence of the Suffrage leading up to a resolution censuring 40D (D.O.R.A.). The audience was invited to raise any questions for discussion and Miss Jones answered several queries about women voters and the Parliamentary Register. Miss Willis appealed to those present to join the Association, and at the close of a most successful meeting over sixty members were enrolled.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—A public meeting was held at the Technical School (by kind permission of the Mayor and Education Authorities) on Friday, May 3rd. A large gathering of women representative of the Women's Organizations of the town was present, and great interest was shown in the subject under consideration, that of the formation of a Women Citizens' Association in Barrow. Miss Mercer, of London, dealt clearly and forcibly with the added privileges and responsibilities given to women under the new Registration Bill, and emphasised the necessity for self-education and co-operative effort. The idea of a Women Citizens' Association is to band together women of all parties, all religions, and all ages, and to make of them one great non-party body to work for the public good and their own education. It was unanimously resolved to promote the formation of such a society, Miss Shaw of 12, West View Road, kindly consenting to act as hon. sec.

An extremely interesting series of questions was raised and dealt with at the close of Miss Mercer's address, and the meeting closed with votes of thanks to the speaker, chairman (Mrs. Elborough), and to the Mayor and Education Authorities for the use of the hall.

MANCHESTER & DISTRICT FEDERATION.—The following resolution were passed unanimously at the Special Federation Meeting on April 17th:—"This meeting calls upon Parliament to insist upon the immediate withdrawal of Regulation 40D, D.O.R.A., which constitutes a serious menace to the safety of all women, and has been passed without the sanction of Parliament." "That this meeting protests against the proposed differentiation in rationing as between boys and girls of from 13 to 18 years of age, and in view of the fact that meat is specially important for growing girls, calls upon the authorities responsible to sanction the giving of equal meat rations to young people of both sexes."

HASLEMERE, HINDHEAD AND DISTRICT W.S. SOCIETY. In co-operation with the N.U.W.W. and the W.S.G., we offered to carry out the house-to-house visiting required in connection with the new Register. In Shottonhill and Hindhead our offer was accepted. In Haslemere the Overseers

refused. We have carried out the work with satisfactory results, and have found it well worth while, as we have been able to explain the new franchise in every house and to answer questions and clear up doubts. The pink forms were often regarded with suspicion, as being connected with conscription, perhaps! In any case, they proved very puzzling, and without help would often have been incompletely filled up. In order to help the Haslemere women, we intend to open an office for engineers and shall make a special effort to get at them at the public meeting on May 24th, at which Mrs. Fawcett is to speak.

The minimum rate of 30s. for a week of 54 hours for agricultural labourers, which is to come in force on May 20th, applies to men only.

## Forthcoming Meetings (N.U.W.S.S.)

- MAY 17. Solihull—Lecture: "The Use of the Vote"—Mrs. Kling 5.30 p.m.
- MAY 21. Birkenhead—Congregational Church Hall, Oxtou Road—Annual Meeting—Speaker: Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher—Chair: The Mayoress (Mrs. Smardon, M.A.) 3 p.m.
- MAY 22. Bristol—Clevedon—Chair: Mrs. W. C. H. Cross 5.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.
- MAY 23. Lambeth—Old Brew House, St. Mary's Church, Lambeth, S.E.—Subject: "Josephine Butler" Speaker: Miss Helen Downs 3 p.m.
- Denmark Hill—People's Church, Windsor Road, S.E.—Subject: "Ministry of Health Bill"—Speaker: Mr. Frank Bryant, J.P., L.C.C.—Chair: Mrs. Phillips Jones 7 p.m.
- MAY 27. London Society for Women's Suffrage—Special General Members' Meeting—Council Chamber, Caxton Hall, S.W.
- Brixton—Wesley Hall, Lyham Road, Brixton Hill, S.W.—Subject: "The Vote and Women's Responsibilities"—Speaker: Mrs. Bertram 3.30 p.m.
- LONDON UNITS, SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS. WEDNESDAY, MAY 22nd.—N. London Collegiate School—Speaker: Miss May Curwen 1 p.m.
- FRIDAY, MAY 24th.—Ask's Hatcham School—Speaker: Miss May Curwen 2.30 p.m.
- SATURDAY, MAY 25th.—Church Room, Limpsfield—Speaker: Miss May Curwen 5.30 p.m.

## Coming Events.

JUNE 11th—Globe Theatre—Matinee in aid of the Nation's Fund for Nurses—Tickets from Box Office, Globe Theatre, and British Women's Hospital, 21, Old Bond Street 2.30 p.m.

**THE BEST CORSET BODICE**  
for WOMEN WORKERS  
NURSES, MUNITION MAKERS, GARDENERS, Etc.  
Adequate support WITHOUT bones.  
Made in two qualities to customers' own measurements.

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Order only what is necessary. Your chemist can obtain supplies. Please exercise patience if delay occurs.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

**British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union**  
Third Biennial Conference  
Caxton Hall, Westminster  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, June 4th, 5th, 6th, 1918.  
SUBJECTS: Equal Suffrage; Equal Pay for Equal Work and Endowment of Motherhood; Equal Parental Rights and Status of Illegitimate Child; Nationality of Married Women; Prostitution and an Equal Moral Standard; Divorce; etc.  
Speakers: Miss Mercy Ashworth, Miss K. D. Courtney, Lord Henry Cavendish Bentinck, Miss Damer Dawson, Mrs. Fawcett, Miss C. Macmillan, Miss March, Miss Neilans, Mrs. Petrick Lawrence, Miss Royden, Miss Evelyn Sharp, Miss Sheepshanks, Dr. E. Beadon Turner, Dr. Jane Walker, Mrs. Watt, Mr. Leonard Woolf, and others.  
SUNDAY, JUNE 2nd. SERMON: MISS MAUDE ROYDEN Thursday Evening, JUNE 6th, INDIA. Tickets, Three Days, 5/- & 2/6. One Day 2/- & 1/- India 1/-.  
Apply Miss Newcomb, Hon. Sec. B.D.W.S.U., c/o International Woman Suffrage News, 11, Adam St., Strand, W.C.2

## NATIONAL WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

PUBLIC MEETING AT THE CAXTON HALL, FRIDAY, MAY 31st, AT 5 P.M.  
SPEAKERS: Mrs. Orlivie Gordon, D.Sc., Ph.D., President, N.U.W.W., Miss Conway, President, N.U.T., Miss Clephan, Leicester Women Citizens' Association, the Rt. Hon. Sir W. H. Dickinson, M.P., the Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas, M.P., Mrs. Bowker, and (singing) Miss J. M. Higgins, of the American Delegation. Tickets on receipt of stamped addressed envelope to Secretary, N.W.C.A., Grosvenor Mansions, 82, Victoria-street, S.W. 1.

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## POSITIONS WANTED.

LADY wants holiday post as Companion during August. Would do gardening. — Box 7,664, COMMON CAUSE Office.

NORTHAND-TYPIST SECRETARY, 24, exp. 15s-50s.—1, 6, Cavendish-road, Highams Park, E. 4.

(Continued on page 60)

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Continued from page 59]

**POSITIONS VACANT.**

**CANTEENS—ELSWICK WORKS, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.**—Trained women wanted as Kitchen Supervisors and Dining Room Supervisors for new Canteens.—Apply Canteen Department.

**RESPONSIBLE SECRETARY WANTED.**—By War Relief worker, part time only, typist.—Write V., 145, Cromwell-road, S.W. 7.

**TWO LADIES** required as House-Orderlies in a large private Boarding School for Girls. Eight ladies on Domestic Staff.—Apply Miss Turner, The Laurels, Rugby.

**WANTED.**—Cook for Private Nursing Home, £30-£35; also Housemaid, £25-20, Gambler-terrace, Liverpool.

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