

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
SOME ASPECTS OF THE GOLD STANDARD . . .	123
HOUSING IN RURAL AREAS. II. By Amy Sayle . . .	123
TWO SPRING VISITS TO PALESTINE, 1921, 1922 . . .	124
WOMEN'S COURTS IN NEW YORK. By Mrs. Bethune-Baker . . .	125
WIDOWS', ORPHANS', AND OLD AGE CONTRIBUTORY PENSIONS BILL. By W. A. Elkin . . .	126

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NOTES AND NEWS.

The Consumer on the Defensive.

At the end of last week the Royal Commission on Food Prices laid its first egg in the form of a sectional report on Meat and Wheat. Its general flavour faintly recalls that of the 1909 Poor Law Commission Majority Report. That is to say, it is clearly the work of uneasy but bewildered men and women who realize that the public expect a definite measure of reform but have no strong convictions regarding the efficacy of any suggested remedies—their own included. On one point they are, however, perfectly definite; they will have nothing to do with the proposals of the I.L.P. and Trades Union Congress regarding State trading in food. For this they cite numerous well-considered reasons. A State monopoly might be tempted to sell at a loss. Or again, it might not be tempted to sell at a loss. Its miscalculations would be on a larger scale than those of the private traders. Moreover, the burdens of such miscalculations would fall upon the taxpayer and not upon the individual incurring them. Finally, reference is made to a new cause of friction between national Governments as the possible result of State trading. We agree that it would indeed be deplorable if to the more honourable and sportsmanlike sources of international discord with which the territorial arrangements of our nineteenth and twentieth century diplomatists have amply provided us there were added a series of sordid quarrels about food. But to return to the more positive aspect of the Commissioner's work. Its major recommendation concerns the erection of a Food Council without executive powers but with wide opportunities for investigation and supervision in connexion with bread and meat, and with the right to arraign offenders before Parliament, through the medium of the President of the Board of Trade. The Council shall, it is suggested, consist of twelve appointed members representative of various interests concerned, including the co-operative movement, the local authorities, and the working housewife. Other recommendations concern the compulsory local registration of retail butchers, the publication of statistics concerning meat held in cold storage, and the preparation of reports on international food conditions by the League of Nations.

A Wet Blanket.

Concerning the efficacy of all this, Mr. Rylands, in a peculiarly dashing Minority report, is frankly sceptical. Truly, he, at least, has the courage of his want of convictions. First and foremost the new proposals would, in his opinion, carry us a stage further down the slippery slope of socialism. The unfettered competition of expert business men has, he points out, served us well; let it continue to serve us. And if it comes to interference, why in effect, says Mr. Ryland, make wheat and meat producers the

scapegoat in an economic order where all betray "the common instinct to get the best price they can for their goods and services?" Why indeed? We have no other answer to Mr. Rylands' question. Nor do we dispute his contention that unfettered industrial competition has served the consumer well. It has. So too, in its own peculiar historical environment, has the mediaeval guild system. But though we feel that Mr. Rylands' view of our industrial evolution is unduly static, though we seem to see (dare we indulge in so pessimistic a prophecy?) the shadow of the departmental pigeon-hole lying across the face of the Majority Report, we are convinced that in the matter of food prices—and not food prices alone—the end is not yet. The consumer of to-day is awake to new dangers. The machinery of his protective "trade unionism" has yet to be evolved. But it will be evolved, because all history shows that the economic needs of a great class must eventually find self-expression in social institutions. Meanwhile, if we get a Food Council for the supervision of bread and meat, so much the better. Knowledge is the first condition of power.

The Elderly Widows and National Insurance.

We wish to call attention to the letter from Miss Rathbone on "The Case of the Elderly Widow," which we feel makes a most valuable contribution with respect to the question of the inclusion of the elderly widow in an Insurance Scheme. The distinction made by Miss Rathbone between those who should be included in a contributory insurance scheme and those for whom women's organizations and others have been asking to help through a State-aided scheme is an important one. If Miss Rathbone's contentions are accepted, the age distribution of widows with dependent children is of very urgent importance. Fortunately we now have, in the report by the Government Actuary and in the new volume of Census Returns, exact information. We learn, for instance, that it is expected that in 1930 widows without dependent children will amount to about two-thirds of the whole number, and that about two-thirds of these are over 50. If we take as our definition of "young" widows those under 40, we find that they amount to a little over 6 per cent. of the total number of widows.

Taking the Pension away from the Widow.

We regret to see that among the disqualifications attached to widows' pensions in the new Bill, there is one providing that her pension must be cancelled or suspended if a Court of Law reports that she has been convicted of an offence. This does not apply in the case of Old Age Pension, and in view of the fact that under other sections of the Bill provision is made for removing the children if she is a bad mother, we fail to see the reason for this discrimination against widows as such. If a woman between 65 and 70 who is a widow in receipt of a pension has a quarrel with her neighbour who is in receipt of an Old Age Pension, and both are convicted of assault, the widow might lose her pension, but the married woman could not! Strong feelings would certainly be aroused.

Women's International Congress.

We have received a cable from Mrs. Corbett Ashby relating to the Women's International Congress at Washington. A resolution was passed dealing with disarmament, though progress towards this ideal, it was felt, depended on security which could only be obtained through the development of control by the League of Nations. The Conference decided to work for the acceptance of the principle of bringing all international disputes of a justifiable nature under an International Court. The appointment of the Committee on International Law by the League was welcomed in connexion with the question of the nationality of married women, but there was a strong feeling that the Committee

should contain some women amongst its members, and a resolution was passed pressing for this. There has been a certain hostility noticeable in the Press towards some of the resolutions which are regarded as too pacifist in nature, but the extent to which the public are in sympathy with the ideals of the Conference was shown by the intense enthusiasm of the public meetings held in connexion with the proceedings. As we have learnt to expect from previous years, Washington has shown itself the embodiment of all that is most hospitable. Lady Aberdeen has been again elected as President, Mrs. Ogilvie-Gordon as first Vice-President, and Mme. Averil de Ste. Croix as second Vice-President.

The Lead Paint Bill.

The International Labour Office Convention prohibiting the use of White Lead in painting has borne fruit in the shape of a little measure called the Lead Paint (Protection Against Poisoning) Bill, which was introduced into the House of Commons by the Home Secretary on May 1st. Any Bill dealing with industrial conditions which is called "protective" and does not contain a clause restricting or prohibiting the work of women would be hard to come by, and the present Bill is no exception to the rule. Clauses 1, 3, 4, and 5 permit of very necessary and sensible regulations for the prevention of danger from the use of lead paint; painters' poisoning is to be made notifiable; employers are to keep registers of their workers; samples of painting substances may be examined if the presence of lead be suspected. These are really a watered down form of the Geneva Convention clauses. Clause 2 is a very different matter. It informs us that after 17th November, 1927, "it shall not be lawful to employ any woman . . . in painting any part of a building with lead paint." (The dots represent "young persons," whom we are so weary of seeing coupled with adult women that we refuse to write the phrase.) Section *a* of this clause permits the employment of apprentices in the trade, who will naturally be male. Section *b* is mysterious. It permits "the employment of women . . . in such special decorative or other work (not being of an industrial character) as may be excluded from the provisions of this Section by an Order of the Secretary of State." We wish to know what the "special decorative or other work" may be? We wish to know why the freedom of women to enter any part of the painting trade should be put thus unreservedly in the hands of the Secretary of State? Danger from lead poisoning can be and should be minimised; in that respect the Bill might be stronger. But it is monstrous to make the painting trade safer than it has ever been before—and then deliberately exclude women. Women may have ceased, more or less, to be treated as chattels in marriage; but they are increasingly, in industrial legislation, treated as children or as biological specimens. We trust that Clause 2 will be strongly challenged when the Lead Paint Bill comes up for second reading and the policy of this paper made plain in the House of Commons, namely, that *industrial restrictions and regulations should be based on the nature of the work and not on the sex of the worker.*

Married Women's Torts.

In the House of Lords on 5th May, Lord Danesfort brought to the notice of the public the present absurdity in the law that a man is jointly responsible with his wife for any torts she may commit. In the course of the debate on his resolution that a Select Committee should be set up to consider the liabilities of a married man for the torts and debts of his wife, the Lord Chancellor stated that the Government had considered the points raised, and it proposed to introduce legislation to deal with them at a convenient time. But surely if the Government is going to introduce legislation to remove the few disabilities of married men, it is fitting that the very much more serious disabilities of married women in contract and torts should be dealt with at the same time. The fact that the law as it affects married women in contract and tort differs from that affecting other members of the community, taken together with the fact that their present rights have been conferred on them by a series of piecemeal amendments of the old law, means that the present law is very uncertain and very complicated. This makes for injustice. The time has come when a married woman should have the full rights and responsibilities of other members of the community. As our readers are aware, the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship has prepared a Coverture (Disabilities Abolition) Bill, which it is hoped will shortly be introduced and which would provide for this desirable state of affairs.

The Criminal Justice Bill.

The Criminal Justice Bill of which we outlined the main provisions in our issue of 3rd April, and which has already passed all its stages in the House of Lords, passed its second reading on Monday last. Our readers will remember that the Bill provides for the establishment of a Probation System throughout the country. How much still needs to be done in this respect is proved by the figures quoted by Sir W. Joynson-Hicks, who introduced the Bill. Although 12,000 persons were placed on probation last year, during the same period 3,462 lads between the ages of 16 and 21 were sent to prison; of these 47 per cent. had no previous convictions against them. In addition, 383 young women were sent to prison, of whom 42 per cent. were convicted for the first time. This Bill, which like so many others has been held up by General Elections during successive sessions, should reach the Statute book very shortly, and prove invaluable in many respects.

Questions in Parliament.

NATIONALITY OF MARRIED WOMEN.—Mr. Pethick Lawrence asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he had received information that the Swedish Government has placed the question of the nationality of married women before the legal committee of the League of Nations, and whether in view of the recent decision of the House he proposed to take any action in the matter. In reply, Mr. Chamberlain stated that there is no legal committee of the League of Nations; the committee referred to was presumably that appointed by the last Assembly to consider the codification of international law. He could make no statement until he had received a report from the British member.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT OF MARRIED PERSONS.—In reply to a question from Mr. Hannon, Sir A. Steel-Maitland stated that no statistics were available to show the number of married women drawing unemployment insurance whose husbands were in employment. With regard to the allowances paid for children when one parent is employed and one unemployed, he stated that these are ordinarily paid only if the father is unemployed and drawing benefit, and they are not paid even to the father if the wife is employed and earning a substantial amount, with due regard to the number of children. The total number of women drawing allowances in respect of children last November was estimated at about 4,000. The number included widows; the number of married women drawing such allowances could not be large. The allowances for children when paid are in all cases 2s. weekly per child.

GENERAL NURSING COUNCIL.—In reply to a question from Major Barnett, Mr. N. Chamberlain stated that in accordance with the promise of his predecessor he was prepared to recommend the appointment of a Select Committee to examine the scheme for the election of nurse members on to the General Nursing Council and to report upon the desirability of making the adoption of the Council's syllabus of training compulsory.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT AND DOMESTIC SERVICE.—Mr. Erskine asked the Minister of Labour whether in view of the scarcity of female domestic help he can see his way to so tighten up the Regulations so as to preclude any able-bodied young woman from drawing benefit on the ground of unsuitability for indoor service. In reply, Mr. Betterton stated that if domestic service appears to be suitable it is already offered to female claimants, and if they refuse it their claim is referred to the insurance officer, who takes into account all the circumstances of the case. He reminded the Hon. Member that nearly one-third of the women on the registers of the Employment Exchanges are unemployed operatives in the textile trades.

WOMEN CLAIMANTS UNDER 30 YEARS.—In reply to a question from Mr. Erskine, Mr. Betterton stated that the results of an inquiry made in November, 1924, in respect of 1 per cent. of the claimants showed the number of women applicants for benefit between 16 and 30 years to be 66.1 per cent. of the total of female applicants. On this basis the number in this age group at present would be about 137,706.

POLICY.—*The sole policy of THE WOMAN'S LEADER is to advocate 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.*

SOME ASPECTS OF THE GOLD STANDARD.

Previous to Mr. Churchill's speech there was, we fancy, a general belief that the return to the gold standard would mean the use of the gold sovereign in ordinary circulation. For motives of economy this country is still to keep to paper as the ordinary medium of exchange. What the reintroduction of the gold standard involves is the permission to obtain gold freely for export so that it will not be possible in future for the pound to fall below par.

When this country departed from the gold standard in the first days of the war, the public paid little heed to the change, partly because there were so many other vital matters to occupy their thoughts, partly because it was the only the initiated who realized what tremendous effects the currency policy of a country can have on the national life. Since then we have learnt by experience that inflation and high prices can bring about a violent disturbance of the pre-existing social balances and that deflation also means that for a time certain sections of the community gain at the expense of others. We have learnt, in fact, that high finance is a matter of general concern.

The crucial aspect of the return to gold is its effect on the volume and distribution of wealth. The gold standard, it is sometimes argued, by raising the value of the pound will make export still more difficult, though the financiers will gain at the expense of trade and consequently at the expense of the working classes. Judging from last week's debates, in some quarters the Government's action is regarded as being dictated by the financial interest, but what brings grist to the financial mills is rather fluctuations in the exchanges than any particular level of exchange, be it high or low. It is by skilfully taking advantage of variations in the exchange value of currencies that financial profits are made.

The belief that a depreciated currency gives an impetus to exports and an appreciated currency has the reverse effect is widely held, but it is not necessarily true. If, let us say, the franc should fall from 25 to 100 to the pound, and prices in France rise four-fold as compared with prices in this country, the French exporter when he competes in British markets is neither worse nor better off than he was before. But unfortunately in some cases the exchanges have risen or fallen to a greater extent than prices. It is this difference between the price of the commodities in the home country and their price abroad measured in the same currency that has distorted foreign trade; the fact, in other words, that English people turning their pounds into francs find France cheap. The connexion between this and the lack of a gold standard—i.e. the refusal to allow gold to be freely exported—is obvious. In pre-war days if prices were so high compared with the level

HOUSING IN RURAL AREAS.¹

By AMY SAYLE.

II.

Having considered our oldest cottages, what are the others like? As far as we can judge, there seems to have been little cottage building during the eighteenth century. A good many were built at different times during the nineteenth century, showing less and less local individuality as the century advanced. Perhaps the most usual type of nineteenth century cottage, in villages, as in towns, is the four-roomed type—"two up and two down"—with an outside washhouse and woodshed, and a vault privy at the bottom of the garden. Such cottages were built in hundreds in every industrial and mining town in England during and immediately after the "industrial revolution." They are still standing there in long rows to-day: in the country, they are usually in pairs, or in blocks of four or six. This type of cottage, with the front ground-floor room used as a parlour and the back as a kitchen, is very frequent in Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Surrey, and Hampshire, and in some West-Midland villages. In the Cotswolds, Staffordshire, and Herefordshire the two ground-floor rooms are very unequal in size, the larger being used as the kitchen or "house place", and the smaller as a "pantry" or "back place." There may or may not be a cupboard under the stairs for food, but there is no other larder and there may not even be a sink or any water supply indoors. The older cottages of this kind perpetuate the bad old tradition of the landing-bedroom for the children, through which it is necessary to pass to reach the parents' bedroom, which is usually over the kitchen. In some of the more modern ones (built about 1880), the box-staircase is placed between the front and back rooms downstairs, and there is a minute

¹ Previous articles on the Housing problem appeared in our issues of 24th April and 1st and 8th May.

of the exchanges that they acted as a tax on exports, it would have meant such a drain of gold from the country to pay for the influx of imports that prices would have risen and the exchanges fallen till equilibrium was reached. Between countries which have a gold standard the fluctuations in the exchange are automatically kept within the narrowest limits and there can be no problems arising from differences in internal and external prices. The period of adjustment may produce certain difficulties but when once prices have adjusted themselves in this country to the higher value of the pound—for they will tend to fall—the countries with depreciated currencies will be no more able than hitherto to undersell us. It is true the full benefit of the gold standard to any one country cannot be felt as long as other countries still control the export of gold, but Britain's return to gold will limit the ill effects of paper currencies and will certainly expedite the universal return to the automatic checks provided by the flow of gold in international trade. We will then have stability in the exchanges and it is that, above all, that is needed for industrial development.

There are admittedly drawbacks to the return of gold. It means that the real value of the National Debt will increase with the increase in the value of the pound. On the other hand, the sterling value of our American debt will decrease, which is some compensation as far as it goes. It must also be borne in mind that the inflation of the war and post-war years enormously lowered the value of all fixed interest-bearing securities of an older date. The holders of these were in reality bearing an undue share of the national burdens. If the pound had been kept permanently low to lower the weight of the debt charge, it would have meant that the excessive burden on a particular class was also permanent. Some critics of the present step seem to overlook the fact that the Government had to make a definite decision, owing to the expiration this year of the Gold and Silver Export Control Act. They had either to introduce the gold standard or proclaim to all the world we could not afford this and were going to keep to a depreciated paper currency. The objections to this latter course are not based merely on a sentimental regard for the prestige of the pound, for it certainly would have had serious effects on the value of sterling and on the position of London as the centre of the world's banking and financial system. Moreover, it would have unquestionably delayed the day when other countries will seek to set their financial houses in order. There were these drawbacks therefore, amongst others, to set against the temporary difficulties that may arise from the actual process of change, difficulties that are reduced to a minimum by the fact that the gold value of the pound was already very nearly at par.

landing, or extra wide step, at the top, with a bedroom door at each side. This arrangement, though certainly an improvement as regards privacy, makes it quite impossible to see on the stairs, unless one of the bedroom doors is open. Such cottages are let in Hampshire to-day at 5s. 10d. per week each, including rates. They are cramped, extremely draughty (the back and front doors opening directly into the kitchen and scullery respectively, all doors being in a straight line), and I expect it is quite easy to overhear the conversation of one's next-door neighbours.

Presumably they do not differ greatly from the "four-roomed house, with two rooms upstairs and two down and a good washhouse at the back," so warmly advocated as "a great boon to the working classes of this country" by Mr. H. B. Selley at the Annual Conference of the National Federation of House Builders on 11th October last. (He was inveighing against the idea of providing a working man with "a miniature palace"—presumably under the Wheatley Act.) It is the prevalence of this view of working class requirements about a hundred years ago which is responsible, in my opinion, for the most difficult part of the problem of rural housing—apart from the question of rents, which I shall discuss later. In many of the villages which I have visited to ascertain the number of new houses required, the greatest need was not for many new houses—the number of families "in lodgings," i.e. living in other people's houses in great mutual discomfort, was negligible, except where collieries or industrial undertakings complicated matters. At Weston-on-Trent, in the Stafford Rural District, the opening of a plaster works had apparently directly caused this kind of "two family" overcrowding.

By far the more usual condition of things, however, is to find only one or two three-bedroomed cottages in a whole village—often, as at one village in the Mayfield Rural District, there was not one at all. I shall never forget visiting the family of a roadman in that village—there was a fairly large kitchen, entered directly from the road, with a staircase out of it. On either side of the top of the stairs was a bedroom, each bedroom containing two double beds. In the left-hand room the father and mother, Tom, aged 2, and the baby, aged five months, had one bed, while Edna, aged 14, Alfred, aged 7, May, aged 5, and Alice, aged 4, had the other. In the right-hand room, Walter and Fred, aged 17 and 15, shared one bed, while Ellen and Ida, aged 11 and 9, had the other. On coming down again, into the kitchen, a little breathless after receiving this explanation of the sleeping arrangements for 12 people in two rooms, I was startled to see the half-carcase of a pig hanging in the chimney corner, sharing the fireside with several of the younger children!

That family presents the rural housing problem in an acute form: if Edna aged 14 relieves the pressure by going to service, her mother will have to tell her (as another cottage mother told me of her two daughters in service) that she "can't come home because there is no room." In most villages we need a few new cottages to replace those which are so dilapidated that they must be demolished, but in all we badly need to add a third bedroom to existing cottages, built over a porch and scullery. I suggest that County and Rural District Councils should be empowered to acquire and enlarge such cottages, as an alternative, or in addition to, building new ones. We must not be satisfied with the standard of "two up and two down" of the National Federation of House-Builders. Even if old people and newly-married couples only need houses with one or two bedrooms, there will be no dearth of two-bedroomed houses for many years, and, as someone said the other day, newly-married couples "don't stay newly-married."

Compared with working-class houses in towns, I think we may say that, in the oldest cottages, the ground-floor accommodation is better and the bedroom accommodation worse than in the towns, that the accommodation in the "two up and two down" houses is much the same, both in town and in country, and that the houses built by local authorities before and since the war mark a much greater advance in housing standards in the country than they do in towns. This is because there has been no scope for the speculative builder of "nice little six-roomed houses" in the country, while the building of "model" cottages by wealthy landowners has been extremely patchy, and only affects a small fraction of our villages.

LIBERAL WOMEN IN COUNCIL.

The political discussions at the Liberal Women's Meeting at Southport began with an emergency resolution, introduced by the new President, Mrs. Wintringham, on the Budget. On the subject of Widows' Pensions the introduction of the principle by the Government was welcomed, but the scheme was criticized on the grounds that the allowances are too small, and that the scheme only applies to widows of insured men, thus excluding a large class of shopkeepers' widows, etc.; that the childless widow has no more need of help than the spinster, and that the pension should be given up to the school-leaving age of the children. There was an interesting debate on the International Labour Office. It was urged that all draft conventions should come before the House of Commons and should not be left to the discretion of the Cabinet alone, in order that both the feminist view and that of organized Labour Women might be ventilated. Great interest was shown in the question of Family Endowment, and it was decided to appoint a special committee to present a report on the subject to the Council next year. Perhaps the most notable debate was that on agriculture. A revolution of the system of land tenure was advocated. A strongly worded demand was put forward that women's interests should be considered in future agricultural reforms. It was pointed out that one-seventh of land workers are women, and that the wife of the farmer or agricultural labourer takes an active part in her husband's employment which differentiates her from the wife of any other worker. Yet there is only one woman representative out of twenty-one on the Wages Boards. Many other subjects were discussed, including Electrical Development, Foreign Affairs, Housing, and Education. Equal Franchise and Divorce Law Reform were touched upon as subjects on which all were agreed.

TWO SPRING VISITS TO PALESTINE, 1921, 1922.¹

By MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT, G.B.E., J.P., LL.D.

CHAPTER XXIII.—SOME JEWISH COLLEGES, COLONIES, AND CAMPS.

On Dr. Eder's invitation we started on 10th April, under the guidance of Mr. Jacobs of Manchester, to see some of the Jewish colonies in the neighbourhood of Jaffa; we were also to visit a splendidly equipped agricultural college, and the immigration camp at Telaviv. Mr. Jacobs had joined the British Army early in August, 1914, and in 1922 had only been demobilized for about eighteen months, so he had seen the whole war through from beginning to end. He was a most able and agreeable cicerone, and as he had been working with the Zionist Commission since he left the army, he knew their work from thread to needle, especially in connexion with the institutions we were to visit.

We thoroughly enjoyed the exhilaration of spinning along down the fine mountain road leading from Jerusalem to Jaffa. The first half of the journey provided a succession of lovely views and glimpses of innumerable places of historic, biblical and political interest. Several of these we felt we must come back to; especially Ain Karim, said to have been the home of Zacharias and Elisabeth, and the birthplace of John the Baptist. Mr. Jacobs pointed out many things we should have missed but for him. The second half of the journey was less entrancing, but we had pleasure in noting the more favourable agricultural appearance of the country, compared with last year. Later, when we were at Government House, the High Commissioner asked us what our impressions of the country were compared with the previous year. We replied that there was a very marked improvement in the roads, and that as far as we could judge there were more cattle and their condition was better. He rejoined that in regard to the number of cattle our impressions were confirmed by his official statistics, which showed that the head of cattle on farms throughout the country was 50 per cent greater than last year. The crops looked well cared for and flourishing, and the cattle more numerous and better nourished.

Our first destination was to the farm school, Mikveh Israel, which was founded more than fifty years ago by a rich Jewish banker of Paris, named Netta, as a refuge for the persecuted Jews of Russia and Eastern Europe. M. Netta was acting in co-operation with the *Alliance Israelite Universelle*, and he was sufficiently influential to obtain from the Sultan a grant of 625 acres of land on which he placed his college. He endowed it so liberally that it is able to support a staff of fifteen professors, and at the time of our visit it had 175 pupils, young fellows who came for a three years' course in every branch of agriculture. Among its very useful activities is the employment of a travelling lecturer who goes round the various colonies giving lectures and demonstrations.

The head of the College, himself a practical farmer, thoroughly trained in the best methods of French agriculture, took us round and showed us the whole place, vineyards, orange orchards, cattle sheds, milk and dairy and poultry departments, the apiary, and finally the cellar where the excellent wine of the college is stored. It has to be remembered that the greater part of the present value of this land has been created by the labour of its pupils and teachers. It is near the plain of Sharon, but not upon it, and the land is for the most part reclaimed sand, which two-score years ago was scarcely distinguishable from desert. The same remark may be applied to a great majority of the Jewish colonies, they are generally either reclaimed desert or reclaimed swamp, nests of malaria and other plagues which long rendered labour upon them dangerous when not impossible. At Mikveh Israel, drainage was at once undertaken, and literally millions of eucalyptus trees were planted by the courageous pioneers, many of whom laid down their lives over the tasks they had in hand. The young men trained here act as agricultural missionaries whether in Palestine or in other countries of similar climatic conditions such as Egypt and the Near East. We were told a good many of them migrated to California and have had their share in developing orange production there. M. Netta, as long as he lived, devoted himself with enthusiasm to the well-being of his College. A memorial to him has been erected in the grounds. There can be no doubt of the fact that the improved methods taught in the College have influenced for good the whole average of agriculture in

¹ This is one of a series of weekly articles which will extend over a period of several months.

Palestine. A light was let in upon us while at Mikveh Israel as to the amount of capital needed by the orange farmer. After planting, the trees require about eight years to come into full bearing, so that the capital required to form the orchard is a long time without bringing in a return to its owner. A similar remark is true of vineyards, but the vine comes to its maturity in four years instead of eight.

The farm school at Mikveh Israel is for boys only, and a suggestion in 1923 that it might possibly be made available for girls also was not favourably regarded by the governing body in Paris. But the need of training in farm work for girls was not lost sight of, and I heard with much interest in 1924 that a farm school for girls had been actually started at Nahalal, near Afulék. The situation is favourable in the Valley of Jezreel and has good railway communication with both Jerusalem and Haifa. The experiment will be watched with great interest by all who care for the agricultural training for women, especially for wives and daughters of newly arrived immigrants.

After seeing Mikveh Israel we repaired to a very comfortable Jewish boarding establishment in Telaviv,² where for the first time in our lives we had a sight into the tremendously strenuous house-cleaning operations which take place in every orthodox Jewish household in preparation for the Passover. To give an idea of it, I can only say that our spring house cleaning may chastise us with whips, but Jewish families preparing for Passover are chastised with scorpions. Every household vessel and utensil is thoroughly cleansed and is then put aside, not to be used again before the Passover feast—a double supply therefore is essential. The search for every scrap of leaven is most minute and penetrating; and as for the whitewasher he becomes the lord and king of the whole domain. It was interesting to see all this going on, though we feared we were terribly in the way of the good lady of the house; but in other respects we were sorry that our visit so nearly coincided with the Passover, because the great school at Telaviv, of which we had heard so much, was practically empty, both staff and pupils being dispersed to their several homes. Our Christmas family gatherings are in direct descent from the festival of the Passover. In many other things our Anglican Church ritual and holy days are very similar to the Jewish and stand in relation to the Jewish as children to their parents. We were to see more of this later when we returned to Jerusalem.

WOMEN'S COURTS IN NEW YORK.²

By MRS. BETHUNE-BAKER.

The following account of the Women's Courts in New York is taken from the "History of the Movement" written by Mr. Whitin, the Secretary of the "Committee of Fourteen" of New York, and sent to Mr. Tyrer, the Secretary of the London Council for the Promotion of Public Morality.³

Special Night Courts were first established in New York in 1910, one for the trial of women and the other for the trial of men. (The latter court, we learn incidentally, did not materialize.) In the Women's Court the finger-print identification system was adopted, and the records disclosed through this system convinced the judges that the fine as a penalty in prostitution was ineffective, and in 1912 fines were abolished. Night Sessions were discontinued in 1919, as very few women asked for an immediate trial. In 1915 solicitation "in any place" or without any question of "annoyance" was made a penal offence for which any woman might be arrested. When arrested she is taken to a Station House, where she can secure her release on bail of \$500, i.e. of £100! Short of this £100 she is detained till morning, when she may secure adjournment of her trial to get, if she can, help of counsel or of her friends. English visitors have remarked that women are convicted in the New York Women's Courts on the unsubstantiated testimony

¹ Telaviv joins Jaffa but is independent of it, having a separate municipality of its own. It is a remarkable creation of modern Jewry; an up-to-date, clean town, with broad, well-kept streets, provided with electric light and every modern convenience. The word, Telaviv, means "Hill of Spring."

² This is the second of three articles by Mrs. Bethune-Baker dealing with the problem of legislation concerning "Street Offences." The third will be published shortly.

³ In *The Shield* for April, 1924, Mr. Whitin's paper is printed in full, with interesting criticisms. (M. & S.H. Office, Orchard House, Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.)

of a police officer. Mr. Whitin's naive reply to this criticism is that "it is a question of the use of words." He maintains, that in the majority of cases certain admissions got from the women themselves in cross-examination provide the corroborative evidence that is desired—admissions that are *no proof* of the immediate charge.

After conviction the woman is remanded for finger-printing investigation and *compulsory* medical examination for venereal disease. After these processes are completed she comes before the court again for sentence. If the defendant has no previous record, is not diseased, and has friends, she is "except in special cases" placed on probation. (What are the special cases?) If the first offender is diseased she is sent to Hospital till cured, when for the third time she comes to Court to get her sentence, which may be probation or detention in a "Penal or Reformatory" Institution. If the defendant has been previously convicted (of solicitation *only*, be it remembered) she is sentenced to the Workhouse for from 30 days to six months. If she should also be diseased the sentence to the Workhouse is never less than 100 days.

In the Court in one year (1922) 336 *first offenders* were sent to the Workhouse, 123 *first offenders* were sent to a State Reformatory, 425 only were placed on probation. Out of 1,387 convicted cases 937 were first offenders. And this appalling proportion of first offenders is taken as a striking illustration of the effectiveness of the work, whereas it only proves that men's habits are not altered. And when women and girls are swept by hundreds into Workhouses and Reformatories and Homes, hundreds of fresh girls take their places. The writer of the Report admits that the fact of a girl not being "re-convicted in the New York Court is not evidence of her reformation." But with admittedly no other evidence whatever he claims that the Court is the "greatest rescue institution" the world has ever seen.

We are told that the street-walker has almost disappeared. Out of 1884 convicted women only 261 were charged with soliciting in the street. As "bawdy houses" have almost disappeared we would ask by what inquisitorial methods the other 1623 offenders were found out?

Some light may perhaps be thrown upon the above questions—light shed also by Mr. Whitin. In November, 1923, he published an article in the *National Municipal Review*, from which it is clear that powers are being sought to extend the employment of plain-clothes men as agents-provocateurs to entrap (Mr. Whitin's own word) women into committing prostitution and then to charge them with the offence. We quote the following passage:—

"To repress prostitution further in New York City additional advances are required. First the removal of the technical difficulties of entrapment. When the women's courts were originally a punitive institution public opinion was much opposed to the punishing of those who were *induced* to commit prostitution . . .

"It would seem that the existing limitations regarding entrapment should be removed, for the woman or girl who would fall for the inducements of the police officer would similarly fall for those made by the civilian, and the girl who would so fall needs care and supervision and in a majority of cases undoubtedly needs medical attention. Thus, one change or advance makes possible another."

What can we say about such standards of justice and decency? Girls are deliberately tempted by police officers, and then arrested. Incidentally, who is doing the "soliciting," which is the only crime for which they are to be punished. The whole method of procedure is intolerable and the deliberate police temptation simply infamous.

There is no room here to quote some of the many instances where after conviction innocence has been proved on appeal. I will end by quoting the words of American women, commenting in the *New York Woman Citizen* on the procedure of the courts:—

"Girls, found chaste, have had to endure examinations unwelcome to women under the most sheltered circumstances. The fact, and its results, have been repeated over and over in newspaper columns; the comments of men upon the chastity or possible unchastity of women have been repeated again and again in every newspaper. Has civilization, then, after its thousands of years, taught men neither modesty nor decency that such things can be part of the system originated by men, developed by men, and clamped like a vice upon a city's Court of Equity?"

Where is the Equity in the Women's Courts of New York?

WIDOWS', ORPHANS', AND OLD AGE CONTRIBUTORY PENSIONS BILL.

We have already dealt with the general lines of the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Bill, but there are certain clauses dealing with the more detailed aspects, a summary of which will be of interest, though space forbids any comments.

After stating the amount of the pensions, the Bill goes on to deal more fully with widows' and orphans' pensions. An exception to the general clause granting pensions to the widows of insured persons is made in the case of the widow of a man who has attained the age of 60 at marriage. This exception, however, does not hold good if there are children to the marriage, if more than five years have intervened between the marriage and the death of the husband, or if the widow had already been in receipt of a widow's pension at the time of the marriage. (A clause on similar lines applies also to women who claim the old age pension at 65 in respect of their husband's insurance.) The Widows' Pension will continue till she is 70, except in the case of re-marriage, when it will cease, though the part of the pension payable in respect of her children will continue.

If the widow or orphan is to receive a pension, the husband or parent must have been insured for two years (104 weeks) and paid 104 contributions, or have been insured for at least four years and paid on an average twenty-six contributions each year for the three years before his death or before his withdrawal from insurance on account of age. In the case of old age pensions the insured person must have been insured for a period of not less than five years before he reaches the age of 65; he must have paid 104 contributions, and he must have paid on an average thirty-nine contributions each year during the three years immediately prior to his reaching the age of 65.

Arrangements are made under the Bill by which the children's allowances can be paid to persons other than the widow in cases in which the mother has abandoned the child, or if her pension has been suspended or cancelled under the Act and it can be shown to be to the child's interest. The Minister can then direct that the allowance should be paid to the person having charge of the child, to the local authority, or to any person approved by the Minister. Similar powers are given in respect of orphans' pensions and in cases in which it can be shown that it is better for the widow that the pension should be administered for her and not paid direct.

The Bill makes provision for voluntary contributors. Any person earning under £250 employed in an occupation excepted under the National Health Insurance Act, any person who ceases to be compulsorily insured, or any person who was insured for two years under the Health Insurance Act prior to the introduction of this new scheme is given the option of coming in. If they desire to do so they must also become voluntary contributors under the Health Insurance Act, and must pay both their own and the employer's contribution. They drop out of the scheme if their contributions average less than forty-five over two consecutive years, or if they are less than thirty-nine in any one year.

Orphans and women who are widows with children under 14 at the time of the introduction of the Act are specially provided for, and their allowance will be paid from next January if their husbands had been insured under the National Health Insurance Act.

A series of clauses deals with disqualifications. If a widow in receipt of a pension is convicted of any offence, the Court has the right to report the case to the Minister, who may, if he thinks fit, cancel or suspend the pension. A widow is disqualified if she is cohabiting with any man. The disqualifications under the Old Age Pensions Act apply also under this Bill (roughly paupers, lunatics, and prisoners).

The insured person must have been resident in Great Britain for at least two years, and pensions are not payable to persons out of the country. Persons who are in receipt of a service dependent's pension are not in general qualified to receive pensions under this Bill. If the service pension is less than they would receive under the new scheme the difference is made good. Men in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and their dependents are included in the proposed scheme.

A widow who is entitled to, or in receipt of, a widow's pension, or who has a service dependent's pension in its place, is exempted from the liability to be insured under the existing insurance Acts. The same applies to persons who have reached the age of 65 and are pensionable under the new Bill. W. A. E.

OVERSEAS SETTLEMENT FOR WOMEN.

The Society for the Overseas Settlement of British Women has organized a meeting to be held at the Central Hall, Westminster, on Thursday, 28th May, at 3 p.m. The Society feels that there is a considerable lack of information as to the opportunity that exists for the settlement of women from this country in the various Dominions, and have accordingly arranged this meeting to explain and discuss the present position. The speakers will be the Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby Gore, M.P. (Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies), Mr. William Lunn, M.P., and Miss Gladys Pott, O.B.E. Countess Buxton will take the Chair. Particulars can be obtained from the S.O.S.B.W., 3-4 Clements Inn, W.C. 2.

LONDON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

A correspondent writes:—

On Friday, 8th May, the Annual Dinner of the London Chamber of Commerce took place, and for the first time in the history of the Chamber, women were present in their capacity of Members. About 500 men, and four women attended, of whom Miss Marie Lawson (Managing Director, T. W. Sheridan and Co., Hatton Gardens) and Miss Mildred Ransom (Principal Secretarial Training School, Edgware Road) are well known to readers of THE WOMAN'S LEADER. Both have been identified for many years with the betterment of the social, economic, and political conditions of women, and are well known writers and speakers on the subject. The gathering was brilliant. Lord Kyslant presided. The Foreign Secretary was the chief guest, and the American Ambassador and the Lord Mayor of London, and other distinguished gentlemen were present.

REVIEW: LIFE IN THE OCCUPIED AREA.¹

Last autumn the election of Marshal von Hindenburg as President of the German Reich was unthinkable. That it is to-day an accomplished fact is in great part due to the continued and indeterminate occupation of Cologne. The Rhineland, the stronghold of democracy, polled strongly for Hindenburg. It is very difficult for us in England to realize how irksome an occupation at its best must be, and Mrs. Tynan's book, with its simple human picture of the British occupied area is therefore the more valuable. Mrs. Tynan scarcely touches the difficult political and economic problems involved, and she wrote at a time when the contrast between the British and French occupied area was greatest. Nevertheless it is easy to gather how much the inhabitants must resent what they regard as the illegal extension of foreign control in so important a centre.

The pictures of the Cologne children, gardens, and churches are delightful, but even more interesting is Mrs. Tynan's own attitude towards the Germans. At first she felt she was surrounded by enemies, the friendliness was "too good to be true, they must hate us." She was in no sense of the word pro-German, and her appreciations of Cologne and its inhabitants are the more valuable on this account. This is no profound political work, but the lightly written, sympathetic study of a people which should go far to blot out the caricatures painted by the war propaganda. Mrs. Tynan brings back the Germany of the fairy stories with its simple, kindly inhabitants, while at the same time she writes very sympathetically about the French and their attitude. In no incident does the stupidity of the barriers between peoples come out more clearly than when, describing the Requiem for the Allied Dead on All Souls' Day, attended by soldiers of all ranks, Mrs. Tynan says, "it was a German choir from one of the oldest churches in Cologne that had been crying with so piercing a sweetness for the Allied Dead."

W. G. RINDER.

¹ *Life in the Occupied Area*, by Katherine Tynan. (Hutchinson & Co., price 18s.)

CANNING TOWN WOMEN'S SETTLEMENT.

President: The Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair.
Hon. Secretary: Miss C. Spicer. Hon. Treasurer: H. Kemaley, Esq.

A MEETING

will be held at the MORTIMER HALL, MORTIMER STREET, W. (off Regent Street), on **TUESDAY, May 19th, 1925, at 3 p.m.**

SPEAKERS: Hugh Kemaley, Esq., J. A. Lovat-Fraser, Esq., M.A., Miss Catherine Towers, Miss Hawes.

A Collection will be taken in aid of the Funds. Tea 4.15.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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WIDOWS', ORPHANS', AND OLD AGE CONTRIBUTORY PENSIONS BILL.

We regret to say that the Minister of Health has not consented to receive the Deputation for which we asked on the above Bill.

PERSONAL.

THE PRESIDENT'S TOUR.

Miss Rathbone is in France examining the various schemes for Family Allowances, and will shortly proceed to Geneva for the Session of the Committee on Traffic in Women and the Protection of Children, to which she has recently been appointed an advisory member.

MRS. WINTRINGHAM.

We congratulate the National Women's Liberal Federation on the election of Mrs. Wintringham as their new President.

MRS. CORBETT ASHBY'S TOUR IN AMERICA.

We hear splendid reports of Mrs. Corbett Ashby's tour in America and Canada, where she is attending the Women's International Women's Conference. She writes: "All my audiences have been enthusiastic over my account of the political and social work done by women of other lands . . . women here are splendidly alert, keen and intelligent—the spread of education is wonderful."

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

CITY OF LONDON, S.E.C.

The City of London Society for Equal Citizenship is holding its Annual General Meeting on 16th May, at 29, Grosvenor Place. It will be of great interest to all city workers, and any city worker interested in the movement should apply for an invitation to the Hon. Secretary, St. Stephen's Chambers, Telegraph Street, E.C. 2.

WALLASEY W.C.A.

A Meeting of the Wallasey Women Citizen's Association was held at the Wallasey Grange, Grove Road, on Wednesday, 6th May, at the kind invitation of Mrs. C. H. Burchall, J.P., and Mrs. W. Thomson. Mrs. Van Gruisen gave a very interesting account of the Annual Council Meeting of the N.U.S.E.C., and also pointed out the differences between those Women Citizens' Associations, which deal purely with local work, and the N.U.S.E.C., which is interested in Parliamentary work and views matters more from a national standpoint.

CARDIFF W.C.A.

The Annual Meeting of the Cardiff Women Citizens' Association was held at the West Grove Unitarian Schools on Saturday, 2nd May. Mrs. Coombe-Tennant gave an interesting address, in which she reviewed the steps which led to the enfranchisement of women in 1918. There were still over five million women between the ages of 21 and 30 employed in industry who should be put on the same footing as men of similar age.

KENSINGTON AND PADDINGTON S.E.C.

The Committee wishes attention to be drawn to the Library at 85 Clarendon Street, Notting Hill Gate, where books may be taken out by members at the rate of 1d. per volume per week. These books deal with subjects which would be very useful either to writers on Local Government subjects, or to candidates for local governing bodies.

A Drawing Room Meeting was held at 67 Holland Park Avenue, by kind permission of Miss T. King, at which Miss Helen Fraser presided, and an interesting discussion took place on "Protective Legislation." Mrs. Abbott very ably presented the case against differential legislation for women in industry, and Miss Maguire, of the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries, spoke in favour of it under certain circumstances.

TOTTENHAM U.D.C. ELECTION.

We have to congratulate Miss Councillor E. F. Cox, who has been a member of the N.U.S.E.C. for many years, on heading the poll in the Tottenham Urban District Council Election.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CASE OF THE ELDERLY WIDOW.

MADAM.—I agree with much, and disagree with some, both of your leader and of Miss Fraser's letter on the above subject. I venture to suggest, Madam, that you have overlooked the vast change made in the situation, as we previously conceived it, by two facts about the Government scheme: First, that it is contributory; secondly, that the promise of pensions to practically all widows has been definitely made and proclaimed to the whole country by the Budget speech. You say that no women's society has hitherto demanded pensions for widows other than those with young children. True, but was not that because we have been demanding a State paid scheme? The considerations governing such a scheme necessarily differ from those affecting one paid for by the workers themselves. We demanded (and demand) State pensions for children because their welfare is the affair of the whole community. It is not just that the worker out of his all too-small wages should pay doubly for his children in the present and for their hypothetical future after his death. Many of us think that even the former burden is too great. But the case of the wife is rather different. It seemed unreasonable, or at least impracticable, to ask the State to undertake the whole burden of maintaining women whose sole disqualification for maintaining themselves is that for the best years of their lives they have been engaged wholly in housewifery and have thus become ineligible for the labour market. But the moment we contemplate a contributory scheme the question becomes one of making, through State machinery and State aid, a kind of provision which individuals would make for themselves if they were sufficiently far-sighted, thrifty, and adequately paid. Does not insurance of the elderly widow come within this description? Take the following quite ordinary case, not one of exceptional hardship: Mrs. A. marries at 20, has four children spaced over eight years. Her husband dies when she is 41, the children aged roughly 14, 16, 18, and 20. Mrs. A. is still needed to manage the household, do all the cooking, cleaning, sewing necessary. At most she can manage a day or two's charring a week, just enough to supplement the 10s. pension. The earnings of the children are not enough to maintain her as well as themselves, if they are, as they ought to be, apprentices learning their trades. Or suppose, again, that the husband lives till she is 51, the children all married but one. What is to become of her? What factory will take her, what house-mistress wants her for a servant, even if it were fair to ask her to become one after thirty years spent as mistress of her own home?

To the innumerable workmen's wives who know that this may some day be their position, Mr. Churchill's promise must have come as an incredibly precious, though entirely unlooked for, boon. Is it for women's societies, mostly made up of the comparatively prosperous young and strong, to take upon themselves the great responsibility of dashing this rare and refreshing fruit from these tired, thirsty mouths?

Of course, the pensions promised for children are far too low. But is it not safer to trust to future Governments to increase them at the expense of the State than to do it now at the expense of the elderly widow? The children's chance will come again, the sentiment in favour of them being very strong. But if all the money that can be wrung out of workmen's contributions has been used up on the children, will there be sufficient motive power behind the demand to transfer the children's cost to the State and use the money thus freed for the elderly widow—that forlorn and neglected figure, interesting to nobody, not even to Bernard Shaw, who, if I remember right, when he does introduce a charwoman into one of his plays is true to convention in burlesquing her?

As for the really young and really childless widows, I do not go so far as Miss Helen Fraser in desiring a pension for them. The case for their exclusion is so strong that it scarcely needs stating. But it may be questioned whether their number is great enough for the saving to be of much value towards increasing the pensions for children. There is another obvious source from which the necessary money might be drawn. Let Mr. Churchill diminish the relief he is giving to the payers of super-tax by the amount necessary to make fatherless children's pensions really adequate. If the women's societies were to concentrate on demanding this, it would be in full accord with the policy of making the fatherless child a charge on the State.

In saying all this, I wish to make it clear that I speak only for myself. Neither the N.U.S.E.C., nor, so far as I am aware, any other women's organization, has so far had the opportunity of collectively pronouncing upon the points at issue. But I hope that what I have said may suffice to show the extreme danger of any hasty pronouncement which might have the effect of putting the women's societies into the position of seeming to refuse on behalf of their sex a provision which will probably be warmly welcomed by the vast majority of working men's wives.

ELEANOR F. RATHBONE.

Avignon, 9th May, 1925.

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Applications to the Wardens of the respective Clubs.

COMING EVENTS.

THE LABOUR PARTY.

MAY 27 and 28. National Conference of Labour Women in the Town Hall, Birmingham.
 MAY 27. Public Meeting (evening). Speakers: The Right Hon. Ramsay MacDonald, M.P., Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., Mr. Thomas Johnston, M.P., and Dr. Marion Phillips. Councillor Mrs. Howes in the Chair.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES.

MAY 19 and 20. Ninth Annual Meeting in Queen's Hall, Langham Place, W. 1. Morning Session, 10.45 to 1 p.m. Afternoon Session, 2.15 to 4.30 or 5 p.m.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

City of London S.E.C. MAY 16. 3 p.m. 29 Grosvenor Place, S.W. 1. Annual General Meeting. Speakers: The Lady Balfour of Burleigh and Miss Helen Fraser. Chair: Mrs. Hoster.

Hereford W.C.A. MAY 19. 3 p.m. Annual Meeting. Speaker: Miss Helen Fraser.
 Hendon W.C.A. MAY 26. 3 p.m. Benmore Hall, Golders Green. Mrs. F. W. Hubback on "Bills before Parliament affecting Women and Children."
 Malvern S.E.C. MAY 19. 8 p.m. Speaker: Miss Helen Fraser.

ST. PANCRAS COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL SERVICE.

MAY 27. 5.15. Mary Ward Settlement, Tavistock Place, W.C. Miss Whateley on "The Work of the N.U.S.E.C."

SIX POINT GROUP.

MAY 18. 5.30 p.m. 92 Victoria Street, S.W. 1. Mrs. Winttingham on "Women in Agriculture." Chair: The Lady Balfour of Burleigh.

SOCIETY FOR CONSTRUCTIVE BIRTH CONTROL AND RACIAL PROGRESS.

MAY 27. 8 p.m. General Meeting at Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, W.C. Professor A. M. Carr-Saunders, M.A., on "The History of the Limitation of Numbers." Chair: Dr. Marie Stopes.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

MAY 27. 6.30. Oak Room, Kingsway Hall, W.C. Social Evening of Mid-London Branch. The following will take part in the proceedings: Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., Mrs. Pethick-Lawrence, Miss Horniman, Miss Marjorie Gullan, and Miss Anna Munro.

WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE GUILD. Silvertown, Woolwich.

MAY 27. 3 p.m. Miss Whateley on "The Work of the N.U.S.E.C."

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 35 Marsham Street, Westminster. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Information Bureau. Interviews, 10 to 1, except Saturdays. Members' Centre open daily. Restaurant open to 7.30 (not Saturdays).

FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 17th May. 3.30, Music; Lecture: H. W. Nevins, F.S.Q., on "A War Correspondent's Ideal." 6.30, Maude Royden: "Religion and the Stage: The Old Vic. and Sadlers Wells".

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