

THE  
**WOMAN'S LEADER**

IN POLITICS                      IN INDUSTRY                      IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
IN THE HOME                      IN LITERATURE AND ART                      IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND

**THE COMMON CAUSE**

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**NOTES AND NEWS**

**Equal Franchise in Ireland.**

An effort is being made to secure that the coming elections in Ireland shall be taken on the Equal Franchise basis. On February 17th a deputation was received by Mr. de Valera from the Irish Women's Franchise League, the Women's International League, the Women Workers' Union, and the Workers' Labour Council. Mr. de Valera expressed sympathy with the views of the deputation and referred to the possibility that Dail Eireann might take action in the matter. Meanwhile the Irish Women Citizens' Association, at its annual meeting of February 16th, endorsed the action of the Executive, already reported, with regard to Equal Franchise, and placed this first among the immediate objects in their programme for the coming year.

**The Irish Women Citizens' Association.**

At the annual meeting of this Association Lady Dockrell, U.D.C., C.C., J.P., was unanimously elected President after the regretted resignation of Mrs. Haslam, and Prof. Mary Hayden, M.A., was elected Vice-President in place of Lady Dockrell. At the invitation of the Association a meeting of representatives of women's organisations and women citizens' societies was held to take the necessary steps to enable Ireland to become affiliated with the I.W.S.A. as a National Auxiliary. A Joint Irish Board was formed for the purpose consisting of societies in Dublin, Belfast, and other centres.

**Unequal Franchise in Hungary.**

A curious Franchise Bill has been laid before the Budapest National Assembly by Count Klebelsberg, which is extremely reactionary, and proposes different conditions for men and women. The men must be twenty-four years old, they must have been Magyar subjects for at least ten years, and must have spent four years at an elementary school. Women must be thirty years old, with four years of elementary school life behind them, and they must have two legitimate children who are at least six years of age. Unmarried women must have a business of their own, or "adequate capital," or they must have passed a lyceum successfully. People who in any way expressed sympathy with the

enemy during the war lose their right to vote. Hungary is a country well-known for the number of its illiterates, so that this Bill is obviously aimed chiefly at the working classes, and it is to be hoped that it will meet with such a strong opposition that it will fail, for the franchise existing at present is far more liberal.

**Mme. Curie.**

Last week the reception of Mme. Curie by the Academy of Medicine took place, and, as a mark of honour, M. Béhal made a special speech to welcome the first *Académicienne*. He said that twenty years ago, in response to his request, she gave a lecture at the Sorbonne on radium, which she had discovered and was studying with her husband. All the subsequent discoveries, he said, which have resulted from hers, are as nothing compared with the fundamental fact which she proved—the formidable energy contained in the atomic system.

**"As You Were."**

Convocation has once more spoken. Both Houses have spent many hours discussing Report 524a on the ministry of women, and the result is that the subject is still in a state of indecision. When the Bishops sent down a resolution—"That under conditions laid down by the Bishop of the Diocese it should be permissible for women, duly qualified and approved by him, to speak and pray in consecrated buildings, and that such ministrations should be on occasions other than the regular and appointed services of the church, and are intended normally for congregations of women and of children"—our opponents carried an amendment by 63 to 61 to omit the word "normally." A further amendment in our favour, taking away the restriction to women and children, was then carried by 65 to 58, which, when put as a substantive motion, was passed by 60 to 58. The Bishops, however, refused to concur in this change, and sent the resolution again to the House of Clergy, who then pressed the amendment to omit "normally," which was carried by a vote of 70 to 32. This, on being again sent to their Lordships, was not accepted by them, and the matter now rests until the next meeting in the hope of an agreement being arrived at before then. A study of the voting makes an interesting speculative

exercise as to motive. The situation is slightly Gilbertian! What do the women most concerned think about it? Miss Maude Royden, Lady Barrett, Professor Louise McLroy, and Mrs. St. Clair Stobart will have an opportunity of expressing their views at the public meeting arranged by the League of the Church Militant at St. John's Institute, Tufton Street, Westminster, on Friday, March 3rd, at 8 p.m. Meanwhile the women who are engaged in spiritual work in the Church—teaching and preaching—just carry on.

### The Scandal of Uganda.

We have been asked to make public a serious indictment of British method of "protecting" Uganda, where a system similar to the Contagious Diseases Acts has been introduced, we are informed, on an extensive scale. The information comes from a Catholic woman doctor in Uganda, who has been dismissed with a month's notice after twenty-five years' work (which has included a good deal of Government service in England (Poor Law), India, Australia, New Zealand, and Mesopotamia), for refusing to carry out the abominable instructions given to her. Needless to say, she was not warned before going out as to what would be expected of her. She says: "We boast that our flag never floats o'er a slave. Close to the tomb of the Unknown Warrior is the slab which marks Livingstone's grave, and records his touching blessing on those, who-soever they may be, who help to heal Africa, that open sore of the world. The way in which we are, officially, setting out 'to heal this open sore' is by giving chiefs, none of whom have had a medical education, and all of whom are descendants of quite recent ancestors who practised every form of slavery (including polygamy, mutilation, and wholesale massacre), the powers possessed hitherto only by doctors. Not only can and must a chief report to the authorities anyone of whom he has 'reasonable suspicion' that he or she has venereal disease, but he receives a fee for every one so reported."

### The Position of Women.

"The position even of men," she goes on to say, "and far more of women, under such a regulation is intolerable, and is causing great discontent amongst the people we are supposed to 'protect.' Such regulation if attempted in India, or any Mohammedan country, would cause revolution preceded by every form of discontent or violence. Is it British fair-play to enforce them on the African, to whom civilisation already owes amends for centuries of slavery with all its attendant cruelties, immoralities, wrongs? We speak of German atrocities. We do not mutilate or bastinado people found to have venereal disease; but penalties up to £100 and hard labour up to two months are amongst the penalties for any infraction of the Venereal Diseases Measures of 1913 in Uganda. The worst feature of all, however, is that large troops of men and women are obliged by English Government officials, and native chiefs acting under their influence, to come up at intervals for the most insulting of all forms of medical inspection. The population of an area within a five-mile radius, amounting perhaps to 100 or 200, Christians, Pagans, and Mussulman, of all ages and both sexes, has to make this journey for the purpose of this insulting inspection. In many places it is done on a hill-side with a mere fence between the sexes, or perhaps a flimsy erection of reed and calico. The conversation which ensues when certain individuals are found not to have obtained a ticket of certification from the examining doctor may be imagined, or perhaps from a Christian point of view it is better not imagined. One of the worst features is that Europeans, both planters and officials, take advantage of these measures to have their servants, and, far worse, their black mistresses, inspected in order to safeguard themselves, and the signature of English Medical Officers appears on these tickets."

### Our Responsibility.

"A bad feature, from the women's point of view, is that recently an attempt has been made by the Colonial Office to 'play propriety' by inducing white women, both doctors and nurses, to leave England, where C.D. Acts are not law, to carry out measures of a similar nature in a British Protectorate, and this without pointing out to them before they leave England the element of compulsion in the work they are expected to do." These are the facts. What are we going to do about it? We are, each one of us, responsible for wrongs or injustices committed under the British flag with official sanction. The least we can do is to induce our Members to demand an explanation in the House of this disgraceful state of affairs. The Catholic Women's Suffrage Society is taking steps, and is in consultation with other women's organisations, to see what can be done to get this shameful wrong redressed.

### The Asylums Inquiry.

The Committee on the Administration of Public Mental Hospitals held its first meeting last week. The members of the Committee are Sir Cyril Cobb, Dr. R. P. Smith, M.D., F.R.C.P., and Dr. Bedford Pierce, M.D., F.R.C.P. Mr. Trevor, Senior Commissioner of the Board of Control, was the first witness, and said that since 1894 he had come across only half a dozen cases in which the conditions disclosed on the certificates were so weak that further inquiry had to be made leading to the discharge of the patient. Very often where people were detained in the institutions it was because the conditions at their homes were such as not to admit of them being taken away. All the institutions were visited by the Board of Control, and every single patient was seen and had an opportunity of speaking to the visiting committees. All the rest of the evidence given was in the same strain, and a certain amount of sympathy can be felt with one member of the public who asked whether this was to be a "whitewashing Commission." It was announced that the Committee is quite willing to consider the application of any person desiring to give evidence, provided that the points at issue fall within the Committee's terms of reference and powers of inquiry. It does not seem as if the public anxiety will be allayed by the Departmental Committee, and the appointment, sooner or later, of a Royal Commission is inevitable. The sooner Sir Alfred Mond makes up his mind to that the better.

### Inadequate Nursing Staffs.

Dr. Barclay, the resident Medical Officer of the Norwich Infirmary, has written to the local Press with reference to the staffing of the infirmary. Our readers will remember the case of a patient's death after an operation, reported in last week's issue. Evidence given by Dr. Barclay at the inquest showed that with the limited staff of nurses on duty a special nurse was not possible for an operation case. He adds: "The entire nursing staff has been working overtime (beyond the 48-hour week) to the full knowledge of the House Committee. This has been rendered necessary to cope with the general excess of work, which must not be taken to mean the recent influenza epidemic. During my tenure of office I have repeatedly drawn the attention of the House Committee to the shortage of the nursing staff. The Guardians are now receiving deputations from a union upon the subject of working hours per week and their extension. Nevertheless, the nursing staff has been and is voluntarily working overtime. Such 'professional keenness' shown in the cause of humanity—the spirit of the nursing profession—should not be tendered as an excuse to gloss over a difficulty and the nursing staff shortage."

### Southport's Lady Mayor.

The following description of Southport's Mayoral procession has reached us:—"We are proud of our Lady Mayor. She looked the position in her scarlet robe and official head-dress, as she received the guests in the municipal buildings. The caretaker said there never had been such a crowd entertained there before; it was a marvellous sight to gaze upon. The women were all proud of it, and I am sure the men were proud of their good work also. There was enthusiasm everywhere, when the new Mayor headed the procession through the town. No previous mayor had ever headed such a procession for size and importance."

### Child Slavery.

Gradually public opinion is being aroused on the question of the Mui Tsai system in Hong Kong, and while the conference of the Anti-Slavery Society was pressing for an inquiry into the scandal last week Colonel John Ward was urging the same thing in the House. Colonel Ward has been successful in the ballot on a private Member's motion, and intends to use his opportunity to raise a debate on this subject. Lady Astor is also very persistent, and has elicited from Mr. Churchill the grudging admission that he could see no objection to the Society, formed of Chinese and British merchants, issuing a manifesto informing the Mui Tsai that they are perfectly free agents, free to leave those masters and mistresses who gave them no pay, and to offer their services for wages to *bona fide* employers.

**POLICY.**—The sole policy of THE WOMAN'S LEADER is to advocate a real equality of liberties, status and opportunities between men and women. So far as space permits, however, it will offer an impartial platform for topics not directly included in the objects of the women's movement, but of special interest to women. Articles on these subjects will always be signed, at least by initials or a pseudonym, and for the opinions expressed in them the Editor accepts no responsibility.

## REASONABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE.

Great is our satisfaction that the Government has taken up, and is itself about to introduce, a Criminal Law Amendment Bill. There is, however, a rumour to the effect that when the terms are tabled we shall be disappointed. The rumour runs that the Bill, as it will be introduced, will not contain the clause which, to many people, is the most important, as it is undoubtedly the most far-reaching of the proposals of the Bill we lost last summer, namely, the clause abolishing reasonable cause to believe a girl is over age from the possible lines of defence in cases of criminal assault or seduction.

Our readers will remember that it was against this clause that opposition to the Bill was concentrated. Members protested violently and bitterly against it, on the ground that it took away from the accused all his natural legal rights, and that it opened a door to blackmail and revengeful prosecution which ought not to be tolerated. The anger engendered by this clause was very noticeable, and although, on a straight vote, those who protested against it were heavily defeated, this was undoubtedly the motive which inspired those ingenious wrecking tactics which ultimately lost us the Bill. The points at issue are plain enough. As the law now stands, and as the forthcoming Bill proposes to allow it to continue to stand, a man accused of committing an act of indecent assault upon a girl under the age of consent can bring forward the defence that he believed her to be over the age, and that she was a consenting party, and he can be in consequence acquitted, even when the fact is established beyond a doubt.

Now, the opponents of this clause hold that it takes away a man's legal right to defend himself. Certainly it does do so—and, what is more, it is meant to do so. We cannot answer this objection better than by quoting the Lord Chancellor on this point. "If a man," he said, "chooses to have carnal connection with one who, in fact, is a child between the ages of fifteen and sixteen, committing what has technically and rightly been described as a sin, I am inclined to think that he ought to do that at his own peril."

The second objection of the opponents is that it opens the door to blackmail. They suggest that the streets will become peopled with mature-looking girls a month or two under age, who will lead astray large numbers of men and then blackmail them under threat of a prosecution against which the victims will have no defence. Lord Desart, speaking on this subject in March of last year, drew the picture very plainly. "A young man in the full vigour of youth, passing through the streets of a town on his way home at night, is accosted by a woman apparently of full age. She certainly is not a girl who is unacquainted with vice, or unable to judge the nature of the act to which she invites the young man. He goes home with her, and after she has got what she wants, she produces to him a birth certificate, and says, 'Now I will prosecute you. You can have no defence.' He may be a young man about to enter a profession which he intends to make his career, or a young man having an opportunity of making a start in business. If he is prosecuted, what becomes of his future? It will be ruined by that one act. What is the alternative proposition? That woman has him in her power."

This is the case for the retention of the clause, put in its most extreme form. What is the answer to it? Lord Gorell gave it in a sentence. "Well," he said, "the obvious way out of it is for the boy to abstain from promiscuous association with the girl." His career would be ruined with or without the defence of "reasonable cause," if his action was known, and we can see nothing unjust in the fact that the consequences of evil actions should be evil.

After all, when all is said and done, the gist of the discussion is this: Do we, or do we not, think that it is the duty of the law to give effective protection to children under sixteen? If it is, we must see that the law is adequate, and that those who tamper with children suffer for it. If we do not, we can allow the present "dishonest defence" to go on, and under the shelter of it we can allow men to escape conviction, and public opinion to tolerate evil, which if sharper punishments were inflicted would be less abominably frequent. "Flapper prostitutes" would not haunt the streets if there was no demand for them. It is no good putting all the blame for the state of society upon them. We hope and trust that the rumour that this clause is not in the Bill is unfounded. But if it is not there at first we must make the House of Commons put it in without delay.

## NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

History repeats itself, and politics abound in parallels. The situation of the Government of to-day affords a remarkably close copy of that of the Government of 1905; and, unless I am very much mistaken, the coming election will resemble that of 1906 as closely as one pea resembles another. What was the talk of 1905? "The Government is so overwhelmingly strong that it cannot be beaten; there is no alternative Government; the bye-elections mean nothing." Is this not exactly the talk of 1922? And what is the position of affairs? In 1905 the Government hung on to secure the Anglo-Japanese Treaty; to-day it is the Anglo-Irish. The parallel is outwardly exact, and strange to say, it is inwardly exact too. In 1905 the Conservatives were in two minds about Tariff Reform. They wavered and wavered and were lost; to-day the Government is in two minds about economy. Geddes says one thing, the Admiralty another—and Lloyd George must back one or the other. Whichever he backs he has raised up a cry against himself—either he is a spend-thrift or our Navy is endangered. It is a futile position, and it is not only the House but the country also which feels it to be so.

The House has not been startling this week, although there have been three first-class speeches. On Wednesday the plan by which the Government takes all the private Members' time till after Easter was adopted with surprising ease, after which Members became involved in a bog of supplementaries. There have been heated discussions on the Civil Service pensions, which were to have been reckoned on pay and war bonus (or at least 75 per cent. of war bonus); Tuesday's debate, however, resulted in a modification of this plan, and a scheme for making pensions vary with the cost of living is to be discussed.

On Thursday the Irish Free State (Agreement) Bill was moved by Mr. Churchill in a brilliant speech, possibly the best he has ever made. He was often interrupted, but nothing disturbed him. Charles Craig led the opposition; and of the Die-Hard debate there is not much to be said. The time was taken up by the Ulstermen, who contributed more heat than light, and Mr. Devlin, who spoke later, showed that he had lost none of his old fire. The debate was continued on Friday, when Lord Hugh Cecil made what was possibly the best of the speeches against the Bill, for which, the next day, he was well abused in the Press. The discussion was wound up by Mr. Chamberlain, who rose to a height he has never previously attained. All his speeches on this subject have been good: this one was the best of them.

On Monday the House discussed the Irish Constabulary Vote, and had what was really a rehash of the Treaty Bill discussion. In Ireland itself, meanwhile, while the position remains black and terrible, things do not seem to be getting worse, and the chances that Mr. Michael Collins will pull through are better than they were a week ago.

Tuesday was devoted to more supplementary estimates, and was marked by a large number of short speeches. It was marked also by the arrival of two new Labour Members, for Clayton and North Camberwell. There is much speculation as to what Wolverhampton and Bodmin will produce, and all the prophets are at work.

Readers of this paper will be interested to learn that two more official women candidates have been adopted, Lady Currie, as the Independent Liberal candidate for the Devises Division of Wiltshire, and Miss Evelyn Pilkington, Conservative candidate for St. Helens, to oppose Mr. James Sexton. Now is the moment for the adoption of candidates. Another week or two and it may be too late. Not that anyone knows what may be in the Prime Minister's mind about the election, or even if he is attending to it at all. But it is as much on the cards as ever that it will take place in April—June and September being at present equal favourites.

[The views expressed in this column are those of our Parliamentary correspondent, and are not our editorial opinion. Like so many other things in this paper they are expressly controversial, and comment upon them will be welcomed.—ED.]

## MUI TSAI IN HONG KONG.

By VISCOUNTESS GLADSTONE.

Whether the system of child adoption known as Mui Tsai may be accurately or justly called slavery is a matter for argument, but there can be no doubt that it is a bad system, and that the abuses to which it gives rise are many and terrible.

Child adoption is an ancient Chinese custom. It is said to be connected with the worship of ancestors. The Chinese wish that, when they are gathered to their fathers, there should be left on earth those whose solemn duty it will be to worship them. It is necessary for their salvation that they should be worshipped. It may be, if they have no children of their own to perform this pious duty, that the matter can be adjusted by adopting other people's children. But to-day, in Hong Kong, we have to look for other and more sordid motives. Side by side with this ancient and honourable form of adoption, where the adopted child is regarded in all respects as one of the family, there exists another form. Under this other form the helpless little child becomes at best the domestic drudge of the household, and at worst she is forced into prostitution.

It is estimated that there are perhaps 50,000 Mui Tsai in the British Colony of Hong Kong. These 50,000 children have actually been bought and sold for money. There is a recognised tariff. I quote from a speech delivered in July last by the Hon. Mr. Lau Chu-pak, who was defending the system. "Girls are generally bought at ages ranging from four to thirteen. They cannot be expected to do anything beyond odds and ends until they are between the ages of ten and twelve. The prices paid for a girl vary between ten and fifteen dollars for every year of her age. For a girl of four years old, forty or sixty dollars, and so on. There are two distinct classes of people who buy young girls and keep them; one class buys and keeps girls for domestic service, and the other for prostitution. Those who buy and keep girls for prostitution generally make special arrangements with the girls' parents, and pay higher prices for them; and in some cases they pretend to buy for adoption. Hence there are different forms of documents, namely, "Presentation," "Perpetuity," and "Adoption."

At the same meeting, Dr. Yeung Shin-Cheun attacked the system. He said that "to call the transfer of Mui Tsai 'Presentation' instead of selling, was merely a trick. The term 'adopted daughter' was similarly only a trick." He declared that it could not be denied that some Mui Tsai were bought with the ultimate intention of being resold for prostitution. "Those persons who followed the practice of Tso chu fa (the direct selling of Mui Tsai for prostitution) always called them in the beginning 'adopted daughters.'" It is almost intolerable to picture the position of an "adopted daughter" should she fail to find favour in the eyes of her purchasers. Dr. Yeung Shin-Cheun tells us what may happen. "Owners who had bought a Mui Tsai and found her not very obedient, would sell her again, and the next owner would sell her to the brothel keepers. The Mui Tsai system was the greatest feeder of the brothels. Owners would keep the girls far into adolescence, they would be easily seduced, owing to their ignorance, by the sons of their owners, and then, being unmarried, would be sold to the brothel keepers." There are those who buy little girls with the deliberate purpose of turning them into prostitutes, and this is called "Cho chu fa," which means rearing females like flowers, for prostitution.

When the parents part with their child, a formal document of transfer is used. These deeds take various forms, but are so drawn as to avoid actually breaking the law which forbids slavery. For instance, in China proper it is usual to find in these documents words meaning "value of the body." In Hong Kong those words are replaced by the phrase, "Ginger and vinegar money," which is thoroughly understood by all parties concerned to mean the same thing. Sometimes the contract contains clauses such as "no inquiry of her whereabouts or in the event of her death, is permitted," or "to be disposed of as

the payer thinks fit." Of course, it is against the law to buy and sell human beings in a British colony. Theoretically, these little children cannot be detained for an hour against their wills. But have they the sense of freedom? They are free under the law to walk out of their adopted homes. But where are they to walk to? No doubt they are often kindly treated. On the other hand, shocking cases of cruelty have been brought to light by the hospitals and the police court. Who can tell the sum of misery pent up in the hearts of these tiny semi-slaves? Torn away, whilst they are little more than babies, from all that is familiar and comforting, they are handed over body and soul to strangers, whose chief concern may well be merely how to get back full value for their money.

What have these little Mui Tsai to hope for? Not wages. Mui Tsai are never paid any wages. Possibly she may get a present occasionally, and sometimes a tip. Cases have been known where a buyer has given her a free release, but as a rule she must submit to her fate, and look forward to the day when she will win her freedom by marriage. That is the one bright spot in the whole position; Mui Tsai usually marry when they are about eighteen. It is true that their husbands are generally selected for them by their "adopted" parents, who doubtless drive another bargain over the marriage. But still she gets freedom of a kind, and at any rate ceases to be a Mui Tsai.

A considerable agitation has arisen lately in Hong Kong on the subject. Public meetings have been held, and two rival societies have been formed by the Chinese. One society, whilst supporting the existing custom, aims at preventing the grosser forms of cruelty and abuses to which it gives rise. The other society stands for abolishing the whole system. In its published manifesto the striking resemblance between slavery and Mui Tsai is set forth. Bought for money, exploited without payment, and liable to be resold, the lot of a Mui Tsai during the years of her bondage is not easily to be distinguished from slavery. While it is all to the good that the Chinese in Hong Kong should be stirring in the matter, that does not absolve us from the duty of taking action here. It is intolerable that such things should be happening under the British flag. The Government must be pressed to send a Commission of men and women to investigate the whole question, and to recommend what steps are necessary to remove this ugly blot on our freedom-loving Empire. Questions have been asked in Parliament, but up to the present the replies have not been very encouraging. The official point of view appears to be that slavery is forbidden by law in all British Colonies; that the abuses arising from the ancient Chinese custom of adoption can best be dealt with on the spot by the enlightened Chinese in Hong Kong. It is interesting to recall the fact that as long ago as 1880, the Chief Justice of Hong Kong, Sir John Small, stated in a formal judgment that Mui Tsai was slavery, and a violation of the English law. Forty years have passed, and nothing has been done either by the enlightened Chinese or ourselves to put an end to this illegal practice. The Governor of Hong Kong, Sir John Pope Hennessey, urged the Government of the day to appoint a Commission of Inquiry. A debate took place in the House of Commons, and, as a result, Lord Kimberley, in a dispatch dated 1882, instructed the Governor of Hong Kong to institute a full inquiry, and to forward a report with recommendations. Why this was never done remains a mystery. Since then the evil has grown. At that time the number of Mui Tsai was estimated at 20,000; to-day there are said to be 50,000. Surely we have waited long enough.

[THE BOARD OF CONTROL: CONTROL OF THE "BORDER-LAND."—Next week we hope to publish a reply by Dr. Helen Boyle to the article in our last issue on this subject.—ED., WOMAN'S LEADER.]

## CONTINUATION SCHOOLS.

By GERTRUDE VAUGHAN.

"To my great grandfather I am debtor in that he sent me to the public courses of instruction, procured for me the wisest teachers at home, and taught me that on education we must spend with an open hand."—Marcus Aurelius, born A.D. 121.

All of us who are London County Council electors will have to make up our minds before March 2nd as to whether the Day Continuation Schools are necessary or not.

I should like to suggest, therefore, that every elector who can manage to do so should take pains to understand what it is that these schools are trying to do, and, if possible, visit a good example of one before forming an opinion.

I can write only as a laywoman, that is to say, having no special knowledge of the educational problem or problems; but after a visit to the Finsbury Day Continuation School, I must say that I am very strongly impressed by the need for something of the kind.

The very first impression was of the extreme childishness of many of the pupils, or students, as I believe I ought to call them. And, of course, they are children, at any rate in years, though forced by economic pressure into the labour market at an age when children of the "black-coated" are at the full height of school work and play. Children, and under-nourished and under-ventured children too, that is what I thought as I watched them being drafted out to their various class-rooms after "break." Afterwards, I found that these were really the lowest grade according to ability, and I saw many who were full of energy and keenness.

The second impression was that here was the nearest approach to a College for working boys and girls. What else have these little wage-earning men and women to keep them from drifting into empty-headed machines whose only pleasure will consist in vapid amusement that requires no mental effort? There are, it is true, the evening institutes, but these are not compulsory as the Day Continuation Schools are, so that as things stand at present I do not see anything between the schools and a policy of pure drift. Perhaps that shows my ignorance, but I can only write of what I see every day, and that is long queues waiting to get into the cinemas to be amused by adventures possible and impossible, with perhaps a little instruction sandwiched in somewhere or not. I am not for shutting up the cinemas—you couldn't do it anyhow!—but I do not see anything in the posters of the plays shown therein that is going to take the place of the educational and recreational fare provided by a good Day Continuation School, with as keen a staff as that at Finsbury, where the teachers spend several evenings a week in organising clubs, games, and a magazine, and in other ways stimulating *esprit de corps* among pupils present and past. It is inspiring to know that these things are being done for the children who are no longer under the discipline of the elementary school, but who are not yet of an age to be sent adrift in the labour market without a guiding hand; it is devastating to think that the whole scheme may be given a knock-out blow. In a nutshell, the aim of the Continuation School, as I understand it, is not technical instruction but general education. In one of the classes at Finsbury I found the master, full of enthusiasm as were all the rest of the staff, from the Principal, Miss C. E. Morgan, M.Sc. downwards, guiding the boys through a course of Economic Geography, six weeks mapped out in advance. Each boy works on outline maps, noting particular points selected from text-books; he makes notes of anything that strikes him as important, the whole aim being to encourage the boys to discover and apply facts for themselves. At the same time they learn to achieve neatness and accuracy; to approach the subject in their own way and by their own method; in a word, to do something off their own bat and to stand or fall by the results, and so, the master pointed out, unconsciously to become self-reliant and to get rid of indolent methods and "ca' canny" tendencies. And there was no doubt that the boys, like the master, were keen. The subject at that stage was the Grass-lands of the world; on outline maps the boys were filling in the principal wheat-producing belts; later they would learn about the export, price, and so on, of wheat in the various countries.

In another class the boys were drawing, from engineering models, bolts, nuts, parts of a tap or a siphon, &c., and they

showed me how they had cut away one-half of a common tap and siphon to show how they worked. Parts of an aeroplane are also pressed into the service of this class, the teacher of which was an army instructor during the war, and an airman as well.

In another class-room the boys were making drawings to scale of the doors and windows, after which they would estimate the cost of renewing them at the current price of wood, the master being a practical man who has himself gone through the mill. Already, he told me, he can send some of the boys into other class-rooms to take measurements without disturbing the class which may be at work, as they will have to do if later on they go in for carpentering.

Then, on the girls' side, there were practical dressmaking classes, where the girls were busy making overalls for themselves to wear at the factory, or sensible little rompers for a baby brother or sister; in another room I found them intent on turning their water-colour drawings of a spray of mimosa into conventional designs for embroidery; while in a third room the gym-mistress was giving a lesson in simple hygiene.

Here is the official list of subjects taught in these schools, of which there are thirty-four with an attendance of 50,000 students:—Physical training (I saw drill and simple gym); practical work (for the boys, woodwork, metal work, science, or technical drawing; for the girls, needlework, housecrafts, or science); English (reading, writing, literature, history, and geography); calculations (e.g., price of a door); drawing (for boys, sketching objects and practical models; for girls, simple design and colour work); singing (for girls only, the boys being at the voice-breaking stage).

It is often said that employers are against these schools, but it is officially stated that of 720 firms visited last autumn on behalf of the students, only 24 refused to take these students into their employment, and some of the large firms, employing hundreds of young people, run their own schools on the premises.

These boys and girls do not go to the Labour Exchanges; an officer from the Ministry of Labour is attached to each school, and attends daily to fit round students into round holes, and square ones into square holes, and generally to take a personal interest in their working careers.

The growing interest taken by both employers and parents in the progress of the boys and girls at Finsbury is most encouraging. Miss Morgan told me that parents now write and ask that their children may take certain subjects which will help them in the future, and of the students' own keenness there is no question—some, indeed, would attend more than the regulation time if they could.

It is, of course, a question of economy. But everyone knows—and women, perhaps, especially—that economy does not mean buying the cheap thing because it is cheap. On the face of it, we should save money by closing these schools. But can we afford it? Can we afford to pit the rising generation of industrial workers against, say, Germany, which has had continuation and vocational schools for eighteen years? The ideal would be, of course, to raise the school-leaving age to sixteen or even eighteen (and this would get rid of some amount of competition in the home labour market), but unless we do that, what is the outlook for these young people? It seems to me a national disaster that we have these schools only in London and one or two other places, and not all over the country.

But on much higher grounds than mere industrial competition, have we any right to deprive these young people of a knowledge of their national heritage—the richness of their country's art, literature, and history, at an age when they are best able to learn to appreciate it?

These are questions which we as electors have to decide, for the subject is a definite plank in the economists' platform.

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All communications to be addressed to:—Mrs. Hoster, St. Stephen's Chambers, Telegraph Street, E.C.2.

## REVIEWS.

**Prices and Wages in the United Kingdom, 1914-20.** By A. L. Bowley. (Clarendon Press. 10s. 6d. net.)

**Labour in Transition.** By W. A. Orton. (Philip Allan & Co. 10s. 6d. net.)

**Labour, the Giant with the Feet of Clay.** By Shaw Desmond. Collins. 10s. 6d. net.

**What We Want and Where We Are.** By W. A. Appleton. Hodder & Stoughton. 6s.

Professor Bowley's book forms one of the series of detailed studies of the economic history of the war period, which is being prepared on behalf of the Carnegie Endowment by an Editorial Board containing some of our foremost economic experts. The present work is divided into two parts. Part I. contains a survey of recorded movements in general wholesale and retail prices, followed by similar surveys for groups of commodities considered separately, and preceded by a clear and very adequate analysis of the construction and use of index numbers. Part II. opens with two chapters on the movement of wages in general in relation to the cost of living, followed by detailed surveys of wage movements taken industry by industry. In his concluding chapter, Professor Bowley discusses women's wages, and presents in a digestible form, material which is of infinite value to persons interested in the problem of equal pay for equal work.

Mr. Orton's book is less austere than Professor Bowley's, and very much less technical. Indeed its style, in particular its chapter headings, are refreshingly melodramatic. Only in the title of Chapter I. is there an element of obscurity—"Cataclasm." This can hardly be a misprint, since it occurs in large type no less than ten times. Either it is some high-brow technical term with which we are not acquainted or else it is a "portmanteau word" meaning both "cataclysm" and "chasm." Since Chapter I. deals with the year 1914, we may assume the latter supposition to be correct. For the rest, Mr. Orton's book is a perfectly straightforward story of the relations between capital and labour from 1914 to the summer of 1921. It is neither original nor profound; but it is comprehensive and impartial; and it weaves into a coherent narrative the incidents which most of us have accumulated intermittently and inaccurately during the past seven years from our perusal of the daily Press.

Mr. Shaw Desmond presents us with the confessions of a disillusioned Socialist. It is not so much his faith as his friendships that the passing years have tarnished. Throughout the 250 pages of his book he laments the changes which "success" has wrought upon the over-diluted personnel of the Labour Party, contrasting the black-coated materialism of its present

with the fiery idealism of its pre-Fabian past. His final plea is for a "Spiritual" Democracy, about whose nature and channels of approach he tells us very little.

The book is in one respect suggestive of a certain notable Russian novel, whose author presents to us a bewildering series of events, which become intelligible only when we realise that all we see is their reflection in the distracted and crime-laden consciousness of the hero. What Mr. Desmond shows us is not an objective picture of the latest phase of the British Labour movement, but the reflection of certain developments in the mind of a man whose faith was rooted in personal experiences rather than in social and economic phenomena, and who has recently suffered the indignity of growing older and wiser. Had he been less concerned, during these enthralling early years, with the personalities of the International, the I.L.P., the S.D.F. and the Clarion Scouts, and more concerned with the mass movements of the working classes he would have had less to say about Labour's idealism at the end of the nineteenth century, or its materialism at the beginning of the twentieth. He would have seen his "giant" slowly and painfully forging his weapons of co-operation and trade unionism, slowly evolving from the "New Unionism" of the mid-Victorian age, with its craft basis and its restricted aims, to the "New Unionism" of to-day, with its industrial basis and its socialistic aims, a good deal less materialistic than the gentlemen who make speeches at company meetings, and a good deal more materialistic than the angels, yet withal, not so blottedly successful in this year of grace 1922.

But when once we realise that Mr. Shaw Desmond is the author of three novels, entitled, respectively, "Passion," "Gods," and "Democracy," when once we realise that his interest is mainly personal, and that he does not pretend to make a serious contribution to the history of the British Labour movement, we can read his book with a certain amount of interest. He writes in an easy, journalistic style, and though he misnames several of the luminaries of the movement (H. B. Lee-Smith and R. H. Campbell are bad blunders), his vivid descriptions of early days do help to recreate the atmosphere in which Hyndman and Blatchford, Keir Hardie and Victor Grayson lived and moved.

It is unfortunate that similar praise cannot be meted out to the author of "What We Want and Where We Are." His analysis of the Labour situation tells us nothing that we cannot learn from the leading articles of the Conservative Press; and we venture to think that the author's name, that of a widely known and honoured worker in the Trade Union world, is the only distinguished feature of the book.

M. D. S.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## MOTHERS AND THE POOR LAW.

## AN EXPLANATION.

MADAM,—I am called upon by the N.S.P.C.C. to explain the article in your issue of December 30th, 1921, on page 565, in which there appears the paragraph:—

"One day in her absence her home was visited by an N.S.P.C.C. inspector, who charged her with allowing her children to be in a verminous condition. So insanitary was the state of this particular tenement house that it was well nigh impossible to keep any children clean, but Mrs. B. had no one to assist her in her defence and she was sentenced by the magistrate to six weeks' hard labour. Her children were taken by the N.S.P.C.C. to a workhouse institution, and whilst the mother was in prison the Guardians passed a resolution adopting the children till eighteen years of age."

I have consulted with my solicitors and I am advised that the above three sentences are susceptible of an ambiguous meaning and that they may be interpreted to imply the implication of illegal dealing on the part of the officers of the N.S.P.C.C.

I had and have no intention of conveying such meaning; my object is to deal with the liberty of the subject so far as it is within the limits of the law to allow.

AGNES MOTT.

## "THE COMPLACENT COMFORTABLES."

MADAM,—I have read the article from the pen of E. Bloomfield in THE WOMAN'S LEADER, entitled "The Complacent Comfortables."

In these days of difficulty it has been a wonder to me how the thousands of women like who before the war had a quite infinitesimal income, and even then had to work in order to live. At the present time it seems to me that that little income must be practically out of sight; and yet, when I advertise for someone to share the work of my house with me, and even offer to take a child, where are the answers from those people whom you describe? I am not speaking from an easy chair, because previous to the

war I kept two maids, but then considered it my duty to dispense with one and do her work myself, and to do without many of the niceties to which I had been accustomed, and even ran this house of four floors for eight months alone, but for the slightest irregular help.

Surely it would be something to get board, and wages, and comfort, and to work with a lady, in return for sharing that work. Is there no way in which those who wish to work and those who can employ can get into touch—in fact, the "Uncomfortables" who are willing to do what the "Comfortables" are obliged to do?

M. H. W.

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## ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS, MARCH 7th, 8th, and 9th.

*Delegates' Tickets.*—Honorary Secretaries of Societies are asked to notice that by special request the last date for receiving applications for delegates' tickets has been extended, and applications will be received up to the opening day of the meetings.

*Final Agenda.*—The Final Agenda with particulars of the various events of the Council week will be posted to the Societies, with the list of members nominated for the Executive Committee on Friday, February 24th.

## RECEPTION AT BEDFORD COLLEGE.

*Tuesday, March 7th, 8 p.m.—11 p.m.*—A reception to meet women candidates standing for Parliament will be held at Bedford College.

All delegates are cordially invited to this reception. A small charge has been made to cover refreshments and other expenses (1s. for delegates, 2s. non-delegates). Invitation cards may be secured at the Council on Tuesday, but as the number issued is necessarily limited, application to Headquarters beforehand is desirable.

## PUBLIC LUNCHEON, HOLBORN RESTAURANT.

*Thursday, March 9th.*—A luncheon has been arranged at the Holborn Restaurant, at which Mrs. Winttingham, M.P., Mr. Clarke Hall, J.P., and others will be guests of the N.U. (Tickets, 5s. for delegates, 7s. 6d. for non-delegates.)

Fuller particulars of the Conferences to be held on Friday, March 10th, will be given next week.

## EQUAL FRANCHISE BILL.

On March 1st Lord Robert Cecil is going to introduce an Equal Franchise Bill, drafted by the N.U.S.E.C., under the Ten Minutes Rule. It has, of course, no chance of actually becoming law, but in view of the refusal of the Government to deal with this question, we feel that a protest is advisable. The Bill will be backed by members of all parties, whose names will be given next week.

## N. CAMBERWELL BY-ELECTION.

The London Society for Women's Service sent out a Parliamentary Questionnaire to the candidates and organised a deputation to wait upon Mr. Ammon (Lab.). Mr. Mener (Cons.) had not time to receive a deputation. Both candidates answered all the questions in the affirmative. Mr. Ammon had placed Equal Franchise, the League of Nations, and Widows' Pensions in his Election Address.

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

This Bill is being introduced into the House of Lords this week by Lord Askwith. Members and those interested in the Bill are asked to note that the words "and marriage" have been included in the title in order to cover a new clause inserted at the request of the Registrar-General, which makes certain changes in the present law with regard to the obtaining of the consent of parents or guardians to the marriage of minors.

## QUESTIONS FOR L.C.C. CANDIDATES.

The following questionnaire was sent to all women candidates for the London County Council:—

1. Will you support the application of the principle of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919, so that a woman shall not be disqualified on account of her sex from any post or office under the Council?
2. Will you oppose the compulsory retirement on marriage of the women employees of the Council?
3. Will you support equal pay for equal work, and equal opportunities of training, entry and promotion for all men and women employed by the Council? (Equal Pay for Equal Work means that men and women should be paid at the same rate, whether this is to be computed by time or by piece in the same occupation or grade.)
4. Will you in any scheme for the training or relief of the unemployed, include provision for women as well as men, and will you pay special regard to the claims of those, whether men or women, who have dependants?
5. Will you oppose any systematic dismissal of women in favour of men other than of those men who have returned from Active Service?
6. Are you in favour of providing equal facilities for girls and boys in Education, including technical and industrial education?
7. Will you support the appointment of an adequate number of women on all committees and sub-committees of your Council on which women can sit either as elected or as co-opted members, especially on those dealing with Housing, Health, and Education?
8. Will you help to promote a scheme of Widows' Pensions for the widows of the employees of the Council with dependent children?
9. Will you do all in your power to urge your Council to support legislation for Proportional Representation at Local Elections?

The following answers have been received:—

*Commandant Allen* (Lambeth, N.): Answers all the questions in the affirmative, except No. 8 (Widows' Pensions).

*Miss Lilian Dawson* (Westminster Abbey): Yes to all except No. 9. I have an open mind, slightly biased, perhaps, in favour of it.

*Mrs. Dunn Gardner, M.P.* (W. Norwood): Yes to Nos. 1, 4, 5, 6, 7. With regard to No. 2, yes, unless she has agreed on engagement to vacate position on marriage, as men often have to do.

No. 3—(1) Equal Pay for Equal Work. I cannot give any general assent to this. I personally think that the demand is being made use

of by men as a means of excluding women from various industries. (2) I generally agree with this, but of course women cannot be given equal opportunity to secure men's work in jobs obviously unsuited to them, e.g., care of violent male lunatics.

No. 8.—I do not know enough about the actual facts to answer.

No. 9.—If a division were willing to accept P.R. I should much like to see the system tried.

*Mrs. Drake* (Kensington, N.): Answers all questions in the affirmative. *Mrs. Elliott* (St. Pancras, N.): Nos. 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7—Yes. Nos. 2 and 9—No. No. 5—Cases must be decided on their own merits. No. 8—No, not at present.

*Lady Trustram Eve* (Hackney, N.) writes: "As an individual I approve of the first eight, but I cannot pledge myself to deal with anything definitely against my own party. As to No. 9, I am not prepared to say whether it would be desirable."

*Mrs. Lowe, J.P.* (W. Bermondsey): Yes to all.

*Mrs. Hudson Lyall, C.B.E., J.P.* (E. Fulham): Yes to Nos. 1, 4, 5, 7, 9. With regard to No. 2—Not in all cases. No. 3—Yes, when work really equal. No. 6—Yes, what each needs most. No. 8—There is a super-annuation fund and nothing else can be afforded now.

*Miss Rosamond Smith* (N. Islington): Yes to all except No. 8. With regard to No. 3—In view of the fact that Miss Smith's party is pledged to economy, she feels that, although she is prepared to speak for any motion for equal pay, and would abstain from voting against it, she would vote for it only if it were possible having regard to her economy pledge.

*Mrs. Miall Smith* (N. Islington): Yes to all.

*Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan, D.B.E., D.Sc., LL.D.* (N. Camberwell): Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4, most emphatically. 5—Yes, and I consider that women who have served in H.M. Forces should be retained equally with men who have done so. 6—I am strongly in favour of this. 7—Yes, always provided that women with suitable knowledge and experience are available, as I think they are. 8—I shall be very glad to do this. 9—The L.C.C. have already passed a resolution in favour of this measure.

Our members will see that from the point of view of our programme there are many candidates to whom unqualified support can be given, and we very much hope that this will be done. In certain cases the candidates are not in entire agreement with the points we raise, and such cases should be noted before our readers make up their minds to support them. In every case, however, it is more than probable that the support given by the women candidates to our programme is very much greater than that given by their opponents. A real effort should be made to assist in the return of more women to the L.C.C.

## OUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR OTHERS.

Those who have been privileged to hear Dr. Nansen will wish to congratulate our Society in Ilkley on its fine work reported on below. We need money ourselves to carry on the work that we exist to do, but that need not rule out an appeal for those who without help are doomed to a lingering and terrible death through no fault of their own. The profits of a Cinderella Dance held by the Round Table E.C. Group, which consists of former and present members of the Headquarters Staff, amounting to £9, has been sent to the Famine Relief Funds for Vienna and Russia. A member of the Executive Committee kindly added £2 to this amount.

## OUR OWN NEEDS.

Space will not permit of a list of the donations, amounting to £58 7s., received this week. A complete list will appear next week. "He gives twice who gives quickly," and we beg our friends to encourage us by a generous response during the coming week.

## GLASGOW S.E.C.

## HILLHEAD CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE.

A drawing-room meeting was given by Mrs. Edward Hutchinson (Member of the Executive Committee) on January 28th. Miss Buchanan (Chairman), who presided, explained in her introductory remarks the aims and objects of the Society. Miss Bury, Organising Secretary of the Edinburgh Society for Equal Citizenship, then gave an address on "Women in the Church." She very briefly explained how misrepresentation of the position assigned to women by the early Christians had crept into the Bible in the course of its many translations. An interesting discussion followed.

## CATHCART CONSTITUENCY.

Mrs. Johnston, 17, Battlefield Gardens, Langside, gave a drawing-room meeting on February 1st to members of Cathcart Constituency and friends. There was a large attendance, and Mrs. Johnston, who presided, gave a short summary of the work of the National Union, and introduced Mrs. J. T. Hunter, one of the first six women Justices of the Peace in Scotland. Mrs. Hunter spoke of the great work being done by the Vigilance Association in connection with the many friendless, and often penniless girls, who came to the City, and of the urgent need for the reforms put forward in the Criminal Law Amendment Bill (Bishop of London's), which so unfortunately failed to pass into law last session.

## ILKLEY S.E.C.

The Ilkley Branch of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship has rendered splendid service in collecting subscriptions for the Save the Children Fund. A recent remittance of £185, the result of a house to house collection, brought up the total collection on behalf of the Fund during the past two years to over £856, and two kitchens are to be named "Ilkley" and "Ben Rhydding" respectively, after the two places which contributed the £185 which was specially collected for Russia. The branch has also sent over 1,000 garments to headquarters.

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

## COMING EVENTS.

## LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

FEB. 24. Manchester, Afternoon. Speaker: Rt. Hon. Lord Robert Cecil, K.C., M.P.

FEB. 25. Beaconsfield. Speaker: Major-Gen. Sir Fredk. Maurice, K.C.M.G.

FEB. 26. Dartford, Scala Theatre, 3 p.m. Speakers: Rt. Hon. J. R. Clynes, M.P.

FEB. 27. Croydon, Council Chamber, Town Hall, 8 p.m. Speaker: Prof. Gilbert Murray.

## CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.

FEB. 27. Lewisham, St. Saviour's Schools, High Street, 8 p.m. "The Duty of Catholic Women as Citizens." Speaker: Councillor Mrs. V. M. Crawford. Chair: Mrs. Scott Hill.

## PIONEER CLUB.

FEB. 28. 8.15 p.m. "The Trials of a Playwright." Paper and Discussion by Miss Symonds. (George Paston, author of "Nobody's Daughter," &c.) Chair: Mrs. Osman Edwards.

## THE THEOSOPHICAL ORDER OF SERVICE.

MAR. 1. Social: At 3, Upper Woburn Place, W.C.1, 8.30 p.m. Music and refreshments. (Members and Friends cordially invited.)

## GUILDHOUSE WOMEN CITIZENS' SOCIETY.

FEB. 27. 3 p.m. "What I want to do for Westminster." Speaker: Miss Lilian Dawson, L.C.C. Candidate for Westminster. Chair: Miss Helen Ward.

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

FEB. 8-MAR. 1. Exhibition of Decorative Designs by Women, 92, Victoria Street.

## FIGHT THE FAMINE FUND.

MAR. 3. Public Meeting at Central Hall, Westminster, 8 p.m. "The Unity of Europe; The Genoa Conference; Reparations; The French Pact; The Fate of Russia." Speakers: Earl Beauchamp, K.G., Mr. J. R. Clynes, Mr. J. M. Keynes, Mr. H. N. Brailsford, Mr. Arthur Ponsoby. Chair: Lord Parmoor. Tickets, 2s. 6d. and 1s., to be obtained from Miss Rinder, 7, Mecklenburgh Square, W.C.1.

## L'INSTITUT FRANCAIS.

MAR. 2. 3. Cromwell Gardens, 9 p.m. "Nos Enfants." Speaker: M. A. Lichtenberger. Chair: Sir Stanley Leathes, C.B., M.A.

## N.U.S.E.C.

FEB. 27. Cambridge, Newnham College, 8 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Hubback.

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

FEB. 27. Harpenden, N.C.W., 3 p.m. "The Carlisle Experiment in State Purchase." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

FEB. 28. Chatham, Women's Meeting, 3 p.m. "State Purchase a Solution of the Drink Problem." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

MAR. 1. Leeds, Supper Club, 8 p.m. "State Purchase of the Liquor Trade." Speaker: Mrs. Renton.

Aylesbury, Adult School, 7 p.m. "State Purchase at Carlisle." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

MAR. 2. Bradford, Women's Co-operative Guild, 7.30 p.m. "Public Ownership of the Liquor Trade." Speaker: Mrs. Renton.

East Ham, Women's Co-operative Guild, 7.30 p.m. "Public Ownership of the Liquor Trade." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

MAR. 3. Dorking, Women's Co-operative Guild, 3 p.m. "Public Ownership of the Liquor Trade." Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

## THE LEAGUE OF THE CHURCH MILITANT.

MAR. 3. St. John's Institute, Tufton Street, Westminster, 8 p.m. "Women's Position in the Church." Speakers: Miss Maude Royden, Lady Barrett, C.B.E., M.D., B.Sc., Prof. Louise McDroy, O.B.E., M.D., D.Sc., Mrs. St. Clair Stobart. Chair: F. Shewell Cooper, Esq.

## WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

FEB. 27. Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn, 6.30 p.m. "The Priestly Vocation of Women." Speaker: Rev. C. M. Colman, M.A., B.D. Chair: Miss Janet Gibson.

## MEDICAL, Etc.

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BED-SITTING-ROOM TO LET FURNISHED, overlooking park; service house; 21s. weekly.—D., 3, Ormonde Terrace, N.W.8.

UNFURNISHED ROOMS TO LET, good house, facing Regent's Park; use of bathroom; 18s. 6d. and 14s. 6d.; suit professional or business woman.—Write only, S. Fuller, 99, New Bond-street, W.1.

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## FOR SALE AND WANTED.

SECOND-HAND CLOTHING wanted to buy for cash; costumes, skirts, boots, underclothes, curtains, lounge suits, trousers, and children's clothing of every description; parcels sent will be valued, and cash sent by return.—Mrs. Russell, 100, Raby-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

UNCRUSHABLE DRESS LINEN.—Uncrushable Dress Linen for Spring and Summer wear, all pure linen, dyed fast colours, in 32 shades: Sky, Light and Dark Sage, Navy, Shell Pink, Pink, Strawberry, Helio, Mauve, White, Ivory, Cream, Champagne, Tussore, Tan, Primrose, Myrtle, Sea Green, Slate, Brown and Black. Patterns free, 36 inches wide, 4s. per yard (worth 6s. 6d. per yard). Add 9d. for postage on all orders under £1.—HUTTON'S, 41, Main-street, Larne, Ireland.

## DRESS.

CORSETS made to order. Shetland Underclothing and Jumpers from 25s. Emille Wiggins, 63, Elizabeth-street, Eaton-square, S.W.1.

COSTUMES, coats, furs, underwear, gentlemen's and children's clothing, house furnishings wanted. Specially good prices given.—Hélène, 361, New King's-road, Fulham, S.W.6.

THE HAT DOCTOR, 3a, Little Sussex-place, Hyde Park-square, W.2. Re-blocks and makes hats, toques; own materials used if required; re-covers shoes, satin, thin kid, or canvas; own material if preferred. Furs altered and re-made at lowest possible price. Shoes to capped, providing satin.

LACE.—All kinds, mended, transferred and cleaned; embroidery undertaken; many testimonials.—Beatrice, Box 882, WOMAN'S LEADER, 62, Oxford-street, W.1.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES.—Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston Square, S.W. Sunday, Feb. 26, 6.30, Miss Maude Royden. "Our Responsibilities. III.—The Treatment of the Insane."

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

PREVENTION OF VENEREAL DISEASE. The Association for Moral and Social Hygiene relies solely on moral and non-compulsory methods and is prepared to defend this position as being the most practically effective one. Donations urgently needed for propaganda.—A. M. and S. H., Orchard House, Gt. Smith-street, S.W.1.

CONSERVATIVE WOMEN'S REFORM ASSOCIATION, 48, Dover Street, W.1. Tuesday, March 7th, at 3 o'clock, Sir Valentine Chirol, on "Egypt."—Apply Secretary.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 58, Victoria Street, S.W.1. Vic. 9542. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Now available. Secretaries, Short-hand Typists, Book-keepers, Clerical Workers, Commercial Travellers, Demonstrators, Social Workers.

LEPLAY HOUSE.—EASTER VISIT TO HOLLAND. 13th to 27th April, 1922. Organised by the Civic Education League for Teachers, Social Workers, Organisers, and others. First-hand study of social and municipal institutions, agricultural, industrial and artistic life. For full particulars apply Miss MARGARET TATTON, Leplay House, 65, Belgrave-road, London, S.W.

## PUBLIC SPEAKING.

PUBLIC SPEAKING.—MARION MCCARTHY. Specially graduated course indispensable to those engaged in Public Work.—Apply 16, Hallam St., Portland Place, W.1. Langham 2530.

## POSTS VACANT OR WANTED.

GOOD IRONERS WANTED.—Carisbrooke Laundry, Wormley, Herts; lodging found; pleasant country village.

EXPERIENCED PERSON (formerly nurse) seeks post in vegetarian family, any capacity, cooking.—Write D. 1, Michigan Avenue, Manor Park, E.

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