

THE
WOMAN'S LEADER

IN POLITICS
 IN THE HOME
 IN INDUSTRY

IN LITERATURE AND ART
 IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
 IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND
THE COMMON CAUSE

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Contents :

	PAGE
<i>"The Woman's Leader" in Politics :</i>	
INSTINCT AND JUDGMENT: PASSION AND JUDGMENT	116
NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER	117
A PLAGUE ON BOTH YOUR HOUSES. By Dora Mellone	118
<i>In other Lands :</i>	
THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN SWITZERLAND	117
<i>In the Law :</i>	
WOMEN AND JURY SERVICE. By Sir Ernest Wild, K.C., M.P.	119
<i>In the Home :</i>	
THE DIARY OF A WOMAN IN THE HOME	121
<i>In the Professions :</i>	
WOMEN CHAUFFEUR-GARDENERS. By the Viscountess Wolseley	120
WOMEN PHYSICIANS. By Dr. Elizabeth Sloan Chesser	122
<i>In Education :</i>	
CIVIC EDUCATION	122
<i>In Literature and Art.:</i>	
REVIEWS: "Pan"; "Kobiety"	123
DRAMA: "The Ninth Earl"	123
<i>Correspondence :</i>	124

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

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THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND
COMMON CAUSE.

NOTES AND NEWS

Miss Royden and St. Botolph's.

The Bishop of London has announced that if Miss Maude Royden takes part in the Three Hours' Service at St. Botolph's Church, Bishopsgate, on Good Friday, it will be without his sanction and against his express wish. Miss Royden, while acknowledging the Bishop's personal kindness to her, feels that she cannot comply with his views, for the reason he gave was simply that she is a woman. Since the service in question is not a liturgical one, her action appears to be in strict accordance with the Lambeth Conference decision, and there is no adequate reason for the Bishop's request. Compliance with it, Miss Royden says, would be a great act of betrayal to all women.

The Electoral Age of Women.

We hope that Mr. Clough's question in the House last week will be the first of many, and that Members will not let the subject of the reduction of the electoral age of women from thirty to twenty-one drop until the Government is forced to take some action. Mr. Clough asked whether the Prime Minister proposed to take the opinion of the House on the matter, and was answered that, since the Cabinet has not recently had the matter under consideration, no statement could be made. Sir W. Davison's remark that if the proposal was carried out the women electors would largely outnumber the men seems to be entirely beside the point. What is he afraid of? Does he anticipate a sex war? Or does he fancy that a woman's point of view is utterly opposed to a man's point of view, and would kill it by sheer weight of numbers? Or does he dread a woman's party, a new political organisation entirely separated from Conservatives, Liberals, or the Labour Party? Is this a relic of the old fear that the end of all things had come when women were given the vote? Surely events have proved to even the most timorous and reactionary that their fears were ungrounded. But in any case, whether some Honourable Members are afraid or not, we are going to get equal franchise!

Equal Pay.

Hardly a week passes without some question in the House about equal pay, for equal work in Government Departments. Last week Lady Astor again returned to the attack, and asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury whether there had been a decision that the equal pay hitherto paid to men and women doing equal work in the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Health should now cease, and unequal rates based on the scale drawn up for a wholly different class of workers should take their place. Mr. Baldwin gave the same answer that he gave to Major Hills' question about the pay of women on the scientific staff of the National Physical Laboratory—that the principles adopted in the Report of the Reorganisation Committee of the National Whitley Council were being followed in both cases. And this, in spite of the fact that the House of Commons has pledged itself to support Equal Pay.

The Women's Co-operative Guild at North Finchley.

It is with great regret that we report this week the astonishing action of a local branch of the Women's Co-operative Guild at North Finchley. This society sent a resolution to the local Urban District Council demanding that all the women employed by it should be forthwith dismissed in order that men now out of work might be employed, special attention being called to the employment of a lady school attendance officer. In principle and in practice this proposal is thoroughly bad. What is the good of robbing Peter to pay Paul—or rather, in this case, robbing Peter's sister? It would be better if the Women's Co-operative Guild would turn its attention to making the Council provide more work.

The only cure for local unemployment is more local work. The women who took the places of ex-soldiers have long ago withdrawn; but under cover of that old situation serious attempts are still being made to rob women of their right to work. It makes us very sad to see a part of a society with such enlightened traditions as the Women's Co-operative Guild falling into this error.

Pensions at Acton.

It is possible that the permanent women clerks working in the Pensions Department at Acton have reasonable hours; they are apparently entitled to overtime pay. Not so the temporaries, whose working hours sometimes begin at eight and continue round the clock till eight again. There is no overtime pay for them, but a promise of equivalent time off when it is possible; so long as the hours remain what they are, sick-absences will abound and the time off will recede. This is another instance of the overtime scandal. How can it be stopped?

Economy Again.

It is a remarkable thing that every step taken in the "interests of economy" seems to be taken at the expense of the women and children of the country. The latest effort is the abolition of the post of woman adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture, which was created in the early days of last August, and which has since been so admirably filled by Dame Meriel Talbot. As Captain Elliot pointed out in the House, the Ministry of Agriculture has to deal with matters affecting the well-being of many hundreds of thousands of women workers, and a woman adviser at headquarters is as essential as the one or two women members on the County Agricultural Committees.

Disabled Nurses' Benefits.

Nurses should note an announcement made by the Ministry of Pensions that nurses who served in the war and are suffering from disabilities due to service should apply to the Officers' Friend, Ministry of Pensions, Millbank, S.W. 1, for copies of a new leaflet (M.P.O. Leaflet No. 2), which will tell them how to obtain advice and information about any benefits to which they may be entitled. Disabled nurses eligible for pensions or gratuity, medical treatment, and training are members of the following nursing services: Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service (and Reserve), Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (and Reserve), The Royal Air Force Nursing Service, The Territorial Force Nursing Service, and V.A.D. Nursing Members who have been employed regularly and full time on nursing Naval, Military, or Air Force personnel in hospital or under organisations recognised by the Service Departments.

Bag Wash.

Our readers will be disappointed to hear that the L.C.C. refused, last week, to support the proposal of many borough councils for municipal laundries, twenty-seven voting in favour of the proposal and fifty against it. And so, a reform which would have lightened the work of many overworked, harassed women, has gone the way of many other progressive schemes in these days of reaction. It is up to the housewives of London to remember this matter at the next County Council elections.

Women Jurors Challenged.

Once more women jurors have been challenged and obliged to leave the box, and once more their places have been taken by men, and once more the case was one at which it was essential

that women should be present, for the victim was a girl of thirteen. We are tired of saying that women and girls should have the support of other women in ordeals of this kind, that if a case is unpleasant for a woman juror to hear, it is, presumably, equally unpleasant for a judge or a jurymen, and most unpleasant of all for the woman or child concerned in the case. Few men would allow that, because a duty was unpleasant, they should be absolved from the performance of it. Why should there be discrimination in the case of women, who should look with equal-seriousness upon their duties as citizens? We should hardly be surprised if some of our eminent K.C.'s followed the example of an American judge, and said that he could not trust the judgment of blonde women, who are notoriously fickle—so far does prejudice lead otherwise sane people down the slippery slope of imbecility.

Delinquent Children.

The Sheffield Justices recently followed the example of one or two other Benches in the country in holding a meeting to consider the proposals brought forward by the Howard League for Penal Reform in their Probation, Certified Schools, and Borstal Institutions Bill. On this occasion, Miss Margery Fry, J.P., Honorary Secretary of the League, was invited to attend, and the Provisions of the Bill were discussed in detail. We commend this course to the attention of women magistrates. Copies of the proposed Measure can be obtained by anyone interested on application to the Hon. Secretary, The Howard League for Penal Reform, 7, Dalmeny Avenue, N. 7.

Unemployment amongst Women in Germany.

The position of the unemployed woman in Germany is much more favourable than that of the unemployed man, according to information received from the International Labour Office. This fact is particularly demonstrated by the reports of the friendly societies. Of a total number of compulsory members of 12,466,628 persons on December 1st, 1920, there were 4,477,130 women, that is to say, 36 per cent. On the same day, out of 350,292 persons in receipt of donations, 73,753 were women, i.e., 21 per cent. The demand and supply of female labour are subject to considerable fluctuation. While unskilled work is very much in demand by women, there is a shortage of labour for domestic work, agricultural work, and skilled work in the clothing industry. The employment exchanges have done their best to level up the differences in the conditions of labour by sending the women in search of work where there was a shortage, and, on the other hand, to improve the conditions in other branches of labour, by means of regulation of wages contracts and by inspection of hygienic conditions. The agricultural employment exchanges placed in 1920 86,355 persons, as against 5,260 in the year 1913. On the general position of unemployment among women in Germany, it is stated that at the beginning of last year the number of women in receipt of unemployment donation was 306,992. On May 15th this figure was reduced to 59,983; during the following months unemployment increased, and on August 1st, 199,017 unemployed women were in receipt of unemployment donation. The conditions of labour improved during the last months of the year, thanks to work in the clothing industry, and at the end of the year the number of women in receipt of assistance was 73,753. This may be called less unfavourable than the men's position; but the figures are appalling for all that.

Emigrants' Sufferings.

Attention was drawn in the House to a disgraceful case of mismanagement in connection with British emigrants. The ship "Huallaga," which is only equipped for 120 passengers, sailed from Avonmouth to Peru last December, carrying 202 emigrants, including a number of infants under two years of age, and no suitable food was procurable on the voyage for them. Meanwhile, the assurances of employment by which representatives of the Peruvian Government had induced the emigrants and their families to leave this country have not been realised, and they are now stranded in a strange country without resources. It is obvious that some steps should be taken to protect British emigrants from similar misrepresentation in future, and since the Prime Minister has loudly urged emigration as a partial solution for the present unemployment problem, he should, at least, provide better conditions for emigrants. The Government is making inquiries, and the attention of the International Emigration Commission has been drawn to the "unfortunate experiences of British emigrants," and the Peruvian Government have had their responsibility in the matter pointed

out to them. And in the meantime the wretched people are stranded and resourceless in a strange land, while slowly and ponderously officialdom rouses itself to help them. It is little good throwing the responsibility on to other Governments. The responsibility is really our own.

French Girls' Examinations.

French schoolgirls at the Lycées have done very much better this year, in examinations, than their brothers. Some observers think better of the girls, and others worse of the examination system, when these facts are brought to their notice. We are glad to admit that examinations are not an infallible test of ability, but we shall wait till a better is set up, and till girls fail to survive it, before we belittle the successes of the French schoolgirls of the present generation. We shall hope that these will be brought to the attention of our own Civil Service Commissioners, who, in their passion for dividing the sheep from the goats on every possible occasion, refuse to allow girls to compete with boys of their own age, but force upon them a compassionate allowance of six months' extra time, lest their attainments should be comparable on equal terms with the boys who are destined to be their superiors in the service. Modern young women would know better than to pause in their race for any apples of the Hesperides, but that does not help them; they are loaded up with these golden handicaps before they start. The system pleases neither them, the men they seem to excel, nor the men who profit by the withdrawal of their competition on equal terms. We hope the House of Commons may think better of the plan before it is too late.

Prosecution of Women Police.

Five members of the Women Police Service have been summoned by the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police for wearing a uniform resembling that of the Metropolitan Police Force. The Women Police have no official status in this area, though members of their organisation are working in thirty boroughs under the police of those localities, and though large numbers of them were employed by the Ministry of Munitions for patrol, searching, and other duties in munition factories during the war. The Commissioner states that he has no desire to suppress the activities of the Women Police, but that the similarity of their uniform to that of the Women's Patrol of the Metropolitan Police Force constituted a grave inconvenience. That the Women Police have not outlived their usefulness is evident from the fact that their numbers in Government employ in Ireland are being daily supplemented. That they should be accused of imitating the uniform of the Patrols, when the exact reverse is the case, is one of life's little ironies, but it is manifestly contrary to public policy that official and non-official persons should be confused owing to similarities of uniform and badges, and the Women Police, having nothing to gain by such confusion, should be glad for it to come to an end, though they may dislike any modification of a kit which has an honourable prestige. The further hearing of the case has been adjourned until April 11th.

Marriages and Births.

The year 1920 established several records in vital statistics. The birth-rate was the highest since 1909, but the rate of infant mortality having fallen from 109 to 80 per thousand births since that year, the survival rate at the age of one year is obviously materially greater. The infant mortality rate of 1920 is a record, the number of deaths at all ages is the lowest recorded for nearly sixty years, and the natural increase of the population is again a record. For the five years before the war the average surplus of births over deaths was 187,625; in 1920 it was 497,781. It is hardly necessary to point out that a high natural increase which results solely from a high birth-rate, or from increased longevity of persons above middle-age is much less satisfactory than one based, as is the present, on increasing security of young life. We can hardly expect the birth-rate, abnormally stimulated by post-war conditions, to continue, but the high marriage-rate of 1920 is almost certain to be reflected in the birth-rate for 1921 and 1922. But the figures for 1920, taken altogether, should dispose of the illusion that a low infant mortality is inseparable from a low birth-rate. A great country must have quality with quantity; it cannot be built on a population of only children, however healthy and gifted.

Intermediate Law Examination.

As we go to press we learn that the five women who, with two hundred men, sat for the Intermediate Law Examination, have all passed. Hearty congratulations to the women!

INSTINCT AND JUDGMENT.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER is a non-party paper. Our readers know that we attempt to achieve impartiality, and that our policy is to give all sides of political questions as fair an exposition as can be secured within our narrow limits of space. We do not, perhaps, always succeed in achieving the impartiality at which we aim, but we think that those who read us week by week will admit the honesty of our effort. We should like, always, to publish contrasting views of Burning Questions in the same issue; but lack of space prevents it, and we, therefore, realise that casual readers take us, now, for an organ of the extreme Labour section, now for an organ of the Government, and now for a steady going moderate concern of extreme respectability. We receive abuse on all these counts, and deserve it but little; we trust we receive equivalent quantities of the support which we endeavour to deserve!

In recent weeks we have been much criticised for our Irish articles, and particularly for the able, if provocative, one by Mrs. Swanwick in our issue of March 4th, entitled, "A Policy for Ireland."

This week we are publishing one written from a different angle, and sent to us direct from Ulster, and also an account of the women's mass meeting of protest against the present policy of the Government. All these different views doubtless make upon our readers very different impressions; but we trust that no one will be outraged by the article we publish on this editorial page, sent to us by Mrs. Osler. Whatever may be the rights and wrongs of the Irish religious and political differences, and whatever the best solution of the constitutional problem, we believe that there is no woman in the land who does not bitterly regret the present appeal to force.

It is our general belief that women, because they are women, are not necessarily different from men in their political opinions. We believe that right is right, truth truth, and justice justice, for men and women alike. We detest and suspect generalisations about the sexes, and we have no liking for the classification of

virtues into "manly" and "womanly" ones. And yet, for all this, it is obvious that there are fundamental differences between men and women, and that there are occasions when these differences may take a political complexion. There are differences of emphasis and training, and, also, to a limited extent, differences of instinct. It is not often, perhaps, that instinct and politics overlap. Instinct is not very directly applicable to Supplementary Estimates, or the Reform of the House of Lords; it is not the deciding factor in Anti-Dumping, nor even in Franchise Reform. These are all matters of political theory, or the judgment reached from facts; and we feel sure that there is little that is masculine or feminine about them.

But when it comes to force and the use of force, we suspect that it may be different. The female has a long tradition behind her—a tradition which shows her fighting only in defence of her own young, while her mate fights for food, love, conquest, or the mere delight of battle. And from primitive times there has grown up in the traditions of the world the theory that force is the ultimate sanction for everything, and the other theory, that the exercise of force is rather a splendid thing.

Women as well as men have accepted these theories, and to all appearance there is no sex division upon them; but we believe, nevertheless, that female instincts all run the other way, and that in their hearts women neither accept the rule of force nor admire it.

This is why we say that there is no woman in the land who does not bitterly regret the present appeal to force in Ireland. There are many, on both sides, who justify it. There are some who glory in it; but there can be none, we feel sure, to whom their own responsibility for it, be it as small as it may be, is not a horror and a trouble.

We are sure, therefore, that the reasoned appeal sent out from last Friday's woman's meeting will meet with a deep response from women of all parties. For, indeed, we have had enough of bloodshed in our day.

PASSION AND JUDGMENT.

By C. C. OSLER.

How few of us there are who achieve or even attempt a balanced or unbiased judgment of the daily facts of current history! We accept with avidity reports which bolster up our preferences and aversions, casting lightly aside any which may disturb our preconceived opinions. As a sojourner on an isolated island, where home news reaches us at least a fortnight late, this reflection has been impressed on me by a recent experience. I received a letter from an English friend, of somewhat revolutionary views, vaguely referring to a "truly horrible repetition of Amritsar, when the military, unprovoked, fired without warning into a dense mass of 15,000 football players and onlookers."

Aghast and horrified, I had no clue to the occurrence referred to, and could only wait apprehensively for enlightenment. An hour or two later an officer, just landed, reported with natural passion the story of the cold-blooded assassination of fourteen officers in Dublin. There was nothing in the rumour as he had received it from a well-known newspaper, to suggest any connection with the mysterious reference of my correspondent, of which he had apparently gleaned nothing. Next day I received English papers with the whole ghastly happenings of Sunday, November 21st.

"There's not a crime
But takes its proper change out still in crime,
If once rung on the counter of this world."

These two catastrophes were so closely interdependent that it would seem impossible for the two Acts of the Tragedy to have been separately adjudged—and for each to have thus dominated a distinctly opposite type of mind, producing a passion directed wholly to one fact, and negligent of the other. In the one massacre fourteen victims were killed; in the other twelve killed and sixty-five injured, the only motive in both cases being revenge.

Yet, in place of the universal abhorrence and reprobation which should have moved to a common sympathy all rightly constituted minds, two parties were immediately evolved, and two members of the British House of Commons came to blows over the comparative emphasis laid on the two atrocities.

It is our old, time-honoured way of viewing and apprehending history. Any attempt to apply to our nation or party that stern, impartial judgment which in our private and religious life is attained by at least a limited number, and glibly professed once a week by the majority of churchgoers, must, on Monday morning, be superseded by a readiness to attack all critics.

Let but twenty years elapse, however, and we become more judicial and detached. I remember a dear old lady whose modesty was offended by the sight of a baby girl kicking naked legs before the fire: had it been a boy, she confessed, she would not have minded; it was "no concern of hers." So we wash our hands and consciences of responsibility for the deeds of our predecessors. Criticisms of our conduct in the South African war of twenty years ago, which at the time evoked a dangerous riot, threatening the life of our present popular Premier, may to-day be repeated with impunity and even meet with a sympathetic reception, owing mainly to the fact that, after that prolonged and bitter war, justice and generosity achieved a rare and signal victory over pride of conquest, and rendered to our defeated foes a liberty which has brought forth fruit a hundred-fold for us in our time of need. Few can now be found to challenge that policy, with the invaluable friendships it has bequeathed to us: yet how little it has prevailed as an example in the settlement of subsequent struggles!

In another twenty years the Irish events of to-day, while losing nothing of their horror and iniquity, will be seen in a clearer relationship to each other and to their causes, and will be judged with less passion, clearer insight, and inevitable remorse. But for the new problems of that future day, who can doubt that the same "parti pris" will prevail—the same inability to waive passion for judgment, the same concentration on one symptom only of complicated social diseases, the same triumph of polemics over Christianity?

A few incorrigible idealists will doubtless still be straining after a wider vision, a more dispassionate judgment of human acts, estimated less by the personal preferences and aversions to which we all must confess, but which should not be suffered to obliterate moral standards which we all acknowledge even when we are least faithful to their imperative.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

The consequences of Mr. Bonar Law's retirement are incalculable. Not the immediate consequences, for at the moment the succession of Mr. Austen Chamberlain will make little visible difference. But ultimately the changes are bound to be profound.

His great virtue is his simplicity of character. He is an extraordinarily honest man, and was always scrupulously fair to all sections of the House, and he had the habit of always saying exactly what he thought; and, though this sometimes gave offence, it came to be accepted as something temperamental and valuable. If you add to this a business training, a knowledge of what the ordinary man is thinking about, and a wide tolerance of differences, you reach a man who is eminently fitted to be Parliamentary Leader. It is as Parliamentary Leader that Mr. Bonar Law will go down to history.

To come to the Parliamentary history of the week, on Monday the Reparations Bill passed Second Reading. Mr. Bottomley moved its rejection in a speech more reminiscent of the free lance of the 1906 Parliament than have been the recent utterances of one who now accounts himself a Party Leader. The House, profoundly distrustful of the Bill, unconvinced by the Prime Minister, but anxious to do nothing which damaged national unity, passed the Second Reading without a Division. Commander Kenworthy, indeed, tried to divide, but it is significant of the feeling of the House that he could not find one single other Member to act as Teller.

On Tuesday, March 15th, Sir L. Worthington-Evans made his statement on Army policy. He was clear and commendably brief, and earned the approval of the House, but when it came to his reply, of necessity unprepared and touching high questions of military science, one sighed for the brilliant and instructed intellect of his predecessor; who, as is sometimes forgotten, is a soldier by upbringing, has fought in more campaigns than any man of his age, and is author of one of the best military books of this generation. Discussion chiefly turned on the reduction of the cavalry. Four regiments are to be disbanded, and, at the same time, eighteen Indian cavalry regiments, and military opinion is apprehensive. It is felt that in this, as in previous cases, the immediate lessons of the particular incidents of the late war are being pressed with undue force.

At the opening of the day the House had a real treat in Mr. Asquith's speech on the retirement of the Clerk of Parliament, Sir Courtenay Ilbert. Mr. Asquith is unimaginably good on occasions of this sort, and he quite eclipsed the Prime Minister.

On Wednesday, March 16th, the House passed the Reparations Bill through Committee, remaining up to the unnecessary hour of two in the morning in order to do so. Thursday saw the Naval Estimates and the statement of naval policy, which was made by Sir James Craig, who made what is almost his last appearance in the House. After this the Coal Mines Decontrol Bill was taken through its remaining stages, and the House excelled its sprightliness of the night before by sitting up to a quarter past three.

It met again at noon on the same day, and, invigorated by its previous performances, not only passed the Reparations Bill through Report and Third Reading, but also disposed of a large block of Supplementary Estimates. The afternoon was remarkable for a speech by Sir Gordon Hewart on the Treaty of Versailles. Few, if any, better speeches have been made in recent years. Dealing with a technical subject, it was broad and intensely interesting, and, as a tribute to his hold over the House, it may be mentioned that at half-past six on Friday afternoon, after two late sittings, and when Members usually are thinking of nothing but when they are to get away, the closing paragraphs of his speech were greeted with cries of "Go on." If it be true that Sir Gordon Hewart is to leave Parliament for the Bench, he will be the greatest loss which politics has suffered in the memory of any living man. This is no exaggeration; for to find his equal you have to go back to the great lawyer-statesmen of last century, and to think of names like those of Lord Brougham and Lord Cairns.

The House discussed Irish Estimates on Saturday with more heat than light, but these notes are already so long that they must be brought to an end.

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

NEWS FROM OTHER LANDS:

THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN SWITZERLAND.

The various organisations in Switzerland which aim at improving the position of women, are carrying on active propaganda in favour of Women's Suffrage, but under difficult conditions. No change can be made either in the Federal Constitution or the Constitutions of the Cantons without a referendum, and so far public opinion, particularly among the agricultural population, has shown itself violently hostile to the admission of women to equal political rights. In February, 1920, the *Grands Conseils*, both of Basle and Zurich, passed resolutions favourable to women, the former proposing to modify the Constitution in such a manner as to make the introduction of Women's Suffrage possible, while the latter went so far as to give full political rights to women throughout the Canton. Both were, however, defeated by large majorities of the electorate, and it is feared that the result of a referendum, which will shortly be taken in Geneva, will be much the same, although in this case the change is demanded for the first time by over 2,800 electors—2,500 being the number on whose initiative the Geneva *Grand Conseil* is bound to consider and submit any proposed change in the Constitution to the electorate. The number of signatures required in other Cantons is larger.

Federal legislation in respect of the claims made by women seems likely to be guided by the results achieved in the Cantons, but the Swiss Women's Suffrage Society and the Swiss National Council of Women are urging their views on the President and on individual members of the Federal Council, and carrying on a campaign all over the country in favour of Federal as well as Cantonal Suffrage. As matters stand, women in Zurich are entitled to vote on the question of administration of the district and Cantonal schools, orphanages, workhouses, and similar institutions, and the industrial Courts of Arbitration. In the Canton of Neuchâtel, they not only have a vote, but are eligible for election to the *Conseils de Prud'hommes*, and in many cases women have been elected to represent different trades in which women are employed. Recently, women in Basle, who have hitherto only had the ecclesiastical vote, have been declared eligible for election to the National Church Councils, and in Zurich, the question of whether they shall be allowed not only to officiate as assistant clergy, but to be regularly appointed pastors, is under consideration.

The Swiss civil code recognises married women's property rights, and gives parents equal rights over their children. It also makes satisfactory provision for illegitimate children and their mothers. An exhaustive enquiry has been made into the conditions under which women are employed in industry, and into the position of women apprentices and employees in shops, and the result of this, and of an enquiry into the conditions of work for nurses, has been published, the object being to provide a foundation of facts for the claims women are to put forward in impending legislation on trades and professions. The Council has further appointed a Women's Education Committee, which is endeavouring to promote patriotic feeling in the highest sense and imbue young people with international ideals. It is at the same time considering the best methods of giving instruction on the urgent social problems of the day.

Various societies exist which aim specially at raising the moral standard. Among these may be mentioned the League of German-Swiss Women, of which Frau Schmutziger is the President; the Swiss Branch of the International Union of Girls' Friendly Societies, with over 8,000 members; and the Swiss Branch of the International Catholic Union for the Protection of Young Girls. The *Société d'Utilité Publique des Femmes Suisses* devotes itself to practical social questions, has founded schools of domestic economy and gardening for young girls, and a school for nurses attached to a little hospital at Zurich, which is fighting tuberculosis. This society has 14,000 members. The *Alliance Nationale de Sociétés Feminines Suisses* is concerned with education and the defence of women's legal and economic rights, and comprises 100 societies. The *Ligue des Femmes Suisses contre l'Alcoolisme*, and the *Ligue Suisse des Femmes Abstinences* are also doing good work; to the latter are due the temperance restaurants started by Mme. Orelli in Zurich some years ago, which have proved so great a success. Associations of women teachers and of working women have been formed, and there can be little doubt that the attitude adopted by the League of Nations towards the position of women must have far-reaching influence on the country in which it has its headquarters.

C. V.

BURNING QUESTIONS.

We call the attention of our readers to the fact that in the topical and controversial matters which we treat under the heading of "Burning Questions" we endeavour to present the principal views on each question held by differing groups of political thinkers. We do not ourselves express an editorial opinion, beyond this, that it is each woman's business first to be well-informed and then to come to her own opinion.

A PLAGUE ON BOTH YOUR HOUSES.
BY DORA MELLONE.

As it seems to be correct to commence articles on Ireland with quotations from Kipling, I will follow suit with two lines from "If":—

"Watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools."

This has been the lot of many an earnest worker, who, after spending the best years of life in the effort to change some of those conditions which render revolutionary movements possible, has been compelled to stand by and watch mad folly and deliberate wickedness do their worst. This is strong language, but it is time some of us humble folk who live and work in Ireland should come out of our obscurity and put the facts, as we see them, before what section of the British public we can reach. I am sorry I cannot rival the picturesque stories related in previous issues of this paper. As a mere resident in the country, who has simply watched developments for twenty-two years, and during the last seven has divided her time between Dublin and Belfast, coming in contact with people of all shades of opinion, I only tell what I have seen and heard. For the greater part of 1920 I was in Dublin, and constantly in the city, especially during the winter months, when I shared in the struggle to save something out of the wreck of the Health services, which followed the refusal of the Dublin Corporation to submit its accounts to audit. The resulting starvation of the children, and the threatened peril to mothers and babies, mattered little if "the cause of Ireland" were served. During this time I never heard a shot fired. Military lorries pass to and fro, and many civilians, including that terribly pathetic case of the girl clerk, have been shot. But from my recollections of London traffic twelve months ago, I greatly prefer Dublin, as far as personal safety is concerned.

As for the country, county after county is practically as quiet as any English shire. A friend from "somewhere in the West" the other day told me there had been no trouble for many months. Motor travel is difficult, owing to permit regulations and frequent summonses to halt from either the I.R.A. or the forces of the Crown. But for the most part, in the Irish countryside, they all know each other and do not intend "to have trouble" in the neighbourhood. If a flying column of the revolutionary forces suddenly descends on the district, no one will risk—no, risk is not the right word—they will not incur certain, swift, and severe punishment by placing obstacles in the way. Nor, if some unit of the Crown forces, having received information, true or false, that men are hiding in the place, arrives, will they give aid or shelter, knowing the probable consequences. They know also, that if the commandant happens to be either incompetent, or ill-disposed—and, strange to say, the wearing of a uniform does not confer sanctifying grace—they will run the risk of severe chastisement also. They take their chance of the grim fate that has overtaken other districts, and, as far as possible, preserve a non-combatant attitude. This is difficult in view of the efficient methods of conscription carried out by the I.R.A., and of the behaviour of some of the Crown forces. It had better be said at once plainly, these latter have, in some districts, made the name of England a byword. This

mode of speech is not used by the country people, or by the rank and file in the towns. They say very little, "pass no remarks," "would rather not say." What they say is, "We want to put an end to this, to let us get on with our work." The tragedy of the situation is that they have not the courage to take the matter in hand and put an end to it themselves. Of course, we do always like to give the English visitors what they want. The woman, driven from her home in the little country town, devastated by riots, tells the sympathetic listener how she had to travel over the mountains to get shelter in the city—three good level county roads connect the two places!

Of the other counties, where a form of civil war is actually raging, I cannot bear to write. I think of the white faces of the women whose misfortune it is to have menfolk fighting, or as non-combatants in those areas; no matter on what side, let there be no thought save of sympathy. But do not forget the other women who have suffered. In my mind is the face of one such, white and tearless. Her boy, "the only son of his mother, and she was a widow," had been shot while on police duty. "If I knew the man who killed him, I would strangle him with my own hands," she said, in quite quiet level tones, as she looked down at the dead and disfigured body.

"But," people in England say, "we are not responsible for the doings of the I.R.A., but for the crimes of the Crown forces." True, but you cannot find a way out by shunting the business and summoning a Constituent Assembly of the Irish people to settle it all by a referendum or otherwise. There is Ulster, which, forgive me, numbers rather more than a tenth of the population. Assuming the Unionist element in the six-county area to be three-fifths of the whole—a cautious estimate—this works out at 750,318, rather more than one-sixth of the whole population of Ireland. A referendum should not be taken at present, as there could be no free vote. A trial should be given to the proposal of Lord Middleton, that a small private conference of business men, North and South, with representatives of the Catholic Church, should meet in Dublin, with power to draft some form of settlement as a temporary measure, to be put in force at once. After an interval, say five years, the whole problem should be submitted to a referendum. The terms of this might have to include the possible establishment of a Republic, but in that case there must be freedom to Ulster to contract out. Meanwhile, the auxiliary forces should be withdrawn, and discipline enforced among the soldiers. It would then be the part of moderate Republicans to force on their leaders a change of policy. It is this policy which makes men and women in Ulster deaf to reason and renders the charge of alliance with Republicanism the most dangerous weapon in the armoury of the official Unionist party. Every morning brings its fresh tale, justified by Sinn Féin as a matter of policy and as a result of intolerable provocation. Go to Sinn Féin and daily tales will be heard of reprisal and crime by forces of the Crown, justified by Sir Hamar Greenwood on precisely the same grounds, and with the same callous indifference to human suffering. Amidst it all, men and women, strong in the faith which rests on evidence of things not seen, are still working for peace.

WOMEN AND JURY SERVICE.

BY SIR ERNEST WILD, K.C., M.P.

The broad-minded Editor of THE WOMAN'S LEADER has invited me to explain in these columns my attitude towards the above question. I am glad to comply with this courteous request, particularly because my position in the matter has been grossly misrepresented. For example, I am described in a contemporary as "that typical anti-feminist," while I am accused of a desire to keep women off juries. So little of an "anti-feminist" am I, that I have pledged myself in favour of giving the vote to women at the age of twenty-one, and to the "equal economic opportunity" policy. Nor have I any personal objection to women serving as jurors, *provided they desire such service*. That, to my mind, is the "crux" of the problem. It is, or ought to be, decided by women themselves, and not by men.

Mine may be an illogical or a quixotic view, but to call it "anti-feminist" is obviously absurd. Unless, of course, a minority of women aspire to impose their will upon the majority of their sisters: if that is the meaning of the "Feminist Movement" I am proud to be in opposition.

Nobody knows whether women want or wanted the obligation. All I have ever ventured to propose is that the simple question "Yes" or "No" should be addressed to those of them who are now on the jurors' books; that is, to the persons interested. Such a course seems to me both fair and democratic. That is why I put down my motion for a Referendum.

A less preferable alternative is that presented by my hon. friend's (Mr. George Terrell's) Bill to amend the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act. My name appears on the back of this Bill, but I infinitely prefer the Referendum. By the Bill "no woman shall be liable to serve on any jury without her consent." Is this suggestion "anti-feminist"? The objection to this limited proposal is that many of the most effective feminine jurors might refuse service, leaving that residuum which (as with men) likes the "little brief authority," the important feeling which interference with other people's affairs gives to some minds. On the other hand, to many men, and, I believe, to most women there is a class of case which few nice-minded women would willingly consent to hear and determine. Moreover, there are very many women who loathe the idea of jury service. And, however much you may prate about "sex-equality," no woman was ever forced to do any work against her will. For you cannot be coldly logical when dealing with sex questions. Herein you are as circumscribed as Nature herself.

I know that this subject is largely academic. Parliament has spoken. Mr. Bonar Law would give no facilities even for discussion of our Bill because he said that our proposals are "neither equitable or practicable." That is his opinion, and he refused to the House of Commons an opportunity to reconsider a decision arrived at on insufficient data. Such are the limitations of freedom under a so-called democratic system!

I have received, upon this subject, innumerable letters from ladies with whom I am not personally acquainted, but which carry the impress of culture and thought. Nine out of every ten express the feeling of detestation and repulsion which jury service in general, and service upon filthy cases in particular, excites in the writers. On the other hand, I am threatened by "flying columns" and am informed that my proposal to ask the women the simple question is distasteful to "most politically active women in your constituency." I replied to the latter correspondent that I am concerned to represent my constituents as a whole, whether politically active or not. Nor am I disturbed by the exotic views of Lady Astor, M.P., when she, anxious as ever to promote a sex war, recommends the vulgar expedient of

"a Black Hand notice" to be directed to any mere male M.P. who ventures to oppose her peculiar views upon domestic questions. The women of my constituency will take care of their Member, and the "Flying Column" may require the protection of the police.

To return to the history of this legislation. I state in my Referendum Motion, as grounding the same, "in view of the fact that women were not consulted before being rendered liable to jury service, nor was there any expressed desire on their part for such service." Can anyone deny the truth of either of these propositions? When the "Women's Rights" Movement was at its zenith, when militant Suffragists were ardently pursuing their campaign, votes were demanded; admission to professions; University degrees; "equal economic opportunities." Women's great service in the war has won these things, or most of them. But, never, never, was a demand formulated, to my knowledge, for jury service. Then came the Act of Parliament of 1919, with its cumbersome title of "The Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act." The discussion in both Houses was short and uninformed. As the Bill left the House of Commons it read, "a person shall not be exempted by sex or marriage from the liability to serve as a juror." The House of Lords saw the inconveniences which must arise from this broad principle; so it inserted complicated provisos, which were accepted by the House of Commons, and which do two things, viz. (a) leave the sex composition of any particular jury to the discretion of the presiding judge; (b) enable Rules of Court to prescribe exemptions, &c. Rules of Court have been made, which, I suppose, are flagrantly "anti-feminist." The practical effect is to leave it to the idiosyncrasy of the judicial officer in any case whether to include or to exclude women—or men. Recent cases have shown how widely different are the views of judges as to the propriety or impropriety of empanelling women to try a certain class of case. In my view—a view shared by many exalted members of my profession—it is unfair to judges that such a burden of discrimination should be imposed upon them. There is much to be said in favour of discrimination, but it is the women themselves who should discriminate. There is something to be said for the "all or none" principle, viz., that a woman should be made to serve on all cases or not compelled to serve on any. I am alive to the argument, and I admit its force, that in sex cases (omitting those of homosexuality) it may be helpful for the feminine point of view to be represented on the jury. I am convinced that women will do greater justice to men than men have hitherto done. Speaking from a lengthy experience, I know that hitherto a woman has generally been treated, by male juries and male judges, with more than justice. Any defendant in a breach of promise action would corroborate this statement!

But, as I have ventured to remark, you cannot be logical upon sex questions. I read, in a woman's paper, of "nauseous and insulting chivalry." Can the desire to protect that sex, which I still regard as being, in most ways, the *superior* sex, from listening to revolting details and then having to discuss them with strange men—can such a desire be justly termed either "nauseous" or "insulting"? Sex-equality does not postulate immodesty. There are cases which —!

Let me end as I began. Men are not, in my opinion, qualified to decide this question. Men have dared to decide it without consulting the women whom it mainly affects. It should not be too late to ascertain the opinion of those women. It is not competent for a clamorous minority of women to impose their views upon their whole sex. Therefore, put the question, and abide by the answer.

THE WOMAN CHAUFFEUR-GARDENER.

By VISCOUNTESS WOLSELEY.

The altered conditions that have followed upon the war, make it necessary to vary somewhat our preconceived notions of the profession of women gardeners. It is true that there still is a demand for head women gardeners, those who can direct either the entire work of a large garden or who will take over one department alone in it. There are also needed those who can teach practical gardening in girls' schools, or lecture upon horticulture. The above-mentioned posts should suffice for those who, in pre-war days, went through a complete course of college training with a view to fitting themselves for a steady yearly increase in salary and position.

There now, however, arises a demand for the educated woman who calls herself a chauffeur-gardener, and I cannot help thinking that this profession will appeal to many of those active young women who have, maybe, undertaken the driving of either private or Government cars during the war. There are one or two points about this special work, however, which require attention.

It is essential in all work that is done in the present day, when the high cost of labour and the indifferent yield of dividends has reduced very materially the spending income of the employer, that his position be carefully, and I may say considerately, studied by the employee. A good living wage can only be given when thoroughly competent and willing work is forthcoming. The young woman who is about to seek a post as chauffeur-gardener will have to bear in mind that the wage she is about to receive (in all probability £2 per week with furnished rooms in a cottage, vegetables and coals, putting it at the lowest figures) is a good one. If she is competent, and if she selects the surroundings that best suit her own temperament, viz., complete country or a suburb, according to her taste, she stands a good chance of being happy.

Now, what must she herself do in return for the satisfactory position that she has obtained?

She must be quite certain that she is competent.

I have noticed, I must confess, a tendency in the women employees of the present day, to be more careful about obtaining their own requirements such as holidays, half days off, a fixed number of work hours in the week, than about considering the wants of the master for whom they work. There should be fair play on both sides, and having secured just the post they require, these young people will really succeed only if they give full attention to the wishes of the employer.

At the interview which precedes the offer of the post, it will be well to ascertain very definitely whether the car or the garden has the first call for attention. It is unlikely that both assume an equal degree of importance in the mind of the owner, but if he does require the car most days and makes long expeditions in it, there will have to be a fixed understanding that the garden takes the second place.

I believe I am right in assuming that the majority of chauffeur-gardeners will prefer increasing their driving experience to working mostly in the garden. That is to say, that it is easier to obtain a lady who will drive 500 or more miles each week than one who will be satisfied with daily work in the garden and the occasional variety of taking one of the family to the neighbouring town to make purchases, or fetching the week-end visitor from the station.

On the other hand, I am inclined to think that most of those who have had to reduce their staff and restrict their living expenses, will be obliged to let the garden, with its food giving capacity of fruit and vegetables, take precedence of the work of the motor-car. At all events, it is essential that if this be the case, they select only a lady for the work who is prepared to enter into their wishes in this respect.

It may appear unnecessary to lay stress upon details such as these, which one would naturally assume would be decisively stated by both parties in their introductory letter. Much as I

respect women workers, and much as I desire always to employ them, I must admit that I have many times been dismayed by their hasty selection of posts, to which they afterwards found they were unsuited, and likewise their somewhat selfish one-sidedness in thinking only of themselves, and giving but little attention to the tastes, interests, and demands of the master.

I need not allude to the importance of being an adept at seeing to the running repairs of a car, to punctuality, care in driving as well as in the treatment of the car, a smart and neat appearance in uniform. These points have, in all probability, been insisted upon in previous posts, and therefore high credentials will show that they have been attended to.

Before passing on to the work in the garden, it is necessary to dwell upon the desirability of the chauffeur-gardener being able to manage for herself in the cottage. Although, often, some cottage woman is engaged to pay daily visits and attend to the cooking and housework that she will require, it will all the same be far better if too much reliance is not placed upon this help. The village woman, who is with difficulty persuaded to go out and work by the day, cannot always be counted on. Her husband may get other work and move away, her children may be ill, many hindrances in short may prevent her daily visit. The chauffeur-gardener will do well to see that she can, at a push, manage the housework and cooking that will make her comfortable.

To be independent of the help of others is the task that women of every sphere of life should set themselves in these days.

In regard to the gardening that will be required of our worker, it is impossible to lay down any fixed rules, but assuming that the post is one which a woman can undertake single-handed, with perhaps occasional labour from outside at busy times, her programme must necessarily interweave itself with the motor car work. Consequently, the garden work must mostly restrict itself to hardy plant culture. Where watering and ventilation under glass is required, it will hardly be possible to expect the same individual to attend to the car and the greenhouse. She may be called upon to drive some distance to meet a train at the hour when the frames or greenhouse need attention. The car, upon its return, will have to be washed, and this, again, in the delay caused, might mar the work of the greenhouse.

Do not let it be supposed, however, for this reason, that the garden side of the work will lack interest or fail to excite ambition. To keep the small pleasure garden neat and tidy, to see that the windows of the house are kept free of encroaching creepers, to mow and roll the lawn, free the flower beds of weeds, tend the herbaceous border, prune roses and tie their large branches to the pergola, besides attending to paths and drives and removing tree branches that the boisterous wind has swept down, all these items are of moment, if the garden is to be a pleasure ground and not a mere weedy adjunct to the house. It may be routine work, but after all it adds much to the restful home life of the employer.

If, on the other hand, the land round the house is chiefly cultivated with a view to easing the food bill of the inhabitants, then a yet more interesting branch of work is available to the chauffeur-gardener. She will be able to see how much fruit and vegetable produce she can bring to the kitchen. I shall hope in other articles to draw attention to up-to-date and altered conditions of garden work, different to those to which we adhered in 1914, when only luxury gardening was thought of. But what I am specially anxious to emphasise here is, that although the chauffeur-gardener may not obtain either all the varied driving or all the skilled and complex gardening that her heart once desired, she must, having secured the suitable post, adapt herself to its special requirements. Her offering in return for a good wage and kindly, reasonable treatment, should be the consideration of saving expense to the master and giving sound and thorough work.

THE DIARY OF A WOMAN IN THE HOME.

16, Plane Tree Road, G—
March 16th.

This afternoon I went to see Celia, who has had a bad attack of influenza and bronchitis, and is, for the moment, prevented from running about after her numerous family and her innumerable friends. They are not prevented from running after her. Children and maids come in and out of her room, the telephone bell rings constantly, and when I arrived, at half-past three, I found her distinctly aggrieved that I was her first visitor this afternoon. Her grievance was embittered by the fact that she was reading THE WOMAN'S LEADER. She takes it in under protest, and solely, as she says, to please me, but I am sure she reads every word of it, if only that she may have the satisfaction of abusing to me those whom she usually speaks of as "Your Feminists." "Look," she cried, when I came in, "here's your WOMAN'S LEADER telling me I must arrange to have my domestic work done daily, and that I've no consideration if I don't. I know you think me horribly selfish, but how can I? You know Arthur always has to catch the 8.25 train (at least, he thinks he has to—I believe his horrid old office would go on just as well without him, in fact, it would give them such a surprise if once in seven years he didn't turn up before everyone else, that I believe it would really brisk up the affairs of the country. But he doesn't realise that, poor dear, he thinks Europe would stop if he didn't catch the 8.25). And now, Jessamy goes to the hospital and Rosalind to B— College, they think they have to catch the 8.25 too. (Runs in the blood, I suppose, like their straight noses.) And then Leonard and Margaret have to go to school (it begins at nine), and they're not to be trusted to go alone. It's half an hour's walk, and three-quarters if James goes with us, and nurse can't leave the nursery at that hour—" I know, I murmured, somebody has to take them. "Yes, and breakfast has to be at eight, and you know poor Mrs. Brown can't come before nine."

"Can't she?"

"No, of course, she can't. She's got her own poor little children to attend to; that's why she's a daily servant." (Indignantly) "You wouldn't have her leave them, would you?"

"I wouldn't, of course; I think she ought to have pensions for the children. Then she wouldn't have to go out to work."

"Of course, she ought; but Your Feminists will never do anything as practical as that." (Celia always attributes the full powers of a Bolshevik autocracy to the N.U.S.E.C.) "And so she has to go out to work, and I have to have her, when she can't get another place. Luckily, she has one now. I always have to have some one else as well. It's not as if she could stay in the evening."

"I suppose she has to put her children to bed?"

"Yes, she does. She usen't to put them to bed till half-past eight or nine, but I taught her how wrong that was. Her little Jimmie is just the same age as James, and now she goes home and puts him to bed at the same time as our children. It's much better for him."

"So, I suppose that means she can't be here after six?"

"Yes, it does. So, if she's the only one upstairs, there's no one to bring up supper, or help Jane wash-up. But I suppose you will say, I ought to do it myself?"

"No, I . . ."

"Well, THE WOMAN'S LEADER would say so, anyway, but I simply can't. I simply have to be in the nursery from five till eight. First, I help nurse with James and Denny, and then Leonard and Margaret always expect to be read to after they've had their bath. (They learnt that from Ellie and Bridget, so it's rather your fault.) And anyway, Arthur doesn't get in till nearly eight, though he's much better than during the war, that I will say for him; and, after supper, I simply must see him and Rosalind and Jessamy a little. I should never know what was happening to them if I didn't. Besides, friends come in sometimes and —"

"I know," I said, "and by that time you must be tired."

"Oh, I don't know about being tired. It's not as if I had been working. Your feminists do work hard, I'll admit that, but I wish they wouldn't be so unpractical. They might at least arrange widows' pensions and . . ."

"If the Government," I began.

"Oh, the Government! Everybody knows the Government won't do anything practical. Besides, it's much too busy about

international affairs. Preventing the Germans making things, and all that. If you heard Arthur and Rosalind arguing about the League of Nations. . . ."

"Arthur!" I ejaculated in surprise, for Arthur is a deeply melancholy, profoundly silent Government official, who looks as if no wind, or earthquake, or revolution, could disturb a fold of his garments, or blow an unnecessary word from his lips. "Well, Rosalind does all the arguing, and I don't know whether it's exactly arguing either. She gets so irritated because he won't answer. She's crazy about the League, you know. So is Arthur, if you can call him crazy about anything; but she's furious with it for not beginning to exist more, and with the Government for everything, and with her father because he looks as if he might be thinking of things that could be said in their defence. But I don't see how you can expect anything practical from Governments. They're all men still, and . . . ("You used to say you were an anti-suffragist!" I interrupted, but Celia ignored me) and your feminists are women mostly, and ought to know about things and get things done. Do tell them to hurry up about getting Mrs. Brown a pension, and do tell THE WOMAN'S LEADER not to abuse me for being inconsiderate."

"I'll write to it, but it doesn't really, you know," I said, feebly, and luckily at this moment Nurse Hudson was announced.

Nurse Hudson is a great friend. She looked after Celia when her first three children were born. She has retired from professional work now, but she made such good use of her opportunities in thirty years' practice that she can now always gratify Celia's thirst for gossip, and for information of all kinds about human beings. I rose to go, but at this moment there was an irruption of children into the room, and I stayed to try and persuade Leonard and Margaret not to pursue their Wild Indian Chase over their mother's sofa, and to help to console James, who was sobbing, because they had threatened to scalp "Darling Dorofea." "Darling Dorofea" is a large, battered, hideous, terribly dirty, unbreakable doll, which James prefers to all his relations, and to all the beautiful playthings (Montessori and others) which they provide for him. Celia entirely dominates her family and is adored and obeyed by every member of it, but I fancy each one of them has some point on which he resists her opinion, and she gives in. When she does give in she always does it with good grace, almost with eagerness. She thinks many of those she loves absurd, and wants to overrule them for their own good, but when it comes to the absurdities they really care about she wants them most of all to be happy. She smiled on her husband working himself almost to death during the war as she would have smiled on him or her sons for enlisting, had they, any of them, been of the right age, or for being conscientious objectors, if they liked that better. So she also smiles, though with pain, on James, when he hugs the blackened form of "Darling Dorofea" to his breast in his immaculate hygienic crib, or in public places, where his beauty and the beautiful clothes his mother makes for him ought, but for this blot, to produce the impression of a perfect, and perfectly cared-for child.

"You will come on Saturday," she said, as she embraced James, and "Dorofea," and me all at the same time, "and bring the children. Leonard and Margaret are longing to see them. They want Ellie to invent a new play—Ellie is so good for them; besides, I haven't seen the darlings for ages, and I shall be quite well by then. Would you mind telling Leonard, as you go down, that he must not use the ink from his father's study for tattooing. I forget whether it comes into that game, but he'd better be told anyway. And if you see Jane you might say that Rosalind has just telephoned that she's bringing a friend home for the night. I'm awfully sorry there's so little notice, still, the pie's sure to be enough. And tell Nurse I'll have Eaby as soon as he's finished his tea. No, James'll take that message, won't you, darling? Beloved, Dorofea's really all right. She's not even frightened now. Would you like me to cuddle her in my bed?"

I went away thinking how extraordinarily pretty, and contented, and young Celia always is, even in what might seem unpropitious circumstances. But then she is one of the few who have not only found their vocation, but been able to follow it, and to have a good conscience at the same time. That accounts for much.

MARGARET CLARE.

CIVIC EDUCATION.

"A citizen . . . is able and willing to be governed, and to govern, with a view to the life of virtue." This is Aristotle's definition of citizenship in the year 400 B.C., and it would seem as if higher ideals inspired men then than are common to-day when Civics are being "introduced" into school subjects with something akin to an apology for making the intrusion! Yet Civics, reduced to the simplest description of the aim they bring before us, are just another name for expressing training of the mind for service—service of the family, the town, and the country, the nation and the world. And since one cannot serve any one of these without understanding how they come to exist, and how we ourselves come to be related to them, our position with regard to them and our responsibilities towards them, the study of Civics should be part of all education.

We ourselves, like our children who will come after us, are inheritors; we are inheritors of splendid traditions, splendid possessions, undying history, and of rich stores of knowledge; with all the vast machinery of commerce and markets. But we are inheritors, too, of social and industrial mistakes and their consequences, of responsibilities badly discharged, of debts wrongly incurred. If we, too, fail and make still more mistakes, our children will be inheritors of a world less good than we entered into, and will pass on to their children an impoverished estate. Seen in this perspective, Civics, or the duties of citizenship, not only ought to be taught in our schools, but carried on through all life.

Speaking of "The Civic Spirit" awhile ago, Mr. A. Waldegrave told us that "the main function of education is to teach the oncoming generation how to handle the social heritage, to neutralise as much as possible what was evil in it, to develop what was good, to make it serve life, and to pass it on to the next generation enriched and ennobled. But the two main motives that had characterised education for some generations past in this country had not been altogether best calculated to produce this effect. The patriotic motive, shown in pride of empire and devotion to national honour, had certainly ennobled our youth and enabled us to stand a great test, but the commercial motive, used as an incentive to work for securing the best-paid positions, and to achieving success in competition with other nations, had tended to lower our standards by commercialising our education. If we consider the needs of the time upon which we are now entering, and if we compare the state of society which now exists with that which ought to exist if justice were even-handed, we should find that neither of these two motives were adequate for the making of true citizens. The obligation to give at least as much as one takes asks for efficiency in service as well as efficiency in output or in machinery. The true civic spirit goes beyond personal and professional interests in seeking a higher welfare, and a larger measure of this spirit diffused through social life would speedily raise it to a higher level, a truly higher 'standard of living'."

How should the schools teach Civics and prepare for citizenship? Are not these ideals better suited to "children of a larger growth"? It would, indeed, be foolish to ask of the schools that they should turn out children equipped with a complete philosophy concerning the State and society, with a perfect understanding of the respective rights and duties of the employer, workman, shareholder, voter, representative, leader, and so forth. We may not stuff children with facts and figures and then count them as educated. What we can do is to so train the mind that the will is inclined to make purpose and energy work in harmony towards a definite end. Social sympathy and social ideals are the foundation for service of the community. Children can be taught how they will be called upon to serve the community, and into what likely channels their services will run. They want to visualise themselves as carrying on the duties and responsibilities of the community to which they belong, to understand how their locality is governed, and how it shares in the Government of the nation. From local interests the teaching of Civics leads on to larger areas and world-citizenship. The break-up of the social order that follows on war can be contrasted with the advancement and the possibilities that broaden out where nations league together to make the common good the ruling motive. The school becomes a living power in the nation when it is in vital contact, first, with its own locality and, through that, with the life of the country and of the world as a whole. Briefly put, Civics teach us the art of living together, "with a view to the life of virtue."

L. H. Y.

WOMEN PHYSICIANS.

Proceedings of the International Conference of Women Physicians. (The Woman's Press, 600, Lexington Avenue, New York.)

These volumes comprise a full report of the International Conference of Women Physicians held at the National Board of the Young Women's Christian Association in New York, between September 15th and October 25th, 1919.

There are six volumes dealing with the subject of Health, covering the ground as follows:—(1) General Problems of Health, (2) Industrial Health, (3) The Health of the Child, (4) Moral Codes and Personality, (5) Adaptation of the Individual to Life, and (6) Conservation of the Health of Women in Marriage.

Papers were contributed not only by men and women physicians who had specialised in different departments of medicine, but experts in education and social welfare, in economics and industry, were invited to give their views on the different aspects of Health.

The aim of the promoters of the Conference was the study, not only of the outward conditions and habits of life, favourable or unfavourable to health, but the consideration also of those inner conflicts which disturb the normal functioning of the body.

One of the most valuable sections was that dealing with the "Conservation of Health of Women in Marriage." A writer of "Papers on Venereal Disease and Prostitution," emphasised the importance of a more intelligent study of all the manifestations of the sexual problem, and the importance of psychological investigation of this aspect of human activity.

Volume V. deals with the "Adaptation of the Individual to Life." Dr. Stanley Hall contributes a valuable study of "Sex Vicariates and Sublimation." Dr. John MacCurdy deals with "The Function of Repression," a subject of intense interest not only to Psycho-Analysts but to every physician and teacher.

"The Health of the Child" was considered from the psychological as well as the physical aspect.

English authorities included Dr. Christine Murrell and Dr. Constance Long, the former speaking on "The Adaptation of the Young to Life," and the latter to "Fear and Fantasy in the Child and the Authority Complex." Give the child a chance to express himself, was the text of Dr. Long's interesting plea for a more intelligent "education" of the modern child.

Dr. Blumgart's paper on "The Sexual Life of the Child" produced a valuable discussion, and other papers included such subjects as "Child Hygiene," "The Value of Play," and "The Normal Development of the Child."

The future of women in the Labour market was treated by the section on "Industrial Health." (Vol. II.)

Dr. Herbert Cory's paper on "The Inner Conflict and the Social Unrest," "Work and Maternity" by Irene Osgood Andrews, "Health Insurance" by Dr. Lambert, and "Industrial Fatigue" by Dr. Lee, were papers of special interest.

Dr. Kristin Mann's paper on "A Woman's Movement for the Conservation of the Health of Women," has a report of an investigation under the auspices of the Public Health Committee of the Academy of Medicine into the health of 8,645 individuals. She dealt not only with actual disease, but with minor abnormalities, such as recurrent headaches (50 to 60 per cent. of the women), indigestion or constipation (55 to 65 per cent.), menstrual disturbances (45 per cent.), "colds," sore throats, defective teeth, &c. About 92 per cent. of the women, although young, were suffering from defects due to bad posture, to hollow back, or curvatures. Her conclusions were that about 10 per cent. of women are really well, 5-10 per cent. really sick, while 80 per cent. endure all sorts of physical handicaps because "our standards of health are atrociously low, while our tolerance of physical handicaps prevents us doing anything to better our condition."

Lack of space prevents me giving in full the Resolutions which were placed on record by this first Conference of Women Physicians, but these included the necessity for the regular health examinations of infants, children, and adults; for sex education, and the education of the public in the facts concerned with venereal disease and its relationship with prostitution. The Conference emphasised the right of the illegitimate child to be adequately protected, and advocated the abolition of the double standard of morality, this to be replaced by an equal standard (and a higher standard) of morality for both sexes.

Lastly, it was resolved that in all social legislation women should participate not only in law making but also in preventive, curative, and law enforcing bodies.

ELIZABETH SLOAN CHESSEY, M.D.

REVIEWS.

PLUS CA CHANGE.

Kobiety. By Sofia Rycjiera-Nalkowska. (Putnam. 8s. 6d.)
Pan. By Knut Hamsun. (Gyldendahl. 7s. 6d.)

Knut Hamsun is the latest winner of a Nobel prize for literature; Sofia Nalkowska's novel, "Kobiety" (Women), has been hailed by considerable critics as a work revealing the very essence of the feminine soul. It is obvious that the work of this Polish woman writer and of the Norwegian author should not be neglected, but, as they come to us in decent but undistinguished English dress they seem to give the same impression of emptiness and discouragement. The hero of "Pan," Lieutenant Glahn, lives in a hut in the forest and supports life by hunting and fishing; Janina, of the "dark, golden eyes," "womanly wisdom, wit and originality," is a town-bred girl masquerading for a time as a primeval woman. Both novels are written in the first person and both deal with a succession of what, for want of a better word, one may call adventures in sex. These have nothing to do with what are usually described as love affairs, or affairs of the heart. They are not accompanied by the slightest illusion of performance, by any idealisation of their object; it is difficult, in fact, for the reader to distinguish in his mind between Edvarda, the store-keeper's sister, Henriette, the goat-herd, and Eva, the blacksmith's wife, or to remember whether Janina is about to "pluck the flame-red blossom of life" in company with Janusz, Roslawski, or Imzanski. Glahn

and Janina alike are egoists, so unbridled that their own personalities fill their whole universe. The course of all these amours is the same—it must be the same. Glahn and Janina are alike in being irresistible to all upon whom they cast their eyes; they have no moral scruples, no fear, no respect for the rights of others; their inamorata exist for them merely as the exciting causes of emotion. The course of love then (if this can be called love), runs smoothly down to essential forgetfulness. One begins to regret the conflicts between love and money, love and duty, love and religion, which form the subject matter of half the novels in the world. One sees that "guilty love" is dramatic no longer when morality has ceased to exist alike for hero, villain, rivals, and relatives, even to the maiden aunts of both parties to it. A novel entirely without an ethical basis is as dull as, even duller than, the tale familiar to our youth, which consisted almost exclusively of chunks of moralising. The wise reader will not say to himself, "This is life in Norway or in Poland," but, "Such emptiness is the Nemesis of egoism; such monotony is the natural fruit of inconstancy." We shall return with pleasure to works of Knut Hamsun, constructed on a more promising formula, and shall look forward to further translations of Madame Nalkowska's works which shall deal more directly with life in Poland and less with Dead Sea apples, a fruit which varies little with country or climate.

E. M. G.

DRAMA.

Comedy Theatre: "The Ninth Earl," by Rudolf Besier and May Edginton.

"The Ninth Earl" seems to be the type of play that has an inevitable fascination for the actor; and, in fairness, I must add, it also seems to please the public. It gives Mr. Norman McKinnel a big part, with plenty of scope for the display of his art; I hope, for his sake, that it will be a popular success, and that after that he will not try this type of play again.

Let us consider the play as such, shorn of any glamour that the actor's art may have lent it; it is exactly the sort of thing you might infer from the title—melodrama. Many of the well-known ingredients of melodrama have been used: an impecunious nobleman in the hands of a loathsome Jew moneylender; the said noble man disinterestedly protects young girlish innocence from the Jew's attentions; in fact, he kills the Jew, is sentenced for murder, but gets off with penal servitude.

The real play begins when the hero comes out of prison fifteen years later, a broken man, but, owing to the deaths by drowning at sea of large quantities of his relatives, now a millionaire and the ninth earl. His only comfort in prison has been the letters he has had regularly every month from an unknown hand—needless to say my guess was right, that they were written by the sweet, young thing he had befriended, but now, alas! older, and a fallen woman. The ninth earl is impetuous by cadgers—a slangy hunting woman, the eternal stage parson, and also the disreputable family of the sweet, young thing, consisting of father, an adventurer and shark, mother, an ex-barmaid, and son, an aspiring criminal—these last three being the classic comic relief of conventional melodrama in a rather more serious form. To complete the old Adelphi atmosphere, there are a faithful old butler and two solicitors. The sweet, young thing looking, indeed, far from abandoned, turns up at the earl's place and is employed as housemaid; by eavesdropping at just the right moment she foils the machinations of her family, and after being suspected of mercenary self-seeking, she wins the ninth earl back to self-respect at the final curtain. Further, it may be mentioned, that life in prison has given the ninth earl the habit of loud-voiced soliloquy—which is so convenient to the playwright for the purpose of psychological presentation.

From the authors of "The Ninth Earl" it is a far cry to

Mr. Besier, author of that fine, imaginative play, "Don." Why don't they give us more in that style? The theme of "The Ninth Earl"—an ex-convict facing the cruelty of the world, could make a tragedy, but why take so abnormal an ex-convict as a millionaire peer and surround him with the automatons of melodrama? In such circumstances it might, with advantage, be treated as a grimly ironic comedy, in which we would see Society accepting the convict on account of his riches—but I'm afraid I cannot believe in the earl we are given. I have indicated enough of the story to show that the treatment is sentimental; it is only Mr. McKinnel's rendering of the character that makes the earl possible. For the benefit of the public I suppose it was necessary to make the protagonist innocent, but to raise him to the peerage brings it to the level of the novelette.

It is undeniable, of course, that the ninth earl has a number of theatrically effective things to do. When the play is filmed, it should be very popular. The last scene in the stately family dining-room—the ex-convict at dinner, watched by butler and footman—has some of the tenseness of real drama. As melodrama it is not of the crude variety; it is melodrama because there is no sense of reality. Indeed, the outspoken young solicitor and, rather more doubtfully, the butler, are the only credible human beings. The Jew moneylender, the hunting woman, and the parson, are grotesque caricatures; they alone would have destroyed any reality. As it is, the play is a farce to the sophisticated, and no doubt welcome sentimentality to the general public.

I am inclined to think that the acting has made me see more merit in the play than there really is. Mr. McKinnel is a fine actor; he is great in conveying the feeling of an intolerable burden of sorrow; he is excellent when he flares up into momentary rages, becoming the strong man dominant. One of the best pieces of playing was Mr. James Lindsay's study of the adventurer with a veneer of gentility; his specious *bonhomie* was perfect. As the butler, Mr. Halliwell Hobbes gave a finished performance, making the most of the few opportunities for a touch of humour. I liked both Mr. Louis Goodrich and Mr. Wilfred Fletcher in their parts.

R. A. A.

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS.

IRELAND.

MADAM.—Lady Laura Ridding's letter well illustrates how interminable is the argument of "reprisals." There is no end to that kind of justification, and there is no end to a hideous war like this until both sides come together and declare for peace and freedom. It would take too long to explain how the great Irish famine arose, and how it was directly attributable to English penalisation of Catholics, English restraint of trade, English protection of the export from Ireland of the food that should have saved the people. Lady Laura prides herself on the efforts made during the past forty years to remove Irish grievances. It is true many have been removed after endless struggles and complaints on the part of the Irish. But who made those grievances? Lady Laura speaks with approval of the establishment of martial law in Ireland. But martial law presupposes a state of war, and in honourable warfare prisoners of war are not hanged or shot. Also, in a well-disciplined army irresponsible deeds of murder, arson, and loot are not tolerated.

Your article from an "Ulster Woman" requires more space than I could be granted, and I hope that a Southern Irishwoman will reply. I should only say that, whatever the domination of the priest used to be, it is immensely reduced now. That in the South Protestants sit amicably on local councils with Catholics, and that the commissions which appointed the Sinn Fein Courts were actually composed (among others) of ministers "of all denominations." In the North the Protestants do, of course, shamefully harry the minority of Catholics—witness the Belfast shipyards.

I am sorry if I seemed to suggest that Ulster's ascendancy complex was born with Mr. Asquith's Government. Of course, that is not so; it is doubtless partly due to the causes which your Ulster correspondent so clearly sees. What I intended to convey was that the stubbornness of Ulster in the conventions of the past few years was largely attributable to her conviction that she would be supported in it, no matter how unreasonable it might be.

In conclusion, what seems worth while pressing for is that we should look forward and ask ourselves what we are going to do, not that we should tell over the heads of our respective grievances in the past; that we should look back only in order that the past should teach us what to avoid. In 1914, Ireland was "the one bright spot"; in 1916, the Rebellion? Why?

H. M. SWANWICK.

MADAM.—As an old social worker in Ireland from 1846-7 (the famine years), and since then in the campaign against Home Rule in the 'Eighties, I beg to thank Lady Laura Ridding most warmly for her admirable letter in this week's WOMAN'S LEADER. The idea that the population of Ireland was reduced by the English Government is preposterous. We old workers know that it was famine, and the consequent sickness, that prostrated and decimated our beloved island. Then emigration on a large scale completed the work of desolation in our country. My dear father, an old Quaker, worked with our Parish Priest in visiting and assisting the poor in my native town of Youghal, Co. Cork; he also helped W. E. Foster and others in the West and South of Ireland, so that I know what I am saying. There were in Youghal when I married in 1854, eight Protestant places of worship; now, as far as I know, there are only two, a fact which speaks for itself as far as the Protestant population is concerned. I also want to thank the Ulster woman for her admirable article. Why has there been so little sympathy for the wives and children of the unfortunate police and civilians who have been shot down in cold blood? Let their losses be borne in mind when the tale of misery is counted out.

Dublin.

A. M. H.

WOMEN AND JURY SERVICE.

MADAM.—May I, through the medium of your interesting and instructive little paper, draw the attention of all thoughtful women to the Bill shortly to be introduced into Parliament by two of its members, e.g., Mr. C. Terrell and Mr. Howard Gritten, making it optional for women to serve on juries?

Since the application of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act (1919) and the consequent appearance of women as jurors, a section of the Press has been energetic in its activities against it. Articles signed in the name of a woman (though not necessarily written by one!) have appeared, loudly voicing disgust at the new order of things. Now, under the old guise of "protection," the Bill is to be introduced and supported by Sir Ernest Wild, K.C. In effect, the passing of the Bill would be to limit the power of women as citizens.

Where there is a privileged class there can be no equality. And why should privilege exist? Because there always has been is no reason for its continued existence—a reason given by Mr. Terrell. Were there no change surely there would be no progress! For does not progress mean change?

Women must bear in mind that in most of the revolting cases on which they are called to serve as jurors, unfortunate women, and sometimes children, have been concerned, and that in trying to mete out justice there should be no such thing as the consciousness of sex, only fellow creatures endeavouring to arrive at a just decision. Women must be prepared to accept the pains, as well as the pleasures of citizenship, if we are to have a better world.

One of the cleanest and swiftest ways to reduce the numbers of these cases, is for women to have cognizance of them, and opportunity to exercise this knowledge in judgment.

In conclusion, I draw your readers' attention to the very excellent resolution passed at Birmingham, at a recent meeting for women justices and jurors.

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

And to commend such mental attitude to all who may be called upon to serve.

(Mrs.) J. HARVEY-SMITH.

DOMESTIC SERVICE.

MADAM.—Your correspondent "Margaret Clare," has given a most admirable and conclusive answer to the argument that the domestic service problem would be solved if only the employers would be content with "daily workers" in the sense of people who keep hours identical with those worked in most shops and offices.

As she says, "the hardest and most essential part of domestic work has to be done before 9 a.m., and between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m." The demand of employers that their domestic staff shall be on duty at these times is not, therefore, abominable selfishness, but the expression of a perfectly legitimate desire that a real need shall be met.

What is wrong is the methods by which they have hitherto attempted to meet it. They have expected one worker to cover both the "rush periods," i.e., to work a day of indefinite length, and, moreover, by living in their houses, to make an almost complete surrender of liberty to conduct her own life in her own way. In consequence, domestic service is, justly, loathed.

Every other employment faced with a similar difficulty of hours resorts to the shift system. A 6.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. shift by one worker, followed by a 2.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. shift by another would meet the difficulty in domestic work, at least, for the fortunate households who can afford two servants. The single servant-household would, at least, gain something, by having one of the difficult periods provided for, instead of neither, as under the present "daily maid" system. I do not see why domestic workers should be more unwilling to adopt this shift system than people employed in industry, since they would gain a definite working day and, most of all, an escape from the hateful necessity of "living in." Changes of shift and evenings off for late workers would be matters easily arranged, and it would no longer be a case of free evenings for the maid but none for the mistress, as so often happens at present. I believe that if this feature of factory life could be imported into domestic work we should have done much to counterbalance the attraction of the factory, and to prevent the present overwork suffered by many middle-class mothers.

W. T.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED HUSBAND'S BROTHER.

MADAM.—To those vitally interested in this question the correspondence in your paper must be of peculiar interest. One of your correspondents rightly points out that it is incumbent on us to make our desire for legislation plainly heard, and so I make no apology for sending you the facts of my own case as typical, I feel sure, of hundreds of other cases.

I am a war widow. After seven years of very happy married life, I have now lived through four years of loneliness, burdened with the responsibility of bringing up three sons, and realising that the responsibility must become heavier as they grow older. My husband's brother has given me as much help as circumstances allowed, and between us a strong, and surely a very natural, attachment has grown up. We should have married a year ago if it had seemed possible. As one of your correspondents pointed out, there are three alternatives open to people placed as we are. The first, to go and live abroad in some country where such unions are legal, is impossible for us unless we fail in duty towards a parent. The second, to form an illegal union, is not fair to the sons by my first marriage, nor would it be fair to other children that we might have. Only the third course, to remain as we are, is open to us.

Such sacrifice, even for hundreds of people, may seem but a small matter to the Government, and so I venture to emphasise, not so much individual hardships, as the loss the State itself is suffering all the time by neglecting to legalise marriage with a deceased husband's brother. One correspondent has already pointed out that many a widow's pension might be saved, but I should like to point out as well that there is a positive gain, not even a mere saving, that the State is, at present, foregoing. Again I quote my own case, as merely typical of many another. I am still young, and well-fitted in every way for motherhood. I have three fine boys and should be only too glad to have several more children. And, at the same time, a man, well-fitted to be a father, remains unmarried, hoping that some day the marriage he desires may be made possible. Think of this stupid loss multiplied over and over again all over the country! And the longer the needed Bill is delayed, the greater the loss.

ONE OF THE VICTIMS.

ACROSS THE TIDE.

MADAM.—Mrs. Stocks' letter in your last issue contains not argument, but invective—and invective in the most doubtful taste. On looking up Milton's Belial, I find that he was the nastiest devil in Hell—one whose "thoughts were low; To vice industrious." Do you consider, Madam Editor, that this is legitimate comparison to be made by one of your contributors at the expense of another?

As for her statement that my name suggests that I am "out for contradiction," I am utterly at a loss to understand what she means.

RACHAEL SONIA VERONICA PRYDE.

WOMEN AND THE IRISH QUESTION.

Do English women know what is going on in Ireland? Do they realise what is being done by those who represent them there? Can they tolerate these crimes committed in their name, or will they use the whole weight of citizenship they struggled so hard for in order to protest? This was the burden of all the speeches at the Women's Protest Meeting at the Central Hall, Westminster, on March 18th, and, so far as a public meeting can answer such questions, the reply was given. The large hall was packed to overflowing, and the audience vibrated with such passion as I have not seen in a gathering of women since the heat of the suffrage days. Some of these, no doubt, were Irish women who care about the life of their country, more were English women who care about the honour of theirs. For, as Lady Bryce, who presided, said, the British Crown

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OBJECTS

The object of the N.U.S.E.C. is to work for such reforms as are necessary to secure a real equality of liberties, status, and opportunities between men and women.

Any Society may be accepted by the N.U.S.E.C. that is willing to include the object of the Union within its objects, and to pay an affiliation fee, varying from five shillings to two guineas, according to membership.

The privileges of affiliated Societies include:—

1. That of helping to decide the policy of the Union, which is also that of THE WOMAN'S LEADER, at the Annual Council meeting.

2. Free use of the Information Bureau; use of the Library at reduced charges; admission of members of affiliated Societies to the Summer School at reduced charges.

3. The receipt of our monthly circular letter, including Parliamentary suggestions for the month.

Privileges 2 and 3 are extended also to individual subscribers of one guinea or more per annum to Headquarters

GUARDIANSHIP, MAINTENANCE, AND CUSTODY OF INFANTS BILL.

A Conference of women's organisations, convened by the N.U.S.E.C., was held on Friday, March 18th. Representatives were present from the National Council of Women, British Women's Patriotic League, British Federation of University Women, Women's Local Government Society, Conservative and Unionist Reform Association, Women's National Liberal Federation, Women's Co-operative Guild, Catholic Women's League, Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, Parents' National Educational Union, National Union of Trained Nurses, Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, Church Army, Young Women's Christian Association, National Union of Women Teachers, Women's Industrial League, Six Point Group, State Children's Association, National Union of Teachers, National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, Women Citizens' Association, and several N.U. Branches. Miss Eleanor Rathbone presided. Colonel Greig, who is in charge of the Bill, gave a lucid exposition of its more important clauses, which was followed with great interest by all who were present. Mr. F. Wade, Agent-General for British Columbia, explained the successful operation of similar legislation which had been in force for several years in British Columbia. Mrs. Butler, who formerly worked with Mrs. Catt in the United States, gave a brief account of the position with regard to guardianship in the different States. The following resolution was passed unanimously:—

"That this Association calls upon Members of the House of Commons to support by their vote and influence the Guardianship, Maintenance and Custody of Infants' Bill, and urges the Government to adopt the Bill as a Government measure, and to allow time for its passage into law this Session."

It was pointed out that if there were sufficient driving force behind the Bill, its chances were very promising, and the various organisations present undertook to bring pressure on their branches to secure the sending of resolutions similar to the above, to the Government and to individual Members of Parliament from the constituencies. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks, moved by Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon and seconded by Miss Aidney, N.U.T., to Colonel Greig for his kindness in sparing time to discuss the Bill with the different societies represented, and to the N.U.S.E.C. for summoning the conference.

IMMEDIATE ACTION WITH REGARD TO THE BILL.—Our Societies and individual members are asked to take immediate steps to secure the passing of resolutions during April at meetings of suitable organisations, to be sent to the Prime Minister, Home Secretary, Scottish Office, as well as the Members of Parliament for the constituency. It is also very important to induce members of our Societies to write individual letters to their Members of Parliament, as these are often more effective

than pronouncements from Headquarters. Suitable organisations to be approached might include the following:—

Party Organisations, of Women and Men; Women's Co-operative Guilds; Mothers' Union meetings; Church or Temperance Organisations; Rotary Clubs; "Pleasant Sunday Afternoon" meetings; in fact, gatherings of any kind where men and women of intelligence are collected either together or separately.

PERSONAL.

We cannot pass over the Council Meeting without recording our sincere regret at the loss of Miss Rosamond Smith as an Honorary officer of the National Union. Miss Smith has for many years been a member of the Executive Committee, and for the last three years has given valuable service as one of our officers. Miss Smith has also helped us by speaking for the Union on all sorts of occasions, from crowded meetings to small groups of working women. While appreciating the reasons which have led to Miss Smith's resignation, we are glad to know that we may still count on her not only for speaking, but for constructive ideas and suggestions, and for other forms of help which she, perhaps better than anyone else, can give us.

We also greatly regret the loss of Miss Deneke, not only as Honorary Treasurer, a post which she accepted temporarily with some reluctance, but as a member of the Executive. It is difficult to imagine the Executive Committee without Miss Deneke, and she was greatly missed on the platform at the recent Council Meeting. Miss Deneke, unlike some of our Executive Committee, thoroughly understands the inner workings of the headquarters office, and can always be relied upon for sympathetic understanding and for the kind of help that comes from actual experience.

The Executive has also lost two helpful members, Miss Jessie Beavan and Miss Franklin. Miss Jessie Beavan did brilliant work for our West Lancs., West Cheshire, and North Wales Federation in past years and is an Honorary Officer of our Liverpool Society. We can only hope that Miss Beavan, relieved of the journeys to London, which she was finding difficult, may be able to help us in the reorganisation of our Societies in the West of England. Miss Franklin brought valuable experience from the Women's Industrial Council, of which she was Honorary Secretary. Lastly, we regret to record the loss of Miss Norah Stack, M.B.E., M.A., who has unexpectedly been appointed to an important post in connection with the International Labour Office of the League of Nations. Miss Stack has been with us only a little over a year, but she has identified herself with extraordinary rapidity with the affairs of the N.U., and while we must congratulate her on an appointment which is calculated to give her opportunities for which she is particularly fitted, her loss is one which cannot be contemplated without deep regret. We are, however, glad that she will not at present be leaving London, and that she means to keep in close touch with us.

THE SUMMER SCHOOL.

It has been suggested that, as it is difficult to find a building large enough to house all the students of our Summer School on the spot, we should try something new this year, and immediately take steps to secure the most attractive headquarters possible for August, 1922.

It is proposed to develop the week-end schools which are already becoming popular in our Societies. A report of the school recently organised by Rochdale will shortly appear. The Yorkshire Council has announced an attractive and instructive week-end near Scarborough in May, and other Societies are contemplating similar schemes. In addition to this, an admirable suggestion made at the meeting of officers of Societies during the Council week, will, we hope, bear fruit—that quarterly or occasional meetings of officers of our Societies, and others interested, should take place between meetings of the Council. It is hoped that the first of these will take place in or near London towards the end of July, probably lasting from Friday to Monday (inclusive). Suggestions with regard to this or to week-end schools throughout the country will be welcomed by the Committee.

COMING EVENTS.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

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

MARCH 27.

At Goole, Parish Church. Morning and Evening.
Speaker: Canon Bickersteth Ottley.

MARCH 28.

At Wolverton, Science and Arts Institute. 7 p.m.
Speaker: Canon Bickersteth Ottley.
At Gledholt, Wesley Church.
Speaker: Lt.-Col. J. H. Forty.

MARCH 30.

At Ilford, Town Hall. 8 p.m.
Speakers: Miss M. Currey, O.B.E., Dr. John Douglas Adam

MARCH 31.

At Norwood Liberal and Rednal Association, Women's Branch, 78, Norwood Road, Herne Hill. 4.15 p.m.
Speaker: Miss Edith Johnson.
At Petersfield, Corn Exchange. 8 p.m.
Speakers: Mrs. H. M. Swanwick, Frederick Whelen, Esq.
At Bideford, Devon, Town Hall. 7.30 p.m.
Speaker: E. Eyeritt Reid, Esq.

APRIL 1.

At Highcliffe, Parish Room. Evening.
Speaker: Frederick Whelen, Esq.

EDINBURGH WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

MARCH 30.

Public Meeting. At Central Hall, Tollcross
Speaker: Professor Arthur Thomson, M.A., LL.D. (Regius Professor of Natural History at the University of Aberdeen)
Subject: "Towards Race Vigour."
Chair: Professor Cossor Ewart, M.D., F.R.S.
Admission is: 8 p.m.

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

MARCH 30.

At Balham and Tooting Labour Party, Women's Section.
Subject: "Public Ownership of Liquor Trade."
Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell. 3 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL FRANCHISE CLUB.

MARCH 30.

9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.
Speaker: Miss Lena Ashwell.
Subject: "The Development of Character through Self-Expression."
Chair: Miss Alicia Leith.

WHERE BUSINESS GIRLS MAY SPEND A HAPPY HOLIDAY.

Out of the experience born of many visits to Ferny Bank, I can recommend other business women and girls to come and do likewise.

First, Ferny Bank is situated in a lovely position on Babbacombe Downs, and overlooking Babbacombe Bay. There is a big hall, where the girls dance, a dining-room, which will seat fifty, and a double drawing-room. Also, there is a library containing over 4,000 books, which forms a quiet reading and writing room.

There are no separate bedrooms provided for visitors. Each room has four beds, arranged in the cubicle style, and every room is named after some familiar flower. There are no restrictions in the matter of religion. All business girls are equally welcome, and all can attend their respective places of worship. The few rules enforced in Ferny Bank are no other than those which one generally observes when visiting one's friends, such as punctuality at meals, and changing outdoor shoes when entering the house. The terms are 21s. weekly, which sum includes all expenses except personal laundry. For those who are quite unable to afford even this modest sum, it is possible to obtain a Recommendation Ticket from a subscriber, which reduces the charge to 12s. a week and laundry extra. It is only business women and girls who can make use of these tickets.

Last year, in spite of advanced railway fares and other obstacles, 550 girls availed themselves of the privilege of a holiday in glorious South Devon. Ferny Bank was founded forty-three years ago, when holiday homes for working girls were scarcely dreamed of, much less made practicable. The House of Rest on Babbacombe Downs is open all the year round, and there must be hundreds of business girls who would be only too glad to know of such a spot.

Ferny Bank is not a convalescent home, and, therefore, cases of illness cannot be taken. Those recovering from sickness, or those badly in need of rest and change, cannot do better than spend a fortnight at Ferny Bank. It must be noted that all letters of applications, enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope for reply, must be sent to Miss E. Skinner, Bayfield, Babbacombe, Torquay.

PRISCILLA E. MOULDER.

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WANTED, Two Special Patrols for Liverpool Women Patrols' Centre and Training School for Women Police. Must be well educated and interested in social work. Age 27-35. Salary, £156; uniform and allowances after training.—Apply Director, 5, Cases-street, Liverpool.

SITUATION VACANT.

HOUSEKEEPER WANTED immediately after Easter for Working Girls' Hostel; 100 boarders; one with canteen experience preferred; salary £70; residential post.—Apply Lady Superintendent, Shaftesbury House, St. Mary's Row, Birmingham.

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SOUTH KENSINGTON.—To let, furnished, suite, large sitting-room, small bedroom, scullery; in annex of ladies' residential club; suit one or two ladies; rent £3 5s. per week, includes electric light, partial attendance; April to October.—Write Miss Jones, 22, Harrington-road, S.W. 7.

GOLDER'S GREEN.—Charming single Flat (one person) to let for summer months from May; restaurant, tennis; 35s. weekly.—Box W 45, WOMAN'S LEADER Office, 170, Fleet-street, E.C. 4.

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Correspondence should reach the Editor not later than the first post on Monday. The Editor's decision is final.

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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.

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A HOME FROM HOME FOR BUSINESS GIRLS, with bed and full board at £1 per week; arrangements made for partial board; easy access to City.—Apply Matron, 56, Church-street, Woolwich, S.E. 18.

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LADIES NEEDING REST OR CONVALESCENT.—Lady Nurse (hospital trained) offers board-residence for 4 guineas a week in her home on Chiltern Hills.—Miss Dods, "Mead's Cottage," Chinnor, Oxon.

LADY receives guests from 3 guineas in country house; charming seaside village; 3 spare bedrooms, private sitting-room; direct train service, Paddington—Dartmouth; recommended by Miss Lowndes.—Miss Parry Okeden, The Glen, Stoke Fleming, Dartmouth.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

KENSINGTON TOWN HALL.—Fellowship Services. 6.30, Miss Maude Royden. "Immortality."

INSURANCE.

THE CLERICAL AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S INSURANCE SOCIETY is an Approved Society for professional and business women. The official valuation shows a surplus for additional benefits. Write to the Secretary for particulars, 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

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GARDENING FOR WOMEN.—Practical comprehensive training at ILEDEN COLLEGE, Kingstone, near Canterbury. Healthy situation, 300 ft. up. Congenial home life; individual consideration. Next term, 25th April.

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FOR SALE.—Charming slippers of plaited coloured felt; men's, 4s. 6d.; women's, 3s. 9d.; children's, from 1s. 9d. pair; postage extra.—Peasant Shop, 41, Devonshire-street, Theobald's-road, London.

TYPEWRITERS.—Closing an Office. Three for sale; latest models; Remington, 523; Underwood, £25; Monarch, £21; practically unsoiled; quite as new; approval.—Maito, Arcade, Northampton.

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