

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
"THE WRONGS WHICH TORMENT OTHERS"	98
SWEATED LABOUR IN CHINA AND THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION. By Denis Grinling.	99
HOUSING: THE NEXT STEP FORWARD. By Captain R. L. Reiss.	99
TWO SPRING VISITS TO PALESTINE, 1921, 1922. By Millicent Garrett Fawcett, G.B.E., J.P., LL.D.	100
"THE OLD AND THE YOUNG SELF." From a Correspondent	101
TWO NEW NOVELS. By M. D. S.	101
CZECHO-SLOVAKIA AND THE MINORITIES.	101
HUSBAND AND WIFE BEFORE THE LAW. By Albert Lieck	102

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NOTES AND NEWS.

The Next Step Forward.

We call the special attention of our readers to the first of two articles contributed by Captain Reiss, which will be followed by others dealing with different aspects of the present position of the Housing Problem. Captain Reiss' opening sentences cannot fail to arrest attention, especially when he tells us he is disappointed with regard to the actual share taken by women in the solution, and that women, as a whole, have not pulled their weight in stimulating Local Authorities. We venture to suggest that our readers who do not already file their paper, should keep this copy as the first of the complete series dealing with the question for future reference when, as we hope, they will take part with greater zest in local housing schemes. A feeling of helplessness has come over many of us, and after studying the facts we shall await with eagerness the second article, when Captain Reiss has promised to tell us what steps we can take to ensure that greater use is made of the Housing Acts.

National Union of Teachers.

A correspondent writes:—

"The National Union of Teachers has been holding its annual conference at Oxford. The speeches were a welcome relief after the anti-feminism and sentimental masculinity of some of the pronouncements by the Association of Schoolmasters the preceding week. The theory put forward by the President of the latter association that boys must be trained by men if they are to grow up "manly", came in for much criticism. Segregation was defined by Miss Burrows, of Mid-Leicester, as a product "of the War and of the pugnacious prancings of the National Association of Schoolmasters," and, she maintained, one is most likely to get the perfect man when there is a perfect woman teaching him. Was it not Bishop Creighton who went to the length of saying all boys should be taught by women and all girls by men, so that the girls might grow up brave and the boys gentle? But more crucial than the question of division of work is the question of salary. The Burnham Award gives the women a salary of four-fifths of that paid to men. This has been accepted by the N.U.T., which having submitted the whole salary question to arbitration had indeed no honourable alternative to acceptance of the arbitral awards, though some of the women members have broken away in consequence. An urgency resolution deploring the lowering of the status of women by the change to the £9 increment

was passed and the speeches made it clear that the women have no intention of tamely submitting to being labelled as a cheap commodity. The Award covers a period of six years, and during that time there will be persistent agitation in the hopes of obtaining justice at the end of the period."

Women and Physical Education.

An interesting note from Mrs. Frida Laski with regard to the protest made by the Schoolmasters' Association against the employment of women as inspectors of physical education appeared in *The Times*. She points out that scientific physical education was created for women in this country, and the profession, so far as its expert character is concerned, is staffed almost exclusively by women who, to secure appointment, undergo an arduous and expensive special training. Apart from a post-war effort at Sheffield, there has been no concerted attempt in this country to make physical education a subject in which men have a training equal in quality to that now possessed by the women. Most men instructors are still on the level of the old drill-sergeant. Clearly it is too much to expect that the best positions in this profession should be reserved for men unless they are willing to equip themselves in the same way and at the same level as women have been willing to do.

Divorce Reform.

Lord Buckmaster has expressed his intention not to re-introduce his Divorce Bill in the House of Lords which has "on repeated occasions and by emphatic majorities expressed itself in favour of the proposed reforms"; but apparently he is not without hope that the matter may be raised "in another place." The chances of this do not, however, seem favourable. The subject is too controversial to be dealt with satisfactorily by a Private Members' Bill, and the Government have given no signs of their willingness to take the question up.

The Thorne Case and Capital Punishment?

The controversy over the execution of Norman Thorne for murder is of significance in connection with the whole question of capital punishment. The conflict of expert evidence has left in the minds of many people an uncomfortable doubt of Thorne's actual guilt in spite of the revolting circumstances of the case. It is felt, as Sir A. Conan Doyle suggests, that where there is the faintest doubt, the death sentence should not be carried out. We do not propose to express any opinion except that the letter of the Home Secretary to Thorne's solicitor shows that his refusal to interfere was arrived at after very careful consideration of the whole case. We have not taken any definite line in this paper on the question of capital punishment. A sensational murder trial gives a momentary prominence to the problem, and then, so far as the general public is concerned, it sinks once again into the background. We published a few weeks ago a letter on the subject signed by Miss Margery Fry and others, and we suggest that the matters should receive serious consideration. The whole question should be considered on its merits, not on its application to one particular case.

Family Allowances at Gloucester.

In view of the fact that opponents of family allowances sometimes accuse it of being a movement supported mainly by employers, it is interesting to learn that at the Annual Conference of the Independent Labour Party at Gloucester a resolution was passed by 554 votes to 64 which called for a commission charged with the duty of determining a living wage and empowered to make recommendations as to whether such a wage shall be determined by the needs of wage-earners irrespective of dependent children for whom provision might be made out of national funds.

Playing Fields for the Nation.

We are glad to see that in the movement for providing more playing fields for the nation, attention is to be paid to the needs of the girls as well as of the boys. Mrs. Elliott-Lynn, Vice-President of the Woman's Amateur Athletic Association, made an appeal to the women of this country in *The Times* of 16th April, to help in a much needed movement. A National Organization for this purpose is in view, and General Kentish agrees that women must be represented on it. Hitherto, the movement has been chiefly organized by men. It is important that women should take their part, otherwise there is the risk that too much stress will be laid on the need for cricket and football pitches, and insufficient provision made for net-ball, hockey, and other games more widely played by girls. Women who are interested are asked to correspond with Brigadier-General R. J. Kentish, 166 Piccadilly, W. 1.

A Women's Exhibition in Chicago.

A women's World Fair to show the progress of women in the arts and industries during the past twenty-five years has been opened at Chicago. The exhibits range from weaving by an Indian woman after the manner of her tribe to a model dairy organized by a woman. We notice that there is to be a "Famous Women's Day" and Mrs. Ross, Governor of Wyoming, will be the guest of honour. We remember that recently the *Spectator* assured us the election of two women governors was not to be regarded as a victory for women as a whole. It does not look as if the women of the United States shared this view.

Women's National Liberal Federation.

The Women's National Liberal Federation will hold its annual council meeting from 4th to 7th May. Among the subjects for discussion are international policy, family endowment, land and housing, divorce law reform, industrial questions, education, and the cost of living. Mrs. Wintringham has been

"THE WRONGS WHICH TORMENT OTHERS."

We publish the first of a series of articles on the present position of the housing problem, two of which will be contributed by Captain Reiss. Our aim will be to give useful information in a nutshell with practical suggestions rather than to attempt to paint in lurid colours the extent of the shortage even now, six years after the war, or the horrors of some of the hovels which constitute the homes of large numbers of our fellow citizens. Every now and again something happens which arrests public sympathy for a brief space of time—the Southwark tragedy a few months ago and, more recently, the attempted suicide of a poor creature whose hateful surroundings had preyed on her nerves. On that occasion the magistrate insisted that she should not return to her former quarters, and a new home was found for her, but what of those who struggle on? It is sometimes difficult to understand how we, who are more fortunate, can go on enjoying our comfortable and attractive homes, bearing "with inexhaustible patience the wrongs which torment others." It almost seems as if civilization, for the protection of our emotions inoculates us with a sort of drug which produces insensibility and enables us to go on our way eating, drinking, shopping, working, holidaying, while all the time, hidden from our view perhaps, thousands of our fellow creatures both in town and country are searching for homes, and thousands are living under conditions unfit for animals. In Westminster alone, one of the richest cities in the world, we are told that there are nearly 7,000 cellar dwellings many of them almost under the shadow of Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament!

Perhaps we content ourselves by the thought that things are slowly moving. Groups of glaringly new and conspicuous houses which have housing areas erected by the Local Authorities written large all over them, strike our gaze as we travel about the country. But we have only to glance at lists of applicants for any available house property to see how great the need remains. The chairman of a Housing Committee stated recently that over a thousand applications had been received for a housing

nominated as President of the Council in succession to Lady Bonham Carter.

Is Woman's Place in the Home?

A series of lectures and counter lectures has been organized in aid of King Edward's Hospital Fund, to take place at the London School of Economics. They hold out promise of much entertainment. The lectures are on such varying subjects as "Did Boswell Make Johnson?" and "Why not brighten London?" The theme for the next one on 5th May at 5.30 p.m. is "Is Woman's Place in the Home?" the two speakers being Miss Rebecca West and Mr. Alfred Duff Cooper, M.P. Tickets can be obtained from the School of Economics.

A Woman Diplomat.

The U.S.A. for the first time in its history has appointed a woman, Miss Lucille Atcherson, as member of the Diplomatic Corps. She has been assigned to the American Legation at Berne.

Errata.

We sincerely hope our readers preserve their copies of the paper for future reference; for that reason we make a point of calling attention to any errors that occur, so that the record of events given by us may be as accurate as possible. In our issue of 10th April, in the leading article, "The Widow and the Fatherless", page 83, second column, line eleven, read "contributory" for "non-contributory." In our issue of 17th April, Notes and News, "Wives and Children," page 89, second column, towards end of note, read "separation" for "divorce."

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

area which would accommodate about forty families. In his most valuable introductory article, Captain Reiss gives us exact facts, and it is unnecessary in these columns to dilate on the extent of the problem with its black trail of accompanying evils. We would rather ask what can we, as citizens, do to accelerate progress and our pages in the coming months will be open to practical suggestions. Housing Councils have been formed in different parts of the country; devoted work has been given by members of Housing Committees of the Local Authority, both men and women; Public Utility Societies have been formed; the Church Army has launched a scheme about which we would like to know more, and an interesting account of an effort of this kind on the outskirts of Dublin, where appalling housing conditions prevail, is given in the *Spectator* of 18th April. The new Weir houses, at present exhibited in London and elsewhere, have aroused much curiosity.

Crumbs of comfort are to be found in all such signs of advance, but it is cold enough comfort to those who cannot find a home, or who are compelled to live under overcrowded and insanitary conditions. Modern civilization provides maintenance for its unemployed citizens, many of them the victims of economic conditions over which they have no control. Is not the provision of decent shelter equally incumbent upon it? We do not profess any expert knowledge, but we cannot refrain from asking if temporary quarters should not be found for the homeless and those in condemned dwellings until housing schemes are more commensurate with the needs. There are many empty buildings which might be utilized for the purpose under good management. Within a stone's throw of the room in which this is written stands a large building built by funds contributed by the charitable, which has been quite empty except for a couple of offices for some years, and close around it there are streets of slums unworthy of a Christian country. We have not the knowledge to propound remedies, and we trust in the coming months others will do this for us.

SWEATED LABOUR IN CHINA AND THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.

By DENIS CRINLING.

During the last four months a good deal of interest has been aroused by the publication of the Report of the Shanghai Child Labour Commission. Dame Adelaide Anderson and Miss Harrison, both recently returned from China, have spoken all over the country, describing the appalling conditions governing the production of Chinese cotton and silk. In the House, the Report has been discussed with special reference to its economic bearings, and it is now generally recognized that sweated labour, even in a remote country like China, is a direct menace to British industry. Broadly speaking, the worst conditions of labour and the lowest standards of living are to be found in the East; China unfortunately provides an example of conditions at their worst.

To appreciate the difficulty of instituting labour reforms in China, one must recognize several facts. The population is now over 400 million, the birth-rate is abnormally high, the people are illiterate, and poverty is extreme and general. There is no system of labour legislation or factory inspection. There is a complete lack of official reports and statistics on the conditions of labour. There is no Trade Union organization to protect the factory workers against exploitation by unscrupulous employers. In industrial towns, such as Shanghai, Tientsin, etc., there exist large foreign settlements where Chinese legislation is inapplicable. Further, since 1919 the absence of any stable Government, and the disruption and chaos produced by the civil war, leaves China in a state inimicable to reforms.

In spite of this dead weight of opposition, the International

Labour Organization has already effected a considerable amelioration in the lot of several suffering sections of the Chinese working classes. In March, 1923, largely at the instigation of the I.L.O., the Chinese Provisional Factory Regulations were promulgated and a special labour department was set up in Peking. These regulations fixed a minimum age of 10 for boys and 12 for girls, an 8 hours' day for young persons and a 10 hours' day for adults. As 12 hours a day, seven days a week for young children was quite usual, and still persists in parts, it must be admitted that for China the new regulations mark a really big advance. Night work for young persons, workmen's compensation, and a rest day twice a month were also provided. The question of the enforcement of these regulations has been raised frequently by the Governing Body of the I.L.O. and the Office is still in communication with the Chinese Government on the subject. The attitude of the Chinese Government, and the ratification of the White Phosphorus Convention are hopeful signs that China is making a considerable effort to attain to the standards set up by the I.L.O.

The influence of the I.L.O. has secured a certain publicity for labour conditions in China by setting up a world standard of labour conditions in the Conventions actually adopted. It has stimulated the growth of Chinese trade unionism by giving the workers representation at Conferences. And finally it has kept the Chinese Government up to the mark by direct and recurrent representations.

HOUSING: THE NEXT STEP FORWARD.

By CAPT. R. L. REISS.

I.

Some of us have been repeating *ad nauseam* the slogan "the Housing Question is essentially a woman's question." Reviewing the progress of housing during the last few years, I feel bound to confess to a sense of disappointment with regard to the actual share taken by women in the solution of the housing problem. It is true that assistance has been given by women in various localities in regard to the planning of the details of the houses, and this, of course, is a matter upon which the working housewife is specially qualified to render assistance, but on the broader issue of stimulating the Local Authorities to extensive schemes of housing, I do not feel that women, as a whole, have pulled their weight.

During the first two or three years after the war, when the Addison Act was at its height, a considerable number of houses were built, although it is true that their cost was unduly inflated. During the big reaction which took place during the latter part of 1921 and 1922, when the Economy Campaign produced wholesale cuts in the housing schemes, women failed to make themselves felt as a force demanding decent homes as an essential condition for satisfactory family life. The result of this period of reaction was disastrous in more ways than one. Not merely was a lot of time being lost which could have been used for the building of an increasing number of houses each year, but the effect upon the supply of labour was most serious. By the end of 1922, only 20,000 building trade operatives were engaged upon housing schemes, whereas at the beginning of 1921 there were about 140,000. The result was wholesale unemployment in the building trade, a tendency for skilled operatives to emigrate to America or to migrate to other trades, and the steps necessary to increase the labour supply still further were made infinitely more difficult when the housing scheme started again in 1923.

During the last two years, house building activity has been steadily increased, but even to-day, the rate at which working-class houses are being built (including both schemes carried out directly by the Local Authorities and the houses built with subsidy by private enterprise) is still far lower than it should be; is, in fact, barely sufficient to meet the ordinary annual demands, and is bringing us no nearer towards solving the problem presented by the accumulated shortage of houses.

The following shows in a statistical form the number of houses actually completed under the various Housing Acts since the war:

Houses completed in England and Wales to 1st April, 1925	
1919 Act	172,428
1919 (Additional Powers) Act	39,186
1923 Act	70,421
1924 Act	2,486
	<hr/>
	284,521

The corresponding figures for Scotland total about 40,000. Profiting by our experience of failure of the past, the problem is how to avoid repetitions of mistakes, and how to secure an ever increasing rate of progress in regard to the building of new houses.

I emphasize the *building of new houses* because it is clearly impossible to do much in regard to the clearance of slums until some real headway has been made in regard to the existing house famine and the main concentration of people who are anxious to take their part should be upon new buildings, at any rate during the next two or three years.

Briefly the present situation is that the shortage amounts to about a million and a quarter houses. The number built since the war has been less than sufficient to meet the ordinary annual demand. In the ordinary way, 100,000 new houses are required each year to meet the gradual wearing out of houses and the annual increase in the number of families. During the next fifteen years we have, therefore, to build over two and a half million houses if we are to meet the annual demands and make up the shortage.

So far as the necessary legislation is concerned, the two Housing Acts of 1923 and 1924 (generally described as the Chamberlain Act and the Wheatley Act respectively) make adequate provision for the building of houses both by private enterprise and by public authorities. Under the Act of 1923, the Local Authorities can obtain from the State a sum of £6 a year for twenty years in respect of each house within specified sizes, whether built by themselves or by private enterprise with their approval. If the houses are to be owned by themselves the Local Authorities can impose such sum on the rates as they think necessary in order to meet any deficit resulting from letting the houses at rents which do not fully cover the outgoings, including interest upon loans and repairs, after allowing for the State subsidy. They can, however, let the houses at whatever rents they please under this Act. Where the houses are being built by private enterprise, the Local Authority can pass on the Government subsidy either in an annual form or capitalized, together with such additional grant as they may choose to make themselves out of the rates. In practice, most towns which are operating this provision are making a capital grant to private enterprise of about £100 or £125 (of which £75 represents the State's subsidy and the remainder a subsidy from the rates). The Local Authority can also lend up to 90 per cent. of the capital cost of the houses at a rate of interest which will cover their own cost in raising the loan. (They usually lend at 5 per cent.)

Under the 1924 Act, the State subsidy is increased to £9 a year for forty years where the Local Authority undertakes that the houses shall be let and not sold, and that the rents do not

(Continued on next page.)

TWO SPRING VISITS TO PALESTINE, 1921, 1922.¹

By MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT, G.B.E., J.P., LL.D.
CHAPTER XXI.—TIBERIAS, NABLUS, AND JERUSALEM AGAIN
(continued).

We also passed close by Neby Samwil, a hill nearly 3,000 feet high, the traditional burial place of Samuel: Mizpeh forms part of the same hill and has hundreds of sacred and human associations: to some of these I have already referred, but not nearly to all. From its height it commands a view over nearly all Palestine. It is here that Saul was chosen to be the first King of Israel. The account in I. Samuel, chap. x, is curious. The people demanded to have a king over them and Samuel caused all the tribes of Israel to be gathered together to choose a king: they were sorted out first by tribes, and the tribe of Benjamin was taken, then by families, and the family of Matri was taken, and Saul the son of Kish was taken, but he could not be found, for he had "hidden himself among the stuff." "And they ran and fetched him thence: and when he stood among the people, he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward. And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the Lord hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king." It was here that Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Eben-ezer, saying, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us" (I. Samuel, vii, 12). It was from Neby Samwil that General Allenby made his victorious march into Jerusalem, in November, 1917. I expect that as he was leaving he too remembered "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." Our chauffeur, a Palestinian lad, had served in Allenby's army for nine months. As we passed these memorable places, doubly memorable to him from his military experiences, he turned round and said to us, his eyes and teeth glittering in his dark face: "*Fighting is very interesting. I like it!!*" It was evident he did. This is one of the things, perhaps the strongest thing, that the League of Nations is up against.

The view of the Holy City from the North as we then approached it is supremely beautiful.

Mrs. Vester, an American lady, resident since her childhood in Jerusalem, had stayed with her family in the city all through the war and saw Allenby's victorious entry. She gave us a most moving account of it: its simplicity, its dignity, and of the deep emotions of thankfulness and gratitude it inspired. She was speaking to us more than four years after this great event and her voice was almost choked by the memory of it. The misery and suffering among the poorer classes in Jerusalem had been overwhelming. The city up to that time had had little or no really productive industry. Before the war it had lived largely on catering for tourists and pilgrims, and in providing them with mementoes and *articles de piété* such as crosses, rosaries, and olive-wood knick-knacks of all kinds. Of course all this source of income ceased in consequence of the war, and besides this the cost of fuel, food, clothing, and housing enormously increased.

When the British troops entered Jerusalem the shops had hardly anything in them but cigarettes, picture postcards, and wild radishes. (See article "Palestine" in new section 1922 of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*.)

Miss Landau had told us in 1921 that of the 700 children formerly in her school at least 200 had died of starvation during the war. Now, with the entrance of Allenby and the British troops the end of this terrible time was in sight, and in lieu of the barbarous rule of the unspeakable Turk, a government was set up which at once faced its responsibilities for the welfare of the population. As an illustration of Turkish as contrasted with British methods it may here be mentioned that the British Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem founded by the Order of St. John had for more than thirty years devoted itself free of charge, and free also from all attempts at proselytising, to giving special curative treatment for the diseases of the eye which are so terribly prevalent in the East. The first action of the Turks when the war began was to convert this hospital into a munition dump and their last to blow up the building itself. I heard a gentleman who knows Jerusalem and the East well say that nothing had ever happened which had so much recommended Christianity to the Moslem population, and few things had so much discredited Turkish rule as the contrast between Moslem and Christian dealings with this hospital.

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

We went back to our old hotel, the Grand New, and had the warmest of welcomes not only from the proprietor but from the whole staff from the head waiter to the boot boy. In other respects we had the pleasure of finding ourselves at once among friends, friends of flesh and blood and friends of stone and marble. The friends of flesh and blood came first. The head waiter's smile and his unusual breaking out into English, "Welcome, Ladies," underlined this; and there were so many whom we wanted to see, from Mr. Salammeh, the genial and very capable head of Cook's office, to the High Commissioner and Lady Samuel. We lost no time in revisiting our most beloved places of last year: the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Temple area with its wonderful mosque, the Pool of Hezekiah, the Church of St. Ann with the pools of Bethesda, the walk round the walls, and the drive to Bethlehem. We also found some very interesting places which we had not seen in 1921, for instance the Crypt of the Greek Church of St. John the Baptist, said to be the oldest Christian Church in Jerusalem, also the newly excavated ancient church in the Garden of Gethsemane, and the Armenian Church of St. James with the adjoining convent: but on our second visit to Palestine the human interests of the present day outweighed archaeological interests of bygone ages. The Armenian Church with its picturesque adjacent convent compelled attention and admiration, but there was an interest of a more poignant kind in the crowds of little Armenian orphans whom we saw everywhere: and the question forced itself upon us, "What was being done, how were the political forces of the world shaping themselves to prevent the hideous tragedies of war in the future?"

We saw a good deal of what had been done and was still being done to cope with the legacies of misery and woe left by the late war, but comparatively little of steps being taken to prevent their repetition. Our boy chauffeur with his "*fighting is very interesting. I like it!!*" showed one side of the question, and these long processions of orphaned children showed another.

OURSELVES.

We have great pleasure in announcing that Mrs. Oliver Strachey has, at the unanimous request of the Board of Directors of THE WOMAN'S LEADER, agreed to become Chairman of the Board. Mrs. Strachey has been for many years closely associated with the management of the paper, and as editor guided its destinies with great skill during a very important and critical period of its history. We welcome our new Chairman for another reason; we are convinced that there is no one whom our former Chairman and still our leader, "Dame Millicent Fawcett," would rather see in her place than Mrs. Strachey.

FOR "THOSE WHO HAVE NOT GROWN OLD."

A meeting for the purpose of signing the Declaration of Geneva will be held under the auspices of the Save the Children Fund at the Botanical Theatre, University College, Gower St., on Wednesday, 29th April, at 8 p.m. The meeting is to be an International Assembly of students, and "those who have not grown old" as the notices phrase it. Speakers will include representatives of the National Union of Students, the National Association of Education Students, and the International Universities' League of Nations Union Federation. Other speakers are Mr. C. B. Fry, Mr. C. R. Buxton, and Miss Eglantyne Jebb, and the Bishop of Exeter will preside. An account of the Declaration of Geneva appeared in our issue of 10th April. Tickets for the meeting can be obtained from the Save the Children Fund, 26 Gordon Street, W.C. 1.

HOUSING: THE NEXT STEP FORWARD (continued from page 99). exceed rents of similar houses in the district built before the war. (The only cases where the rents may exceed this figure is where to let them at these rents would involve the Local Authority in a loss of more than £4 10s. per annum in respect of each house.)

For those who are living in rural districts it is important also to note that under the 1924 Act the State subsidy is £12 10s., instead of £9 per annum for forty years in respect of each house, where the houses are built in an agricultural parish as defined in the Act.

In practice, some Local Authorities are using provisions of the 1924 Act, and others are using the 1923 Act. Some are making use of both.

Recently a rather larger number of houses have been authorized month by month under the 1924 Act than under the 1923 Act.

How can women help to ensure that greater use is made of these Acts and that the rate of building is substantially increased? An attempt to answer this question will be made in the next issue of THE WOMAN'S LEADER.

"THE OLD AND THE YOUNG SELF." FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

Women are supposed to dislike caricature. Harry Furness, in his book, *Victorian Women*, says that they regard it as ugly and offensive and look upon the caricaturist as a man with a contorted mind incapable of appreciating the beautiful. No woman, so far as I can remember, has attained fame in this direction, and for some reason caricaturists seem to avoid women when in search of victims. In the series of caricatures by Max Beerbohm, now on view at the Leicester Galleries, there are only four or five women figures altogether and those are purely symbolic with the exception of the yellow-clad girl of the period who, in language expressed mainly by blanks, desires to rid Europe of the "gang of old beavers without an Idea or Ideal between 'em," and perhaps she is symbolic too. The most pleasing woman's figure is to be found in the exquisite little drawing of a peaceful firelit room with Mr. Walter de la Mare sitting at the feet of an old lady "gaining inspiration for an eerie and lovely story"; it lingers in one's memory, and is more of a parable than a caricature.

We do not imagine that Mr. Beerbohm's political views lean to Socialism; in fact, some of the drawings suggest the reverse; as, for instance, "Class-consciousness," where a young labourer gazes with some longing on the picture of the great Wellington and says "Now, that's the sort of class-consciousness I'd like to have!" or "Sweet Fancies and Hard Facts," in which Mr. Ramsay MacDonald is regarding ruefully a mass of rocks in a pretty garden, saying, "Somehow, I never noticed these things at the end of my garden." But the cartoon "Civilization and the Industrial System" would (without the words) find an appropriate place on the outside page of the *New Leader* or the *Daily Herald*. It shows a hideous and bloated monster saying to the slim, sad figure of civilization: "No, my dear, you may've ceased to love me; but you took me for better or wuss in younger and 'appier days and there'll be no getting away from me ever."

Perhaps the finest thing in the collection both in conception and drawing is the sketch of the two figures, "the Principal of Good" and "the Principal of Evil." The Principal of Good, dull, inert, sitting heavily, says to the Principal of Evil eager, spirited, alive, almost moving away in the drawing, "How is it that you always seem to get the best of it!" and the other replies, "Because I'm active, my dear." It is not the first time that the parables of Mr. Max Beerbohm have preached sermons. The series "The old and the young self," which illustrates distinguished middle-aged persons confronted by their young selves, is, however, the outstanding feature of the exhibition. Mr. Baldwin, benevolent and fatherly, is represented looking down on a jolly schoolboy, who says, "Prime Minister? You? Good Lord!!" Mr. Arnold Bennett, comfortable and satisfied, says, "All gone according to plan, you see," and his young self retorts, "My plan, you know." Lord Balfour, in flannels, with a tennis racquet, is looking curiously at his thin earnest young self, who lies extended on a sofa begging to be allowed to think undisturbed. I found myself wishing that Lady Astor had been included, and drew in imagination her "young self" as the sort of little American girl one can imagine her to have been inspecting with some misgiving her "old self" as British Viscountess and first woman Member of Parliament. Lovers of Conrad will be glad that the artist did not hold back the drawing done when he was alive, and included because "he would have only liked it and been amused by it." But it is impossible to do justice to the show after a single visit, and everyone who can possibly do so must see it for themselves.

TWO NEW NOVELS.

Miss Sheila Kaye-Smith is so skilled a craftsman, her English so deft, her characterization so vivid, that when we accuse her latest novel, *The George and the Crown*,¹ of falling definitely behind its notable predecessor *Joanna Godden*, we can still say that it stands head and shoulders above the average level of contemporary fiction. Miss Kaye-Smith breaks boldly with the traditional twentieth century absorption in the reactions of ordinary happenings upon an abnormal personality, reverting to the simpler and older theme of the normal man in exceptional circumstances. "Normal?" our readers may question, "Surely so incorruptibly patient and chivalrous a hero is abnormal to the point of being almost too good to be true?" And so, in a way he is—as indeed Miss Kaye-Smith's heroes and heroines

¹ *The George and the Crown*, by Sheila Kaye-Smith. (Cassell, 7s. 6d.)

are sometimes apt to be. Nevertheless his goodness is the normal goodness of normal standards; his emotions the reaction of a simple nature to the simple facts of birth, marriage, and death, simply perceived. And lest any reader unacquainted with the craftsmanship of our author should feel apprehensive of simplicity carried to the degree of mawkishness, we would hasten to point out as analogy, that in dress, the truest simplicity of cut requires the hand of a Paquin or a Worth. Her story is briefly the story of the essentially dependent male in his relations with three women: his mother, his potential mistress, and his wife. From each he asks one thing, and one thing only. How shall we describe that thing? It is difficult to find the word, though Miss Kaye-Smith makes his need perfectly clear, and "domesticity" is too crude a summary of it. Into the changes and chances, hopes and tragedies, of his recorded mortal life our readers must themselves enter. They will emerge from their participation with what may be described as "a pleasant taste in the mouth."

Comparisons may be odious, but once again they are irresistible. "Elizabeth's" newest novel *Love*² falls short by very many leagues of her best work. Nevertheless it is sufficiently Elizabethan, with its whimsical twists of human affairs and its impish digs at human frailty, to telescope the time spent on its reading into a flash of merry oblivion. We are in no way deterred by the improbability of its essential theme: the passionate love of a man of twenty-five for a woman of forty-seven—holding as we do that the god of Love is a reckless devil with no sense of fitness. The prayer-book injunction that "a man may not marry his grandmother" is perhaps an exaggeration of his potential perversity—nevertheless, it is an exaggeration for which he has only himself to thank. And given the starting point, how easily, how convincingly, and how entrancingly does the tragi-comedy of Elizabeth's narrative flow from it. She is, perhaps, after the fashion of British novelists, a little hard on the Anglican clergy; for, though we have known offensive parish priests, we have, Allah be praised, known none so offensive as her Stephen Colquhoun. But there—the clergy, like the god of Love, have done much to deserve a little literary chastisement. And Miss Sheila Kaye-Smith is fortunately at hand to heal the wounds dealt by our malicious "Elizabeth." M.D.S.

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA AND HER MINORITIES.²

Most of us think of the Czechs and Slovaks as one race, or at any rate as so nearly allied in culture that they merge naturally in one State. We imagine the only considerable minority in Czecho-Slovakia is German. This is far from being the case. The Slovaks are, like the Czechs, of Slav origin, but, separated from them long centuries ago, they differ in language, psychology, and culture. The Czechs are a highly industrialized people, modern in thought, and though about half of them are Catholic, there is much Liberal religious thought amongst them. Slovakia is an agricultural country, the peasants are primitive and Catholic, completely alien in thought and sentiment from the Czechs.

The Ruthenians inhabiting the Carpathian slopes are also a Slav race, a primitive peasantry belonging to the Eastern Catholic Church. Their country was included in Hungary, and before the war the peasants went down into the Hungarian Plain for the harvest, were paid in kind, and brought back with them grain for the winter as the country does not produce sufficient food to support its inhabitants.

Both these minorities were promised autonomy in a Czecho-Slovakian State. At Moscow in 1916, Masaryk signed an Agreement promising autonomy to Slovakia and at the Conventions of Pittsburg and Cleveland, U.S.A., held during the War, agreement was reached between the Czechs and Slovaks, providing a separate Diet for Slovakia. The Ruthenians had autonomy assured to them by the Peace Treaty and have so far no representation in the Czecho-Slovakian Republic. Between both these Minorities and the dominant Czechs there is much bitter feeling and, so far as one can gather, real oppression by the Czech Authorities, who replace native teachers and officials with Czechs and in every way possible prevent the use of the language in schools, colleges, law-courts, etc. The strife is becoming increasingly bitter, and unless a solution can be found will endanger the existence of the Republic.

¹ *Love*, by the author of *Elizabeth and her German Garden*. (Macmillan and Co., 7s. 6d.)

² Contributed by the Women's International League, 55 Gower Street, W.C.

HUSBAND AND WIFE BEFORE THE LAW.¹

By ALBERT LIECK.

THE DUAL UNITY (continued).

One very important consequence of husband and wife being one person is the rule that they cannot be compelled to give evidence against one another. The old Common Law rule went even further, and made them incompetent to give evidence against one another, except where the offence charged consisted of bodily injury or violence inflicted by husband on wife, or wife on husband respectively. The list of exceptions has grown with the increasing tendency of modern society to look to the individual rather than to the family as its unit. In one case only can one spouse be compelled to give evidence against the other, i.e. in such criminal proceedings as are authorized by the Married Women's Property Act. There is a curious slip on this point in Lord Birkenhead's essay "Should a Doctor Tell" in "Points of View"; he erroneously represents husband and wife as compellable witnesses against each other under a number of statutes, whereas the rule to the contrary is so strict that it has been laid down to be the judge's duty to tell a husband or wife that, although called, he or she is not bound to give evidence.

At the Manchester Spring Assizes last year, a woman attempted to kill herself and her child by gas poisoning. The child died, but she did not. The prosecution for murder could not succeed because her husband, the only available witness, would not give evidence against her.

Until 1898, an accused person could not give evidence on his or her own behalf, so of course, neither wife nor husband of the accused person could do so. Now the prisoner may both give evidence and call as a witness for the defence wife or husband as the case may be.

Whatever the legal proceedings in which a married person is called as a witness, he or she cannot be compelled to disclose any communication made during the marriage by his wife or her husband.

A wife and husband cannot be charged with conspiring together to commit an unlawful act, for it takes more than one person to conspire.

The doctrine of "coercion" is the presumption that a wife committing what would be a criminal offence in her husband's presence is acting under his compulsion. This is not quite an illustration of husband and wife being one person, but it shows how intimately the law associates them. The doctrine was probably invented as compensation to the woman for her inability to claim benefit of clergy. Both were devices to mitigate the savage severity of our older criminal law.

The presumption that the wife is acting under compulsion can be displaced by evidence which proves that she is a free agent. There is a proposal before Parliament to abolish the presumption and make the woman prove, if she wishes to do so, that she was dominated by her husband when acting wrongfully in his presence. There may be cases where an interesting conflict will arise between a sense of dignity and anxiety not to miss a chance of escape. Readers will remember the Peel betting fraud in 1922. The wife accepted this way out. The prosecution indeed alleged that she was equally guilty with her husband, and the judge said there was a pre-arrangement between them to defraud the bookmakers. But even if she had conceived the whole scheme, and the husband chose to take the penalty, the prosecution, being unable to prove it so, would have been helpless.

The theoretical headship of the husband produces one very substantial injustice. He is responsible for his wife's wrongful acts (when short of criminal). So Sir David Wilson-Barker is liable to pay £12,750 in damages for his wife's tort (see *The Times* of the 24th March) though not the slightest allegation of wrongdoing was made against him, and the judge who entered judgment against him "hoped it would not be enforced."

It is not pretended that the whole ground of this extraordinarily interesting subject has been covered; but enough has been said to show that the old theory, in some of its implications, is still very much alive.

A CORRECTION.—SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND.

We regret that in our note last week referring to the Summer School at Geneva the address of the Save the Children Fund was wrongly given as 26 Golden Square. It is 26 Gordon Street, W.C. 1.

¹ Previous articles on this subject have appeared in our issues of 26th September, 31st October, 12th December, and 9th January.

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BACK AT WORK.

Free from Parliamentary work and by-elections for the moment, the N.U.S.E.C. is embarking on an active organizing campaign in London, and in different parts of the country. Work has already started in Greenwich, East Ham, Westminster, and in the Midlands, and arrangements are being made for a beginning in the West of England.

The monthly letter to Societies which will be issued immediately after the Executive Committee on Wednesday, 21st April, will give some idea of our immediate plans of development.

THE SUMMER SCHOOL.—AN INVITATION TO MEN "STUDENTS."

Applications are coming in every day from those wishing to attend the Summer School, which is to be held at St. Hilda's Hall, Oxford, from 25th August to 8th September. Students are asked to send a registration fee of 10s. with their application, which will be deducted from the fees for the course. Please apply early. A new leaflet giving the names of the speakers and particulars of the new section dealing with the League of Nations and International Affairs will shortly be issued. We wish to remind our readers that we have made special arrangements at St. Hilda's for men members of the School. We specially hope that men magistrates will join us, and by their presence add greatly to the usefulness of the Magistrates' section. But we will also welcome other men who are interested in our "Common Cause."

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES.

We often hear at Headquarters about most interesting and important meetings which have been organized by affiliated societies after they are over! We would greatly appreciate hearing about them before they take place in order that we might put a notice in the column of THE WOMAN'S LEADER devoted to that purpose.

VIGILANCE WORK IN KENSINGTON.

Delegates from the Kensington and Paddington S.E.C. attended a Preliminary Conference on this subject on 31st April, the speakers were Mrs. Orton and the Bishop of Kensington, who pleaded for specially trained Women Police in the area. It was decided to form a Committee of various women's organizations interested, and Mrs. Adrian Corbett was elected as representative of the Kensington and Paddington S.E.C.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

SUBSTITUTION OF GIRLS FOR BOYS.

MADAM.—Your note in the current issue of THE WOMAN'S LEADER on the substitution of girls for boys in repair factories under the Stores Department of the General Post Office seems curiously at variance with what I take to be the usual policy of your paper, and I think many of us will be rubbing our eyes and wondering what has happened to the champion of woman's right to equal opportunity in the sphere of employment. At the time of the re-organization of the Civil Service the "blind alley" work formerly done by Boy Clerks was thrown upon Girl Writing Assistants on just this pernicious plea that such alleys did not matter for girls, and the evil results of this creation of a low grade of routine workers on the women's side only are being increasingly felt by the women clerical workers. Apart altogether from the question of under-payment, on which you justly comment, there is no good reason why girls, any more than boys, should be restricted to monotonous routine work, while there is every reason in fairness and common sense why the inevitable routine work should be shared by juniors of both sexes.

E. M. WHITE.

Secretary, Federation of Women Civil Servants.

THE POOR LAW ELECTIONS.

MADAM.—It may interest you to have the following figures and results of recent Guardians elections for three Boards, i.e. Plymouth, Stonehaven, and Devonport:—

Plymouth.—For 42 seats there were 94 candidates. Of these there were 22 women candidates, and 14 women were successful.

	PARTIES.				Total.
	Conservative.	Liberal.	Labour.		
Nominated	9	2	11		
Successful	7	1	6	14	

Devonport.—For 45 seats there were 116 candidates. Of these there were 26 women candidates, and of these 7 women were successful.

	PARTIES.				Total.
	Independent.	Conservative.	Liberal.	Labour.	
Nominated	2	4	4	16	
Successful	2	2	3	0	7

Discussing totals, 48 women of all parties were nominated and contested an election and, of the 48, 21 were successful.

Stonehaven.—Four seats had 9 candidates. No women were nominated. Of the 48 women candidates, 9 are members of the Plymouth Citizens' Association, and of the successful candidates seven are members of the P.C.A., one was Independent, and the other eight were nominated by the Conservatives (6) and the Liberals (2).

The P.C.A. considers, then, this is a good piece of work, for it numbers amongst its members the first woman M.P., Lady Astor. It secured the election of the first two Independent women Town Councillors to Plymouth Council, and at present the two have become three. All three are members of the P.C.A. One, however, after two defeats was successfully returned as a Liberal member of the Council. The P.C.A. also has one of its members a J.P. So the educative work of the P.C.A. has resulted in one woman M.P. (Sutton Division), three Women Councillors (Plymouth), seven Women Guardians (Plymouth and Devonport Board). Two of our members have respectively been governor and chairman of the Board. We have also stirred up the parties to do their duties and make them nominate women as their candidates, so that this year all the parties have nominated 48 out of a total of 210 candidates, i.e. a little over a fourth.

MABEL L. RAMSAY,
President, P.C.A.

BIRTH CONTROL.

MADAM.—"Inquirer's" letter asking for scientific opinion concerning her statement about "abortive use of function" really requires a very long and elaborate answer. "Abortive use of function" is not a scientific phrase, and contains, when applied to the use of scientific contraceptives, a biased unscientific inference which begs the question.

The scientific position about the act of coitus in human beings is briefly as follows. The completed act of sex congress between a man and a woman consists in an extremely complex series of mental, spiritual, and physical phenomena. The mental and spiritual stimuli of contact and natural affection start a train of physiological processes in the body of both the man and the woman which it is harmful to truncate. Thus what is called "self-control" if used as it too often is as the equivalent of self-repression on the part of the married pair is in itself a most pernicious use of the "abortive use of function", leading to sleeplessness, neuroses, and sometimes more serious structural injuries.

I want to make it plain to your readers that "Inquirer" has entirely misunderstood the scientific facts behind the use of birth control. No scientific birth controller claims that "indulgence" is necessary, but we do claim that the proper physiological use of the sex function is just as valuable and important as the proper physiological use of the digestive function. Both nourish and enrich life. Those who talk against birth control always speak as though the use of sex union was to be compared with gluttony, and then go on to say that it is good for a person who over-eats to have an ache, and that it is bad for him to indulge his appetite and then escape the consequences by taking tonics and other medicines. That is, of course, true, but the argument is false when they pretend, as opponents do, that to use sex union without having children is the equivalent of over-eating.

Look at it the other way: I agree that self-control and an abstemious life as regards food is wise and right, but would not everybody, even the ascetic, laugh if I said, you must live totally without food for ten years. That is exactly what people say about sex life. You must go without it totally for years, and if you use it at all, even infrequently, without having a child, you are "indulging." How unspeakably ridiculous. We, as scientists, know that the sex act in human beings has a three-fold function: that of nourishing and enriching the man; that of nourishing and enriching the woman, and that of procreating a child. These three functions can all be separated or all combined. Science makes it possible for the

participants in the sex act to nourish and enrich others lives, and to procreate children when they are in a physical condition to beget healthy and good children and not otherwise.

The unbalanced view of persons ignorant of physiological functions are dangerous—quite as dangerous as those who would defend unbridled passion. What humanity needs is a high ideal applied to life and guided by scientific knowledge.

MARIE C. STOPES.

President, Society for Constructive Birth Control and Racial Progress.

MADAM.—I think "Inquirer's" reiterated letters on the theoretical side of birth control call for some definite answer. Perhaps it is best given in the form of two questions.

(1) Has the physical relationship in marriage rightly one function only—that of procreation? If so, then all other uses may be ideally wrong, and the physical element of union should be restricted to those three, four (or perhaps eight or ten!) occasions in life when children are desired. This rigid conclusion would follow for the many normal couples who have to choose between a child at least every eighteen months or separation for long intervals. And, of course, no one holding this view could justify relations during pregnancy or nursing.

(2) Has the physical relationship in marriage a further function in the part it plays in the whole union of marriage, without which most husbands and wives at any rate could not expect to arrive at that complete understanding which is physical as well as mental and spiritual? If this is the case with human marriage, and the whole evolution of the human race points this way, the above three or ten matings could not fulfil the needed function.

A SCIENCE STUDENT AND MOTHER OF FOUR.

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Gillingham W.C.A. MAY 4. 7.30 p.m. Miss F. M. Beaumont on "Present Legislation Affecting Women and Children."

Kensington and Paddington S.E.C. MAY 11. 3.30 p.m. 50 Porchester Terrace, W. Miss Alison Neilans on "The Moral Question in Singapore."

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APRIL 20. 8 p.m. Meeting at Botanical Theatre, University College, Gower Street, W.C.1, for the purpose of signing the Declaration of Geneva. The Lord Bishop of Exeter (The Right Rev. Lord William Cecil) will preside. Among Speakers and Signatories it is hoped the following will be present: Mr. C. B. Fry, Mr. C. R. Buxton, Miss Eglantyne Jebb, Mr. F. G. G. Carr, Mr. Felix A. Clarke, Mr. C. W. Judd, and students of many nationalities. Admission by ticket (free) from the Save the Children Fund, 26 Gordon Street, W.C.1.

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