

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

Vol. XVII. No. 3. One Penny.

REGISTERED AS
A NEWSPAPER.

Friday, February 13, 1925.

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Annual Subscription for Postal Subscribers: British Isles and
Abroad, 6/6.

Common Cause Publishing Co., 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

NOTES AND NEWS.

The Opium Conference.

The disagreement between the United States representatives and those of other nations represented at the Opium Conference have reached the climax, and the American members have withdrawn. Their attitude throughout was so unbending that no discussion or compromise could have led to an agreement. The British resolutely refuse to adopt a policy which they know they could not carry out in practice. Lord Cecil has pointed out not only that it is impossible to prevent the import of opium into India as long as China is producing it, but that, as the leaf grows wild in South America and Java, the limitation of production to scientific and medical needs is not feasible. The United States representatives had instructions to accept no agreement which did not so limit production, so that their withdrawal was unavoidable. This will materially lessen the possibilities of controlling the international trade in opium derivatives and their manufacture by a Central Control Board, which is part of the British scheme. How much could be done on these lines is shown by the virtual suppression of the drug traffic in this country. It is unfortunate that America will not co-operate on a Central Board for this purpose, but even without American co-operation such a board could be a considerable power. The Conference therefore need not be sterile, however much one may regret the lack of complete international action.

Women of the Empire and Citizenship.

A Conference of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance to consider the situation with regard to women in the Empire, was held on 9th February. The Chairman, Mrs. Corbett Ashby, outlined the position in the different Dominions. In all the self-governing Dominions with the exception of South Africa and Newfoundland, women have been granted the right to vote. Quebec, however, has hung back behind the rest of Canada, and the women there are not fully enfranchised. Mrs. Cole, of Montreal, gave further information with regard to Quebec, where everything a woman has still belongs to her husband. Amongst other speakers were Dame Millicent Fawcett, Dame Adelaide Anderson, and Mrs. Rischbieth, President of the Australian Women's Equal Citizenship Federation. Resolutions were passed in favour of further organization to link up the women of the British Empire in regard to all matters affecting their common citizenship. It was also decided to hold a further conference this year to consider closer organization and effectual action, and also to hold a conference of Empire women concurrently with the sitting of the Imperial Conference in order

to review the conditions of Empire citizenship and to further equal citizenship throughout the Empire. Mrs. Corbett Ashby made it clear that the closer organization of women of the Empire into a special group within the I.W.S.A. would not affect this relationship to the Alliance or to the international character of its work, as already groups had been formed within it and certain other countries. There was some discussion on a proposal to suggest that women should be represented at the Imperial Conference. The subject was postponed to the next Conference, but the Chairman expressed the opinion that it might be practicable to ask for a woman assessor to accompany the Premier as an expert.

Medical Women and the London County Council.

The Medical Women's Federation has sent a vehement protest to the London County Council against their decision to require medical women to resign their appointments under the Council on marriage. Standing Order 346 of the L.C.C. regulations prohibits the employment of all married women unless specially exempted. Medical women were exempted from this order until last October, when the exemption was rescinded. The Medical Women's Federation are not limiting their protest to their special grievance, but are putting it on the widest basis and asking that the Standing Order should be rescinded altogether. As they point out, it is obviously contrary to the spirit of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, and was passed twenty years ago when the general view of the limits of women's work was very different from what it is at present. It seems a sheer anachronism that the L.C.C. should return to the prejudices of a generation ago, and should allow their appointments in a matter so vital as the city's health to be filled with an eye to any other consideration except that of efficiency. The compulsory dismissal of married women doctors will often involve the dismissal of some of the best workers; we cannot imagine what hypothetical advantage there can be to set against this palpable loss to the welfare of London. We would like to remind our readers that the L.C.C. elections are drawing near and that the more this subject is brought before the candidates and the public the more hope there is that the L.C.C. may change its views. If anyone wishes to read a fuller exposition of the case for the medical women we would refer them to an admirable and forcible letter by Dr. May Dickinson Berry, which appeared in the *British Medical Journal* the last week in November, and which we noticed in these columns at the time.

Women and the Rockferry Inquest.

An inquest on Nellie Clarke, aged 11, who was found dead at Birkenhead, has raised the question of the advisability of admitting women to the courts in cases of this kind. The Borough Coroner announced that no woman should attend the proceedings in view of the nature of the crime and of the evidence that was likely to be given. Whether there was anything to be gained if women attended at the Coroner's Court in this particular case is perhaps open to question, but what is certain is, that if women were excluded so ought the whole of the general public to be. In the summary of the proceedings published in the Press there are three women witnesses mentioned, and also a reference to the evidence of "some little girls." We can well believe they would have preferred to give their evidence with as great a privacy as possible, but if there was anyone present besides the necessary officials and reporters, surely the women witnesses, and still more the children, who according to our Press reports were present, would have been glad to see a woman's face amongst the onlookers. That anyone should attend a case dealing with a brutal assault on a small

child out of curiosity or a morbid desire for sensationalism is a nauseating thought, but it is as pernicious for men to do so as for women. For the sake of the women involved as witnesses, either the public as a whole should be excluded or everyone admitted. There would doubtless be a difference of opinion as to the advisability of either line of action, but we cannot understand anyone justifying the admittance of men and the exclusion of women.

A Word to Mr. Guedalla.

The *Weekly Westminster* of 7th February publishes an amusing article on Lady Astor by Mr. Philip Guedalla. It is quite true, as he suggests, that she is a queer kind of Conservative. Equally true is it that she "even exceeded her instructions slightly"; and when the stage directions said "la féminine" she went further and was feminist. But surely he speaks with the outlook of . . . let us be merciful and say W. S. Gilbert, when he suggests that "those severe females", the Suffragists, are in some way dissatisfied with Lady Astor? "To some of us," he writes, "her achievement may seem a service of high value. But, then, some of us are men. What the stern ladies may have thought, one never ventured to inquire." Ah, poor Mr. Guedalla, and did you never so much as venture to inquire? There now, see what comes of tackling a feminist subject without reading the *WOMAN'S LEADER*. You might have avoided so stupid and outworn a misunderstanding in an otherwise tolerable piece of journalism. As a matter of fact, and we speak for the sternest of those "stern ladies," we think that Lady Astor . . . But there. Pluck up courage and venture to inquire, Mr. Guedalla. Ask the President of your nearest Women Citizens' Association!

The Fight for Women Police.

From all parts of the country reports reach us continually of the struggle between Watch Committees and local women's organizations concerning the appointment of women police. We recently reported progress (or absence of progress) from Manchester and Plymouth. At Birkenhead the women's organizations are "attacking strongly." From Chester comes the news that the Watch Committee, "having fully discussed the question of women police" has "come to the conclusion, by a large majority, that it was not necessary that women police should be employed in the city." We rest assured that in Chester the matter will not be allowed to rest here. Meanwhile, in Bradford the Watch Committee seems to be taking a more considerate view. There, a sub-committee has been appointed to consider the whole question in view of the plea put up by a deputation from the local National Council of Women, and most effectively led, it is reported, by Dr. Margaret Sharp.

Marriage Service Revision.

The Revision of the Marriage Service still secures a good Press all over the country, showing that this is a subject touching the life and interests of a large section of the community. Recently the League of the Church Militant circularized the Provincial and Metropolitan Press asking readers to give their views for and against Revision. In the replies a great deal of extraneous matter was introduced and much confusion of thought displayed, although the answers in many cases showed careful consideration. Of the replies received, 59 per cent. were in favour of revision and 38 per cent. against. Of these almost all wrote expressing dislike of revision of any part of the Prayer Book. A few were doubtful, and an occasional letter here and there was nonsense or mere abuse. The results are, of course, as was expected, quite inconclusive, but the letters had the effect of making a few more people make up their minds on this deeply important subject.

Remand Homes.

The Manchester City Justices have recently sent a resolution to the Home Office urging that the next estimates should include provision for the erection of homes for prisoners under remand. The question has also been raised by Mr. Forbes Lankester, the London Stipendiary, who cited the case of two young girls whom he had to remand to Holloway Prison in the absence of any alternative provision, and he spoke indignantly of the evil of sending girls of impressionable years for a week's stay amongst women of criminal habits. The Magistrates' Visiting Committee at Holloway have, however, pointed out that persons under remand are kept separated from the convicted prisoners, and,

moreover, that persons on remand for the first time are again separated from the others, who may be old offenders. We wonder if this is the case in all prisons, and whether the resolution of the Magistrates at Manchester can be as satisfactorily answered in its general application.

Ballot for Private Members' Motions.

A place in the Ballot has been won by Major Harvey (Unionist, Totnes) for a Resolution, "To call attention to the status of British women who marry aliens." This Resolution will be moved on Wednesday, 18th February.

Money Lending and the Poor.

We are glad to see that the London Council of Social Service has held a meeting on the evils of moneylending amongst the poor. Mr. J. Scott Duckers outlined the legal position, and showed how slight and vague are the restraints on moneylenders. He was followed by Miss A. R. Caton, of the Liverpool Women's Citizens' Association, who, our readers will remember, has recently contributed an article to our columns on this subject. Miss Caton expressed the view that the evil was spreading, and said that one out of every three wives and mothers of the very poor were in the hands of moneylenders. The worst offenders are women often of the same class as their customers. The usual charge is one penny in the shilling per week, which amounts to 435 per cent per annum. In some cases it is even higher. Mr. P. Schofield Allen said a Bill on the subject was to come up in the House this session. It provided that interest should be deemed excessive if it were more than 15 per cent where there was adequate guarantee, or 60 per cent where there was no security or guarantee. Mr. Franklin, chairman of the Mansion House Council on Housing of the Poor, gave some remarkably interesting information of the benevolent fund of the Jewish Board of Guardians, which he said had killed the business of the small women moneylenders in the East End of London. Small loans are advanced without interest; in all £2,000,000 has been advanced since the fund was formed, and the losses had been only 2 per cent. He believed this was the only way the evil could be checked. On Tuesday in the House of Commons the Home Secretary announced his willingness to set up a committee to enquire into the whole question of moneylending, if he could get *prima facie* evidence of the possibility of dealing with it.

New Hopes Overseas.

This month the Government of Newfoundland will bring forward a Woman's Suffrage and Re-distribution Bill. All good wishes for their combined success.

Reception to the Three Dames.

A Reception at Claridge's Hotel was given on Tuesday, 10th February, in honour of Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., Dame Ellen Terry, G.B.E., and Dame Aldrich-Blake, who were presented with laurel wreaths and vellum-bound books containing the signatures of those in attendance. A large number of distinguished women were present, and we are delighted that so many should have had the opportunity of expressing their affection and admiration to the Chairman of our Board of Directors and the two other Dames in this way; we are, however, glad to think that similar opportunities will be given by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship and other women's organizations to enable women less well-dowered with this world's goods to have the same chance as those who were in a position to buy tickets at Tuesday's function.

A Mascot Ball.

The Consultative Committee of Women's Organizations is organizing a "Mascot Ball" to be held at Claridge's Hotel on 17th February. The value of the work done by the Committee is doubtless well known to our readers, but like many another organization it is faced this year with a deficit. The ball has been organized in order to wipe off this deficit and ensure the continuance of the Committee for at least this year and 1926. Tickets, 2 guineas each, may be obtained from the Consultative Committee of Women's Organizations, 92 Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

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.

CREDO.

From time to time indistinct echoes or direct communications reach us embodying the suggestion that we are over-indulgent or indecorously abusive to this or that political party. We have been accused of venomously abusing the late-lamented Labour Government. We have been described by one correspondent as "a mere socialist broadsheet." As a rule our critics diminish the force of their case by omitting to specify the definite passages or statements which have aroused their criticism. Nevertheless, criticisms are frequent, and though they occasionally cancel one another out, yet on balance they leave us under the accusation that we incline unduly to the Left.

Now, the true explanation of this apparent tendency, which we offer to our critics once and for all, is that hitherto *the Left has inclined unduly to us*. This was most patently obvious in pre-war days, when the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies was involved in the support of Labour candidates owing to the fact that the Labour Party was the only party officially committed to Woman's Suffrage. It is less patently obvious to-day, when all three parties are prepared to render lip service to the principle for which we stand; and there is no doubt that some of the abuse which we visited upon Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's party during its term of office was inspired by our sense of the contrast between its past activities, its continued protestations, and the deplorable hesitation which it displayed in adopting Equal Franchise as a Government measure. Meanwhile, it is of course possible that the Session which opens this week may end once and for all this traditional proximity of feminism to the Left. If Mr. Baldwin were to embody his profession of faith in the political equality of men and women in a Government Equal Franchise Bill, if he were to give us the full measure of Equal Guardianship which Mr. Henderson did not see his way to give us—our former critics would have little further ground for criticism. "*He who's for us, for him are we.*"

But, our accusers may question, this is a superficial view of it all. The *WOMAN'S LEADER* has ranged, and will continue to range, over wider ground than the treatment of equality legislation. It has from time to time plunged into the maelstrom of foreign affairs. Like the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, whose policy it reflects, it has flung all the weight it can muster behind the achievement of a supreme and all-inclusive League of Nations. Its feminism is linked with internationalism.

At this stage, and because there is much truth in such a charge, we will invite our readers to accompany us for a short space into the realm of fundamental political ideas and consider not merely the feminist creed which we profess, but also some logical implications of that feminist creed which we feel compelled to recognize.

THE POLITICAL EDUCATION OF WOMEN IN THE LABOUR PARTY.¹

By MARION PHILLIPS, D.Sc. (Econ.)

The first political organization of women within the Labour Movement was the Women's Labour League, formed in 1906. In spite of the fact that women were not then enfranchised, the Women's Labour League did much educative work amongst working women in the constituencies and amongst the men in the Labour Party itself. Until 1918 it was the only political organization of working women represented at Labour Party Conferences, where it worked in close co-operation with the National Federation of Women Workers, and the women members of the Independent Labour Party and some of the Trade Unions. From time to time also it joined forces for special work with the Women's Co-operative Guild, and when first the National Health Insurance Act was passed these bodies of industrially, politically, and co-operatively organized women formed together an Advisory Board to assist working women on insurance questions. This body was the forerunner of the later organization—the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organizations formed during the war, which now represents over a million organized working women in the Industrial, Political, and Co-operative movements.

The importance of education for the working woman that she might fully realize the value of her political enfranchisement, was immediately recognized by the Labour Party, and in the reorganization which took place in 1918 the Women's Labour

¹ An article on the "Political Education of Women in the Conservative Party" appeared in our issue of 30th January, and we hope to publish shortly an article dealing with the education of women in the Liberal Party.

We believe in the equality of men and women. We do not claim for women identical talents, identical functions, or identical outlook. We claim equal opportunity for the exploitation of such talents as they possess, an equally unfettered right to judge of their own proper functions, and the provision of such social and political machinery as shall assure an equal and unbiassed reflection of their outlook in the affairs of the practical world. We regard our feminist cause as a common cause, because we believe that misdirection of talents, coercion of judgment, and distortion of outlook involve all humanity in spiritual and material loss. So much for the bare outlines of our creed. Its practical application is embodied in our resolve to seek out and attack with all the power we can command such manifestations of inequality of opportunity, coercion of judgment, and distortion of outlook as result from the prevailing domination of women by men in the home, the church, the labour market, the nation, and the world.

So much for our creed; now for its wider implications!

We recognize that there is one sphere in which women in the mass will never compete successfully with men; one standard of values judged by which they will always fall short: the standard of physical force. The measure of our cause's success is the measure of this particular standard's discredit as arbiter of the fate of nations and of parties. Therefore we believe that the only kind of Government under which our feminism can take firm root is democratic government by consent. That is why we stand for the fullest possible development of representative democracy in our own country and for the abandonment in international politics of a standard of values whose application can only be logically justified in determining the issues of the football field or the boxing ring.

Thus, other things being equal, we shall continue to lean instinctively towards those parties, by whatever name they may call themselves, which in their precepts and policy reflect most strongly a belief in representative democracy and a distaste for the ultimate arbitrament of physical force. Or rather such parties will continue to lean instinctively towards us. And just as we challenge, wherever we may meet it, the domination of women by men, so shall we challenge wherever we may meet it the potentiality of that domination as expressed in the glorification of physical coercion. When we meet it in the speeches of Mussolini, in the theses of the Communist International, in the "sanctions" of the French Government, or in the Rectorial Address of Lord Birkenhead, we challenge it and shall continue to challenge it, not because we are anti-Italian, conservative, pro-German, or labour, as the case may be, but because we are, irrespective of nation, class, or party, *feminist*.

League was absorbed, and its branches became the Women's Sections of the labour parties in the constituencies. These Women's Sections are an integral part of constituency organization, and consist of all the women individual members of the Labour Party. They have not got a separate national organization, but every year the Women's Sections elect four of the Labour Party's eight representatives on the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organizations. The other four representatives on this Committee are the women members of the Labour Party Executive, which is elected at the National Annual Conference of the whole Party.

Every constituency Labour Party must under the constitution have women representatives on its Management Committee and Executive, and there is a special provision for representation of women at the Annual Party Conferences. It may be specially pointed out that the educative value is a double one. It is not only important that women should take a share in public work of all kinds in which the Party is engaged; it is also important that women should by the expression of their point of view educate the men who still form the great mass of Labour Party membership.

The Labour Party has at Headquarters a Women's Department and a staff of nine women organizers, covering the nine districts into which England, Wales, and Scotland are divided. Their work is the general one of organizing Women's Sections and developing in every way the interest of working women in political affairs. There are more than 1,300 Women's Sections and

more than 50 Labour Women's Advisory Councils or Committees for groups of constituencies or large boroughs containing many Parliamentary divisions. In addition to these bodies there are Federations of Women's Sections in county areas, and all of these Councils, Committees, and Federations hold monthly, quarterly, or half-yearly Conferences for the discussion of questions of general political importance. There are at least 250 of these Conferences held every year. They also arrange Speakers' Classes, Week-end Schools for Officers and others, and sometimes Summer Schools lasting a full week. A special Handbook has been prepared for Workers' Classes dealing with organization and administrative problems as well as general political education. The District Conferences are sometimes—so far as their numbers are concerned—almost demonstrations, attended by hundreds, and occasionally thousands, of women. Broadly speaking, there are in addition some 600 meetings of Women's Sections held every week in the year, and the greater number of these are devoted to furthering the political education of their members.

The chief educational event of the year is the Annual Conference of Labour Women where delegates of Women's Sections, Labour Parties, Trade Unions, Socialist Societies, and the Co-operative Guild meet together. This is preceded by a Private Business Conference on Organization, and the total number of delegates at the Public Conferences now reaches over a thousand. The Standing Joint Committee, as the Advisory Committee on Women's Affairs for the Labour Party, prepares for this Conference detailed reports on special subjects and the circulation of these throughout the women's organizations forms the basis of much educational propaganda. Throughout the year the Standing Joint Committee is engaged on work of this nature, preparing many special reports on women's questions for the Party and for general publication, and from time to time it assists in forming Joint Committees with other Labour bodies studying such questions.

As at least 95 per cent. of the membership of the Sections and their officers are women of the working class who already from their own experience of life have a close knowledge of industrial and household needs, the general level of economic knowledge is very high, and there is also a very widespread interest in international questions and their relation to home affairs. Frequently special inquiries are undertaken by means of general questionnaires on some particular subject which afterwards become the basis of special reports issued by the Party. An inquiry into Maternity Homes was made a year or so ago, and at the present time an inquiry with regard to Nursing is just being set on foot.

In the way of printed educational effort the chief organ of the Party is the *Labour Woman*, which is published monthly and has now a large circulation which shows an increase month by month. This journal is devoted entirely to the interests of women, and is largely written by working women themselves.

Apart from the expenses of the work at Headquarters and of the organizers of the Party, which are met from central funds, the whole of the funds required for carrying on the work which has been described are raised locally by the women themselves. Sometimes help is given by the labour parties in the constituencies, but on the whole the women organized in the Labour Movement raise by their efforts a great deal more than is spent on their own work. Though the nominal subscription of women to the Party is a small one, it is the continuous efforts of a quarter of a million politically organized working women which have enabled the educational work amongst them to be developed.

WOMEN'S SERVICE.

The London Society for Women's Service publishes this month the third (1925) edition of its "Memorandum on Openings and Training for Women" (Women's Service House, 35 Marsham Street, S.W. 1, price 6d.). We have rarely seen so much up-to-date and well-digested information packed into so small a space. The various professional occupations open to women are dealt with alphabetically: Accountancy, Acting, Actuarial Work, Agriculture, . . . to Translating, "which can hardly be recommended as a profession in itself," Veterinary Surgery, and Welfare Work. Information is given as to preliminary qualifications, length of training, costs, and ultimate financial expectations. Such information as is not given can, it is pointed out, be obtained on application to the Women's Service Bureau, at 35 Marsham Street. It is a pamphlet which should be in the hands of every headmistress, and which should be broadcast among young women going up from school to the universities.

TWO SPRING VISITS TO PALESTINE, 1921, 1922.¹

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

CHAPTER XIII.—THE AMERICAN COLONY.

Readers of Selma Lagerlöf's *Jerusalem* will remember her wonderful description of the wave of religious emotionalism which swept over a lonely mountain region of Sweden (Dalecarlia, if I remember aright) and led to a considerable number of the principal inhabitants giving up everything, selling off their household gear, collected for generations, their ancestral silver plate and ornaments, and migrating to Jerusalem in order to be there at our Lord's second coming. Something like this also took place in the United States; no Selma Lagerlöf, however, has written its history. But "the American colony" in Jerusalem is, I believe, the heir of both these movements. They are a remarkable community, consisting now mainly of Americans and Scandinavians. The leaders who took part in the original migration, all but one or two, are dead. Their successors live in a large house in the suburbs of Jerusalem, outside the Damascus gate. They have all things in common; they all work for the good of all. An air of peace and goodwill pervades their simple but comfortable household. They have a well-appointed shop in Jerusalem near the Jaffa gate, which is now the principal source of the income of the colony. It is a shop with fixed prices, so that none of the chaffering and bargaining usual in the East is expected, and much time, therefore, is saved. No one is asked, much less pressed, to buy in the shop. You may go into it a dozen times and not buy anything without meeting with any black looks. I first heard of the American colony quite early in my visit to Palestine when I was at Tiberias. A fellow guest in the hotel there, an American lady working for the Y.W.C.A., told me about it and urged me strongly to visit it when I returned to Jerusalem.

I, however, neglected this advice and might have come away without knowing anything further about it but for two circumstances; the first was a call from two distinguished visitors to Jerusalem who had been led by the ill-health of one of them to take up their abode in the household of the colony. This call led to a return call, which enabled us to see something of this interesting household. Later, when we visited Jericho, we discovered that Mrs. Spafforth,² one of the American founders of the movement, now an aged lady, was also staying in Jericho and I therefore called upon her. An adopted son was with her and accompanied me back to our hotel. He told me that before the war the colony had received a visit from a member of the Young Turk Government, N. Pasha, then an associate of Enver and Talaat. They showed him everything they could of their organization and work, and he remained with them for some days. Before leaving he "took the floor," as the Americans say, and made them a speech to the effect that he admired them more than any other Christian community he had ever seen. They alone, he said, seemed to him to practice what other Christians preached, and that if there were more like them he would wish nothing better than to join them. I asked eagerly, "What became of him?" and the reply was "He was assassinated." This is the tragedy of untempered despotism. The best people who have the courage to accept new ideas and new thoughts are cut off by the private assassin or by the public executioner. Who can tell how frightfully such countries as Turkey or Russia may not have suffered from this extirpation of the fittest continued through long generations?

On my return to Jerusalem I was constantly in and out of the American colony shop. Everyone in it was unfailingly obliging and helpful. No request, whether it was in their own line of business or not, was ever refused. "We don't do it ourselves, but I think we could get it done for you," was a very frequent reply, so that presently I asked: What was their principle of action? Was it part of their religion? Had they any printed statement of their religious basis? The reply was in the negative, but I was told that the only rule they had was never to refuse to do a kindness; and I felt that this silent teaching of practical Christianity had a soul of goodness in it that might go far to save the world desolated by war and hatred.

¹ This is the seventeenth of a series of weekly articles which will extend over a period of about six months.

² Mrs. Spafforth died in 1923.

DUSE.

In the summer of 1895, by chance or design, both Bernhard and Duse played on the London stage. Both, with a true instinct of professional rivalry, chose to play the part of Magda in Sudermann's "Heimat." They played it within a week of one another; and Bernard Shaw, then at the top of his fame as a dramatic critic, recognized the challenge, and wrote a comparison of the two masterpieces which will be familiar to Shaw-lovers, for it appears in the first volume of his collected "Dramatic Opinions and Essays." In Shaw's opinion Duse's performance was immeasurably superior to that of the great Sarah. When Duse comes upon the stage, says Shaw, "you are quite welcome to take your opera glasses and count whatever lines time and care have so far traced on her. They are the credentials of her humanity; and she knows better than to obliterate that significant handwriting beneath a layer of peach-bloom from the chemist's." And though—here it is not altogether easy to trace Shaw's thread of thought—Duse, "whose every part is a separate creation," does not, like Bernhard, "substitute herself for her part," yet it is something in Duse herself, something which brings within her range those "moral high-notes" without which "no physical charm is noble as well as beautiful," that produces the ecstasy of appreciation which her art provokes. Shaw felt it. London felt it. The great cities of the U.S.A. from San Francisco to Washington felt it. Petersburg, Vienna, the Balkans, Budapest, Paris even, that citadel of dramatic rivalry, felt it. She stood almost alone, if not quite alone, on the high peak of dramatic excellence.

Now, in Jeanne Bordeaux' biography,¹ we learn something of the price which the individual spell-binder pays for the supreme power to interpret and glorify human emotions and, as it were, reproduce them in a communicable form. It is a price so heavy as to suggest the word "martyrdom." Jeanne Bordeaux has produced an inferior biography. It is padded and over-padded with repetitive appreciation. It is a muddle of disjointed dates and facts. Its analysis is crude. The valuable material which it contains, stripped of verbiage which adds nothing to our understanding of its subject, should have been published at half the price in a book half the size. But this is ungracious criticism; for we are unquestionably grateful to the author for having given us a biography at all, and glad to absorb into our stock of human knowledge the information which it contains.

Eleanora Duse was, like many another mistress of her craft, born of theatrical parents. She was born, so it happened, in a third-class railway carriage in the course of a poverty-stricken theatrical tour. She grew to maturity as a child of the provincial stage—a hungry and homeless dramatic nomad. And a homeless dramatic nomad she remained, by force of temperament, until her death in harness last year, at the age of 65. Fame reached her comparatively early. It caught her, as it were, in a series of quick blasts, rolled back the cloud of primary poverty, and carried her to the forefront of her profession. It brought her intermittently vast sums of money which a quixotic generosity and a capricious habit of breaking contracts caused to flow like water through her hands. She was continually in financial difficulties. She was also continually and turbulently in love. Among the succession of lovers whom our author names, or shadowily indicates, the poet d'Annunzio appears for a brief and disturbing space. A legal husband, too, lurks obscurely and temporarily among the throng—the father of her only surviving child, a daughter, who seems to have played an inconspicuous part in her life. Of settled home life, Duse knew little or nothing. A succession of houses, elaborately furnished and restlessly abandoned, serves as the only background to her ceaseless travels. With all her unbounded opportunities for friendship and self-realization, she appears to have carried within herself an unquenchable spring of unhappiness. She had in truth "a heart of furious fancies," of which she was in no wise "commander"—not even on the stage. There were times when she could not act, would not act—no, though fabulous financial commitments hung upon her acting—though a packed audience and the Czar himself were waiting for her in an expectant theatre. There were times, too, when she would act, but not rehearse. She was tempestuous and inconstant in her business, in her friendship, in her love affairs, in her moods from day to day, and from minute to minute. She was constant only in her invincible capacity to weave spells round the hearts and minds of human beings when and where she chose to weave them. The emotions of love and grief

¹ *Eleanora Duse: The Story of Her Life*, by Jeanne Bordeaux. (Hutchinson & Co., 21s. net.)

and pity and jealousy and sacrifice, which her genius had conjured up for art's sake and her public's, turned and rent her throughout a lifetime, with the very strength which she herself had given them. Like a merciless revolutionary rabble they hemmed her in, isolated her from the world of stable, ordered personal contacts, crowned her with a crown of thorns, and tortured her to death.

M. D. S.

THE MODERN BUSINESS INSTITUTE. FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

One of the chief defects in educating young men and women for taking their part in the business world has been the tendency to train them for some special branch of work and the neglect to follow this up with broad and sound knowledge of the principles underlying business as a whole. Women are particularly prone to specializing; this narrows their activities in business to monotonous routine work, and denies them the opportunity of rising above subordinate posts, for specialists, though in great demand for all detailed work, are easily found. It is those who know how to use specialists who are scarce. Directors of big organizations are unanimous in saying that they experience the greatest difficulty in securing either men or women qualified to fill highly-paid administrative positions in their firms. In business, therefore, as in other fields, successful specialists must understand more than the mere technique of their specialities; they must see causes and relations. The accountant who can do nothing but juggle figures is a poor specimen of a professional man; the manufacturer who knows nothing of accounting will never manage successfully a large business. Business knowledge, to be efficient, must be broad enough to include a careful study of the principles of at least production, marketing, accounting, and finance.

To supply a systematic course of training in administrative business practice, the Modern Business Institute has recently been founded by some of the ablest business and professional men in the country. The literature which is the basis of the Course is believed to be the best that has yet been prepared for the use of business people, and has been constructed to meet the immediate and pressing need of British Commerce, which is to understand, and meet, and create demand for our goods. We must learn to sell our products, and we have been slow to learn this art. The course and service is available to women equally with men, and it has been so arranged that it can be followed while subscribers are carrying on their regular work. Besides the texts, subscribers are guided by means of a series of praxis, lectures, and practical problems. The Institute acts as a clearing-house for all business information, and, in addition, those taking the Course can submit their business problems to the Service Department, or board of experts, for their help and advice.

The training is for the ambitious—for those determined to succeed—those willing to strive to open up new avenues of enterprise, and for such our commercial system is crying out, be they men or women. It is hoped that now that such training can be procured at a reasonable cost, and without undue sacrifice, women will take full advantage of the opportunities it offers, and that, through it, business may, in the future, give them a wider field for their enterprise than it yet has done.

The competition for advancement is ever increasing, and well-educated, capable women who are ambitious for a successful career may find it in commerce more readily than elsewhere, but they must equip themselves beforehand with the right kind of knowledge, and so be ready to seize the rare opportunity when it offers itself.

Wholly apart from the personal satisfaction that it gives, organized business knowledge has value simply as a business asset; it is certain to last as long as its possessor has use for it, it involves but little expense, and whatever small initial outlay of money or time is called for will normally come back in the form of time-saving methods and business-building ideas. It need involve no maintenance expense, and it should yield a large and permanent income. Its possibilities are limitless!

Business to-day is constructive, and constructive business must be directed by constructive thought, constructive thought must be based on broad and sound knowledge, so that women who decide on a business career and would render themselves eligible for the highest posts should have brains, energy, and ambition. These they must supply themselves, but the organized business knowledge, which is just as essential for success, may be obtained through the Modern Business Institute, and any who are interested may get all particulars from Miss Moonie, 67, Great Russell Street, London, W.C. 1.

THE LAW AT WORK.¹**BORSTAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE PRISONS REPORT.**

The Prison Commissioners' Report tells us very little of the Girls' Borstal Institution at Aylesbury. Perhaps what we are told is the best news that we can have, namely that the number of girls committed during the year has fallen from 46 to 34, and that the number of inmates is less than half of what it was a year ago. As the daily average number of inmates has been 114, the daily average of 10 in hospital and 50 under medical treatment out of hospital seems high. So does the number of punishments; out of 215 girls who were inmates of the Institution during some part of the year no less than 105 were punished. It is right to add that the great majority of the punishments were loss of stage or privilege, and there was not one of "close confinement."

The number of boys in Borstal Institutions remains about stationary, and the daily average last year was 1,037. All boys are now received in the first instance in a separate building of Wandsworth prison, and there undergo a careful examination—mental and physical. But the mental examination is terribly handicapped by being held in a prison and while the lads are in a depressed and sullen condition on account of the long period of detention to which they have been sentenced. It is also a great disadvantage that the boys should have to spend weeks at Wandsworth before going to Borstal. One of the objects of Borstal treatment—to save lads from their first taste of prison—is thus defeated.

All the boys in the Borstal Institutions now work an eight-hour day, and no school or education work is done till after tea. It is difficult to believe that growing lads who have started their day at 5.40 in the morning and are busily employed all day with possibly eight hours work in the open air have much energy left for school by six o'clock in the evening. It must be remembered that many boys come to Borstal who have attended school very irregularly, and have never got beyond the lowest standards; others, again, have forgotten most of what they learnt at school. If they are to have a fair start in the world on discharge this leeway has to be made up. Can it be done at the end of a long and laborious day?

Perhaps the day is not as laborious as it looks on paper. We read in the Report that an effort is being made to achieve in the workshops a speed and efficiency comparable to that in the outside world. But "success is far distant." A few inmates work up to an outside standard, but the remainder lag behind. This feature may be inseparable from institution life, but it must be borne in mind when we hear it urged that lads should be committed to Borstal always for at least three years and that the time actually spent at Borstal should be at least two.

It is good to read that Borstal officers have discarded their uniforms, and do all duty in plain clothes; also that the summer camps, paid for by voluntary funds, have been such a success. The actual number who go to camp appears small; 267 went in the summer of 1923; a larger number in 1924, but the exact figure is not given. The Borstal Association has had a hard task in finding work for lads on leaving the Institution; of those whose period of supervision expired in 1923, three-fourths have not since then been re-convicted, or, to put it another way, out of 549 so discharged, 138 had again come into conflict with the law.

It is impossible to close this article without a word on the young persons between 16 and 21 who are still in local prisons. Governor after governor protests in almost the same words against the iniquity of sending these lads and girls to prison. Some are first offenders; some committed for a trifling offence; 489 lads were committed in default of fines, of whom 286 had been allowed no time to pay. Others, of course, are more seasoned offenders with a long sentence of hard labour. It is frankly acknowledged in the report that when these young persons reach prison it is impossible to separate them completely from adult offenders, and, apart from the question of separation, prison treatment is quite unsuitable for them. A Home Office Committee on the treatment of young offenders is now at work. Is it too much to hope that one outcome of their deliberations will be a definite recommendation that no more young persons under 21 shall be sent to prison, and that from the multitude of counsellors on the Committee will emerge a wiser plan for dealing with them?

¹ Under the direction of Mrs. C. D. Rackham, J.P., Miss S. Margery Fry, J.P., with Mrs. Crofts, M.A., LL.B., as Hon. Solicitor.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HUBBACK.

Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

Telephone: Victoria 6188.

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING, 11th-14th MARCH.

The Preliminary Agenda for the Council Meetings has been issued, and may be obtained from the Secretary at Headquarters (price 4d.). Resolutions have been placed on the agenda dealing with legislation before Parliament, Equal Pay in the Teaching Profession, Revision of the Marriage Service, Family Allowances, Women Police, Birth Control, and many other subjects of immediate interest to women as citizens.

VISITORS TO THE COUNCIL.

It is hoped to be able to arrange for reduced railway fares to London for the Council meetings. Those who wish to attend the meetings as visitors will be eligible for these, as well as the delegates from Societies. We should be glad to hear as soon as possible from any visitors wishing to avail themselves of this opportunity. The reduced fare for the return journey will be at the rate of one and a third the single fare, and tickets will be available on Tuesday, 10th March, and Monday, 16th March, or on any day between those dates.

Visitors to all sessions of the Council are also invited by the President to tea on Thursday, 12th March, at 4.30 p.m., and by the President and Executive Committee to the Reception to be held on Wednesday, 11th March, at 8.30 p.m. at Bedford College, Regent's Park, N.W. 1.

HOSPITALITY.

We make a very special appeal to friends of the N.U.S.E.C. resident in London to help our work by offering hospitality to delegates to the Council. It is often very difficult for workers in distant parts of the country, or for Societies, to arrange for the payment of heavy railway fares, but if they can be assured that hospitality will be provided they are thereby enabled to attend the Council. We are therefore deeply grateful to those who offer hospitality to delegates.

PUBLIC LUNCHEON.

At the Public Luncheon to be held at the Holborn Restaurant on Friday, 13th March, on the occasion of the Annual Council, the guests of honour will be Lady Astor, the Duchess of Atholl, Mr. Isaac Foot, Mr. Pethick Lawrence, Sir Claud Schuster, and Miss Ellen Wilkinson. Guests at the Luncheon who wish to sit together should communicate with the Secretary, giving full particulars of numbers, etc., not later than 2nd March.

MISS WARD'S TOUR IN SCOTLAND.

Miss H. Ward, who has been on tour in Scotland, came to Glasgow S.E.C. and W.C.A. on Thursday, 29th January. A very successful drawing-room meeting was held in the Pollock Division of Glasgow, at which Miss Ward spoke on "Overdue Reforms of Special Interest to Women," briefly touching on the Separation and Maintenance Laws, Equal Guardianship of Children, the Nationality of Married Women, Family Endowment, and some other aspects of the work. In the evening Miss H. Ward broadcast a short speech on "Women in the League of Nations" from the Glasgow Broadcasting Station.

Dunfermline S.E.C. arranged a meeting on the Economic Status of Women and a good discussion followed. The Falkirk W.C.A. had a good meeting which listened with interest to Miss Ward's speech on the League of Nations and the position and work of women within it. At a drawing-room meeting for the S.E.C. in Edinburgh Miss Ward gave the arguments for and against the principle of Family Endowment. The Haddington Group had taken steps to secure a good attendance, many present being non-members, but owing to a misadventure which caused Miss Ward to miss her train she arrived in time to have only an informal discussion on Economics and Family Allowances with the members. Dundee W.C.A. had a very good meeting, and Miss Ward delighted her hearers by an interesting address on "What Women Citizens ought to Know." She spoke of the need for a balance of men and women in all the responsible offices in Church and State, and for equal opportunities in the labour market for the development of the faculties given to women by nature.

Miss Ward finished her tour by speaking for Carlisle W.C.A. and everywhere her speeches have been much appreciated and not less her interesting and inspiring personality.

ILKLEY S.E.C. AND YORK W.C.A.

On 29th January Miss F. M. Beaumont addressed meetings at Ilkley and York on the subject of "Women's Legislation in 1925." She discussed the present position with regard to equal Franchise, Equal Guardianship,

and Widows' Pensions. The history of the work which had been done for these measures was traced, and the speaker concluded on a hopeful note, pointing out that the Government had a majority for carrying out its promises. The meetings were brought to a close with votes of thanks to Miss Beaumont for her most interesting addresses.

BARNSELY S.E.C.

A meeting was held in St. Mary's Parish Room, on 28th January, when, in the unavoidable absence of Mrs. Hubback, Miss Beaumont spoke on "Women's Legislation in 1925." The Mayoress (Barnsley's first woman J.P.) took the chair, and the audience listened to Miss Beaumont's address with the keenest interest.

INDUSTRIAL SECTION WORLD'S YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

Lady Portsmouth presided over a full and enthusiastic gathering at St. George's Hall on Tuesday, 3rd February, to welcome Dame Adelaide Anderson and Miss Harrison on their return from China. One longed to drag there all the stupid people who cry down international work. The cry from China "Come over and help us" caught Dame Adelaide in South Africa, and she responded nobly.

The real Yellow Peril does not seem to lie in the capacity for war of vast masses of the Chinese population but rather in the danger to our industrial level through the terrible industrial conditions obtaining there. The vast population presses into the cities and repeats there to-day the terrible scenes of our industrial life before the Factory Acts. Children crying on their way to work, twelve hours at biscuit-stirring, tinies from 5½ and 6 years old, already stricken with industrial disease, dull and leaden-eyed, soon to pass to a happier world. Public opinion is awaking, but difficulties are doubled by the frontier running so close, and the better employers handicapped by the unbridled drive of their competitors. It was a heartrending story. The light has, however, broken in, the foreign Council of Shanghai has taken the lead, and Dame Adelaide was warmly welcomed by several Chinese governors of provinces. The age limit is to be raised in progressive stages, fast or slow, according as China works with us. But the real test will be not the Acts, but the number of inspectors and their qualifications, and we may add that both men and women should find a place among them.

Miss Harrison supplemented Dame Adelaide's speech and spoke of the long and careful preparatory work which was needed before Dame Adelaide arrived.

It was a testimony to the character of our Empire work that these ladies had the support of the Consul of Shanghai and a high official at Peking, both of whom were warmly welcomed by the audience.

MARGERY I. CORBETT ASHBY.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

(British Section: 55 Gower Street, W.C.1.)

THE DOMINIONS AND THE PROTOCOL.

The British section of the Women's International League is now working with the National Sections in Australia, Canada, and New Zealand to further the study of the Protocol. During the last fortnight we learn that in Canada Sir Robert Borden, formerly Premier, addressing the League of Nations Society, made a strong defence of the Protocol, upholding it as a brave and sincere attempt to bring about the general disarmament so necessary for the peace of the world. The annual meeting of the Canadian League of Nations Society unanimously adopted a resolution urging Parliament to ratify the Protocol, with any reservations it might think fit to safeguard national interests. This shows that the Protocol and the pros and cons of ratification are being considered.

With regard to Australia, the outstanding fact appears to be that there is little decisive opinion on the subject. Sensational headlines and alarming statements have appeared, inspired probably by politicians with an axe to grind, and these have caused considerable uneasiness during the preliminary stages of discussion. Fortunately during the last fortnight full information from Geneva and the text of the Protocol have arrived, and responsible persons, with real knowledge of the facts, have given reassurance and checked fears. The people appear to have been told little of the steps leading up to the Protocol. The importance of the question, and the fresh responsibilities thrown upon the States of the British Commonwealth, impose upon the Government a new duty for keeping the public well informed.

What support the Protocol will receive is as yet not known. Mr. Charlton, leader of the Labour Party, has returned from Geneva a strong supporter, and will probably carry the party with him. Sir Littleton Groom, the Minister who headed the deputation to Geneva, and Mr. Charlton both took the position that Australia's control of her domestic affairs would not be endangered by the Protocol. E. M. M.

CORRESPONDENCE.**THE WOMAN'S LEADER AND PARTY POLITICS.**

MADAM.—Will you allow me to express the view that there is a danger that the WOMAN'S LEADER may do a great dis-service to the cause which the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship exists to further. The paper was intended to be genuinely non-party in colour and to be readable with equal interest by women of diverse political views. Of late it has become more and more evident that in its editorial department it is dominated by persons having a definite and ill-disguised attitude to such questions as the Labour Party's general programme, Pacifism, the Bolshevik régime in Russia, and other controversial matters upon which women supporting the reforms for which the N.U.S.E.C. stands are acutely divided. To identify feminism with political and social views which are offensive to great sections of the community cannot help to increase the membership of the N.U.S.E.C., and must weaken the influence of those who are working for the Woman's Cause in the Liberal and Conservative Parties.

I suggest that this "peaceful penetration" on the part of distinguished members of the Intelligentsia of the Labour Party through the general direction of the WOMAN'S LEADER is a mistake from the point of view of the N.U.S.E.C., and I should like to know what the experience of other readers is, and what they think about the matter generally.

WINIFRED COOMBE TENNANT.

[We must leave our readers to decide whether Mrs. Tennant's comments are justified or not. We would only say that we are accustomed to getting letters accusing us of party bias, but there is a variety of opinions as to the party we are supposed to favour. We would also like to point out that the WOMAN'S LEADER is not the organ of the N.U.S.E.C., though pledged to follow the policy of the Union with regard to the points on its programme. —Ed.]

THE MENACE ON THE RHINE.

MADAM.—Though regretting the occasion, I note with satisfaction your candid remarks on this subject. It is quite understandable that France—and all other countries—should desire "security," but this will never be attained by the sole exercise of military force. Observance of the principles of justice, truth, and good faith on the part of all concerned is absolutely necessary for the establishment of a real and lasting peace; and in such a peace alone can security be found.

I agree entirely with you that the continued Allied occupation of this German northern zone is incompatible with these principles, and am glad you have made the protest.

I trust that your article may be the means of stimulating interest in the study of international affairs, which, it is to be feared, do not receive the attention that their importance warrants.

ENGLISHWOMAN AND INTERNATIONALIST.

FAMILY ENDOWMENT.

MADAM.—May I, through the medium of our paper, the WOMAN'S LEADER, thank Dame Millicent Fawcett for her splendid article on Family Endowment in the issue of 30th January. I have long wanted to state how many reasons there are against it, and Dame Fawcett has stated them so much better than I could have done.

And may I also mention with regard to "Home Life," if only the children had no home lessons, there would be much more time for them to help mother and be sociable to sisters and brothers, and if they, and the mother, could be spared the anxiety of getting these done each night they would be more healthy.

A LOVER OF HOME LIFE.

MADAM.—In her article "The Case against Family Endowment" Dame Millicent Fawcett speaks of the money spent on Public Assistance as "a charge on the National Income which exhausts the capital indispensable to industry, cripples trade, multiplies unemployment, and discourages the productive energies of the workers." I am not a student of economics, but it seems to me that as this money is all spent, and spent for the most part on food, clothing, and shelter, it must rather tend to increase trade and employment. The money paid in rates is also paid to officials and workers under the Councils, and is spent on the necessities of life. There may be some flaw in my argument. If so, perhaps someone will be good enough to point it out.

M. SHOULTS.

WOMEN AND THE INTERNATIONAL CARE OF CHILDREN.

MADAM.—While very grateful for the publicity given to the letter sent to *The Times* with regard to the Protection of Children, I regret that I have to make a small correction. In fact the Medical Women's International Association was not one of the signatories; the Association was incorrectly included in the list of signatories in my letter to you, as it was hoped to obtain their signature, but lack of time for consultation prevented this.

I must apologize for the error.

KATHERINE BOMPAS,
Headquarters Secretary, International Woman Suffrage Alliance.

A CORRECTION.

We regret that in the letter from Mrs. Bruce Richmond printed last week under the title "Saving Infant Life" a mistake occurred in the sentence, "Is she to provide the doctor?" "Override" should be substituted for "provide".

COMING EVENTS.

EUGENICS EDUCATION SOCIETY.

FEB. 27. 8.30 p.m. At the Rooms of the Royal Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly. Mr. B. Malinowski, D.Sc., on "Mate Selection in Primitive Society." Chairman: Major Leonard Darwin, Sc.D. Meeting open to members of the Society and all interested in the subject.

GUILDHOUSE W.C.S.

FEB. 27. 3 p.m. The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. Miss Ida Samuel (L.C.C. candidate for Whitechapel and St. George's) on "The L.C.C. Elections in March and other Local Elections."

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

FEB. 27. 5 p.m. 35 Marsham Street, S.W. 1. "Family Endowment: I.—Its Effect on the Home." Dame Millicent Fawcett, G.B.E., and a Representative of the Family Endowment Council.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Cardiff W.C.A. *FEB. 20.* 7.30 p.m. Dame Meriel Talbot on "Overseas Settlement for Women." At the Friends' Meeting House, Charles Street.

Horsham W.C.A. *FEB. 23.* 8 p.m. Mrs. Ayrton Gould on "Family Allowances." At the Town Hall.

Huddersfield S.E.C. *FEB. 16.* 4.15 p.m. Mrs. Mott on "Family Allowances," at the Y.M.C.A.

SIX POINT GROUP.

FEB. 16. 5 p.m. Committee "At Home," 92 Victoria Street, S.W. Mrs. Corbett Ashby on "Equal Franchise."

WOBURN SANDS WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

FEB. 18. 2.30 p.m. Mrs. Stevenson on "Poor Laws as they Affect Women and Children."

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