

THE
WOMAN'S LEADER

IN POLITICS
 IN THE HOME
 IN INDUSTRY

IN LITERATURE AND ART
 IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
 IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND
THE COMMON CAUSE

Vol. XII. No. 19.

FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 1920.

PRICE 3D.
 Registered as a Newspaper.

Contents :

"The Woman's Leader" in Politics :

	PAGE
INTERNATIONALISM. By Millicent Garrett Fawcett	429
BURNING QUESTION—CAPITAL LEVY, OR HIGH INCOME TAXATION? By Sir Leo Chiozza Money ...	430
NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER. By our Parliamentary Correspondent	432
THE POLITICAL POSITION OF ITALIAN WOMEN. By Fernande Salvemini	434

In the Home :

THE CHILD AND SERVICE. By Belfage Gilbertson	431
KITCHEN POLITICS. By Dr. C. W. Saleeby, M.D., F.R.C.S., Edin.	432
THE AFTERMATH. By Carol Ring	441

In the Professions :

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE. By Meriel L. Talbot	433
OVERSEAS SETTLEMENT FOR BRITISH WOMEN—NEW ZEALAND. By J. T. Horn	435

In Literature and Art :

"THE GOLDEN KEY TO THE GARDEN OF HAPPINESS." By Carla Luise Anderson	436
CONTRASTS IN FICTION	438
BOOKS AT RANDOM. By Fuze	439
DRAMA: "The Beggar's Opera"; "A Marriage of Convenience."	440

<i>Correspondence</i>	443
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THE COMMON CAUSE PUBLISHING CO. LTD., 62, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.1.,
 and all Bookstalls and Newsagents.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND
COMMON CAUSE.

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

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION.—British Isles, 15s. 2d. per annum, post free; Abroad, 17s. 4d. Subscriptions should be sent direct to the Manager, THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 62, Oxford Street. Increased rate payable on renewal of Subscription.

CONTRIBUTIONS should be addressed to the Editor, who, however, accepts no responsibility for unsolicited matter. MSS. not used will be returned if accompanied by a stamped envelope.

CORRESPONDENCE should reach the Editor not later than the first post on Monday. The Editor's decision as to insertion is final.

PROSPECTUS.—The Common Cause Publishing Co. is issuing new £1 shares to the value of £10,000. Prospectus and all information to be obtained from the Manager, Common Cause Publishing Co., 62, Oxford Street, W. 1. Telephone: Museum 2702.

NOTES AND NEWS.

The Representation of the People Bill.

The career of the Representation of the People Bill in Committee has been long and chequered. By Thursday last Clause 1 had not been disposed of, as new amendments were constantly being sent in by opponents. On that day, however, a change came over the usual methods of this Committee. Mr. Grundy, on behalf of the Labour Party, announced that in order to facilitate the Bill's progress through Committee he was willing, on behalf of his party, to accept all the amendments down in the name of the Government; which in effect meant the sacrifice of practically all clauses except those relating to Women's Suffrage. In consequence the members of the Labour Party who are on the Committee did not join in the discussion, and the amendments were passed with great rapidity. Another feature of this meeting was the absence of Sir Frederick Banbury, who had been mainly responsible for the obstructionist methods adopted at previous meetings. Major Archer-Shee tried to emulate him on this occasion, but although an apt pupil did not show the genius of his master. Sir Kingsley Wood on behalf of the Government denied any obligation to give special facilities to a private member's Bill which chanced to be fortunate in the ballot. The Government, he said, considered the Bill premature, because there was not the slightest possibility of an appeal to the country for some years to come; he would leave it to the Committee to decide whether it was worth while going on with the Bill. The Committee obviously felt that it was worth while, and the most interesting discussion of the morning arose on an amendment which Col. Greig brought forward in order to meet the objection of the Government as to the prematurity of the Bill. He proposed that it should not come into operation until January, 1923, but that the Government should be able by Order in Council to fix an earlier date if it so desired. The autumn of 1923 is, of course, the natural end to the life of this Parliament, and the adoption of this amendment meant that the Bill would entail no kind of moral obligation on the part of the Government to hold an earlier election, while allowing of an early appeal to the country if desired. Major Sir Philip Lloyd Graeme and Mr. Sugden supported this amendment, which was carried by fifteen votes to three. At its next meeting the Committee failed of a quorum, and as we go to press the Bill is still marking time. Its future is difficult to predict. The only articulate objection raised by the Government has been removed by Col. Greig's amendment; a great deal of pressure will doubtless be necessary before the Government is likely to give time to its remaining stages.

Quorums.

On June 5th the Plumage Bill was deferred owing to the failure to collect a quorum of twenty out of the seventy members constituting the Committee. On Tuesday, June 8th, the same fate befell the Representation of the People Bill. In neither case was our only woman member present, for at the earlier date she

was attending another Committee and on the later she was acting as representative of the British Government at the Geneva Conference. One moral of this is that one woman member of Parliament is not enough. The other moral as to the apathy of male members with regard to matters such as cruelty to birds and democratic institutions is equally obvious, and cannot be evaded by the lip-service they devote to these causes.

Levy on War Wealth.

The Government has decided to drop the scheme for a levy on war wealth which was recommended by a Select Committee and said to be approved by the Chancellor. The scheme had obvious faults, but the excess profits duty and the corporation tax which must now be relied upon as a substitute for the levy are open to many of the same objections. The Labour Party challenged the decision of the Government, and the National Union of Manufacturers pressed for the abolition of the excess profits duty, or, at any rate, its maintenance at its present figure, but without success. The money must be found somehow, the Chancellor has no new plan, the excess profits duty will stand for this year, and advocates of other expedients will concentrate their attention upon plans for next year.

Juvenile Courts.

The Home Secretary states, in answer to a question in the House, that the protest of the women probation officers against the proposed institution of a Central Court for dealing with juvenile delinquents in London is "based on an entire misapprehension of what the Bill proposes." This is a reflection rather upon the drafting of the Bill than upon the perspicacity of the women probation officers. The drafting of that instrument is ambiguous in the extreme, and persons interested in the conduct of children's courts have perforce relied upon reports as to what the Home Office is believed by the Lobbies to intend. If the Department would express itself either in precise technical terms or in the language of everyday life, it would facilitate comment upon its proposals and discussion of its intentions by practical persons. But that, perhaps, is hardly its aim.

Women Remaining in Industry.

Though nearly eight hundred thousand women have now been discharged from H.M. Forces, from clerical and commercial occupations and from industries since the Armistice, there are still 724,000 more wage-earning women than there were before the war. This is as it should be, the country was never more in need of workers than now; the dependence of Europe upon the prosperity of Great Britain makes productive work an international as well as a patriotic duty. Social changes consequent upon the war have led to the absorption into industry of many young women whom custom previously kept at leisure; the general shortening of hours has for its corollary the demand

for more labour, and many women formerly dependent on husbands or brothers are now independent from choice or necessity or both. The increase in women's employment shows itself chiefly in metal and chemical trades, in industries connected with food and in commercial occupations, and this probably means employment chiefly in producing and distributing necessities rather than luxuries. Luxuries accounted for too much women's labour in the past, and they suffered in consequence more than other workers from sudden fluctuations in demand and irregularity of employment.

The Employment of Women and Children.

The Government Bill to enforce the decisions of the Washington Labour Conference came up again on Tuesday. It is meeting with opposition because, though prohibiting "night-work" for women and young persons, it allows them to be employed for an eight-hour shift at any time between six in the morning and ten in the evening. If this were not possible, women's and girls' labour would be excluded from all industries in which double shifts are worked. Protection of this kind is disadvantageous to women in the labour market, for the more women's entrance to industries is restricted the lower is the scale of women's wages likely to be. If it is argued that exclusion of women from double-shift work would kill that system, it must be remembered that the introduction of costly labour-saving machinery, which brings many otherwise laborious processes within women's power, is hardly possible if it must stand idle sixteen hours out of the twenty-four. The possibility of working two shifts also makes a further reduction of the working day a practical proposition, and to women with domestic duties a short working day is essential. If legislation is needed to restrict night work or to regulate the adoption of a two-shift system, it should not differentiate between the sexes.

A Race Well Run.

The contest of the Suffragists in the United States has been a long and a hard race, and one in which American women well deserve to win a good place. "If readers will recall," writes our American Correspondent, Mrs. Husted Harper, "that the ablest women in the United States began the struggle for this Federal Suffrage Amendment in 1869; that it has never stopped for a single year; that for the past seven years the direct work with Congress has not paused for a day; that since the fourth of last June, almost a year, the women in every State have been striving continuously for the ratifications; if readers will remember also that during the past half century women have carried on about fifty campaigns for State Suffrage, with their vast expenditure of time, labour, and money, and there are only fifteen Equal Suffrage States as the result. If all these facts are considered it can then be partly realised what it has meant to secure for women a voice in the Government of this greatest republic on earth, this leader in the democracy of the world!"

Louisiana for Woman's Suffrage?

Louisiana might have been regarded as one of the States in which the success of Women's Suffrage was almost a forlorn hope. It is an old-fashioned Southern State, where the whites are mostly Democrats and few of the negroes (who are mostly Republicans) are allowed to vote. The capable women in the State have, however, so well succeeded in leavening public opinion that in November, 1918, a Woman Suffrage Amendment to the State Constitution was carried throughout the State, except in New Orleans. Suffrage by Federal Amendment is, however, a different matter. It would enfranchise negro women, and many even among the Suffrage workers are opposed to it. Louisiana has a tireless and able Suffrage worker in Joseph Ransdell, who has been a member of Congress for fifty years and of the Senate for the last eight years. He and the new Governor of the State, Colonel John M. Parker, have succeeded in convincing political leaders that it would be a brilliant achievement for the Democratic Party if a Democratic Legislature should confound the Republicans by giving the thirty-sixth final ratification of the Amendment. So wonderful have been their persuasive powers that Mayor Behrman of New Orleans, who was chiefly instrumental in frustrating the movement for Woman Suffrage within the State in 1918, is now in the forefront of the movement in support of the Federal Amendment. If Louisiana really does ratify this Amendment Suffragists feel that it will be the most remarkable thing that has ever happened since the race for the Suffrage began.

The Housing Standard.

The Women's Advisory Committee on Housing consistently pressed upon the Ministry of Health a high standard for the working class dwellings to be erected under its scheme, and now that the Ministry is tending to recede and to let considerations of cost influence them on such vital matters as permanence of drains, the women who formed this body are co-operating with various women's societies in urging local authorities to take a wiser course. The Women's Section of the Garden Cities and Town Planning Association promises to be a very active and useful body. This Women's Section has invited the co-operation of the Standing Joint Committees of Industrial Women's Organisations, the Women's Property Managers' Association, Women's Sanitary Inspectors' and Health Visitors' Association, London Society for Women's Service, National Federation of Women's Institutes, National Baby Week Council, National Council of Women, National Women Citizens' Associations, Women's Society for Equal Citizenship, Rural Housing Association, Metropolitan Public Gardens Association, Women's Conservative Reform Association, Women's Liberal Federation, and of several other women's organisations. The work of the Section will be to set up a Central Information Bureau, through which practical knowledge can be passed from one locality to another, to assist in the formation of special local Women's Housing Committees where such do not already exist, and the co-option of suitable women by municipal authorities on to their Housing Committees, and generally to widen and strengthen women's powers and activities in connection with housing and town planning. Co-operation of this thorough-going sort among women who care for health and housing is of the utmost importance.

An Important Amendment Lost.

The Inter-allied Housing and Town Planning Conference, held last Thursday and Friday at the Central Hall, Westminster, was one of exceptional public interest. What, however, would have struck any observer was the thin sprinkling of women among the delegates; where men could be counted by hundreds women had to be picked out singly, and no woman sat on the platform. The result was evident enough. An important amendment to one of the resolutions, an amendment dealing with the urgent need for proper playgrounds for children, was lost! It would seem that women are not yet sufficiently asserting their right to fair representation at such conferences, and one wonders, does the fault lie most with those responsible for the issue of invitations or with the women who did not apply for tickets? There is certainly much scope for the activities of the Women's Section of the Garden Cities Association if the new houses are to be not merely good in themselves, but suitable to the needs of the district in which they are built. A house healthy or convenient in the abstract is not always healthy in a climate for which it was not designed, or convenient for a manner of life confined to special districts. The women who sit on local committees will recognise that they are not doing their duty unless they can meet the common-form objection to improvements by comparing the costs of their own suggestion with that of the plan to be criticised. It is no use asking for the moon, but we should not be satisfied with second-best unless second-best is materially cheaper.

Adopted Countries.

The true cosmopolitan loses nearly as much as he gains, and the man who transfers his allegiance commonly makes a bad bargain; but there is another kind of person, commonly an Englishman, who can adopt another country without losing hold upon his own, and can in a sense give it so much because he adapts himself but little to anything but the surface customs of his new home. Dr. Morrison of China, as the obituary notices remind us, had this power; his career during the years when he represented the *Times* in Peking and the time when he was political adviser of the Chinese Government was a devotion of the last years of his life to a country which trusted and even loved him, largely because being what he was he belonged to another country and another civilisation. At this moment the women of other countries, Eastern and Western, are oddly and pathetically willing to take this kind of help from Englishwomen. That they respect rather than love us makes it necessary that on our side there should be affection as well as interest. To live in a country, not to travel about it, to be interested rather than curious, to have what old-fashioned people call

plenty of human nature, these are the essentials of success. The women who have made their mark in this way had often few material resources, but they all had marked personalities. Lady Mary Wortley Montague, Mary Slessor, Mary Kingsley, Miss Gertrude Lowthian Bell, Miss Edith Durham may be cited at hazard as examples of women who have chosen this career. It is perhaps not easy, but the woman who makes a success of it is perhaps the woman whom it is not easy to suit with a walk in life.

Rhoda Broughton.

The death of Miss Rhoda Broughton at the age of eighty, and nearly half-a-century after the publication of her first novel, removes from the writing world one who gave much pleasure and made small claims. She did not take herself very seriously as a novelist, nor did she hold up her high-spirited heroines as examples to their sex. Nevertheless, she did a good deal to reconcile her large public to the idea of a young woman's right to an individuality of her own, and for that feminists may well be grateful to her. She made no trace with the delusion that woman was as water unto wine compared with man, and she was widely read by men, which is not always the case with the more sober and solid woman writer. Her first publisher passed his station while reading her manuscript in the train, and that is, in itself, a claim to celebrity.

Mrs. Hamilton King.

The death in Bloomsbury of Harriet Eleanor King recalls to middle-aged women the blank verse narrative poem, "The Disciples," by which she is best remembered. This story of Garibaldi's early struggles in the cause of Italian freedom, published nearly fifty years ago, if it misses the authentic note of genius, has an undoubted flame of enthusiasm and is expressed in fluent and scholarly verse. Ugo Bassi's sermon, a complete poem embedded in the longer work, has been frequently reprinted and translated into foreign languages. It had much influence on the thoughtful women of her time, and the lines,

"Work, that healing divinest balm,
To whomso hath the courage to begin,"

are still quoted. On their appearance they marked a reaction against the then prevailing fashion of regarding silent resignation as a woman's appropriate attitude towards the ills of life. Mrs. King wrote other books, among them a "Life of Cardinal Manning," and a work on Mazzini, but it was as the author of "The Disciples" that she was known, and still deserves to be remembered.

The Future of the Hospitals.

The crisis in the affairs of our voluntary hospitals has been hastened by the decrease in subscriptions and the rise in prices, but its roots lie in the new importance of preventive as distinguished from curative medicine, and in the part taken by the Ministry of Health in preventive schemes outside the hospitals. The change over to training doctors and nurses for preventive work must be expensive at first, and though prevention is economical in the long run, the outlay for many years must constitute a heavy burden, too great for the voluntary subscriber and with difficulty to be supported by the State. For the emphasis on the preventive side of medicine means that the ordinary hospital population of "bad cases" (supplemented by an "infirmity" class of patients whose care falls on the State because they are destitute or nearly so) will be quite inadequate for training doctors to detect and treat disease in very early and most probably curable stages. If the hospital population is swelled by early cases their cost will be doubled or trebled. And as knowledge grows the cases will tend to become earlier and earlier, if we may judge from experience with tuberculosis which has shown that lung trouble in what was once held to be initial stages is not really an early manifestation of the disease in the patient. Neither the State nor the voluntary subscriber can shoulder the cost of doubling or trebling the number of the present hospital beds.

Classification.

The solution probably lies in restricting a certain number of large well-equipped hospitals for training purposes only, the patients, both "bad" cases and "early stage" cases, being chosen for their interest to science, admitted when in relatively good health, and retained long after the initial stages of conva-

lescence. A hospital of this kind could really train a medical man to detect and treat disease when the patient has a nine-to-one chance of recovery instead of merely fitting him to lavish the resources of science on patients whose chances have shrunk almost to zero. The State would be obliged to provide elsewhere for the majority of the present hospital patients, the incurables, as well as the curables, who are not required by the medical training schools and who are destitute or nearly so. It is probable that these would be treated with more comfort and greater economy in hospitals not possessing the large and costly equipment of the present general hospital, which provides for training and research as well as for the needs of its patients. A third sort of hospital might remain partly voluntary, maintained in part by subscriptions, in part by payments from patients or from industrial or professional associations on their behalf, and partly by State aid. These hospitals would tend to establish themselves outside the borders of large towns, with the advantage of healthy surroundings and cheap sites, and the disadvantage of distance from the patient's home and a lessened appeal to the monied public. In this kind of hospital a paying patient would really pay his way, which is not the case in the paying wards of general hospitals. But whatever scheme is adopted, the time of transition to the era of preventive medicine is bound to be costly, for we shall be bearing as a nation at once the cost of prevention for the future and the costs of cure entailed by neglect of prevention in the past. Our prevention, too, will be of the nature of experiment, and will not always give value for money. This is a reason for gradual change, but no reason at all for persevering in a public health procedure which we now know to be ineffective.

Fish.

While war conditions have reduced the supply of almost every other kind of food, the harvest of the sea is more abundant than before, after years of relative immunity from man's toll upon it. High prices are not in this case the result of scarcity, but of deficient organisation in distribution and trade customs which tend towards discouraging what is called a "glut," that ugly name for plenty and cheapness. Now and then the artificially high prices break, as they did last week when haddock was sold for twopence and turbot for tenpence a pound by fish hawkers in London streets, but if the Food Controller spent a tithe of the energy expended upon cheapening scarce commodities upon cheapening what nature gives us in profusion, he would obtain more evident success than he does at present. Liverpool University is granting a degree in Fisheries, which at any rate draws attention to neglect of the subject in other quarters.

Income-Tax Exemptions.

The Eugenics Education Society has to its credit the proposed exemption from taxation of maternity expenses which is embodied in the Finance Bill. Mr. Crofton Black advocates a similar exemption of medical and surgical expenses, which are often a crushing burden upon those persons whose moderate means debar them from using hospitals, while quite inadequate to pay surgeons' fees and nursing home expenses unless some relief is granted. Considerable evidence exists that treatment available for children of the industrial classes is postponed, or reluctantly denied by parents of the professional classes. The Society would also like to see expenditure on education made tax-free, whatever the age of the pupil. At present the limit to sixteen years of age excludes what are frequently the most costly years of school and college.

The Status of Women at Oxford.

Convocation has passed unopposed three statutes making women graduates eligible as members of the Hebdomadal Council, of congregation, and of faculties and sub-faculties. This ungrudging and gracious concession to women of the full privileges following upon the degree removes the last tangible barrier between women and equality with the male students of this ancient University. They will now no doubt take their place with honour and prove a strength to the University which has admitted them. Their colleges, new-comers as compared with the old foundations, will need the support of friends of education if they are to do full justice to their new responsibilities. The action of Oxford will, one must hope, decide Cambridge to abandon half-measures and compromises in this matter of degrees.

INTERNATIONALISM.

By MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

On June 6th, the eighth congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance opened at Geneva with a sermon by Miss Maude Royden, preached in the Cathedral. This innovation, a woman preacher standing where Calvin or Knox may have stood in the Metropolitan Church of a great community, is a sufficient indication of the forward march of the women's movement all along the line, for it is notoriously more difficult to get a move on in matters ecclesiastical than in any other department of human activity. In some countries—Spain and ancient Egypt for example—it has proved so difficult that the move never has been on and these countries have become petrified in consequence.

The significance of Miss Royden's sermon in the Cathedral of Geneva by no means stands alone as an indication of progress. The meetings of the I.W.S.A. were necessarily suspended during the war. Consequently there has been no congress since the one held in Buda Pest in 1913. Seven years full of tragedy, exultations and agonies have passed since then. Many in the anguish of 1914 believed that the I.W.S.A. could never survive the strain and crisis which the war brought with it. These gloomy prophecies came to nothing. Difficult and delicate as the international situation created by the war often was, the I.W.S.A. was able to hold together. It never lost touch with any of its twenty-six affiliated countries. Headquarters Committee in London quickly grasped, with firm conviction, the principle that it was absolutely essential to the continued existence of the Alliance to observe neutrality on all purely national subjects, and, moreover, not to allow its organ, *Jus Suffragii*, to be used for the advocacy of doctrines on which suffragists were not united. The policy was definitely laid as our principle of action after a meeting of Headquarters Committee in October, 1915: "The I.W.S.A. and its organ, *Jus Suffragii*, having been formed to promote the enfranchisement of women and for no other object, the Headquarters Committee is of opinion that during the war other controversial political topics, such as pacifism, on which suffragists are divided in opinion, should not be advocated in the paper. This resolution is not intended to rule out brief statements of fact."

This resolution was circulated and in due course sanctioned by the majority of the Board of Officers and has worked quite satisfactorily. It has provided a key to almost every practical difficulty as it arose, and at the end of actual hostilities in November, 1918, we found ourselves at Headquarters in a position, of which we were justifiably proud, of not having lost a single one of our auxiliaries during the war. From the international point of view we issued from the war far stronger than we were before it, because, owing to many causes, chief of which were the ploughing up of old prejudices and the sowing the seed of new ideas, and the sweeping away of the three great European autocracies, no fewer than fifteen countries had, during the war, definitely accepted the principle of the political equality of women, and, in addition, both Houses of the American Congress had passed, by the necessary majorities, the Susan B. Anthony Woman Suffrage Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Besides these unprecedented victories for our cause, many countries brought into existence by the Peace Conference in Paris, 1919, entered upon the status of nationhood with their women fully enfranchised. A further victory was achieved when the Covenant of the League of Nations laid it down as an established principle that all offices connected with the League, including the Secretariat, were to be open to women. Hence the period which some gloomy prophets had believed would be fatal to our movement had in reality proved to be that of the most rapid development known in its whole history.

There are some who have said in face of the fact that we were coming again with joy and bringing our sheaves with us, then why not dissolve, you have won your cause, retire on your laurels:

"Rest after strife
Port after stormy seas, Death after Life
Doth greatly please."

This, however, as we remembered, even in Spenser's poem, is

not the voice of the trusted captain but that of the tempter. Much still remains to be done; the field to be conquered for the principles of the Alliance is still vast, comprising the Latin countries of Europe and South America, the East, Egypt, India, China and Japan, Greece, and Turkey. In our own country, too, there remains plenty to do to establish the equality of opportunity and responsibility at which we aim.

There is, moreover, another aspect of the question which must not be overlooked. One of the things which this country has most reason to be proud of and thankful for is that at the outbreak of the war young men of all ranks and in every position volunteered for military service, not in thousands or in hundreds of thousands but in millions. More than five millions thus offered themselves, a ready, joyful sacrifice, before compulsion was introduced. During the war nearly a million laid down their lives; almost an equal number were permanently maimed. The whole nation is still reeling under the losses thus sustained, and we know that other countries are in a like position. When we hear of unrest we know there is enough to account for it. We ask ourselves: What did these men fight and die for? They fought for the maintenance of liberty and self-government throughout the world. The answer is obvious but incomplete. Another answer was given in the House of Commons on the re-assembling of Parliament after the Whitsun recess. A group of young ex-Service members had framed a series of amendments to the Government Irish Bill; all these amendments were in the direction of the extension of the powers to be granted to the Irish Parliament or Parliaments. One of these members, arguing for his amendment, said: "You cannot defeat crime by the Army alone." "Why not?" came the cry from all parts of the House. The answer was instant and unexpected: "Because we young men in France fought for peace." That reply has struck a note to which there should be a deep response. What are all of us doing for Peace now? Millions have died for it. Are we prepared to live for it? Our duty is to live for the cause for which our men have died. The League of Nations has been brought to birth. It lives, but it is in its infancy. We the men and women of England have to see to it that it is not overlaid in its cradle. All who believe in it should exercise their social and political influence in its support. It offers the greatest hope yet given to mankind of avoiding a repetition of the horrors of 1914-18. Of course the difficulties in the way of its full development are enormous. All the forces of greed and selfishness are against it. It is also said that the same sort of thing has been tried in days gone by but no practical result has followed. Why should this generation succeed where men of light and leading in past years have failed? Who are we that we should succeed when men better than ourselves have been baffled? This question is asked in regard to every great advance in human freedom or in civilisation. How often have we Suffragists been told we should never succeed—that men had complete power over us and would never relinquish it? But we did not listen, we persevered and won our cause. What was said to be impossible has happened. The difficulties in the way of establishing the League of Nations, great as they are, are less than they have ever been before. The three great autocracies, always the enemies of Peace, Russia, Germany, and Austria, have crumbled to ruin during the war, a lesson surely in the comparative durability of the societies founded on freedom; women have power which they have never had before and should use it in all countries to prevent war. Great difficulties no doubt remain, but they can and will be overcome if we bring the will and determination to overcome them which we brought to the prosecution of the war. The League of Nations, if firmly established, will be the greatest triumph of internationalism which the world has yet seen. It will be an internationalism founded on solid fact, the fact of nationalism, and not the spurious, anemic internationalism which produces patriots of every country but their own and derides and belittles the love which ordinary healthy human beings bear to their own land. Let us therefore go forward boldly and insist that this League, the greatest fruit of the world struggle through which we have just passed, shall become an accomplished fact.

BURNING QUESTIONS.

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

CAPITAL LEVY, OR HIGH INCOME TAXATION? A QUESTION OF EXPEDIENCY AND JUSTICE.

By SIR LEO CHIOZZA MONEY.

If we look at the Budget figures for the current financial year (the twelve months which will end with March, 1921), we see that the estimate of expenditure amounts to £1,184 millions, and that of this sum no less than £345 millions is needed for the National Debt services. Before the war our national expenditure was less than £200 millions, so that, as a result of the war, we have to pay taxes to raise, for the National Debt alone, a sum enormously greater than the entire pre-war expenditure.

Of course the £1,184 millions will not permanently remain. Not to exaggerate, it should be pointed out that it covers about £316 millions of non-recurring items, and that it also covers £50 millions of Post Office outgo which is not really national expenditure at all, but which brings in a profit towards defraying the real expenditure. Therefore, subtracting these two items, we get this year a true national expenditure of £818 millions. This, however, is a serious figure enough, and, as we have seen, no less than £345 millions of it is due to the existence of the gigantic National Debt saddled upon the nation as a result of the war.

Now there are some who hold that it would be wise in these circumstances to get rid of the whole, or of a large part, of the National Debt by a levy upon capital for that specific purpose. Others, again, say that desirable as it would be to reduce the annual call upon the taxpayer it would be most undesirable to tax capital, because such a process would drive capital out of the country, affect credit adversely, and discourage enterprise. In the discussion of this, as of all other subjects, a great deal of exaggeration is indulged in.

As things are, we have to find this £345 millions a year, which will very gradually decrease from year to year as the Sinking Fund operates. It is very difficult at this time to estimate the national income with any degree of precision, but, if we take it as, roundly, £4,500 millions per annum, then the £345 millions required for the National Debt services alone amounts to an all-round Income Tax of over 7½ per cent. It is, of course, very much more than that upon that part of the National Income which lies above the exemption limit.

There is a most important consideration in this connection which, to my mind, is conclusive for the capital levy. It is that it operates to do justice as between those who derive their incomes from property and who have, therefore, gained chiefly by the war, and those who entirely earn their livings by their own exertions. I do not mean that this is the only argument in favour of a capital levy; I do suggest that is a conclusive one.

If we take the Report of the Royal Commission on the Income Tax, which has been accepted by the Government, and compare the tax which it is proposed to levy respectively upon (1) those who earn their incomes, and upon (2) those who derive them from investments, we get a very remarkable result. I take the case of a single person and contrast what the Royal Commission proposes to charge as Income Tax in the two cases. For simplicity, I state the amounts to the nearest £ :-

INCOME TAX AS PROPOSED BY ROYAL COMMISSION.				
Income.	Tax if Income all Earned.	Tax if Income all from Investments.	Difference.	
£	£	£	£	£
900	169	169	...	27
1,000	199	226	...	39
1,250	263	301	...	38
1,500	331	376	...	45
2,000	460	526	...	60

It will be seen that it is only lip service that is paid to the principle of differentiation in this table.

If a man with £1,000 a year earns every penny of his income, he is to be charged £196; if, on the other hand, he derives every penny of his income from safe investments in the funds, he is to pay £226; the difference is only £30.

Similarly, a man with £2,000 a year pays £466 on an entirely earned income, and £526 on an entirely unearned income—a difference of £60.

I do not trouble to give similar figures for a married couple without children, or a married couple with children, but they are to very much the same effect. To name one example, a married couple with three children and £2,000 a year are to pay £412 if the income is all earned, and £472 if the income is all unearned, being a difference of £60.

If we consider the extraordinary difference which obtains between the position of a professional man who is entirely dependent upon his own exertions, and those of a man deriving a similar income from investments, we cannot fail to be struck by the injustice which is done by such arrangements. If the professional man dies or loses his health, his income disappears at a flash, while that of the owner of investments continues. It is surely deplorably unfair that, at the end of a war such as has just been waged, when property was preserved by the exertions of the entire community, that those who earn their incomes should pay in taxation sums so nearly approaching what is paid by those who have not to earn their incomes.

The capital levy, from this point of view, may be regarded as a means of doing more substantial justice in the matter of differential taxation. Against this it may be urged that justice could equally be done through the Income Tax; there is, however, no prospect of it being done.

Even if this consideration did not exist, there is much to be said for writing off the whole, or a great part, of the national indebtedness as an alternative to the levying of a high rate of income tax. It is difficult to know how it can be contended that the writing off of capital liabilities could be regarded as more restrictive of enterprise and productivity than a big annual levy for Income Tax. Mr. E. J. P. Bann, in the *Review of Reviews* recently, put the case for the capital levy strongly, from the point of view of a business man, by comparing the national position to that of a company which found itself in financial difficulties. He put it thus:

"The shareholders and the creditors would come to the conclusion that there had been waste, and would first of all make such arrangements as to preclude the possibility of a continuation of that waste. They would next come to the conclusion that a lot of money had been lost and that the business could not hope to succeed in the future unless that loss were wiped out and an opportunity given for the managers to start afresh with a clean sheet without the incubus of the past continually pulling them down."

Professor Pigou has stated the point in another way :-

"If no special levy is made, the rates and forms of taxation which this country will be compelled to adopt, threaten, in their indirect consequences, very great peril to the productivity of our industry. If only a small or moderate revenue were needed, the advantage to be looked for from cutting down the principal of the war debt by means of a special levy might or might not outweigh the disadvantages. But, with the enormous revenue that will in fact be needed, the scales are no longer balanced. From the side of industrial productivity we are driven

towards a special levy, as the one way out of a situation which must otherwise prove intolerable."

Turning to the score of practicability, the objectors have much difficulty in sustaining argument. The Government in such a case can take payment in cash or in kind. Most obviously it can accept Government securities of any sort, and as War Stock is held in some quantity by almost all wealthy persons this disposes of a very large part of the suggested difficulty. One or two patriotic holders of War Stock have voluntarily handed in their bonds for cancellation, and in so doing they recognised their true obligation to the State. But payment in War Bonds need be by no means compulsory, although it would be convenient, and although it would be worth while for the State to offer some slight advantage to secure such a mode of payment. Other securities could be paid over without realisation, and it is important to observe that the Government, in its turn, when it becomes the owner of such property need not realise. Holding the securities it would receive the interest upon them, which would, *pro tanto*, relieve taxation. Thus also with land; the Government could either accept mortgages or payments by instalments in cash or in securities. Suitable arrangements could be made to meet cases of special hardship or difficulty.

In conclusion, one cannot help but feel that the less the difficulties of detail in such a matter are dwelt upon the better for the credit of all concerned. In the war the lives of men were conscripted, and, as a result of the war, many millions of men had to face the "difficulty" of abandoning their homes and occupations for military training and the field of war. *Eight hundred thousand of them are dead, and fully twice that number are home again seriously maimed or permanently injured in health.* To the war pensioners we are paying £120 millions a year, as compared with the £345 millions per annum which the National Debt is costing us. For the classes owning property to consent to a levy which would relieve the nation as a whole from paying an annual sum three times as great as it pays to the war pensioners would be entirely creditable.

It should be added that the capital levy would be, of course, a graduated one, and that it would not be worth while to tax fortunes of less than, say, £5,000. From that sum it would range upwards at a graduated scale, beginning at, say, 5 per cent. In this connection it should be remembered that two-thirds of the entire land and capital of the country is owned by those whose individual fortunes exceed £10,000 each.

Finally, I think there is a strong case for making a special and extra levy upon war fortunes. It is all nonsense to say that such a thing is impracticable; twenty years ago I was told that a graduated income tax was impracticable!

THE CHILD AND SERVICE.

By BELFRAGE GILBERTSON.

The opportunities of work for women within the League of Nations are endless and open up a vista of possibility far beyond our vision. That women representative of so many aspects of life should have met together under this banner is inevitable, and proves by the principle of unity that the call of service is always greater than any personal need. Such action has been foreshadowed for some time by the spontaneous growth of small groups of women working quietly along the lines of service, and now that the opportunity has come no doubt the work needed to bring about a condition of social and economic equality in Europe will be undertaken in earnest. It is obvious that as soon as conditions of economic equality prevail in Europe peace will follow.

There was a wonderful Conference at Zurich in May, 1919, at which Jane Addams presided—Jane Addams whose child faith was inspired by the ideals of Mazzini. The main theme at this Conference was the foundation of life's structure for the future, and the value of the Child as the link between spiritual and material reconstruction. It was suggested that the League of Mankind was founded on love and that co-operation and friendship between all nations was possible if this power were used to the utmost. Some few of the women who attended that

Conference went on to Vienna to corroborate evidence received of the appalling conditions prevailing after three years of famine. The reports received doubled the efforts of those at home who were engaged on the work of helping to rescue the remnants of Austrian childhood from miseries beyond belief, and lives into which laughter had ceased to come. Without food, fuel, or clothing, thousands of homes in Vienna were becoming graves for children, where no joy ever penetrated and no sunshine seemed to come.

The Swiss had already started relief work, and during the Conference eight hundred ill-nourished children, all who were fit to travel from the two thousand three hundred chosen at Vienna, arrived at Zurich for a change of food and air. The report runs thus: "The first batch of children was better than we expected, for each one wore its little Sunday frocklet. However, we soon discovered that this Sunday frock was in nearly all cases their chief possession and that there remained only a few rags in their little travelling sack. Not till medical examination was undertaken did the children's distressing condition become terribly clear. They were nothing but skin and bone, even the practised eyes of the doctors estimating their age at several years less than they really were."

Since then conditions have altered somewhat owing to the joint action of America and England in sending relief. America provides at present a daily meal for two million five hundred and seventy-eight thousand children in Finland, Estonia, Lettonia, Lithuania, Poland, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Yugo-Slavia. This work is wonderful, but it is not enough. In Austria alone there are nine hundred and thirty thousand undernourished children; in Germany one million; in Hungary one million, and in Poland at least one million five hundred thousand. Armenia records two hundred and fifty thousand orphans, and Serbia five hundred thousand.

It has been stated by economists and statesmen that all the charity in the world will not restore Europe if her economics remain unsound. What, then, remains for us to do while children suffer? From Serbia a story comes of a gallant boy of twelve, sole proprietor of his father's farm, who bravely kept things going for three years, paid his taxes, sold his stock, and married off one of his two sisters according to the custom of the country. When the Relief Mission operating in Serbia found him he was care-worn and weighed down by the impossibility of being able to provide a dowry for his sister, as marriage without a dowry was unthinkable. So they took him to hospital and put him to bed. He was heard to say, "What a relief to have nothing more to worry about."

It is the little old souls of the world who are calling out for love; a temporary relief to tide them over the next few years until they recover their mental balance and find happiness in forgetfulness. In many cases their bodies have been broken under the strain, so that our care will have to be permanent, but this is not always the case, and where a response comes to mothering and to medical ministrations hope grows among the relief missions, and competition increases to save for that brave little nation as much as is possible from the wreck.

Courageous women have laid down their lives in Serbia in this service of the Child. As in Poland, workers in the typhus area have forfeited their lives. So it is in Austria, Hungary, and Russia. The work of reconstruction demands all the courage and patience and endurance that human nature is capable of, but the response must be a reward in itself as is the vision of a future where child memories may tilt the balance between war and peace. It is true that service is power, and the opportunity at present for service is greater than it ever has been in the history of the world. Food is the crying need everywhere, clothing, and material from which to make it. Cod-liver oil, linen, and bedding are asked for in France, Austria, Poland, Hungary, and Armenia. The wheels of commerce are still rusty, transport creaks and coal is not forthcoming, labour groans with hunger, tired bodies are unable to respond to external stimuli. The Treaty will be revised, or regarded as a "scrap of paper." In any case the future is with the child. Those orphans must be fed, clothed, and made happy if Europe is ever again to become a creative and productive Continent. That there should be enough food in the world and that people still go hungry is a reproach upon the intelligence of Europe. That the burden of rescue and the message of love and reconciliation should be left to the few instead of being shared by all, is to confess that our creed has failed us. Surely truth is found in the vision of those helpless and homeless children needing care and attention. Relief is always inadequate, but it is the only remedy at present. The real solution lies with our economists, and on their heads be it if the future generations of Europe grow up with fear in their eyes.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

Parliament met on Tuesday, June 1st, after the recess. The weather was hot, and the House empty and languid. There was a desultory discussion on Naval Estimates, but no attempt was made to tackle their quite unjustifiable size. The chief interest, however, was not in the Chamber, but in the Lobby, where there was a persistent rumour that the Cabinet had rejected the proposal to tax war wealth. It was reported that Mr. Austen Chamberlain and Mr. Winston Churchill supported the suggestion, but that the rest of the Cabinet, Lord Milner in particular, were strongly opposed. The anticipation proved correct, and on the following Monday, June 7th, Mr. Chamberlain announced the Government's decision, and it was that the proposal was rejected. There is to be a discussion; but it is more than improbable that the decision will be changed. Opinion is sharply divided. Many members agree with Colonel Sidney Peel, M.P., who put the case for taxation so admirably in last week's WOMAN'S LEADER; but probably a majority oppose it, many very bitterly, and the memorial against it was extensively signed. A good many of its supporters, too, feel that the opportunity has been allowed to slip, and that what was practicable a year ago is not practicable now. But it still has many advocates, and those not the least responsible and far-sighted members in the House, who would much prefer it, for economic as well as for political reasons, to the sixty per cent. Excess Profits Duty, and the heavy taxation on articles of general consumption which the Budget imposes.

Wednesday and Thursday, June 2nd and 3rd, were allotted to Home Rule, and curious days they were. The House was never full, and most of the time nearly empty, except for the Ulster members and a small band of Unionists. The Liberal and Labour Opposition combined for considerable periods mustered only two or three representatives, and these took little part in the debate.

The dark and difficult situation in Ireland, growing worse from day to day, threw a shadow of unreality over the proceedings, for who could take interest in a Bill which might never come into operation? This unreality, however, was sharply broken through by an amendment moved on Wednesday by Captain Coote, and supported by Captain Elliott. They wanted the two Parliaments, Southern and Northern, to be given control of the armed forces of the Crown. The argument was this: You can do nothing unless you give these two Parliaments Dominion status, carrying with it control of the army: you cannot have one Dominion, for Ulster cannot be asked to join those whose political methods are outrage and murder: therefore, you must have two. The risk is tremendous, said Captain Elliott, but what is the alternative? You cannot rule Southern Ireland by force. Why not? cried out the Ulster members. Because that is what we young men fought and died to prevent, he retorted: and the retort was unanswerable. The incident ended in the usual way by the House supporting the Government against the movers, but its effect remained, for it went to the heart of the problem. Either you rule by force, which is impossible, or you trust those who have put law to an end and who murdered policemen, which is equally impossible. After this the debate calls for little comment. The House got involved in difficult questions, chief among them that of the Royal Irish Constabulary. It must be admitted that the Government came badly out of the discussion, for Mr. Walter Long showed lack of insight, and Mr. Fisher lack of grip, but they made timely concessions and their majorities when it came to a division were large.

More important than the Home Rule Bill was Mr. Lloyd George's announcement that the Government meant to trade with Russia. The case is a strong one; it is not our business to judge the morality of foreign governments, and provided that we get our prisoners returned and the Bolsheviks refrain from mischief in Persia, India, and elsewhere, there is an overwhelming case in favour of re-opening trade. The question was discussed on the following Monday on a motion for the adjournment. Mr. Lloyd George spoke. It was not one of his best speeches, but he had the House with him, and his opponents refrained from a division.

One of the most interesting events of the week was the presentation on the Terrace of a wedding present to Miss Bonar Law, interesting not mainly for the speeches of the great masters of speech who took part in the presentation, though all reached a high level, but for that of the bride herself, who captured everybody.

KITCHEN POLITICS.

VENTILATION AND HEATING.

By DR. C. W. SALEEBY, M.D., F.R.C.S., Edin.

Now is the time for us to define and apply the principles of ventilation in our new homes. It will cost very much less to build them aright from the first than to adapt them to physiological principles afterwards.

In the first place, two fallacies may be disposed of. Thus, many people suppose that a room can be successfully ventilated by opening the windows, or what not, prior to, or after, its human occupation; but a room needs ventilation not when it is empty, but when it is occupied. The occupant is altering the air to his own disadvantage, as, by adding carbon dioxide, water, and heat to it, and the need for ventilation arises from the fact that he is there. Again, even apart from altering the air, to move it about benefits the occupant and is in itself a species of ventilation, and this clearly is something that must be done when he is there to benefit by it. Again, there is the old distrust of night air—due, as I have tried to show elsewhere, partly to superstitions connected with darkness, and partly to the fact that the malarial mosquito bites at night, so that persons then exposed often became ill. But in London and our other cities the study of atmospheric pollution by smoke shows that the air is purest in the night hours, when fewest fires are burning, nor is the malarial mosquito to be feared in any of them. About three a.m., indeed, is the only time at which it is safe to take a breath in our cities.

In our new homes we want air that is fit to breathe at every hour of the day and night; and during the greater part of the year in this country we have to keep warm. These two requirements tend to conflict with one another. For instance, we may establish the system of central heating, whereby the air of our rooms is warmed, and then, since this has cost us a pretty penny, we naturally dislike to allow any of the warm air to escape. Heating of a kind is achieved, but what becomes of ventilation? Nor is this the best kind of heating. The Turkish bath has its uses, but it is not the ideal for either work or play in the home. The ideal is Nature's way, and in our houses we should try to imitate her. It is good to be alive, to be intensely aware and awake, and to rejoice in our strength when we are out in the early morning, with the sun shining on us warmly enough, through cool and moving air. Radiant heat, and not the hot, stagnant humid air of a Turkish bath—cool, and moving, and relatively dry air—these are the optimum conditions which we must try to reproduce. Such a criterion involves the verdict that central heating, even by anthracite or coke, which produce no smoke, is at best only a second best.

How to get our radiant heat? The fire of soft coal we have condemned; it is healthy within the room, abominable without, and, in any case, the nation cannot afford to burn such coal. The electric radiator is vastly to be preferred. It produces no smoke or noxious products of combustion, and the heat which it provides is of the right kind; but it does not ventilate. If we were to rely upon it for heat, we should have to instal some further arrangement for changing or for moving (even apart from changing) the air in the room. Altogether, this will be very costly and out of the question for most houses. There remains the modern type of gas stove, which must be provided with a properly functioning flue—very much less expensive than a chimney—and which, given that condition, meets every demand of physiology, providing radiant heat and ventilation. Until enough of us are agreed on this matter the cost of this method may seem serious; but I entirely agree with the argument of Principal John Graham, of Dalton Hall, Manchester, in his valuable little book on "The Destruction of Daylight"—out of print, unfortunately—that it is to the national interest to make it financially possible for every individual to do that which the economic and hygienic interests of all require.

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE.

By MERIEL L. TALBOT.

It was the country's necessity which brought numbers of women into agriculture for the first time during the war. Will it be for the country's good that they should so continue now that the War is over?

Light is likely to be given to this question if the evidence collected by the special Sub-committee of the Ministry of Reconstruction, as recorded in the report issued by them in December, 1919, is carefully considered. Mr. Ashby, in his interesting Historical Retrospect, makes it quite clear that from the earliest days women's labour has been an important item in rural economy. In the thirteenth century women appear as day workers on some of the big English estates, while as early as 1388 there is an entry in the Statute of Labourers which shows that the same maximum yearly wages of 6s. is fixed for "a swineherd, deyrice women, and women labourers." Women then as now were divided into two main classes: the farm servant, whose work includes household duties as well as attention to the dairy and work in the yards and fields, and the "outworker, day worker, or field worker," whose duties are purely agricultural. That the two classes were distinct is shown in an assessment made by the Essex Justices in 1661, in which mention is only made of women hay makers, weeders of corn, and women reapers. On the other hand, the only women workers mentioned in the assessment made by the Justices of Bury St. Edmund in 1682, are dairymaids or cooks. Certainly no fortune can have been made by the women in those days. The maximum rate fixed by the Warwick Quarter Sessions in 1657 appears as follows:—"The best maidservant not to exceed £1 10s. by the year except she make malt, and then not to exceed £2. Maids and women working in harvest for reaping not to exceed 8d. by the day. For haymaking and other work at other times not to exceed 4d. by the day."

During the eighteenth century the position improved, and in some parts wages rose fairly rapidly. The women also were able to supplement their scanty field earnings by such by-industries as spinning and weaving. It is clear that at this time women came to be employed increasingly as farm servants, as well as for casual labour both in the market garden industry and in the corn growing areas at harvest time. Much of the regular farm work was carried out by the wives of the farmers, of whom in the North Riding of Yorkshire it was reported:—"Their industry is not exceeded by that of the women of any country, equalled by few."

When we come to the nineteenth century, the work was largely determined by local custom, and varies accordingly, e.g., in districts where large farms existed women were employed as casual labourers and as farm servants. In Cumberland and Westmorland, and in the south-western counties, they were often engaged as carters. In Wales at that time, as in Scotland more continuously, milking was regarded as women's work. It was in this century that the gang system of employment, still familiar in some of the eastern counties, began to appear. The gangs were of two kinds, "public" and "private." In the former the married women, girls, and boys were employed by the gang-master to do work at time-rates of payment for farmers with whom the gang-master contracted. The gangs travelled from one farm to another. "Private" gangs were organised by the farmer himself, who provided a foreman or gang-master. The work done included all manual operations on potato and root crops, weeding corn and pastures, haymaking and harvesting.

Between the years 1850 and 1870 the increased use of machinery and the improved drainage of land lightened farm work considerably, with the result that there was a large decrease in the number of agricultural labourers, both male and female. In the case of the latter, statistics show that whereas in 1851 143,021 women were employed, in 1871 the figure dropped to 57,988.

In the next period, 1870 to 1910, the employment of women in farm work was affected by certain changes in legislation, such as the Gangs Act, and above all by compulsory education. Gang masters had to obtain a licence, and children under eight years of age might not be employed. As a result of the Education Act married women could no longer leave the care of their

homes to the older children, who were now obliged to attend school. With better education came the desire for improved conditions. The daughters of agricultural labourers were resolved to rise above the low level of employment in which their mankind were engaged. Domestic service in private houses gave them better opportunities in wages and home comforts. Indeed, at that time it might be said that there was quite a boom in domestic service, which was regarded by all in the villages as a more honourable occupation for women than farm work. This general attitude of the women coincided with that of their fathers and husbands, who opposed farm work for women as tending to lower their own wages, and as preventing their womenkin from looking after their homes.

By 1911 the number of women employed in agriculture had dropped still further, and the census figure is given as 13,245. The women who remained were chiefly found among the "bondagers" in Northumberland, and among those working in the pastoral districts of Wales, in the north and north-west of England, and in the market garden and fruit growing districts, while a certain number were employed as day workers on highly cultivated arable farms where potatoes and other crops were grown.

Throughout the Committee's report numberless figures are given, taken from the Census, Board of Trade, and other Returns, but it is difficult to find any clear path through the maze of these figures so often contradictory and so difficult to reconcile. The Committee itself was evidently fully aware of the hopeless inaccuracy revealed by the conflicting Returns, for in one of their conclusions they recommend "that the duty of obtaining accurate statistics relating to women engaged in agriculture, and of maintaining adequate information upon any changes in the number of women so engaged, be urged upon the appropriate authority."

In regard to the position at the present time, the report reviews the employment of the farm servant class, of the skilled worker, and of the part-time seasonal worker. Reference is also made to the work of women in the poultry industry, on market gardens, in flax production, afforestation, and sugar beet growing. It is clear that the demand for women in these several employments is of a variable kind. There is a large unsatisfied demand for the domestic farm servant in certain areas; especially in Wales, in the north-eastern, north-western, and some of the midland counties of England, where the work of the farmer's wife is arduous. On the larger farms male labourers lodge in the farmhouse and add considerably to her work, and on the smaller farms, in addition to the work of her house, she has to help with the outside work as well. There is also evidence of a largely increased demand for part-time milkers, and to a considerably smaller extent for the full-time milkers and stockwomen. There would seem to be two main reasons for this demand. In the first place, reorganisation of the work on the larger farms is now necessary, owing to the high cost of labour and the reduction of the permanent staff. Thus a demand is created for seasonal workers, and in the dairy industry for part-time milkers, who will attend to the milking in the morning and evening. Again, the demand for the skilled woman worker has been stimulated by the greater supply during the war, owing to the Government organisation of the Women's Land Army, and such voluntary societies as the Women's Land Service Corps with the attendant opportunities for training. Women have been encouraged to do skilled farm work, and large numbers have proved their capacity for it. They met at the outset much prejudice on the part of the farmers, not to mention a considerable amount of ridicule from the general public, but by their courage, skill and perseverance these new recruits to farm work not only dispelled the prejudice and silenced the ridicule, but they also helped considerably to do away for all time with the idea that farm work is a degrading occupation. It is interesting to notice that in Cardiganshire, a county where women labour is used to a greater extent than any other part of England or Wales, many women have entire charge of the cattle, while for such work as milking, butter and cheese making, feeding of calves, pigs, and poultry, and cleaning of pens, women are invariably employed. Generally speaking, women are more successful when dealing with young store stock than the average male worker—they obtain better results both as to quality and quantity of milk produced, and pay greater attention to the importance of cleanliness. It is therefore in the interest of the

country that women should be employed in the dairying industry, and that that industry should be developed.

Some interesting figures are given in the Report from which the importance of the poultry industry is clearly shown. In 1914, £9,303,334 worth of poultry and poultry produce was imported into this country from abroad. To-day, even if it were desirable to spend such a large sum of money on foreign produce, it is no longer possible to do so, for during the war the stocks of European poultry have been depleted, while at the same time home stocks have suffered owing to the scarcity of feeding stuffs. It is therefore essential to increase the home production, and it is for this work that women are especially fitted. Every effort should be made by the authorities to encourage women to understand the industry, and to obtain the necessary instruction.

In connection with the flax production and afforestation work of the country, as well as in the sugar-beet growing, women have been helpful during the war in various operations connected with those industries. Any demand for their continued work in the future must depend upon whether or not the several industries will be developed. The same applies to such industries as fruit canning and fruit bottling.

Very little reference is made in the report to women occupiers or small holders, and no doubt their number is likely as yet to be small, for the work to be successful requires capital, business experience as well as technical knowledge of farming operations. But the demand for small holdings among ex-service men and others is very large, and this fact concerns women to an important extent. All experience goes to prove that the success of a small holding depends on the fullest use being made of the land, of the live stock, of all by-products, as well as upon the economic management of the home, and that for all this the unit of management is the family. The woman's influence is likely to be considerable, not only in the control she must necessarily exercise over the weekly expenditure of the home, but also the influence she will have upon her husband as a result of her knowledge—or her ignorance—of the work to be done, and the advantages of co-operation. Not only so, but the assistance of women is also required in the manual work of the holding, thereby making the holder independent of outside casual labour. The situation is well summarised in the report as follows:—

"The forms of assistance required of women if small holdings are to be successful are:—

- "(a) Assistance in internal management of the business.
- "(b) Oversight of or assistance in the management of the external business.
- "(c) Assistance in the lighter manual work of the holding.
- "(d) Fitting the economy of the house with that of the holding."

More and more it is being recognised that if the rural districts of the country are to retain the most intelligent rather than the most backward of the population, and if the agricultural industry of the country is to be developed, the active interest and practical support of women is of vital importance. Once get the village women to take an intelligent interest in the importance of home-grown food and of the paramount value to the country of the agricultural industry, and they will influence the coming generation to an incalculable extent. It is on that account that so much is hoped for from the Women's Institute movement, and the opportunities it affords for self-education among rural women of all classes.

It is impossible in so small a space to do more than touch the springs of this interesting subject. But I hope what has been said may induce more women to study the question, and in particular the part they can take in pressing home the important recommendations of this special Committee.

THE POLITICAL POSITION OF ITALIAN WOMEN.

By FERNANDE SALVEMINI.

The Bill granting Italian women the Parliamentary and Local Government Vote passed the Chamber of Deputies, but it was not ratified by the Senate on account of the General Election. But as Woman Suffrage is on the programme of the Catholic, Socialist, and Republican Parties, and almost all groups in the Chamber, it will without doubt be obtained before long. In the near future, therefore, both at Local Government Elections and at future General Elections, we hope to see Italian women of all classes called to take part. The various feminist associations and other political organisations are already busy preparing

women for this new right by newspapers, lectures, and discussions. In fact, by all the ordinary methods of propaganda specialised to meet the needs of particular sets of people.

In the whole of Italy, from north to south, public opinion has accustomed itself to the idea of women voters with astonishing ease. In the light of what can already be regarded as an accomplished fact, the tranquil good sense of this people, so little recognised abroad, and so unable to make itself felt at its real worth, has triumphed more quickly than elsewhere over the prejudices of centuries. Not that everyone is convinced that the usefulness of the coming reform was favourable to the emancipation of women.

Even among women themselves, and perhaps most of all among the "intellectuals," there are those who protest in the name of society in general and of feminine happiness in particular against a measure which will, they believe, revolutionise the family. But their voices will pass into the night.

At the moment it is not possible to foresee the number of women who will get their names put on the register, nor the percentage who will actually vote. At the last General Election only a third of the registered electors voted. Will women be more or less indifferent? Or will they realise at once the value of their new conquest for the defence of all their interests.

In spite of the very serious and energetic feminist movement which has developed in Italy in the course of the last fifteen years, it would have been very difficult to break through the hard crust of traditional submission in habits and prejudices which preserved women from all contact with all independent social life had no special circumstances lent their aid. The feminist problem has, however, of late presented itself as a practical question, with regard to which considerations based on principle and justice played a useful but not a prominent part. It is the economic needs of modern life which have led, as they could not but lead, to the building up of a society where woman is, whether people like it or not, an indispensable element in the common work; and in which her wages form a necessary part not only of her individual life, but of that of her family.

Before the war, Italian statistics showed some six million women occupied in various branches of work, not counting work in the home. The majority of women of the proletariat and the lower middle class were already leaving their homes for the workroom, the factory, the office, and the school. The war, apart from the temporary phenomenon of the employment of women in occupations in which the absence of men made them indispensable, has made one durable change. The present economic conditions of the middle class make it so difficult for them to face the increased cost of living that they are forced to prepare their girls as well as their boys for paid occupations. Now the middle class is the fortress of old traditions, but already there have been many assaults on it. The women in it are already very different from what they were but a short time ago. During the war they had responsibility for business, for their children, for themselves, was thrown upon them. They took part in numerous forms of social work, of propaganda, and of philanthropy. It would hardly be possible to enumerate, or even to discern all the elements which have modified, and which are modifying the Italian woman, like the woman of other countries from day to day.

As far as Italian law goes, the women are far from being among the oppressed. No article in the code declares that a woman owes obedience to her husband. A recent law has delivered married women from the necessity of "marital authorisation," and they have the right of guardianship, and of admission to all public employments except those that have to do with National Defence. In the family and in society woman is still far from being as free as all her new responsibilities would demand if she were to fulfil them thoroughly; but when she has gained a clear realisation of her own interests she will have the means of making them felt, and she knows it.

On the benches of schools and universities where little girls and little boys, young girls and young men study together, in offices, in workshops, and in factories, the new woman is preparing herself and making herself felt. Even in the little towns of Southern Italy, where life has a touching patriarchal character, where the old mother often does not know how to read, but can put in her word when the candidates for the electoral college are being discussed round the family table—those little towns where a girl can more easily obtain permission to go alone and work in the Universities of Rome or Florence than to go out alone under the eyes of her neighbours—even there Women's Suffrage is talked of freely to-day, and without causing the least shock to anyone.

Is it because men are telling themselves that now they will get two votes instead of one? Perhaps. But they would do well to prepare themselves for some disillusionment on this point.

OVERSEAS SETTLEMENT FOR BRITISH WOMEN. OPENINGS ON THE LAND IN NEW ZEALAND.

By J. T. HORN. (Wellington, N.Z.)

New Zealand will welcome and reward women workers; but at first they should go in groups and make their arrangements on that plan. The idea is new yet, but it will grow and as it expands more and more it will enable more and more English-women to come out and live profitably in what I, in conjunction with most New Zealanders, think of affectionately as "God's own country."

I propose to deal primarily with women's work as employees in agriculture which will probably appeal to the greater number of your readers, at any rate as a start. One of the difficulties of farming occupations is that they are seasonal and therefore to some extent casual. It is, however, our proud boast in New Zealand that this disadvantage applies to a less degree than in other countries. This is due, to a large extent, to the mild climate and the absence of severe extremes of either heat or cold. Not only is there no long snowy season, but, in most localities, there is no snow at all and only quite light frosts. Extreme heat is also markedly absent. Many classes of farming so far provide no opportunity for female labour except the wife of the farmer and the domestic assistants. Sheep farming, grazing, cropping, cattle rearing, dairying are, except the last named, unsuitable. As regards dairying, nearly all milking is now done by machine; butter is all factory made, and the most prominent employee is the mechanic.

This, then, brings us to fruit culture, and I wish under this head to include (1) orcharding, *i.e.*, growing fruit on trees; (2) small fruit culture, *i.e.*, growing fruit on plants and bushes; (3) hop growing; (4) vegetable growing; (5) poultry farming; (6) bee-keeping. These six are all indeed kindred occupations, except, perhaps, hop-growing. All six thrive in the same districts. The climatic desiderata are similar—absence of high winds, foggy or damp weather, late frosts, and presence of ample sunshine.

Many districts in New Zealand are good, but fruit-growing is at present carried on in Nelson, Canterbury, and Otago in the South Island, and in Hawkes Bay and Auckland in the North Island. The figures given in this article refer to Nelson, but there is little difference, if any.

Dealing firstly, then, with orcharding. The specific classes of work at which women are employed are hoeing, weeding, pruning, spraying picking, grading, packing.

Hoeing is loosening up the ground by means of a hoe to a distance of eighteen inches all round each tree and removing or digging in weeds in that area. The horse or tractor cultivator cannot approach right up to the tree, hence this small area of land must be loosened up and cleaned by hand tools. An ordinary orchard of, say, forty acres would contain about five thousand trees which all must be separately hoed or weeded. This class of work requires no experience, but is, of course, somewhat tiring to a novice, especially in a young orchard unsheltered from a hot sun. It is, however, fine, healthy work. The pay is about eight shillings per day.

Pruning.—Simple pruning of young trees is readily acquired, especially apples; pruning of older trees is more difficult. Peaches and other stone fruit are very intricate, but as apples represent nineteen-twentieths of the planting this is immaterial. It is recommended that a good elementary pruning book be purchased and practice be made as often as an example is forthcoming, preferably, to start with a tree of no very great value to its owner. Expert pruners earn about fifteen shillings per day.

Spraying.—This is not difficult work once the spray is mixed. All depends on the strength of the mixture, if too weak it does not answer its purpose, if too strong it damages the tree. It is usual to have a foreman and one, two, or three assistants, according to the number of nozzles used. Spraying is done by a power machine generally drawn by a horse. So far the horse is much preferable to the motor as it will move forward to a call and so save a driver's wages, the calling being done by one of those spraying. The power plant meantime is working, forcing the spray through hose pipes and each person spraying holds one of these pipes; the trees being done in rows. If two pipes, one each side of pump; if four pipes, two each side. Spraying is, of course, a dirty job, but if care is taken to keep to windward this is much lessened. It is not difficult nor is it hard work. Ordinary wages of eight to twelve shillings per day are paid.

Picking.—This is done into sack aprons carried at the waist and fitted with openings at bottom, when full the apples are

gently let out into cases which are presently removed. Ordinary wages, eight to twelve shillings per day.

All the above work is, of course, carried out in the orchard, but such is not usually the case with grading and packing unless on a very large orchard. Ordinary size orchards are mostly beginning to cart fruit to central packing sheds, co-operatively run, where the grading and packing is done. For our purposes we will assume employment at one of the packing sheds.

Grading is done as the apples pass on a moving canvas platform, and is for quality only. The machine does its own grading for size. The platform is divided into channels—it is the business of the graders to put into the right channels each apple as it passes. Wages, eight to twelve shillings per day, and overtime.

Packing.—Once the machine grader has sorted the sizes the apples are ready to pack. Packing is, of course, systematic, each apple having its pocket formed by surrounding apples and each being wrapped. This work is mostly paid by the piece and wages vary considerably from six to sixteen shillings per day.

We have now done the round of the orchard, and a look at a calendar may be of use. January, February, March, April, and May—picking, grading, and packing. June, July, August—packing cool stored fruit (best packers only, as work is scarce as season dies). August, September—pruning and spraying, and also any new planting which may be done. October, November, and December—hoeing and weeding as the spring growth comes on. Also lighter spraying in October and November fairly continuously. The slackest months are June, July, and October, but on a well-managed farm the work is well spread so that when packing comes everything may be in apple-pie order.

Small fruit culture includes raspberries, strawberries, gooseberries, cape gooseberries, loganberries, tomatoes (which I include among fruits). The whole difficulty as regards permanent work on a small fruit garden is that all small fruits rush into crop in November and early December, and are over by the end of February. During this season, of course, the volume of work is excessive. Tomatoes crop till April, but are not favoured by good growers as the early tomato pays so much better. A grower with glass houses is able to spread his crops and provide longer employment. With a good all-round small fruit grower the months can be well filled in by planting, bedding out, spraying, pruning, continual cultivation, and also getting ready the various boxes, cases, and packages for the rush season.

Personally, I believe that small partnerships of women growing small fruits, flowers, &c., "as principals" is a very paying proposition, but I am not aware of very many women earning a living as employees on small fruit gardens. These, as a rule, are very small and do not employ much labour, being essentially an industry for principals only. However this does not concern our present article.

Hop Growing.—This is purely a casual work for picking season only, but during that period exceptional money can be earned for about six weeks in February and March.

Vegetable Growing.—Is usually carried on in conjunction with small fruits. Early peas in September employ much labour. Beans, onions, lettuce, cucumbers, cauliflowers, celery, are a fair selection. This industry would open a big field but for one thing. The Chinaman is a big competitor and until his wages are up to European standard very little can be done at a fair wage.

Poultry Farming and Bee Keeping are good side lines on a fruit farm and help to keep labour steadily employed all the year round. As separate occupations they are not yet sufficiently established to warrant any thought of opening up a big demand for labour. They are, however, excellent industries for any one group of women starting on their own account.

As regards employment, I am sure that in small quantities at first women could be absorbed profitably into the agricultural life of New Zealand. I do not think that a partly domestic and partly agricultural situation is, as a rule, good, but it does solve the accommodation problem. This is one of the main difficulties. It is obvious that accommodation which suits a man may not be suitable to a woman, and farmers are only slowly learning that if they do not improve their accommodation they will lose the best of the labour.

"THE WOMAN'S LEADER" IN LITERATURE.

CONTRASTS IN FICTION.

The Tall Villa. By Lucas Malet. (Collins. 7s. 6d.)

It is not the essence of a good ghost story the contrast between the vivid flesh and blood life of the ghost seer and the pale, thin existence of the incorporeal shade? If so, "The Tall Villa" fails. There is not enough difference between Frances Copley and the ghostly friend she entertains. Frances is distinguished by her "breeding." She has a tall, slender figure and "moth-like" eyes. The temporary failure of her husband's business speculations (he is less well-bred and less well-connected than herself) drags her from Grosvenor Square and the beautiful "appointments" of her house there to poverty in the neighbourhood of Primrose Hill. She dwells in the tall villa (which is charmingly described), has only three or four servants, is more or less cut off from most of her noble relations and from her own world, but is consoled by meeting the ghost. He is a noble relation too, very aristocratic, and hardly more unsubstantial than herself. Luckily another of her noble relations relieves her destitution by giving her five hundred pounds. This she spends on new clothes—"more than ever delicious confections" with which to beguile the ghost and deliver him from an earlier and undesirable love, on account of whom he had formerly died. Neither he nor she seems to have had anything real to do or to think about in this life or in the life beyond the grave—so they naturally take to each other. In the end, she apparently joins him, in his form of non-existence, rather than return to her now rich again husband and go back to the joys of Grosvenor Square. It is all very unreal, but there is charm in the descriptions, and as a story it is quite readable.

Good Conduct. By George Birmingham. (John Murray. 7s. 6d.)

"Good Conduct" is in George Birmingham's lightest vein. It is a pleasant account of a series of episodes in the life of a philanthropist, an editor, and a school girl. The philanthropist is Sir Isaac Wool, who had made his money by "understanding cheap stockings" and liked to spend it "Doing Good." The editor edits Sir Isaac's paper, "The Middleton Daily Gazette," and as he has a secure post, a good salary, and a comfortable office, he feels himself bound to help, somewhat unwillingly, in the schemes for Doing Good. Virginia helps too, not unwillingly but according to her own plan. The results are unexpected. Among the people done good to are a sub-editor and a school-mistress. The sub-editor was so irritating and incompetent that he ought certainly to have been sacked, but it was one of the drawbacks of the editor's comfortable post that Sir Isaac Wool's principles made it impossible for him to allow anybody to be sacked. There were some other drawbacks with which many editors will sympathise, such as the necessity of writing leading articles of a given number of words, saying nothing in particular about an important public event, with regard to which the policy of those who control the paper is still in doubt—and the almost serious drawback of never being able to do this undisturbed. Virginia was one of the reasons why he could not do it undisturbed, but she was not altogether a drawback. The book serves well to beguile a summer hour. It suggests no gloomy thoughts of any kind: the scene is not laid in Ireland.

Somewhere in Christendom. By Evelyn Sharp. (George Allen and Unwin. 5s.)

It is impossible to write about the Ideal State without some reflection on the actual State. In the days when Utopia was conceived, these reflections could only be guarded and subtle; it needed all the delicate irony of Sir Thomas More to enable him to manage the business without, for the time being, losing his head. In spite of what we have suffered from Dora, we have

not quite returned to the days of Henry VIII., and Miss Evelyn Sharp sets her Utopia in bold contrast to the militarist "Christendom" of which she so deeply disapproves. She does more. She tries to picture the fate of a small completely pacifist nation in a militarist world. Given that a country has cast away once and for ever the competitive system and the competitive spirit, that it has adopted good-will and brotherhood not only as its ideal, but as the way of life of all its inhabitants, both in their public and their private capacities, what will be its effect on the contending forces of the world? The answer given in "Somewhere in Christendom" is that it will convert them. The description of Etruria's own adoption of brotherhood as a working system, and of its missionary efforts culminating in a simultaneous change of heart in the two great invading armies, is a charming tale. A fairy tale if you like, but not on that account necessarily untrue. It is impossible to believe that things will ever happen just like that, but the events that are here pictured as taking place on a comparatively small stage and in a single generation, might—if humanity is to survive, they must—come to pass somewhere and somehow in the centuries that are to come.

The story opens at the end of a Nine Years' War, in which the great nations of Christendom had rent each other, and the small neutral State of Etruria had been devastated. Etruria, left to itself, was having a revolution which was proceeding on the usual lines:—

"The Executive of the Established Government and the Executive of the Established Church, had alike been hanged on the traditional lamp-post. A few unpopular permanent officials had been clubbed and their bodies thrown into the river. In the general confusion one or two inconspicuous nobles, though favourable to the Revolution, had inadvertently shared their fate. The moderate progressives among the rebels had been allowed to combine with the extremists in order to effect the overthrow of the old order, which they all detested, and to secure the confidence of the nation until the Revolution was sufficiently strong to do without their doubtful support. The army and officialism, soldiers and civilians were, for the moment, presenting a united front against their common enemy—that worn-out civilisation which rested upon force, and which, unless overthrown now, held out for the future no prospect but a series of conflicts until mankind had succeeded in destroying itself. . . . The abdication of the King and Queen (unless they happened most regrettably to be killed first) would be the next step."

It was all going perfectly smoothly. Then something happened. The Prophet came. She was a woman; a Bill to admit women to all the professions had been passed just before the Revolution, in which the male prophets had all perished. She had been overlooked, and the faithful Major Domo sent for her when the Royal Family wanted a prophet. What she did and how she turned the Revolution into new paths must be read in the book. "Somewhere in Christendom" is written with Miss Sharp's accustomed humour and imagination. Parts of it will irritate those who do not agree with her views. Our only serious comment is that we think Miss Sharp's belief in the natural goodness of all human beings is a little inconsistent with her belief that certain classes of human beings—chilly diplomatists and newspaper proprietors—constantly behave with great wickedness. It is true, however, that she makes it clear that this is chiefly because they have got into bad ways, and that they *might* be got out of them, even though they are far more difficult to convert than the rest.

I. B. O'M.

The Studio Year Book of Decorative Art, 1920. The Furnishing and Decoration of Small Houses, Cottages, and Flats.

Of the three articles in the "Studio Year Book" the most solidly important is that by Mr. Maurice S. R. Adams upon "Concrete Homes." Most people are still doubtful about concrete. They have heard perhaps that in Hanover its use, even for stables, was long ago forbidden as dangerous to the health of people and animals; and they ask uneasily, "Is it really

dry? Are not concrete houses cold?" Mr. Adams answers such doubts by telling us that:—

"Concrete may be made very dense or compact and very hard; or it may be made porous and open in texture. Any non-absorbent material will 'sweat' through condensation of water from the atmosphere. . . . For house construction only porous materials which breathe freely should be used. Porous concrete, when properly made, is superior to brickwork, for it is neither damp nor does it 'sweat.'"

The material, moreover, being plastic during construction, and of the same kind throughout, allows the greatest possible liberty of design to the architect. Once hardened it becomes "practically indestructible, fireproof and weatherproof," so that "concrete buildings require little or no maintenance." Obviously these valuable qualities have their drawbacks; the finished house is not only practically indestructible, but practically unalterable, so that if the architect makes errors he makes them once for all. It can hardly be doubted that during the period of experiment concrete houses of the most hideous and uncomfortable kind will here and there come into existence.

Mr. Adams's plans, illustrating his article, all employ the arch as a leading feature in their construction, and most of them with very good effect. The proposed almshouses at Mortlake are charming in their absolute simplicity, and the interior plans quite admirable. With another couple of feet added to the living-room and bedroom (but *not* to the scullery), and with a fitted bath, the two middle sets would serve for exactly the flat of which many a solitary woman dreams.

In his opening article upon decoration and furnishing of small rooms Mr. S. B. Wainwright has some excellent suggestions for utilising recesses, such as those usually found on each side of a fireplace. He will, for instance, bring forward a pair of arched frames to the level of the mantelpiece and hang a long curtain inside each arch, but instead of carrying the fitment to the ceiling will bring the plaster forward above the frieze, so that the frieze will run in a straight line across the top of the two frames and the chimney-breast between, leaving a pleasant little shallow recess over the mantelpiece. In other examples framed doors take the place of the curtains, but the frieze and the wall above it are always brought forward to close in the fitting. Architects would do well to make this arrangement in planning a house. Many of the designs for furniture illustrated are useful and pleasant; but the furnished rooms are too much patterned. People of sensitive nerves would certainly be ill at ease until they had put plain tiles into the fireplaces and plain colouring upon the walls.

CLEMENTINA BLACK.

BOOKS AT RANDOM.

Intellectuals are in the habit of quoting Mrs. Amanda Ros's "Irene Iddesleigh" as the completely worst novel ever published; the remainder of the first edition, published in 1897 at half-a-crown, has, I hear, just been bought up by an enterprising Chelsea bookshop and is being retailed at ten shillings a copy to specialists in the grotesque. Whether or no the wooden spoon should be awarded to "Irene Iddesleigh" is a question depending on a definition of the word "worst": if a book is to be judged on its construction, its preservation of the unities of time, space, and probability, it is likely enough that the worst novel ever written was the work of some ingenious and over-emotional woman. If, however, the criterion is not construction but matter, I am equally convinced that the thinnest, dullest, most unreadable books on record are the work of men. The author of "Irene" has succeeded in the task she presumably set herself, that of entertaining her readers, succeeded to the point of genius, but can anyone imagine the type of author who would deliberately set out to bore? On the whole I should search for the very worst of the batch among the rhymed moral allegories of the middle ages. In days before the mangold-wurtzel and the turnip were introduced into England for feeding stock when there is no pasture, the long winter was a ghastly time for our forefathers. Salt beef and salt mutton alternated monotonously; log fires gave little heat; green rushes could not be found to spread on the floor; the weather was harder, amusements fewer; in this itching discomfort what could my lord of the Manor do to ward off melancholy madness but concentrate on the task of writing a book that would take six months at least to complete at the rate of a steady two hundred lines a day, to match his wife's gigantically conceived tapestry design? I am sure Gower's "Confessio Amantis" was written in this way: it is a bad enough work in all conscience, but there are other less well-known mediæval romances of the same nature, which are even

more uninspired: oh, the dreary tale of the conventional May-morning sleep, the court of Venus, the moral train of virtues and vices, pompous speeches, dragging action, monotonous rhythm, slavish appeal to the authority of the Classics!—(quick, boy, the wooden spoon! Share it among you, my lords!) "Irene Iddesleigh" has faults of a very different nature: as will be seen from the opening paragraphs:—

"Sympathise with me, indeed! Ah, no! Cast your sympathy on the chill waves of troubled waters; fling it on the oases of futurity; dash it against the rock of gossip; or, better still, allow it to remain within the false and faithless bosom of buried scorn!"

Such were a few remarks of Irene as she paced the beach of limited freedom, alone and unprotected. Sympathy can wound the breast of trodden patience—it hath no rival to insure the feelings we possess, save that of sorrow.

The gloomy mansion stands firmly within the ivy-covered, stoutly-built walls of Dunfern, vast in proportion and magnificent in display. It has been built over three hundred years and its structure stands respectably distant from modern advancement, and in some degrees it could boast of architectural designs rarely, if ever, attempted since its construction.

One would dearly like to quote the whole book (which is, by the way, cast in the mould of tragedy) from the errata slip at the beginning to the daffodil design of the end, but the laws of copyright forbid. When Oscar Otwell, Irene's husband, was resolved to bathe his body of perilous adventure in its darkened waters of deepest death, the *dénouement* is finely conceived:—

And finding it rather difficult to refrain from making inquiry from some of the gathering who by this time had hurriedly been retracing their flighty footsteps from the imaginative scene of death, Mrs. Otwell modestly approaching a female who swiftly hopped over the fence in tears, asked what had happened. . . .

On the same page we find:

The breakfast being shortly afterwards announced, Mrs. Otwell pale as death entered the room and taking her accustomed seat to partake of it, took as best she could.

On the Errata slip there is a reference to this passage: "Page 156. 'took' is unnecessary." I wish I could feel that this made better sense; perhaps it does in Ireland, where as you may have guessed the book has its origin. I am told that there is a sister volume to "Irene" called "Delina Delaney," now long out of print, and still more remarkable: this is indeed piling Pelion on Ossa!

The best corrective I have found for the strange mental flux induced by the works of Mrs. Amanda McKittrick Ros is a volume published in "Coronation Year A.D. 1902" by a Lieut.-Colonel Frank Sheffield and entitled "How I Killed the Tiger, being an Account of My Encounter With a Royal Bengal Tiger, with an Appendix containing some General Information about India." Very different is the gallant Colonel's tee-stroke:—

On returning to England after a prolonged residence in India, one is struck—and I am sure all Anglo-Indians will bear me out in this—with the abysmal ignorance of the average Englishman upon everything concerning our vast Indian Possessions and Dependencies. Our Indian Empire is unique; no other European Power can boast of anything at all comparable with it, &c., &c.

Uncle Toby in Sterne's "Tristram Shandy" would, I am sure, have begun his treatise on the art of fortification in much the same style. Uncle Toby had been wounded in the thigh at the siege of Namur by a stone hurled into one of the traverses about thirty toises from the returning angle of the trench opposite to the salient angle of the demi-bastion of St. Roch—Lieut.-Colonel Sheffield in his account of a similar tragedy is even more explicit, especially when he treats of the revolting complications of his wound, and gives us a complete series of twenty-four illustrations that tell the whole story without any need of letterpress. We have twin frontispieces, "The Tiger" and "The Author," and subsequently, "Tiger Mauling my Left Shoulder," "Tiger on top of me," "Tiger again coming to the Charge," "Tiger tumbling over the Pogah," "Sitting down on a small Mound," "Bringing in the Tiger," "Measuring the Tiger," but not, for some reason or other, "Extracting Tiger's Appendix," or "Joy on discovering same to contain some General Information about India."

The Tiger must have been suffering from acute appendicitis to judge from the following extracts:—

The villager, not liking the look of things, skeddaddled with great precipitation. Most mammals have four limbs from which they were formerly called quadrupeds.

The Hindu food ritual is given in Mark vii., 3, where the Pharisees and all the Jews except they wash their hands often, eat not, for bathing is an indispensable pre-requisite to the first meal of the day and washing the hands and feet is equally so before the evening meal.

The only antidote I know to this book is another called "Irene Iddesleigh." I keep them next each other on my shelf, on the first aid principle: "When poisoned by acid take a small dose of alkali; when poisoned by alkali take a small dose of acid."

FUZE.

"THE WOMAN'S LEADER" IN DRAMA.

THE REAL EIGHTEENTH CENTURY AND THE FALSE.

"Beggar's Opera" at the Lyric, Hammersmith. "A Marriage of Convenience," at the Globe.

"It will do, it must do—I see it in the eyes of them," said the Duke of Argyll in the middle of the first act of the "Beggar's Opera." Swift and a little knot of Gay's friends in the next box overheard and thrilled with relief at the omen. For in addition to his own good taste the Duke had an exquisite feeling for the taste of the Town. But, indeed, it did not need a prophet on that first night, in 1728, to see that the play was going to be a success. "The good nature of the audience," says Swift, "appeared stronger and stronger every act and ended in a clamour of applause. It surpassed the wildest dreams of actors and manager. According to Pope, "The vast success of it was unprecedented and almost incredible. What is related of the wonderful effects of the ancient music of tragedy hardly come up to it; Sophocles and Euripides were less follow'd and famous. It was acted in London sixty-three days uninterrupted, and renew'd the next season with equal applauses. It spread into all the great towns of England, was play'd in many places to the thirtieth and fortieth time, at Bath and Bristol fifty, etc. It made its progress into Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, where it was performed twenty-four days together. It was, lastly, acted in Minorca. The fame of it was not confin'd to the author only; the ladies carried about with 'em the favourite songs of it in fans, and houses were furnished with it in screens. The person who acted Polly, till then obscure, became all at once the favourite of the Town; her pictures were engraved and sold in great numbers, her life written, books of letters and verses to her publish'd, and pamphlets made even of her sayings and jests" ("Dunciad, iii., Notes). More than this, she married a lord at the end of the season, and Lincoln's Inn Fields knew her no more.

The play had provided London with a new sensation, and then, as ever, its gratitude for this rarest luxury knew no bounds. So new was it that it required some courage on the part of the manager to produce it at all. Colley Cibber, the manager of Drury Lane, refused the piece outright. Congreve shook his head over the manuscript and remarked that "it would either take greatly or be confoundedly damned." Mercifully it took, and as they said in the coffee-houses, "made Rich (the manager) gay and Gay rich."

The fact is it is the first comic opera. To a generation brought up on Gilbert and Sullivan and endless musical comedies and revues, the "Beggar's Opera"—though delightful of its kind—does not appear in the least unique. In 1728 the thing was new to England as a locomotive in 1825, or the Russian Ballet in 1910. Operas they knew—all too well—long Italian operas, which everyone with any pretension to fashion professed to adore, and at which ninety-nine people out of a hundred were bored to extinction. Comedies, of course, they knew by the score—ridiculing the vices and follies of society at large. What was new was a combination—an opera in a language which could be understood, and where one laughed instead of yawned—a play which pleased the ear and gave one time to turn afterwards.

The subject was new, too. No play presented to the polite audiences of 1728 had ever dealt exclusively with the lower order, still less with the society of Newgate. Yet what a fine subject for a play it was—as Swift had once casually remarked to Gay—thus unconsciously giving birth to the idea. There was a reckless and sinister romance in the subject—a sporting with life and death, the law and society, unknown in any other walk of life. There was a frankness, a coarseness, a joviality in its drinking, wenching, and swearing which went straight to the heart of an audience weary of the artificial refinement of Italian opera and the frigid decency of endless comedies of manners.

Yet there is more in the play than that. As Pope says, it is "a piece of satire which hit all tastes and degrees of men, from those of the highest quality to the very rabble. The society of Newgate—though it really was Newgate—was also a microcosm reflecting in its tiny faithful miniature the larger world to which the audience belonged. Perhaps, what appealed to the audience most was the political significance with which the play was crammed. It is difficult to realise the effect which passages like the following produced in that audience:

"Peachum: In one respect indeed our enjoyment may be reckon'd

dishonest, because like great statesmen we encourage those who betray their friends.

Lockit: Such language, brother, anywhere else might turn to your prejudice. Learn to be more guarded I beg you.

[Sings.] "When you censure the age,
Be cautious and sage,
Lest the courtiers offended should be,
If you mention vice or bribe,
'Tis so pat to all the tribe,
Each cries—'That was levell'd at me.'"

Jokes about bribes and pensions fall flat on the ears of a comparatively uncorrupt generation. They convulsed the audience of 1728 with delighted laughter. Who were Peachum and Lockit? Who was Macheath? Anyhow, when a licence was applied for the production of the sequel, it was refused owing to the intervention of Walpole. They said he could not bear the prospect of seeing himself represented as the head of a gang of robbers for another sixty-three nights. The Court was offended. Was it because the King, like Macheath, had two mistresses, or were Polly Peachum and Lucy Lockit merely two political parties. Anyhow, it was rumoured that his Majesty took exception to the song:—

"How Happy could I be with either
Were t'other dear charmer away."

How prettily the manners of the fine ladies were satirised, too, in such passages as this:—

"Lucy: Dear Madam, your servant—I hope you will pardon my Passion when I was so happy to see you last. I was so over-run with the spleen, that I was perfectly out of myself—but Miss Polly, will you give me leave in the way of friendship to propose a glass of cordial to you, &c."

How well it catches the whole atmosphere of that delightful time, its eloquence and coarseness, its brutality and its exquisite sentiment—above all, its frankness. "What a fool is a fond wench," says the distressed Macheath. "Polly is most confoundedly bit. I love the sex. And a man who loves money might as well be content with one guinea as I with one woman." So he dances with his dozen doxies in the tavern, and is quarrelled over by his two wives in the tavern. But in the end he carries off the pretty Polly to wife, as though he were the most exemplary Gilbert and Sullivan young hero. This may not be right. But the eighteenth and most other centuries are like that.

How far is the version at Hammersmith like the eighteenth century? It is no answer to say what a good idea it is to reproduce the play, and what a delightful evening's entertainment it is. All this is true. The music, scenery, and acting were all charming. Miss Sylvia Nelis as Polly Peachum was especially excellent—not only in her singing, but in her acting. She has a peculiar radiating freshness and charm. It is difficult to imagine that Lavinia Fenton was more attractive. The same compliment can hardly be paid to Mr. Frederick Ranalow as Macheath. His singing was delightful, of course, and his whole performance competent. But Orim refused the part in 1728 because he feared he had not the requisite dash and spirit. It is doubtful if an eighteenth-century audience would have altogether approved of Mr. Ranalow. Of the other actors, Mr. Frederick Austin as Peachum, Mr. Arthur Wynn as Lockit, and Miss Elsie French as Mrs. Peachum, were specially successful. But why were they dressed in these twentieth-century colours? Why did Peachum wear an emerald green silk dressing gown with a scarlet patch on the seat, why was Lucy Lockit dressed in brilliant yellow and red, why have all the men red heels to their shoes? If we are given an eighteenth-century play, music and dresses, why must we have the colours peculiar to our own generation? They are good colours, it is true—but as Solomon says, there is a time for everything. Anyhow, we are very much obliged to Mr. Nigel Playfair for reviving this play, that we could almost forgive him for trying to improve on it.

What a different story when we turn to the "Marriage of Convenience." This is a 1920 reproduction of an 1830 play about the eighteenth century. All the men have red heels to their shoes—all the ladies are powdered and patched up to the eyebrows. There is no futurist colouring, and an endless amount of bowing and curtsying. The audience was delighted, and, indeed, it was quite a pretty spectacle. But as for the eighteenth century—
D. H.

THE AFTERMATH.

By CAROL RING.

Wilma Hanyui was slowly climbing the narrow street leading to the top of the hill above the river, where the splendid Palace stands looking down on the Magyar capital and the wide green waters of the Danube sweep past its feet.

The European War had laid a heavy burden of sorrow upon Wilma, as is the way of wars in dealing with women, and she was now alone in the world save for Stefan Farkas, who lay in the bitter prison in the city, arrested on suspicion of sympathising with the revolution because his uncle had friends who had fought against the White Army; and that in spite of the fact that Stefan himself was a native of Tschapring and had only visited Budapest in the days of the Terror to see if his betrothed were safe. In addition to her personal griefs, Wilma was passionately indignant over the recent partitioning of Hungary. She talked much with the refugees who lived in destitution and misery in tents and wagons outside Budapest, rather than remain to be placed under the hated rule of the Czechs; and listened, white-lipped, to the frank discussions of a new war which should free the divided parts of Hungary and unite them to the fatherland again. Moreover, her mother had been one of those women who had struggled for the vote, and who had taught her to realise the weakness caused by the unhappy internal dissensions between Catholics and Jews, and between Whites and Communists, which split the country into opposing factions. To-day, she carried in her hand some white narcissus and scarlet azalea, colours symbolic of her native country and of the freedom and power of the spirit, and she looked at them sadly as she paused by the Fisher Bastion to recover her breath; for food was scarce in Hungary, and the girl was ill-nourished and anæmic, and faint with her long climb and the warmth of the unusually early spring.

She gazed long at the beautiful city below, with its swift, wide river, and followed its hurrying course to where it divides to encircle Margit Island, noting the white steamers moored along its sides, idle for want of coal. Then her eyes rested on the mass of grey buildings beyond the Danube; somewhere over there Stefan was eating his heart out, in that unspeakable prison, waiting for the trial which never came at which he hoped to prove his innocence. Perhaps on this sad Good Friday he was praying for her as she was about to pray for him at the Holy Tomb in the Royal Chapel—for him and Hungary.

Heavy-hearted, she entered the Palace Hof, and so into the dim interior of the chapel. The main part of the glorious building was in darkness, save for the red gleam of the lamps before the empty altar; only around the open grave was there a glow of soft, yellow light. Patiently she waited amid the awed and silent crowd, until her own turn came to approach the Tomb.

The rows of lighted candles, arranged in semi-circles, shone like stars in the darkness of the church, and the air was heavy with the perfume of masses of white lilac, narcissus and lilies banked up on either side of the grave, which was cut horizontally, deep into the walls of the edifice. At its head and foot stood, motionless and stern, two giant soldiers of the Supreme Guard, their splendid scarlet and gold uniforms showing up startlingly against the white and green of the flowers. In their hands they bore naked halberds with gold damascened blades.

Within the Tomb, lying quietly on its rocky bed, was a perfectly carved figure of the dead Christ; the noble face, marred with suffering yet full of peace, the graceful, slender limbs, and the naturalness of the attitude were a masterpiece of reverent art and skill. It was very simple and pathetic, very dignified and beautiful, and a deep sigh thrilled through the worshipping multitude as wailing voices, sweet and poignant, from an unseen choir, came floating at intervals down the great aisle.

Calmed and strengthened, Wilma passed out again into the sunshine. As she descended the hill she met a Jewish woman toiling up, pushing a long carriage in which lay at full length a

sick child of about seven years. Her thoughts were still occupied with the scene in the chapel, and a hot wave of instinctive revulsion swept through her at sight of these people, hated of her race. Were not *they* responsible for *That*? Then she recalled the public spirit and generosity of many of the Jews she knew, and remembered how they had worked with her mother for the suffrage, and fought side by side with her brothers, mingling their blood with theirs for Hungary, and she looked pityingly at the child, who held out a hand eagerly towards the flowers, saying, "Verek, verék—kerem." The mother apologised. "He has hip disease," she said, "and it grows worse, for we cannot get enough food, and there is no milk"—her voice broke on the last word.

"I gan, I know," said Wilma sadly, and repressing her late thought she placed the cool stalks in the wasted, feverish, little hands. Then, as she looked back to smile farewell the sun sank over the plain, and all the sky above the Palace became flooded with rosy light.

The prison held accommodation for three hundred, and now eight hundred political prisoners were crowded within its walls. Stefan Farkas occupied a cell with thirty-two other men, of whom some were peasants who could neither read nor write, and others cultured gentlemen speaking five or six languages. The cell was lighted at one end by a small window, now partly open, which left the far end comparatively dark; and the prisoners could scarcely move between the verminous beds which covered the floor, and which were without sheets or pillow-cases. Not that sheets mattered much, as everyone had to sleep in the same clothes he wore in the day-time, very few possessing any under-clothing, even a shirt. Already the close and evil-smelling air in the cell was uncomfortably warm, ominous foretaste of the suffering the coming summer would add to their lot. A rough leaden trough with a tap over it was the sole provision for the cleanliness and comfort of the men, the sanitary arrangements consisting of a pail emptied at intervals; the prisoners had no towels and no soap.

A large proportion of the men and women confined here were Jews, the more readily accused of Bolshevik tendencies because of the general animosity felt towards them: others had been arrested on various charges of Communist participation, some on the merest suspicion, or without any charge at all: and many had been there six or eight months without trial. Some of the prisoners, in both the men's and women's cells, were very ill and unable to rise from the beds they shared at night with one or even two other occupants. Some of the women had their small children with them; others had not the remotest idea what had become of their families since they were torn from them. There were, besides, a number of young girls, of whose treatment by their men-jailers sinister tales were whispered. Stefan's only consolation was that the suspicion attached to himself had not included his betrothed. There had been one man whose bride of six days had been arrested with him, and confined in a cell on the opposite side. One day a note was given to him by a friendly jailer whom she had heavily bribed to bring it, and after reading it the man had lost his reason and had been removed.

On this particular Good Friday Stefan and a Jewish prisoner occupied the small seat near the open window (there would be a fight for that seat in the hot days to come), when suddenly the Jew sprang to his feet with an exclamation of such unbearable anguish that Stefan, though occupied with his own gloomy thoughts, and well used to expressions of misery from his fellow-prisoners, looked up questioningly. "Oh," exclaimed the other, answering the sympathy in his eyes, "it is the thought of my wife and child. My little boy has hip disease, and I shall never see him again, for I am here for three years; but if I could only know that he and his mother have food; or whether they have taken her too, and what is happening to them; if I *only* knew!"

Stefan gripped the man's arm in silent understanding, and over the barriers of race and religion was formed a friendship in that pestilential gaol which should be a source of comfort and support to the unfortunate men in the dreary days before them.

At that moment, turning again to the window, they both were gladdened by the soft glow of rose-coloured light in the small square of the western sky, which was all they could see: "The sun must just have gone down over the plain behind the Palace hill," said Stefan. "I gan," responded his friend.

COMING EVENTS.

ASSOCIATION OF HEAD MISTRESSES.
 JUNE 11 and 12.
 At Streatham Hill High School.
 The Annual Conference of this Association.
 Apply for Agenda to Miss Ruth Young, 92, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.
 The following Meetings on League of Nations subjects will be held:-
 JUNE 13.
 At the East Finchley Brotherhood.
 Speaker: Mr. Frederick Whelan. 3 p.m.

JUNE 13.
 In the Greyfriars Institute, Gloucester.
 Speaker: F. Parish, Esq. 7.30 p.m.

JUNE 13.
 At the Abney Brotherhood, Stoke Newington.
 Speaker: Canon Ottley. 3.30 p.m.

JUNE 14.
 At Bishop Creighton's House Settlement, Fulham.
 Speaker: Miss Currey, O.B.E. 8.30 p.m.

JUNE 15.
 In the Lecture Hall, Barclay Road, Leytonstone.
 Speaker: W. Kingscote Greenland. 8 p.m.

JUNE 15.
 In the Town Hall, Gratham.
 Speaker: Major the Hon. E. F. S. Wood, M.P.
 Chair: Lord Brownlow. 8 p.m.

JUNE 16.
 In the Meeting House, Stepney.
 Speaker: G. Nicholson, Esq. 7 p.m.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO SECURE STATE PURCHASE AND CONTROL OF THE LIQUOR TRADE.
 JUNE 15.
 At the Women Citizen's Association, South Chingford.
 Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.
 Subject: "The Future Public House." 3 p.m.

JUNE 17.
 At Southfields Educational Meeting, Southfields School, Merton Road.
 Speaker: Miss A. M. Metcalf.
 Subject: "State Purchase: Pros and Cons." 8 p.m.

CARDIFF AND DISTRICT SOCIETY FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.
 JUNE 15.
 At the Office of the Society, 17, Quay Street, Cardiff.
 The Officers and Committee at Home, to meet Mrs. Lewis, who will give an account of her visit to the West Indies. 4.30 to 6.30 p.m.

LEAGUE OF THE CHURCH MILITANT.
 JUNE 16.
 At Holy Trinity Vicarage, Eltham.
 Speakers: Dr. Letitia D. Fairfield, C.B.E., Miss A. Maude Royden.
 Subject: "The Position of Women in the Churches."
 Chair: Mrs. Acres. 5.30 p.m.

JUNE 18.
 In the Adult School, Sutton.
 Speaker: Miss A. Maude Royden.
 Subject: "The Position of Women in the Church."
 Chair: Dr. Letitia Fairfield, C.B.E.
 Admission Free. Reserved Seats, 2s. 6d. Collection 8 p.m.

JUNE 23.
 At 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.1.
 House Dinner.
 Subject for Debate: "Prohibition v. Anti-Prohibition." 7.15 p.m.

PADDINGTON WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.
 JUNE 18.
 In the Town Hall, Paddington Green.
 Subject: "The Claims of the Unmarried Mother and her Child."
 Speakers: Miss Rosamond Smith, Archibald Allen, Esq., M.A.
 Chair: Sir R. McNeill Beacheroff.
 Discussion to follow. Admission Free. 8 p.m.

ROLL OF HONOUR HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN (688, Harrow Road, W.10).
 JUNE 18.
 In Kensington Town Hall.
 Lantern Lecture in aid of the building fund of the above hospital.
 Speaker: Dr. Flora Murray, C.B.E.
 Subject: "Women's Hospitals."
 Tickets: 5s. 3d., 3s., 1s., 3d., may be obtained from the Organiser, Miss Forbes, 60, Bedford Gardens, Camden Hill, W.10. 3 p.m.

NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.
 JUNE 18.
 At the Club, 46, Marsham Street, Westminster, S.W.1.
 Speaker: Miss Stewart, A.R.R.C. (Home Sister, South-Western Hospital).
 Subject: "Modern Nursing of Fevers." 7 p.m.

THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.
 JUNE 19.
 At 92, Victoria Street, S.W.1.
 Speaker: S. P. B. Mals, Esq.
 Subject: "Modern Fiction."
 Chair: Canon Anthony Deane.
 For particulars as to membership, &c., apply to the Secretary. 4.15 p.m.

GUILD OF EDUCATION AS NATIONAL SERVICE.
 JUNE 22.
 At 11, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.
 Subject: "The Impulse to Civic Service."
 Speaker: Miss Helen Madeley.
 For particulars as to membership, &c., apply to the Secretary. 5.15 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB.
 JUNE 6.
 At 9, Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W.1.
 Speaker: The Rev. Father Bernard Vaughan.
 Subject: "An Informal Talk."
 Chair: Mr. J. Y. Kennedy. 8.15 p.m.

YORKSHIRE SOCIETY FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.
 JUNE 23.
 Annual Meeting of the Council, in the Lecture Hall, Rhyddings Road, Ilkley. 3.30 p.m.

WHAT THE "WOMAN'S LEADER" HEARS.

The Special Effort Committee of the Women's Local Government Society is organising a Thé Dansant at the Hyde Park Hotel for June 25th, in aid of the educational work of the Society. Mackay's Band has been engaged for the afternoon, and since the Hyde Park Hotel boasts one of the most charming ball-rooms in London, the dance should be quite a delightful affair. Among the patrons are Countess Beatty, the Countess of Leicester, Countess Lytton, the Countess of Portsmouth, Viscountess Astor, M.P., Lady Denman, and Lady Llangatock.

Compliments have been lavished on women since the year of grace, 1918, but it has been left for a candidate at the County Council elections in an Ulster county to discover a new merit. "With the lady voters," he told his audience, "they were in the hands of a safe sex." Fair white hands of the lady voters, why were you so long condemned to mere handling of needle and thread, no, needle and silk, when matters of State so sorely needed your gentle touch? "Nothing but beauty in a hand?" asked the wife of that sorely tried individual, Mr. James Lee. She discovered that the disfigured and hardened fingers of the peasant girl had something more than beauty in them. Perhaps party candidates may even discover something more than "safety" in the handling of politics by the lady voters.

The trustees of the Albert Kahn Travelling Fellowships have elected Miss Eileen Edna Power, M.A., and Major John Ewing, M.A., M.C., Fellows of the English Foundation for the year 1920-21. These Fellowships were founded in 1910 by Mr. Albert Kahn, of Paris; and to meet present economic conditions the value of each award has been generously increased by the founder to £1,000 for the current year.

The object of the awards is to enable the Fellows to travel for at least one year in such foreign countries as the trustees shall determine, so that by the study and comparison of national manners and customs, and of the political, social, religious, and economic institutions of other countries, such persons may become better qualified to take part in the instruction and education of their fellow-countrymen. It is interesting to record that Miss Power is the first woman to be elected to an A.K. Travelling Fellowship. Miss Power has the M.A. degree of the University of London, and obtained at Cambridge a First Class in the Historical Tripos of 1910. She held a Gilchrist studentship in 1910-11 at the Sorbonne, and the Shaw Studentship for Historical Research at the London School of Economics in 1911-13. Since 1913 she has been Director of Studies and Resident Lecturer in History at Girton College.

At a general meeting of the members of the Eighty Club a few days ago it was decided that women should be admitted to membership.

Miss M. J. Wilde was elected by the Metropolitan Asylums Board on Saturday to the training ship Exmouth committee, despite protests against the boys being put under petticoat government.

Miss Harris Smith, who was in November last admitted to the Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors, has now been admitted as "Fellow" of the Institute, the President announcing at the annual meeting that Miss Harris Smith "held the proud position of being the first and only woman chartered accountant in the world."

The first annual conference of Scottish Women Health Visitors and Sanitary Inspectors was recently held at Stirling, and expressed its opinion that a curriculum for Health Visitors should be prescribed by the Scottish Board of Health. A good general education, a training in the theory of social science, and practical experience in children's hospitals and fever hospitals, were considered essential to the usefulness of the Health Visitor, who should not be eligible for a whole-time post till the age of twenty-five. These stipulations are very just, but women of this type, who are not fully self-supporting till seven years after school-leaving age, should command a good salary. It is unreasonable to ask them to be content with the remuneration easily obtainable by sixth form girls from a high school when she reaches the age of eighteen and has spent six months in a commercial office.

Dr. Flora Murray, C.B.E., will give a Lantern Lecture on "Women's Hospitals" at the Kensington Town Hall, on Friday, June 8th, and on Friday, July 2nd, at 3 p.m., in aid of the Building Fund of the Roll of Honour Hospital for Children. The Hospital, which is at 688, Harrow Road, in the direction of Kensal Green, is situated near some of the most poverty stricken districts in London. Writing in *The Common Cause* for January 30th of this year, on the urgent need for funds for this Woman's Hospital, Dr. Murray says: "The work is being carried on in small workmen's cottages adapted for the purpose. Three rooms have been thrown together to make the in-patients' ward, which has the aspect of the nursery and not at all of a hospital. . . . Every month brings an average of a thousand new cases to the out-patient department, and one wonders how the small premises can ever accommodate the numbers, for between seventy thousand and eighty thousand attendances are made every year. This popularity is largely due to the fact that, as a woman's hospital, it has a staff of women doctors. . . . This new building is very urgently required. The premises are so small that sick children are sent away daily, while the work of the medical staff is constantly inconvenienced by the crowding of small rooms. The committee is faced with the necessity of limiting the work or erecting better premises."



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All communications should be addressed to The Manager, "The Common Cause" Publishing Co., Ltd., 62, Oxford Street, W.1, who will be glad to hear from readers who experience any difficulty in obtaining copies.

All Advertisements must reach the Office not later than the first post on Tuesday. Advertisement Department, 170, Fleet Street, London, E.C.4.

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Whole Page	£ 12 0 0	Narrow column	£ 4 0 0
Half Page	6 0 0	Per Column	4 0 0
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"THE COMMON CAUSE" PUBLISHING COMPANY LIMITED, 62, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W. 1.

MESDAMES,
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This Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

PROSPECTUS OF
THE WOMAN'S LEADER

"THE COMMON CAUSE" PUBLISHING COMPANY, LIMITED, was incorporated in London in 1909 with a capital of £5,000 for the purpose of establishing and publishing "The Common Cause" newspaper. The capital was increased in December, 1910, to £15,000 by the creation of 10,000 additional Ordinary Shares ranking for dividend and in other respects *pari passu* with the existing Ordinary Shares.

"The Common Cause" in its original form was almost wholly a propagandist newspaper, the object of which was to further by every constitutional means the cause of Women's Suffrage. It may fairly be claimed that "The Common Cause" played a most valuable and important part in the battle, and that the final victory of the Franchise Act, 1918, owes much to its unceasing efforts during the preceding years of discouragement and hope deferred. The victory has been gained, and the Franchise Act has placed in the hands of women vast opportunities for which they have long been waiting for most valuable work in every sphere of action, socially, politically, economically and otherwise. Henceforward, the energies and activities of thinking women must be concentrated, not, as hitherto, on obtaining the franchise, but on making the best possible use of it.

It is obvious that if women are to make the fullest use of their new powers they must be supplied with up-to-date information upon those political and social questions which particularly interest them. It is, however, unfortunately common knowledge, that this information when sought for in the general Press is not always of a very reliable or comprehensive nature. Moreover, much political and economic information of importance to large classes of women does not find its way into the ordinary Press at all.

In these circumstances the Directors of "The Common Cause" believe that the time has arrived when the demand for a newspaper to meet the needs of women in these directions justifies a more ambitious programme than they have yet attempted. They have therefore prepared plans and begun the issue of "The Woman's Leader" on a scale more nearly approaching the importance of the task than that of its predecessor, "The Common Cause."

"The Woman's Leader" like "The Common Cause" will stand for equal opportunities for women in every sphere of life. It will, it is hoped, be a real help to all women who are determined to obtain these opportunities and to use them. "The Woman's Leader" is under the same management as "The Common Cause," but the Board of Directors and the staff have been strengthened with a view to the new situation.

Until the end of 1919 "The Common Cause" was the official organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (now the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship). With the advent of "The Woman's Leader" this official connection has been discontinued by mutual agreement, in order that the paper may reach a wider public. "The Woman's Leader" nevertheless will continue to promote the objects and programme of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, and will follow its general lines and policy on those questions which affect the status and opportunities of women.

In launching this new venture of an enlarged and greatly improved paper for women the Directors of "The Common Cause" Publishing Company, Limited, feel that they are meeting a real need of the women's movement and of the general public.

It is obvious that the new paper cannot be promoted and get firmly on its feet without new capital.

In issuing this request for more capital with which to promote and carry on "The Woman's Leader" the Directors feel that they can speak with considerable confidence as to the future. The position of "The Common Cause" immediately before enlargement gave promising indications of improvement. Its circulation which, not unnaturally, was diminished during the war, was on the increase, and its advertisements, which have always maintained a high level, now show signs of considerable expansion. The sales at bookstalls are improving, and the Directors hope and believe that the change in the title and the scope of the paper will be a prelude to a real and satisfactory advance.

It may be submitted that if "The Woman's Leader" should never prove a profitable financial investment its value to the Woman's Move-

ment as propaganda justifies an appeal for support from all who care for that movement. There seems, however, reason to hope that if the scope of the paper is sufficiently widened to secure not only a large circle of subscribers, but a satisfactory sale through the usual channels of distribution such as bookstalls, &c., it will become self-supporting within a reasonable period, and may, at length, be in a position to yield a dividend. Its prospects of success will, however, inevitably depend to some extent upon the obtaining of sufficient capital to enable the Directors to spend more on advertisement and publicity than has hitherto been possible.

Among those who have sent contributions to "The Woman's Leader" or "The Common Cause" in the past or have promised contributions to "The Woman's Leader" in the future are:—The Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, The Rt. Hon. F. D. Acland, M.P., Mrs. Rhoda Adamson, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), Mrs. Alderton, C.C., Lady Baden-Powell, Mrs. Charles Beatty, C.B.E., Miss Stella Benson, Miss Clementina Black, The Rt. Hon. Lord Robert Cecil, M.P., R. F. Cholmeley, Esq., Robert Graves, Esq., H. M. Clutton-Brock, Esq., Miss Clemence Dane, Lady Denman, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D., Miss E. M. Goodman, Gerald Gould, Esq., Miss Cicely Hamilton, J. L. Hammond, Esq., The Rt. Hon. Arthur Henderson, M.P., Mrs. Heiland, Major Hills, M.P., Mrs. How-Martyn, C.C., Miss B. L. Hutchins, Sir Harry Johnston, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., Miss M. Lowndes, Miss Rose Macaulay, Mrs. Susan Miles, Miss Flora Murray, C.B.E., M.D., Miss Christine Murrell, M.D., Miss Alison Neilans, Miss Helena Normanton, Mrs. Osler, Mrs. C. S. Peel, O.B.E., Miss Edith Picton-Turbervill, O.B.E., Miss Rhoda Power, Mrs. Rackham, C.C., Miss Eleanor Rathbone, C.C., Miss Elizabeth Robins, Miss Maude Royden, Mrs. Alys Russell, C. W. Saleeby, Esq., M.D., F.R.S. (Edin.), The Countess of Selborne, Miss Evelyn Sharp, Miss Rosamond Smith, S. S. Sprigge, Esq., M.D., Mrs. Atholl Stewart, Mrs. Stocks, Lady Strachey, Mrs. Oliver Strachey, Miss A. Helen Ward, Mrs. Chalmers Watson, C.B.E., M.D., Miss Rebecca West, Miss V. Sackville-West, Leonard Woolf, Esq., Miss Ruth Young.

The following information is supplied in compliance with the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908:—
The minimum subscription on which the Directors may proceed to allotment is fixed by the Articles of Association at 1,500 shares, in respect of which 25 per cent. shall have been paid on application.

No shares of the Company have been or will be issued as fully or partly paid up otherwise than in cash, and there are no Debentures.

The rights of Shareholders to transfer their shares are restricted by Article 31 of the Company's Articles of Association.
Copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association can be inspected by intending subscribers at the offices of the Company at any time during business hours whilst the subscription list is open.
Application for shares should be made on the form on page 260 and sent with a deposit of 5s. per share to the Company's Bankers.
If the whole of the shares applied for are not allotted the surplus amount paid on application will be appropriated towards the remaining payments on the shares allotted, and where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained from the Company's Bankers, Solicitors and Auditors, and at the Company's registered office.

In asking your support for the new venture the Directors of "The Common Cause" Publishing Company, Limited, look with confidence to all those men and women who care for the cause of Equal Citizenship. They believe that the rapid entry of women into all spheres of activity should be associated by corresponding developments in the Press, and they trust that their newspaper will receive your support.

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| MILlicent GARRETT FAWCETT (Chairman). | } Directors. |
| J. R. CROSS. | |
| ELIZABETH MACADAM. | |
| E. PICTON-TURBERVILL. | |
| ELEANOR F. RATHBONE. | |
| M. STOCKS. | |
| RAY STRACHEY. | |
- Dated 12th day of March, 1920.

NO PART OF THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN UNDERWRITTEN.

The Subscription List will be opened on the 12th day of March, 1920.

"THE COMMON CAUSE" PUBLISHING CO., LTD.
(INCORPORATED UNDER THE COMPANIES ACTS, 1862-1907.)

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Authorised 15,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each - £15,000.
Issued 4,944 Ordinary Shares - £4,944.

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| Solicitors: STEADMAN, VAN FRAGH & GAYLOR, 4, Old Burlington Street, W. | | |
| Auditors: PATULLO FORDE & COMPANY, 65, London Wall, E.C.2. | | |
| Secretary and Registered Offices: F. C. OWEN, Esq., "The Common Cause" Publishing Company, Limited, 62, Oxford Street, London, W.1. | | |

