THE

WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS.

New Year Legislative Changes.

Several important Acts came into operation on 1st January. Some of these were fully discussed in our survey last week of legislation for the past year. The clause in the Lead Paint Act prohibiting the employment of women and young persons does not, however, come into operation until November, 1927. The Legitimacy Act and the Adoption of Children Act and the Midwives and Maternity Homes' Act were also summarized last week. It is significant to read in Sunday's papers that already an application for legality of adoption has been made. Members of women's societies should mark with interest that out of six statutes coming into force with the beginning of the year, no fewer than four fall into the category of "legislation affecting women" and that strenuous Parliamentary work was done on their behalf. Of the other two, one provides wireless licences free for the blind, and the other deals with the weighing of fat cattle before sale on the markets.

The Protection of the Consumer.

On 1st January, 1927, the first of the new orders issued by the Minister of Health for restricting the sale of preserved foods came into force. Their object is to prohibit the manufacture of any food containing chemical preservative with the exception of certain scheduled goods in the preparation of which an infinitesimal amount of prescribed quality is permitted. These are sausages, bottled, tinned and dried fruits, wines, cordials and mineral waters, jam, sugar, coffee extract, and pickles or sauces made from fruit or vegetables. The Ministry is meeting the temporary difficulty of retailers who have uncleared stocks of preserved food on hand by the suggestion that "Local Authorities will probably consider it desirable to refrain from instituting legal proceedings during the next few months where they are satisfied that reasonable efforts have been made to clear old stocks..." Any measure which tends to diminish the reliance of the consumer upon preserved foodstuffs is probably, given our present standards of variety and quality, a step in the direction of improved public health. Thus we must welcome the extended use which the Minister of Health has made of his statutory powers. Nevertheless the essential conflict between organized expert producers and unorganized inexpert consumers, which is

characteristic of modern economic life, remains. The National Food Council, in calling attention to the evil of food adulteration, has touched a fringe of the problem which constitutes its sphere. The problem which constitutes its sphere is in turn a mere fringe of the wider problem of economic exploitation under a system of trustified production and non-competitive price fixing. The consumer who puts his trust in administrative orders issued on his behalf by a cautious government is a very long way from economic salvation.

Sustained Effort.

It is clear that 1927 will see an intensification of the demand for "the vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men." The council meeting of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship will provide the occasion, on the evening of 3rd March, for a mass meeting in the Central Hall, Westminster, at which Miss Margaret Bondfield will be among the speakers. The Women's Freedom League is holding, on 20th January, at the Minerva Café, High Holborn, a meeting to demand that Equal Franchise shall be included in the King's Speech. Sir James Remnant, M.P. for Holborn, will also be asked to receive a deputation on the subject from representatives of organizations in his constituency. And it is expected that many of his colleagues will be similarly afflicted during the early part of the Session.

Education and the B.B.C.

We shall watch with great interest the educational activities of the British Broadcasting Company under the new régime. An interesting series of talks has already been announced in consultation with the National Federation of Women's Institutes. Lady Denman, Chairman of the Federation, will give an introductory talk on Wednesday, 12th January, and on 19th January Miss Rhoda Power will begin a series of six talks on "Village Life in Olden Times"; on 12th March Mrs. Maciver will begin a second series on "Citizenship in Practice." This is not the first time that 2 LO has dealt with citizenship and central and local government. Many of our readers will remember the different groups of take provided by the Naional Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, as well as single talks by representatives of other societies, and at other broadcasting centres in Birmingham, Liverpool, Edinburgh, and Glasgow women's societies have provided talks on citizenship. But we think that this is the first time that a series of talks has been instituted in connection with any definite organization, and it seems very appropriate that this new move should begin with the Women's Institutes scattered throughout the length and breadth of the country. We see in this new development the solution to the hitherto insoluble problem of an adequate supply of speakers for many types of women's gatherings, and hope it may be further explored.

The Education of the Adolescent.

Those better qualified to do so than ourselves will be invited to state their views on the report just published of the Consultative Committee of the Board of Education on the Education of the Adolescent. Concurrently with the report appears a reply from Sir Eustace Percy, the President of the Board of Education, dealing with one of the most important of its recommendations: the proposal to raise the school age to 15 from the year 1932.

Keep fit on COCOA



Write Cadbury, Bournville about Gift Scheme We do not propose here to discuss this or the other recommendations, but it does strike us as very unusual and highly undesirable for the report of an expert Consultative Committee to be, so to speak, strangled at birth by an official pronouncement.

The Most Dangerous Occupation.

The "Winter School" of Sanitary Inspectors and Health Visitors held at Bedford College last week gave rise to some peculiarly interesting discussions. In the course of them Dr. Louise McIlroy launched an attack against the existing medical service in relation to maternity. There is, she asserted, no other branch of medicine which is allowed to be so haphazard." "What doctor would be allowed to perform an operation for appendicitis in a little kitchen with very bad light?" In addition to bad environment, there was, she pointed out, the further difficulty of obtaining medical practitioners in serious cases. This led her to the prophecy that in the next ten vears we should see the establishment of a complete obstetrical service throughout the country. We heartily agree with Dr. McIlroy's condemnation of the scant consideration at present accorded by society to those who are engaged in the dangerous occupation of motherhood. But we feel that the "right to strike is an essential condition of such improvement. Society will accord due consideration to its mothers when these are in a position to say "under such and such conditions we will fulfil our vital function, but we will not bring children into a world which is not decently prepared for their reception.'

The Persecution of Married Women.

Evidently the Plymouth Education Committee is contemplating adherence to the policy of compelling women in their employment to resign on marriage, for the Western Morning News of 29th December, contains a vigorous and unanswerable letter by Dr. Mabel Ramsay in vindication of a woman's right to manage her personal affairs in her own way. She points out that no attack is projected against the married charwoman, so that the plea of concern for the future generation falls to the ground. If, on the other hand, the committee's concern is for the proper diffusion of salaries, then, where a male employee marries a woman with property, an inquiry into his economic position should logically follow. But this appears to be no part of the Plymouth Education Committee's intended procedure.

A 27-hour Day.

A prosecution was reported from Sheffield during Christmas week of a cutlery trade employer who had employed seven women and one girl for a 27-hour's shift, with five intervals totalling four hours. The Chief Inspector of Factories for the district, who prosecuted, described the case as the worst he had come across in the course of thirty years' experience. The hours in question were, of course, merely the more spectacular stretches in a long tale of overwork, and the £24 fine (£3 on each summons) seems a relatively mild imposition upon the employer in question.

Family Endowment Overseas.

The recent decision of the New South Wales State Industrial Committee in favour of family allowances as an alternative to a rise in the basic wage for all males, appears to have borne fruit in the shape of a new Government Family Endowment scheme. This scheme involves an additional annual cost upon industry of £7,000,000, or about 6 per cent of the wage bill. Such a sum will provide allowances at the rate of 6s. per week per child under 14 in the case of all employees (whether covered by Federal or State awards) whose annual income does not exceed £750. According to the Daily Telegraph of 28th December, the scheme has been endorsed by the Labour caucus, though certain sections of the Labour party still prefer, as an alternative, an unconditional increase in the basic wage without regard to family needs. Meanwhile, certain sections of the employers are urging the removal of the family allowance charge from industry to the national exchequer.

Edmonton's New District M.O.

The Edmonton Guardians have taken the step of appointing for the first time a woman district medical officer. The appointment was not accomplished without "liveliness", one guardian remarking that in some cases it was not desirable for a woman doctor to officiate. In reply it was pointed out that if a woman doctor ought not to examine a man, then a man doctor ought not to examine a woman, also that the dissentient guardian

was himself liable to be nursed by a woman if ill. Eventually the motion to appoint Dr. Fanny Cattle in preference to three male candidates was carried by 22 votes to 12.

A Plea for Women Police.

On 30th December a widely representative deputation waited upon the Exeter Watch Committee to urge the appointment of women police with the powers and status of constables. It was introduced by Mrs. Browne, a member of the Watch Committee itself, and comprised representatives of the Equal Citizenship Society, and the Exeter Free Church Council. It was also emphatically supported by Lady Florence Cecil, wife of the Bishop of Exeter, from whom a letter was read. The Watch Committee undertook to give due consideration to the matter.

"Five Quarters" at the Guildhouse.

The Guildhouse in Eccleston Square has issued its programme of "Five Quarters" Sunday afternoon discussions for the coming spring. It consists of fourteen addresses on "The World's Beliefs." Dr. A. B. Cook will expound Animism, Mr. G. A. de Zoyza, of the Buddhist Mission, Buddhism, Mr. Mallik Hinduism, the Chief Rabbi Judaism, Dr. Mattuck, Liberal Judaism, Dr. Delisle Burns Experimental Religion, Professor J. P. Bruce Confucianism. This is not the whole story, but merely a sample of the fascination of the subjects expounded and the eminence of their expounders. The fourteenth lecture deals with Christianity, but its interpreter is "to be announced later."

An Overseas Pioneer.

Last week the ninetieth anniversary of the foundation of South Australia was celebrated in Adelaide. Few of the original pioneer immigrants, very naturally, have survived to participate in the event. But among those who have, the senior pioneer is Miss Fisher, one of the earliest group of immigrants in 1836. She is about to celebrate her 100th birthday.

Women and the Bar.

In Queensland the first woman barrister has now been called to the Bar. She is Miss M'Gregor, the daughter of a Brisbane solicitor. In this country, another pioneer achievement is marked by the call to the Bar of Miss Ma Pwa Hune, the first Burmese woman to take such a step.

Women and Honours.

The New Year Honours List accords niggardly treatment to women on the whole. One title falls to a lady already titled: the Dowager Countess of Jersey, who receives the D.B.E. for her imperial services as President of the Victoria League. The Kaisar-i-Hind medal for services in India falls to five men and five women. For the rest women are rigidly segregated in the civil division of the C.B.E. and O.B.E. which contain no menavery distinguished and public-spirited group. But there are indications that the traditions of industrial life are reproducing themselves in the London Gazette. What those conditions are, our readers will learn from our leading article.

Nine Distinguished Women.

The C.B.E. is awarded to Mrs. Boyce for political and public services in Surrey, to Miss M. H. Irwin, general secretary of the Scottish Council for Women's Trades, to Mrs. Kimmins, founder and hon. secretary of the Heritage Craft School for Crippled Children, to Miss K. J. Stephenson, J.P., vice-chairman of the Wiltshire County Council Public Health Committee, to Mrs. Strong, for services to archaeology, to Mrs. Vlieland for political and public services in Exeter, and to Miss A. E. Wark, chief woman inspector at the Board of Education. The O.B.E. is awarded to Miss H. M. Milsom, principal clerk in H.M. Private Secretary's Office, and to Miss M. Polson, Superintending Clerk (acting) at the Ministry of Health.

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.

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

Last month a woman member of the Manchester City Council, Councillor Annie Lee, introduced a motion at a meeting of the Education Committee on the subject of equal pay for equal work as between men and women. She made the concrete proposal that the appointment of several women attendance officers (already decided upon) should be deferred for six months in order that the Council might have the opportunity of considering the question of salaries. In explaining her motion she pointed out that in the Council's advertisement it was proposed to give men school attendance officers a maximum salary of £4 13s. a week and women a maximum of £3 18s., though the service rendered was to be identical. The motion failed to find a seconder, and was accordingly dropped without discussion.

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In this incident we have, curiously enough, a comparatively rare combination of circumstances. Unequal pay for equal work as between men and women, though it is a reality which dominates economic life, is not usually embodied in a perfectly straightforward sex discrimination for a given job. Throughout industry it is thinly disguised by some variation in the job, combined with a custom differentiating men's jobs from women's jobs. In the medical profession, the prevalent exclusion of women from the higher posts achieves the same end. In the teaching profession, however, we find sex differentiation widespread and unashamed, and now here in the municipal service, Councillor Annie Lee has put her finger upon a clear case.

Why, then, seeing that the principle of "equal pay for equal work" is one which commands ready acceptance, at any rate in trade union circles, seeing, too, that Councillor Annie Lee is not the only woman member of the Manchester Education Committee, did this ostensibly equitable and moderate proposal fail to command any support whatever? It was an equitable proposal because rightly or wrongly salaries are professedly based upon the value of work done and in this case the work demanded of men and women was identical. It was a moderate proposal because—unlike any proposal to pay salaries at the male rate to all women teachers, it would have involved only a negligible addition to the burden of the rates. Why, then, did it meet with such scant consideration?

We do not know any more about the matter than is contained in the bare facts chronicled above, but these suggest certain pertinent considerations which were doubtless present in the minds of the committee. In the first place, it must be remembered that the Whitley Council for the municipal services has laid down 100:75 as the standard ratio between the remuneration of men and women. The Manchester Education Committee therefore, though offering its women attendance officers something less than equal pay, was at any rate offering them something more generous than the standard ratio, for £3 18s. is more than three-quarters of £4 13s. In the second place, though it is true that salaries are based upon the value of service rendered, it is also true that the value of a service itself depends upon the number of persons ready and able to perform it. It is in fact determined by supply and demand conditions in a labour market where women owing partly to their restricted opportunities are relatively cheap. Thus the public authority which gets its female labour at a lower rate is, it may be said, merely conforming to economic circumstances which are not of its making. In the third place there remains the probability that men attendance officers are burdened with more economic dependents than their women colleagues. In theory at least their salaries will have to cover the needs of a wife and children.

Now of these three considerations, the second and third are the most significant. They are, in fact, very significant indeed. To take the first: it is true that a single small sectional levelling up of pay in a given occupation would merely disturb the relativity of earnings, and that the general inferiority of women's earnings is due to deep-seated causes of which restricted opportunity and the probability of early retirement on marriage are among the most important. It is therefore true that the real fight for equal pay must take the form of an attack upon causes rather than an attempt to correct results: that it must be waged as a battle against closed occupational outlets and the deliberate exclusion of married women from jobs which they may desire to retain. Nevertheless, "to him that hath, shall be given," and if a public authority (which is under no economic constraint to bow to the exigencies of marginal value in a competitive labour market) can set a standard of equity without imposing an undue burden upon its ratepayers, there is everything to be said for setting such a standard. Those of its members who are anxious to promote the extended employment of women must of course be careful to see that their work really is equal, before equal pay is accorded, otherwise their dismissal will in all probability accompany the establishment of equal pay. But in the case in question there is no reason to suppose that women attendance officers were desired solely on account of their

There remains the other consideration: the probable family needs of the men.. But the facts of the case reduce this consideration to an absurdity. The men in question were to be accorded a surplus of 15s. a week; but does anybody suggest that this represents even a faint reflection of the additional expense which the support of a family at its period of maximum dependency imposes upon even the most modest of professional workers? If it is really regarded as social provision for the rearing of a future generation it is a mere mockery. If it is not, then it is an inequity. But absurd and inaccurate as this consideration may be when it is expressed in pounds, shillings and pence and applied to a concrete case, it remains, or should remain, an important consideration, and we are once again reminded that any general application of "equal pay for equal work" must logically involve separate provision for the dependent families of men or women workers (as the case may be) through some form of family allowances. And the experience of Continental public authorities, who have as a matter of fact established the principle of equal pay for equal work with this accompanying condition, strengthens our belief. Meanwhilehere again the case of the school attendance officers would have provided an opportunity of setting a standard. It would have been impossible for any sane member of the Manchester Education Committee to have proposed the application of a system of family allowances to attendance officers alone. But the levelling up of the women to an equality with the men would have thrown into sharp relief the fact that society as at present constituted makes no adequate or deliberate provision for the maintenance of the family

For all these reasons—and many others besides—we therefore greatly regret that no member of the Manchester Education Committee was prepared to give Councillor Annie Lee an opportunity of developing her case for equal pay for equal work, as applied to the remuneration of attendance officers.

LODGING HOUSES FOR WOMEN.

By M. I. WILD

It seems perhaps rather uncharitable to venture to criticize any book written with the intention of bettering the condition of homeless people, but in reading Mrs. Cecil Chesterton's book *In Darkest London* it is felt there are a few points which require comment.

Perhaps it would be well to state very shortly the arrangements made by the Metropolitan Asylums Board for dealing with the class described by Mrs. Chesterton as "outcast."

When about 1912 the homeless poor on the Embankment were very numerous, the Ministry of Health (then the Local Government Board) instituted a scheme for dealing with this condition. The casual wards of London were transferred from the Poor Law Guardians to the Metropolitan Asylums Board on 1st April, 1912, and about that time the Poor Law Inspectors' Advisory Committee on the Homeless Poor was formed at the

Ministry of Health. In addition to the M.A.B., most of the bodies dealing with the homeless poor and the destitute were represented on it—the Church Army, Salvation Army, etc., and these undertook not to give relief to individual cases in a certain specified area—the Embankment, Strand, and the neighbourhood of the West End theatres, but to co-operate in a scheme by which with the aid of the police, such cases were to be directed to an office known as the Homeless Poor Night Office which the Committee previously referred to decided should be opened on the Embankment under the control of the Metropolitan Asylums Board. The police were supplied with tickets, and every apparently homeless person found in that area between the hours of 10 p.m. and 2 a.m. was given one and told to apply at the office. There the facts of each case were inquired into by the superintendent and the man or woman was ultimately provided

with a bed at one of the shelters set on one side for the purposes of the scheme by the charitable agencies in co-operation, or at a casual ward.

With this systematic direction of the efforts of the many bodies interested in the work, and with the practical elimination of indiscriminate charity, the problem of the Embankment and its homeless persons was solved and within a very short time of the introduction of the scheme the crowds on the Embankment had practically disappeared.

The Night Office is the one which Mrs. Chesterton mentions in her book, and it of course still continues its work.

During the war the number of applicants dwindled to vanishing point, but since 1918 there has been an increase, but the numbers of women have always remained low.

The account given by Mrs. Chesterton (p. 116) of the reason why the Metropolitan Asylums Board have now only one casual ward for women requires correction. In January, 1924, the total accommodation for women at the casual wards was 55 beds. This was not fully utilized and the fact that it was split into four comparatively small units rendered administration very costly. For instance, the accommodation for women at Woolwich Casual Ward was 10, and during the previous four months the average midnight population was between two and three.

In March, 1924, the conclusion was arrived at that the expense of keeping accommodation which was greatly in excess of the demands made or likely to be made upon it was not justifiable and it was determined to have one central ward.

Southwark Ward was selected as being the best situated for a central ward. This ward had room for 66 men and 18 women, but alterations were made and 39 beds were provided for women, reducing the men's beds by 21. The superintendents of the wards which were closed to women were definitely instructed to arrange for the transport to Southwark of any woman applicant either by public conveyance or, if the circumstances required it, by one of the Board's vehicles.

It will be seen therefore that the statement that the "action of the authorities is the outcome of the fear that an ex-Service man should be found homeless" was made under a misapprehension.

The statement also on p. 116 that "Hundreds of outcast women spend the night out huddled in doorways", etc., is also not quite in accordance with facts.

The following places are visited monthly by the superintendent of the Night Office: Albert Embankment, Victoria Embankment, from Westminster to Blackfriars, Trafalgar Square, Charing Cross Road and all theatres, Shaftesbury Avenue and all theatres, St. Martin's Lane and theatres, the New Theatre, Piccadilly, Hyde Park Corner and approaches, Cambridge Enclosure, Constitution Hill, and The Mall. These visits are made between 12 midnight and 3 a.m.

The following are the numbers of women found in the whole of the area visited on the undermentioned dates:—

6th	November, 1925	14	6th June, 1926 .	14	
3rd	December, 1925	12	2nd July, 1926 .	14	
7th	January, 1926	13	12th August, 1926.	23	
	February, 1926	9	1st September, 1926	45	
	March, 1926 .	-3	7th October, 1926	17	
	April, 1926 .	19	5th November, 1926	14	
	May, 1926 .			 7	
20 th	111dy, 1020 .		ord Docember,		

The total of 45 on 1st September last is the highest number found on these visits for several years.

With regard to the Adelphi Arches (see p. 192), the writer has certainly been misled, as they have been visited once a month from last June until now, and on no single occasion has one person been found there. Moreover, information has been received that there is a special police patrol there day and night.

In conclusion, though one does not wish to deny that there are *some* women out at night, it is well to realize the facts.

The numbers are consistently larger in the summer than in the winter, which drives one to the conclusion that if the weather is really cold a bed can be found.

As a last resort a bed can always be had at the casual ward. It is after all a clean bed and is preceded by a hot bath. During the three months ended November last there was an average of 22 beds vacant each night at Southwark Casual Ward.

Miss Freda Hartley, who during four and a half years lived amongst homeless people, sleeping in common lodging houses disguised as a tramp, writes: "In all the four and a half years of my wandering I came across very few women sleeping out, and on only three occasions was I unable to obtain a bed at a lodging house owing to its being full."

The whole problem is one of great difficulty and requires most careful handling. It would be very possible to increase the evil being fought against, unless the utmost care is used.

DAME LOUISA ALDRICH-BLAKE.¹

By LOUISA MARTINDALE.

In this short Biography Lord Riddell tells us he has aimed at revealing the personality of Dame Louisa and showing something of what she was as well as of what she did. In this aim he has succeeded, and many of Dame Louisa's friends will be grateful that this picture of her character and personality has been drawn by one who not only knew her in her work as Dean of the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine for Women and Surgeon to the Royal Free Hospital, but also

had a keen insight into the ruling motives of her life.

Her childhood in Welsh Bicknor on the Wye seems to have been an exceptionally happy one. As a result she "became skilled in navigating the treacherous river, an expert with the rod, a fearless horsewoman, a daring swimmer, a capable veterinary surgeon and horsebreaker, a good carpenter and a keen and understanding gardener—achievements rendered possible by a sturdy body, a sound mind, a quick eye and clever hands."

At the age of 16 she went to a private school in Great Malvern, then to Neuchatel, in 1886 matriculated and entered St. Hilda's, Cheltenham, and in 1887 she entered the London (R.F.H.) School of Medicine for Women. After devoting some years of solid work to her medical education and winning prizes at the School in Anatomy, Practical Physiology, Organic Chemistry and Materia Medica, and obtaining honours in Pathology, Medicine, Surgery and Operative Midwifery, she qualified in 1892 at the London University, with First Class Honours in Medicine and Obstetrics. In 1893 she secured the Bachelor of Surgery degree with First Class Honours, and qualified for the Gold Medal. In 1894 she took her M.D., and in 1895 she was the first woman to become a Master of Surgery.

Her later career is well known. From Assistant Surgeon at the Elizabeth Garrett-Anderson Hospital and Anaesthetist and Surgical Registrar at the Royal Free Hospital, she rose, in 1910, to become Senior Surgeon of the former, and from 1919 to 1925 she served as Consulting Surgeon to the Royal Free Hospital. In 1914 she was made Dean of the London (R.F.H.) School of Medicine for Women.

Lord Riddell, however, has shown us another side of Dame Louisa's life; her love of work and power of concentration, her serenity, her entire freedom from vanity—one of the most destructive mental defects. "With all her masculine qualities she was essentially a woman, and, when she set aside her shyness and reserve, a very charming one."

Her success as a surgeon he also touches upon, and her administrative ability. "She enjoyed business, and had a passion for Committees, which, notwithstanding her autocratic tendencies, never bored or disheartened her. Her secretary recorded that she attended no fewer than 224 committees in

Her philosophy, set forth in her opening address delivered at the London (R.F.H.) School of Medicine for Women in 1900, is a "remarkable disclosure of her virile personality", and Lord Riddell quotes from this freely:—

"The fact of joining a profession gives at once a definite field of duty, an objective for our thought, purposes and hopes, which is in itself a virtual repose.

"One of the particular advantages of the medical profession as a field for our energies is the *very large* number of faculties which *may*, and the considerable number which *must* be cultivated in order that we may be even passable disciples of that Science and Art

"Every good quality, whether of *character* or of *intellect*, can find material whereon to exercise itself in the daily life of any but the merest automatic machine of a doctor, if indeed such a machine could exist.

"Intellect and character—there are the two great influences which we bring to bear on the work which we do through life, and of the two, those who have had the best opportunity of judging, in the medical profession at any rate, consider that the influence of character on the career is the greater.

"By character one means the sum of those qualities of courage, energy, thoroughness and truth, which are given to some in greater measure than to others, but which we must all do our utmost to increase in ourselves if we wish to do and to be

the best that is possible for us.

"Courage in attacking difficulties, energy to overcome them, thoroughness to do our best with each thing we undertake,

¹ Dame Louisa Aldrich-Blake, by Lord Riddell. (Published by Hodder & Stoughton, 7s. 6d.)

and through all Truth, which includes habits of accurate thinking as well as those of right speaking and dealing, all these are especially needed in our after-life and must be cultivated by every means we can devise.

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every means we can devise.
"Dr. Arnold has said: 'With regard to one's work I suppose
the desirable feeling to entertain is always to expect to succeed
and never to think you have succeeded.'

"Without the stimulus of hope, work with most of us is apt to be a very half-hearted sort of thing. Humility is a virtue and perhaps the surprises of life are less apt to take the pleasant form for those whose estimate of their own worth is great, than for those whose estimate is small; but beware of that humility which would paralyse honest effort. I should suspect it of being the outer garment of mental laziness.

"The second half of Dr. Arnold's sentence, 'never to think you have succeeded,' is certainly quite as important. If one reads the lives of great men, either of our own or of any other profession, the thing that strikes one most about them is the enormous energy with which they pursue their work, one thing leading on to another. In our own small way, we can never get the best that is possible out of our lives, without the exercise of some measure of that same energy, prompted by the conviction that anything attained is only an opportunity to do something further."

After giving advice to the students as to the kind and manner of work required, she stresses the necessity of passing examinations, not only because they "have to be passed", but because "the more frequently we practise a thing in the small, the more likely we are to keep our wits about us when the test comes to the large. That keeping of our wits about us is a most valuable quality—one that we cannot do too much to gain. Without presence of mind we cannot make half of our knowledge available. From the very beginning of any public career one must school oneself to look upon nervousness as a disability one must do one's utmost to conquer."

"Habitual exposure must lessen our susceptibility, for the fact of having previously done things under somewhat similar circumstances gives at any rate a degree of confidence which without that experience one would have lacked."

"What you want to cultivate is the habit of rapid reasoning, so that your answer, whether right or wrong, has a real basis in your mind. The two chief sources of mistakes are *ignorance* and *carelessness*. If you constantly avoid the latter, the former will to a large extent cure itself. Carelessness in work must be to us the unpardonable sin, thoroughness in its widest sense, our highest aim.

"One end of all instruction is to fit the individual for the work he is to do and the place he has to take. Therefore for us the treatment of the patient is the test of the success of our education.

(To be continued.)

A HUNDRED WONDERFUL YEARS: 1820–1920.1

By H. SYLVIA ANTHONY.

This is a volume of "snippety-bits" about social life and manners in England during the last century—a handsome book, finely printed and illustrated, and full of all manner of amusingly presented information. Mrs. Peel deals with the evolution of transport, dress, and manners, the spread of education, and the changes in the condition of the working classes. She also touches on one of the most remarkable changes of the century—the decrease in the size of families—in a quotation from The Life and Letters of the Hon. Emily Eden, this lady, staying in her sister's house, comments on the "six small intellects constantly on the march, and Mary, of course, hatching a seventh child. It would be a good plan," she says, "if after people have as many children as they like, they were allowed to lie-in of any other article they fancied better . . . a set of Walter Scott's novels, or some fine china-or, in the case of poor people, fire-irons and a coal-It would certainly be more amusing and more profitable, and there would be much anxiety to know what was born. Now it can be only a boy or a girl.

Nevertheless, in spite of the interest of the facts Mrs. Peel presents, and the charm of their presentation, I was not roused to great enthusiasm by this book. Social history presents many pitfalls for the amateur, though it looks easy. One of the most

deadly traps is smugness: this vice besets the historian in good company—that of Macaulay and others—but it is old-fashioned company, and not, in that respect, to our present taste. Social progress as an axiom, in the sense that with every change we grow ever better and better, and the philosophy that all things work together for good—these seem to form a subconscious groundwork to Mrs. Peel's book, which is subtly irritating.

"To-day, a curate might drink coffee with a chorus girl, and no one would concern himself about it" (is that true, anyway?).

"In 1860, clerks . . . were pallid or blotchy of face, and none of them wore a greatcoat. . . . To-day vast numbers of clerks are nicely dressed, highly efficient, young women who work from nine to five, or 9.30 to 5.30, with an interval of an hour for luncheon, and possibly a Saturday morning off in every four, as well as the general Saturday afternoon holiday.

The male clerk less often receives the monthly Saturday morning holiday, which appears to be granted to women by amiable male employers because otherwise they would have no opportunity to do their shopping."

It all sounds very amiable. Perhaps in the next edition some of the employers will have ceased to be male.

There is another snag which the author has noticeably not avoided. The evolution of manners and customs in every country, but especially in a country so long civilized as England, is extremely uneven. Thirty years ago, villagers even in the home counties were still living according to customs which had scarcely varied since mediaeval times; and in minor matters many things which are mentioned as now out of use and out of date are of the commonest occurrence still in small country houses.

"The centenarian can remember . . . the time when rooms were lit by candles, and . . . the circular mahogany table upon which stood the oil lamp, round which early and mid-Victorian families gathered; the row of bedroom candlesticks put ready on the hall-table . . ."

But females yet unfranchised can remember these things too, and I could direct Mrs. Peel to country houses and cottages (and even one house in London) where lamp and candle still reign undisturbed.

It is hardly fair, however, to quote and criticize this book when one cannot quote the illustrations, for they are numerous and delightful. There is also an index and a bibliography full of pleasant suggestions, so that the author, even if she does not give us a standard work of history, offers us reason to be grateful for her researches into these last "hundred wonderful years."

"JOHN-BARBARA." 1

Miss O'Brien has done a brave thing. She has taken that unromantic figure, a lonely spinster, divested her of the psychological trappings, complexes, repressions, and what-not, in which she is usually seen in novels, dressed her in kindness, goodwill, sentiment, and humour, and given her the place of honour in her novel. If only for this courageous breakaway from modern tradition, the author deserves praise, but she has also shown that her heroine Naomi Lister, living in a bedsitting-room in a dreary district, going every day to a monotonous job, and with romance definitely behind her, can yet make something of her life which is not sordid, which is even happy. Naomi herself tells the story, and how admirable she is about the small details of life! Read for yourself and admire the observation and humour with which she notes the fluctuations of Best Streaky, and the vagaries of Moloch, the penny-in-the-slot gas meter. But, in passing, I have a bone to pick with Miss O'Brien. Why "Ploddington"? Let us have the district— Bloomsbury or thereabouts—by its proper name. And why should Naomi say she had been to an exhibition of sculpture by Rosenberg, when obviously she had been to an exhibition of sculpture by Epstein? I was half afraid I should find that she had been educated at the famous university of Oxbridge, but was spared that.

As the publishers say, there is a charming love-story running through John-Barbara, but this is of minor importance. The most important things in the book are the smallest things; I prefer Naomi on the Best Streaky, Naomi on Perkins, Naomi on the girls in the office to Naomi on metaphysics and the arts, and I could wish that her enrichments of the English language were more euphonious. But I want to meet Naomi again. I want to know how she likes the room with a balcony.

М. В. В

¹ A Hundred Wonderful Years, by Mrs. C. S. Peel. (The Bodley Head, 15s. net.)

¹ John-Barbara, Kathleen O'Brien. Lane, 7s. 6d.

430

AN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE.

Tariff Barriers—International Trusts—these are the two main headings on the agenda of the International Economic Conference, which the League of Nations is calling to meet next May. The delegates to the conference will be representatives of Finance, Industry, Labour, Agriculture and Commerce. They will be nominated by their respective governments but will not be tied by instructions. Their job will be to investigate the methods of producing and distributing the bread and butter of the world, with a view to improving those methods.

The fact that such a conference should be called at all is significant of the need felt for greater co-operation between nations. It will probably be the first of a series of similar conferences. But of greater significance is the choice of the two subjects given above, as the main headings for discussion.

The whole trend of industry since 1870 has been towards ever greater trustification, at first national, now international. The last four months have seen the steel Franco-German agreement, and the meetings, official and unofficial, between leading industrialists of Germany and England. This trend is necessary for the rationalization of industry, and it may be a great factor in removing causes of friction between nations; but at present the general public, as consumer, has absolutely no safeguard if its interests clash with those of the producer. It is an unfortunate fact that so far no provision has been made for representing the co-operative movement at the Economic

The question of tariff walls looms for the moment equally large upon the industrial horizon. The multiplication, since the war, of frontiers fenced with high tariffs has had a throttling effect upon commerce. Recently a group of leading bankers, representing most of the countries of Europe, as well as America, issued a manifesto protesting against this strange policy.

An agreement might be reached at the Economic Conference which would lead to a general lowering of tariffs. This would be a first step to that economic disarmament which must accompany any reduction in military armaments.

It is well to realize that, for the Economic Conference to bear fruit, it is not only the backing of the Government which is needed in every country, but the backing of enlightened public opinion.

£1,000 FUND TO NAME "DAME MILLICENT FAWCETT" ROOM AT CROSBY HALL.

Now that Christmas is over, we beg to remind Dame Millicent Fawcett's friends and admirers that they only have three months in which to contribute to the £1,000 Fund being raised in honour of her 80th birthday. Many friends have already given generously, but there are many more who will undoubtedly help with the £314 2s. 6d. still needed.

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Further donations or promises (due Easter, 1927) will be gratefully received by Mrs. Oliver Strachey, care of the Woman's Leader, 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1, or by Mrs. Alys Russell, 11 St. Leonard's Terrace, Chelsea, S.W. 3.

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ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING, 1927.

Date and Place.

The Annual Council Meetings have been fixed for Wednesday (afternoon session), Thursday and Friday (whole-day sessions and Saturday (morning session), 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th March, and will be held at King's George's Hall, Caroline Street, Great

Preliminary Agenda.

Resolutions from affiliated societies for the Preliminary Agenda should reach this office not later than Monday, 17th January.

Mass Meeting on Equal Franchise.

A Mass Meeting on Equal Franchise will be held in the Central Hall, Westminster, on Thursday, 3rd March, at 8 p.m. Among those who have promised to speak are Miss Margaret Bondfield, M.P., and Lord Balfour of Burleigh. Further particulars as to speakers will be announced later. Tickets may be obtained for 5s., 2s. 6d., 1s., and 6d., and blocks of seats for organizations requiring six or more will be reserved at the following rates 2s. 6d. for 1s., 1s. for 6d., 6d. for 3d. We hope that our Societies will be able to send large contingents consisting both of their own members and those of other Societies in their districts. It is impossible now to indicate the exact form of the resolution that will be before the meeting. This will inevitably depend on the political situation at the moment with regard to Equal Franchise. It is certain, however, that we shall be demanding legislation on Equal Franchise at the earliest possible opportunity and at the age of twenty-one. Any number of leaflets giving particulars can be supplied gratis on application to Headquarters.

The Luncheon at which Guests of Honour will be speaking will be held at the Criterion Restaurant on Friday, 4th March. Tickets (price 5s. for members of the N.U.S.E.C. or any of its affiliated Societies, and 7s. 6d. for non-members) can be had on application to Headquarters.

Railway Facilities.

Over 200 delegates and visitors travelling to the Council from stations beyond the radius of a 9d. single fare will make it possible to obtain reduced fares at the rate of a single fare and a third for the return journey. We much hope that all Societies will co-operate to make this possible and will let us know shortly how many of these tickets they will require.

NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

CHESTER W.C.A.

On 9th December, the member for Chester, Sir Charles Cayzer, received a deputation on the subject of the extension of the Franchise to those women still debarred from representation by sex only. The deputation was arranged by the Chester Women Citizens' Association, and was composed of Mrs. Potter (hon. secretary C.W.C.A.), Mrs. Raleigh (hon. Parliamentary Secretary C.W.C.A.), Miss Dye representing the women Liberals), Mrs. Hall (representing the Labour women). Sir Charles Cayzer, after bearing the expression of views concerning an equalization of the Liberals), Mrs. Hall (representing the Labour women). Sir Charles Cayzer, after hearing the expression of views concerning an equalization of the franchise, assured the speakers that the Prime Minister had not forgotten his promise to attend to the grievance of the unrepresented women. The member for Chester expected the matter to be mentioned shortly in the King's speech, and gave the deputation to understand that if this were not so he would be responsible for a question on the subject to be asked in the House.

Deputation to Member of Parliament.—Early last month a deputation Deputation to Member of Parliament.—Early last month a deputation consisting of the members of the Cathcart Parliamentary Division of the Glasgow Society for Equal Citizenship and Glasgow Women Citizens' Association met Robert Macdonald, Esq., M.P. (Cathcart), to discuss with him the question of Equal Franchise. The deputation was sympathetically received by Mr. Macdonald, who promised them his whole-hearted support for any measure to give the franchise to women on the same terms as men, Ten Minute Discussions.—On the afternoon of Tuesday, 7th December, a meeting was held in the central office, at which four ten-minute talks were given on Smoke Abatement (Miss Snodgrass), Family Allowances (Mrs. McKeltow), the Unmarried Mother and her Child (Miss Lyall), Equal Franchise and Equal Pay and Opportunity in Industry and the Professions (Miss Buchanan). Lively discussion followed.

Conference on Protective Legislation, 11th December.—Miss F. H. Melville, B.D., J.P., presided at this Conference which took the form of a debate, the motion being "That Protective Legislation should be based on the

the motion being "That Protective Legislation should be based on the nature of the work and not on the sex of the worker." Miss Monica Whately,

speaking in the affirmative, said that the only way women could gain their freedom was through economic emancipation and by having the right freely to enter industry and take their place side by side with the male worker with equal opportunities. Mrs. Rackham, M.A., J.P., speaking in the negative, called attention to the helpless position of the woman worker in industry unless she was protected from exploitation either by her Trade Union Organization or by the law. The debate was followed by lively criticism and discussion.

FULHAM SEC

At the beginning of last month Miss Rathbone gave a very interesting address to members of the Fulham S.E.C. on Family Allowances and a Living Wage. Miss Rathbone suggested three alternative methods by which a scheme of family allowances could be put into operation.

KENSINGTON AND PADDINGTON S.E.C.

A well-attended meeting was held in the Paddington Town Hall at the beginning of last month under the auspices of the Paddington W.C.A., the Paddington W.L.G.A., the Paddington Women's Municipal Society, and the Kensington and Paddington S.E.C., with a view to promoting temperance in the borough of Paddington. Lady Galway presided, and the Mayor, the Vicar, and Rural Dean and others were present. Mrs. Walter Runciman gave a spirited address on the subject. Mrs. W. T. Layton, the Mayor, and Prebendary E. N. Sharpe also spoke in favour of greater control of the drink trade. The speeches were followed by an interesting discussion and questions. interesting discussion and questions.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MEMOIR OF THE LATE DR. HELEN BEATRICE DE RASTRICKE HANSON.

Madam,—The League of the Church Militant is arranging to publish a memoir of the late Dr. Helen Hanson. The Executive Committee of the league, with the full approval of Dr. Hanson's family, has asked me to collect the material from which such a memoir can afterwards be written. To do this I shall need the help of all friends of Dr. Hanson. She had a full and varied life and came into touch with so many people she had a full and varied life and came into touch with so many people that I feel sure many of her co-workers must possess letters and know details that would give illuminating assistance to anyone trying to estimate her life and work. I shall therefore be most grateful for the loan of anything of this nature. MSS will be copied and carefully returned. I particularly need dates and facts as well as impressions and I should be glad to be put in touch with other friends who might be able to give medicinily help. Mer any hope granes by tear a number of snapshots and similar help. Mrs. Hanson has generously lent a number of snap-shots and professional photographs, and it is hoped to reproduce several of these in the book. But reproduction is expensive and the actual form the memor is to take has not yet been decided. Any who knew Dr. Hanson, and have not yet identified themselves with the memorial fund, are invited to send contributions to the L.C.M. secretary, Church House, Dean's Yard, S.W. 1, and to assist in the way outlined above, that a fitting tribute may be made to this much-loyed and unique personality.

E. Louie Acres.

LODGING HOUSES FOR WOMEN.

Madam,—The investigations by Mrs. Cecil Chesterton, "In Darkest London," have shown us the difficulties of the homeless women to secure London," have shown us the difficulties of the homeless women to secure a roof over her head, even if not quite penniless. The same difficulty prevails higher in the social system. The housing shortage, resulting in a rise in the rent of flats and single rooms—sometimes to the extent of 500 per cent.—often absorbs the greater part of a small income. For example, before the war, 12s. 6d. or even 10s. would pay the rent of a small house, or of part of a house that could be shared by two or three friends. Now, the same sum will cover the cost of a single room only. In "select" neighbourhoods, such as Kensington and Hampstead, rooms, furnished and unfurnished, are even more expensive. South of the Thames, more accommodation is available. Bed-sittingrooms, with and without partial board, are as plentiful as blackberries. Only, it is a case of "landladies prefer gentlemen." On the small boards that with and without partial board, are as plentiful as blackberries. Only, it is a case of "landladies prefer gentlemen." On the small boards that can be seen outside shops, and in the pages of Dallon's Advertiser, it will be seen that the majority of the rooms are available for "gentlemen" only or "business people out all day." Often the householder will sub-let a room without attendance, for 8s. 6d. or 10s. weekly, but with no gas either for lighting or cooking, and some distance from the water supply. Elderly people of both sexes have the greatest difficulty in getting fresh accommodation, unless they meet with someone who "knows" them

The Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. Hostels are subsidized by public sub-The Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. Hostels are subsidized by public subscriptions, yet the young people who live in these homes are charged quite as much as they would pay in a small boarding-house. Nevertheless, the organization is excellent. The Y.M.C.A. in particular; the central hostels are a "clearing house" for students and business men from the provinces. A register is kept of boarding-houses in every suburb, and the young people select their temporary homes at their leisure. If only a similar association could be started for the older people—particularly the middle-aged women, who, since the continued years of financial depression

are being crowded out of the labour market. More especially is this the case with professional women, who may have attained to some degree of success in past years, and had then every reason to look forward to a "serene maturity." No costly buildings would be necessary, only a central organization that would put the members in touch with householders willing to let rooms at a fair rent. In certain cases a subsidy might be given towards fitting up a room with a gas fire and separate meter; also a guarantee that some arrangement could be made for the tenant in case of illness or other emergency.

E. H. B. London, S.W. are being crowded out of the labour market. More especially is this the

"NATURE" AND BIRTH CONTROL.

"NATURE" AND BIRTH CONTROL.

MADAM,—I fear that the lyrical exuberance of your reviewer, "R. S." in welcoming Mrs. Monteith-Erskine's work may mislead many women into thinking that there is a basis of truth in it. May I point out that far from this being so, her theory of the right and left ovary with a consequent "blank week", etc., is mythical, and that this type of theory (which is not by any means novel, having been initiated many years before Mrs. Erskine took it up) was described recently in a valuable scientific work, Sex in Man and Animals, by Professor Baker, with a preface by Professor Julian Huxley, as "another superstition." But even imagining that the superstition were true, your reviewer is incorrect in saying that there is no possible objection, either hygienic or moral, against it. I have a series of objections, some hygienic and some moral. If you will allow me space I will go into them, but at present would like to point out that it is not true that Mrs. Erskine avoids appliances or artificialities. She relies upon the douche, the worst of all artificial appliances connected with birth control; and also, what is more to be deplored, she advocates what amounts to attempts at abortion. to attempts at abortion.

MARIE C. STOPES

OUR NEW YEAR'S ISSUE.

Madam,—As an old guarantor and unpaid contributor who has the interest of your paper at heart, I must point out the danger of such airy boasts as that on which you end your review of the Woman's Leader in 1926. A little less sulphuric acid and a little more caution as to statements would be advisable if your chief claim is to be made good!

You state that The Times fell a victim to the General Strike, while the Woman's Leader (a veekly paper) survived. The commarison is unfortu-

You state that The Times fell a victim to the General Strike, while the MOMAN'S LEADER (a weekly paper) survived. The comparison is unfortunate as well as inaccurate, as on its worst day, 5th May, 48,000 copies of The Times were printed and sold and distributed as well, 78,112 on 6th May, and so on, increasing each day, till on 15th May, the circulation was 405,000, the printing, packing, and distribution being carried on by volunteers, chiefly the editorial staff. You do not mention the Yorkshire Post, the Sheffield Daily Telegraph, the Western Morning News, and the Scotsman, good papers all, which shared the buoyancy of the Woman's Leader. I sympathize with your wish to give credit to your hard-worked staff on this occasion as on any other, but your wording was a little misleading.

Still more so is the description of the Midwives and Maternity Homes Act on page 414. That Act can hardly be said to *provide* skilled attention at birth. It limits the conditions under which unskilled attention can be given, a very different matter, and it makes conditions and their attendant penalties operative on men and women alike, for the first time bringing the unqualified male under the scope of the Act. This should have ed to your feminist readers, but remains unnoticed in the review

(Mrs.) ELENA RICHMOND

MADAM,—While thanking you for your excellent number of the Woman's LEADER of 31st December, may I make one slight criticism of the "In

Memoriam''?

When we remember Emily Hobhouse's courage and great work for the Boer women and children'in the South African War (which cost her her health and strength) and, I believe I may add work for sufferers from the European War, should we not rather remember her as a worker in the service of women and children than as a traveller (Miss) Constance Crichton-Stuart.

Kensington.

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E DUCATED HOME HELPS BUREAU, Philbeach Hall, Philbeach Gardens, Earl's Court, requires and supplies educated women for all branches of domestic work. Registration: Employers 2s. 6d., Workers 1s. Suiting, 7s. 6d. and 2s. Telephone, Western 6323.

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