

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND THE COMMON CAUSE

Vol. XVII. No. 26. One Penny.

REGISTERED AS
A NEWSPAPER.

Friday, July 24, 1925.

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

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

NOTES AND NEWS.

The Pensions Bill through the House of Commons.

At the time of writing, the Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Bill is passing through its concluding stages in the House of Commons, much to the relief of everybody concerned, as both the defence of and talk on the Bill has been a long and trying business. The chief changes made in the Bill since last week are those proposed by Mr. Chamberlain in order to make it easier for men over the age of 60 and women over the age of 55 to remain as insured persons in order to qualify for their Old Age Pensions at 65. The need for this concession was pointed out by Mr. Lees Smith as following logically on the concession made to voluntary contributors of the same ages, and is a most valuable addition to the Bill. A further concession was won by that indomitable fighter, Mr. Pethick Lawrence, to secure children's allowances for those children of existing widows who are between 14 and 16 and are in full-time school attendance. An attempt was made by Miss Wilkinson on the Committee Stage of the Bill, and is being made again on the Report Stage, to amend the section dealing with appeals in order to provide that a due proportion of the referees before whom disputes are heard should be women. We wish this week to pay a special tribute to the work which has been done on the Bill by Mr. Pethick Lawrence and Mr. Lees Smith. It is to these old friends of the woman's movement that we owe the very valuable concessions that have been made with regard to orphans' pensions, voluntary contributors, and elderly insured persons, and we wish to offer them, and once again Lady Astor and Miss Wilkinson, our very grateful thanks.

The last step and the last but one.

At last the Guardianship of Infants Bill has completed all its stages in both Houses, and has only to receive the Royal Assent. The Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bill was also before the House of Commons for consideration of the Lords' amendments. The fate of the "furniture" provision is referred to at length in our leading article. The other new amendments relating to enforced cohabitation with a husband knowingly suffering from venereal disease and to the payment of interim maintenance orders

were accepted. At the time of writing we do not know whether the Home Office will hold up the Bill in order to make inquiry as to magistrates' views on the apportionment of furniture, or whether it will return to the House of Lords forthwith. Meanwhile we offer to Lord Askwith our congratulations and thanks for efforts which have contributed largely to such progress as we have achieved.

A Clean Press.

Last week Lord Darling introduced into the House of Lords a Bill for the regulation of reports of divorce and other judicial proceedings. This Bill, which passed its second reading, and will be considered in Committee on Thursday of this week, is exactly the same as that which Sir Evelyn Cecil has introduced into the House of Commons. The Parliamentary history of this Bill bears striking resemblance to that of many of the measures for which this paper stands. It was introduced first in 1923 and referred to a Select Committee, which reported favourably and made valuable recommendations. Its prospects were hopeful, but on two occasions a general election intervened. The fact that so eminent and experienced a judge as Lord Darling is in charge of the Bill will give confidence to those who while earnestly desiring a cleaner Press dread anything which endangers that publicity which is a traditional principle of British justice or the freedom of the Press. This is a matter which women citizens cannot shirk, and we propose to deal more fully with the Bill in a forthcoming issue.

Women and Young Persons.

Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck is a good friend to our common cause. We venture, however, to suggest to him that much as we dislike the flagrant breaches of Factory Acts alluded to by him in a question in the House last week we do not think the cure is to legislate for adult women and young persons in the same category. Overtime in excess of the limits prescribed by the law is wrong irrespective of sex, but the introduction of a working day of forty-eight hours for women and young persons will not cure the evil.

The Duchess of Atholl and the League of Nations.

Last week we anticipated the appointment of the Duchess of Atholl as one of the representatives of Great Britain at the Assembly of the League of Nations in September. The names of the British representatives were announced last week: The Foreign Secretary; Lord Cecil of Chelwood; Sir George Graham, G.C.V.O., His Majesty's Ambassador at Brussels; the Duchess of Atholl; Mr. A. M. Samuel; and Sir Cecil Hurst, K.C.B. We must once again express our pleasure that a woman member of the Government is to represent us this year at Geneva, and we offer our warmest congratulations to the Duchess of Atholl, though we are not quite satisfied, even now, as we should like to have had her a full delegate instead of a substitute.

Votes for Women—the New Campaign.

We understand that the Associations of Women Unionists are engaged in studying the question of equal franchise with a view to arriving at some conclusion as to the possibility of fixing the age of qualification for both sexes at 25. We imagine that most of our readers, regardless of their party affiliations, feel strongly that any attempt to raise the age for men voters would be to trail a herring across the track and thus seriously impede reform. Though the intricacies of the Pensions Bill are,

or ought to be, at present absorbing the attention of women's societies, party and non-party, it is not too soon to begin to lay plans for an autumn campaign on equal franchise in order that public opinion may be informed on the subject when the Committee promised by the Prime Minister for next year will be appointed. Those of our readers who are members of Unionist associations will be doing our cause a real service if they ventilate the serious obstacles in the way of the proposal to fix 25 as the qualifying age.

Women and the Wesleyan Ministry.

The question of women in the Wesleyan Ministry was under consideration at the Wesleyan Methodist Conference last week. An interim report of a committee on the subject was submitted which stated that the committee was not aware of any function of the ordained ministry for which a woman was in principle disqualified merely on the ground of sex, but that Wesleyan organization and tradition interposed serious practical obstacles to the admission of women to an itinerant ministry such as theirs. In an otherwise sympathetic report a blot appears in the suggestion that marriage of a woman minister should be regarded as equivalent to resignation. We confidently hope that this will be reconsidered. We think that no satisfactory arguments whatever can be advanced in its favour. It may be that a married woman minister might wish to give up her work during a period of child-bearing (though marriage is by no means synonymous with child-bearing), but this is surely her own affair and that of her husband. A request for occasional leave of absence for several months at a time is not unheard of in the case of men preachers who, though their health may be uncertain, are of great value to the Church. We have no wish to exclude the unmarried woman from the Ministry, but surely the same arguments against celibacy in the Ministry apply equally to men and women. The married woman gains experience which will be of great value to her in dealing with her congregation, and to exclude her seems to indicate a strangely short-sighted and obsolete prejudice unworthy of the Wesleyan Church.

The London Borough Councils Elections.—Preliminary Notice.

Miss Bertha Mason writes:—

Readers of the WOMAN'S LEADER should be reminded that the triennial elections for the London Borough Councils will take place on 1st November. The importance of the work of these Councils and the need for the co-operation of women in connexion with that work, can hardly be too strongly emphasised. At present the women members of Metropolitan Borough Councils are comparatively few in number. More are needed. The opportunity to increase the number will be given on 1st November. It must be recognized that women cannot secure election unless they are first selected as candidates, then worked for, then supported by a majority of electors on polling day. This fact is realized and as a rule acted upon in respect to the candidature of men, and the principle applies equally to the candidature of women. If success is to be obtained, and if the number of women Borough Councillors is to be increased this year, preparations should be at once set in hand. It is now July, and the three months which remain before polling day will quickly pass. Suitable women are not picked up at the last moment, nor can the spade-work connected with an election be done in a fortnight. Therefore it is not too early to draw the attention of local government electors—especially women electors—and of organized bodies of women to the importance of securing the return of women as well as men to these local Councils; and to emphasize the fact that one of the duties of women electors is to find women who are suitable and willing to stand for election, and when found to work for their return.

Women's Industrial Day at Wembley.

Wembley, with its atmosphere of many lands, provided a fitting setting for an interesting new departure, which took place last week when women from many countries engaged in Science, Industry and Commerce met together in Conference for the first time. The Women's Engineering Society had the happy thought this year to expand its annual conference by inviting co-operation from other women's societies interested in the science of industry, and a representative array of women gathered on the platform to greet the Duchess of York, who opened the Conference in a charming little speech, addresses by Lady Rhondda, J.P., on The

Woman in Commerce; by Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P., on Industrial Organisation for Women, and by Miss Haslett, of Bedford College on, the possibilities of Vocational Guidance, were listened to with much interest, and Lady Astor proved herself to be (as she declared!) a "perfectly splendid" Chairman by insisting on five-minute speeches from Mrs. Wintringham, Miss Margaret Bondfield and Mrs. Philip Snowden. The international note was struck by the messages of welcome to the Conference given by Miss Ethel Bailey (American Association of Automotive Engineers), who brought greetings from three technical societies of men in the U.S.A., and Miss Kerstin Heselgren (Member of the Swedish Senate and Chief Woman Inspector of Factories in Sweden), who spoke in her new capacity of President of the newly formed International Association of Welfare Workers.

The Conference was continued for three days, papers being read by experts in various subjects connected with the technique of industry.

A Piquant Situation.

We referred last week to the remarkable situation in Sheffield created by the action of the City Council in rejecting the minutes of the Watch Committee owing to its failure to carry out a recommendation of the City Council to appoint more women police. A complete deadlock is the result. The operations of the Watch Committee, including the payment of large sums of money and other important matters, are at a standstill, and nothing can be done until the next meeting of the City Council. The most curious feature of the incident is that both the Watch Committee and the City Council are within their rights. The Watch Committee can refuse to appoint additional policewomen and the City Council can refuse to confirm its minutes. We understand that the City Council is likely to remain firm, and if at its next meeting it again refuses to confirm the minutes the only dignified course will be for the Watch Committee—and possibly the Chief Constable—to resign. In that case the Council will appoint a new Committee pledged to carry out its wishes. We hear from a Sheffield correspondent that if the Chairman of the Committee had excused its action on grounds of economy the City Council would probably have accepted the decision meekly, but that the Committee asked for trouble and got it when they refused to act because of their opinion that additional policewomen were "neither necessary nor desirable," in spite of the recommendation of the City Council to the contrary. Readers interested in the procedure of local government, as well as those interested in the increase in numbers of women police, will await the dénouement of this Gilbertian situation with some expectation.

A Great Day for Mothers.

As we write much local interest is centred around the final preparations of the new headquarters building of the Mothers' Union, which is to be opened this afternoon by Princess Mary, and char-à-bancs full of working-women members are already arriving some hours before the ceremony. This fine building, situated in Tufton Street, will replace its former home, long outgrown, in Dean's Yard. It bears the name of its founder, Mary Sumner, who died in 1921 at the age of 93. The Mothers' Union is an organization which has immense powers for good, which have been appreciably greater since the enfranchisement of women. Such powers have, it is true, hitherto been to a large extent concentrated on one important issue—the sanctity of marriage and the purity of home life. We venture to suggest that we would like to see so great an organization, numbering nearly half a million members, come out into the open on many matters which, though not directly religious in their character, very intimately affect the possibility of pure and happy homes. With its splendid new quarters such development becomes more possible. We congratulate this great union of members of the most important section of the community, and anticipate that they to-day will enter on a new and unbounded phase of usefulness.

Family Allowances in the South Wales Coalfield.

As we go to press we read that the Monmouthshire and South Wales Coalowners' Association have included in the terms on which their pits will be open for work as from August the 1st a subsistence allowance varying according to the number in family. We hope that the other conditions of the offer made will not be such as to throw a shadow of discredit on this proposal.

"PROPUTTY, MY LORDS, PROPUTTY."

An incident which befell last week in the House of Commons illustrates as well as anything could do the sheer incapacity of the male mind (fortunately some men's minds are not male but human) to see things from the woman's point of view. Our readers will remember that the Separation and Maintenance Orders Bill, originally initiated in the office of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, was adopted in a very attenuated form by the Government, and has just passed through both Houses. In the House of Lords an amendment was secured which greatly added to its value. Its effect was to permit magistrates, when granting separation orders, to apportion the furniture between husband and wife as the equity and justice of the case might demand. It should be noted first that the clause was purely permissive; secondly, that it did not transfer the ownership of the property but merely regulated which party should have possession and use of it so long as the separation lasted. It was redrafted for the express purpose of securing the latter point, by the Lord Chancellor's own advisers, in order to meet the difficulty which they themselves had raised, that it would be an innovation to give the Courts the power of transferring property from one owner to another. In the new form it was moved by the Lord Chancellor himself, although he had strongly opposed the amendment in the Committee stage. It is true that his speech contained an ominous hint that the matter might be reopened when the Bill went back to the Lower House for the consideration of the Lord's amendments. The meaning of this hint was made clear when, in the Commons, Mr. Locker-Lampson, on behalf of the Government, moved the rejection of the new clause. In doing so he spoke as though its effect was to decide to whom the property "ought to belong," making no allusion whatever to the change that had been made expressly to avoid this difficulty. The clause was accordingly cut out, in spite of excellent speeches in its defence from Mr. Pethick Lawrence, Mr. Rhys Davies, and Mr. P. Harris.

In addition to this misleading invocation of the sacred rights of "proputty, my Lords, proputty" as exemplified in the bed, tables and chairs, frying pan and china dog, of a poverty-stricken home, the Government's case against the amendment consisted in "administrative difficulties." How, it was asked, could the Court apportion the furniture without seeing it, and how could it be brought into Court? Those whose experience lies with the homely methods of the Police Court rather than with

the stately procedure of the High Courts can easily supply the answer. The "proputty" need not be brought into Court. A list of it could be made by a police court missionary or other police official, and a just apportionment suggested for confirmation by the Court. We are assured that in several London Courts it is already the custom for the police court missionary to arrange a division of the furniture, though this, of course, can only be carried out at present with the consent of the husband.

But why should his consent be necessary? According to the common law at present a husband is supposed to be compelled—we use these words advisedly, since everyone knows how ineffective the compulsion is—to maintain his wife and children. But "maintenance" includes not only food and clothing but some sort of a home. He is not allowed to tramp with them from place to place, sleeping in outhouses, etc., on pain of being imprisoned as an "incorrigible rogue." But if a wife is compelled by her husband's persistent cruelty or neglect to seek separation from him, the law at present grants her nothing but a tiny weekly income, usually barely sufficient for daily necessities, certainly not sufficient to rent and furnish rooms or pay the high rent charged for furnished rooms, supposing even she could find anyone willing to let these to a separated wife and children. ("Children are an eyesore to every one who has rooms," says a humble friend of ours who has tried.) Why should the husband's fault free him from the obligation of providing his family with a home as well as an income? *Ex hypothesi* he is the guilty party. Often his home is only his sleeping place. He can easily find accommodation elsewhere. The furniture means far less to him than to his wife, who has scraped it together out of her savings from housekeeping money or her own earnings, who has scrubbed it, and loved it, and guarded it from his drunken depredations. Why should she with her young children be stripped of it all and driven forth homeless?

Mr. Locker-Lampson, under pressure in the House, has agreed to take this matter into further consideration if he finds after inquiry from magistrates "that there is any grievance!" We appeal to our readers to judge for themselves, using such imagination and common sense as nature has vested them with, if there is not indeed a grievance. If there is, let them help us to bring that grievance home to every magistrate or Member of Parliament of their acquaintance, so that the eyes of the Government may be opened.

THE REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES.

By GERALD B. HURST, K.C., M.P.

The Bill for the registration and inspection of nursing homes was introduced under the ten minutes rule on the 25th February. It was withdrawn on the 19th June, in view of a pledge given by the Government that a Select Committee would be set up to inquire into the question. It is expected that the Committee will sit and report in time to enable legislation to take place in 1926 if legislation is recommended by the Committee.

There is no doubt that the great mass of nurses, and of people interested in nursing, support the principle of the Bill. It aims at preventing institutions which have no qualified directors and no guarantee of decent conditions from masquerading under the title of nursing homes. This title has as yet no legal meaning. To the public, however, it connotes a place where expert care and service can be expected, so that the complete liberty of imposture which the present law allows, operates at once as a fraud on the community and as a degradation of the nursing profession. So much has been done to raise the status of this noble calling since Florence Nightingale first lit her lamp that the prevalence of abuses in bogus nursing homes is intolerable to all those who aim at the development of the professional spirit among nurses, and of professional repute in the eyes of the nation. Among social workers in large towns there is much distrust of the numerous lying-in homes which are managed by untrained persons. Complaints of want of skill and comfort are quite common among others who have had occasion as patients to visit institutions of far greater pretensions.

The Bill provides that all premises within its definition of nursing homes shall be registered by specified local authorities, and inspected by medical officers of health or others properly

qualified and duly authorised. It enumerates conditions of registration. These cover the qualifications of those who carry on the home, the suitability of the premises and equipment, and the amenities of the accommodation of patients and staffs. In and after 1935 every matron or person having the control of the nursing of the patients is to be a State registered nurse, or in the case of a home used solely for maternity cases a registered midwife. Penalties and appeals are provided for. Certificates of registration are to be publicly exhibited. Nothing in the Bill disables a layman or a company from being proprietor of a home. It is the nursing which is safeguarded.

This measure is, of course, open to criticism. Some homes are managed by unregistered and only partially trained nurses without inefficiency. It is to temper the wind to them that the Matron's qualification is only to be insisted on in ten years' time. Concessions to doctors who take in private patients, and to nurses whose non-registration is not due to want of ability, may well have to be made. Bureaucracy is rightly unpopular, and the powers of inspection by local authorities and of regulation by the Ministry of Health must no doubt be carefully scrutinised.

In the main, however, it is difficult to see genuine grounds for doubting the substantial virtues of the scheme. The statute which will eventually embody the principles and fulfil the purposes of this Bill can scarcely rank as such a milestone in the history of nursing as the foundation of the College of Nursing, or as the Nurses' Registration Act of 1919; but it may none the less mark a real and valuable advance along the road which leads to the ideal.

TWO SPRING VISITS TO PALESTINE, 1921, 1922.

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

CHAPTER XXVII.—WHAT OF THE FUTURE?—(Cont.)

One would have more respect for those who have come to the front among the English opponents of the National Home for the Jews if one could feel they had real regard for accuracy of statement. But when one of them publishes an article in a leading review based on the assumption that the *Protocol of the learned elders of Zion* is a genuine document and not the impudent fraud it had been proved to be several months before the appearance of the article, and another, notwithstanding repeated asseverations to the contrary by every leading Zionist, states that the aim of Zionism is "to accomplish the eviction of the present inhabitants of Palestine," one can only put them on one side, or in Dante's words "look and pass on," paying no heed to anything they may say in the future.

No time was lost after the ratification of the Mandate in publishing the details of the new constitution, which appeared in the Press on 2nd September, 1922. Of course the Law Officers of the Palestine Government had, long previous to this, been hard at work upon its details and legal technicalities. It was proposed to proceed by degrees towards full representative government and to approach this goal by the same route as that which has proved successful in British Colonies: at first there was to be a Legislative Council of twenty-two members, ten official and twelve non-official, the unofficial members to be chosen by primary and secondary elections: every male Palestinian over 25 years of age being entitled to vote in the primary elections unless he has forfeited his civil rights. The Legislative Council was to have full power and authority provided that no ordinance shall be passed restricting full freedom of conscience and the exercise of all forms of worship: and no proposed ordinance should be valid which shall be repugnant to or inconsistent with the provisions of the Mandate. This clause safeguards the National Home for the Jews. In addition to the ordinary courts for the administration of Justice, the system included Moslem and Jewish religious courts with exclusive jurisdiction in their respective spheres, the management of endowments given for their respective and religious purposes.

It is well known that the offer by the Government of Palestine, in 1923, of the beginning of representative institutions, was rejected by the Arabs by a very considerable majority. "The primary elections were held in February and March, but owing to a movement of non-co-operation promoted by the Arab political leaders . . . an insufficient number of secondary electors, except among the Jews, was nominated." This was tantamount to a rejection of the offer and consequently a Palestine Order in Council on 4th May declared the elections null and void. Notwithstanding this, the outlook is not discouraging. There is more friendly co-operation between the different sections of the population than ever before and a greater desire on the part of the Arabs to adopt Jewish agricultural methods. Peasant parties with a similar object have likewise come into existence in Nablus, Hebron, and the neighbourhood of Haifa. It must be remembered that the mass of the felaheen still have very little notion of what is meant by representation. Steps forward must neither be too wide nor too rapid. A lady told me recently that since the confirmation of the Mandate, her husband, who has been working actively in Palestine for the last two years and is believed, erroneously, to be a representative of the Government, has received communications from quite a number of the head men of Arab villages offering public support for the Mandate and the Government at the price of £5 per village. Those who made this offer were pained and surprised by its rejection. So it is evident they have not yet unlearned the lessons of Turkish misrule nor grasped what self-government implies. We must bear in mind that whereas England has been at it for less than 100 days.

One cannot be long in the country without perceiving what high qualifications Sir Herbert Samuel has for his work. The fact that he is a Jew, a believer in forming in Palestine a National Home for his own race, and at the same time a trained administrator and a man with a passionate devotion to justice and an unwearied capacity for work, makes him peculiarly fitted to grapple with the difficulties of his task. So great is his sense of justice and of his responsibility for doing the right thing for the non-Jewish inhabitants of the country as well as for

the Jews, that I have heard Jews declare that if the balance in the High Commissioner's hands inclines at all out of the level it is against his own race rather than in its favour. He had a splendid coadjutor in Sir Wyndham Deedes. I have heard these two men ticketed conversationally as "our best Jew and our best Christian." When I had repeated conversations last year with the opponents of "The National Home" I never heard one word said against either Sir Herbert Samuel or Sir Wyndham Deedes.¹ Each of them backs up by every means in his power every effort which is being made to promote the welfare, educational, moral, or material, of the people. I have had the opportunity of talking to several of their subordinate officers, who one and all acknowledge the wisdom and generosity of spirit with which their "chiefs" encourage every new development in their work.

FOREIGN WOMEN IN LICENSED HOUSES.

(Contributed by the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene.)

The Third Question on the agenda of the Sixth International Congress for the Suppression of Traffic in Women (held at Graz, Austria, 1924) was the question of the proposed prohibition of foreign women in *maisons tolérées*. Two Abolitionists, Professor Dr. Ude (Austria) and Professor Dr. von Düring (Germany) moved the following resolution:—

"The Sixth International Congress is of the opinion that regulation and the system of brothels constitute the chief cause of the Traffic in Women, and, wherever it may be found, it is an attack on the rights and dignity of mankind. For this reason it does not desire to study the third question brought under discussion, and it will continue to fight uncompromisingly, as it has done all along, for the abolitionist ideas."

A full discussion ensued lasting four hours. On a vote being taken of the National Anti-Traffic Committees the above motion was carried by 12 to 6 with 2 abstentions. Mr. Brodrick, Chairman of the National Vigilance Association, who was not present at the Congress, at a meeting of the British National Committee in London on 1st May referred to the resolution in favour of the proposed prohibition—which never came before the Congress—as follows:—

"I hope I shall not be suspected of being piqued if I say that I regret very much that our motion was superseded, because our motion was a practical motion and a possible motion, while Dr. Ude's is theoretical and impossible. No one who has any knowledge of vice conditions on the Continent, and especially of the attitude of the Governments in certain Latin countries towards vice regulation, imagines for one instant that total abolition is a question of practical politics at the present time. Now in France especially—and the lead of France is followed by Belgium, Italy, and Spain—you are running your head against a brick wall if you ask for total abolition; I do not presume to say that the French are less moral than Northern nations—the Scandinavian or the Dutch, for instance—it is simply a question of attitude of mind. Many right-thinking people have been in favour of tolerated bawdy houses. I am not one of them; I myself do not think they protect anyone, and they may be, and in effect are, the means of causing great injustice and great misery. But we must not consider our opinions as the only possible opinions. Many quite honest, proper, and respectable people think exactly the opposite and the French, for instance, are wedded to the system of toleration and of inspection, and it is not the smallest use for us to invoke the rights and dignity of mankind. That is a process of hitching your wagon to a star which carries you nowhere. High-flown and high-faluting sentiments of that sort are out of place at a Congress like that held at Graz; we want to do what is practical, and we had proposed something which was practical. We proposed something which was to be a blow at any rate at one great injustice—that is, the presence in segregated houses of women of other nationalities than that of the country in which the segregated houses happen to be; and how any one with practical knowledge of the interior working of these houses can possibly quarrel with that resolution of ours, or can wish to supersede it by a resolution which, however well meant, is utterly impossible of attainment at the present moment, I know not. . . ."

Mr. Brodrick further elaborated this point of view. He insisted on the hopeless position of a foreign woman in a licensed house and asked, "What chance has she of getting out of that house?"

The A.M. and S.H. (the British Branch of the International Abolitionist Federation) sent a letter to the editor of the *Vigilance Record* on 29th May. It was returned on 1st July with a covering letter signed by Miss Baker, on behalf of the Committee of the National Vigilance Association, which stated:—

" . . . the *Vigilance Record* being the property of this Association, the Committee is at perfect liberty to reproduce in its columns their opinion concerning certain aspects of our work as voiced by their Chairman without being called upon to publish the opinions of another Society on the same subject."

¹ Sir Wyndham Deedes retired in 1923 and was succeeded by Sir Gilbert Clayton.

MR. LYTTON STRACHEY'S "SON OF HEAVEN."

By A MEMBER OF THE LAY PUBLIC.

A month ago the critics acted a play and, in a Midsummer Madness, the actors played critic. I, a mere member of the public, am, even in these latter dog days, less temerarious than they. I will let the gentlemen of *The Tide*, of *The Daily Wire*, of *The Morning Letter Box*, speak for themselves for, after all, the play was written for me, not for them. One of them *did* say—and it makes a pleasant little joke for Shakespeare lovers—one of them *did* say that the characters in Mr. Strachey's *Son of Heaven* were not like Chinese! Was Portia very like every Italian young lady? Was the beloved of Titania very like every donkey? I have said the play was written for me, but for me only as an unworthy atom of the great public. When critics play or write them they do it unto themselves, but when amateurs write or play they do it for joy—and for us, the great public. That is perhaps why Mr. Bernard Shaw (I think it was he), at a meeting of the British Drama League, said that amateurs need not be ashamed because they were the hope of the drama. I dare say that Mr. Strachey is a professional man of literature, for no one not expert could have written a *Life of Queen Victoria* so acceptable to many of her subjects as his. But he stands confessed an amateur playwright, for he called his play a tragic melodrama, and yet when the critics looked up these two words nothing fitted, and it simply isn't done to let down a professional critic in that way, and no professional playwright would do such a thing. Miss Gertrude Kingston, as the Old Buddha, does not sufficiently recall the Siddons tradition. No tragedy queen powders her face at the supremely tragic moment, and she doesn't enjoy dressing up for the fun of it, and she does not mock at herself and at her friends and at her enemies, and she is not possessed of an almost perfect urbanity only occasionally flecked by savage rage or by an agonizing failure of nerve for a moment in face of the evil powers that lurk in the dark and yet remain, as Old Buddha remained, a great person. And as for the caste as a whole, the pale shadows flitting confusedly in and out (that is, confusedly to the gentleman of *The Morning Letter Box*) how disconcerting it was of Ta hé, for example, to go and create a wholly new part in drama. If she was meant to be the fair heroine, why flirt with the cold-blooded and cynical man of the world? And if, as was certainly so, she incarnated the age-long oppression of woman with the consequences of a cramped mind and body and spirit, how came it that she was also so fascinating and so amazingly brave and loyal and withal so engagingly sinuous that she was a joy to watch? And if Kang was a typical conspirator (and he must have been, for *The Tide* gentleman said so), why did there seem a something about him at times which reminded us of the most noble among our own most idealistic friends? And if the Son of Heaven was an unhealthy and degenerate boy, why did one great moment come to him and lift him to the level of his imperial ancestors? A moment when, amidst imperial pageantry he seemed to find himself at last an emperor indeed. And if the last scene was so ill-conceived that the gentleman of *The Daily Wire* was firmly of the opinion that it represented the final return to power of this unhappy young man, how was it that a military member of the audience with a varied experience of soldiers of many nations cried out in admiration of the admirable characterization of each one of the representatives of the European forces rushing to loot the Palace at Peking? (But I grant a real tragedy ought not to end with the cheery shouts of the good old British Tommy. After all, critics may have their uses.)

The professional critic does not greatly love the amateur actor. (To shout "amateur" at him is as damning as to call the women who wanted votes "ladies".) But how about the musician and the artist in the play? When does a musical composer become a pro? Were the haunting clangours of Mr. Walton's music the doings of an amateur? And is Mr. Duncan Grant wholly unknown in the "best set" of the professional artists of the younger generation? Whether artist or amateur, Mr. Grant gave us light and shade and form, and a quality and variety of gorgeous colour such as, perhaps, struck these gentlemen to whom I have distantly alluded dumb, or else occasioned such a riot of adjectives and superlatives in their notebooks that they could not disentangle the spate of words when they had to make a fair copy for their paper.

Were there tedious bits in the play? That is as may be. Has no one ever yawned at that great old man, Lear? One thing is

The National Vigilance Association is also the International Bureau for the Suppression of Traffic in Women and is the only British society which has a woman representative on the League of Nations Advisory Committee dealing with this subject. It was for this reason that the A.M. and S.H. thought it desirable to reply to Mr. Brodrick's remarks. This is the rejected letter:—

The Editor, *Vigilance Record*.

29th May, 1925.

Sir,
In your May issue is a report of a speech made by Mr. W. J. H. Brodrick in which he refers to the debate at the Graz Congress on the question of foreign women in licensed houses. May we, who were present at the Congress, make a few points which are not quite clear from Mr. Brodrick's speech.

1. We believe we are correct in saying that the resolution of the International Bureau to which Mr. Brodrick refers was not at any time brought before the Congress in the form in which it is now printed in the *Vigilance Record*. Mr. Maus (Belgium) proposed a quite different resolution, and Mrs. Neville Rolfe also asked the meeting to consider a draft motion, but no action was taken on these proposals. Professor von Düring's and Professor Ude's motion was carried by a 12 to 6 vote of the National Committees and consequently any other motion fell to the ground.

2. We cannot assent to the view, which Mr. Brodrick conveyed to the meeting of the British National Committee, that the abolition of licensed houses is impossible and impracticable at present in France, Belgium, Italy, and Spain. It may be some time before the whole system of regulation is abolished but the licensed houses are dying out in all these countries and the "closed houses" are, we believe, non-existent in the four countries named above. We may quote here from the report which was presented by Miss Baker to the Graz Conference. On the subject of licensed houses she said:—

"In the opinion of the International Bureau, formed from experience gained during the last few years, there is a strong and growing tendency forward towards the principles of abolition."

The whole trend of French medical opinion is moving forward against the Regulation system. In regard to Belgium the position is particularly hopeful. In 1923 the Belgian Government submitted a report to the League of Nations in which it is stated, among other items, that:—

"Special investigations have demonstrated the fact that State Regulation, far from arresting vice of this nature, encourages its propagation and also that the preservation of health, which it is presumed to ensure is, for the most part, illusory, and thus the spread of venereal diseases is encouraged."

Concerning licensed houses, the Belgian Government report states that "They are a permanent factor in the traffic in women," and their inmates have "fallen to the last degree of abjectness." The town Council of Brussels suspended Regulation altogether from May to December, 1924, as an experiment. Although the system is again in force a new Commission has been appointed to examine the whole question in the light of the experience gained by the suspension of Regulation.

Italy in 1923 abolished the police control of Regulations and placed it entirely in the hands of doctors, which is usually the prelude to abolition. From Spain we have no new information.

3. Although he did not actually say so, Mr. Brodrick conveyed the impression that women in licensed houses were being detained against their will. It is already a serious offence, under the International Conventions against the traffic in women to entice or procure any girl, under 21, for purposes of prostitution, even if such girl has entered into prostitution with her own full knowledge and consent. It is equally an offence to entice any woman, of whatever age, by fraud, violence, abuse of authority or any other method of compulsion. France, Belgium, Italy, and Spain have agreed to these Conventions and France, in particular, has passed legislation visiting these offences with severe penalties. If the morals police in these regulationist countries carry out the laws, there should be no women under 21 in licensed brothels, nor any women held against their will. If the morals police do not carry out the existing laws, it seems useless to add to their number. This is why Abolitionists on the Continent who know how the regulation system works, call for the abolition of the licensed house as a more truly practical measure than to ask for the exclusion from licensed houses of foreign women. Abolitionists offer no opposition to any Government which chooses, as Hungary has done, to prohibit the entrance of other than its own nationals into its licensed houses. Our whole point is that this ought not to be our demand. Abolitionists are not out to work for the exclusion of foreign women from licensed houses but for the abolition of licensed houses.

4. Mr. Brodrick says the position of a foreign woman in a licensed house is "hopeless" and that she has no chance of getting out of it. Seeing that, under regulation, she is in regular and periodic communication with the doctors and the morals police this assertion can only be true if the doctors and the morals police conspire to keep her in the licensed house against her will and contrary to law. If that happens it is clear that they will also, for a consideration, connive at other illegalities. We believe it futile to contrive more and more laws to protect women in licensed houses. The morals police are specially liable to be bribed and corrupted and therefore the laws are not enforced. The only solution is abolition of the licensed houses and abolition of the whole regulation system. If that is, as Mr. Brodrick tells us, "not within the scope of practical politics" then we ought not to rest until it is within its scope. We fear that no other proposal will make any real real difference to what goes on at present.

Yours faithfully,

J. ROWNTREE GILLETT.
GEORGE W. JOHNSON.
Signed FLORENCE WAKEFIELD.
HELEN WILSON.
ALISON NEILANS.

Delegates to the Graz Congress, 1924.

The A.M. and S.H. is much indebted to the editors of the *WOMAN'S LEADER* for their courtesy in publishing this explanation.

certain: The human beings shown to us by Mr. Strachey in this melodrama are real humans, people not as they may be expected to be, but as they are, and therefore it is that little atoms, all unworthy, of the great public take them to their hearts, and therefore it is that the play will live.

A. H. W.

"THE TWELVE SAINTS."¹

Ruth Manning-Sanders, whose poetry is among the very best produced by our younger writers, has now joined the list of poets who are also novelists. Her first novel is called *The Twelve Saints*, and has in its writing a great many of the qualities that mark her very distinctive poems. It has a very real brilliance of the curiously quiet kind that is equally part of the genius of her poetry.

This book is marked by the vivid observation and realization of personalities, and by the balance and power of seeing things whole that is so strong a characteristic of her other writings. Character after character in this novel are acutely and, indeed, almost mercilessly portrayed. Sometimes, it seems, with unkindness, but always with that humour that has humanity in it and that comes from balanced conceptions.

It is a story of an artistic group in Cornwall: of Elizabeth, one of the most bewitching heroines we have met for a long time, with her capacity for love and her real innocence; of her husband, Simon, a humorous and yet pathetic figure with his intrigue and his respectabilities; of Anne, the sister of Elizabeth, one of the most acute and searching studies we have ever had, and one that only a woman could write; of a tiresomely Puritanical young woman who yet has a fascination. The mental reconciliations of Anne to her own actions in regard to John Bone, who could not stand up to life and so ended it himself, or to Gregory Dunn, as well-drawn a self-made man as one is likely to encounter in fiction, and whose design to use the twelve saints of his own church for commercial purposes gives the book its home, and in whose arms Anne ends, make the book a little masterpiece. Mrs. Heathbury, the lady of intrigues, and James Barnabas Hooker, are just as well conceived and drawn in their own way as the others, and bits of Barnabas's relations with regard to Elizabeth are gems. Of all the characters, Anne is the most wonderfully drawn, though Elizabeth is infinitely the most delightful.

Mrs. Manning-Sanders bids fair to add considerably to her laurels in the new field for her of the novelist.

H. F.

OBITUARY.—MISS MARY CHOLMONDELEY.

We record with regret the death last week of Miss Mary Cholmondeley, whose novels were all too infrequent in their appearances during the last twenty years. *Red Pottage* was by far the most successful and much the best known, but some of her later books were full of delicate charm and artistry. Miss Cholmondeley was, like most of her sister writers, a convinced suffragist, and though never conspicuous in the cause her name should find a place in the roll of famous women who have supported our cause.

THE FAITH OF A MODERN CHURCHMAN.

Those fortunate people who hope to attend the summer school of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship during the last week of August will be tempted to wander occasionally to the "Conference of Modern Churchmen" which, we hear, is attracting a very large attendance this year. The subject is "The Faith of a Modern Churchman," and several of the speakers, among others Miss Maude Royden, Professor Bethune-Baker, Professor Sorley, and Dr. Douglas White, are well known to readers of this paper.

¹ *The Twelve Saints*. Christophers, 7s. 6d.

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ROYAL COMMISSION ON HEALTH INSURANCE.

The Parliamentary Secretary gave evidence before this Commission on Thursday, 16th July, and was examined on the following points, based on resolutions on the subject passed at recent Annual Council Meetings:—(1) That provision should be made for giving allowances on behalf of the wives and children when the husband or father is unable to carry on his employment owing to ill-health. (2) That provision should be made for the giving of medical benefits to the wives and children of insured persons. (3) That married women should be able to become voluntary contributors.

PARLIAMENTARY.—FOREST OF DEAN BY-ELECTION.

The Parliamentary Questionnaire was sent to the three Candidates in this by-election from Headquarters. The Liberal Candidate has replied in the affirmative to all the questions except the one dealing with the Employment of Married Women, on which he says, "I should like further information on this before finally committing myself." No replies have been received from the Unionist and Labour Candidates.

PETITION.

Secretaries of Societies who are collecting signatures to the Petition for Arbitration in International disputes are reminded that the signed petitions should be sent to the Secretary, the National Council for Prevention of War, Millbank House, 2 Wood Street, S.W. 1, before 31st August, or to the Secretary, 15 Dean's Yard, before 29th August.

SUMMER SCHOOL.—25th AUGUST—8th SEPTEMBER.

The following is a time-table of lectures to be held at the Summer School at St. Hilda's Hall, Oxford. We should like to draw the attention of our readers to the exceptionally interesting subjects to be discussed. Application should be made to the Secretary, 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

FIRST WEEK.

- 26th Aug.—Legal Aid for Poor Persons, Mrs. Rackham, J.P. Abolition of the Solicitation Laws, Mrs. Bethune-Baker, J.P. Liquor (Popular Control) Bill, Viscount Astor.
27th Aug.—Treatment, Classification, and Psychology of Criminals, Mrs. L. Mesurier, R. Roper, Esq., Dr. Hamblin Smith. Capital Punishment, Miss Margery Fry, J.P.
28th Aug.—Recent Legislation on the Maintenance of Wives and Children, Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P. The Criminal Justice Bill, W. Clarke Hall, Esq., J.P. The Right of Private War, W. Arnold Forster, Esq.
29th Aug.—Smoke Abatement, Miss Marion Fitzgerald. The Licensing Laws, G. A. Bryson, Esq., J.P. Family Allowances, Miss Eleanor Rathbone, J.P.
30th Aug.—Women and the Ministry, Miss Picton-Turbervill. The Work of the International Labour Office, H. B. Butler, Esq., C.B.
31st Aug.—The Reform of the Poor Law. Women and Police Administration, Miss Tancred. Penal Reform and Experiments in other Countries, Mrs. Barrow Cadbury, J.P., Miss Margery Fry, J.P.

SECOND WEEK.

- 1st Sept.—Les Tribunaux pour Enfants Français, Mlle Bertillon. Moneylending, Miss Caton. Women in Industry, Miss Constance Smith.
2nd Sept.—Restrictive Legislation of Women in Industry, Miss Helen Ward. The Function of Parties under Representative Government, Professor J. L. Stocks.
3rd Sept.—Birth Control, Dr. Marie Stopes (in favour), Dr. Isabel Pulteney (against). The Ideals of the Conservative Party, Dame Helen Gwynne-Vaughan, D.B.E.
4th Sept.—The Problem of Population. Professor Carr Saunders. Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Bill, Mrs. Hubback. The Ideals of the Liberal Party, W. T. Layton, Esq.
5th Sept.—The Dawes Report and International Finance, W. T. Layton, Esq. Training for Social Work, Miss Macadam. The Ideals of the Labour Party, H. N. Brailsford, Esq.
6th Sept.—Security and the Pact, Mrs. W. T. Layton.
7th Sept.—The Carlisle Scheme of State Management of the Liquor Trade, Captain Reiss. Housing, Captain Reiss.

NEW SOCIETIES.

ST. PANCRAS S.E.C.

The Inaugural Meeting of the St. Pancras Society for Equal Citizenship was held at 11 St. George's Terrace, N.W., by kind permission of Mrs. Seymour Seal, on July 14th, with Lady Balfour of Burleigh in the Chair. Excellent speeches were made by the Chairman and by Mrs. Hoster (President of the City of London S.E.C.) on the work of the N.U.S.E.C. Mrs. Miall Smith was elected Chairman, Mrs. Chapman Hon. Treasurer, and Miss Monica Whately Hon. Secretary.

HORNSEY AND ISLINGTON S.E.C.

The Inaugural Meeting of the Hornsey and Islington Society for Equal Citizenship was held at Westbury, Hornsey Lane, by kind permission of Miss Alexander, on July 15th, with Lady Pares in the Chair. Miss Helen Fraser explained the objects of the N.U.S.E.C. Miss Alexander was elected Hon. Secretary of the new Society.

"POLITICAL LEADERS AND ARBITRATION."

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

(BRITISH SECTION, 55 GOWER STREET, W.C. 1.)

Towards the close of the campaign for the Petition in favour of the acceptance by Great Britain of the obligatory submission of juridical disputes to the Permanent Court, it is interesting to review what leading statesmen have had to say about the principle of obligatory arbitration. The comments have been chiefly in connexion with the Pact proposals. Lord Cecil considers that an immense step in the right direction was taken by Germany, when she proposed arbitration as the sole means for the future settlement of difficulties on her borders. He emphasises that such an offer at once makes disarmament more practicable. Mr. Lloyd George thinks the success of the Pact, if it goes through, will depend entirely on what subjects are included in the treaty of arbitration. Lord Grey would like to see a clear declaration from the British Government to the world, and the other nations of the League, that there are only two things in future for which this country will undertake any obligation to fight: one, the defence of our own country if we are attacked; the other, the Covenant of the League and the principle and practice of arbitration. M. Beneš, of Czecho-Slovakia, regards the proposed Arbitration Treaties as some step forward, though not as good as the Protocol. Like the German Government, however, he thinks they may lead on to, and be included in, a general guarantee on the lines of the Protocol later on. General Smuts, on the other hand, sees only danger in the Pact, and a retrograde step, as compared with the Covenant of the League of Nations, which, he says, is "an organ of change no less than of security." In practically every case the emphasis is on the fact that the hope of progress lies in the more and more general acceptance of arbitration. It is becoming increasingly obvious that this idea is permeating international politics and giving them a new outlook.

CORRESPONDENCE.

GIRL ASSAULT CASES.

REX v. JOHN JAMES HATTON.

MADAM.—The daily Press of July 14th reported that the conviction of this man to six months' imprisonment for an assault on his step-daughter aged 12 years was quashed by the Court of Criminal Appeal, the Lord Chief Justice (with whom sat two other judges) stating that it was on the ground that the Deputy-Chairman at the London Sessions did not warn the jury of the necessity for corroborating the evidence of a child of such tender years.

1. Seeing that a girl of 12 years is, by English law, mature enough and responsible enough for wifehood and motherhood, ought this same law to regard her as too irresponsible and too immature to be a credible witness on oath?

2. Can any evidence be brought forward to prove that the sworn evidence of 12 years is any less credible than that of later years. I am sure not.

3. Women, who as mothers and schoolmistresses are intimately acquainted with 12 year old girls, know that the uncorroborated evidence of a girl of 12 years is just as much to be trusted as that of a person of older years, say 17 or 20.

4. Outside a Court of law no one treats boys or girls of 12 years as in "tender childhood," they pass out of that stage at about 7 years when they pass out of kindergarten or infant school, cease to be nursery children and become schoolgirls and schoolboys.

MARY M. ADAMSON.

EQUALITY WITHIN THE LEAGUE.

MADAM.—In his ardent advocacy of the admission of Germany to the League of Nations, Mr. Macdonell seems to under-estimate the difficulties. I am the less afraid to say this because I advocated an all-inclusive League even during the war, and every year it becomes more apparent that without Germany and Russia the League is a maimed thing. But Mr. Macdonell must not mistake phrases for realities, and when he says "All members of the League have equal rights and equal duties" this is a phrase which does not fit the facts. If you read only the words of the Covenant the statement will seem correct, but if you consider the one-sided disarmament of Germany and the one-sided imposition upon her of a demilitarized zone you will see that the obligations of Article 16 fall much more heavily upon her than upon any other Power. It is sometimes pointed out that Austria and Hungary made no trouble about Article 16, but the cases are not on all fours because, unlike them, Germany is on the high road to one of the most probable of all the threatening wars, and she would be expected (under Article 16) to allow French troops (in the event of a "League war" in which Poland was involved) to pass over her territory. The fact that she has had, and is likely for some time longer to have, to suffer from occupation of her territory by the troops of her secular enemy, France, makes it impossible for any German Government to feel sure that the German people would willingly allow the passage of those same troops over the whole of their country. If the armies of occupation were withdrawn, if there were demilitarization of both sides of the Franco-German boundary along its whole length, and if disarmament were general instead of being confined to the defeated Powers, we might admit that there was a beginning of equality.

H. M. SWANWICK.

GERMANY AND THE LEAGUE.

MADAM.—I hardly think the writer of the article "Germany's admission to the League" fully appreciate the real and sincere difficulty that she has in signing Article 16 of the Covenant. It is a difficulty which arises because she is more fully disarmed than any other nation to-day, and would therefore not be on a footing of equality with other nations in the League. The fears of even the most liberal-minded Germans are not so much that they could not guarantee the safety of the French when passing through their borders, as that they would automatically become embroiled with Russia, who could easily over-run Germany and occupy Berlin itself.

I do not think anything is to be gained by underestimating these real difficulties, rather should we see by what means they can be met.

E. D. LAYTON.

TEMPERANCE REFORM.

MADAM.—Mrs. Shilston Watkins' letter, designed to inform your readers of some of the reasons why members of the B.W.T.A. and other bodies are opposed to the extension of the Carlisle scheme, certainly requires an answer in detail.

1. Your correspondent, while granting that at Carlisle (1) drunkenness has decreased, (2) public-houses have been closed, and (3) that houses for the supply of food have increased, declares that the same is true of the whole country, and that in some towns the improvement under private ownership has been more marked even than in Carlisle. But she provides no evidence in support of this statement. I doubt if she can. (1) Drunkenness convictions provide no reliable test. (2) I say definitely that there is no area in the country where there has been anything approaching the nearly 50 per cent reduction of licences as in Carlisle. (3) There has been nothing elsewhere comparable with the ample provision made in Carlisle for the supply of food in the taverns. Over half a million meals were served in the Carlisle area in the year 1923.

2. Yes, there were special conditions existing in the area in the year 1915 to 1918 which led to the application of State ownership. But the measures adopted as a war-time experiment were so successful as a piece of constructive social reform that they have been continued up to the present time as a part of the permanent administration of the Home Office. The system has now been in operation for nine years, of which more than six have been post-war years: quite sufficient time, I should think, for a fair comparison and for disposing of Lord D'Abernon's fears. As to what would have happened had control been applied to Liverpool, it is not difficult to conjecture, judging by Carlisle. If Liverpool's quota of licences was at the same ratio as Carlisle it would have 990, whereas it has, according to the 1923 figures, no less than 1,560 plus 112 clubs. Again, if its convictions for drunkenness were on the Carlisle ratio, it would have had 1,081 in 1924 whereas the number was 4,434. Other comparisons could be made on the same lines. Apparently Mrs. Shilston Watkins prefers Liverpool as it is.

3. All matters concerning licensed houses are considered by the Advisory Committee, on which there is a strong magisterial representation. In regard to the private house opened as a public-house: with another in the same neighbourhood it replaced four ill-adapted and undesirable houses. Surely two suitable places are preferable to four unsuitable places. Why does Mrs. Shilston Watkins give only one side of the story? The St. Nicholas Arms is now highly appreciated for the improved conditions prevailing. In regard to Maryport, there was no suitable licensed house in the centre of the town at which workpeople and others could obtain cooked food under proper conditions. The Board was approached by the owners, and there was no question of taking over the place by compulsion. Mrs. Shilston Watkins is surely casting blame on the wrong people. Why not blame the original owners for their lack of interest in the temperance movement? Again, she omits to mention that at the same time the Board closed seven licensed houses in Maryport. Would she then prefer that these seven should have remained open in place of the one to which she refers? The Longtown Coffee Tavern was opened by the Board to meet special needs, and closed on the completion of the Globe Tavern, which has a restaurant separate from the bar and reached from the street by a separate entrance.

The Carlisle and other areas are continually extending the number of effective counter-attractions, as witness the provision of billiard rooms, quoits, putting greens, bowls, as at Gracie's Banking at Annan. The authorities have ample evidence of their value as affecting the consumption of alcoholic liquors.

4. In Mrs. Shilston Watkins' final paragraph she refers to the 500 years of legislation and restriction and to the policy of her Society. The 500 years' experience provides a sufficient argument for the principle underlying the Carlisle system, namely the elimination of private personal interest. And the extension of the system can only help Mrs. Shilston Watkins' own educational campaign by removing the greatest hindrance to reform. As to her Local Option proposals: will she explain how they are to be secured without the preliminary action known as State ownership and control? Has her Society any scheme for compensating people who would be disturbed by the operation of local veto? If it has I have never heard of it, and can only say that until a practical scheme such as State ownership has been secured the outlook for local option in England is not very bright.

In opposing the Carlisle system with all its manifest advantages over private ownership, Mrs. Shilston Watkins and those who are associated with her are simply playing into the hands of the liquor trade and aiding them in their determination to oppose all real Temperance reform.

M. H. RENTON,

Organizing Secretary.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

EVERY FRIDAY.

ONE PENNY.

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COMING EVENTS.

CONFERENCE OF MODERN CHURCHMEN.

AUGUST 24-31. Conference at Oxford. Subject: "The Faith of a Modern Churchman." Speakers: The Dean of St. Paul's, Professor Caldecott, D.D., Miss Maude Royden, Professor Bethune-Baker, Professor Sorley, Dr. Douglas White, Mr. W. M. Pyke, and others. Particulars from Miss Dora Nussey, Upper Ewe Croft, Ilkley.

INTERNATIONAL PRISON CONGRESS.

AUGUST 3-8. International Prison Congress in London. For particulars, apply Secretary to the Prison Commission, Home Office, Whitehall, S.W. 1.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

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JULY 31. Trinity College, Cambridge, for one week. Inaugural address by Sir Michael Sadler. Chairman: The Vice Chancellor of the University.

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NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

AUGUST 25-SEPTEMBER 8.—Summer School for Magistrates and Citizens at St. Hilda's Hall, Oxford. For particulars apply Secretary, N.U.S.E.C., 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

Croydon W.C.A. JULY 29. 3 p.m. Miss Beaumont on "All-in Insurance."

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

AUGUST 14-28. Summer School at Thonon (Haute Savoie), France.

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