

THE FUTURE OF THE TRADE BOARDS.

THE
WOMAN'S LEADER

AND
THE COMMON CAUSE

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NOTES AND NEWS

“ . . . Long Live the Prime Minister.”

The week behind us has been rich in political change, and one aspect of that change our readers, of whatever party, will unanimously regret. Mr. Bonar Law's health did not fulfil the hopes of those who ordered him a temporary rest, and he is now no longer our Prime Minister. He is one of the best-loved men who have ever led the House of Commons—a man of few phrases, honest, sensible, and kind. As a politician his name is closely associated with the post-war financial policy which has brought this country the astonished admiration of its allies and its ex-enemies. Happily, the name of his successor, Mr. Baldwin, is known in the same connexion, and in particularly intimate connexion with one aspect of it: the skilful funding of the American debt. Apart from this, as far as the general public is concerned, Mr. Baldwin is an unknown man. But, like Mr. Bonar Law, he is personally liked and trusted in the House of Commons. For the rest—happy the politician who has no history.

Berwick-on-Tweed By-Election.

We regret that we are not in a position to give any new information with regard to Mrs. Philipson's candidature. Mrs. Philipson's views on the subject of equality between men and women and the many particular points in the policy for which the WOMAN'S LEADER stands are not known, and it has therefore not been possible for members of organizations interested in this to offer her any help. The results of the election are extraordinarily difficult to foretell, for the constituency has invariably followed a Liberal tradition, and it is difficult to tell what proportion of the votes cast for Capt. Philipson were Conservative votes—nor can one prophesy as to the choice likely to be made by the National Liberal voters of the division. At the meeting of the National Liberal Party, which decided to support Mrs. Philipson, only fourteen were present, of whom two abstained from voting. The present Liberal candidate is not handicapped by the measure of unpopularity to which the last Independent Liberal candidate, Right Hon. Walter Runciman, was subject. The resignation of the Prime Minister would appear to make the strength of the Conservative vote even more difficult to foretell. There seems to be a clear indication that Labour will have a strong following, and that the small poll at the last election was due to abstention of the Labour voters.

At the same time, the fact that the fight is a three-cornered one may result in putting the Conservative candidate in. Should Mrs. Philipson be returned, her avowed interest in the welfare of women and children leads us to hope that she will co-operate with the other women members of the House in their very active work in this direction.

The Little Houses.

The Government's Housing Bill is proceeding slowly through its Committee stage. So far it has suffered little significant change. We derive cold comfort from an amendment made in the direction urged in our leading article of three weeks ago. The limit of 850 superficial feet has been extended. But, alas, the extension amounts only to a paltry 100 feet. The Government remains adamant in its resolve to subsidize only the building of our future slums.

Joint Select Committee on Guardianship, Custody, and Maintenance of Infants Bill.

The members of this Committee have now been appointed. Those representing the Peers are the same as those who sat on last year's Committee, and consist of the following: Duke of Northumberland, Earl of Onslow, Lord Wemyss (chairman), Lord Macdonnell, Lord Torrington, and Lord Askwith. Members representing the House of Commons are as follows: Mr. Cairns (Lab.), Mr. Ellis (U.), Mr. Gerald Hurst (U.), Mr. Nesbitt (U.), Mr. Robert Richardson (Lab.), and Mrs. Wintringham (Lib.). Mr. Cairns and Mrs. Wintringham were members of last year's Committee, and there is every reason to believe that the new members appointed are in sympathy with the principle of the Bill. The first meeting of the Committee will probably take place on 20th June.

The Divorce Court and the Press.

The text of Sir Evelyn Cecil's Matrimonial Causes (Regulation of Reports) Bill, which was introduced on 15th May, is now before us. Its principal clauses provide that it shall not be lawful (a) to publish any particulars of any judicial proceedings to which the Bill applies (i.e. dissolution or nullity of marriage or judicial separation) other than the following: (i) the names of the parties, (ii) the grounds on which the proceedings are brought, (iii) particulars of any argument on any part of law arising in the course of the proceedings and the decision of the Court

thereon, (iv) the finding of the jury (if any) and the judgment of the Court; or (b) to include in any report of any such excepted particulars any indecent matter, or medical, surgical, or physiological details, the publication of which would be calculated to injure public morals.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby has succeeded Mrs. Chapman Catt as President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance. We are proud that a representative of Great Britain should preside over the Alliance, and we know that this particular representative will do us credit. Those of our countrywomen who have sat under Mrs. Corbett Ashby's chairmanship know that she has in a marked degree two of the qualities which her new office will demand: unshakable good temper (we intend no insult to the Alliance—all large and lively congresses make demands upon a chairman's temper) and a most equitable judgment. In addition she has a sound knowledge both of modern history and of modern languages, which will serve her in good stead. We will venture even deeper into the quicksand of personality and remind our readers that Mrs. Corbett Ashby, though wise and rich in political experience, is also very young. We confess that this fact adds fuel to our pride. The Alliance will find it difficult to replace Mrs. Chapman Catt, but we believe that they are on the way to doing so.

The National Federation of Women's Institutes.

Ten years ago few people would have believed that it would be possible to fill the Queen's Hall with women delegates from nearly 3,000 villages in England and Wales, yet on 14th and 15th May this incident "disguised itself as a fact, and went through the hollow form of occurring." More striking still, while a long agenda was freely and fully discussed, it was found unnecessary to impose a time limit for speeches. Woman after woman came up to the platform, spoke clearly, briefly, and to the point, and stood down without it being necessary for the Chairman to remind her that time was passing. Among the subjects discussed were Housing, Cruelty to Children, and Humane Slaughter. A resolution that only Women's Institute business should be discussed at the annual meeting, and that public questions should not appear on the agenda found little support; as more than one delegate pertinently said, "If

Housing is not a question for Women Institute members, what is?" That public questions could be discussed by so large a body of women without party politics entering into the matter was in itself a notable achievement.

More Light on Domestic Employment.

We specially welcome the evidence that is now being given before the women's committee appointed by the Minister of Labour, particularly by those women whose position in the Employment Department of the Ministry of Labour has enabled them to take a broad view of this branch of work. The evidence given both by Miss Gardner, Chief Woman Officer of the South-Eastern Division of the Ministry of Labour, and by Miss A. Younger, Chief Woman Officer of the Employment and Insurance Department for Scotland, was valuable precisely because in each case the witness summarized from wide scientific knowledge. Miss Younger stated the fact that the decline in the number of available domestic servants is not simply relative to the growth of population or to the possible increase in the number of persons wishing for attendance; but it is an actual diminution. There were (in round figures) 43,000 fewer women and girls employed in domestic industry at the census of 1921 than there had been at the census ten years earlier. Meantime, of course, the whole population has grown; and probably—owing to social and economic changes—there are more persons who would be glad to employ a servant than there were in 1911. On the other side of the question, households of many servants with highly differentiated functions tend to disappear. The whole stress of the problem is how to obtain the skilled "cook-general". As Miss Younger showed by figures, there are some hundreds of women asking for domestic employment and unable to get it because they are neither cook-generals nor really skilled at all. The absence of unemployment insurance is one of many factors to account for the shortage. But there is always a risk, lest by dwelling too exclusively on the drawbacks to domestic employment critics may not merely "crab" it rather unfairly, but may encourage girls to enter other more crowded occupations where employers can consequently afford to impose bad terms. The gamekeeper who on £1 a week managed to get his five daughters trained for teaching was a Scot; and his daughters might possess the Scottish knack of holding their own. Yet there is a limit to the number of employable teachers, however tenacious.

SUMMARY JURISDICTION (SEPARATION AND MAINTENANCE) BILL.

We welcome the introduction this Session of a whole crop of private Member's Bills relating to the welfare of children—Guardianship, Adoption, Employment, Temperance, Legitimacy—all are dealt with, though what proportion of such Bills will reach the Statute Book it is difficult to foretell.

Attention has already been drawn to the Parliamentary careers of many of these Bills in these pages. This week we wish to examine with some care this Session's reincarnation of the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bill, presented in the House of Commons last week by Sir Robert Newman. The various versions of this Bill, promoted and drafted in each case by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship, which have been before the House in previous Sessions, are all designed to protect the interests of married women who are forced to apply in the Police Courts for Separation and Maintenance Orders from a dissolute or neglectful husband, and of their children.

This Session's Bill embodies but a small part of the reforms in the law urgently required, and even if passed will need to be considerably extended later. Unfortunately, however, no place was obtained in the Private Member's Ballot for the Bill this Session, with the result that its second reading can only be taken after 11 o'clock if unopposed. The more contentious sections of the Bill—and these are almost invariably the more important—had, therefore, to be excluded. What remains is a mere shadow of its former self, but even this remnant is very much better than nothing, and at any rate boasts of the cordial approval of the Home Office.

What ground, then, does the new Bill cover? In the first place, it removes that abominable condition which obtains at present in cases in which a woman wishes to apply for an order or orders against her husband on the grounds of cruelty or of failure to maintain her and her infant children—the condition that before doing so she should leave her husband. This, a difficult undertaking at any time, is almost impossible in these days of housing shortage, especially where several

children are concerned. Magistrates of the most conservative temperament have expressed themselves strongly in favour of the need for the removal of this condition.

A new ground for applying for a Separation and Maintenance Order has been laid down in cases in which a husband has compelled his wife to submit herself to prostitution.

Another merciful provision has been inserted for the benefit of the children. Under the present law, a wife forfeits the weekly sum allowed not only for her own maintenance, but also for that of the children, if she commits adultery. This Bill, provides that in such a case the court is not bound to rescind the Order at all if it can be shown that her act of adultery was conducted by the failure of her husband to make any payments under the Order.

Further, it provides that if, in spite of her being unfaithful the mother is still regarded by the court as the best person to retain the legal custody of the children, even though her own maintenance order is revoked, maintenance on behalf of the children may still be allowed up to a maximum sum of 10s. per week per child.

The facilities for the enforcement of the payment of maintenance orders are increased, and a very useful provision introduced that imprisonment shall not necessarily extinguish a husband's liability for the debt. This provision has been inserted in order to meet those cases in which a man shows clearly that he prefers going to prison for a few weeks rather than to support his wife and family over a term of years.

The Second Reading of this Bill is due to come up after Whitsuntide, and its further stages should prove uneventful. The fate of all these Bills, however, will, of course, clearly depend on the amount of time the Government will spare for business other than its own. Unless, therefore, the demand of women citizens and others behind these Bills is made extremely clear, many of these most useful measures may come to an untimely end, and the struggle begin all over again another Session.

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

By Our POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT.

By the time this issue reaches its readers all Parliamentary news will be a week old, for on 17th May the House of Commons adjourned for its Whitsuntide recess—ten days' breathing space for a shaken and leaderless Executive. To some of its members, the four days of Parliamentary business which preceded the adjournment brought a few grains of comfort. In the opinion of Mr. McNeill, the Russian debate of Tuesday, 15th May, amply and honourably discharged the Prime Minister's rash pledge that there should be "no rupture with Russia without the matter being submitted to the House." The House is thus presumed to have given its benediction to a rupture, and from thenceforth the Foreign Office may conduct the matter in peace at its own discretion. Mr. Bridgeman, too, with the promise of an Indemnity Bill, can go on his way without fear of prosecution. In furtherance of the efforts of this enterprising and restless Government to revolutionize the traditions of the Constitution, he will in all probability reconsider the resignation which he is generally believed to have tendered. One does not expect legal knowledge from a Home Secretary, and Mr. Bridgeman's prestige (such as it is) will probably survive a writ of *Habeas Corpus*. But from an Attorney-General one does expect a knowledge of Law; and we venture to prophesy that Sir Douglas Hogg will not easily vindicate his reputation as an astute lawyer.

But it is not only Ministers who have been troubled during the stormy days which preceded the adjournment. Mr. Lloyd George and his fellow National Liberals have had their little anxieties too. Their efforts towards Liberal reunion have been rudely disturbed by the defiant determination of the Berwick National Liberal Party to make common cause with the Conservatives in support of Mrs. Philipson. Clearly, in thus subordinating party policy to an instinctive expression of fundamental affinities these Berwick rebels are showing themselves bad politicians. But to persons who have the good fortune to stand outside this controversy the situation is fraught with piquancy and charm—more especially as its outcome may be the return of a colleague for Lady Astor and Mrs. Wintringham and a still further complication of party cleavages. Truly, women are a disturbing influence in political life.

But the affair which overshadowed all others during this shortened week of Parliamentary activity is Tuesday's debate, to which we have already referred, on Lord Curzon's Russian note. It was opened by a speech from Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, who put forward a reasoned plea for further negotiation, deprecating both on economic and political grounds any action which would lead to the expulsion of the Russian Trade Delegation from this country. In so doing, he was supported both by Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Asquith—Liberal reunion thus becoming at headquarters a momentary actuality. Indeed, so eloquently and so effectively did the former plead for the establishment of "real peace with Russia" that at least one of his hearers was tempted to forget the very considerable expense to which the taxpayers of this country were put under the Lloyd George régime for the purpose of subsidizing unsuccessful civil wars on the outskirts of Soviet territory.

On the whole, these last days before the recess leave our relations with Russia in a state of hazy uncertainty. Lord Curzon's note is admitted by Mr. McNeill as "in a sense" an ultimatum. But Lord Curzon was willing to talk it over with M. Krassin, who had arrived early in the week post haste by air and sea from Moscow. The time-limit of the pseudo-ultimatum would be extended sufficiently to allow of M. Krassin communicating with Moscow and receiving a reply from thence. But Moscow would be required to treat it as befits an ultimatum, that is, to take it or leave it—though not "word for word or comma for comma."

On Thursday, 17th May, M. Krassin called upon Lord Curzon, and exactly what transpired at that interview is not known to the Press. Though M. Krassin has transacted much business at the Foreign Office, we understand that this is the first time that he has actually been received into the presence of its Chief. The meeting must have been rich in dramatic interest. In what terms of diplomatic courtesy did Lord Curzon, still, as in Eton and Oxford days, "a most superior purzon," address this astute and dapper Bolshevik business-man? In what terms did M. Krassin, that "realpolitiker" of the Western world, subsequently address his doctrinaire and intractable

colleagues in the East? And in what terms will they address him? Time alone will show!

Since then internal events have happened in the political world which make these closing days of Parliamentary debate seem curiously remote. In the quiet of a Whitsuntide holiday, with the King at Aldershot and Ministers scattered to the winds, Mr. Bonar Law slipped unobtrusively from office. The suddenness of his final decision came as a surprise even to some of his colleagues. Less surprising was the choice of his successor. As far as the House of Commons was concerned, Mr. Baldwin was the obvious and inevitable man for the job. And though it is regrettable from an artistic point of view that the swelling greatness of Lord Curzon's career should not have been crowned with the highest office of State, yet it is comforting from all other points of view. Lord Curzon's outlook is essentially that of the eighteenth century; and in the twentieth century world of to-day we cannot do with anything less up-to-date than nineteenth century Liberalism. Nevertheless, the public service of this country, with its rich and picturesque historical traditions, offers positions of greater dignity, though of less democratic responsibility, than that of Premier; and to the most dignified of these Lord Curzon deserves eventually to succeed.

Regarding Cabinet reconstruction, there is as yet no "News from Westminster"—only very many rumours.

[The views expressed in this column are those of our Parliamentary correspondent, and are not our editorial opinion. Like so many other things in this paper they are expressly controversial, and comment upon them will be welcomed.—Ed.]

TRADE BOARDS BILL.

The Bill which has been introduced by the Government to consolidate and amend the law as it relates to Trade Boards will be bitterly opposed in the House of Commons, and in order to appreciate fully the reasons for this opposition it is necessary to consider briefly the historical development of Trade Board machinery. The Act of 1909 was intended to deal with the grosser cases of sweating, its operation was confined to eight trades, and many restrictions were imposed advisedly to make the working of the Boards slow and cautious as befitted an experimental measure.

There is ample evidence that both workers and employers on these Boards were satisfied with the experiment but felt as they gained experience that the machinery of the 1909 Act hampered their useful activities in many ways. In addition to their experience covering a long normal period, much experience was obtained in regulating women's wages under war-time legislation. The 1918 Act was therefore the result both of the experience of Trade Boards over a considerable period and of the necessity for dealing in an adequate manner with the trades which had been covered by war-time legislation but which required permanent machinery to prevent them from relapsing into a state of serious underpayment.

The Report of the Cave Committee, however, on which the Government's Bill is mainly based, was the outcome of an inquiry during the abnormal slump period, and the amendments proposed in the Bill should be carefully considered in the light of this fact. In the opinion of all the Trade Unions whose members are directly affected by the Trade Boards, the effect of the main amendments would be to deprive several million workers of protection which they secured mainly as a result of the satisfactory working of Trade Boards in normal times, and partly as a result of the general desire which showed itself at the end of the war to secure a better standard of life for the lowest paid sections of the community. The first and most important of these amendments provides for the application of the Act to a trade only if the Minister of Labour, after public inquiry, is of opinion (1) that wages are unduly low as compared with those in other employment; (2) that there is no machinery in operation which adequately maintains effective regulation of wages throughout the trade.

This provision not only restores the narrow basis of the Act of 1909, but couples with it the basis of the Act of 1918, and, further, insists on a public inquiry in every case although no objection may be raised. The effect of this change can only be to limit and delay the application of Trade Boards to trades which are crying out for this protection. The lack of adequate machinery with due regard to the wages paid in the trade, proved an adequate safeguard against the unnecessary application of the Act, whereas the new proposal again involves us in the difficulty of getting workers, more particularly in the lowest paid trades, to come forward and give evidence as to their wages, and even where this

difficulty can be overcome the necessity of proving that these wages are unduly low as compared with the rates in other employments appears to provide endless opportunity for obstruction, and in the present state of industry for playing off one underpaid trade against another.

In the second place, the Bill seeks to differentiate between rates for the lowest classes of workers which are to be fixed by the whole Board as now and enforced by the officials of the Ministry of Labour by means of prosecution, and all other rates which they propose should only be fixed by agreement. Such a differentiation pre-supposes a state of organization which by the very nature of Trade Boards does not exist in these trades. In the very first Board set up by the 1909 Act—for the chain trade, it was found necessary to fix special rates for special classes of workers, and this practice has been followed by many Boards set up under the 1918 Act. The very differences as between one trade and another which in the opinion of the Cave Committee would make it difficult to proceed by means of a national minimum wage, operate as between one section of the trade and another.

In some cases when a Board is set up it is considered unwise to fix anything except a very low rate for the general body of workers, but it is found possible immediately to secure a rather better minimum for the more skilled section of the workers or a more prosperous section of the trade. But if such rates were left to voluntary agreement it is exceedingly likely that in many cases they would not be fixed at all, and it is almost certain that they would be strenuously opposed by the employers, unless the machinery of the Act made it certain that they would apply impartially to all employers in the trade. This brings us to the all-important question of enforcement. The very basis of the Trade Board Acts has been the protection afforded to employers against unfair competition by the universal enforcement of any rates fixed. Under the 1918 Act it is the duty of the Ministry of Labour to prosecute employers for any infringement of the Acts, and they may also take civil proceedings on behalf of the workers to recover arrears of wages due to them. It is now proposed that employers shall only be liable to prosecution for infringement of the rates fixed for the lowest class of workers, known in the Bill as "general rates", and that in all other cases it shall be left to the individual worker to sue for wages due under his or her contract of service. This is an important departure from the recommendations of the Cave Report, which at least made it clear that the Ministry of Labour should be empowered to take civil proceedings on behalf of the workers in respect of all rates. While the Trade Unions strongly oppose any differentiation in the powers of the Boards as suggested in the Bill as likely to weaken the usefulness of Trade Boards, they are convinced that the machinery of enforcement now proposed would endanger the whole structure of Trade Boards and end in no rate being fixed except for the lowest class of worker. If the chainmaker, the East-end tailor, the jute girl in Dundee is left to sue her employer unaided, who cannot see that the rates will become a dead-letter? In many cases the employers agree to them now because they desire to see them enforced on their competitors. When they perceive that they cannot be so enforced agreements will break down just as they have broken down in other semi-organized trades, and even in the case of many Industrial Councils.

The third point of criticism is of special interest in view of the stress laid by certain opponents of Trade Boards on the dangers of bureaucracy. During the Press campaign which preceded the establishment of the Cave Committee, readers unacquainted with the work of Trade Boards were led to believe that the rates of wages were fixed by a Government Department, without regard to the conditions of the trade or the wishes of those engaged in it. This, of course, was a travesty of the position, but it is interesting to note that the general effect of the Government's Bill would be to make it much nearer the truth. The power of the Minister of Labour is magnified in every possible way, and in particular he is empowered to set up District Boards and District Committees, and decide the constitutions of such Committees; whereas the Cave Committee considered that some such power was perhaps necessary in the distributive trades, the Minister now proposes to take it upon himself in respect of all trades, and to remove altogether from the Boards the power of setting up District Committees, which now rests entirely with them. Such a proposal in the manufacturing trades will almost certainly meet with opposition from both employers and workers, and we believe that given adequate representation of local interests on the Board, the whole conditions of the trade, including the desirability of fixing different rates for different districts, can

be left to a National Board able to survey the position as a whole.

To sum up, while Labour appreciates the work of the Cave Committee in giving their recognition to the valuable work performed by the Trade Boards, they consider that their recommendations have been too much influenced by temporary conditions arising out of an abnormal-phase of industry, and for this reason they feel obliged to offer uncompromising opposition to a Bill based on such recommendations, and in some important respects going even beyond them. The Bill, in other words, is evidence of a wave of reaction which seeks to sweep away the concessions gained in 1918, and even to encroach on the territory of protection afforded to sweated workers in the 1909 Act.

MADELEINE SYMONS.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE STUDY OF TRADE BOARDS.

The most topical and handy source of information on the subject of Trade Boards is the *Cave Report*, published by the Government Stationery Department, price 2s. A detailed analysis of the working of the Act during the first few years of its operation is to be found in three small books published by Bell & Sons: *Minimum Rates in the Chainmaking Industry* and *Minimum Rates in the Tailoring Trade*, by R. H. Tawney; and *Minimum Rates in the Boxmaking Industry*, by Miss E. M. Bulkeley. The theoretical economics of the minimum wage are discussed in the last book of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb's *Industrial Democracy*. But those interested in the question should look out for the comprehensive and up-to-date treatise on the subject by Miss D. Sells, which will shortly be published by P. S. King.

THE ROME CONGRESS.

PALAZZO DEL ESPOSIZIONE ROMA.

To the disappointment of delegates with a historic sense, the inauguration of the Congress took place in the Palazzo, where all the sessions were held, instead of the Great Hall of the Horatii and Curatii at the Capitol. But it was a great occasion all the same. When the Lord Mayor of the city had formally welcomed the delegates, Mussolini, who was greeted with much enthusiasm, addressed the gathering. His speech must certainly have aroused great expectations among the women of Italy, for he declared with no uncertain voice that the possession of the vote by women would have beneficial results to the state in giving the opportunity for the exercise of their "fundamental qualities, foresight, balance, and wisdom," and "that the Fascisti Government proposed to grant the vote to several categories of women, starting with the municipal vote." There was much enthusiasm when Mrs. Chapman Catt rose to give her Presidential Address, which was described in the admirable Italian Press reports as "a magnificent discourse vibrating with sincerity." Mrs. Catt referred to the great pioneers of the past, and contrasted their struggle, scorned by a hostile world, with the present time, when "kings, premiers, presidents, and mayors do honour to our cause." She pointed out that two-thirds of the nations of the world were represented at the Congress, and that of those, delegates from twenty-five countries are enfranchised on equal terms with men. She concluded with an eloquent appeal to Italy

"To make another ruin, a destruction of all the 'woman laws' which deny to women the half of the world's dominion God gave them.

The motto of our Alliance, adopted twenty years ago, came from ancient Rome, and no wiser guidance for human action has any sage spoken through the centuries: "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity."

So, we differ in many things, in race, religion, and politics; but we are a unit in our demand for a woman's share in all privileges, opportunities, and responsibilities the world has to offer.

Rome, old and hoary, with memories of bygone greatness, we greet you with admiration and with reverence; Rome, young and modern, we ask that we may march with you in a great world army of men and women whose aim is only to create a happier life for all nations and peoples of earth."

The actual work of the Congress began with the report of the Committee on Equal Pay and right to work. After a heated discussion, the Congress confirmed the resolutions passed at Geneva three years ago. This was followed by the report of the Committee on Moral Questions. The two most controversial resolutions presented have not yet been voted on. The first of these dealt with the now familiar dispute as to compulsory methods of treatment of venereal disease, and the other, which

THE LAW AT WORK.¹

HOME OFFICE REPORT ON THE CHILDREN'S BRANCH.

It is nearly seven years since the last Report of the Chief Inspector of Reformatories and Industrial Schools was issued. We now have a comprehensive account issued by the Home Office of the whole treatment of Juvenile Delinquency, whether in Institutions or on Probation, with chapters also on such allied topics as cruelty to children, the employment of children, and cinematographs.

The number of children under 16 charged in Juvenile Courts in England and Wales rose rapidly during the war, but it has declined again with equal rapidity: the number charged in 1921 was just over 30,000, as compared with 37,000 in 1913. As the Report points out, too much stress must not be laid upon these figures, as the number of children charged depends largely upon the activity of the police in any given area at any given time, and also because many so-called offences are so slight—such as playing with a ball in the street—as not to fall at all under the head of juvenile crime. We are reminded again that the main cause of juvenile delinquency is poverty; the majority of children charged do not come from bad homes, but bad housing, unemployment, overwork, or want of proper means of recreation have brought them into the police court.

Industrial and Reformatory Schools have passed in popular judgment under a cloud in recent years. The want of confidence that magistrates have in them is shown by the huge drop in the number of their inmates. In 1914 it was nearly 19,000; last year it was only 9,888. This drop is due also to the decrease in the number of juvenile offenders and to an increased use of Probation. As a result of the smaller number of children committed, about 40 schools have been closed.

The Report makes it quite clear that whatever are the defects in these Schools, the Inspectors are alive to them and are doing their best to remedy them. Education, Health, After-care, all come in for their special share of attention and criticism. That the success of the Inspectorate is not more rapid is due to the fact that all the Reformatories except one, and a quarter of the Industrial Schools, are still under voluntary management, though supported by public money. This means that reforms are often urged by Inspectors in the face of opposition from the Committees who manage the Schools, and who are sometimes wedded to old-fashioned and discredited methods of dealing with young people.

Much has been done to bring a new spirit into the Schools, but some still lag behind. We read such statements as: "A small minority of schools are content to live by outworn traditions," "A few unimaginative managers and superintendents still dress their children in uniform," "Only in a few schools is the practice of cropping the hair close continued to-day." Certain schools refuse to train their girls for anything except domestic service, however unsuitable for it particular girls may be. No one would desire complete uniformity in schools, but now that they are maintained by the public it ought to be possible to bring them all up to standard in certain definite respects.

Release on licence of children who have done well at school and are of an age to earn their own living, and the boarding-out of young children, are not practised so much as they should be, largely, no doubt, because many of the schools are far from full.

A very interesting development has been the formation of a small central school—Elm House—to which girls can be drafted by competitive examination from schools all over the country. At Elm House, the girls attend a secondary school, and are trained in skilled or artistic trades, and really get a chance of developing the best that is in them.

The Inspectorate consists of eight persons, of whom three are women, one of these last being a Medical Inspector.

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

produced an animated discussion in which Dame Rachel Crowdy took part, referred to the proposition considered by the League of Nations prohibiting foreign women in licensed houses. On Tuesday Miss Chrystal Macmillan presented the report of the Committee on the Nationality of Married Women, which was accepted with remarkable unanimity. The report of the Committee dealing with the Economic Status of Wives, Mothers, and Children, presented by Miss Eleanor Rathbone, introduced more debatable matters, which for regular readers of this paper need hardly be enumerated. After a prolonged discussion all the resolutions were passed. Wednesday was Enfranchised Women's Day, when questions very familiar to our readers, such as the pros and cons of joining political parties, how to secure women Members of Parliament, and the universal problem of how to stimulate the interest of women voters, were threshed out. Thursday morning was devoted to amendments to the constitution, and the afternoon to a conference of unenfranchised women. At the time of writing, on Friday, after a lengthy debate and an exciting division, one of the most important questions before the Congress—its future relations with the National Council of Women—has only reached the stage of rejection of a proposal for indefinite postponement.

The remarkable series of nightly public meetings, attended not only by indefatigable delegates but by large numbers of the Roman public, including many men, deserves comment, and confirms the view that the Congress has made an impression not only on those in authority, but on the average Roman citizen.

As to the hospitality of this city—imagine a Suffrage Congress entertained by the Italian Government, when delegates had a second opportunity of seeing Signor Mussolini, and try to imagine such a function taking place in the beautiful gardens on the Palatine! Imagine a suffrage reception given by the Roman Municipality at the Capitol! Though without the same historic flavour, the delightful function organized by the Italian Committee, where costumes of many lands made conventional evening dress look dowdy, must not be omitted.

Who is to be the new President? This question, anxiously discussed for many days, is now settled. Mrs. Catt was implored to remain in office for a further period, but she claims rest after her twenty years of fine service, and Mrs. Corbett Ashby was to-day elected to fill her place. Mrs. Corbett Ashby thanked the Congress in a graceful speech, which she herself translated into French, German, and Italian, and in which she begged Mrs. Catt, with the consent of the Congress, not only to accept the position of Honorary President, but to remain a member of the Board with full voting powers. A pretty scene took place to-day, when the little son of the new President presented the retiring President with a bouquet of carnations and stood between the two as Mrs. Catt said a few gracious words of welcome to her successor.

This account will be continued in next week's issue, when our correspondent will describe the procession through the Via Nazionale to the Government Buildings and the presentation of resolutions to Mussolini, and will also give impressions of some outstanding personalities of the Congress.

NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE.

Jane Addams will be the subject of an article by Mrs. Barnett in next week's issue, and Mr. Walter Layton will write on Trade Boards. This article, taken in conjunction with one by Miss Madeleine Symons appearing this week, will show two sides of a "Burning Question." Mrs. Oliver Strachey, just returned from America, will also contribute an article.

Educational Union for the Realisation of Spiritual Values.
HOLIDAY CONFERENCE AT ILKLEY, YORKS
 AUGUST 4TH TO 18TH, 1923.
 Dr. RUDOLF STEINER will lecture on
 "EDUCATION IN THE LIGHT OF ANTHROPOSOPHY."
 The Opening Address will be given by MISS MARGARET MCGILLAN, C.B.E.
 Teachers from the Waldorf School, Stuttgart (of which Dr. Steiner is Educational Director),
 will take part.
 Demonstrations of the New Art of Eurythmy will be given.
 For Particulars apply to the Secretary—
 Ilkley Educational Conference, 46 Gloucester Place, W.1.

Conference on Christian Politics, Economics, and Citizenship.

A SUMMER SCHOOL in preparation for the above will be held at "The Hayes," Swanwick, Derbyshire, June 23rd to July 2nd. Subject: "INDUSTRY AND HUMAN NATURE." Distinguished lecturers. Free discussion. Beautiful country house and garden. Tennis, etc. Programme from Miss GARDNER, 92 St. George's Square, S.W.1.

OUR EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

Although only open three afternoons a week at present, the House Assistants' Centre has already justified its existence, but I am afraid it hasn't so far nearly covered its expenses. That, however, can't be expected at first; the fact of its only being open three days each week is a drawback.

After the summer holidays from 1st September it will be open every day at certain fixed hours.

One reason why it has to be subsidized is because at the start, although we have had many good jobs to offer and many good workers registered, the two do not always fit each other. Increasing numbers and the daily opening of the office will make it easier to fit the right worker to the right work.

These first weeks we consider a period of organization or incubation. We do not want to start a stereotyped money-making business, but a living organization that shall at least attempt to deal with modern unemployment difficulties. For this reason more than one offer to finance the bureau as a money-making concern has been refused.

To pay our way it is necessary that all applicants from a distance should enclose the small registration fee of 1s. even when replying to our advertisement, for this shilling is required to meet the expenses of advertising, correspondence, clerking, etc. If it were possible for everyone to call at the office there would not be so much need for this fee; but the correspondence connected with the work is very heavy, and as time goes on will be heavier still. Although the office hours are at present few only, from 2 to 5 o'clock on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays, the correspondence entailed by letters and interviews takes up more than twice as long, even with the help of shorthand and typing.

One of our little ways is frequently to refuse to take the shilling from callers if we do not think them suitable, or if we are unable to supply them at once with suitable addresses to which to apply. You will realize we are trying to be very fair.

If we had taken shillings indiscriminately we should have covered working expenses.

A GENERAL DIFFICULTY.

Registry Offices often get blamed for all sorts of things; one complaint is that they give names and addresses, and applicants who write to them, both employers and workers, receive no answer. The office cannot always be blamed for this: clients of both classes are very often careless about informing the agent that they are "suited". The reason is that those who want work and those who want workers register at perhaps half a dozen bureaux, and when they obtain what they want from one forget to inform the others. Sometimes they don't even inform the office that has suited them, and the bureaux naturally continue to give names and addresses, and get blamed most unjustly. In addition they have to write letters to get their fees or to find out if clients are still wanting work or workers.

It will be easily seen that a 1s. registration fee does not go far under these conditions.

We ask all clients to send us a postcard directly they are suited, whether through our help or otherwise. Postcards can always be sent us, although we never send one out to clients.

SOME SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES.

This habit of going round to several registries is one that hampers a bureau very much.

An association of Employment Agencies is the next requirement. In these columns reference was made some weeks ago to the unsettling habits of some servants' agencies. I had not experienced them personally, but have just been the victim and gladly give the case publicity.

Last autumn, through the expert services of a very high-class London agency, I procured a first situation for an educated girl, barely 16, belonging to the middle classes. The mistress was interested in her. She was promised good progressive wages. The conditions of work, free time, food, and sleeping hours were all excellent. The girl was very happy and made excellent progress in cooking, and she was unable, when she left school, even to light a fire.

When she had been there six months a country agency wrote to someone who happened to know her, saying they had three good vacancies for kitchenmaids in noblemen's houses. Without consulting me, the girl was allowed to give notice to her nice mistress, and accept service with a marchioness!

Personally, I think it unfair to the mistress, who took her as an ignorant girl and gave her her chance. I think the girl should have stayed at least a year, and I don't think it would have hurt her to stay two. ANN POPE.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

Offices: Evelyn House, 62 Oxford Street, London, W. 1. Telephone: Museum 6910.

COPIES OF ANNUAL REPORT.

The Annual Report for 1922 is now ready, and can be obtained on application to the Headquarters Office, price 3d. post free. Besides giving an account of the activities, political, and otherwise, of the National Union, it also serves as a summary of the political aspect of the Woman's Movement in 1922, and as such should be of considerable general interest. A large part of it is devoted to the fate of women candidates for Parliament, and figures are given comparing the votes cast for women at the 1918 and the 1922 Elections respectively.

SUMMER SCHOOL, PORTINSCALE near KESWICK, 21st to 28th September.

Applications are already beginning to be received for accommodation for the Summer School, and it has been ascertained that a still larger number of rooms can be obtained if required. Rooms will be allotted in order of application. We would be glad to know of students who would be willing to share rooms.

Applicants are asked to state which particular section of the programme they wish to study, as this information would be of great assistance in drawing up the final draft of the syllabus.

RECEPTION FOR THE I.W.S.A. CONGRESS DELEGATES.

A reception is being arranged to meet the members of the British Delegation to the Rome Congress and for such other delegates as may happen to be in London at the time. All our members and subscribers in or near London will be invited in addition to members from other societies. Italians and Americans are likely to be specially interested. Full particulars will be given next week.

GUARDIANSHIP, CUSTODY, AND MAINTENANCE OF INFANTS BILL.

Definite information has now been received that the sittings of the Committee to take evidence for this Bill will start on 20th June. Those who would like to attend the meetings of this Committee are asked to communicate with Headquarters.

COUNCIL FOR THE REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

This Council (composed of representatives of twenty-two women's organizations, of which the National Union is one) works untiringly, not only for the object which its title indicates, but also for the best possible treatment of women in all matters which come before the League of Nations (including mandated areas). The Honorary Treasurer, Mrs. Percy Bigland, Stoke Dean, Beaconsfield, will be very pleased to enrol Associates (subscription, 2s. 6d.), who will receive notices of meetings and conferences; it is hoped that any who specially sympathize with the work of women for and in the League will support the Council by becoming associates.

OBITUARY.

LADY CONSTANCE LYTTON.

As we go to press we learn with great regret of Lady Constance Lytton's death in London on 22nd May. For many years Lady Constance Lytton's health has forced her to stand aside from public life, and the news of her death jerks our minds back to the pre-war upheavals of the militant suffrage movement. Lady Constance was a prominent and active militant, and her militancy was as the militancy of the mediaeval saint who, as a demonstration of faith, deliberately goes to meet suffering and indignity, and suffers it gladly and passively when it comes. Her whole outlook was, in a way, curiously out of touch with the realities of political life. But it was the outlook which mankind must reflect from age to age if he is to dominate his changing material environment. To her self-sacrifice seemed to be the grand panacea for the evils of a brutal world. It was her interpretation of the great Christian sacrifice. And in response to it she sacrificed time, money, social convention, and greatest of all, health, to the militant crusade for the symbol of the vote.

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS.

UNEMPLOYED WOMEN, DOMESTIC SERVICE, AND LADY ASTOR.

MADAM.—There is one fundamental point in the "Unemployed Women" position that is apt to be overlooked: there are many unemployed women in certain occupations because girls leaving school enter on some employment that pleases their fancy without due consideration of its possibilities as a career. The fact that the unemployment pittance is not available for domestic servants living in is also a deterrent to domestic service being chosen as an occupation. If more girls leaving school entered domestic service other occupations would not be so overcrowded.

One reason why domestic service is not chosen is because schoolgirls are often directly advised not to choose it. A very sensible, kindly social worker told me frankly the other day: "I never advise a girl to go into domestic service because I know what a hard life a young general servant has; I have seen too much of it." On the other hand, I, also a social worker, have frequently come across girl clerks who wish they had taken it up instead of clerking, chiefly because the close atmosphere of many offices and restaurant food have injured their health, also because it is a better preparation for married happiness.

It is only natural when a girl has spent the best years of her girlhood in learning millinery, dressmaking, bookkeeping, etc., that she should be unwilling to begin all over again and learn something else. The thing to aim at is to make domestic service so attractive that girls choose it to begin with as offering the best prospects.

It is, I am afraid, true that many general servants are inconsiderately treated and kept "on the go" all day, but it isn't true in every case. It would be a good thing if the hours of domestic service were definitely defined; unfortunately women's wider interests outside the home have thrown more responsibility on young servants, and added more work as well. When the mistress comes in tired and weary from committees, etc., she naturally needs more waiting upon at a time when the general servant of thirty years or so ago was able to sit down quietly and make her own clothes, write letters, or read. Late dinners in one-servant houses also often make late work, although properly managed they need not.

Lady Astor has, however, discovered the solution of every social problem, including that of domestic service. In a very able article in the Sunday Times (20th May), on "Britain and America, Our Common Ideals," she says: "The problem of the world, which can only be solved with the truth which Christ preached and practised... 'Do unto others as ye would that they should do to you.'" ANN POPE.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

The Women's International League considers that every effort should be made to avoid a rupture with Russia. At the moment the situation is easier, but the crisis is not past, and most serious issues are involved. If the Trade Agreement is torn up, a state of incipient war, involving all the horrors of a blockade, will be created. In addition, our trade recovery, in which the revival of our trade with Russia plays an important part, will be hindered. It is futile to imagine that British firms, deprived of diplomatic protection, would be able to carry on their business in Russia as at present, or that on the other hand the Russians would allow them to remain in the country under these circumstances. The Russian reply offers a Conference on all disputed points, including the vexed question of territorial waters. Public opinion in this country should urge the Government to accept this offer, and to endeavour, once and for all, to settle the way to peace and an economic agreement. The alternative is, in fact, if not in name, war.

COMING EVENTS.

- LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION. MAY 25. East Reiford and Headley. MAY 28. Chelsea, Derby, and Woking. MAY 30. Redhill. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB. MAY 30. 8.15 p.m. Annual General Meeting. SOCIETY FOR THE OVERSEA SETTLEMENT OF BRITISH WOMEN. MAY 28. Central Hall, Westminster, 3 p.m. Conference. Speakers: Rt. Hon. L. S. Amery, M.P., Dame Meriel Talbot, D.B.E. Chair: Countess Buxton, G.B.E. APPEAL FUND OF THE FOUR WOMEN'S COLLEGES IN OXFORD. MAY 26. 8 p.m. "Old Vic," Waterloo Road, S.E. "The Antigone Sophocles" (in English), by the Woking Branch of the W.E.A. Tickets, 10s. 6d., 8s., 2s. 6d., and 1s. Boxes by arrangement. Application for tickets can be made to: Mrs. A. Percival, 59 Berkeley Street, W. (Tel. 345 May); Miss Rymer, 47 Harrington Gardens, S.W.; Miss Strauss, 25 Cheyne Messrs, Harrods. PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION SOCIETY. MAY 9, and Successive Wednesdays. School of Economics, 5 p.m. Course of Lectures on "Methods of Election." Ticket for the course 10s. Lecturer: Mr. J. H. Humphreys (Sec. P.R. Society). Forms of application from P.R. Society, 82 Victoria Street, or School of Economics. GUILDHOUSE WOMEN CITIZENS SOCIETY. MAY 28. 8.15 p.m. Expedition to the London Museum. PARENTS' NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL UNION. JUNE 6. Big School, Westminster School, 5.30 p.m. Annual General Meeting. N.U.S.E.C. MAY 28. Exeter S.E.C. 1st Annual Meeting, The Deanery, Exeter. Afternoon. Mrs. Hubback on "Bills before Parliament and Widows Pensions." MAY 29. Petersfield S.E.C. 7 p.m. Miss Deakin on "Bills before Parliament."

THE PLANE TREE RESTAURANT, LTD. 106 GREAT RUSSELL ST., W.C.1. Mus. 6027. LUNCH and TEA at moderate prices. HOME-MADE CAKES AND CHOCOLATES. Orders delivered or sent by post.

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SPECIALISTS IN WORK FOR NATIONAL SOCIETIES.

ENQUIRIES SOLICITED.

WHERE TO LIVE.

THE GREEN CROSS CLUB FOR BUSINESS GIRLS, 68 and 69 Guildford Street, Russell Square, W.C. 1.—Spacious accommodation for resident and non-resident members; large dining, common, library, and smoking-rooms; excellent meals at moderate prices; hockey, gymnastic classes, dancing, tennis, etc.; annual subscription £1.

HOSTEL FOR VISITORS AND WORKERS; terms from 4s. 6d. per night, or from 18s. 6d. per week, room and breakfast.—Mrs. K. Wilkinson, 59 Albany Street, Regent's Park, N.W. 1.

LADIES' RESIDENTIAL CLUB offers single bedrooms to residents between the ages of 18 and 40. Frequent vacancies for visitors also. Excellent catering, unlimited hot water. Airy sitting-room. Only 2 min. from Tube and Underground. Rooms with partial board, 33s. to 38s. weekly.—Apply, 15 Trebovir Road, Earls Court.

FOR LADIES (students and others), accommodation with partial board; lounge; gas fires; single rooms from £2 2s., double from 30s.—19 Endsleigh Street, Bloomsbury, W.C. 1.

NEAR HAMPTSTEAD HEATH.—Gentlewoman offers another (worker) accommodation; every convenience; can board self; moderate.—Box 993, WOMAN'S LEADER, 62 Oxford Street, W. 1.

FOR REST AND HOLIDAYS.

LOW GREEN HOUSE, Thoraby, Aysgarth, Yorks.—Paying guests received; good centre for walks, tennis club, charabanc.—Particulars from Miss Smith.

LOVELY HEREFORDSHIRE.—Guests received in Country House; golf, tennis, and garage.—Terms, Taylor Smith, Marsh Court, Leominster.

NORTH DEVON.—Homely comfortable country Cottage; guests 2 gns. weekly for short term, 37s. for long; buses to all parts; bracing.—Box 990, WOMAN'S LEADER, 62 Oxford Street, W. 1.

HASLEMERE NURSING HOME for Temporary and Permanent Patients. Fully trained staff, including masseuse. 3½ acres charming grounds. 4 to 12 guineas.—Matron, Courtsfold, Haslemere.

HOMELY COUNTRY COTTAGE Board Residence. Quaint villages and South Downs. Artists' locality; near station and buses. Terms two guineas weekly.—Miss Wheadon, Berwick, Sussex.

NEW THOUGHT GUEST HOUSE. Cranemoor, Highcliffe-on-Sea, Hants. Fine old residence, 13 acres. Hinton Admiral Station. Tennis, golf, concerts.—For terms apply Proprietor.

FURNISHED SITTING-ROOM AND BEDROOM in a Cambridgeshire Village. Strongly recommended by Mrs. Percy Thompson, Hayes Rectory, Kent, in house belonging to her mother's former maid. Suitable for lady, or anyone needing careful attention. Second bedroom possible. Motor bus Cambridge; Ely, 5 miles.

FREE leaflet descriptive of HUT DWELLINGS and delightful mixed camp life in the Weald of Sussex for artistic and literary adults and children.—Nicholls, Ballinger Grange, Great Missenden, Bucks.

TO LET AND WANTED.

LAKE DISTRICT.—To Let, furnished, for July, convenient Village House, four bedrooms, near Ulleswater. Four guineas weekly.—Apply, Mrs. Wright Brown, Tirril, Penrith.

TO LET, with imm. poss., solidly-built red brick house; 3 sitting-rooms, 6 bedrooms; latest sanitation; in own grounds; lovely country; easy motoring distance town; rent, unfurnished, £150; or would sell property outright.—Box 992, WOMAN'S LEADER, 62 Oxford Street, W. 1.

HOUSING, GARDENING, Etc.

PRACTICAL TRAINING FOR LADIES in Gardening (all branches), Dairy and Poultry Management. Expert Teachers. Lovely old manor house and grounds. Home life. Hockey.—Apply, Principals, Lee House, Marwood, Barnstaple, N. DEVON.

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IRISH LINEN HEMSTITCHED HANDKERCHIEFS, fine quality at bargain prices. Ladies' size, 10 ins., 4s. 9d. per dozen; 11 ins., 5s. 0d. per dozen; 12 ins., 6s. 0d. per dozen; 13 ins., 8s. 0d. per dozen. Men's size, 17 ins., 9s. 0d. per dozen; 18 ins., 13s. 0d. per dozen; 19 ins., 16s. 0d. per dozen; 20 ins., 19s. 0d. per dozen. For orders under 20s. add 6d. for postage. Write for Bargain List—TO-DAY.—HUTTON'S, 41, Main Street, Larne, Ireland.

REMNANT BUNDLES OF COLOURED DRESS LINEN, fine quality which we can recommend for Ladies' Summer Frocks. These bundles contain two Dress Lengths, 4 yards each, 15 inches wide in any of the following colours:—Saxe, Kingfisher, Rose, Lemon, Tangerine, Orange, Nut Brown, Coffee, Jade, Sage, Grey, Lavender, and Helio. Two Dress Lengths in a bundle, 18s., postage 9d. extra. This is an exceptional bargain; these bundles are to-day worth 32s.—HUTTON'S, 41, Main Street, Larne, Ireland.

SECOND-HAND CLOTHING wanted to buy for cash; costumes, skirts, boots, underclothes, curtains, lounge suits, trousers, and children's clothing of every description; parcels sent will be valued and cash sent by return.—Mrs. Russell, 100 Raby Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

UNCRUSHABLE DRESS LINEN for Spring and Summer wear, all pure linen, dyed perfectly fast colours in Sky, Azuline, Sapphire, Butcher, Marine, Navy, Shell Pink, Rose Pink, Coral, Old Rose, Tangerine, White, Ivory, Cream, Lemon, Gold, Orange, Flame, Biscuit, Beige, Rust, Brick, Cerise, Cherry, Tabac, Tan, Nut Brown, Coffee, Nigger, Jade, Emerald, Reseda, Myrtle, Grey, Mole, Helio, Lavender, Fuchsia, Pansy, and Black. 36 inches wide, 3s. 6d. per yard. To-day's value, 5s. 6d. per yard. These lovely dress linens will be very largely worn this year. Patterns Free. For all orders under 20s. add 9d. for postage.—Hutton's, 41, Main Street, Larne, Ireland.

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KNITTED CORSETS.—Avoid chills, no pressure. List free.—Knitted Corset Co., Nottingham.

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THE HAT DOCTOR, 34 Little Sussex Place, Hyde Park Square, W. 2, cleans, reblocks and copies hats at lowest possible price. Renovates furs. Covers satin or canvas shoes or thin kid with brocade or velvet. Materials and post, 13s. 6d.; toe-caps, 8s. 6d.; your own materials, work and post, 8s. 6d., in three days.

PROFESSIONAL.

"MORE MONEY TO SPEND" (Income Tax Recovery and Adjustment).—Send postcard for particulars and scale of charges to the Women Taxpayers' Agency, Hampden House, 84 Kingsway, W.C. 2. Phone, Central 6049. Estab'd 1908.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ANN POPE will be at the office of THE WOMAN'S LEADER on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays from 2 to 5, and will be pleased to give advice or information on household matters free to subscribers, beginning 16th April. An Employment Agency for "House Assistants" is also being organized, and all letters should in future be addressed: Miss Ann Pope, "House Assistants' Centre," THE WOMAN'S LEADER, 62 Oxford Street, W. 1. The fees for letters by post are still 1s. (2 questions); recipes from 2d. each. The Employment fees will be 1s. registration in every case; 2s. to be paid by assistants on engagement, and 5s. by employers. All letters must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope and the proper fees.

HELP OTHERS TO HELP THEMSELVES HONESTLY.—Central Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society: D.P.A.S.'s at all H.M. Prisons, assisting over 20,000 annually, irrespective sex, creed, age, nationality. Wives and children aided.—W. W. Jemmett, F.I.S.A., Secretary, Victory House, Leicester Square, W.C. 2.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 5, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.—Secretary, Miss P. Strachey, Information Department for advice about Women's Work and Training, by letter or interview.

THE PIONEER CLUB has reopened at 12 Cavendish Place. Town Members £5 5s.; Country and Professional Members £4 4s. Entrance fee in abeyance (*pro tem.*).

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1: Sunday, 27th May, 3.15, Music, Poetry, Lecture, Dr. Dearmer. 6.30, Maude Royden.

ALLEVIATE LONELINESS by forming Congenial Friendships, home or abroad.—For particulars write, Secretary, U.C.C., 16 L, Cambridge Street, S.W. 1.

JOIN INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CLUB, 55 Gower Street, W.C. 1. Subscription, 7s. 6d. per annum. Dainty Luncheons and Teas in the Cafeteria. Thursday, 31st May, 8.15 p.m., Mr. Langdon Davies, "Egypt."

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