

# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

## AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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### NOTES AND NEWS.

#### Foreign Affairs.

The Debate on Foreign Affairs on Monday night did not carry matters much further. Mr. Chamberlain gave little indication of the extent of his conversations at Rome, nor of the attitude of the Government towards the Protocol. The chief interest of his speech centred round Egypt, and he made it abundantly clear that there will be no reference of the Egyptian question to the League of Nations. He based his decision on the view that as there is in Egypt at present a friendly government, and every hope of an amicable conclusion to the discussions between the two countries, there is no case to put to the League. If Mr. Chamberlain really believes that the discussions will end in a way which is satisfactory to our Government, and will not leave a large section of Egyptians with a sense of grievance, he is more optimistic than we. We hold no brief for the extreme Egyptian Nationalists, but the movement with its anti-British feeling, is widespread, and the only hope of healing the breach is to give the extremists the conviction that the matter is being dealt with by unbiased judges. The plea for reference to the League is said by *The Times* to have been "riddled" in a maiden speech by Mr. Duff Cooper, which made a considerable impression. His chief argument was that reference to the League would be regarded as a proof of the debility of Great Britain. But willingness to submit a question to outside arbitration on the part of the materially stronger disputant is a sign not of weakness but of conviction of justice of that point of view, whereas the refusal to go to the League, whatever its cause, will doubtless be construed as a sign of fear of outside opinion by the enemies of this country.

#### Women Police.

Under "Questions in Parliament" our readers will see that the number of women police in London is to be increased from 24 to 50. This still leaves the Metropolis with fewer women police than it had before the economy cuts, but, as far as it goes, it is a distinct advance which everyone will welcome. The mere fact that there will be double the number of women police is good in itself, and it shows moreover that the present Government does realize their value, and that it is a false economy to save in this direction. London is, of course, the only town in which the police come directly under the Home Office. The Government's policy will therefore have only a limited effect until they are prepared to issue definite instructions, or, at any rate, recommendations to the Local Police Authorities, who at present have the option whether they appoint women police or not. Nevertheless, the Home Office example may be expected to have some influence, which is especially important, as the question is now frequently being raised in the provinces, not always with satisfactory results. We reported last week the decisions in

Devonshire and Hull to be content with police matrons. Since then Cardiff and Monmouthshire have both decided not to employ women police. At Cardiff the Chief Constable stated that though there were phases in London where policewomen might be useful, these phases did not exist in Cardiff! The number of sexual crimes in 1923 was 23, and this year to date they numbered only 10. These cases were dealt with by a police matron, and there was always a female probation officer in attendance at the police court. He considered that for beat purposes women were definitely out of their sphere. Evidently Cardiff's Chief Constable has failed to realize the effect that the women police on beat duty in London have had on the morality of the streets; their usefulness is certainly not limited to cases of sexual crime, but is no less important in the far more frequent cases of immorality which are not regarded as criminal. It is clear that for the most part the Chief Constables will only accept women police when they are forced to. There is much therefore for the women's societies still to do in this direction. We are therefore glad to see that many women's organizations are forwarding resolutions to their local authorities urging that three women police should be appointed. It is quite certain that there is need for much pressure of that kind.

#### A Maiden Speech.

On Wednesday of last week, Miss Ellen Wilkinson made a House of Commons maiden speech which will endear her to the hearts of all our readers without respect of party. She said that the women of the country were very disappointed because the King's Speech contained no reference to the franchisement of women under thirty. So they are—grievously disappointed. She added that they were, however, glad to find mention of Widows' Pensions—though their gladness was tempered with misgiving that this "desperately needed and long overdue" reform should be combined with existing schemes of contributory insurance. Such was the view expressed by Miss Rathbone in our issue of last week. Her view is our view—it is also Miss Wilkinson's view. There is, in fact, a very distinct N.U.S.E.C. ring about Miss Wilkinson's maiden speech which inspires confidence. And small wonder—for did she not (as she confessed to a N.U.S.E.C. audience some weeks ago) start public life as an organizer in the ranks of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies?

#### Lady Astor's Picture and the Nation.

We are not aware whether the Government is likely to yield to the pressure which is being brought from women's organizations and others, to reverse its decision with regard to allowing Lady Astor's picture to keep its place in the House of Commons, and many rumours have been current in the Press as to its ultimate fate. The picture is still in possession of the Government, for, as Lord Astor indicated, he could not consider taking back a gift already made and accepted. Although the present Government has reversed the decision of the last Conservative Government, and does not wish the picture to hang in the House of Commons for the reason that it contains portraits of living persons, no indication has been given as to whether the present Government reverses also the earlier decision that the event commemorated was of sufficient importance to deserve commemoration. If this view is still held, and it is a view which, needless to say, has the support of all the women in the country, it is clear that the question may one day be raised by a later generation whether the picture of this event should not eventually have a place in the House of Commons. It would, therefore, be unfortunate if the Government were to give it permanently to anybody, and there appears to us a great deal to be said for its being lent for an indefinite period to one of the National Galleries,



such as the Tate Gallery. We put this forward as a useful suggestion to those of our readers who wish to approach the Government with a practical recommendation with regard to this picture.

#### Married Women in Professions.

We are glad to see that the medical women are protesting against the attitude of the L.C.C. in placing a bar against the employment of married women doctors. In the *British Medical Journal* for 29th November there is a letter from Dr. May Dickinson Berry, Hon. Secretary of the Medical Women's Federation, which sets out as clearly and forcibly as is possible the case for the married professional woman. It is an extraordinary thing this question has arisen particularly in connexion with women teachers and doctors. Here are the two great professions which deal the one with the training of the rising generation, the other with the health of the community; surely in such professions the welfare of the pupil or the patient should be the sole consideration. In no other profession is it of such paramount importance to the community to get the most efficient people, be they married or single.

#### Liverpool's Fight for Fair Prices.

The Markets Committee in Liverpool has taken a course which will bring some sense of security to the suspicious and bewildered meat purchaser. It makes no attempt to control or dictate prices, but is content to publish a list showing the level of prices which may reasonably be expected, thus making clear to the consumer the relation between the price demanded by the individual retailer and the price generally prevailing in the central retail market. But the publication of this very informative list was accompanied last week by an interesting practical trading experiment by the Market Superintendent, Mr. Harper. Mr. Harper last week purchased a complete side of beef wholesale, for £9 16s. 7½d. This he had cut up by a butcher some two miles from the city's centre, and sold retail in the ordinary way at prices ranging from 6d. to 1s. 10d. per lb.—prices, that is to say, closely corresponding with the above described official "list" prices. These sales realized the sum of £14 15s. 3d., a gross profit of 45 per cent. According to trade calculations, 25 per cent. of this gross profit would be absorbed by overhead charges, leaving a solid, but (it is generally agreed) not undue net profit of 20 per cent.

#### A Question of Nationality.

We notice that at the Bow Street police court the question was raised of deporting a woman said to be French. It was reported, however, that she had married an Englishman, and though she had not seen her husband since the day of her marriage she was technically a British subject, and could not, therefore, be deported. The case is of course exceptional, but it shows the anomalies that can arise from our existing nationality laws. A considerable number of the women earning their livelihood in immoral ways are foreigners, and if they contract a nominal marriage with a British subject they can, it appears, safeguard themselves against deportation. The magistrate, Sir Chartres Biron, thought that if that were the deliberate intention of the marriage it might be possible to convict the man of living wholly or partly on the woman's earnings. If he is correct in this surmise it would stop other persons following this example, but an alteration of the nationality law which would prevent female aliens who are really undesirable automatically becoming British subjects on marriage seems obviously needed.

#### Women's Employment in Drinking Bars.

The British Women's Temperance Association passed the following resolution at its executive meeting: "In view of the proposed Commission to inquire into the Licensing Law and the condition of the Trade, the B.W.T.A. urge the Government to include within the scope of the inquiry the question of the Employment of Women in Drinking Bars." This suggestion, we imagine, will rouse a variety of opinions amongst our readers. The implication that there should be restrictions on the employment of women in bars not equally applicable to that of men will appeal to those who are Temperance women before they are feminist. The view of the WOMAN'S LEADER has always been against restrictive legislation on women's employment.

#### Conviction for Child Assault.

The utter inadequacy of many of the punishments for child assault have frequently been criticized. Recently a man was convicted at Hartlepool with indecently assaulting his ten-year-old niece, and was fined forty shillings. Comment is needless.

#### Teachers' Salaries and Family Endowment.

A fortnight ago we expressed the hope that the teachers and education authorities might find some way of allowing in the salaries of teachers for the cost of a family other than the clumsy and unjust method of discrimination in the payments made to men and women. It was therefore with great interest that we learnt the East Anglian Branches of the Association of Assistant Masters have drawn up a scheme of payment based on the need for dependents' allowances, which will be considered at their next Council meeting. The memorandum explaining this scheme, which is being circulated to all branches of the association, differentiates clearly between discrimination in salaries on account of sex and on account of differences in family responsibilities; it repudiates the former and accepts the latter. It is not necessary to go into the details of the scheme, which includes a minimum wage and allowances for married teachers or unmarried teachers with dependents to be paid by the State, whilst the local authorities are empowered to pay salaries in excess of minimum. It would be out of place to discuss here the actual scale to be adopted, but one thing strikes us as curious, namely, that there are no allowances for children, but instead an annual increment to the marriage allowance. We imagine that it was considered simpler to base the allowances on the rough and ready assumption that the costs of the family increase as time goes on, rather than to make them proportional to the number of dependents. But if the principle of payment according to responsibilities is once recognized, it is surely illogical that a married man without children should get the same as a married man with a large family. But this is a detail, though a very important one, and could be modified without affecting the general purport of the scheme. The important fact is that a movement on these lines has come from the teachers themselves.

#### News from Bagdad.

The *Manchester Guardian* of 12th December reports the establishment and official opening in Bagdad of the first women's club. Apparently Turkey and Egypt have set the pace in this direction. We sincerely hope that Persia may soon tread the same progressive path. Exactly how big an advance the new club represents may be realized when it is added that the majority of its members consists of Moslem ladies, and that its establishment coincides with a long and vigorous local Press correspondence among Moslems on the abolition of the veil—concerning which the *Manchester Guardian's* correspondent remarks: "It is probably safe to say that such a thing would not have been possible even three years ago." We offer our heartiest good wishes to the new Club, and to its first President, Isma Zehawi; and we should, in the future, be glad to receive first-hand news of its activities and progress.

#### Woman's Suffrage in India.

Assam has now joined the India provinces which have given the vote to women; it is the fifth province to do so. Not only has the vote been given on the same terms as to men, but the Legislative Council passed a resolution recommending the Government to remove the disqualification of sex which debar women from entering the Council itself.

#### Questions in Parliament.

In reply to a question from Mr. Gillett, Sir W. Joynson-Hicks stated that the number of women police in the Metropolitan Police Force was to be increased from 24 to 50. This was a supplementary question to one asked by Sir Walter de Frece, who wished to know the views of the police authorities on the question of women police in the towns where they had been employed, and what was the policy of the Government in this matter. To the latter question the Home Secretary gave no answer; to the former he said he was unable to give the desired information.

#### Our New Year's Issue.

Our New Year's issue of 2nd January will this year take an unusual form. We propose to devote almost the entire paper to a record of women's progress during the year. Industry, the professions, politics, law, the drama, the Church, and the League of Nations will come under our review. We hope that this issue may be of permanent value to our readers, and therefore give due notice of its appearance in order that extra copies may be ordered not later than 30th December.

#### NEWS.

During the latter part of last week the National "No More War" Congress was in session at the Church House, Westminster; and its discussions covered a wide range of problems—disarmament, the Geneva Protocol, commercial rivalry, to mention only a few—concerned with the fundamental basis of peace. In the course of them, the Rev. Thomas Nightingale delivered a formidable attack on the Press which, he asserted, lived on "stunts." He added further, that some parts of the British Press were even now keeping alive the poison of hate, and suggested that a representative Press congress should be held to consider how the cause of international peace could best be promoted. Finally, he gave it as his opinion that a journalist moved by lower motives is Satanic in his power and that the unscrupulous millionaire in possession of a newspaper is "a blight and a curse."

To all this Mr. Wickham Steed replied somewhat cynically with an icy douche of hard and unpalatable immorality. He asserted that a journalist dominated by ideals who promenade with them round a newspaper office was an unspeakable nuisance; a remark which was greeted with laughter, the more properly a subject for loud sobs. Keep in mind, he urged, the vital importance to a newspaper of news. As a prominent American journalist has said, "vice is news, virtue is not." Nor did Mr. Wickham Steed regard this as a matter for regret—on the contrary it was, he suggested, a tribute to the inherent virtue of the multitude. As to propaganda for the prevention of war, it was, he roundly asserted, "uncommonly dull." Peace propagandists are much too good. "People like to have a thrill of emotion, and the Press provides emotion." Homilies are not news except when they are delivered with such violence as to stir the emotion, and then the news element lies rather in the violence than in the homily. Therefore, if peace propagandists really want Press support they must make their material really interesting and "capable of stirring the emotions." We have perforce most grievously telescoped Mr. Wickham Steed's interesting and suggestive utterances, but we have quoted enough of them to show the main direction of their deplorable truth.

But is this the truth? Alas, there is much ground for believing that it is. Nor have we to range far afield to justify the assertion that "vice is news." We will quote an outstanding case in its support: the mighty preoccupation of the public in five continents with the private affairs of "Mr. A." It has been confidently stated that the identity of the world-famed "Mr. A." was known to every newspaper office in Fleet Street for many weeks before the authorities thought fit that it should be communicated to the public. Well, the WOMAN'S LEADER Office

#### A VILLAGE EXPERIMENT.

In two recent articles on Rural Reconstruction some account was given of the work of Rural Community Councils. Side by side with these is springing up a similar movement in the village itself. One of our difficulties in the past has been our exclusiveness; not only have we viewed with distrust strangers from afar: "I shouldn't like to live among a lot of foreigners," said an old man, when asked why he did not take the chance of moving into more comfortable quarters less than half a mile from his present cottage; but within the village itself we have been sharply divided into "Church" and "Chapel," "Blue" and "Yellow" (or whatever our election colours may be), to say nothing of infinite varieties of class distinction. We know each other too well for there to be any hope of escape from our particular category, and the result has often been life in a series of watertight compartments. Now if, as the previous articles pointed out, it is true that "a village cannot supply from within the narrow circle of its own community the educational and social provision for which it may legitimately ask," it is even truer that no section of the village can adequately cater for its own needs apart from others. Moreover, if it could by so doing, it would lose one of the most valuable opportunities that village life affords. Just because we are a small community we can come together in a way that townfolk cannot. We can elect a committee which shall really represent all sections, we can bring divergencies of experience and education to bear on common problems. What was lacking before the War was some solvent strong enough to resolve the diverse elements, something to fuse us together. Out of the War sprang both a new comradeship and a new independence which in certain cases are finding expression in Village Social Councils. These are committees consisting of men and women elected by all organizations in the

(though not situated in Fleet Street, but in a more central position at the very hub of the political world) was no exception to this generalization. We had occasion during those weeks to visit the London Library. On emerging from its portals we encountered a world-famed Professor of Sociology standing under a lamp-post, his nose glued to an evening paper. After a curt reply to our greeting, he plunged eagerly into the topic of the hour: "You don't happen to know who Mr. A. is, do you?" In confidence and unofficially we gave the required information. That same evening took us to a northern city—the seat of a distinguished university. Our first encounter was with its Professor of Philosophy. After a somewhat hurried reply to our greeting this learned man plunged eagerly into the topic of the hour: "Who is 'Mr. A.'?" On receipt of the required information he rushed to the telephone and opened up instant and urgent communication on the subject with a Professor of Mediæval History (a man of stupendous scholarship and shining record) who thereupon (we have subsequently been given to understand) spent the remainder of his evening and part of the following day in conducting extensive researches into the status, achievements, and antecedents of the potentate in question. And now, in view of Mr. Wickham Steed's utterances we ask ourselves whether these three distinguished and virtuous professors would have displayed the same burning enthusiasm in the acquisition of news concerning the deliberations of the "No More War" Congress? Regretfully we are driven to the conclusion that they would not.

Nevertheless, Mr. Wickham Steed has not, in our opinion, said the last word on the subject of Press responsibility. For a retail chemist to say that what his public really wants is the free sale of cocaine, is not to say that the main and proper function of his trade should be the advertisement and sale of cocaine. To say that what the public really wants from its newspapers is the wide circulation of "hot stuff," is not to say that the social and moral responsibilities of the Press end with its due provision. Immoral, irresponsible, and illiterate as a large section of our Press is, we should regret any legislative or administrative interference with its freedom; because all history goes to prove that such interference carries with it dangers likely to out-balance any possible gain in literary balance and salubrity. Nor, at the moment, can we conceive of a single authority into whose hands we would care to entrust so vast an engine of control. The Press must save its own soul—by the straight and narrow path of self-restraint and public spirit. And there is, we think, much to be said for the Rev. Thomas Nightingale's suggestion regarding joint action for a common end.

village as their representatives: for example, one such Council is formed of representatives of the Parish Council, the Allotment Holders, the Cricket and Football Clubs, the School Managers, the Flower Show Association, the Friendly Societies, the Landowners', Farmers' and Labourers' Unions, the Library, the Women's Institute, the Men's Club, the Religious Bodies, the Mothers' Union, and the Nursing Association; another, in place of some of these, includes the Slate Club, the Parochial Church Council, the British Legion, the Girl Guides. No two Councils are likely to be composed of exactly the same constituent societies.

The object of the Council is to consult together on matters of common interest, e.g., the provision and management of a Village Hall or Playing Fields, the prevention of rivalry or overlapping in the organization of lectures or entertainments. In at least one case, difficulties which had arisen in connexion with the village War Memorial were completely cleared away by the establishment of a Village Social Council, with its opportunities for friendly discussion from all points of view; in another, the management of the Village Institute was taken over by the Council, and a deficit of £100 a year was turned into a balance on the right side.

It is a platitude, but it happens to be true, that most people like most other people when they know them: life would be unendurable if this were not the case. The League of Nations is founded on this truth; and Village Social Councils base their modest structure on the same foundation. It is not claimed that they can solve all problems of rural life, that they are a short cut to the millenium, or that they are not capable of improvement and development; but it is suggested that they are at least an interesting experiment.

GRACE E. HADOW.



## TWO SPRING VISITS TO PALESTINE, 1921, 1922.<sup>1</sup>

By MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT, J.P., LL.D.

CHAPTER VIII.—NAZARETH, TIBERIAS AND HAIFA (*continued*).

On arriving at Miss Newton's house, we were disappointed to find that she was laid up by an attack of malaria which had been threatening while she was with us in Jerusalem. But we received a very warm welcome all the same, both from herself and her charming young secretary, Miss Rhoda Power. The house is a very lovely one, and in a most beautiful situation, looking out towards the Bay of Acre or Akka, as it is called here, with the Ladder of Tyre beyond it. The principal living room, high up in the house, is very large and not much encumbered by furniture: everything in it was either useful or beautiful, and sometimes both. Its air of spaciousness is increased by its opening on an almost equally large verandah: verandah and room together, could easily accommodate a public meeting of several hundred people. The whole house was commandeered during the war and used as the Headquarters of the Turkish Army in Haifa, and afterwards became a Red Cross Hospital. The Turks before they left rifled it of everything it contained.

We were soon enabled to appreciate the almost unique position Miss Newton holds in Palestine. She has lived there for twenty-five years, speaks Arabic like a native, has worked with and for the people of the land, irrespective of race or creed, for the whole of her adult life. She has been the practical exemplar of the Christian life, living for others and helping all who need help. She and her sister (now dead), we learned, though not from her, had established and financed an English Hospital at Jaffa for twenty-nine years, and had fought with and baffled a terrible outbreak of cholera at Lud in 1902-3. She understands and loves the people, and they have unbounded confidence in and affection for her. She acts as a sort of poor man's lawyer, and the lower part of her house at Haifa is really almost a lawyer's office combined with a C.O.S. bureau. People with grievances, either physical, moral, or political, real or imaginary, come and talk to her about them. It was a very interesting experience to be with her and to see the constant stream of people who were passing through her house to seek her advice.

Rainy weather returned while we were Miss Newton's guests, and we were not able to carry out some of the pleasant excursions she had planned for us. But we read Sir George Adam Smith's *Historical Geography of Palestine* when it rained, and walked or drove on Mount Carmel when it was fine; we saw the famous monastery, and what we liked even better, tulips and irises in the grass besides red asphodel and the darker pink cyclamen growing in the grass as thick as buttercups in an English meadow in May. We did not get to the place which is connected with Elijah's victory over the priests of Baal. For Carmel is not so much a mountain as a mountainous upland fifteen miles long, and El Makrakah, where Elijah's triumph took place, is some five and a half hours' journey from the convent, at quite the other end of the ridge. But the Haifa end of Carmel commands splendid views and it has other objects of interest which we did not fail to note, among them one of the great German guns of their "big Bertha" type, with which they had sought to bombard the town. The Persian prophet known as the Abbas Effendi, or more familiarly as The Bab, was resident in Haifa at the time of the bombardment. He assembled his followers about him and told them to have no fear, that not a hair of their heads would be touched: he was quite right, the shells were fired but fell harmlessly into the Bay of Acre. I had an introduction to The Bab, but he had left for Tiberias and I had not the honour of meeting him. Father Lamb, the Superior of the monastery, to whom I also had a letter of introduction, was likewise away and therefore I could not see him. It would have been of great interest to me to hear their experience of the siege and of subsequent events after the Turkish evacuation. We had an extremely delightful day in Acre in Miss Newton's company. We went there by train and the Governor's wife, Mrs. Lowick, kindly met us at the station to do the honours of the place. It was more thoroughly barbarous and Turkish looking than anything we had seen. The citadel and fortifications were very picturesque and curious; for instance the roadway at the entrance of one of the gates was paved with cannon balls. Piles and piles of these, of every conceivable size, from that of an average walnut up to things nearly a foot in diameter, were piled up in the basements, together with quantities of old-fashioned rifles and other weapons. The prisons

<sup>1</sup> This is the eleventh of a series of weekly articles which will extend over a period of about six months.

were awful places, filthy dark holes, so contrived that an average sized man confined in them could not possibly lie down. Acre stands on a peninsula. Napoleon, with his soldier's eye, had dubbed it "The Key of Palestine." It had become the chief prison for the whole Turkish empire, because it was believed to be a place from which escape was impossible. The Abbas Effendi was interned in Acre for forty years, but was released at the time of the "Young Turk" revolution in 1908, but re-interned in Haifa after the outbreak of the war of 1914. There are splendid views from the battlements of the old citadel and away over the sea to the Ladder of Tyre. We had a walk through the old town, and saw the vaulted chamber, then being excavated, where the Knights of St. John had made their last stand at the end of the Crusades. Here, as Dean Stanley recounts, the Kings of Jerusalem and Cyprus, the Doges of the Republics of Venice, Genoa, and Pisa, the Pope's Legate, and the Kings of France and England were cooped up. "Seventeen tribunals exercised powers of life and death"; and here the great romance of the Crusades ended in disaster.

We then visited the present mosque, once the Church of St. John, and walked through the narrow picturesque streets until we reached the home of a worker of the Church Missionary Society, a friend of Miss Newton, very keen and devoted, and very full of a recent visit to a missionary conference at Cairo, where she had met Lady Allenby and other notabilities. Here we rested and had luncheon before beginning our very unique return journey to Haifa. We had noted from Miss Newton's verandah the ribbon of sand running as far as the eye could reach round the Bay of Acre. Along this ribbon, drawn in a carriage to which three strong horses were harnessed abreast, was our route home; a delightful and amusing journey. For two hours we never left the sandy fringe of the bay; the wheels of one side of our carriage, and the legs of one and sometimes two of our horses were in the Mediterranean. We crossed the mouths of two rivers, the Belus and the Kishon. The horses were perfectly used to it and made no difficulty over it. But the driver of a motor which passed us, with French officers as passengers, was not quite so *au fait*, and got into some difficulties, not, however, of an insuperable character. But they were enough to show us that some skill and knowledge of local conditions were needed to make this unique specimen of a high road really safe.

I have spoken disrespectfully of the Turkish prisons at Acre: but honesty compels me to confess that the Palestinian prisons at Haifa, under British control, left much to be desired. Miss Newton received a letter on the Sunday afternoon we were with her to say that the women's prison contained no blankets and no kind of bed-clothing of any sort. She immediately arranged to go down and look at it and asked me if I would go with her. When we arrived it was exactly as the writer of the letter had described, only still more bare and desolate. There was nothing in it at all; moreover, there were no separate sanitary arrangements for women: a mud floor and mud walls with a corrugated iron roof formed the prison. There were, however, two good things about it: first, a window easily opened from the inside, from which prisoners recently shut up had escaped (there is much to be said for a cell where there is nothing to prevent a prisoner from opening the window and getting out); secondly, two young police officers who were most anxious to have the prison put on decent lines; they welcomed Miss Newton's visit, and begged her help to get its defects remedied. With all these favourable elements in the problem, the Haifa prisons are fairly certain to be improved out of all recognition in the near future.

### A CHOICE OF BOOKS.

THE THIRTEENTH CESAR AND OTHER POEMS. By SACHEVEREL SITWELL. (Grant Richards, 6s.)

A collection of poems, rhymed and unrhymed in the intricate rhythms of which Mr. Sitwell has made a study. His subjects are the wind, a winter walk, nature, and again fantastic things such as the subject of the poem which gives the volume its title.

THE FUGGER NEWS-LETTERS. Being a selection of unpublished letters from the Correspondents of the House of Fugger during the years 1568-1605. Edited by VICTOR VON KLARWILL. Translated by PAULINE DE CHARY. (Lane, 16s.)

When Count Albert Fugger sold his famous library to the Emperor Ferdinand III for 15,000 florins in 1656, the manuscripts of these news-sheets were thrown in and catalogued as "German books unbound." They have lain almost unnoticed till

their present editor published a selection last year. This, we learn, is only a first instalment, and a second volume relating events in England is announced. The present volume offers the student a rich variety of thrilling, if ancient, news-items. It begins, in 1568, with a description of the execution of Horn and Egmont, to be followed by that of Mary Stuart, and the murders of the Duc de Guise and Henri III of France. The Cenci are tried in Rome, and a boy burnt alive in Vienna. Besides these grim matters we have an account of the Armada, the plague breaks out at Prague, and there are embassies, exorcisms, the arrival of the Gold Fleet, miracles, pageants and other stirring occurrences to record and comment on—truly a gallant show to which our sensational press cannot hold a candle.

ATHOS AND ITS MONASTERIES. By the late E. W. HASLUCK. (Kegan Paul, 12s. 6d.)

In these feminist days it may be of interest to our readers to know that there exists a spot on which no "female of earth-walking species" has set foot for nearly 1,000 years. Legend relates that out of respect for Our Lady, the fowls of the air will not allow a hen bird even to fly over the Holy Mountain. Mr. Hasluck tells the story of these ancient foundations from their earliest beginnings to the present day. His charming sketches depict the monastery buildings rising tower-like on their crags, as much a fortified retreat as a place of meditation, and where even now Bishops seek asylum from their turbulent flocks.

YOUNG MRS. CRUSE. By VIOLA MEYNELL. (Arnold, 7s. 6d.)

This book stands out among the crowd of novels and stories as a thing apart, both in the subjects of the short tales or in the manner of writing. Miss Meynell's individuality pervades it, delicately, whimsically, and with, on occasion, a very moving force. One story, of the writing of a letter to her lover by the girl he has abandoned, will not easily be forgotten in its touching beauty.

### SOME FORGOTTEN MUSES.<sup>1</sup>

It is both sad and exhilarating to realize how little even bookish people now know about most of the women writers whose memory Miss Wilson recalls. Sad as another reminder that, so far as our present vision extends, the most vivid and delightful human life is but as the snows of yester-year in durability; exhilarating because it makes us feel once again how many more interesting books and interesting people there are to read and know about than we shall ever get tired of, if we live for a hundred years. Charlotte Lennox, for instance, who was crowned with laurels by Doctor Johnson. She may be remembered for that reason, for the Doctor had the gift of conferring immortality on those he loved; but how many could say off-hand what "first-born literary child" he welcomed with laurel and bay and a great apple-pie, at a supper which did not end till eight in the morning! How many readers of this paper have perused *The Life of Harriet Stuart*, or even its more celebrated successor, *The Female Quixote*? How many know that Mrs. Lennox edited for a year a magazine entitled *The Ladies' Museum: Consisting of a course of Female Education and a Variety of Other Particulars for the Information of the Ladies*, a designation which I believe has never been brought up for consideration on the various occasions when we have named and renamed THE WOMAN'S LEADER. I suspect that only students of the eighteenth century of the history of the novel, or of periodical literature, would answer in the affirmative. Charlotte Lennox may also be thought of as the author of a work (unpopular, we are glad to see, even in her lifetime), in which she maintained "that Shakespeare had no invention"; but she is better remembered for her extraordinary pluck, which Miss Wilson thinks accounts for at least half the Doctor's affection. She was thrown on her own resources at the age of fifteen, when she was sent over from New York (where her father was governor) to a rich aunt, who had promised to adopt her, but who turned out, on her arrival, to be hopelessly insane. She went on struggling to support herself for something like seventy years. Miss Wilson thinks that she was not helped by any striking personal charm, but the portrait of her by Sir Joshua Reynolds, reproduced in his book, makes her look lovely. Her dates were from 1720 to 1804.

Pluck and charm and literary ability were mixed in various proportions in Miss Wilson's other eight muses, but all are worth knowing about and most are now unknown. Susan Centlivre lived at the end of the seventeenth and beginning of the eighteenth

<sup>1</sup> "These were Muses," by Mona Wilson. (Sidgwick and Jackson, 7/6 net.)

century, had an enthusiastic feminist biographer, who thought her plays would have been more applauded if she had not been a female, and, even as it was, was supposed to rival Congreve. Frances Sheridan (1724-67), was as witty and charming as her son and granddaughter, and a most copious writer of fiction. Hester Chapone, whose name, again thanks to Johnsoniana is better known, is characterized by Miss Wilson as "an unaffected bluestocking." Sydney Morgan (1775-1859) was a wild Irish girl, and wrote a novel with that name. She was famous in her day and lived to be old, but continued wild, or at least eccentric, and very Irish to the last. Jane Porter (1776-1850) looked like a mediæval Abbess Saint, and invented historical romance before Scott. Frances Trollope was a "best seller" in her own day, and was also one of those heroines of family life whose names abound in the History of English Literature. Mary Ann Kelty (1789-1873) was a strange, morbid creature, who wrote a religious autobiography. Sara Coleridge was only unlike her family in that she had a happy marriage; she was over-romantic, over-sensitive, and an invalid, so that her great gifts ended in a few lyrics and an exquisite fairy tale.

Readers will have gathered that Miss Wilson shuns the obvious both in her choice of subjects and in the things she tells us about them. Her style is almost too allusive, one would sometimes be glad of more facts and especially of more dates. But perhaps her restraint in these matters is deliberate. She aims not at satisfying but at stimulating curiosity, and the quotations which she has placed in such a delightful setting certainly succeed in doing this. I. B. O'MALLEY.

### WOMEN ON THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Anyone who wishes to know more of what women have done at Geneva, will find much interesting material in a little book by Miss Hebe Spaul called *Women Peacemakers*. It is a study of seven women who have done valuable work for the League: Fröken Forchammer, of Denmark, the first woman to address the Assembly; Fröken Jeppe, who has done so much for the Armenian children; Fru Kjelsberg of Norway; Madame Curie; and three English women, Dame Rachael Crowdy, Dame Edith Lyttelton, and Mrs. Coombe Tennant.

### WOMEN IN THE AMERICAN ELECTIONS.

We have received some further particulars of the women's successes in the recent American elections. The election of Mrs. Ferguson and Mrs. Ross, as Governors of Texas and Wyoming, are already well known to our readers. Mrs. Ross is, strictly speaking, America's first woman Governor, as she was elected to serve out her late husband's unfinished term, and consequently took office before Mrs. Ferguson, whose term does not begin till the New Year. As Wyoming was the first suffrage state, it is fitting that it should have the first woman governor, but it is noticeable that both the women governors, like our first women M.P.s, were elected to positions previously held by their husbands. Other records have also been achieved by women; the eastern states have for the first time sent a woman, Mrs. M. T. Norton, to Congress, and both New York State and Indiana have for the first time elected women state officials, Mrs. Florence Knapp, who becomes Secretary for New York State, and Mrs. Emma Eaton White, reporter for the Supreme Court of Indiana. A number of women have also been returned to the governing bodies in New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Nebraska, and Illinois. This is a fine record, considering it is only four years since the women's suffrage amendment was ratified.

### OUR ADVERTISERS.

Our best thanks are due to Messrs. Cadbury, who have not only advertized consistently in our columns throughout the year, but have presented our staff with a delightful gift of chocolates and cocoa. Those of us who are acquainted with the conditions under which Messrs. Cadbury's chocolates are made in the garden city of Bournville were all the better able to appreciate the gift.

## THE WOMAN'S LEADER

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## SOCIAL INSURANCE.

## IV.

The question still remains to be considered as to how the new forms of insurance should be organized and how the whole scheme should be co-ordinated, since it is eminently undesirable to increase the number of organizations involved in insurance work. What is needed is some form of State Insurance Office to deal with all forms of compulsory insurance, with the possible exception of Health Insurance, which was discussed in the last article. Now, Unemployment Insurance can only be worked through the Employment Exchanges since they alone can provide any test of the genuineness of the applicant's claim that he is unable to get work. The obvious conclusion, therefore, is that the exchanges must form the nucleus of the new Insurance Offices, with new departments added to them to deal with the new forms of insurance and with Health Insurance, if the Approved Societies are not to be left with the monopoly of this part of the work.

Meanwhile, nothing has been said as to cost. To determine what contributions are necessary to produce what benefits is an actuarial question. The conclusions must also depend on a forecast as to the degree of unemployment which may be expected in the future, a vast subject itself. It is not, therefore, proposed to embark on any detailed discussion of figures, but one principle in the payment of benefits must be recognized—that the payment should be sufficient to meet the need, and should not have to be supplemented by poor relief, as is too often the case. If this is accepted, it follows logically that payments must be graduated according to the number of dependents. They ought, too, to be graduated to the normal wage of the workmen. The practical difficulties are considerable but experiments on these lines have been successfully made in certain cases on the Continent. If the Insurance system is to be extended in the various directions suggested, it is obvious that increased funds will be needed. How will they be got? Largely, as already shown, from greater economies in administration, whilst there would also be a reduction in Poor Law costs. Further, when employment reaches a more normal level, the present rate of benefits and contributions would leave a large surplus. These transfers from the Poor Law and Unemployment, combined with administrative economies and with the sums to which the Government is already pledged for widows' pensions, would suffice for a very largely extended scheme of insurance.

Before closing these articles a few words may be said about Mr. Broad's "All-in" scheme, since it has obtained a certain degree of popularity and has been embodied in a Private Members' Bill. It includes old age pensions at 63, pensions for orphans and widows, and sick pay and unemployment pay at double the present rates for men and much increased rates for women, and holds out the promise that insurance will entirely replace the Poor Law, which will cease to exist. But this promise is unconvincing in the extreme. There is no attempt to grade relief according to the number of dependents, so that a man with a large family might still find it necessary to turn to the Poor Law for help. The unemployable and the vagrant would still remain, and could only be dealt with by the Poor Law.

A serious criticism of his scheme is that there is no attempt to deal with administration; even Employers' Liability is left in its present unsatisfactory position. There will, therefore, be no administrative economies. The whole increased cost must come from reduced Poor Law expenditure and increased contributions.

Mr. Broad has produced an elaborate statement showing how the money is to be raised. As we stated actuarial discussions are outside the scope of these articles, but even without actuarial knowledge some of his figures are startling. To quote two instances, for 1925 he allows pensions for only 50,000 widows instead of about a million; presumably these are the women widowed in the current year, but what will happen to the rest? Then he allows nothing for interruptions in the payments of insured persons, though obviously there are bound to be interruptions in their contributions when they are sick or unemployed. These are enough to make one question the reliability of his whole statistical statement.

But without accepting his very alluring plan, it is hoped these articles have made it clear that without any undue increase in the net burden on the community an extended scheme of insurance could be introduced, and that it would materially increase the welfare and sense of security of the working classes.

W. A. ELKIN.

THE LAW AT WORK.<sup>1</sup>  
CAPITAL PUNISHMENT AGAIN.

If the scenes which took place in connection with an execution at Hull last week are not enough to make any humane and reasonable person think seriously about capital punishment we do not know what would suffice. Columns of the Press have been filled from day to day with descriptions of what occurred. Ten thousand people watching the mother kneeling in prayer for her son, mass meetings, petitions for reprieve signed by nearly every person in the city, seven thousand people singing "Abide with me" outside the prison walls amid cries of "Pull the prison down" and "Hang the hangman," all the Hull M.P.s going in deputation to the Home Secretary, relays of telegrams sent off all day to King and Premier, a whole city in a state of hysterical excitement. Finally, the murderer is hanged at 9 o'clock one morning; the usual crowd is collected outside the prison gates while the deed is being done. When nine strikes there is screaming, fainting, and sobbing, and more hymn singing.

The fact is that thousands of people who may approve of capital punishment in theory dislike it excessively when it takes place at their doors, and the condemned man is a fellow-citizen who has lived among them and is known to many of them. Not only do they dislike it, but they are moved to protest vehemently against it. Their feelings are outraged by the knowledge that at a certain fixed time a legalized murder is to take place in their midst. Indignation in Hull appears to have been heightened by the fact that another man who had committed a somewhat similar crime had recently been reprieved. The penalty of death appeared therefore in this case to be actually unjust as well as inhumane. No doubt the public were wrong in taking this view, and there were circumstances which made the two cases quite different. The Home Secretary has to make the final decision with all the facts before him. But how can anyone who sets a high value on human life uphold a system whereby the question whether a prisoner is to live or die is decided by one man who has to weigh and ponder all sorts of considerations bearing on both sides of the case and appearing important to some people and the reverse to others? Some murderers are as black as they can be, some are obviously objects of pity, but between these two extremes there are others where arguments for reprieve or execution are pretty equally balanced, but the scale has to go down for death or life.

We wish to draw attention to the ill effects especially on immature or morbid minds which must result from such scenes as were witnessed in Hull. The murderer became the centre of the picture on whom all attention was focussed. It was the fact that he was going to be hanged which brought the public sympathy upon a man who had cut a woman's throat with a razor. And we know that a certain type of mind is more thrilled by notoriety than anything else and desires above everything to create a sensation.

It has been truly said that "Every instance of the infliction of a punishment is an instance of the failure of that punishment." If punishment does not reform or deter we have no use for it. The most usual argument for capital punishment to-day is that it deters. It is difficult to prove or disprove. No one can say how many persons have refrained from murdering because of the death penalty. But there are many considerations on the other side. Everyone who has sat in Court and heard cases of assault or cruelty being tried must have noticed that the prisoner does not threaten his victim with "I'll kill you," which would be merely brutal. He says "I'll swing for you," and he feels it is a brave thing to say; at least he is a just man, if a cruel one, and by giving his own life he will pay the fair and proper penalty for taking the life of another.

The theory that a wrong done can be atoned for by suffering on the part of the doer is a crude and savage one, but it lasts long, and the infliction of the death penalty does a good deal to keep it alive. It may be argued that only with crimes of sudden passion could any idea be present in the mind of the murderer that if he took life at least he was ready to give his own. With cold, long planned, and calculated murders the fear of the death penalty does not deter because the murderer is convinced that he has laid his plans so carefully that he will not be detected at all, and will therefore never be tried and punished for his crime.

C. D. RACKHAM.

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

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## SALE OF WORK IN AID OF N.U.S.E.C. FUNDS.

The sale of work held at Church House, Westminster, in aid of our funds, was a great success in spite of the thick fog which inevitably kept away a number of guests. Nevertheless, after all expenses incurred have been met, £81 13s. 4d. has been handed over to the funds of the N.U.S.E.C. Our thanks for this generous gift are especially due to Lady Pares, Hon. Secretary of the Entertainments Committee; Mrs. Soddy, Miss Sutherland, Mrs. Wrightson, Miss Beaumont, and members of the Kensington and Newport (Essex) Societies, who were particularly generous in furnishing the stalls; and to Mrs. Clement Davies, who made all arrangements for the tea.

## N.U.S.E.C. SUMMER SCHOOL AT OXFORD, September, 1925.

It has been arranged to hold a Summer School of Politics and Citizenship at St. Hilda's Hall, Oxford, during the first week in September (2nd to 9th September), 1925. Lectures will be given on the different political parties and their programmes, and it is under the consideration of those organizing the School that special sections should be devoted to various aspects of Social Work, and to the work of Women Magistrates. We are particularly happy in securing St. Hilda's Hall for the School, as we feel sure those who have been with us in former years will remember it as an ideal centre for the purpose, and that Oxford in September will also be a great attraction. Further details of the programme will be announced later. We hope that many members of Societies, friends interested in the work of the N.U.S.E.C., Social Workers, and women concerned in different departments of Local Government, will be able to keep the date free to join our Summer School. A variety of experience among the members is one of the greatest assurances of success.

## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

The Headquarters office will be closed for the Christmas holidays from Wednesday, 24th December, until Sunday, 28th December, inclusive. The Edward Wright and Cavendish Bentinck Library will also be closed during this period.

## PRESTON W.C.A.

A meeting was held on 11th November at which Miss Neilans, of the Association for Social and Moral Hygiene, gave a clear and helpful address on the "Repeal of the Solicitation Laws," and a resolution was passed asking the M.P.s for the borough to interest themselves in the question and press forward a Bill for the repeal of these laws.

On 2nd December a representative audience was very glad to welcome Mrs. Stocks and to hear her speak on the subject of "Equal Pay for Equal Work." Mrs. Stocks pointed out the difficulties of the problem in practice, and urged that equality of opportunity should always be demanded along with equality of pay. Greater opportunities raised the level of earnings throughout the occupations. Though there was still some way to go in the organization of women to take interest in their conditions, progress was being made in this direction.

## SCOTTISH (EASTERN) FEDERATION.

Mrs. Mott's Tour.—The Societies in the East and North of Scotland have had a welcome visit from Mrs. Mott, of Liverpool. Within five days Mrs. Mott addressed meetings in as many places, some of them many hours' journey apart. Dundee W.C.A., recently affiliated to the N.U.S.E.C., provided a large and enthusiastic audience, who were delighted with Mrs. Mott's exposition on "Feminism in the Twentieth Century." At the request of Elgin W.C.A., Mrs. Mott spoke on "The Position of Wives and Mothers under the Law." At a large drawing-room meeting in Nairn for the W.C.A., the subject was "Proposed Schemes for Family Endowment," and in Edinburgh, at a meeting at Miss Wyer's house, Mrs. Mott, in speaking on Feminism, reminded us that our Feminist principles must be put into practice on every opportunity in the affairs of life. Those who had the opportunity of hearing Mrs. Mott, or of meeting her, as did the Committee of the Dunfermline S.E.C., must have felt inspired by her straightforward, clear-sighted manner of dealing with the questions which now confront us, and of which she has had so much experience. We shall all look forward to her next visit.

## LEWISHAM W.C.A.

A meeting was held on 9th December in the Courthill Hall. Miss Addison presided in the absence of Lady Davies. Mrs. F. W. Hubback gave an interesting address on Parliamentary procedure. She dealt with the Parliamentary year, and the week in the House of Commons, and also explained in detail the methods followed in dealing with the Bills that were introduced. She also gave a comprehensive review of the procedure employed in compiling the estimates and preparing the annual Budget.

## WOMEN AND THE COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

In view of the election for County Councils next March, the Women's Local Government Society is convening a conference on the work of County Councils on Wednesday, 14th January. The conference will be held in the Board Room of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, by kind permission of the Chairman, and Lady Trustram Eve, L.C.C., will preside at the morning session, when the discussion will be opened by Miss Scovell, a member of the East Sussex County Council. In the afternoon the Chair will be taken by Sir Willoughby Dickinson, J.P., and the speakers will be Miss Adler, J.P., L.C.C., and Councillor Mrs. Alderton, J.P., Deputy Mayor of Colchester. Further particulars and tickets can be obtained from the Society's office, 19 Tothill Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

## WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

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

On 11th December, at the Essex Hall, Professor Baker dealt with the Protocol in relation to Disarmament. Unless the Disarmament Conference was successful the proposals for Arbitration, Compulsory Jurisdiction and Security fell to the ground. When he spoke of Disarmament he meant Reduction of Armaments. The advantage of this would be three-fold:—

- (1) Freedom from the enormous economic burden pressing down Europe;
- (2) Prevention of Armament Competition;
- (3) Reduction in the scale of the Military Machines which influenced the policy of Nations.

It was contended by some that Great Britain's armaments were already reduced to bedrock limit. If that were so, was it not an additional reason for promoting a scheme of disarmament for all countries? In relation to sea and air forces, active competition was actually costing this country millions.

Article VIII of the Covenant laid down that the "maintenance of peace requires the reduction of national armaments to the lowest point consistent with National Safety, and the enforcement by common action of International obligations." The Protocol Articles 17-21 provided the machinery for working out the object of this Article.

Professor Baker described the difficulties which had impeded the proposals of the Washington Conference, and dealt in some detail with the questions that would arise in relation to the basis and ratio of disarmament in land, sea, and air, in any concrete schemes put forward. Considerable progress had been made as to Traffic in Arms. The efforts to control private manufacture of arms would be more difficult, in view of the immense technical difficulties and the interests involved, the time for consideration of a general Disarmament scheme must be long.

He believed that the World had at this time a great opportunity for success, and whatever the difficulties he refused to believe in ultimate failure.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## MARRIED WOMEN'S INCOME TAX.

MADAM,—I for one—no doubt there are numbers of others—am grateful to you for demanding the separate assessment of the incomes of husband and wife. My private income all told amounts to no more than £20 yearly, because I have never had an allowance from my husband for my personal use. My small investments are taxed 4s. 6d. in the £, and when I apply for rebate I have to ask my husband to write and say that I may receive the rebate, what there is, but which I cannot get without he writes that I may have it. I always feel this is a great indignity, treating a wife and mother of four-grown up daughters as if she were a small child. I have always felt that if the great pioneer, John Stuart Mill, had lived a longer time, the laws relating to the Rights of Women would have been altered long ago.

Let me beg of you to persevere until we get Equal Citizenship.

A. B.

## LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

MADAM,—The great interest caused by the recent activities of the League of Nations, in particular by the document which is known as the Geneva Protocol, impels me to draw the attention of your readers to some of the recent publications of the League of Nations Union.

Mr. Wilson Harris has written one booklet on the work of the Fifth Assembly entitled *Geneva, 1924*, giving a full account of the important work done in September, and a second giving a more specialized account of the Protocol in its relation to the Covenant of the League.

Sir Frederick Pollock, the author of many standard legal works, has also written an authoritative pamphlet for the Union on the Protocol. No student of international affairs can fail to grasp the principles of the Protocol after reading these three booklets.

Other recent publications of more general interest are:—

- Human Welfare and the League.
- Four Years Work of the International Labour Organization.
- Humanitarian Activities of the League.
- The League of Nations, What it is, and What it does.

All these can be obtained from the League of Nations Union, 15 Grosvenor Crescent, S.W. 1, and I shall be glad to supply any of your readers with further information.

MAXWELL GARNETT,  
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**FELLOWSHIP SERVICES**, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 21st December. 3.30, Music; Lecture: Dr. C. G. Simpson, C.B.E., F.R.S. 6.30, Maude Royden: "The God of Battles and the Prince of Peace."

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