

THE  
**WOMAN'S LEADER**

IN POLITICS                      IN INDUSTRY                      IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
IN THE HOME                      IN LITERATURE AND ART                      IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND

**THE COMMON CAUSE**

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**NOTES AND NEWS**

**Women's Votes in France.**

The promised debate on the Woman Suffrage Bill, which was expected last month, has again been postponed, this time till October. It is disheartening for French suffragists and the delays of the Senate are inexcusable.

**The Dutch Elections.**

Dutch women voted for the first time at the general election on 6th July. They more or less equal the male voters in number and for the first time the decisions made were national in more than name. Four women were elected, and there is a possibility of a fifth, for M. van Houten, who was re-elected, is 85, and it is rumoured that he intends to resign his seat in favour of Mlle. Van Dorp.

**The Lords' Reform.**

It was more than disappointing to see that there was no mention of women in the resolutions concerning the reform of the House of Lords. Some months ago a deputation from the N.U.S.E.C. waited on the Government Whips when they were drawing up the Bill, and asked for equal eligibility for men and women. It has not been included, and therefore we are extremely glad to hear that Lord Muir-Mackenzie has proposed an amendment to the resolutions "that provision shall be made for the inclusion of women in the Constitution of the House."

**The Criminal Law Amendment Bill in Committee.**

During the past week the Criminal Law Amendment Bill has been considered in Committee, and the end of the deliberations has not yet been reached. The attack upon the operative clauses of the Bill, and particularly upon the "reasonable cause to believe" clause, has been and still is very violent, and although there is every reason to believe that the Bill will emerge intact from the Committee, there is no doubt that a considerable amount of hard fighting will have been gone through before the Measure finally stands upon the Statute Book. The proposed raising of the age of consent to seventeen was only carried by the casting vote of the chairman, and it is obvious that the fight must not be abandoned until every loop-hole is stopped up and every formality finished.

**Protection of Women and Girls.**

The Advisory Committee on the Traffic in Women and Children has just held its first meeting in Geneva. Six members of the Committee were women, the two women Government delegates being Dr. Paulina Luisi (Argentine) and Dr. Estred Hein (Denmark), while four women were appointed assessors, representing international organizations; Miss Baker, Mme. de Sainte-Croix, Mme. Baronne de Montenach, and Mme. Studer-Steinhauslin. Dr. Hein was selected as chairman, but asked to postpone this duty till another year. Mr. Harris, the official British delegate, was appointed in her place. The Committee discussed the question of affording greater protection to women and girls who go abroad for theatrical engagements, and this is especially important from the British point of view. The question of safeguarding women emigrants was also discussed, and it was recommended that America and Germany should be invited to send representatives to the Committee. Now that so many countries are anxious to act together to abolish the evil, we hope that great and rapid progress will be made.

**The Swedish Civil Service.**

The proposal that duly qualified women should be allowed to enter the higher grades in the Civil Service, and be admitted to all other Government positions in Sweden was defeated by a two-votes majority in the Upper Chamber some weeks ago. The reason given was that the question ought only to be discussed in connection with new salary regulations for women civil servants.

**Norwegian Women and the Penal Law Commission.**

A Penal Law Commission has recently been appointed in Norway, and of the nine members, two are women. They are Dr. Ingeborg Aas, of Trondhjem, and Dr. Tove Mohr.

**A Married Woman Teacher.**

Mr. Rhys Davies drew the attention of the House last week to the case of Mrs. Belfield, head mistress of one of the Keighley schools. The local Education Committee is dismissing her, after over fourteen years' service, on the ground that she is married. She has done invaluable work in the town, has earned the confidence of the townsfolk, and has paid superannuation

allowance for years, yet on the eve of a pension she is being dismissed. Mr. Fisher said that he had no authority to interfere with the discretion of the local authority in deciding what individual teachers to employ.

#### The Training of Health Visitors.

The original regulations laid down for the training of salaried health visitors provided for a course of two years for candidates without previous training and for a course of one year in the case of fully trained nurses, or women with experience in health visiting, or of those possessing a University Degree or its academical equivalent. The Board of Education now announces that whole or part-time courses of less than one year's duration will be approved of for trained nurses who have had a three years' course of general hospital training or a full course of training at a children's hospital. It has also been decided that these shortened courses shall be open to women who have been acting for three years as health visitors in the service of local authorities, and who are willing to take a short refresher course. At present a woman appointed as a salaried health visitor must have one of the following qualifications: (i) The certificate prescribed by the Regulations of the Board of Education; (ii) three years' training in a general hospital, or full training in a children's hospital, together with at least one of the following qualifications: (a) the certificate of the Central Midwives Board, (b) the certificate of a Sanitary Inspector, (c) the certificate for health visitors of one of the bodies approved by the Local Government Board under the Health Visitors (London) Order, 1909, i.e. the Royal Sanitary Institute, the Royal Institute of Public Health, the National Health Society, or the Battersea Polytechnic. For the present the Minister will be prepared to dispense with the full qualifications referred to in (i) and (ii) in special cases in which evidence is submitted that a woman whom it is proposed to appoint as a Health Visitor has had previous experience of the duties under a local authority, and has discharged them efficiently.

#### Legitimation by Marriage.

Mr. Neville Chamberlain returned to the subject of the Legitimation Bill last week and told Mr. Shortt that, although he has allowed the greater part of the Session to go by without making any apparent move, he cannot later on relieve himself of the responsibility by saying that time will not permit the introduction of the Bill. Mr. Shortt, rather ruffled that it could be thought possible that he had been doing nothing, said that he had been giving this difficult matter his most careful consideration. Mr. Chamberlain implied that, as the Government had asked the introducer of the Bill not to proceed with it as it was to be introduced as a Government measure, it should have been done before now, especially as before Whitsun Mr. Shortt promised to introduce it "shortly". Finally, Mr. Shortt said the Bill might be brought in this session, but it would not be possible to proceed with it. All of this is very disappointing and unsatisfactory.

#### Spain and the Maternity Convention.

Information has been received that both Spanish Houses of Parliament have approved the ratification of the Maternity and Unemployment Conventions adopted by the first International Labour Conference held in Washington in 1919. These Conventions now only await the signature of the King for formal ratification. The Maternity Convention lays down that a woman will not be permitted to work six weeks before and six weeks after childbirth, and shall during that period be paid benefits sufficient for the healthy maintenance of herself and her child. In addition to this she is entitled to free attendance by a doctor or certified midwife.

#### Deaconesses.

In the Lower House of the Canterbury Convocation a report on Deaconesses in the Church was presented by the Dean of Salisbury, who said that a committee, having considered certain proposals of the Lambeth Conference of 1920, had come to the conclusion that deaconesses were essential to Church life. It was for women the one and only order of the ministry which had the stamp of Apostolic approval and the only order of ministry which their branch of the Church could recognize and use. The proposals of the Committee were that a deaconess should be dedicated to a lifelong service of the Church. She would give

instruction in the Christian faith, prepare candidates for baptism and confirmation, assist at baptism, and be the administrant at a private baptism in the absence of the minister. With the approval of the bishop and incumbent she would read Morning and Evening Prayer and the Litany, except such portions as were assigned to the priest only, and would lead in Church prayer and "instruct and exhort the congregation"; would organize and carry out social work; would have a responsible part in education of women and children; and would promote the welfare of women students at the universities and elsewhere. No woman could be ordained under the age of 25, and in many cases under the age of 30, and an advisory council would be set up in each diocese, under the chairmanship of the bishop, to superintend their work. Dr. B. J. Kidd said that they must recognize the spiritual equality of women with men, and women must recognize that subordination of function was compatible with it. Two amendments prohibiting deaconesses from reading Morning and Evening Prayer and the Litany, and from leading in prayer and preaching at church services, were each carried by large majorities. The report was then accepted. This is extremely disappointing, for the Lambeth Conference was prepared to allow deaconesses to read Morning and Evening Prayer and the Litany, as well as to "instruct and exhort the congregation."

#### A Woman Diplomat.

Our readers will remember that Miss Lucille Atcherson, having passed the first part of her Civil Service examination, was awaiting the President's permission for women to take the examination for diplomats in the U.S.A. Permission has now been granted by Mr. Harding, and Miss Atcherson may thus become the first woman secretary to a legation. Her examination subjects will include international law, the diplomatic moral code, American history, modern history, and economics.

#### Women Patrols.

The Women's Auxiliary Service still continues to do very useful volunteer work, in spite of the disbanding of the women police. Mr. Clark Hall has asked them to start a bureau of advice for women, which will provide a staff of experienced women to help applicants in difficult cases. The whole thing will be entirely confidential. Lists will be kept of respectable lodgings, hostels, etc., lying-in homes and institutions, homes to which illegitimate children may be safely sent, hospitals for treatment of special complaints, convalescent homes, employers in various trades, etc., who will take a special interest in the girls, respectable employment agencies. Commandant Allen is trying to get permission to place her members in the parks and open spaces. Funds have been raised to place the women patrols in Battersea Park and on Clapham Common, but so far the Office of Works has not consented to let them work in Hyde Park or Regent's Park.

#### A Feminist Triumph in Paris.

Mlle. Jeanne Rospais, who is a Parisian lawyer, has just been appointed secretary to the Lawyers' Conference. It is the first time that this conspicuous post has been held by a woman and it is a real feminist victory, because it overthrows a very old tradition against which women lawyers have hitherto fought in vain.

#### Legitimation Laws in New Zealand.

The New Zealand Legitimation Act of 1908 has just been amended. The 1908 Act provided that the subsequent marriage of the parents legitimized a child, provided that at the date of birth there existed no legal impediment to marriage. The amending Act of 1922 removes this bar and further provides that in the event of the father dying without having taken steps to legitimize the child, the mother may make the application.

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

## SYMPTOMS OF PROGRESS.

The Woman's Exhibition which opened at Olympia last week is not the first nor the only exhibition of its kind which has been held in recent years, but it is, undoubtedly, one of the most remarkable. A few years ago—only a very few years indeed—the words Woman's Exhibition would have connoted nothing but clothes, with a possible extension to kitchens. To-day they include clothes and kitchens among a multitude of other exhibits which vary from engineering workshops to the stall of the League of Nations Union. The careers which are now opening to women are numerous, and although it is true that they are almost all over-filled with eager and capable young women, so that disappointment awaits many, yet still they are open as never before. And at this exhibition correct and accurate information can be gained as to the training, the cost, and the prospects of each of them, and the exhibitors have been so carefully chosen that full reliance can be placed upon their advice.

Now all this is a symptom or outward symbol of the very real change which has come over the world in regard to women's position.

It is sometimes salutary to look backwards. In these days, when we are troubled by European disorganization, by shortness of cash, by widespread unemployment, and by all the evils which the war has left behind it, it is comforting to look at one of the few good things the last few years have brought us. And undoubtedly the change in the position of women is one of them.

We do not mean to imply that matters are wholly satisfactory yet. Far from it. We have plenty of hard work before us if we are to adjust to real equality the status of men and women; but, all the same, we have started well upon the road, and the Exhibition at Olympia is a tangible proof of it.

Take, for example, the nursing exhibits and those of the women's hospitals. The care of the sick has always been within woman's sphere, from time immemorial, and it has always been as intrinsically important as it is to-day. No change has taken place in the root facts of the case, and yet, since 1918, the whole position of the profession of nursing has changed. Whether it is because of enfranchisement, or because of the passing of the State Registration of Nurses Act, or because of the widespread interest in the profession naturally arising from the war, or because of the competition of other occupations for women, or because of the general spread of independence, or perhaps because of all these things together, the position of the nursing world has been entirely revolutionized. In exhibiting at Olympia the manifold scientific activities of that great profession, the College of Nursing is showing in concrete form how far this great side of women's world service has come to be recognized; and it is a matter for sincere satisfaction that it is so.

Take, again, the Child Welfare exhibits. That activity, too, has always been and must always be a part of woman's essential function. From the earliest days when the human race existed this has been so, and it has always been regarded as a sacred and a noble function. And yet, until recently, its sacredness and its nobility have received more lip service than actual recognition from society. The world has not been organized to make it sacred or noble, and the amount of recognition paid by the world at large to this essential task has been very great in theory and very small in fact. Within the last decade, however, things have changed, and practical efforts to help and develop this aspect of women's world service have come into being. We not only say, but we are beginning to act now upon the belief that the next generation is of vital importance; and although our action is a long way from being properly effective, we have at last started upon the road.

And so we could go on, walking round the gallery of Olympia and congratulating ourselves upon the progress we have made. It is a pleasant occupation, and one which ought to refresh us for further efforts. They are all needed, for we have much to do. But, at any rate, we are working now on a sure foundation, with the possibilities of health, education, training, and political position behind us, and this is progress indeed.

## NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

The Parliamentary week has been unusually full of interest at Westminster, but the interest has been of a special and particular character. The whole political situation has been obscured and overshadowed by the Honours Debate, which cast its shadows well before it, and which, by its mingling of personal and confidential with genuine righteous indignation, caused an unprecedented degree of excitement. Such questions are the very ones to pull down Governments, even the strongest of them; and the volume of feeling upon this point has been steadily growing for many years.

The Cabinet is said to have been divided as to how to handle the matter, but the Whips undoubtedly reported that the feeling was too strong for any high-handed refusals of inquiries. The ultimate compromise has been a Royal Commission, in which, of course, the vital point is who composes it. In the hands of some people any inquiry at all might lead to such an outburst of ridicule as would seriously stagger the whole honours system; in the hands of others the whitewash might be laid on too thickly. The storm, after reverberating in the Upper House, and causing many a splash and a ripple in society, is now dying down.

Apart from Honours the week has been uninteresting. On Monday, 10th July, the House discussed the belated and inadequate Economy Bill. It was severely handled, and it is doubtful if any more will ever be heard of it. To satisfy the country, or even the House, the Government must do much better than that. The great question of Fabric Gloves reached, on this day, yet another inconclusive stage. Like so many other perplexing matters, it has been sent to a Committee of Investigation. These committees are growing as numerous as the locusts. It is fortunate that they are not always as active.

The House sat until midnight, but there seemed to be no special reason for doing so. A number of small Bills were dealt with, of which the only one important to readers of this paper was the Nationality and Status of Aliens Bill. The clause proposing to restore to married women the right to a separate nationality was considered, and another special committee was appointed, under the chairmanship of Mr. Adamson, to report before the end of the session upon the effect upon English law of the passing of such a clause. Both the Home Office and the Foreign Office are giving evidence, and before the Bill goes further, the report of this Committee will be to hand.

On Tuesday, 11th July, the House had another day, or, rather, night's discussion upon the difficult question of the Middle East. No further light was thrown upon the matter.

On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday the Budget was finally passed through all its stages and read a third time. Sir Robert Horne has given some valuable concessions, of which a small one which will be much appreciated is the freeing from Income Tax deductions the allowances paid on behalf of the children of war widows. The debate ranged over a variety of topics, and the House sat till a quarter to two one night. Even so, however, the discussions were never acrimonious, and it is difficult to recall any previous Budget which has gone through with less controversy.

Outside Parliament, however, considerable interest has centred round the meetings of the Council of the League of Nations, which are taking place in St. James's Palace. This, the nineteenth meeting of the Council, has before it the question of ratification of the A and B mandates (which include that for Palestine), and the report of the Temporary Mixed Commission on the Limitation of Armaments. It is also considering a number of detailed reports from its special commissions on opium, and the traffic in women and children, and a matter directly referred to it by the Bulgarians concerning the treatment of racial minorities, and the present actions of the neighbours of Bulgaria.

All this is serious and important enough; and yet, in the face of the whole European situation and the collapse of the mark, how much better it would be if the League were free to tackle the root problem of the day, namely reparations! We live in a tangled world, and we do not seem to be doing much to untangle it.

[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.]

## WOMEN JUDGES IN GERMANY.

By Dr. ELISABETH ALTMANN-GOTTHEINER.

In the beginning of May the German Reichstag passed a Criminal Law Amendment Act, which conceded to women the right to serve as jurors and magistrates. This goal was reached after a very long campaign, the details of which were given in a recent number of the *WOMAN'S LEADER* (Friday, 31st March, 1922). On 1st July another step forward was made when the Reichstag passed a Bill concerning the admission of women to all legal posts and professions. The new Act provides that qualified women may become judges and barristers. Of course, all minor legal professions, as, for instance, those of clerk, registrar, and bailiff, were thrown open to women at the same time.

All the arguments used by those who had tried to withhold from women the right to act as jurors were repeated even more passionately before the passing of the Act in question. We need not enter into them again. It may suffice to say that the strongest argument used by the opponents of the Bill was that women ought not to hold the office of a judge because this would impair the authority of the Courts, and because men, as a rule, would not be inclined to submit to the judgment of women.

If this really were so, women would not only be unable to partake in the administration of justice, but they would also be incapable of holding any of the other offices to which the new German Constitution has admitted them, and in which they already have given full proof of their capability.

On the other hand, it is to be expected that a number of specifically feminine qualities will prove to be of great value in the administration of justice. Especially those branches will profit by the introduction of women judges which require a delicate handling of children, like the work in Juvenile Courts or Courts of Wards. In the Divorce Court and in the Penal Court woman's insight into the female mind will also be very valuable.

Even if woman's sense of justice should really differ from man's, as is frequently believed, it would only be just that her way of looking at things should be given full scope, so that in course of time, the jurisdiction as well as the legislation of the country may bear the impress of both sexes and do justice to female as well as to male valuations and interests.

These arguments which have led to the introduction of women jurors and magistrates hold good with regard to women judges and barristers. If in future no difference is to be made between men and women with regard to their admission to legal offices, this will not necessarily mean that both sexes are equally well suited for each individual office. On the contrary, we hope that the specifically feminine qualities will induce women lawyers to take up special branches of work where female influence has hitherto been sorely missed, and where women may be able to do better work than men. The new German Constitution gives women equal rights, but it is not based on the assumption that men and women in the same position will be able to achieve exactly the same things.

It need not be feared that a great number of women will press forward at once in order to secure posts as judges, or that too many will want to act as solicitors. In fact, the number of qualified women lawyers in Germany is still extremely small, because though they were allowed to study law at the German Universities, and were also permitted to go in for the doctorate, they were excluded from the State examinations which every lawyer, who wants to enter an official legal career in Germany, must have passed. It is only quite lately that a few South German States admitted a small number of women, who at the time they went in could hardly have hoped for as speedy a development as has actually taken place. Some of them, however, will now probably have the honour of becoming the first women judges and solicitors in Germany.

## A NIGHT IN A WOMAN'S COMMON LODGING HOUSE.

We presented ourselves at the Female Lodging House about 7.30 one cold evening in March. The landlady came from her private room as we entered, and asked: "Have you been here before?" Then, seeming to recognize us, allowed us to pay 6d. each and opened the door of the kitchen or living room.

About ten lively, loud, miserable creatures were there round a big fire. We were greeted with "Come in, girls, get to the fire!" for we were strangers and must be welcomed. The glasses of beer were going round, and one creature with lank, dirty wisps of hair about her face danced and sang and made lewd jokes, while most of the others looked on with bleary eyes, giving way to unreal and drunken laughter now and again. A few were arranging their hair or dress in front of a glass, getting ready to go out into the City to try their luck. One or two looked quite ladylike and pretty as they passed out. We took off our things and laid them on a form, and then I buried myself in a novelette and ate an apple (not one word did I read), and my companion (*alias* Bertha Brook) put on a tired look and sat watching the "fun".

Temper in this community are very touchy, and there were several loud quarrellings, punctuated with terrible language. The names "Jesus Christ" and "God" were constantly used to emphasize the speaker's point of view, as "'Ere, stop that; may God and the Holy Mary curse you!" Everybody seemed very suspicious of others who were not in their direct "set". For instance, Bertha saw a nice little brown pot on the hob steaming and emitting a good smell of fish. She remarked on this, and said: "What a good smell!" and at once the owner shouted out from near the looking-glass: "Leave that alone! or by the blood of Jesus I'll . . ." etc.

About 8.15 the younger girls were busy washing and dressing to go out into the City for the night's "work", and, indeed, in many cases the effect was nothing less than a transformation scene. Annie, the most loud and blasphemous of all, suddenly appeared dressed up, looking almost like a lady in her disguise, and with "Good night all!" went out to her night of deceit, compelled (practically compelled) to lead this life for the rest of her days if she was to keep herself alive. It is difficult to believe that Annie, now only about 25 years old, was once an innocent little child.

Some declared their intention of going to the 9 o'clock "Pictures," and we said we would do the same, but when we got outside we thought we had better telephone to our homes to let our husbands know we had obtained beds without difficulty, and then we walked the streets, noticing the "Ponees" or "Bulleys" as they are called, waiting for their various prostitutes to confer with them as to which would be the best money-making plan for the evening, or rather, night.

These Bulleys are the men who make money by these girls, offering them protection for money. If the prostitutes do not produce enough money they often treat them cruelly or desert them. If a novice is found keeping all her earnings for herself she is made to procure a Bulley by the other girls. Hundreds of male "won't works" to-day are simply making a living in this way, through this vile trade. As a deputy Chief of Police once said to me, "The Bulley is our lowest down man, absolutely cunning and contemptible."

It was pouring with rain, and not having umbrellas, we got very wet, so we went out by tram to a friend's house to get dry.

Being too late for the "Pictures", we then turned into our lodging house again, about 10.15. We went into the kitchen and sat on a bench by the fire with about six others. One most superior looking girl of the servant class had come in and was very quiet in a corner. We had a little conversation with her, and found she was quite a new-comer, and just there for a night's

lodging. Poor child, we hoped that she would not get contaminated in that poisonous atmosphere.

We sat in that smoky, beery air listening to vile speeches and snatches of sentimental songs sung by half-drunken women till 11.30, when the girls began coming in to get dry at the fire. Some were drenched through with rain. Presently the door opened, and an old white-haired woman was helped in by three or four girls. They had put their coats over her head and shoulders to keep her dry. Those at the fire at once moved further down the form to leave a place for her. Some took the coat gently from her white, dishevelled head, one girl rubbed her hands and another put her feet on the fender, while another ran for a cup of beer. It did not take long to see that the old thing was bleary-eyed and besotted with drink already, but she seemed to be able to consume any amount more. She soon became talkative, saying: "Sing to me, my dears, sing to me. Eh, I know you'd always give me a mug o' beer if I wanted one. Sing, girls, sing."

Then they settled down, droning songs and quarrelling with each other in a drunken way. Nearly all were smoking cigarettes, those at each side of the ragged old woman holding her hands in theirs and petting her all the while.

We sat till 12.30, not wanting to leave before the late-comers arrived, but at last we got so tired and overdone by the atmosphere that we went along with some others to ask for our beds. The landlady seemed anxious for us to go, and sent the woman who acted as helper in the house to show us to bed. "Come on," she said kindly, "I'm sure you're tired." So up the stairs we went. She unlocked the door of a very bare room with ten beds. It was nearly dark except for a light from a gas bracket turned very low. Two beds already had occupants. One was sobbing bitterly under the clothes, and the other snoring loudly. The woman servant pointed to two beds at different ends of the room. I protested, saying that the landlady promised we should have beds next to each other; but she said that the other beds, except one, had owners for the night, who would be turning up later on, but if I liked I could go into the next one to my friend, which I did.

No night garments are worn in this abode, so after taking off our dress skirts we lay down. The woman servant settled down in a bed opposite, and except for snores and sobs all was quiet. Then many more girls arrived. Presently the woman servant went over to the sobbing girl and said: "There, there, what's your trouble? Canna yer tell me? It will all seem better in t'mornin'; now try to sleep, for we can none o' us rest with ye

## THE CO-OPERATIVE NURSERY: A PROBLEM FOR PROFESSIONAL WOMEN.\*

The difficulties of the young professional woman who is married and has children are very much increased to-day, when the exercise of her profession is often not even optional. Very often she is practically forced to help with the family budget and, in addition, has the care of the house and children, or is obliged to entrust it, very inadequately and expensively, to inferior people. In the case of the housekeeping itself, it is often a question of being merely uncomfortable. In the case of the children, as long as they are too small to go to school or kindergarten, the difficulty is more serious.

Efforts towards a co-operative nursery have very often been run from outside, especially during the war, when nurseries for the children of officers were established so that the mothers might be enabled to work. They have also been necessarily on rather a large scale. To reproduce home conditions has hardly been possible, and the arrangement has been more or less on the

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carryin' on so." She muttered something, and after a while fell into a heavy, sad sleep. Once more we heard the street door bell pealing, and soon our door opened and two noisy, excited girls entered, talking away about their experiences. One about 24 and the other, alas! about 15 years old.

As soon as the older one saw me she said: "Well, I never, just look here, some cheeky beggar in my bed." I pretended to be asleep, whereupon she came right up between the beds, which had their head ends below the window. She called the other girl, and they both stood looking into the street below.

24 Years: "I say, I shall stay here until she gets out of my bed. Hello, there! get out of that!"

Me: "Go and get into that empty bed, I am comfortable."

24 Years: "No, get out! I'll stay here till you do. I say, Maggie, there's a copper. Look, he's standing by our gate."

After a while I got up and went off into the spare bed at the other end of the row, and 24 and 15 got into bed, and all was quiet till about 3 o'clock. Then a taxi drove up and peeping through the window I saw a man hand out a smartly dressed girl; then he jumped in quickly and drove away. The girl came into the house and I heard her pass our door and go to the upper, cheaper, bedroom.

I did not sleep at all; just lay there thinking of all these wretched lives, and wondering what could be done. Uncomfortable, unhappy sleep was all about me, with continued groanings and mutterings, turnings, and snorings.

As early dawn arrived my friend and I continually raised our heads to reassure each other, but we dare not utter a sound. As the light grew stronger I saw much vermin creeping about the ceilings and walls and over the exposed dirty feet of my next-door neighbour, and also on my own pillow and mattress.

At 6 o'clock I heard someone softly crying, and so I went on tip-toe to try to bring comfort, but as I approached the bed the occupant to my surprise raised herself up and whispered: "Don't speak to me, lass! but help me to get out of this hell." She rapidly put on her skirt, twisted up her hair, and made for the door, telling me to shut it very quietly after her. All this time I was so afraid the servant woman would wake.

After a whispered conversation with Bertha Brook I got into bed, and lay another hour. At last some woke and toppled out of bed, and we were glad to get up and go down with them. Several offered us drinks of tea from their mugs, but we declined, saying we had to be quick. Then we said "Good morning," and were glad to find ourselves safely out in the street once more on the way to the station.

I. O. AICH.

old lines of the crèche. In New York a solution of the difficulty has been found, which is interesting in that the question of service there is so much more difficult than in Europe, and that the need for help on the part of young mothers is so very much greater. Half a dozen young women who were variously journalists, secretaries, and so forth, all of whom needed to earn money and all of whom had young families, evolved a co-operative nursery, which was run by one of them. The proposal was made that one of the group should take the work upon herself, thereby making her own living and liberating the other five to make theirs.

The scheme has worked beyond expectation. Two good rooms were taken for the children, which were more or less central for them all, and they were fitted up with all the necessary appliances for sleeping, playing, and learning to walk. All the children were under three years old, and some of them had hardly got beyond the point of counting their ages in months. There were seven or eight in all—no more, that is to say, than might be constituted by a large family.

The babies go to their "school" every morning, except Sundays, from 10 till 4. There is a garden attached to it, in which they spend a vast amount of time, whether in sleeping, crawling or making experiments. Every month a "report" is sent home, which has to do less with conduct than with the progress made—for instance, Michael, aged 20 months, in crawling up a board and sliding down it again, or in walking by Jane, whose legs need careful attention. Every month, too, a committee, or, rather, a meeting, is held of the mothers, who discuss their offspring and agree upon the working of the "school". The whole arrangement has even more meaning in America than in England, where the nursery is a natural feature. In America it is still rather an exotic institution, and young American parents really bear the heat and burden of the day as regards their children to a greater extent than is common in this country.

One of the results of a co-operative nursery is that the children hardly come into touch at all with people of no education. There are various views on this subject, of course, some people holding that a too rarefied atmosphere is not the best, even for very young children. The great point about it is, however, that, unlike other arrangements for little children, it is really run by the mothers themselves, and that the smallness of the group makes it possible to retain the intimate atmosphere in which, it would seem, children flourish best. Another point also is not to be despised. Earnest young mothers have their defects as well as their

qualities, and that in proportion as they are concerned with the welfare of their children. The views of half a dozen mothers correct each other and tend to obviate absurdities. They also provide for a certain freshness of view, and get away from an overdone "rightness" which sometimes accompanies the rôle of parent.

Perhaps the greatest disadvantage of the nursery is that it is expensive. The mere fact of its being limited in numbers does not make for cheapness. On the other hand, this very factor prevents its being institutionalized, and there is no ready-made installation, all of a pattern, which looks well but is really rather heartless. The various mothers combined to furnish the nursery; the pieces of furniture were voted upon, and a general scheme decided. But the effect has resulted in a pleasant miscellany, such as a child has in its own home.

Probably if the wages of various nurses, with board and lodging, were reckoned up they would come to as much as is expended on the co-operative nursery. On the other hand, they would, singly, work in with the general scheme of the house, and there would not be quite so much paying out of actual cash. That is, however, the price which must be paid for woman's work outside the home. As working in New York the scheme seems as good a one as can be devised to meet the special circumstances of to-day, when money is scarce and the valuable institutions of the maiden aunt or the impecunious cousin who wants a home have long gone by the board. M. H.

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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

Telephone: Museum 6910.

### WOMEN IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

It is probable that the resolutions on the House of Lords published last week will shortly come before the House of Commons. We have circularized our societies asking them to urge their members to protest against the omission of women and to urge that in any scheme of reform women become eligible both as voters for and members of the Second Chamber.

### BILLS BEFORE PARLIAMENT.

*Guardianship, Maintenance, Custody and Marriage of Infants Bill.*—The Joint Select Committee of both Houses on the Guardianship of Infants Bill has been appointed, and contains many of our friends. The N.U.S.E.C. has been asked to give evidence before this Committee on Wednesday, 19th July (as we go to press).

*Criminal Law Amendment Bill.*—The Criminal Law Amendment Bill is having a difficult time in Committee, owing to the determined opposition of certain Members, such as Major Hamilton, Mr. Rawlinson, Major C. Lowther, and Mr. Macquisten. It is satisfactory, however, to be able to report that not only has clause 2, removing the defence of reasonable cause to believe, passed in Committee, but the amendment for which the N.U.S.E.C. alone out of all women's organizations has been working, viz. the extension of the time limit during which proceedings may be taken after the commission of a criminal assault from six months to nine months, was moved by Mrs. Wintringham, approved of by the Government, and passed without a division. Although it is difficult to foresee what will happen, the fact that it is a Government Bill will make it safe.

### BY-ELECTION GOWER DIVISION.

Deputations to both candidates have been arranged for Tuesday, 18th July. Full particulars of their replies to our questions will be given next week.

### SUMMER SCHOOL.

Over seventy students have already enrolled their names, and one of the two College Halls is now almost full. There are, however, some vacancies in the adjoining Hall. Much interest has been aroused by the speeches of Mr. T. Mott Osborne, from America, recently, and we congratulate ourselves that he is one of our principal speakers. Arrangements are to be made for having a film which he has brought with him exhibited during the week in Oxford. Many who can only give one week will probably now select the first week, when, in addition to our own N.U.

subjects, problems in local government and the League of Nations will have the principal place. A novel feature which will arouse interest in the first week will be a debate between Mrs. Stocks and Mr. J. H. Humphreys, Secretary of the Proportional Representation Society, on "Proportional Representation." Miss MacCarthy's lecture on "Public Speaking" will be given the first week, but, if possible, classes will be formed for a small additional fee each week.

### AUTUMN WEEK-END SCHOOLS.

We hear rumours of week-end autumn schools to be held in different parts of the country. The Edinburgh Society for Equal Citizenship has announced a school for the end of the first week of October, and the Durham Society hopes to be able to do the same for the North Eastern Counties. Our Plymouth Society has already written to inform us of a conference of Western Societies to be held in the spring. Such signs of sectional activity are most encouraging.

### FINANCE.

It has been decided not to close the Appeal as several societies have plans for raising money in the autumn. Want of space has prevented us from giving a recent list, but an up-to-date list of donors will be printed in the course of a week or two. The total amount received up-to-date is £482 for the General Fund, and £282 earmarked for the Election Fund. The Election Fund covers preliminary work in constituencies where women are likely to stand as candidates, and by-election work. This amount has tided us over the summer, but to carry on effectively during the autumn and winter we must have more. We invite any possible donors to come and investigate our headquarters office before contributing, in order to see exactly what is being done. We venture to think that they would feel satisfied that a great deal of work is being done with the utmost possible economy.

### PERSONAL.

Many of our Societies will be interested to hear that our late Secretary, Miss Norah Stack, was married on 29th June, to Captain Cruickshank.

### MOTOR-CAR FOR WOMAN CANDIDATE.

A prospective women candidate for Parliament, supported by the N.U.S.E.C., is anxious to hear of a second-hand motor-car. We venture to suggest that this is an admirable opportunity of helping the candidature of women. Full particulars may be had from the Head Office.

## CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS.

### CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS.

The Consultative Committee of Women's Organizations held its first annual meeting at the Caxton Hall on 11th July. As Lady Astor, the President and Chairman, was taking an enforced rest in the country, Miss Picton-Turbervill, O.B.E., Vice-Chairman of the Committee, opened the proceedings.

As a result of the elections of officers, Lady Astor retained her original office of President and Chairman; Lady Galway became Vice-Chairman on the resignation of Miss Picton-Turbervill, who, as prospective Labour candidate for North Islington, felt that her time would be too much occupied to allow her to undertake official duties; Lady Greenwood, D.B.E., was elected Hon. Treasurer.

The work of the past year was reviewed, and the annual report and the financial statement adopted.

It was felt that the Committee had proved its value effectively in the past experimental year, and that it should be continued on the same lines. The Constitution was discussed at some length, and amended so as to provide for such practices as experience had proved to be useful.

### WOMEN'S MEETING WITH WOMAN CANDIDATE.

An interesting event, arranged by the London Society for Women's Service, took place last week at the North Library Hall, Holloway, when Miss E. Picton-Turbervill, O.B.E., prospective Labour Candidate for North Islington, was present at a meeting of women of all parties, voters in the Constituency.

Local Representatives of about twenty well-known non-party Women's Organizations were present, keenly interested in the promotion of measures for removing the legal and economic disabilities under which women still labour, the better protection of girls (young persons), children, and the mentally deficient, penal reforms, etc., and Miss Picton-Turbervill was plying with innumerable questions on these and other subjects.

Her replies gave the greatest satisfaction, which found expression in a hearty vote of thanks at the end of the meeting and in promises from many members of the audience of individual assistance during the election campaign.

### NO MORE WAR INTERNATIONAL DEMONSTRATIONS.

The London Demonstration will be held in Hyde Park on Saturday, 29th July, at 4.30 p.m. Four large processions will march at 3 p.m. from the Embankment, Brompton Road, Notting Hill, and Regent's Park (or the St. Pancras arches). Trade Unions, with bands and banners; church congregations; children from the Sunday schools, Boys' and Girls' Life Brigades in uniform, and ex-Service men will be among the special contingents.

There will be twelve platforms, and some of the foremost men and women in public life have been invited to speak. Religious leaders, political leaders, labour leaders, leading women, well-known literary figures, and representative ex-Service men will stand side by side and declare unitedly for No More War. An ex-Service man will move the resolution at each platform.

It is proposed that a part of the Embankment procession should line up near Westminster and proceed, not up Wellington Street, but Whitehall. When passing the Cenotaph, without halting the procession, a salutation will be given by the living, who are determined to abolish war for ever, to the fallen, who died in the belief that it was war to end war. This salutation will be given to all the "massed multitudes of silent witnesses to the desolation of war"—of whatever nation; and the other nations, from their demonstration, will send their affirmation to join our "Never Again!"

The object of the demonstration is not to advocate any particular policy, though the speakers will be given full freedom to state their views on these matters. The object is simply to express unitedly the overwhelming determination of the peoples of all lands that there should be No More War. If this cry for peace be raised simultaneously and unmistakably by the peoples of every nation, the effect upon the Governments of the world must be considerable.

The resolution will be as follows: "This mass meeting sends fraternal greetings to the similar gatherings now being held throughout Europe and America, joins with them in declaring its hatred of war, and pledges itself to co-operate with them in working for conditions which will guarantee that there shall be No More War (a) by perfecting international organization for the removal of the causes of war, the settlement of disputes, and the promotion of international co-operation and (b) by developing an international sense of solidarity which will make war impossible."

This resolution will probably be moved not only at all the British demonstrations, but at the demonstrations throughout Europe and America as well.

### NURSING SECTION AT THE WOMAN'S EXHIBITION, OLYMPIA.

At the Woman's Exhibition at Olympia, which is being held from 12th-29th July, there is a Nursing Section, showing something of the Nurse's life during her training and after she is certificated. As one of the pioneer professions for educated women, Nursing should make a direct appeal to the younger generation who have any inclination to enter the public services. We undoubtedly hear to-day much of the hardships of a Nurse's life and not nearly enough of all that is being done to improve the conditions under which she works and her economic position when once she is qualified. To the women of to-day who feel a growing need to work and a corresponding need that their work should carry with it a direct contribution of personal service, there is no profession more satisfying than Nursing. The advance of Medical and Sanitary science requires now more than ever that the trained Nurse shall have a good basic education, supplemented by a sound professional knowledge of the principles underlying her duties, an intelligence fitted to collaborate with the Medical profession and Public Health Authorities. With the advent of State Registration for Nurses in 1919, Nursing has been raised

to the status of a profession and the women who are needed to-day to undertake the work of nursing the sick are those who are actuated by the finest professional spirit, which in all professions resolves itself into an impelling motive underlying their work, of service to their fellow men, which cannot be measured in any concrete terms of hours and remuneration.

We recommend all women who are contemplating some definite career to the Nursing Section at the Exhibition, where something of a Nurse's life may be seen in practical form, and where information can be obtained from representatives of the College of Nursing and the Association of Hospital Matrons.

### THE NATION'S FUND FOR NURSES.

The Executive Committee of the Nation's Fund for Nurses has published its report for the years 1920 and 1921. Throughout the period from 1st January, 1920, to 31st December, 1921, the work of the Organization has been almost entirely confined to the alleviation of distress amongst nurses. The Tribute Fund has reached a capital sum of £100,000, and the Committee have at last a settled income for disbursement from the interest on invested monies. The varied help given to nurses is with a view, wherever possible, to enable the recipients to resume their work. In many cases, however, this is beyond the power of the Committee, and it is then necessary for much time and energy to be expended in the consideration of the best possible procedure for the future good of applicants. The Home of Rest has been an invaluable asset to the work. Although the public opening did not take place till July, 1920, nurses were accepted for rest and convalescence from the end of April, and no less than 179 were accommodated from that date to 31st December, 1921.

### COMING EVENTS.

#### LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

JULY 21. "Daily Express" Exhibition. Olympia. 2 p.m. Speaker: F. Whelen, Esq., O.B.E., M.A.

JULY 22. Edinburgh. Open-air. 2.30 p.m. Speaker: Lt.-Col. D. Borden-Turner, O.B.E., M.A.

JULY 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29. Oxford. Balliol College. Speakers: J. C. Maxwell Garnett, Esq., C.B.E., D.Sc.; F. Whelen, Esq.; C. DeLisle Burns, Esq., M.A.; Major the Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby Gore, M.P.; Prof. Gilbert Murray, etc.

JULY 26. "Daily Express" Exhibition. Olympia. 7.30 p.m. Speaker: J. H. Clynes, Esq.

#### LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

JULY 12-29. "Daily Express" Woman's Exhibition. Olympia. Table on "What shall she be?" Stand. Subjects:—Vocations not covered by other exhibitors.

#### CONFERENCE ON MENTAL DEFICIENCY.

JULY 26 and 27. At Caxton Hall, Westminster, under the auspices of the Central Association for Mental Welfare. First day: Discussions on "Mental Deficiency in Relation to Crime" and Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Atkin will give a concluding address. Second day: "Educational Matters". Address by Rt. Hon. H. A. L. Fisher. Particulars from 24 Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.

#### WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

JULY 26. Executive Committee at Home in International House, 55 Gower Street, W.C. 1. 8.15 p.m. M. Je Prof. Theodore Rugessen, M. Lucien le Foyer, Canon Alexander Giesswein, and Dr. Helene Stöcker will be present.

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