THE

# WOMAN'S LEADER

IN POLITICS
IN THE HOME
IN INDUSTRY

IN LITERATURE AND ART
IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT
IN THE PROFESSIONS

AND

## THE COMMON CAUSE

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AND

### COMMON CAUSE.

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.

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### NOTES AND NEWS

### A Truce of God in Ireland.

The Society of Friends is publishing the following statement, with which all shades of thought and political opinion can hardly fail to agree — "We desire to support most earnestly the suggestion made in the House of Commons, and by religious leaders both in England and in Ireland for a Truce of God, during which all parties may come together. In such an atmosphere alone, with its cessation of crime and violence, can a just and lasting settlement be reached, and we unite in the prayers of all who are working to bring this about."

### Italian Women's Suffrage.

On the 19th November the Italian Chamber of Deputies, by 240 votes to 10, passed the new Bill which gives the municipal franchise to women. This law, which doubles the body of electors, was passed, almost without discussion, almost by surprise, in the form of an amendment to the wording of the Reform of the Municipalities Bill which is under discussion at present. Faced with this amendment, the deputies, who nearly all of them had votes for women on their programme, and who were publicly committed to it were put in the position of approving of it or opposing it publicly. The amendment was carried practically unanimously! This is a victory which Italian women have reason to be proud of, and on which we must congratulate them heartily, even before the final confirmation, which takes place by secret ballot at the end of the discussions, puts it into full effect. One could wish, as several newspapers have pointed out, and as it was remarked in the Chamber of Deputies itself, "such an important, constitutional, political, and moral reform " might have been examined more thoroughly and voted on more universally (numbers of delegates absented themselves at the critical moment), and especially that many, even among those who passed it, had not often, in the lobby, made sceptical and derogatory remarks about the admission of women to political life. But even this is of practically no importance so long as the vote by secret ballot does not annul the public voting of November 10th. The new municipal electoral law is contested on more than one point, chiefly by the opponents of proportional representation. It is to be hoped that on the day of the secret ballot the secret opponents of woman suffrage will not join with the opponents of proportional repesentation in order to kill both birds with one stone

### The Fitness of Women to Rule.

"I vote for the granting of the suffrage to women," declared a Deputy from Central Italy, M. Gaetano Salvemini "because I am certain that women will use the franchise to instil more vitality and efficiency into public administration with regard to social and moral problems, which touch women more directly and more intensely than men; infant welfare, the battle against intemperance, social hygiene, the fight against white slave

traffic, reforms of charitable institutions, &c. I vote in favour of the amendment also, and in fact especially, because I am convinced that women, especially those who concern themselves with their homes and their families, acquire, in the exercise of their many and complex duties as mistresses of their homes, and instructors of youth, a sense of reality, an adaptability, a psychological intuition and a power of self-sacrifice far above those of ordinary men. And these are precisely the qualities which contribute most to the formation of the politician and the citizen. Moreover, the experience of history shows that women called upon to govern, either as queens or as regents, have always been excellent Heads of the State." And after having added that it would be better to fix the "political majority" at 25 years of age instead of 21 in order that women might have "time to acquire the aptitudes which are the result of natural experience," the Italian Deputy begged the Chamber not to give the country the disconcerting exhibition of throwing out the reform at the secret ballot, after the practical unanimity of the public voting.

### The Political Franchise.

But this fear, which several of the papers have also shown, does not appear to be justified. It will be difficult to reverse the machinery, and Italian women take comfort from the fact that after the vote of November 19th with regard to the municipal elections, the Parliamentary Commission charged with the preparation of the reform of the political franchise approved, on the 25th November, of granting the franchise to women and have instructed the Deputy M. Modigliani to present the Chamber with a recommendation to that effect. The country itself is prepared for the official entry of women into political life, and many hope that they will bring with them a very necessary modification of electoral morals—how necessary will be realised by all who witnessed the recent elections.

### Municipal Councillors.

Aldeburgh has returned Miss Pettit in the recent local Town Council elections. She has been on the Town Council for three years, and this November was unopposed. A woman has been made a municipal councillor for the first time in India. Indore is the progressive town in question, and the case is all the more remarkable in that it is in an Indian State where the laws and regulations of the Municipalities of British India do not exist.

### Children's Courts

There is reason to hope that the clause which provided that Children's Courts in the Metropolis should consist of a Stipendiary and two Justices—a man and a woman—may be restored before the Juvenile Courts (Metropolis) Bill reaches its final stage. At the Conference of Women Magistrates, Miss Margery Fry proposed a resolution regretting the change made in Committee and stating the opinion of the Conference that the

original proposals were in the best interest of juvenile offenders. The London magistrates have passed a similar resolution. The alteration was, we understand, carried by only one vote and without a full understanding of the interests involved.

### Scottish Housing.

The Housing (Scotland Bill) which provides for the compulsory hiring of empty houses until 1923, presents a perhaps unpleasant remedy for an appalling state of things. Overcrowding in Scotland, in urban and rural areas alike, has existed for so long and in a degree so intense that it is extraordinary that a highly civilised community should tolerate it, especially in a climate which forbids the open-air life that makes houses almost a superfluity in some parts of Southern Europe. Mr. Munro said in the House of Commons that in Largs six hundred out of two thousand houses were rented by non-residents and stood empty for most of the year. We have our week-ender in the South, but the Scottish problem is much greater. While the housing shortage continues, and three families of well-to-do artisans will live (perhaps are obliged to live) in a three or four-roomed flat, there should be no question of better-off people in thousands keeping two houses for a single family.

### Labour Exchanges.

The Committee of Enquiry on Labour Exchanges has issued its report. Without finding justification for any sensational charges of incompetency or lack of adaptation of means to ends, the Committee is of opinion that the placing of one in three of the workpeople registered during the year (though the number of vacancies notified is half the number of applicants for work) is unsatisfactory. It is admitted that many of these arrangements are for very short periods, and there is a suggestion that if such round pegs as there are were fitted into round holes periods of unemployment would not be so rapidly recurrent. The Committee reports in favour of a greater use of Local Employment Committees. It may be that Exchanges, dealing as they do mainly with the less skilled workers in incompletely organised trades, have to meet with difficulties that outsiders do not fully appreciate, but it is obvious that a great many improvements might be effected, particularly in the matter of sympathetic interviewing, and that unless they adopt better methods they are likely to be overwhelmed in dealing with the new burden of unemployment insurance. The report implies, very justly, that new premises and better paid and trained staffs are a necessary preliminary to better work. Indeed, it is clear to all unofficial observers, that the Exchanges either ought to be twice as good and twice as popular, or they ought to be abolished. They cannot be popular until they are good, or good until they are popular, but the thing is only a vicious circle in the sense that it depends almost entirely upon  $\pounds$  s. d.

### Unemployed Juveniles.

Mr. Grundy asked the President of the Board of Education whether he was aware of the increasingly serious problem of juvenile unemployment in London, Liverpool, and other centres, and whether any special steps were being taken to deal with this phase of the unemployment question. He pointed out that after the Armistice educational centres of emergency schools were provided in centres where unemployment amongst juveniles had reached serious proportions, and the attendance of the children was secured by the fact that the out-of-work donation was paid there. He further suggested that it might be advisable to assist and encourage local authorities to form these emergency schools now, and to provide funds for them, and scholarships for maintenance grants for children, in order to encourage their attendance at these schools. Mr. Lewis replied that educational funds could not be burdened with the cost of payments to unemployed inveniles, merely so as to induce them to attend classes regularly; and he doubted whether, in the absence of special financial incentives to regular attendance, there was much prospect of these suggested educational centres proving a success. Mr. F. Roberts drew the attention of the House to the fact that the large number of children leaving school at the end of the Christmas term will further accentuate the problem. The juvenile employment exchanges have been instructed to give these children the last consideration in filling vacancies, and Mr. Roberts asked if any steps were being taken to encourage these children to remain at school. Mr. Lewis thought the local education authorities would encourage the children to continue their education, but added that the success of their endeavours must depend largely on the co-operation of the parents. The parents would probably be only too ready to keep their children at school if the difficulties of obtaining employment were thoroughly understood by them,

and if they realised the attitude of the juvenile employment exchanges. The unemployment of a child of that age for any length of time is likely to have serious results on the development of its character, and, therefore, on the whole of its future life.

### A Deputation on Divorce.

A deputation of the Divorce Law Union has waited on the Home Secretary to present a petition praying the Government to carry into effect the recommendations of the Majority Report of the Royal Commission on Marriage and Divorce. Among the women members of the deputation were Lady Willoughby de Broke, Dr. Sloan Chesser, Miss Anna Martin, and Lady Maud Rolleston. The Home Secretary held out hopes of a Bill in the near future and assured the petitioners that they had a friend in the Lord Chancellor. In the meantime there is a prospect of equalising the position as between rich and poor by a clause of the Administration of Justice Bill, recently introduced into the House of Lords by the Lord Chancellor. If this becomes law, some divorce cases, at any rate, may be tried by judges at Assizes, when the heavy cost of bringing witnesses and principals to a London Court may be avoided. Opinions about facilities for divorce differ very widely, but no thinking person desires that they should, as now, be governed by geographical or financial considerations.

### Criminal Law Amendment.

The Select Committee of the House of Lords, appointed to consider the three Criminal Law Amendment Bills, has reported in favour of taking the Government Bill as a fasis. They are impressed by the view put forward by several witnesses that the question of communication and prevention of venereal disease should be dealt with in a public health Bill rather than in the present measure; they do not, however, ask for the omission of the clause relating to this subject. Differences of opinion on the question of prohibiting advertisements of means for preventing venereal disease were not reconciled; the Committee calls the attention of Parliament to this subject.

### Women Police for Ireland.

During the last week or so the authorities in Ireland have decided to take steps against women suspects, and a large batch of women police has been sent over to Ireland. These women are members of the Women Police Service, a volunteer force unattached to Scotland Yard. A certain number were sent over earlier in the year to be used in searching women in connection with the military raids, and the job is not likely to be without its dangers and discomforts.

### Women at the Board of Education.

Sir H. Brittain asked the President of the Board of Education how many efficient single women dependent on their earnings, who are sitting for the forthcoming examination as writing assistants, have been given notice of dismissal, and how many of the men introduced into the Board under the Lytton Report, have had the previous clerical or professional experience necessary for Board of Education work. Mr. H. Lewis replied that five such women have received notice of discharge, and that the ex-Service men introduced into the Department under the Lytton Report, have not been there long enough for a definite opinion as to their suitability to be formed. No man, he added, is appointed, except on the recommendation of the Joint Substitution Board, which satisfies itself, in all cases, that the individuals submitted are qualified to perform the clerical duties required of them. This is an excellent example of Parliamentary evasion, and no reason is given for the discharge of the five 'efficient single women dependent on their earnings." While this sort of thing goes on, there is no reality in the Government's pledge of equality of opportunity for men and women.

### University College Hospital.

During the war University College Hospital opened its doors to women medical students; the male students have recently protested against the presence of the twenty-five women students, saying that it is difficult to work with women, that the best men from Oxford and Cambridge do not now come on to University, and that the hospital's football standard has gone down. The Board of Directors have agreed to reduce the number of women students to twelve this year, and next year to exclude them altogether. Women now studying at University cannot hope that other hospitals will give them the positions as house-surgeons and house-physicians, for which they had

expected to qualify at the hospital where they have been students. Equity demanded that adequate notice should have been given of the change of policy. These proceedings are hardly likely to attract the best men from Oxford and Cambridge; one must hope that the Directors will achieve the eminence in football for which they are willing to pay so considerable a price.

The London County Council meets in December to license cinema houses in its area. This sitting, unlike that held for the licensing of theatres, is in private, and though objections by private persons to the conduct of any picture house, or to the exhibition of any specific film are, we believe, carefully considered, secret sessions for such a purpose are unquestionably bad, and they seem to have been adopted without any real reason. When objectors are heard in public, the fact that objections are possible is brought home to the frequenters of places of amusement. When they are not, the professional objector, a far from helpful person, holds the field, or, in the alternative, there is no objection to anything which fails to reach the importance of a public scandal. The cinema business is, perhaps, not worse than other commercial enterprises, but it is a huge system, open to many abuses. The Clerk of the Twickenham Council has applied for no less than fifty-seven summonses against a film company for employing children under ten; one of these is said to have earned £20 a week, a sum which must represent a very long working week in surroundings unfavourable to health. The L.C.C. is a very active body, but if it does not encourage a more intelligent interest in public affairs on the part of its constituents it will misuse its opportunities.

### Restrictions on Immigration.

Those women who have seized the recent opportunity to emigrate to Canada have reaped the reward of promptitude, for an Order in Council has recently raised the sum which must be in the possession of intending immigrants from fifty to two hundred and fifty dollars. An immigrant accompanied by his family must show that he has fifty dollars for each child under eighteen, and a hundred and twenty-five for those over eighteen.

### Openings for Women Workers in New Zealand.

The report of the delegates appointed to inquire as to openings in New Zealand has now been published. The lack of domestic assistance is creating a problem of national importance, for on the farms the difficulties are enormous. At least 2,500 domestic workers could be absorbed annually, and there are many openings for factory workers, providing the housing problem can be solved by the erection of hostels. Nurses, workers in institutions, dressmakers, sewing women, and skilled workers in the clothing trades are in demand, but there are not many openings for purely agricultural women workers, though if they will combine agriculture with domestic work, they would find ready employment. . There is no demand for masseuses, or women motor drivers and mechanics, and very limited opportunities for clerks and stenographers. The delegates make certain recommendations for the benefit of intending women emigrants such as: -(1) Every woman, on applying for an assisted passage to New Zealand, should be interviewed by a Selection Committee of women, acting on behalf of the Overseas Settlement Committee and the High Commissioner for New Zealand; (2) Groups of women settlers should be sent to hostels established for their reception, and placed in situations found for them by the local official approved for the purpose: (3) For some time to come information concerning available housing accommodation should be obtained before any women are sent to New Zealand; (4) With the approval of the New Zealand authorities, the Overseas Settlement Committee should appoint a woman representative to New Zealand during the period of granting free passages to women of war services. Her duties would be to consult with the Dominion authorities with regard to the placing of settlers, to inaugurate a system of welfare in connection with hostels, &c.; (5) No woman, except a skilled milker, should go to New Zealand in order to work on the land as a wage-earner, but those with a minimum capital of £250-£300 could profitably take up land for dairying fruit-growing, or bee or poultry keeping, provided they work in the Dominion at least a year before purchasing land.

### The Decision at Cambridge.

The result of the Cambridge voting was received too late for us to elaborate in these columns, but will be found as "stop press" news on the cover of the paper.

### NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER.

### BY OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT.

On Monday, November 29th, and the following day, the Women's Employment Bill was continued and passed. The debate was not dissimilar from that of the previous Friday, but the Home Secretary conciliated opposition by making a substantial concession. He gave employers and employed jointly a right to veto the two-shift system, even after he himself had approved it, a somewhat undignified attitude for a Home Secretary to take up. This went through, not without protest; and after that the Bill had an easy passage.

On Wednesday, December 1st, and on the following Friday, Supply was taken, and a general attack developed upon economy. The Government were fired at all along the line. The crisis of the battle came on Friday, when Mr. McCurdy and Sir William Mitchell Thomson had to defend the Ministry of Food. They did not do it particularly well, and some effective speeches were made against them, notably one by Mr. Inskip, who is acquiring an assured position in debate. The division went badly for the Government and they only obtained a majority of twenty-eight. Nearly all the sixty who voted against them were Coalitionists.

Two important measures passed their Second Reading on Thursday, December 2nd. Sir Eric Geddes introduced the Roads Bill in a not ineffective speech, and the opposition to it was not convincing. It appeared to come chiefly from the owners of motor cars, and even from their own point of view they did not make much of a case. Anyhow, the Bill will get through, though possibly we shall see amendments in committee.

On the same day, Sir Gordon Hewart, who is always given the difficult jobs, had to steer the Official Secrets Bill through the House. This he did with even more than his usual skill. It is true he robbed it of its sting by declaring that its scope was not as wide as some people feared, but, in spite of this assurance, the Bill remains unpopular, and, in the opinion of most members, unnecessary. Sir Gordon Hewart is one of the most effective debaters; and it is a pity that he is only allowed to develop his dialectic upon indefensible Bills. The Indemnity Bill, and the one for keeping on foot some of the D.O.R.A. provisions, are cases in point. It is difficult to imagine anyone doing half so well as he did in these debates, but one rather wishes that he could have a cause to defend into which he could throw himself. Those who have heard him speak when the matter in hand moves him, know how convincing he can be; and it is to be hoped that the House will have a similar opportu-

The House of Lords spent most of the week on the Home Rule Bill. Some important amendments were carried; but, since it will not take its final shape until the Report Stage, comment will be reserved until then. As was expected from the heavy Government majority on the Second Reading, the opposition was not particularly powerful and the different sections largely neutralised each other. The Report and Third Reading will be taken on Monday, December 13th, and finished on the following Wednesday. In view of what follows, it is most probable that the Bill will be adjourned over Christmas, and will. not be finally passed until the New Year.

The reason for this is the negotiations which are going on with Sinn Fein. Many months ago it was made clear in these Notes that when the Bill was nearing completion these negotiations would have to take place. The general belief is that they have been going on for some time, possibly not directly, but through third parties. The visit of Mr. Arthur Henderson to Ireland brought rumour to a head, and it may be taken for certain that channels of communication have been opened. If further confirmation were needed, the speech of Mr. Lloyd George, at the Constitutional Club, on Friday, points the same way. A whole-hearted defence of reprisals means negotiation in the opposite direction.

No one can say what the issue will be, but the general feeling is one of hope. It is believed that the majority of Irishmen would do anything to escape from the present state of things; and the Government, knowing that they must negotiate some time, are not indisposed to negotiate now. The talk will be a three-handed one, for the House of Lords has to be considered, as well as Mr. Arthur Griffiths. It is probable, moreover, that the Home Rule Bill will be extended; for nobody outside the Government really believes in its finance. Provided that increased financial autonomy were given to the two Parliaments, and Customs and Excise promised when they were united into one, a settlement is not impossible. This, at any rate, is the general belief.

## THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF WOMEN JUSTICES.\*

### By SIR EDGAR SANDERS.

The duties appertaining to the office of a justice are exceedingly numerous, but may roughly be divided under two heads:
(1) administrative and (2) judicial. But in the first place I should mention that the extent of a justice's jurisdiction depends whether he, or she, is on the Commission for a county or a borough. A county justice is capable of acting in any part of the county, but in practice, for convenience sake, a county is divided into petty sessional divisions, and a justice is assigned to one or other of these divisions and does not act elsewhere in the county. A borough justice can only act in cases arising in the borough. Justices exercise their office either in Petty Sessions-Courts of Summary Jurisdiction as is the proper legal description—or in Special Sessions. In addition, county justices sit in Quarter Sessions for the trial of indictable cases remitted to them by the Petty Sessional Justices and for hearing

The administrative jurisdiction of justices has been seriously curtailed in modern times by the transfer of most of the former powers to local government bodies, such as the County and Borough Councils. Those which remain are not sufficiently important from a practical point of view to be dealt with here.

I should, however, remind women justices that it is their duty to see that the peace is kept in their jurisdiction. This duty is imposed upon them by the Commission on which their names are enrolled. The obligation does not press hardly upon them, except when riots occur, now that there are police forces to see that the peace is not broken and that offenders are apprehended, but it nevertheless remains as a peculiar charge upon justices, who may be punished for neglect of their duty

Most of the judicial duties placed upon justices are statutory and may be divided into three broad classes: (1) that of a judicial inquiry in the case of a person brought before the Court charged with a serious crime, to ascertain whether there is sufficient evidence against the accused to warrant them to commit him to take his trial before the judge and jury at Assizes or Quarter Sessions; (2) the trying of persons brought up for minor crimes and offences; and (3) the determination of quasi-civil suits which are brought before justices in such difficult matters as complaints under the Bastardy Acts, or applications for separation orders under the statute relating to

The division of the cases triable by Courts of Summary Jurisdiction, and punishable by fine or imprisonment, into "crimes" and "offences," is a purely arbitrary one, but it is necessary to say a few words upon it, in order that justices may appreciate the differences in the procedure to which I shall

Crimes are generally described as "indictable offences," and it is under that description that women justices will have to consider them when called upon to adjudicate in such cases in Court. They are so called because formerly they were only punishable on indictment, which is the legal term for the presentment by a Grand Jury of an accusation against an offender, who is thereupon tried by judge and jury.

Indictable offences consist of two kinds: (1) felonies and (2) misdemeanours. I do not propose to go into the somewhat fine distinction between the two; suffice it to say that felonies include all the most serious crimes, such as murder stealing, and so on, which in olden days were often punishable by death, while misdemeanours are, if I may so describe them, the more modern of the lesser crimes. An illustration will make the point clear. Thus, to steal a shilling from a person is a felony, but to obtain the same sum by false pretences is a misde-meanour. If there can be a moral distinction between stealing a shilling outright, and misusing the reasoning faculties in order to abstract a shilling from another by cheating, one would certainly regard the former as the less grave of the two offences. There is, however, an adequate margin of punishment given for either offence to enable the calculated crime to be punished more severely than the more open offence, if need be.

I propose to come back to the subject of jurisdiction in the cases of indictable offences, after I have dealt with the every-day matters of Court procedure which are applicable in practically every class of case which comes before justices.

Now, before a person appears in Court on any charge, certain steps have been taken to ensure his attendance. There are three ways of doing this: (a) by arrest without warrant; (b) by summons, and (c) by arrest under warrant The first, i.e., arrest without warrant, needs little elaboration, as it speaks for itself. There are certain crimes for which a private person may arrest, but it so rarely happens in these days of police forces that we may pass over the power with its mere mention. But arrest by a constable is, of course, of frequent occurrence, and may take place on any charge of felony, if the constable has reasonable grounds for suspicion that the person is impli-

Cated in the charge.
On a charge of misdemeanour a constable cannot arrest without a warrant, unless express power is given by statute. Such power is given by many statutes, but speaking generally, it is limited to the arrest of persons found committing the offence. For many minor offences and for assaults, constables may arrest the person actually found committing them, e.g., a constable may arrest a person whom he finds drunk and disorderly in the street, but he could not, without a warrant, arrest someone to-day for having been drunk and disorderly yesterday. Questions as to whether an arrest has been properly made should not be entertained by the Court. If the arrest was not justified an action for damages will lie, and all the Court has to do is to try the accused on the charge laid against him.

The second means of bringing an offender before the Court is by summons. This is founded on an information or on a complaint, according to the nature of the grievance.

An information is applicable when a criminal or penal offence has been committed, whereas a complaint relates to matters of a civil nature, such as the payment of money, or for an order under the Bastardy Acts, or the Married Women Act.

In either case the allegation must usually be in writing, and must state the date and description of the offence or the matter complained of. It must, as a rule, be laid within six months of the happening of the act and relate to one charge only. The justice may then, if he thinks fit, act upon the information or complaint which has been laid, and issue his summons. He need not be in Court when issuing a summons or a warrant, as it is a ministerial and not a judicial act.

The summons is an order to the person to whom it is addressed to appear at the Court to answer to the charge set out therein, and is served upon him, or left at his last place of abode with some person, a sufficient time before the hearing. The service is usually effected by a constable, as the officer of the Court, but except in indictable cases there is no necessity for this, and service is equally good if effected by a private

Warrants for arrest are of two kinds. Those issued in the first instance for serious offences, and those issued on non-appearance after a summons. In the former case an information is laid as before stated, but the facts must be deposed to on oath when a warrant is required.

When a defendant does not appear in answer to a summons for an offence, there are two courses open to the justices. They may either deal with the case in his absence on proof of proper service of the summons, or the Court may issue a warrant for his attendance, on proof being given on oath of the facts stated in the information. The latter course must be adopted when the defendant has the right to elect to be tried by a jury.

The warrant is a document addressed to the constables of the jurisdiction, directing them to apprehend the offender and bring him before the justice issuing the warrant, or some other

justice, to answer the charge.

The hearing of cases triable summarily usually takes place before two or more justices, and it must be in open Court. A few cases can be dealt with by one justice only, when the usual limit of punishment is restricted. The accused should be told the particulars of the charge, and should be asked whether he pleads guilty or not guilty. In the former case it is open to the ustices to hear evidence if they desire to do so, but, in any event, they should allow the defendant to make a statement before passing sentence. If a plea of not guilty is tendered, the evidence must be given on oath, or affirmation, and the defendant allowed to ask questions, giving evidence on his own behalf, and to call witnesses. There is no legal necessity to write down the evidence when a case is being tried summarily, though

<sup>\*</sup> An Address at the Women Justices' Conference at the Mansion House.

a note is usually taken of the chief facts. In some busy Courts it is the practice to have a shorthand note taken which can be transcribed if necessary. When more than two justices hear a case the decision is that of the majority. If the Bench are equally divided, the Chairman has no casting vote, and the defendant is entitled to be discharged, unless the Bench decide to adjourn the case to be reheard by another Court.

It is important to remember that the same justices must hear a case throughout, and if a justice takes his seat on the Bench after a case has commenced, he must not take part in the adjudication.

The case for the complainant is first opened and the witnesses called. Then the defendant's case is opened and his evidence called. There is no right of reply, except on a point of law raised by the defence; but if the defendant tenders evidence of new facts, rebutting evidence can be called by the complainant.

If the defendant is not represented by an advocate, he should be informed of his right to ask the witnesses questions. and in practice it will be found that it is a very difficult matter to get uneducated people to understand the difference between a question and a statement. In such a case it is useful to gather the nature of the question which the defendant evidently desires to put from the statement he may make, and for the Court to ask the question on his behalf.

Justices are entitled to ask questions on any point they wish to have elucidated, and to call, or recall, any witnesses they may think necessary, but when a case is being conducted by advocates, it is convenient for justices to reserve any questions they may think desirable to the end of the examination, or cross-examination.

I do not propose to go into the rules of evidence, as that is a large subject and would take too much space. But one or two points of everyday occurrence may be mentioned:-

(a) Leading questions are only allowed on cross-examination; hearsay evidence, i.e., what a witness had heard someone else say, is not admissible, unless it was said in the presence of the accused.

(b) Evidence must relate to facts, and not to opinions, except in the case of an expert, who may express his opinion

(c) In criminal cases, the defendant cannot be compelled to give evidence, nor, except in cases of violence, and in special cases provided for by statute, can a husband be a witness against his wife, or a wife be a witness against her husband. Where a defendant does not choose to give evidence on his own behalf, after being informed of his right to do so, the Court is entitled to draw its own conclusions from such omission.

When the whole of the evidence has been heard, the Court must decide either to convict or dismiss the defendant. Having decided to convict, it is usual to ask questions of the police, or to seek information from other sources, as to the defendant and his general character, and his means of livelihood; and the information so obtained may be acted upon in fixing the penalty, or in deciding to deal with the case under the Probation of Offenders Act, 1907. To bring a case within this Act, it is necessary for the justices to be of opinion that, having regard to the character, antecedents, age, health, or mental condition of the person charged, or to the trivial nature of the offence, or to the extenuating circumstances under which the offence was committed, it is inexpedient to inflict any punishment, and they may then dismiss the charge or order the offender to enter into a recognisance, with or without sureties, to be of good behaviour, and to appear for conviction and sentence when called upon. A probation order under that Act may also be made in such cases.

If a fine is inflicted, there is an obligation upon the justices to take into consideration the means of the offender, and not less than seven clear days must be given in which to pay the sum, unless a special reason can be shown for immediate committal.

Until a justice is thoroughly acquainted with the usual punishments inflicted for the more common offences, he should be guided by those with larger experience, and by the advice of the Clerk, as it is desirable to secure a certain amount of uniformity in similar cases.

It is customary in every statute creating an offence, to set out the punishment, and these vary extensively. The statutory maximum must never be exceeded in any case. Some of the variations seem to be absurd, e.g., for drunkenness on licensed premises (a serious offence) the maximum penalty is 10s., whereas for allowing a dog to be in the street without a collar with the owner's name and address upon it, the maximum penalty is £,20.

Any fine imposed includes the Court and police fees payable in the case, and these fees should not be taken into consideration in fixing the amount. This will not preclude the Court adding such sums as it thinks reasonable to reimburse the prosecutor his expenses for witnesses or advocate or other like expenses reasonably incurred in bringing the case before the

If the fine and costs are not paid in the time allowed, a commitment warrant is issued. This is signed by one justice, who need not be one of the justices who heard the case, as the act is merely a ministerial one and need not take place in Court. The imprisonment for non-payment of a fine, which must not be made subject to hard labour, is apportioned on a scale prescribed by statute, and if part payment of the fine is tendered when the person is in prison, a proportionate part of the imprisonment is remitted.

For certain offences there is an absolute right of appeal from a conviction by a Court of Summary Jurisdiction to the Court of Quarter Sessions, but for other offences such right is dependent on the defendant having pleaded not guilty. Such an appeal is a rehearing, and the justices are not parties to it.

So far, I have described the procedure applicable to the trial of a person charged with a non-indictable offence before a Court of Summary Jurisdiction.

We have now to consider the powers and duties of justices when called upon to deal with a person charged with an indictable offence. In all such cases it is essential that the accused person shall be present at all stages of the inquiry or trial.

It will be remembered that an indictable offence is a serious crime—a felony or a misdemeanour—and the appearance of the prisoner before the justices may be the preliminary to him being tried at Assizes or Quarter Sessions. In such a case it is only necessary for one justice to take the evidence against the prisoner, to whom the charge must be read. The evidence and the answers to any relevant questions put to the witness by or on behalf of the prisoner, who must be given the opportunity of asking them, must be reduced to writing by the Clerk of the Court, read over to the witness in the hearing of the prisoner. and signed by the witness in the presence of the justice, who himself signs the document. This is then known as the deposition of the witness.

When all the evidence against the prisoner has been so taken, it is the duty of the justice to decide whether a prima facie case has been made out against him. If this has not been done the prisoner should be discharged. But if there is a prima facie case, the justice then says to him, "Having heard the evidence, do you wish to say anything in answer to the charge? You are not obliged to say anything, but whatever you say will be taken down in writing and may be given in evidence against you on your trial." In some Courts an exhortation is added that the prisoner has nothing to hope from any promise of favour and nothing to fear from any threat held out to induce an admission of guilt, but this addition is not necessary and is calculated to confuse rather than help the prisoner.

Any remarks then made by the prisoner may either be in the nature of evidence on oath or a simple unsworn statement. If the prisoner desires to say anything about the charge he should be informed of his right to be sworn and to give his evidence from the witness-box in the same way as the other witnesses. But whatever he says must be written down and signed by him as well as by the justice.

The prisoner must then be told that he has the right to call witnesses, and if any are forthcoming their evidence is written for the prosecution.

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If, after all the evidence is taken, the justice thinks there should be a trial by jury, the witnesses must all be bound over to appear and give evidence at the trial, and the prisoner is committed to take his trial at the next Assizes or Quarter Sessions as the case may be. The liberation on bail of the prisoner is optional in all felonies and a few misdemeanours, but if refused in any misdemeanour the justice is bound to inform the prisoner of his right to apply to a Judge of the High Court. In exercising the option the justice should only consider the likelihood of the prisoner appearing to take his trial, and should not refuse bail merely because the case against him appears to be a clear one.

The depositions of the witnesses and the prisoner's statement are forwarded through the Clerk of Assize or Clerk of the Peace to the Judge of Assize or the Chairman of Quarter Sessions as the case may be, so that he may charge the Grand Jury upon the case before they consider whether the charge should be investigated by the common jury in court.

If, after hearing all the evidence tendered, the justice is of opinion that it is not sufficient to put the accused on his trial for any indictable offence, he should order him to be discharged.

But by several statutes justices have been given power to try certain classes of indictable cases in a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, if the offender, being an adult, elects to be tried in this way instead of by a jury. Such cases consist of larceny, false pretences, and like offences. If the value of the property concerned is not over £,20, it is immaterial whether the accused pleads guilty or not guilty, the trial may proceed and the accused, on being convicted, is sentenced by the Court. But if the value exceeds £20, the case can only be dealt with by justices on a plea of guilty being tendered.

Before the prisoner is asked to elect whether he will be dealt with summarily or by a jury, the charge against him must be reduced to writing and read to him, and in the case of false pretences the meaning of the charge must be explained. In some Courts a very long statement as to the meaning of being dealt with summarily is read to the accused before he is asked to plead. It is unintelligible to most prisoners and calculated to confuse all except hardened criminals who have often heard it before. To tell a prisoner that he can either be tried immediately by the justices or sent to the Assizes or Quarter Sessions to be tried by a jury is the best way of conveying to him his right of election, and I do not recommend the use of the long form provided by the statute.

The sentence which may be passed by justices in indictable offences tried by them depends upon the value of the goods. If the value does not exceed 40s. the maximum is three months' imprisonment with or without hard labour, or a fine not exceeding £,20. But if the value is above 40s., and does not exceed £,20, six months' imprisonment may be given, or a fine up to £50 may be imposed. If the value exceeds £20, no fine can be inflicted, but any sentence up to the maximum of six months' imprisonment may be imposed. This does not preclude recourse being had to the Probation of Offenders Act in suitable cases.

Two or more terms of consecutive imprisonment may be inflicted for separate offences, the maximum being six months, unless two indictable offences are included, when twelve months is allowed.

Here it may be mentioned that even in certain non-indictable cases, where justices have power to impose more than three months' imprisonment, the defendant may elect to be tried by a jury and must be informed of his right of election at the outset of the hearing. In such cases, therefore, it is essential that the defendant should attend the hearing.

No article on the procedure and powers of justices would be complete without a reference to the trial of children and voung persons.

During the last few years an effort has been made by the Legislature to transform the administration of justice so far as the trial of juveniles is concerned, from unsympathetic methods into a broad and enlightened scheme whereby these offenders may, if possible, be rescued from a life of crime. The Children Act, 1908, aptly called the "Children's Charter,"

down, read aloud, and signed in the same way as the depositions amended and consolidated the law on the subject and marked a great advance in this direction.

The expression " child " means a person of the age of seven and under the age of fourteen years; while a "young person" is one of fourteen years of age or upwards and under the age of sixteen years. Either may be tried by a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for any offence except homicide.

The Court must be held in a different room or Court, or on different days or at different times from the ordinary Courts. Only those concerned in the case are admitted to the Court, except members of the Press.

In most circumstances, the Court resolves itself into a more or less domestic inouiry. When charging the offender the simplest of language should be used, and every effort made to see that the child thoroughly understands the nature of the offence which is being investigated.

The parent or guardian must be present unless a valid reason to the contrary exists. If the Court comes to the conclusion that the parent or guardian conduced to the commission of the offence, the Court may, and must if the offender is a child, order any penalty imposed to be paid by the parent or guardian. No child can be sent to prison in any case, and a young person only when the Court certifies that he is of so unruly or depraved a character that he cannot be detained in a place of detention.

Places of detention are usually established by the police authorities, and are in substitution for gaols. They are under the supervision of the Secretary of State. Children and young persons can be ordered to be detained for any offence for a period not exceeding one month. Every care must be taken to prevent juvenile offenders from associating with adult criminals.

A child found begging, destitute, or not under proper control may be sent to an Industrial School, as also he may be for offences punishable, if he were an adult, by absolute imprisonment. Offenders under sixteen years of age convicted of any offence which, if they were adults, would be punishable by absolute imprisonment, may be sent to a Reformatory for five years or until nineteen years of age. The broad line of demarcation between Reformatory and Industrial Schools is that the former are intended for young persons who have committed crime and the latter for those who are free from its taint. Any male child who is guilty of an indictable offence may be ordered six strokes of the birch rod.

But naturally the Probation of Offenders Act, to which I have already referred, plays an important part in the proceedings of all Children's Courts. In every case tried in such Courts which can be brought within the scope of that Act (and there are few that cannot be), it is open to justices to take one of three courses—(a) To dismiss the offender; (b) to order him to enter into a recognisance to be of good behaviour, and to appear for conviction and sentence when called upon; or (c) to place him under the supervision of a probation officer.

In practice it will be found that juveniles usually come before the Court in gangs, and there is a temptation to sentence them in gangs. This should be carefully guarded against. Individual treatment is essential of they are to be reformed. To apportion properly the punishment to each one it may be necessary to have exhaustive enquiries made as to the home life, the school record, the physical and mental condition, and other aspects of the offender's previous life. Recourse must therefore be had to the Education Authorities and many social agencies, and remands and adjournments are therefore frequently necessary. If there is a remand home for children in the area, it will often prove advantageous to send the child there while the inquiries are being made. Much useful information can often be supplied to the Court by the person in charge of such a home, as the result of his observation of the offender during the remand

The problem of juvenile delinquency and its proper treatment is a most difficult one, but it will certainly receive far more attention now that women are being made justices. If, as a result, one of the sources of the supply of criminals is lessened, a great benefit will have been conferred upon the country by this strengthening of the magisterial bench.

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## THE CHANGING WORLD OF EDUCATION.

In no department of life are movements of change at present more marked than in education; and in scarcely any other can such movements be of so much interest to women. On the whole, the tendency of the experiments now being made in every part of the world is towards replacing command and inhibition by freedom, spontaneity, and self-government. To some observers these experiments seem to offer the greatest possible promise for the world's future; to others they appear deplorable examples of "soft pedagogy." Here, as always, the only sure plan is to read, examine, ponder, and judge for oneself.

## A CASE FOR CARE AND A LITTLE COURAGE.

### BY E. A. FIELDER.

absorbing enriceity—it may be through the suggestion of another boy or girl, or it may have been through some story read—a great wondering how a human life begins, as a child would say, "where the little babies come from?"

The question comes to all minds, but comparatively few boys or girls get a true answer from a grown person. Is there anything to be ashamed of in this part of God's work? Why do we hesitate to tell our children? We all know the rubbish with which twenty-nine children out of thirty are put off.

Then, later in his schooldays, the boy or the girl mixes, perhaps, with some child who knows a little of the truth. Then comes, the doubt. Was mother's tale true? He doubts his mother. His curiosity is reawakened. He will do anything to discover the truth. He is not necessarily a bad child, but he is just full of the desire to know. He asks other children.

There is, too, the case of the child who does never definitely ask a grown person at all. Should he be told or should things be left to chance?

I have taught in private schools for nearly ten years, and, although I have heard other teachers say that much help is needed by the boy and girl in the teens, yet I have never, until now, realised the necessity for careful, definite instruction for children below ten years of age, and it is with such children that I have to deal. I have always considered it wise to tell a child when he has actually asked the questions. A little girl of seven asked me once, outright, in a Scripture lesson. At the moment I simply told her that God sent the little children, but later, alone, I told her how God made them.

Such is the hold of a habit of thought that my poor silly legs were shaking horribly when I finished my story. Great was my joy, however, to discover that there was no foundation whatever for my fears, for the child looked frankly into my face and smiled, and she said, "Oh, I see."

I wrote to tell her mother what had passed, and she—oh, thank Heaven!—she was glad, and even very grateful.

To get back again to the case of the child who does not ask. I have under my care thirty children under ten years of age, the junior part of a school for older girls. Ten girls are boarders and there are about fifty day-pupils. There is an excellent tone in the school. One day the headmistress was told, by a kindly elder girl, that some unhealthy talk had passed between some of my little children. Naturally, we were sad to hear it, and at once set about to investigate.

I had each of the children alone, and, poor little mites, they just seemed to be unburdening their minds. They had not only wondered, they had worried. One of them had heard strange things through a big girl at another school, and in one way and another three of them had acquired knowledge in an unlovely way. None of those three children are really downright naughty. Why could they not have been taught reasonably?

So we had it all out; and to each child in turn I told the simple truth. I believe they are happy about it now. They will not talk to other children, for I have told them very seriously that this is a part of life which is so sacred that it should not be talked about, unless it be mother to child or a child to a dearly-loved grown person.

I was much impressed, however, by what one child said to me. "This girl," she said, "told me that our mothers only tell us nonsense because they don't like to tell us the truth." Well, a little courage is wholly worth while.

It is up to us as educators to see that parents are made to realise the necessity for telling their own children the correct nature story before they have a chance of hearing marred versions from ignorant or thoughtless outsiders.

### THE GIFT OF EDUCATION.

### C. F. N. MacKAY.

We hear much to-day about the plight of the working-girl, who, for lack of proper accommodation is forced to live in badly ventilated, crowded rooms. Why? Principally because she has been educated, or instructed, to despise the status of domestic service. Gone is she who, well fed and well housed, cooked and cleaned for her richer sister.

We remember, as we return after the day's work to the cheerless muddle of a house without a caretaker, that a neighbouring ploughman's wife has a daughter about the age to be earning her own living, and we hasten to pay her a call.

The conversation drifts round to her daughter. "Maggie" is not in service, oh! dear no! Maggie, as her mother expresses it, has been "eddicated," and teaches in a neighbouring school, where formerly, as a pupil, she assimilated a certain amount of text book knowledge. She has seen nothing of the world, her reading, beyond her lesson books, has been restricted to a weekly newspaper and the fiction of Garvice and Dell. She was literally incapable of educating anybody, as she completely lacked the character and wisdom necessary for such an undertaking.

Such examples could be multiplied ad infinitum. Many girls who are far more suited to other types of work, and who would have made competent domestic workers, have received that gift of doubtful value, ar inadequate training, whereby they have been turned adrift as incompetent clerks, assistant typists, "young lady" shop assistants, or unsuitable teachers, who, if they should marry a man of their own class, would be quite unfitted to follow successfully in their parents' footsteps, knowing nothing of the arts which go to make a clever house-keeper or a wise mother, but having only a craving for amusement, for tawdry clothes, and for picture palaces.

We do not deprecate progress or education in the true sense of the word, but it is this placing of square pegs in round holes which causes chaos, and which can in most cases be traced to the wrong influence at school.

Long ago the Scottish student began his studies at the University, carrying with him from his home a sack of meal; much determination and real merit were required in those days. Education was striven for and greatly valued, and the parents of the clever child would plan and save to procure it for their offspring. To-day the gift of education is taken as a matter of course, and too often in a spirit of absolute callousness by the parents concerned.

So far it has done little to improve the intellectual life of the country. It appears to be more of a trick to catch a job than the foundation for thought. It may be argued that our educational schemes are still in the melting pot, but we hesitate to believe that as at present arranged they will produce good results, rather we forsee many economic difficulties. The poor professional man earning perhaps less than £5 per week is compelled to pay not only for his own children's education, but to contribute to the cost of the education of the workingman's children, who sometimes earns from £10 to £12 per week.

Free education seems to breed discontent and class warfare, and when the working man is earning such high wages it is not economically sound. We want a better system, the cost of which should be contributed to by the parents and guardians according to their ability, and special investigations made before any child of poor parents is educated free.

It is a fact which the Germans were quick to realise, that a nation can be changed in one generation by education.

The type which the next generation will tend to resemble will not be one worthy of our traditions, unless the State raises the standard and general capacity of its school teachers, and where possible, insists upon the parents contributing materially to the education of their children.

## THE ITALIAN INDUSTRIAL SITUATION.

### By DOCTOR MARGHERITA ANCONA.

The strike of the iron and steel workers, which took place last year, was a failure from the Trade Union point of view. The men demanded a rise in wages which would have amounted to sixty million pounds. The manufacturers answered that the iron and steel trade, which had made great strides during the war, was now in the midst of as great, or even worse, difficulties, than those it had to face before the war (Italy does not produce either coal or iron), and that the annual rise in wages demanded by the men equalled half the whole capital invested in the industry (a hundred and twenty millions); a rise in wages was impossible without killing the industry. There were prolonged conferences between the employers and the representatives of the Trade Union. At one time the men thought there was a danger of a lock-out; they therefore took possession of the workshops, of the chemical factories attached to the iron works, and even of some other factories which they had no excuse for seizing e.g., boot and shoe factories. The occupation was fairly peaceful, especially when it first began. Government declared that the question was one for the employers and men to settle between them, and that it must itself remain neutral. This neutrality made it possible for the workmen to enroll Red Guards in the works and to munition them, to sell the finished goods, to open the strong rooms, to imprison recalcitrant clerks, and even casual passers-by, students, &c. The employers and those that are opposed to the Trade Unions say that the so-called neutrality of the Government was "an exhibition of weakness," "a betrayal," alliance with the Trade Unions," "a conspiracy with them" the particular word used varies with the speaker's particular shade of Conservatism. It is, at any rate, true that the workmen were allowed to violate private property, personal liberty, and, in fact, all the laws which have, up till now, governed society. M. Giolitti, whose political career has not been stainless, is even accused of having used this means to avenge himself on the middle classes for their scorn of him during the war. It is more interesting, however, to observe the consequences of Government inaction, which gave the victory to the men, by taking away all possibility of resistance from the employers.

During the conferences between the masters and the Trade Union delegates on the wages question, the Trade Union representatives always refused to discuss the present position of the industry, saying that they had no means of judging what it really was. It was in this way that, out of the question of wages, the much more important one of the control of industry arose. men said: "You object to raising wages on grounds which, at present, you alone have the power of judging. We want to have the opportunity of seeing whether what you say is true, and in order to do so we wish to control the whole industry, including all its technical and administrative aspects." The question now at issue is not that of co-operation between masters and men, a question that was much discussed a few months ago, when the employers were considering the possibility of giving the men a share in profits. This would, in itself, have implied a certain control on the part of the workers, who would have become shareholders. But what is now wanted, and what the men have, in fact, obtained, since M. Giolitti abandoned neutrality himself and imposed it on the employers, is a control of the industry as against the employers. The Socialists certainly mean to use what they have obtained as a weapon.

There will be two kinds of control. On the one hand a control exercised by the Trade Unions over every branch of the industry and over the whole, the means to be decided by a Commission appointed by the Government and composed of employers and Trade Union delegates; on the other hand, a control exercised by Shop-Committees elected by the men, and dealing with discipline, fines, engagement, and dismissal, &c. Is it possible for industry, and especially Italian industry, which is new and not very flourishing, to live in these conditions? Italian manufacturers say not. The experimentum in corpore vili is bound to be very interesting to foreigners, but it is rather unfortunate for Italy to be in the position of the corpus vile.

It must not be supposed, however, that M. Giolitti's Bill, in giving victory to the Socialists, settles the question even for the time being. Between the masters and the men are all the

clerical and technical workers. Whate is to be their place in the new organisation? Will the engineering experts and the clerical staff be engaged by the masters or the workmen? And what will the discipline be like in the workshops if those who direct the work are under the control of those who are directed by them?

A political question also arises, The engineers are organised in a Socialist Association (Trade Union). The Government has placed Trade Unionists only on the Commission which is to regulate the control of industry. But in some other trades, notably among the weavers, the Catholic Popular Party is strongly organised, and it certainly will not recognise the victory of the Socialist Trade Unions which alone have been recognised by M. Giolitti's Government.

Therefore, apart from the demand made by different classes of clerical workers and experts for a share in the administrative and technical control, many people are dissatisfied. Among these are Syndicalists, Anarchists, Maximalist Communists, and the very powerful Co-operative Association. All the left-wing Socialists and the Anarchists believed that the struggle between the masters and the men in the iron trade would lead to the Revolution, and they now accuse the Trade Unions, the General Confederation of Labour; &c., of a betrayal. The Co-operative Association, which is Socialist and very powerful and rich, had proposed to run all the workshops on a co-operative basis, and it is still working for this end.

We have, therefore, reached a time of truce and suspense, and it is very difficult to see what will be the effect of the new laws, which change all the traditional usage, based on the rights of private property. No one can believe that the Labour Movement will stop short at M. Giolitti's amendment, and at the control of the workshops, even if that means the control of all In the country districts, Socialists branches of the industry. and members of the Catholic Popular Party are telling the peasants that they have the right to take possession of the land, and the Government has given a partial recognition to this right, at least as far as uncultivated or undercultivated lands are concerned. But it would be a mistake to suppose that, with or without a revolution, the Communist experiment will be tried in Italy. Conditions are not so favourable for this in Italy as in Russia. We have not got raw materials or enough corn. We have a very numerous and accessible middle-class and very few great fortunes. Italians are, and always have been, extremely individualistic, so that even the development of industrial co-operation is difficult in this country. The Labour Movement is essentially political, and is bound up with the Socialist Party; but the Socialist Party is on the verge of a split. It is almost certain that in the coming Socialist Congress at Florence this split will actually take place. On the one side will be the Communist Socialism which accepts Moscow's twenty-one points, on the other will be the Socialism which, more or less whole-heartedly, accepts the Second International. It remains to be seen which side the workers will support. When the engineers, who have the strongest Trade Union, were called on to vote for or against M. Giolitti's Concordat (that is for the resumption of work), or for the continued occupation of the workshops and extension of the dispute to other industries, as desired by Comunists and Anarchists, the result was an enormous majority in favour of resuming work. A great many of the men did not vote: it therefore appears that a very small number of workers were in favour of the Revolution, a very large number in favour of industrial action only, while the views of great numbers (including all those who took no part in occupying the workshops) are unknown.

From a Suffragist point of view we all feared that the Parliament would be too engrossed with economic problems to think at all about the rights of women. On the contrary, the Lower House has granted them the municipal vote, and a Socialist Bill for granting all political rights to women is under discussion. But from a general point of view, I cannot say that women, or a majority of women, have lost or gained, whatever they have lost or gained, by reason of the new laws, or of the Labour Movement. Of course, if industry is ruined and national wealth dispersed, women will suffer even more than men.—Quod deus guertat omen.

### THE INSTITUTE.

CHAPTER II.

### EAST AND WEST.

The Institute stands in its own extensive grounds, which stretch for a mile or more in every direction over the adjacent countryside. Besides the main building, there is an administrative block, a nurses' home, several detached villas, where longresident patients are accommodated upon special terms, a farm, a laundry, a bakery, and even a dressmaking department, where the nurses' uniforms, &c., are made and repaired. These industrial buildings depend for their labour supply mainly upon "the ladies and gentlemen from the third division." We are all ladies and gentlemen at the Institute; but, as in the outside world, there is a first, second, and third division; and the barriers which separate us are spelt with the letters L., S., and D. As I am, for the period of my three weeks' residence, in the first division, I may be presumed to have made my observations from the most favourable angle. I can claim no personal acquaintance with the conditions prevailing amongst the ladies and gentlemen who work on the farm or in the laundry.

The two wings of the main building are assigned, respectively, to the gentlemen and the ladies; and each wing is subdivided into two sections, the east and the west. The ground floor being occupied, in each case, by two hospital wards, Low West and Low East. The floors above, Mid-West and Mid-East, have single-bedded rooms, sitting-rooms, dining hall, &c.; whilst those on the next floor, High West and High East, consist simply of bedrooms and sitting-rooms for convalescent and voluntary patients awaiting discharge.

The Low West ward ("gallery" is here the correct technical term) is used for the reception of all but the most violent admission cases. Here we spend an indefinite period, varying from a few days to a few months; here our behaviour, our weight, our capacity for sleep under rather difficult conditions. and our power of self-control under conditions still more difficult and provocative, are duly observed and tested. Good people' when they leave the admission gallery, go to the Mid-West: naughty people, heaven help them, go to the Low East.

'Now, Mrs. D.," declares the exasperated night nurse, half a dozen times between midnight and morning, " if you get out of that bed again, I'll send you straight through to the

Why does this mysterious threat keep even poor, troublesome Mrs. D. quiet for a quarter of an hour? The Low East is a ward as spacious, as highly-polished, as airy and well-lighted as pleasant to the eyes of the visiting Commissioners of Lunacy, should they chance to put in an unexpected appearance, as the Low West. Like the Low West, it has its own verandah, where the beds are placed out in the open air from nine a.m. to four p.m. But walk past the Low East verandah and observe the occupants of these beds . . . or lie upon the Low West verandah and watch the ladies from the Mid-East prowling restlessly round and round the asphalted paths of the exercise ground, which, together with its central grass plots, is reserved

For my own part I can never again look quite unmoved upon a child's collection of old dolls; dolls which have seen much hard service and now lie, neglected and broken, upon the top shelf of the toy cupboard. For here, fantastically and dreadfully, the old and the broken dolls have come to life. The scanty, tufted locks of hair; the glassy, staring eyes; the pallid or brightly shining cheeks; the queer noses-why do they all, poor

and shabby garments that were fashionable, one must suppose, when they first came into the Institute with their owners, how many years ago? Carefully preserved, and worn daily for the daily prowl about the exercise ground are the golf capes, the mantles with high ruffled collars, the little bonnets, the full and sweeping skirts of the 'nineties. Outside the busy years go by, and fashions change, and skirts reform themselves, and no one wears a bonnet, and golf capes remain but dim memories of one's flapperhood; but the ladies of the East walk and walk for ever, round and round the exercise ground, and time stands

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It is generally rumoured in the Institute, and there appear good grounds for this rumour, that the East is Certificated.

Do not imagine, however, that there is any snobbishness in our attitude towards these less fortunate sisters of ours. At the back of our mind lies always the haunting recollection that there, but for the grace of God, go we. Let any one of us display a degree of emotion or excitement which would hardly merit notice in the ordinary world of civilisation outside the big gates, and the power of the authorities may be terribly manifested. If we do not fully realise this upon admission, the fact is soon brought home to us. However weak and confused our wits may be, we speedily discover that here, of all places in the world, it is necessary to live by our wits, if existence is to be at all endurable. Our souls may be full of terror and despair; but we must preserve an outward appearance of apathy and stoicism, lest a worse thing befall us. Alarm or misery, openly expressed, is scolded into silence. We are stripped of every shred of worldly wealth and authority; we are cut off from all direct communication with the outside world; we are utterly at the mercy of a small handful of overworked, and often ill-

There are no ward-maids at the Institute, and the nurses, whatever other qualifications they may possess, must, above all things, be skilled in polishing floors, brushing furniture, cleaning windows, blackleading stoves, preserving a general appearance of painful order and spotlessness to please the terrible eye of the female superintendent. The patients, upon whose behalf most of this heavy household labour is ostensibly carried out, remain as a rather regrettable incident in the background. It is, one feels, a pity that we should be here at all; we frequently fail to harmonise with the rest of the picture, and the beds would really be much tidier if they were empty; but since we are here, our first and foremost duty is to lie still and give as little trouble as possible, and not interfere with the essential part of the day's routine.

In every general hospital, the appearance of the wards may be a source of quite legitimate pride to the sisters and nurses; in every general hospital, too, there are bound to be some rules and restrictions enforced for the common good, which appear, at first, irksome or superfluous to the individual patient. But the "atmosphere" of a general hospital-yes, even of the suicide ward !- is incomparably more wholesome than the institutional atmosphere. There is never the same sense of imprisonment and isolation; everything is, more or less, open to public inspection; and the patients have not forfeited the elementary rights and privileges of normal citizens.

Mental nurses, though not excessively paid, receive double or treble the ordinary nurse's salary. This branch of the profession, therefore, does not attract the type of woman who takes up general nursing and accepts the prevailing nominal rate of pay from sheer love of, and interest in, the work. Very few things, have such very queer noses? And oh, the incongruous mental nurses, in fact, have received any general training at CHILD WELFARE, B.C.

By BERTA RUCK.

This is a very old story about a little boy who went to play at harvesting in the field with his father and the other grown-up

It shows that grown-up men (even fathers) are not always the best judges of what is good for children. These people, it seems, let the little lad play so long in the blazing Eastern sun that presently he reeled, put his hand to his brow, and cried, piteously, "My head, my head." Whereupon his father, helpless and panic-stricken no doubt, gave an order. Down through the ages, from that harvest field in Palestine, down, down, to the Law Courts of London to-day, there echoes that order, that panacea for the small boy in brouble-" Carry him to his

The end of that ancient story is as modern as the beginning Who knew what to do with the sun-smitten unconscious child? Who had the infallible instinct for where help lay? Who would not be put off by the secondary authority who drove her away, telling her that the Great Man was too busy to attend to women and children? Who insisted, claimed, achieved? Who but the

For her the prophet Elisha performed his miracle. That miracle would be called, to-day, artificial respiration and massage. For, notice that every detail of the prophet's "treatof that boy in coma was such as might be prescribed by Harley Street to-day. (Those wise old healers and judges of Bible times have not so much to learn from ourselves, have they?) And when the cure was wrought, when the child was restored, opened his eyes, to whom was he immediately handed over for what should be called "after-care"? Again, to his mother. Elisha sent for that Shunnamite. "And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son. Then she went in, and fell at his feet, and bowed herself to the ground, and took up her son, and went out.

'Carry him to his mother."

"Take up thy son.

Eight hundred years before Christ, that was the keynote to Child Welfare; nineteen centuries after, the same things are the best things for this one subject. It remains the normal and natural dispensation that the first years of a child's growing life shall belong to the mother who bare him. In all out the exceptional cases it is she who understands and knows him best; it is she to whom he turns, knowing by instinct that here he will find patience and love and long-suffering care which were born in upon the mother at his own birth. Most women know

Only men (who have come to know less on this subject than they evidently knew in Eight Hundred B.C.), men have made another dispensation. For some time it was not "Carry him to his mother," but "Carry him to this, that, or the other institution." Yes; they took the children from the widowed mother who could not afford to bring up a family. For the institution, you see, money was provided. I should like to know what that admirable specialist Elisha would say to such an arrangement. But for a long time most people seem to have taken it as a matter of course. If you notice, most people do take most abuses as a matter of course. Hence the slowness of reforms in this our imperfect world. Otherwise, would you not have expected the general demand to be, "Why not give to the mother, the natural guardian of her child, some of the funds which are bestowed upon an institution, which is at best only a makeshift step-mother?'

But only lately has the mother, bereft of her children because she had not the money to keep them, only lately has she found her champion. He is a judge, in both senses of the word; he and the prophet of old share views upon the child question Judge Henry Neil is his name, and he is the originator of the theme for pensioning mothers so that their children may remain in the homes that Nature, and not officialdom, intended for them.

Mothers' pensions. What it means is, briefly, Child Welfare on the best lines agreed upon by the ancients of Elisha's time, the best method of our own. When you think of "Mothers" pensions," think of that lad, "downed" with sunstroke in a cornfield more than twenty centuries ago. Then think of your own little boy, if you have one. Picture him suddenly clapping to his hot forehead a small, dirty paw (I say "dirty" because I said "boy"). Imagine his childish voice, piteous and scared, crying aloud, "My head, my head!"

What would be your first instinct, your first call for him?--I thought so.

" Carry him to his mother." No; we don't improve upon that plan for Child Welfare!

symptoms, and where her complaints stand some chance of receiving reasonable attention. But the young woman who takes up mental nursing for the sake of the £70 to £90 per annum with board, lodging, and washing, is precisely the thrifty, hard-working, rather thick-headed type, who might otherwise become a superior sort of shop-assistant or factory forewoman. And she is, naturally, inclined to treat her charges much as an old-fashioned nursemaid would treat a nursery full of growing children; to feed them all alike on the copious, rough and ready institutional dietary; to meet any loss of appetite or digestive disturbance with vigorous threats of forcible feeding and large doses of cascara and castor oil; to brush aside all other complaints as nonsense or naughtiness; and generally to proceed upon the established principle of "seeing what little Sally is doing, and telling her she mustn't." Moreover, the actual nervous strain of such a place is very considerable, and reacts in a greater or less degree upon every member of the staff. It is quite possible to gauge how long

all; rather an unfortunate circumstance, this, for those patients

-and they are in the majority-whose mental condition ori-

ginated in, and is augmented by, actual physical illness. It

is obvious that under such conditions far more depends upon the

nurse's professional skill and powers of trained observation than

in cases where the patient can accurately describe her own

any nurse has been employed in her present occupation, merely by observing her behaviour. This sturdy, cheerful little probationer has been here less than a twelvemonth, and is only beginning to learn that the patients have no rights, and that it is, therefore, unnecessary to exercise any sort of self-control in their presence. The charge nurse, normally, no doubt, a good-hearted and conscientious woman, has been here eight years, and is liable half a dozen times a day to sudden and violent outbursts of temper, which she makes no effort whatsoever to restrain. The Superintendent has been here still longer, and her demeanour-whenever visitors are not present-both to the patients and to her own subordinates, would certainly qualify any other inmate of the Institute for detention in the padded room. It is one of the quaintest paradoxes of Institutional life, this striking contrast between the steady self-control and enforced passivity of the patients, their infinite forbearance and courtesy towards one another, and the uncertain temper and gratuitously abusive manners of those set in authority over

But it is inevitable that a certain degree of subtle moral degeneration should take place at the same time. We learn to smother our self-respect and eat our pride, exactly like any other set of human beings under the rule of an absolute and capricious despotism. The Superintendent may storm and bully and throw things at my head one day; but next day I must bid her a civil good morning, though I loathe myself for doing so. Sensitive and scrupulous natures, to whom such a policy remains flatly impossible, will either be eventually broken and moulded to the common usage, or-will go to the Low East.

Yet we must remember that the Institute, after all, probably fulfils its main purpose effectually enough. There will always be a certain proportion of patients confided to its care in the pious hope that here they will receive skilled treatment from experienced hands, and be placed in the best position for ultimate recovery; but the majority are sent here simply becausetheir friends cannot, or will not, be troubled with them at home. And if they get enough to eat, if they are kept clean, and forced to conform to a few elementary rules of hygiene, if they are prevented from injuring themselves and one another -well, can we fairly expect any more?

(To be continued.)

Of the ten essays in this volume two stand out conspicuously; the others one reads dutifully, these one reads avidly. They are Mr. Arthur Greenwood's "Labour and Adult Education," and Mrs. Huws Davies's "Women and Adult Education"

Mr. Greenwood sees in the Trade Union movement the strongest educational influence of workmen's lives. " On the one hand," he says, "it has provided the workers with opportunities for the exercise of their powers and 'political' qualities, developed the sense of responsibility, and given the members experience in administration. On the other hand, the common social purpose for which men are associated in trade unions presents complex problems which call for consideration. The trade union movement is, therefore, an important educational agency, partly because its government and administration educate the members 'by doing'; and partly also through its influence, directly and indirectly, in stimulating the consideration and discussion of the broad range of political, social, and economic problems." In the co-operative and friendly societies movements he traces contributory influences towards the education of Labour and points out that the growing power of Labour in the community is due mainly to the organised efforts of working people." Moreover, "the intelligent working man is as deeply attached to his union or co-operative society as those of a different social grade are to their public schools or universities." Therefore, "adult education, so far as the workers are concerned, depends upon the co-operation of these organisations.'

It is not only because workers would probably distrust educational efforts which avoided these trusted channels that Mr. Greenwood urges this policy; it is also because the fellowcitizens of Labour will gain so much by it. "What many people regard as defects in the working-class mind due to a limited outlook and a lack of knowledge, are often the manifestations of a different outlook and of knowledge which other sections of society may not possess. . . If learning has much to bestow upon Labour, it is equally true that it has much to gain from Labour." "The problem is not how to get the articulate workers to absorb the culture of a higher social class, but how to enable them to evolve a culture of their own."

To Mrs. Huws Davies the essential point in women's adult education is the training of the woman voter's mind, and she evidently feels that there are opportunities enough open for women of leisure who care to use them. But she justly points out that women with leisure to cultivate their minds are growing rarer; they are falling into the ranks of the "new poor" and becoming merged in "that great and largely unvoiced multitude of 'women entirely employed in domestic work at home." The real enemy, in short, of women's adult education, is the domestic job which lies in wait at home for so few men and for almost every woman. About the real lives of women toiling in their homes Mrs. Davies has none of the illusions that beset the male writer. "No one who has not done it," she says, "knows the intolerable strain of incessant and unrelieved domestic work, carried on, as it so largely is, in smoke-laden cities and in houses specially constructed to make every task as laborious as possible." When there are children as well as a house to care for such a woman " is faced with a programme into which it really seems humanly impossible to fit any sort of intellectual pursuit."

Mrs. Davies is no doubt right in thinking that the desire to keep up with her children is the strongest motive in attracting any toiling mother to try and follow a course of study; and it is a happy suggestion that simple and beautiful decorative needlework, such as that of the Educraft Association, which

could be applied to the making of their own and their children's clothes would find many learners. The practice of this charming craft would not only be a great refreshment it would assuredly open a door towards all sorts of artistic perception. The fundamental fact remains, however, that there can be little true education for mothers-of-all-work until some reform of housekeeping lifts the burden of drudgery off their shoulders. Meanwhile, leaders of adult education movements might advantageously imitate that London vicar who taught the men of his congregation to mind the house one evening a week so that their wives might be free to attend the "Mothers' Meeting:" Most husbands, to do them justice, if they once learned by experience what housekeeping (in the existing conditions) really means, would be quick to move for a reform.

The Romance of Child Reclamation. By M. A. Spielman. (The Reformatory and Refuge Union. 5s. 6d.)

Mr. Spielman, an Inspector of Reformatory and Industrial Schools, opens his romance of child reclamation with a short account of the pioneers: John Pounds, founder of the ragged schools, Thomas Fowell Buxton, Mary Carpenter, and Matthew Davenport Hill, whose reformatory and industrial schools at Bristol were the "working models of an inventor," which were destined to revolutionise the conduct of Governments toward the criminal classes. Barwick, Lloyd Baker, Charles Dickens, and Sidney Turner are also mentioned. This is followed by a chapter on the economic slavery of wage-earning children which resulted from the demand for labour caused by the cessation of the Napoleonic wars; and by a survey of the origins of the reformatory system in Scotland. The most interesting section of the book consists of extracts from the Reports of Inspectors of Prisons, from 1858 (four years after the passing of the Reformatory Act) until the present day. Some of the earlier ones are amazing to modern readers. The Inspector of the Hardwicke Reformatory says: "I think the dietary rather too high. The boys are allowed as much bread at breakfast and supper as they The Agricultural Colony of St. Bernard's Abbey was kept by Trappist monks, who, in the opinion of the Inspector, allowed their charges to "eat much and work little." there were more than 2,000 boys and nearly 500 girls under detention in England and Scotland, and in 1859 about 500 more. Fifteen reformatory children had died during the year, which prompted the Inspector to remark, "It could not be expected, and, indeed, it would hardly be desirable, that no deaths should occur in reformatories." This harsh saying seems to have been directed towards reassuring the public that the children were not unduly pampered; the Inspector's personal feelings are betrayed in his statement that reformatory boys were superior in intelligence and habits to ordinary recruits to the army and The reformatory system had already had a marked effect on reducing juvenile crime, which the Inspector attributes to long sentences under good conditions having replaced short terms of confinement in common prisons. Indian Reformatory of 1916, which now boasts a "juvenile tribunal," whose penalties are said by the Superintendent to be more effectual than his own," is a far cry.

Mr. Spielman is of opinion that something should be done to secure more uniformity as to commitments to schools, since some magistrates commit only hardened offenders, whose influence in the schools is bad, and others tend to commit readily, relying on the schools for reformation. He thinks that in the f a second offence being serious, or the delinquent having a bad home, the magistrate should have no option but to commit He thinks that the reformatory system has so far justified itself that no great change in its existing organisation and administration is desirable. But neglected and deserted children should be boarded out with friends or suitable persons, and boys' schools should be better classified. Girls' schools, he somewhat surprisingly says, do not permit of classification. He considers desirable an extension of the probation system, including probation schools from which children might be discharged, boarded out, or committed to a reformatory school. Here, we are glad to see, girls are not excluded from what is virtually a form of classification, and classification, though costly, is essential to reformatory work.

### DRAMA.

### "Will You Kiss Me?" at the Comedy Theatre.

There is a world of difference between "Will you kiss me?" and "Won't you kiss me?" "Won't you?" is crafty, playful, pathetic, and likely to succeed. A comedy could easily be written about that. But the author asks a straight question, "Will you kiss me?" and wants a straight answer, one imagines. The whole play must revolve around this ferocious demand. This comedy is evidently going to be about kissing, but not on the obvious line of "Won't you . . .?"

DECEMBER 10, 1920.

When the curtain rose upon a millionaire's home, with one costly daughter, garbed in orange satin, stretched upon a sumptuous couch (it was clearly the home of a millionaire, even before the children began to try to borrow money from the butler), the expensive eldest daughter waiting to get an advance for hats, the expensive son waiting to get a Rolls Royce, and the expensive youngest waiting to get fifteen dollars to go to the pictures, the play seemed to be beginning on a cash-motif. However, this was not incompatible with kissing by-and-by, if the hour came-and the man. At the end of the first scene, though one had not yet seen him, one had heard of the man. The millionaire had engaged a young business man to reform his expensive household, during his own absence. The man was a young English gentleman, from "Cambridge College, Oxford" (and truer word was never spoken; it must be from there and from nowhere else that he comes), and yet, curiously, a young " Efficiency" man. He comes; he has a row with the family, and a row with the servants, and then, to my great surprise, the curtain comes down. When it rises on Act II., Mr. Hedge, the man, has another row with the family, and another row with the servants, and then a row with Tommy Treadwell, a nice young man, who takes a placid interest in Con, the eldest daughter. By this time, Con has changed into her morning frock, a yellow satin, simply draped, and girded with tissue, designed by Messrs. Réviler. Otherwise, she has revealed nothing of her thoughts through her ladylike composure. Alex. Y. Hedge has displayed himself pretty well. He is incredibly stupid; he thinks the way to manage a house is to drive everyone straight out of it, foaming at the mouth. He is incredibly caddish. Con wants a hat; he sends for six; when mademoiselle arrives with them, Mr. Treadwell, the nice young man, is there, and has had one or two bitter passages with Alex. Y. Con tries them on, one, with a soft, drooping plume; much to Miss Gordon's credit, she looks very pretty in it, as Mr. Treadwell says, and he adds, " and there's such a charming suggestion of immorality in it!" Mr. Hedge, loquaciously: "Are you a judge of that?" Treadwell: "I know a good hat when I see one!" To which the incredible retort of Alex. Y. Hedge is, "I know a gentleman when I see one!" and a gentleman doesn't recommend a hat to a lady because it looks immoral, and so on. Now, would any woman be offended because her hat was said to be awfully pretty, but a little fast? If Hedge knew a gentleman, he certainly did not know a lady. And having thus shown himself inferior to Tommy Treadwell in human sense and manners, he turns the said Treadwell out of the house, with the author's good leave, and, indeed, his congratulations on such manly conduct. Treadwell departs, leaving the play the poorer by Mr. Wellesley's very pleasant acting. Every real characteristic ceases to mean anything, and the play rolls on in the old, stagey grooves, not without long waits in particularly dull sidings. When the author does get a move on, the expected happens. Con decides to subjugate Alex. Y. Hedge; takes work as his secretary, in blue satin and cloth of silver (Act II.), works as the secretary (Act III.) in a golden evening gown, and takes her tonic at his order; they talk about "males" and "females," and attraction, and then, after all that (half-way through Act III.), she has to ask him to kiss her. You see, she is, at most, as clumsy a lady as he a gentleman. He kisses her cheek but feels nothing but a sensation of warmth. She suggests her lips; the effect is instantaneous. In a good many lofty, well-chosen words, he

explains what love is, drops on his knees, and kisses the hem of her dress; and so there is a straight run home. Con tells him that all her actions have been strategic, and that she despises him. Hedge takes this rather nicely, tips the butler, and calls for a cab. The millionaire returns, and, after a few etceteras, Con says, "Will you marry me?" Why didn't the author call the play by this title? It is the finale, which the other is not, and the close, which the other is not.

Poor stuff it is, and poorly written. Afraid to sketch a child, Alice, the millionaire's pet daughter, from Mr. Dombey's mother-in-law, Miss Ann Trevor acts the part with the calculated archness of fifty-seven. One suspects the very hair down her back of being false. Or can there exist in America human type like this? If so, Mr. Alex. Y. Hedge's book on social types will spare a page or two for it; they will be pages of unparalleled dulness. Let Miss Trevor learn to produce pure vowel sounds, and let her go and watch Miss Edna Best, tumbling her words out straight from the feelings we saw in her face just a second ago. Mr. Combermere represented the blunt incapacity of Billy, the son, very well. Miss Mary Brough was, and is, and always will be, delightful. Mr. Wells' sketch of Gustave deserved the vigorous applause it got. Mr. C. V. France, as the Butler, ought certainly to be mentioned, and so he should be, and handsomely, if I had the least idea what to say about him. His Butler showed traces of Mr. Shaw's William, amused the house, gave Mr. France little trouble (I should think), and so it went on. To one who knows nothing of America, only two of the actors made any suggestion of that country-Mr. Forde, by the truth of his acting, Mr. Turnbullwas it possibly by the fact of his being an American?

Mr. Forde was more than an American, he was a man, and more than that, a particular and individual man, tired, affectionate, old, sweet-natured, not over clever. He turned to his odious Alice with the exact gesture and tone of a man just out of office with a headache, towards the child who, for years, has refreshed him with her bright irresponsibility. That power of bringing a whole past on with him Mr. Forde has got.

Miss Gordon should study him. At present, she says her words each with its face value. But an audience must see things working, things coming, before they come. Something of unconscious feeling must vibrate in her voice when she pops the famous question, otherwise she will continue to hold out her lovely arms over the end of the sofa in vain, while Alexander marches past them to the other side of the stage. Mr. Calthrop is one of our naughty children. He is young, and always will be. He has curious gifts, a fairylike quickness of movement and speech, which enable him to make far greater varieties of temper than more heavily-rigged actors can ever reach. He has some power of mimicry. He did the man who does Napoleon outside the pit-queue very nicely. He has feeling, and this was proved oddly in this silly play. In the last act, Mr. Calthrop brought the audience up to a convulsion of laughter over the cheekkissing episode. Then came the lip-kissing, one kiss, and then, with a very real gesture, he took her in his arms. It was an easy effect to make, and he made it. But he could not carry the audience with him in his flying leap from buffoonery to reality.

Mr. Calthrop can impersonate. When Mr. Hedge was nearest a human being, he was really like one kind of man. He was very much indeed like the preoccupied business man, who is very disagreeable, who is irritable, slightly fussy, disagreeable even to the wife whom he adores, and the more loved by her because even his disagreeableness shows his devotion; and that is a very different man from the young Lord X Y Z, in "The Young Person in Pink." Well, these are good gifts. May Mr. Calthrop always be punished for them by seeing the audience gobble up his weakest points, and mock his good ones; may his leading ladies become more and more beautiful, and his "comedies" be written by Miss Ethel M. Dell.

## THE PLAY ACTORS' PRODUCTION.

### "The New Morality" by Harold Chapin.

The Play Actors are a pre-war society which, having suspended its activities during the war, has now started again. Their policy is to produce good plays, to bring them to the notice nmercial managements, plays good enough to be too hazardous for such managements to try for themselves, in view of their notorious timidity in face of any originality and intelligence. The Play Actors give two performances of each of their productions, on a Sunday evening and a Monday matinee; there will be at least four productions in a season. The cast is chosen from among the Members of the Actors' Association, so we are assured of thorough professional competence. This season's first production was the late Harold Chapin's delightfully amusing play, "The New Morality," and if they maintain this level of quality in plays, they will be doing great work for the This society deserves the support of the keen playgoer.

The New Morality " is a light comedy, all on a hot summer's day on the river, starting at tea-time, and ending at dinner. Betty Jones, within earshot of the whole of the river community, has told her neighbour on the next houseboat, Muriel Wister, exactly what she thinks of her, and, indeed, has gone to the length of calling Muriel by quite a reprehensible name. Alas! the audience does not hear this shocking harangue, but only sees the results; it was apparently classic, even for the river, which has a reputation to keep up in these matters. It has all happened because Muriel has made a public laughing stock of Betty's husband, Colonel Jones, by making him her tame poodle, fetching and carrying for her; hence, Betty's descent to what she calls dog-show language.

In the first act, on a hot afternoon, Betty is in bed-the correct thing after a scene; but she is totally unrepentant. quarrels with her husband; as for apologising, never! In the other two acts we see the very diverting encounters between the insulted Muriel's peace-loving husband and the Jones'. Muriel herself never appears, but poor Mr. Wister has to go on being firm and brutal when really he is quite sympathetic; he tries Dutch courage, but only gets more friendly. In the end he stays to dinner, and makes a speech in which he extols Betty's action as a beautiful example of the exquisitely sensitive morality of women, a new standard to which the mere husband, such as Jones, could not rise; he is helped home. After this Betty is reconciled to her husband, and will apologise to Muriel.

The story of the play is very light, but in it there is a pill of philosophy. The new morality is an advance in civilisationa stressing of the spiritual values and a turning away from materalism. Although the author makes us laugh all the time, he is using ridicule as a weapon aimed at something which he succeeds in hitting, that something being the gross idea of marriage as merely physical and material. It is a rare type of play with substance for thought in it, and, at the same time, an entertainment, so that no one need feel compromised by having to think in a theatre.

DECEMBER 10, 1920.

The production was quite inexpensive, but entirely adequate. I shall despair of the commercial theatre if "The New Morality" is not snatched up and produced for a run. The acting was good with two outstanding successes, Miss Athene Seyler, as Betty, and Mr. J. H. Roberts, as Mr. Wister.

Miss Seyler, as always, was delightful in her Marie-Tempestuous part of apparently unreasonable femininity. She was, perhaps, best in bed, expressing her general indignation very movingly by the wriggling of her toes under the eiderdown. Incidentally, it seemed to me there were a lot of bedclothes for hot a day; perhaps it was due to the susceptibilities of the Lord Chamberlain; anyway, this bedroom scene was above reproach, and certainly more clothed than any average ballroom scene. Miss Seyler's powers were not severely taxed by her

For Mr. J. H. Roberts' playing of Wister I have nothing but praise; he was admirable. His methods are quiet and unforced. At his first appearance he is alone on the stage, and before saying a word he gives a perfect piece of acting; he is waiting, nervous and hesitating, when he hears a distant jazzing gramophone; his feet respond to the gay tune, but diffidently, and with due regard to his dread of the coming disagreeable interview with Colonel Jones; Wister's character is revealed at a glance. Later, when duly stimulated, Wister makes a speech, showing himself in no way offensive in his cups, but without doubt in a vinous haze-all this is portrayed with a fine, delicate art. It was a triumph for Mr. Roberts, and I anticipate a great career for him on the stage.

The other parts were well played, my only comments being that the K.C.'s delivery was not incisive enough, and that the ex-soldier man-servant, being too like a butler, was not quite the soldier-servant which was intended. These are minute details, and I will end with a commendation of the excellent team work of the company, doing full justice to a clever and witty play.

## REPORTS.

### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE,

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

The Board of the I.W.S.A. met in London on November 29th, 30th, and December 1st and 2nd. Mrs. Chapman Catt in the chair; and present:—Mme. de Witt Schlumberger, France; Miss Macmillan, Great Britain; Frau Lindemann, Germany; Mme. Girardet-Vielle, Switzerland; Dr. Margherita Ancona, Italy; Frau Schreiber-Krieger, M.P., Germany; and Mrs. Corbett Ashby, hon. secretary. Regrets for her absence were sent to Mrs. Wicksell, Sweden, with hearty congratulations that she had been appointed proxy delegate for Sweden to the League of Nations Assembly. Sympathetic messages were sent to the treasurer, Mrs. McCormick on her illness, and to Miss Eleanor Rathbore. The adhesion of the Palestine Society was announced, and it was decided to accept the Judean Society provisionally. Encouraging reports from France and Italy were given, and it seems as though the victory should be close. It was decided to appeal to the women of Great Britain to help on the new movement in Egypt and Burmah, and other British Dominions and Dependencies, and to invite the enfranchised new countries who had received the vote before joining the Alliance, to work as corresponding members of the New Committee of Enfranchised Women.

Finance was discussed at length, so much work remains to be done above all in South America, Spain, and the East, that funds are badly needed, and all who are interested in the extension of the vote can help by becoming hon. Associate Members. The Leslie Commission of the U.S.A. is interested and hopes in the new year to help, especially in Belgium, France and Italy. The Board decided to send a special memorial to the Governments of those countries urging them to extend the vote to their women, and we were able to congratulate Dr. Ancona personally on the gain of the municipal suffrage. In South America the position seems very favourable to more active work and the Board hopes to take advantage of our late treasurer, Mrs. Stanton Coit's near visit to Brazil, and of Dr. Paulina Luise's return to her country.

Interesting plans were suggested for the next Congress in Paris, May, 1922, and we hope that keen Suffragists here will join us now as Hon. Associates, as this carries the privilege of a seat in the Congress.

Surely attendance at a congress in Paris and in May is a cheap privilege at £1 1s., and in addition to the regular meetings of the Congress it has been decided to hold several conferences on debateable points on has been decided to hold several conferences on debateable points on the day before the Congress, so that matters may be well threshed out before the plenary sessions. The committees we have suggested are: (1) on Nationality, presided over by Miss Macmillan; (2) on Women's Right to Work and Equal Pay, chairman, Miss Macmillan, and we hope guided by Mrs. Oliver Strachey; (3) on the Maintenance of Motherhood and the Question of the Illegitimate Child, and over this we hope to see Miss Rathbone presiding; (4) on the Equal Moral Standard, presided over by Mme. de Witt Schlumberger. These Committees are to report facts and proposals for action to the next Board Meeting in Italy, and conferences on the points will, we hope, be able to recommend action to the Congress.

Mme. de Witt Schlumberger urged that the enfranchised countries should be strongly represented to tell France of their happy experiences, and especially by the mouths of men, in order to persuade the Senate how ill-founded is their dread of us.

how ill-founded is their dread of us.

Mrs. Corbett Ashby reported that a special circular was sent through the National Societies to their countries' delegates to the Assembly, urging them to allow mandates to be granted, only on the definite condition that State regulation of vice is not allowed them.

It was agreed to telegraph and write to the Assembly that there should be women members on the Commission on Mandates, and that a letter should be sent to Labour Commission in connection with the Labour Bureau within the League of Nations which is reporting on the treatment of prepared disease in party positives. Bureau within the League of Nations which is reporting on the treatment of venereal disease in ports, pointing out important statements against the regulation of vice as an effective means of combating venereal disease, and quoting the material parts of the resolution of the Geneva Congress on prostitution and venereal disease.

Much of the work of the Board cannot be summarised, but there is no doubt all the members of the Board have been cheered by their work in common, and have scattered to work again with renewed zest.

### CONFERENCE OF WOMEN MAGISTRATES.

The opening session of the second day's Conference of Women Justices was presided over by Mrs. Creighton, who said that the position was one of glorious possibilities; while younger women might in the future make their life-work a magistrate's duties, they, the first women appointed, had the extraordinary privilege of setting the standard. They must not be in too great haste to suggest alterations nor come in brandishing their new broom. They must learn to work with men not as women but as human beings, and should not encourage the idea that they were interested only in women and children. Though they were appointed to administer and not to reform the law they did not lose the common right of citizens to work for better conditions.

Dr. Norris, chief inspector of reformatory and industrial schools,

administer and not to reform the law they did not lose the common right of citizens to work for better conditions.

Dr. Norris, chief inspector of reformatory and industrial schools, addressed the Conference on Juvenile Delinquency. He said that the number of children before the courts had recently much diminished, and that it should not be forgotten that the alarming figures of 1916 and 1917 included many instances of law-breaking which indicated a spirit of adventure rather than criminal tendencies. The power to remove a naughty or neglected child from its home was one to be resorted to only when all other means, such as putting the child under probation, had been tried. He begged women justices to take no narrow view of the moral imperfections which might be supposed to make parents unfit to have the custody of their children. Many women whose conduct was not strictly moral were good and affectionate mothers. Institutions to which magistrates might commit children were of two classes, one inspected from time to time by Home Office Inspectors, and a second not subject to inspection. Inspection was of the first importance and would be welcomed by all managers of good industrial and reformatory schools. About thirty reformatory and a hundred and fifty industrial schools were in existence. Some managers refused to take children who were mentally or physically defective, and it was true that such children were difficult to place after their discharge. When difficulty was found by magistrates in getting a child accepted the Home Office could usually find a suitable school. Both reformatory ard industrial schools are mainly supported by public funds. Children committed to reformatories must be between twelve and sixteen, they might remain at school till nineteen, but were often boarded out and sometimes allowed to return home on licence. Magistrates should set their faces against sending children under fourteen to reformatories, and must remember that by ordering a boy to be birched they made him ineligible for an

of their children when committed, and this should be insisted upon if reans were adequate. Locks, bars, and uniforms were becoming things of the past, and children were allowed to go home for holidays.

Industrial schools accept children under fourteen and will keep them till sixteen. They are fast becoming residential elementary schools, and, though classification of pupils is still imperfect, the education provided is very good. Special schools exist for immoral girls and for children who have been criminally assaulted. These children, unlike delinquent children, cannot attend schools without payment. Parents should pay if possible, but if they are unable to do so, the child may be committed, and then sent to an orphanage or Poor Law Institution under Ministry of Health Inspectors, or put on probation, when school fees are paid out of public funds. This circumstance should not be overlooked by magistrates, who are often unwilling to commit a child who has been wronged.

Some institutions, not inspected but used by magistrates as conditions for probation do not allow inmates outside their walls once in a year. Children should never be sent to an institution which has no

woman on its committee.

In answer to questions Dr. Norris said that only about 10 per cent. of reformatory boys, and rather more girls, come before the courts again; training ships, being defective as to ventilation, are unsatisfactory from a health point of view. Asked whether a child suspected of being a moral defective or a borderland case could be examined by an expert before entrance to an institution, he said that the Court could so direct but that experts were few. The L.C.C. has appointed one. Charges of gross immorality were frequently made in the case of children guilty only of dirty tricks. Children should not, if it can be avoided, be sent to schools far from their homes and friends. Children in industrial schools should, if under twelve, do no housework beyond making their beds, or if over twelve, not more than an hour a day. This small amount is good for them. Probation officers may be provided or partly paid for by the Church of England Temperance Society's Diocesan Branch, which has a fund for the purpose. It is undesirable that children should be remanded to workhouses. Magistrates have no legal right to visit industrial and reformatory schools but they are always welcomed.

Mr. Clarke-Hall's paper on Maintenance Orders pointed out that child delinquency problems are much affected by the view taken by courts of quarrels between husband and wife. Separation orders might be granted to wives under five heads. Desertion, persistent cruelty, neglect to maintain

wives under five heads. Desertion, persistent cruelty, neglect to maintain and aggravated assault, may be pleaded under the Summary Jurisdiction Married Woman's Act of 1895. It is unfortunate that "desertion" should so technically used that wives are apt to consent to agreements which be so technically used that wives are apt to consent to agreements which debar them from asking for separation on this ground without recognising the serious consequences of such agreement. Aggravated assault is not a specific offence, but in the case of a woman the court may regard any assault as coming under this head. The common practice of sentencing a husband to six months' imprisonment for an aggravated assault, often results in leaving the wife and family without means of support. often results in leaving the wife and family without means of support. Persistent cruelty and neglect to maintain can be pleaded only if they are sufficient to oblige the wife to leave her husband; but if she leaves him she must either take her children with her (though she may not be able to maintain them) or leave them unprotected with the man she is accusing of cruelty. Magistrates will perhaps be carrying out the law in a manner as little harsh as possible by holding that a woman leaving her husband's room and sleeping with her children has fulfilled the requisite conditions. The case of a man persistently cruel to his children but not to a degree rendering him liable to prosecution by the S.P.C.C. is difficult to meet. The Divorce Court regards cruelty to children as cruelty to their mother, but in this case the cruelty need not be difficult to meet. The Divorce Court regards cruelty to children as cruelty to their mother, but in this case the cruelty need not be "persistent." It is doubtful how far superior courts would uphold this

view of paternal cruelty by a court of summary jurisdiction. The relief allowed to a wife for habitual drunkenness of her partner is (unlike the previous pleas) also obtainable by a husband. It is inconsistent that courts of summary jurisdiction are unable to consider adultery as entiting a woman to a separation order, for they may consider adultery on her part as a ground for refusing her relief. Mr. Clarke-Hall laid down as general principles to be observed in granting maintenance orders that where the wife makes out her case in law it is well to give her relief and that reconciliation is more likely to follow a temporary separation than unwilling cohabitation. Custody of children should generally go to the wife. In conclusion Dr. Clarke-Hall congratulated women magistrates on attaining a position to which they were eminently entitled, and for which their qualities of imagination, sympathy and understanding preminently fitted them. inently fitted them.

minently fitted them.

In answer to questions he stated that a separated woman who is living with another man cases to be entitled to an allowance, and must either maintain her husband's children or send them back to him, and that a man whose wife had obtained a separation could not draw an army pension for her benefit, or for his children living under her charge. Maintenance orders are variable on application to the court, on the ground of augmented means or for other reasons. Later in the Session the Conference passed a unanimous resolution supporting the Bill now before the House which provides for raising the maximum sum obtainable under a Maintenance Order.

Mrs. Coombe-Tennant presided over the meeting at which Miss Margery Fry spoke on Punishment in Theory and in Practice, making an eloquent appeal to those responsible for administering the law to regard it not as static but as growing. Women, while inexperienced, had the special value of bringing a fresh eye to the problems of administration. The views which regard punishment as justifying a Divine order, or deterring

views which regard punishment as justifying a Divine order, or deterring would-be criminals or even discouraging fresh breaches of the law by an offender were losing their importance. Detention and other deterrent measures should be made as little penal as possible. We are coming to measures should be made as little penal as possible. We are coming to the opinion that degrading and deteriorating punishment is unjustifiable. Our present deterrent system is not very successful in frightening petty criminals and it does make criminals. The system known as modified Borstal is largely a sham. Women's prisons are, on the whole, better than men's breakes they are more over to mind. Borstal is largely a sham. Women's prisons are, on the whole, better than men's, because they are more open to visitors and there is no solitary confinement. Women think more than men in human values and less in money values, and in this they are right. Punishment should relate to human values. In the course of the subsequent discussion a prison visitor of twenty years' experience protested against the deteriorating effect of the idleness which accompanied punishment for breaches of prison discipline. Dr. Scharlieb urged upon magistrates the importance of securing that prisoners affected with venereal disease should continue treatment after their discharge.

Miss Margery Fry proposed a resolution, which was carried unanimously, "That this Conference regrets the deplorable decision to exclude women from sitting as magistrates in the Metropolitan Children's Courts, and urges the Government to adhere to its original proposals which, in the opinion of this Conference, are urgently needed in the best interests of juvenile offenders." Also unanimous was the resolution that "In view

and urges the corrections of those sitting in industrial towns, is much

Scotland, with the exception of those sitting in industrial towns, is much narrower than that of their colleagues in England. Miss Margaret Bondfeld advocated the provision of free legal advice in courts of summary jurisdiction. Mrs. Bethune Baker praised the useful institution of the conference at the same time and place as that chosen for the Conference of the National Association of Magistrates, so that women could take of the National Association of Magistrates, so that women could take part in the general conference and have a special session of their own. Miss Rathbone and Miss Tuckwell were chosen as delegates to that body. Miss Margery Fry is already on its Committee. After a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor, and thanks to the N.U.S.E.C. on the instance of Mrs. Barrow Cadbury, the Conference concluded. It is memorable not only as a first meeting of women magistrates but as a model assembly of women chosen expressly for their fitness for a national service, and applying themselves with extreme ability to learning the technicalities

### THE ROYAL BRITISH NURSES ASSOCIATION.

The Royal British Nurses Association held a Conference last Friday, when, owing to the illness of Miss Heather-Bigg, R.R.C., Mrs. Fenwick took the chair. Dr. Crouch spoke very strongly on the long hours of work in the hospitals. He remarked that he had been invited by The WOMAN'S LEADER to send an article on the conditions of nurses' work, and on receiving this, and curious as to whether the report of the National Council of Women on Nurses' Salaries and Conditions of Work had had any effect, he sent an enquiry to one of the large hospitals only find that the hours were very much just as they had been. The led drew his attention to the fact that tennis and badminton were provided that the control of the large hospitals only find that the hours were provided that the control of the large hospitals only find for the nurses' recreation, but so far as he had been able to make out from the report sent to him, they must enjoy those "either during their dinner hour or in the middle of the night." He was very insistent on the need for nurses to bestir themselves more in the effort to better their conditions and no longer to allow a few of their fellow nurses to bear all the stress and expense of the fight to better their conditions. The following resolutions were passed :-

The following resolutions were passed:—

(i) That the provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920, should not apply to professional nurses, trained and in training, to whose conditions of service it is unsuitable. It is believed that the result of this new taxation will be to compel nurses to contribute to a scheme designed to benefit industrial and not professional workers. Unqualified disapproval of the provisions of the Unemployment Insurance Act as affecting the members of the profession was expressed, and it was thought that it will add one more factor to the unpopular conditions which deter many desirable candidates from entering the nursing profession.

(2) That the Hours of Employment Bill provides the means for compulsorily decreasing the long and unregulated hours of work of nurses in hospitals and kindred institutions. The meeting recorded its approval of the inclusion in the Bill of professional nurses working under uncontrolled employers, but considered that special regulations should be defined in the Bill to exempt classes of trained nurses who make their own contract for service with the patient.

should be defined in the Bill to exempt classes of trained nurses who make their own contract for service with the patient.

(3) That emphatic support should be given to the General Nursing Council for England and Wales in its decision not to establish a Supplementary Register of cottage nurses. It is believed that if the title of 'registered' is bestowed upon cottage nurses, as such, both trained nurses and the public will be deprived of the privileges and protection to be effected through the Nurses Registration Acts.

The proposal to include cottage nurses emanates from the Scottish Nursing Council, but the opposition to it asies from the fact that many of these nurses are really midwives and are registered under the Central Midwives Board. They cannot be regarded as trained nurses, and to give them the right to claim to be registered nurses would be unfair alike to the trained nurse and to the sick poor.

(4) As the Nurses Registration Acts do not provide for automatic registration, the imperative necessity for the rules to provide for equivalent standards of qualification for registration, between the General Nursing Councils of England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, was emphasised. As there is no provision in the Nurses Registration Act for inequality of fee for registration, it was considered that the maximum of one guinea provided in the Act should be charged to all candidates for registration, as the national work of the Council cannot be self-supporting on a lower fee. Moreover, as registration carries with it the privilege of voting for the elected professional members of the Council, English nurses are of opinion that preferential treatment, in this con-English nurses are of opinion that preferential treatment, in this connection, for nurses trained in Scotland and Ireland would be unjust to those trained in England and Wales.

### AN INTERNATIONAL LUNCHEON PARTY.

The luncheon given by the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship to the officers of the International Women's Suffrage Alliance, at the Hotel Cecil on December 2nd, was a pleasant and festive entertainment. The leading note of the occasion was, of course, congratulatanment. The leading note of the occasion was, of course, congratulation to the American women who, after seventy years of struggle, have gained so complete a victory. Mrs. Chapman Catt, the principal guest, is not only a great representative of the Suffragist women of America, but, as the indefatigable and inspiring President of the International Women Suffrage Alliance, she has come to be a representative of the Suffragist women of the world.

The speakers struck a rather deeper note than is customary in after luncheon speeches and in doing so they were in harmony.

The speakers struck a rather deeper note than is customary in after-luncheon speeches, and in doing so they were in harmony with the feeling of the guests. Mrs. Fawcett spoke of the love of one's own country as the basis and foundation of love for other countries and for mankind, and showed how out of the patriotic effort of women for their own dear motherlands a great international movement has grown. Mrs. Chapman Catt spoke of the incalculably great and farreaching effect of political actions, giving as an example the growth of the slave trade in the American Continent and the fact that the old the slave trade in the American Continent and the fact that the old slave States are those which have most bitterly opposed Women's Suffrage and every law designed to improve the status of women. Miss Rosamond Smith spoke of the strong bond that the Women's Suffrage Movement has formed between the public-spirited women of the world and its visible outcome in the great peace tendency of to-day. The same consciousness of the deeper issues of politics, the same passionate desire for united effort towards the improvement of the human lot was apparent in the speeches of Madame Schlumberger from France, of Frau Lindemann from Germany, of Doctor Margherita Ancona from Italy, and of Madame Girardet-Vielle from Switzerland. The Society of Nations seemed for the moment a living thing and guests came away filled with hope.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

### STATE CONTROL OF THE LIQUOR TRADE.

Madam,—I have just read your issue of November 26th, and note the column provided by the Womens's National Committee to secure State Purchase and Control of the Liquor Trade. I much regret its sneering attitude to those in Scotland who are earnestly endeavouring to secure a remedy for the admitted gross evils induced by a trade which is already largely under Government control. To dub these people as "advocates

largely under Government control. To dub these people as "advocates of Pussyfootism" seems hardly worthy.

The method of prohibition has, after very many years of trial in various States, now become the constitutional law of the United States. Prohibition is also largely in force in Canada. I have just returned from a long journey to the Pacific Coast, and did not see an open saloon or drunken person, nor did I meet with any responsible people who, however opposed to prohibition, were in favour of bringing back the old saloon. In British Columbia, for instance, where war-time prohibition has been recently defected on a propular vote, the Moderate League plat-

saloan. In British Columbia, for instance, where war-time prohibition has been recently defeated on a popular vote, the Moderate League platform was for Government sale, but no saloons and no spirits.

Your article makes a strong appeal for the public-house as the poor man's club on account of the wretched condition of the overcrowded tenements. Surely the right solution is to concentrate on the Housing Problem, and to attack that element in our social life which more than any other preventable evil degrades and impoverishes the home.

So far as I know, a careful impartial report in respect of only one city has been made on the effects of prohibition. This occupies nearly forty pages in "The Survey," November 6th. I append some of the gist of the Findings in regard to Grand Rapids, a town of 137,000 population, where prohibition has been in force for over two years; and ask: Is it really fair in a responsible woman's paper that this new and prosperous and hopeful state of social life should be described as "Pussyfootism"?

THE FACTORY.—Absenteeism because of "severe headaches" has decreased; industrial accidents likewise. The trouble-making bar-keeper is not now the first to welcome the newcomer to the city or the home-comer on his way from the pay-window. The change has, however, also made for restlessness, especially among the younger workers, and in some cases it has slackened effort. Manufacturers are studying more closely

cases it has slackened effort. Manufacturers are studying more closely the conditions of work and human relationships within the factory.

HEALTH.—Tuberculosis and infantile mortality, two good indices of the public health, are on the decline. The general death-rate is down to 11.6, the fifth lowest among the 58 cities with over 100,000 population. Though primarily this is due to effective popular education, wiser spending and more food have played their part. Folks go to see the doctor, dentist, and oculist before they are forced to do so by pain or disability; they insist on the best treatment; they pay more attention to small ailments. There are fewer accidents.

THRIFT.—The bulk of additional earnings, after due allowance for higher prices, goes into substantial home comforts. Frivolous spending

THRIET.—The bulk of additional earnings, after due allowance for higher prices, goes into substantial home comforts. Frivolous spending has resulted in some cases, but usually there has been an improved table, better clothes and more amusements; second, a frittering away of small change on incidental expenditure; third, a saving up of larger amounts for furniture, phonographs, musical instruments, furs, home crnaments, and motors. Pawnshop transactions have been reduced by one-third, and debt collection has become easier than ever before. There is a marked increase in saving, side by side with lavish spending.

CRIME.—Prohibition has reduced the population in the county jail by two-thirds. The county farm has run down for lack of prison labour. The police force has been reduced from 168 to 120. The withdrawal of liquor from dance and social halls has closed a prolific source of immorality and crime. The number of arrests has been almost halved, those for drunkenness quartered; rowdyism and vagrancy being conspicuously

for drunkenness quartered; rowdyism and vagrancy being conspicuously

POVERTY.—Visible signs of want or degradation are few. There has been a remarkable decrease in the number needing material aid. Where sickness, old age, or personal defects have made it impossible to earn

high wages at piece rates or large bonuses, or to take a better paid job, where families are exceptionally large, where spendthrift habits have become incurable, the relative poverty of families among their more prosperous neighbours is the more marked.

prosperous neighbours is the more marked.

The City.—Citizens who spend more on their homes have become also liberal in their attitude towards public expenditure. They demand good services and are willing to pay for them. Bond issues for additional municipal equipment have been approved by large majorities.

PUBLIC OPIONION.—From city officials to housewives, from bank presidents to Labour leaders, Grand Rapids people back up pretty solidly in favour of strict enforcement of prohibition. Witnesses almost invariably said that the two most noticeable effects of prohibition were the change it had brought in family life and the fact that the younger generation was growing up without a taste for alcohol.

was growing up without a taste for alcohol.

The Moral Outlook.—Better times, in the first stages, have meant more self-indulgence. But the moral tone of the community is higher than it ever was before. Absence of worry has made for a general liberation of mental energies, as yet often idly employed in frivolous pursuits, but beginning to introduce into the life of the community a desire for finer enjoyments and spiritual emancipation. There has been no substantial effort to provide a substitute for the saloon. There is no high-class

### THE CHILDREN OF GERMANY.

MADAM,—Permit me yet a rejoinder. I agree with H. C. Shawcross that charity, beginning at home, need not end there. For example, there are now in England 1,400 children from the Famine Area of Central Europe, for 1,200 of whom happy homes in English families have been found; 200 have been well cared for in a camp, which is unfit for winter use, so more offers of hospitality or money for maintenance are now needed by the Children's Hospitality Committee, County Hall, Belvedere Road, Lambeth, who are responsible for these 1,400 children from Central Europe.

Road, Lambeth, who are responsible for these 1,400 children from Central Europe.

I don't think I suggested that the German Government ought to provide for the children, and I don't think it should, it is for the nation. Berlin is described as revelling in luxury and amusement, large sums of money are said to be heaped upon the ex-Royal Family; enormous quantities of things are being sent here and sold at prices far below those for which they could be produced in England. Clocks, glass-ware, canvas bags, &c., are poured in, and large contracts concluded at prices quite defying competition. Germans are working very hard, all honour to them for it, but how is it that they can procure materials, make them up, work, and live, under conditions of "semi-starvation?" Their own country has not been touched, their own homes have not been ruined, their factories are not destroyed, their mines are unhurt!

Ves, indeed, "children are children all the world over," bless them, but I cannot admit that they all have the same claim on our love and

Ves, indeed, "children are children all the world over," bless them, but I cannot admit that they all have the same claim on our love and sympathy. Nation and kindred must come first. We may choose our friends, we cannot choose nation nor relations—be the latter a burden or a blessing, they are appointed for us and must be our first care. "If any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his ewn house, he hath denied the faith and is worse than an infidel." So, as we cannot satisfactorily provide for our own sick children, and are with difficulty entertaining our little guests from Central Europe, contending as we are with ruinous taxation and high prices (both the result of German crime) I am still unconvinced of any duty at all towards the children of I am still unconvinced of any duty at all towards the children of

MADAM,—Your correspondent, H. C. Shawcross, says that Germany is incapable of feeding her children, the people being in a state of semi-starvation, &c. From private letters received from Berlin, it is well-known that German war-profiteers are spending money lavishly in Berlin

## WOMEN'S NATIONAL COMMITTEE

### STATE PURCHASE & CONTROL OF THE LIQUOR TRADE.

The more important meetings held in November were as

Nov. 1.—National Women Citizens' Association, S.W.—Miss M. Cotterell.

Nov. 3.-Malvern National Council of Women-Mrs. Renton. (Debate v. Miss Hessel.)

Nov. 4.—Sheffield National Council of Women-Mrs. Boyd

Dawson. (Debate v. Lady Horsley.)

5.—United Societies' Club—Miss B. Picton-Turbervill.

(Debate v. Mr. G. B. Wilson.)

Nov. 8.—Claremont Central Mission Sisterhood-Miss F. L. Carre. Nov. 11.—Plymouth Women's Co-operative Guild-Mrs. Renton.

Nov. 11.—St. Mildred's Settlement, Millwall—Mrs. Boyd

Nov. 13.—Bury Women Citizens' Association—Miss F. L. Carre. Nov. 17.—Poplar Presbyterian Church Meeting—Miss Cotterell. Nov. 18.—Pioneer Club—Miss B. Picton-Turbervill. (Debate v. Mr. G. B. Wilson.)

Nov. 20.—Camberley N.U.S.E.C.—Miss F. L. Carre

Nov. 22.—Bradford Co-operative Guild-Miss F. L. Carre.

Nov. 23.—Bolton W.C.A.—Miss F. L. Carre.

Nov. 23.—Kensington W.C.A. and N.U.S.E.C.—Debate, Miss B. Picton-Turbervill, Lady Horsley, Mr. Edwyn Barclay. Nov. 24.—Stockton-on-Tees Women's Co-operative Guild-Miss F. L. Carre.

Nov. 24.—Teddington W.C.A.—Mrs. Boyd Dawson.

Nov. 25.—Durham National Council of Women—Miss F. L. Carre.

Nov. 26.—Holt W.C.A.—Miss B. Picton-Turbervill. (Debate v. Lady Horsley.) Nov. 27.—Norwich N.C.W.—Miss B. Picton-Turbervill. (Debate

7. Lady Horsley.) Nov. 28.—Union Chapel Brotherhood, Manchester-Miss F. L.

Carre. Nov. 29.—Eccles Women's Co-operative Guild-Miss F. L

Temperance Reform to-day, be it by State Purchase or any other policy, is in a very serious position. The calibre of the House once more shows itself in the fact that reactionary pressure has succeeded in making the Government withdraw the Liquor Control Board (Temporary Provisions) Bill. It is a House of Commons that cares very little indeed about social reforms of any kind where private vested interests are to suffer and private interests of the Liquor Trade as of the plumage and other trades will prevent any Bills becoming law that touch their pockets. The Liquor Trade is, of course, pointing to Scotland as representing the public opinion of the country. At December 3rd the figures show 320 polls for no change as against 26 for no license and 26 for limitation. The Trade are right in so far as they judge the country to be unwilling to demand Prohibition. This is too drastic a step. Hundreds of people who are total abstainers themselves would not feel justified in depriving others of the use of their public houses. Limitation of licences

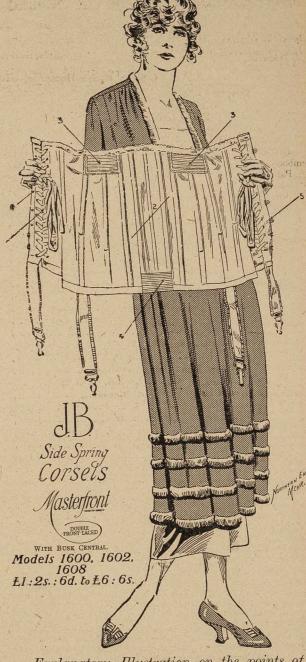
is a very unsatisfactory half measure.

The Government, in withdrawing the temporary Bill, has promised permanent legislation next year. Pemanent legislation in a few weeks' time was promised by Mr. Bonar Law in July, 1919, and the promise will remain a promise, periodically postponed, unless those of us who stand for some scheme of temperance reform do something definite to counteract the enormous pressure brought to bear by the great trade organi-

The "something definite" can only be to show the Members of the House that there is a strong party of women in the country —women, whose votes count equally with those of the men at election times—who are determined to see that the Government fulfils its pledge. We must write to our Member and say so, and if we get no reply must write again.

The Liquor Control Board is weak and discredited. Since it could be dissolved altogether and its powers transferred to the Home Office, it can be dissolved altogether and its powers. allowed to lapse. This is what the Trade is working for. What are we doing about it? It is largely in our hands.

Literature on State Purchase and all enquiries to Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.



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  The Double-lacing adjustment in front allows to remain central—avoiding any unequal support.

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### PARLIAMENTARY.

### MEMORIAL ON EQUAL FRANCHISE.

Our Societies will have received the letter on this subject embodying the Memorial which we are circularising to Members of Parliament. Copies of the Memorial itself are available at Headquarters, and will be supplied on application. The following are the names of those who have already signed :-

> Viscountess Astor, Captain G. W. Bowyer, J. Bell, Major C. E. Breese, J. Brown, W. Bromfield, Colonel C. R. Burn, F. Briant, Captain Colin Coote, Major W. P. Colfox, R. Clough, T. W. Casey, Will Crooks, T. Cape, Sir W. H. Cowan, Major Sir J. W. Davidson, Sir Maurice Dockrell, Captain W. E. Elliott, Major C. F. Entwisle, H. Fildes, Samuel Finney, Captain F. J. C. Ganzoni, W. Graham, R. Graham, D. M. Graham, T. M. Grundy E. Hallas, A. Henderson, Gen. Sir A. Hunter, G. H. Hirst, A. Hayday, Major J. W. Hills, R. M. Hudson, Dan Irving, J. Johnstone, Major F. Kelley, Lt.-Com. Hon. J. M. Kenworthy, W. Lunn, F. W. Mallalieu, J. Murray, J. Mills, Neil Maclean, Sir Robert Newman, A. E. Newbould, J. O'Grady, Mai. W. H. Prescott, F. O. Roberts, A. Rendall, F. H. Rose, P. Wilson Raffan, A. K. Rodger, W. R. Smith, G. A. Spencer, Charles H. Sitch, J. E. Swan, A. Short, A. M. Scott, John Taylor, Trevelvan Thomson, G. R. Thorne, C. F. White, Aneurin Williams, T. Wintringham, Captain J. Bertrand Watson, R. Young.

### CONFERENCE OF WOMEN MAGISTRATES.

A complete account of this conference appears elsewhere in the paper, and the papers are to be printed in full during the forthcoming weeks. It was unfortunate, but unavoidable, that, owing to the postponement of the meeting of the Board of Officers of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, the Central Hall meeting and other meetings and social functions fell in the same week as the Mansion House Conference, both because of necessary division of interest and the heavy pressure of work entailed on our headquarters staff. The Conference, however, thanks to the courtesy of the Lord Mayor, the authorities at the Mansion House, and the kind co-operation of many women magistrates outside our own circle, was a memorable and interesting occasion, only marred by the impossibility of securing from any source, a complete list of magistrates with their addresses.

The cordial thanks of the Executive Committee are due to the Lord Mayor for his kind and unexpected invitation to all the members of the Conference to tea at the close of the last session; also to Mrs. Fawcett, who took the Chair at short notice in the regrettable absence of Miss Eleanor Rathbone, at the opening session, and to Mrs. Coombe Tennant, of Neath, South Wales, a late and valued member of our Executive, who, also at short notice, took Miss Rathbone's place at the closing session.

The most interesting feature of the Conference, apart from the excellence of the papers, was the stimulating discussion which followed each paper. Magistrates were present from different parts of Great Britain, including Lady Aberdeen, and Miss Haldane, from Scotland

### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE ALLIANCE.

A report appears elsewhere in this number of the proceedings of the Board of Officers. It is enough here to say that the visit of our distinguished guests attracted a great deal of attention in London, and those who were fortunate enough to hear Mrs.

Chapman Catt, and the other members of the Board of Officers, received fresh stimulus for the work which still lies before us in our own and in other countries. Social functions, most of them of a private character, followed one another in rapid succession during an exceptionally full week. At our own luncheon at the Hotel Cecil, on Thursday, reported more fully elsewhere, we were honoured by the presence of many well-known women outside the ranks of the National Union, who came to meet our guests. We were also glad to welcome representatives of some of our Societies outside London, including places so far distant as Aberdeen and Leeds.

On Sunday, our sister Society, the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, now one of the National auxiliary societies affiliated to the I.W.S.A., with which we co-operated in organising the Central Hall meeting, gave a delightful dinner to welcome Mrs. Chapman Catt, and the N.U.S.E.C was represented.

At both of these functions it was exhilarating to see our wellknown colours displayed, and to realise that though we have partially attained our end, there is abundant interest and vitality left with which to press forward confidently to further achieve-

### AUTUMN LECTURES: ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE OF WOMEN IN THE HOME AND IN THE LABOUR MARKET

The final lecture of this course was given to a large audience on Tuesday, December 7th. The Rt. Hon. Sir John Simon, K.C.V.O., K.C., an old and tried friend of the Woman's Movement, kindly took the Chair. Miss Rathbone's summary of the subjects dealt with in the course was very much appreciated, as was shown by the excellent discussion which followed the

Mrs. Soddy, our Acting Honorary Treasurer, who had organised a sale of Christmas gifts, most of which she had made entirely herself, must have been encouraged by the success of this most valiant effort to raise funds for the Union.

### EALING W.C.A.

The Annual Meeting was held on October 22nd, when the following were elected: President, Mrs. Hall-Jones; Vice-President, Miss Debac; Chairman, Mrs. Sharp; Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Mitchell; Secretary, Miss Dufour; Treasurer, Miss H.

The Secretary read the Report of the year's work of the Association, which was adopted, as was the financial statement made by the Treasurer.

Meetings have been held during the year at which addresses were given on various subjects of interest, such as Moral and Social Hygiene, Widows' Pensions, Child Adoption, &c.

A rota of members is kept who attend Education Committee and Town Council Meetings, and latterly the Board of Guardians has given permission for a limited number of members to attend their meetings. The proposal to purchase a park at great expense, which came before the Town Council, was reported by members attending it. It was decided to join with other opponents of the scheme; a large number (43) of members helped in obtaining signatures to a petition against the purchase, and the Ministry of Health refused to sanction it. candidates for election to the Town Council had been invited to attend this meeting and explain their views to the Association, but, unfortunately, only two, both representing Labour, availed themselves of the opportunity.

### PERSONAL.

We have to record, with deep regret, the death of Miss Elizabeth Rathbone, sister of our President, a warm friend of the National Union, and a frequent and generous donor to its funds. Miss Rathbone was, until the time of her death, a Poor Law Guardian, and besides many activities connected with nursing and health, took a deep interest in all questions relating to an equal moral standard.

### COMING EVENTS.

### LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

The following meetings on League of Nations subjects will be held:-

DECEMBER 10.

At Exeter, Guildhall.
Speaker: Frederick Whelan, Esq.
At Exeter, University College.
Speaker: Frederick Whelan, Esq.
At Hampstead Garden Suburb, the Institute.
Speakers: Mr. M. C. Jame, Mons. G. M. Cammaerts, Prof. F. P. Geyl,
A. Yusuf Ali Maeve, H. Wilson Harris, Esq., M.A.
Evening. DECEMBER 12. At Tooting Wesley Central Hall, Broadway. Speaker: Frederick Whelan, Esq

DECEMBER 13. At Salisbury, Council House. Speaker: W. L. Williams, Esq. DECEMBER 14.

Guildford, Christian Council of Social Service. eaker: Frederick Whelan, Esq.

DECEMBER 16.

At Stamford Hill, Skinner's Company School for Girls.

Speaker: Miss Currey, O.B.E. DECEMBER 17.

At North Shields. Speaker: Rev. Studdart Kennedy, M.C.

### MENSINGTON SOCIETY FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

A Public Meeting, organised by the following Societies, Kensington ociety for Equal Citizenship, Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, Kensington ocal Government Association, Kensington Women Citizens' Association, eague of the Church Militant, will be held at the Kensington Town Hall, n December 13th, at 8.30 p.m.

Subject: "The Need for Women in Parliament."

Speakers: Major Hills, D.C.L., M.P., Col. Greig, C.G., K.C., M.P., Thomas rundy, Esq., M.P., Miss Elizabeth Macadam, M.A.

Chair: Lady Emmott. Admission free.

### WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

DECEMBER 15 At the Minerva Café, 144, High Holborn. Speaker: The Lady Amherst of Hackney. Subject: "The New Spirit and the Home.' Chairman: The Hon. Mrs. Forbes.

SCARBOROUGH WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION.

DECEMBER 14.
A Meeting will be held at the Y.M.C.A. Subject: "A Plea for the Innocent." Speaker: Mrs. Micklethwaite. Chair: Mrs. Jutty.

### THE WOMEN'S IMPERIAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION.

The Council of the Women's Imperial Health Association is holding an afternoon session at the Annual Conference of the Educational Associations meeting at University College, Gower Street, London, W.C., from December 29th, 1920, to January 8th, 1921. The meeting will be held on January 8th, 1921. The meeting will be held on January 8th, 1921. The meeting will be held on January 8th, 1921. The subject for discussion will be "The Teaching of Health in Schools."

Amongst those who have kindly promised to speak are Dr. Elizabeth Sloan Chesser, on "That the Hygiene of Sex should be included under our Scheme of Health Teaching in Schools." Miss Lilian Barker, on "Co-Education and its Relation to Questions of Health and Hygiene"; and Miss Hilda Bideleux, on "The Teacher of Hygiene."

The Chair will be taken by Miss Christine Murrell, M.D.

It it hoped that many will take this opportunity of hearing the views of expert speakers on this most important subject.

For further particulars, and for tickets, please apply to the Secretary at 7, Hanover Square, W. L.

### GUILD OF EDUCATION AS NATIONAL SERVICE.

DECEMBER 15.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB, LTD.

### DECEMBER 18

Grafton Street, Piccadilly, W. 1.

House Dinner. Speaker: Mr. J. Wells Thatcher (Barrister-at-Law). (Other Speaker nounced later). Subject: "Woman from a Man's Point of View and Man from a Woman's

Chairman: Mr. Goldfinch Bate.

### TOO LATE FOR CLASSIFICATION

### LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

MISS PHILIPPA FAWCEIT'S FUND.

The President, Miss Fawcett, has offered £100 towards the £600 immediately required for the Society's work on condition that ten more sums of £50 each are contributed. Two of these £50 were raised on the floor at the Society's Annual Meeting on November 22nd.

A SALE OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS AND SMALL WHITE ELEPHANTS.

To raise two more £50, will be held at the office of the Society (56, Victoria Street, on Friday, December 17th, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Teas, is. Light Refreshments.

effreshments.

Please send your gifts in money or kind on or before Thursday, seember 16th, to the Hon. Sec. of the Sale, Miss Mellershy c/o London ociety for Women's Service, 56, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

Please come and buy and eat and drink.

All goods left over will be on sale on Saturday and the following days.

PRETTY FURNISHED BEDROOM, Regent's Park, 15s.-S. R., c/o 14, Queen's

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### MISCELLANEOUS.

THE CLERICAL AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S INSURANCE SOCIETY is an Approved Society for professional and business women. Also a Mutual Society for sickness and superannuation. Write to the Secretary for particulars, 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

### LITERARY.

ADY wanted to index Press cuttings one evening weekly; state rate per hour.—Murray, 3, Ormonde Terrace, N.W. 8.

### PROFESSIONAL.

"MORE MONEY TO SPEND" (Income Tax Recovery and Adjustment).—Send postcard for this booklet to Mrs. Ayres Purdle, Women Taxpayers' Agency, Hampden House, 3, Kingsway. 'Phone, Central 6049.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ENSINGTON TOWN HALL.—Fellowship Services. 6.30, Miss Maude Royden.

## College of Ambulance, Ltd.,

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C HRISTMAS PRESENTS.—Tortoiseshell Articles, Bag Frames, Cigarette Cases and Holders, Photo Frames, Hair Brushes, Combs and Pins, &c., straight from Italy.—Box W.4, WOMAN'S LEADER, 170, Fleet-street, E.C. 4.

FOR SALE; bed-pan, 5s.; pair of clogs, 5s.; air-cushions, 10s. and 7s. — Miss. Fraser, 142, Willifield Way, N.W. 4.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, quaint and original, hand-painted; sample 4d.; assorted packets of six cards, 2s., post free; Calendars, 6d., 9d., and 1s.—"Noel," The Athene Studio, 29h, Davies-street, Mayfair.

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OFFICES TO LET, two minutes Victoria Station; 3 good, light rooms, 3rd and 4th floor; no lift; only for organisation with women staff engaged in social or educational work; rent £150 p.a. inclusive.—Apply by letter to Hon. Secretary, O.A.M.D., 24, Buckingham Palace-road, S.W.1.

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