

# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

## AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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### The Labour Party and Non-party Organizations.

We trust that a resolution on the last page of a very lengthy agenda for the twenty-fifth annual Council of the Labour Party meeting in Liverpool this week will not be reached. This resolution, which was sent in by the Birkenhead Trades Council and Labour Party, requests that all women members of the Labour Party withdraw their membership from the National and Local Women Citizens' Association, and further endorses the action of the Birkenhead Labour Party in refusing to accept any candidate for a local or national body who is a member of the Women Citizen's Association. It is hardly credible that such a resolution, constituting as it does an unwarrantable interference with personal liberty, and such a despotic display of Party power will commend itself to the good sense of the Conference.

### Practical Idealism.

We deal elsewhere with the annual Conference of the National Council of Women. The opinions embodied in resolutions at this Council have a special interest of their own, as they test to some extent the views of the average educated and thinking women of the country. The leaders of the Council are, of course, in the front rank of thought and progress, but many of the affiliated societies are not necessarily pledged to the support of such subjects as came up for discussion. Thus the high level of discussion and the remarkable uniformity on the subjects for which this paper stands—with one notable exception referred to by Miss Helen Fraser in her article—is all the more significant. We extend our congratulations to Mrs. George Morgan, the retiring President, on the admirable way in which she has led the Council and we warmly welcome the new President, the Hon. Mrs. Franklin. We wish, too, to associate ourselves with the well deserved tribute paid by the Council to Miss Norah Green on the completion of twenty-one years of service. The Council owes much to the great ability and devotion of Miss Janes, its founder, whom we rejoice to hear has recently recovered from a serious illness and Miss Green has followed in her steps.

### The Ministry of Women.

A correspondent writes:—"I wonder if all your readers will realize the importance of the passing of the resolution on the Ministry of Women at the Conference of the National Council of Women held last week at Birmingham. Suffrage workers of past days will recall the great controversy when it was debated whether the National Union of Women Workers, as the Society was then called, should advocate Woman Suffrage. This is an even greater step forward and the supporters of the resolution take heart in the thought that there was but a short interval between the advocacy of Woman Suffrage by the N.U.W.W. and the granting of the vote to *some* women by the Government of this country to feel assured that, be the interval long or short, the carrying into actual practice of the principles enshrined in this resolution cannot be delayed indefinitely. We congratulate the body of Delegates at the Conference on their courageous and enlightened vote."

### The Marriage Service.

During the month of October, on both sides of the Atlantic, the revision of the Marriage Service will actually be under discussion.

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### NOTES AND NEWS.

#### Realization.

The Guardianship of Infants Act came into operation on 1st October. We deal with the changes introduced by this piece of amended legislation elsewhere in this issue. The Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Act came into operation on the same day, and will be discussed by us next week; though the latter has attracted much less interest in the Press, it is certainly not less important in its implications and incidence. Women's organizations and women citizens generally have plenty of work in front of them this winter in assimilating the provisions of the little batch of new measures relating to the reforms for which we stand and in broadcasting—figuratively and possibly literally—knowledge with regard to them. May we urge our readers to preserve these articles dealing with them for future reference, and to use them as subjects of winter meetings? This is a novel and pleasing task, and we must return thanks for the first fruits of our past efforts without relaxing our efforts for more.

#### Women in the Civil Service.

The results of the Civil Service (Class I) examinations were published early this week. Among twenty-two successful candidates, one of the women entrants, Miss Enid Russell-Smith, obtained ninth place. We congratulate her upon being the first woman to enter the higher ranks of the Civil Service by the normal channel of competitive examination, also upon accomplishing her end with so handsome a margin of success. Had she been 21st or 22nd on the list, we should have trembled for her future under the buffetings of an anti-feminist providence. If Chance is the guardian angel of the male career, then Miss Chance is the deity who watches over women. But Miss Russell-Smith starts well and solidly. We shall follow her career with interest. And we shall be especially interested to observe whether, in the event of her marriage, a Civil Service salary will be regarded as a form of public charity to be withdrawn at the discrimination of a benevolent paternalism from a no longer "necessitous" case.

'Keep fit on  
cocoa'

**BOURNVILLE**  
SEE THE "Cadbury" NAME ON EVERY PIECE OF CHOCOLATE

Write  
Cadbury, Bournville  
about Gift Scheme



A petition worded as follows, organized by the League of the Church Militant, will be sent to the Chairman of the House of Bishops at the beginning of the Session, in October. "We, the undersigned, respectfully beg our Fathers in God, in their deliberations regarding the Marriage Service in the alternative Prayer Book, so to revise that service that it may be brought into accord with the high ideals of mutual trust, consideration, and reverence which should inspire those members of the Christian Church who seek the blessing of God upon their marriage vows." In the United States the same question will occupy the attention of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church at New Orleans. We read in the *Church Times* that at the last Convention opinion was in favour of the elimination of the word "obey" and that the decision now comes up again for final ratification. The opposition has, however, in the meantime found an exponent in the person of Dr. Irving Johnson, Bishop of Colorado, who believes that such a change will let down the standards of the Church to satisfy a rationalistic world. He holds that if a woman does not love a man well enough to obey him, which means accept his leadership, she will not love him more because her vanity is flattered by the omission. Fortunately, the bishops of the United States are not all of this way of thinking and a statement in favour of the proposed change has been issued by Bishop Slattery, the Bishop-Coadjutor of Massachusetts. We hope our American friends will not forget that the word "obey" is not the only objectionable feature of the Marriage Service of the Church of England, or Episcopalian Church as it is called in the States, unless the American service has unknown to us already been expunged of its anachronisms and unpleasant implications.

#### Lucacy Reform.

The speech delivered by Mr. Edward G. Smith at the Summer School of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship has aroused so much criticism and interest that our readers will be glad to know that it will appear in our columns next week. Mr. Smith has also promised to keep us informed on questions relating to the work of the Royal Commission on the reform of the Lunacy Laws. At Oxford, Mr. Smith made a powerful appeal to women magistrates and women members of local authorities to realize their responsibilities and use their powers in connexion with institutions for the insane. Everyone who can get hold of it is reading *Christina Alberta*, and Mr. Wells' account of Mr. Preemby's experiences, all the more eloquent because of its restraint and obvious sincerity, will awaken even the most casual reader to sympathy with the lot of those who for want of better and more curative provision find their way within the walls of the lunatic asylum.

#### Women's Work at Bâle.

*Le journal de Genève* of 20th September, 1925, gives an interesting report of an exhibition of women's work now being held at Bâle. It dwells on the great increase in the 10 years between 1910 and 1920 in the number of women employed in industry. The numbers working in offices have increased during the same time from 2,500 to 4,000. A large increase is also to be seen in the number of women university students. There are now about 1,000 in the various faculties. The first was a woman medical student in 1891. The number now studying medicine in the university is 60. The article concludes with the following remarks on the political enfranchisement of women:—"Il va sans dire que le mouvement pour le suffrage féminin figure aussi à l'exposition. De plus en plus l'égalité de l'homme dans la production, industrielle et artistique, la Bâloise combat aussi pour obtenir l'égalité politique, et Bâle compte des suffragettes très convaincues et très actives."

#### Radical Feminism.

Our correspondent Gisela Urban (Vienna) writes:—"In the Austrian Parliament the women members, Adelheid Popp and Gabriele Proft, introduced a Bill aiming at the total equality of women in marriage, a few weeks ago. The following demands are contained in this Bill: the right of the woman who marries a foreigner to keep or change her nationality; equal rights and duties for husband and wife, especially to the support of the common household; to mutual provision in case one of the couple cannot earn; to the temporary dissolving of matrimonial life in case the health or economic situation of one part is endangered by the other part; choice of a common family-name at the conclusion of the marriage (the name can only

be the name of the husband or of the wife); change of the domicile only in case of mutual consent; equal rights and duties towards the children; the right of the wife to the common earnings, if the origin of the income cannot be ascertained. The Bill has caused a great sensation in Austria, as in some points the demands are so radical that even convinced feminists cannot agree with them. So especially the demand for a common marriage name and the demand for the temporary dissolving of matrimonial life in case the health or economic situation of one part is endangered by the other part. But Austrian women are very grateful to the two women Members of Parliament who stand up for these demands, as they have shown by this Bill how important the reform of the matrimonial laws is. It is to be hoped that this question will be discussed more in public and political life in the next time."

#### New Magistrates for Devon.

Three women have recently been appointed to benches in Devonshire which were previously occupied entirely by men. Mrs. Dashwood, who is better known to the world at large as E. M. Delafield, the writer of delightful novels, Mrs. Lock, and Miss A. E. Bazeley. Miss Bazeley has the experience, unique, we imagine, in the qualifications of magistrates, about which a good deal has been said recently, of actual work as a police woman. An interesting discussion has recently been carried on in *The Times* and other newspapers as to the principle of selection of Justices of the Peace and the troubles of Advisory Committees in making recommendation to the Lord Chancellor. Benches are already overcrowded, yet there are scores of candidates for magisterial honours clamouring for appointment, few of them with any special claim to suitability except the representation of this or that political or other sectional interest, or perhaps the performance of some form of public service for which they regard the magic letters J.P. as an appropriate reward. One principle of selection cannot be disputed. No bench in the country should be without at least one woman, and those serving certain areas should have several. This is far from being the case at present. The selection of one [woman, or even three or four, should not be a difficult task, for a short list agreed upon by all the women's organizations of the locality will give the Advisory Committee the guidance they want.

#### Idleness as a Portent.

The Master of Balliol College, Oxford, writes at some length in the *Manchester Guardian* of 17th September, on the position now enjoyed by women students in his university, and the stages by which they reached it. He pays high tribute to the good sense of the women and their college authorities under the sway of a rather obsolete disciplinary code, much of which is in effect a dead letter. His verdict is that in spite of such anomalies, and of the fact that college discipline is in a state of rather indeterminate transition, the "general tone and atmosphere" of the women's colleges is "extraordinarily satisfactory" and that reports to the contrary are "unmitigated nonsense." But the most arresting section of his article is the somewhat paradoxical assertion that "It was a landmark in the history of women's education in Oxford, and an encouraging one, when a woman undergraduate was sent down for being idle." At first sight this might appear to be rather a deplorable landmark, far from encouraging! But the Master of Balliol explains himself. In the early days of women's education only exceptional women—women with a strong bent towards academic study—achieved a university career. Those were the women who overworked—the women whose activities have given such wide scope in the past to the ill-founded criticisms of opponents of women's education. As if their male prototypes didn't overwork too! Thus the appearance of the first idle woman undergraduate signals the levelling down of educational facilities—the lowering of the margin of academic cultivation as it were—the normalizing for women of higher education. It is amusing to think that the first woman who was sent down from Oxford for idleness may deserve a place among the pioneer figures of our movement. We should like to know who she is. Perhaps if this paper finds its way into her hands she will communicate with us.

**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.

### IS BIRTH CONTROL A FEMINIST REFORM? <sup>1</sup>

In our issue of 17th July we ventured to criticize a definition of feminism given by Miss Rose Macaulay. She defined feminism as "attempts of women to possess privileges (political, professional, economic, or other) which have previously been denied to them on account of their sex." We criticized it on the ground of inadequacy. Of course we want these things—but we want something more. We want in addition to equality of treatment in a world designed by men to reflect their own experiences, needs, and aspirations, a certain fundamental re-ordering of the world itself. Thus we ventured to hammer out as an alternative definition of feminism: "The demand of women that the whole structure and movement of society shall reflect in a proportionate degree their experiences, their needs, and their aspirations." In fine, we expanded the old claim for identity of treatment which served us well enough in the days when the bare right of citizenship was an inevitable "next step," and established a claim for nothing less than a new standard of human values.

Now this wider conception of feminism necessarily brings into the purview of the feminist a whole range of matters which it is not logically possible to consider under the narrow terms of the old identity formula. We have especially in mind the conditions of that occupation in which the large majority of women are at present engaged, in which the overwhelming majority of women are at some time of their life engaged, and whose chances or mischances influence in a thousand ways the position of all those women who are engaged in other occupations. We refer, of course, to the occupation of motherhood. It is not easy to demand such and such terms for the performance of that occupation under the aegis of the older formula, because it is an occupation in which women alone engage and we have, as it were, no male standard of superior privilege on which to focus our ideal. But it is easy enough—it is inevitable—under the new formula. Thus we can—indeed, we do—demand that this particular occupation shall focus the same measure of social attention and respect as any large and nationally important occupation in which men are engaged. We demand that the safety regulations of maternity shall command the same pre-occupation and record the same improvement as the safety regulations of—let us say, coal-mining. We demand that the economic basis of motherhood shall be the kind of economic basis that men would regard as acceptable for any occupation in which they themselves were engaged. It is for this reason that we regard Widows' Pensions and Family Endowment as, in one aspect, *feminist reforms*. And finally we demand that

the mother, like her economically occupied husband, shall be placed in a position of maximum freedom to determine under what conditions she will or will not perform her function, and how far by reasonable "limitation of output" she may improve the standard of her "product." Incidentally, we believe that the manner of securing an adequate survival rate tolerated by our forefathers: a high birth-rate combined with a high infant death-rate, or in more general terms indiscriminate production combined with wastage of the product—was degrading both to the professional standard of the mothers who acquiesced in it and to the professional status accorded them by society. It involved the assumption that the work of the mother is so cheap, so easily and profusely forthcoming, that unlike the work of the miner or engineer (who is conscious of his right to strike if intolerable conditions are imposed upon him) it can be wastefully used by society and even regarded as something of an incubus by individuals. That, then, is why we regard the provision of expert and disinterested birth control advice to married women as, in one aspect, a *feminist reform*.

We are aware that this explanation will not set at rest the objections of those of our critics who regard all forms of birth control other than the suspension of marital relations as in themselves ethically unjustifiable. Indeed, it is intended not as a statement of the case for birth control, but merely as a statement of the case for regarding birth control, when once its justifiability is established, as a *feminist reform*. Nevertheless we will take the opportunity of saying two things on our general position to those who take the view that birth control in the sense in which the word is commonly understood is ethically wrong. In the first place we would remind them that we are not advocating birth control as good in itself. There are individual circumstances in which we too would regard it as ethically wrong. We are advocating it as admissible in certain forms, and under certain circumstances, and we think that the person best fitted to decide under what circumstances it is admissible is the individual mother; that the person best fitted to decide what form it shall take is the responsible medical officer of an infant welfare centre. In the second place we would ask them to believe that our attitude in this matter is inspired by a reverence for human personality as great as their own. It is a reverence which revolts at the thought that the seeds of life may be sown thoughtlessly and on unprepared ground; at the thought that its fruit may be unwanted and inadequately tended; at the thought that its increase may destroy instead of fulfilling the life from which it comes.

### THE THIRD WEEK OF THE ASSEMBLY.

By L. FRIEDLANDER, B.A.

"Intellectual co-operation and political economy—two subjects submitted to the Second Committee—appear to furnish the League with its widest field of activity." These were the words of the Canadian delegate at a meeting of the Second Committee on 18th September. And, in truth, it is just in connexion with these two spheres of international work that some of the most interesting discussions have been going on in Geneva during this last week.

To the Second Committee came M. Julien Loucheur, the new Director of that Institute of Intellectual Co-operation which the French Government has offered to set up and which will be opened officially on the 1st of November this year. M. Loucheur gave the Committee an outline of the work which the Institute will undertake under the guidance of that remarkable body the Committee of Intellectual Co-operation, which the League first established some two years ago. In the heart of Paris, in the beautiful old Palais Royal, where Cardinal Richelieu once lived, there will now be men of high standing in the intellectual world working together at the task "of investigation, of suggestion, and of keeping in touch," for so M. Loucheur defined the aims of the Institute. The section for Scientific Relations, for instance, will try to link up and create centres for the collection of documents; it will try to draw up for all the sciences such valuable bibliographies as that for the physical sciences, which has been already published. And the University Section will help the students who are to travel to these centres of documentation. There is also a striking feature of the work allocated to the Section for General Affairs, and that is the plan for some kind of international organization which shall prepare and train the youth of the world for

specifically international careers—a sure sign of the new days in which we live.

To the Second Committee also came M. Loucheur, on behalf of the French delegation, to explain in detail the suggestion he had already made to the full Assembly, that the League should at some future date call a great international economic conference, where the huge and terrifying problem of the economic reconstruction of a post-war Europe could be openly and impartially studied. "Have I any need," said M. Loucheur, "to discuss the question whether economic conflicts are really one of the principal causes of wars?" Though himself a convinced antagonist of State control of industry, he had been brought to realize "that there comes a moment when States have to put a check on excessive individual enterprise"; for "the situation is not improving," and the position of Great Britain and her coal industry furnished an example of this near at hand.

Speaking on behalf of some two million workers organized internationally, M. Jouhaux then cordially supported this proposal, and pointed out to the Committee, as he did later to the full Assembly, how the workers had from 1919 onwards always urged the vital necessity of an international inquiry into production, into unemployment, and into the distribution of raw materials. The idea of the economic conference was actively supported by delegates from the other States-Members of the League, only the British Government pleading for caution and asking for time in which to investigate this question.

So at its fifteenth plenary Session, the Assembly of the League, "persuaded of the necessity of investigating the economic difficulties which stand in the way of the revival of general prosperity," invited the Council to consider at its next Session

<sup>1</sup> We submit this statement to our readers in discharge of an undertaking given to a correspondent in last week's issue.—ED.



## MOTHERS AND FATHERS.

On 1st October both the Guardianship of Infants Act and the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Act come into force; it will be necessary to watch their administration to realize exactly how much they accomplish and how much they still have to accomplish. We will confine ourselves this week to the Guardianship Act.

It is not necessary in these pages to recapitulate more than its main provisions.

It provides (a) that in disputes before the court the welfare of the child—not the rights of either parent—shall be the sole consideration; (b) that cases under the Act can be brought in the Police Courts as well as in the Higher Courts; (c) that a mother can apply for a maintenance order from a father for a child of whom she has the custody (in a Higher Court the amount of this order is unlimited; in a summary court it is limited to 20s. weekly); (d) that a mother is to have the same rights as a father with regard to the appointment of guardian after death; (e) that the consent of a mother as well as that of a father shall be necessary for the marriage of young people under 21; where the parents live apart the consent of the parent who has the custody of the child shall be necessary, and in the case of an illegitimate child that of the mother alone is required.

We hope that our readers will do their part to make the chief points of the Act known among those likely to be in touch with mothers who stand in need of the help it offers. The fact that a court can apply for maintenance for a child in the summary courts will at once make her existing rights under the 1886 Guardianship of Infants Act of real value instead of being only dead sea fruit. It is interesting to note that whereas under this Act a mother, if voluntarily living apart from her husband, can obtain a maintenance order up to 20s. for each child without having to prove him guilty of any offence, she can only obtain a sum of 10s. a week when she is given an order under the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Act. It must not be forgotten, however, that under the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Act she can receive an order up to a limit of 40s. for herself. Nevertheless, a further effort will be made by women's organizations next season to raise the maximum amount which can be given to a child under the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Act to 20s.

Legal correspondents, in commenting on the Act in the Press recently, assume that it gives a right to a mother to apply to the courts in disputes such as those relating to the religion or methods of education of a child. We are delighted that the legal mind is interpreting the Act in this way, as unfortunately we know that the Government did not intend to increase the number of matters relating to the upbringing of a child concerning a dispute on which an application could be made to the court, and that no such application is possible now. It is true that the Act provides that a mother may apply to the courts on the same grounds as a father now can. It is also true that the majority of disputes which would get as far as the court relating to such thorny questions as religion and education would involve in addition a dispute as to custody, which has always been a matter which could be brought before the court. How, therefore, a dispute as to religion, where no question of custody arises, can come before the court it is difficult to see, though we must admit that we have been told in this connexion that nothing is impossible to a clever lawyer! An interesting aspect of the Act which has not as yet been much dealt with in these pages, is that relating to the marriage of minors. Up to the present the father's consent alone has been necessary. Now, however, the consent of both parents is required, except in cases in which one parent only has the custody, either given by the courts or because the other parent has deserted. An illegitimate child, for whose marriage at present nobody's consent is needed, will under the Act require its mother's consent.

Where the consent of the parents cannot be given on account of inaccessibility, or where it is refused, the Registrar General in the first case, and the court in both these cases, may give their consent instead. We have travelled far indeed from the days of Gretna Green!

EVA M. HUBBACK.

(Continued from previous page.)

the possibility of setting up a preparatory Committee, to prepare the work for an international Economic Conference which the Council may later decide to summon.

"We are living in tragic times," said M. Loucheur to the Assembly; "let us tell the truth to the peoples, for where there is a will there is a way."

CLARISSA TRANT.<sup>1</sup>

Very few memoirs or journals produce the same conviction of reality that we get from our favourite novels; but Clarissa Trant becomes as real to us as if she were a purely imaginary character, and her love affairs interest us as much as those of Elizabeth Bennet or Anne Elliot.

Clarissa was born in 1800. Her father, Sir Nicholas Trant, was one of the heroes of the Peninsular War, and was made Governor of Oporto by the Portuguese. In 1811, when the country was tolerably quiet, he sent for his two motherless children from England, devoted himself to their education, and encouraged them to share as much as was possible of his picturesque and beneficent life. As he appears in the journal which his little daughter began almost immediately to keep, he was an eighteenth century Don Quixote, with an infusion of the more modern British conception of "an officer and a gentleman." He was also a cultivated man with a keen relish for classical and mediæval associations. We find him at one moment supervising the excavation of Roman Baths, paying for the work himself, and passionately interested in deciphering the inscriptions; at another erecting a stone over the grave of the fair and unhappy Inez de Castro, and choosing a quotation from Camoëns to adorn it; at another investigating the real truth of a crime for which an innocent person was in danger of death; at another urging on the rescue of a shipwrecked crew; at another receiving penniless young officers into his house, nursing them through illnesses, providing them with necessaries, and treating them as sons; at others receiving the impassioned gratitude (generally accompanied by illuminations, flower throwing, and sweetmeats) of princes, peasants, ex-prisoners of war, and nuns, whom he had protected and relieved in the hour of their distress.

Clarissa and her little brother took part in it all. They had their fill of triumphal receptions, fireworks, and kisses, and were taught to take an intelligent interest in the historical associations. They burned with delight when the innocent prisoners were saved from the scaffold only just in time, and when the half-drowned sailors were brought dripping to the shore. The only drawbacks to their felicity were the tiresome governesses whom Sir Nicholas insisted on dragging about with him in order that they might have a regular education. Clarissa longed for the time when she should be grown up, and free from the yoke.

And yet, if she had only known it, she was having the best days of her life, or at any rate of her youth. Things were not half so cheerful when she grew up. Sir Nicholas broke down in health and had to retire. The Portuguese Government was shockingly irregular in paying his pension. He had been, and was, far too lavish with his money to have any left with which to keep up a proper home. He and Clarissa were wretchedly poor, especially as the beloved brother (an officer in India at the age of sixteen) was at first inclined to be extravagant. Father and daughter travelled about from place to place in England, Ireland, and on the Continent, taking dreadful journeys in impossible weather, in which Clarissa was often in danger, and more often frightened, though she was far too well trained to show it. Much as she and her father adored each other, her health and nerves evidently suffered from the uncomfortable restless life. She could not bear being separated from him, but the only quiet times she seems ever to have had were those she spent among relations and friends, while he rushed off to Portugal to try and collect some of his arrears of pension. Some of these friends belonged to the Evangelical movement, then at its zenith, and Clarissa, who had a religious mind, listened to sermons two hours long, and found in them some of the serious, solid stuff which she seems always to have been seeking in life. She had many admirers, but the one on whom she fixed her affections was not serious or solid. The ups and downs of her love affair with Colonel Cameron are very candidly and naturally related in the diary, and keep the reader in suspense for many, many pages. One cannot but share her feelings, though one realizes sooner than she did that he was quite unworthy of her affections. The disillusionment about him made it difficult for her to accept anyone else, and all her love and passion continued to be concentrated on her delightful father and brother. The latter was so gay and light-hearted, as well as so good, that if he could only have lived at home, his sister might have kept some of the gaiety of youth, which she seems only to have felt when he was there.

The way in which marriage and family life finally came to her was curious, and seems to have been directed by a special

<sup>1</sup> The Journal of Clarissa Trant, 1800-1832. Published John Lane. 18s. net.

providence. She and her father were taking one of their dreadful journeys from Ireland, hardly anyone but Sir Nicholas would have travelled in such weather! There was one other passenger, however. A young clergyman, lately from Oxford, whom Sir Nicholas found such an agreeable companion that he persuaded his sea-sick daughter to come on deck and enjoy the pleasure of his conversation. Clarissa came—in hernightcap. Mr Bramston did more than converse; as it was Sunday, he celebrated Divine Service, and then, recognizing a kindred spirit in the sick young lady, he read to her out of a little book which had lately been published, John Keble's *Christian Year*. It was an unforgettable day for them both, but they did not meet again for four years. Then some common friends, who had heard of the impression made on him, and who probably thought it high time that she should marry, brought them together. Clarissa was over thirty, an old maid by the standards of the day. There was no time to lose. Early in 1832, they were married and went to a living in Essex, where they endeavoured to put into practice the life that is shadowed in the *Christian Year*. Sir Nicholas we are glad to know, went to live near them. Tom, alas, died of consumption at the Vicarage very soon after the marriage. Clarissa herself only lived twelve more years. She left three children, and it was for her eldest daughter, "little Clara" that she put together the Journal of her early years. We gather that much unedited journal still remains, and we earnestly hope that Miss Luard will soon give us further instalments. We should like to know the daily incidents of Clarissa's life at the Vicarage. She is a person about whom one would always want to hear more, and yet, already, we feel that we know her well, and that to know is to love.

I. B. O'MALLEY.

## REVERSION TO TYPE.

Miss Delafield, after giving us *Messalina of the Suburbs* and *Mrs. Harter* has reverted to type. Well, well—there is really nothing to regret. It was interesting to watch so gifted a craftsman navigating in deep waters, setting her course along lines charted by the pilots of very primitive craft under the guidance of the stars. And so, back we come from the dark Kingdom of Tristan and Isolde, which one may call the Kingdom of Hell in contradistinction to the Kingdom of Heaven with which it has certain things in common—back to the smiling country of fathomable motives and finite relationships. And we repeat—there is really nothing to regret. For Miss Delafield in her lighter vein has a peculiar genius and impishness of her own, and that quality is at its best and purest in her newest book, *The Chip and the Block*.<sup>1</sup> The eternal egoist with whom, in so many guises, her pen has made merry in the past appears for a change, in this latest book, in male attire. He is Chas. Ellery, struggling journalist, and later "best seller" of sunny fiction. To borrow a fantasy from Stella Benson, his "Showman" is always busy with him, in poverty and in wealth, in sickness and in health, even down to the gates of other people's death. And with what diabolical precision does our author indicate that shadowy "Showman's" operations! We quote at random a discussion over the question of whether Chas. Ellery should visit the U.S.A.: "My dear," said her husband impressively, "I should be quite helpless. How could I mend my socks, or find a clean collar when I wanted one, or count my own laundry?"

Paul could not help remembering that Father had recently been, with Jeannie, to see *Peter Pan*. Evidently he was being a boy who wouldn't grow up. Caroline ought to respond with a quaint touch of motherliness—a whimsical pity for the helplessness of man.

Instead, Caroline only said that on board ship there would be stewardesses for that kind of thing, and in the hotels chambermaids.

But Chas. is not really the central figure of Miss Delafield's crowded stage. He is an essential feature of the background against which his three children, Paul, Jeannie, and Victor move through childhood and adolescence to the first fulfilment of their diverse personalities. He is an admirably proportioned part of the home circle of mother, step-mother, grandparents, friends, and maiden aunts, from which the reader, having shared its intimacies, humours, and expectations, withdraws so regretfully when the last page is reached. And yet, such is the nature of Miss Delafield's wit, that though we greet with a cheer each new achievement of her prolific pen, she is one of the few eminent novelists of to-day with whom we should not care to become personally acquainted. We should like to introduce her to . . .

<sup>1</sup> *The Chip and the Block*. By E. M. Delafield. (Hutchinson, 7s. 6d.)

let us name no names . . . we should like to introduce her to one or two people of our circle and observe the subsequent results, but we should prefer to carry on our observations from an impersonal distance, for her wit is of a rather fearful kind.

Meanwhile, there is one half-page (it is, to be precise, p. 146) from which for a moment there emerges a rosy irradiation such as that which emanated on occasions from the Chalice of *Parsifal*. It concerns a very brief interview between a new step-mother and an old nurse. And it shows us our author from an unaccustomed angle.

M. D. S.

## IMPRESSIONS OF BIRMINGHAM COUNCIL.

By HELEN FRASER.

The National Council of Women held its Annual Conference last week at Birmingham, where it had a cordial and hospitable welcome from the Church in the person of the Bishop, from the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress on behalf of the city, and from the local organization. The Council received a very full and interesting Press locally, and a good Press over the country. The keynote of this year's meetings was "Practical Idealism" and the scope of the programme embraced many fields of public life where a practical idealism might usefully be further applied.

It was a Council, as it always is, whose speakers included many of our best known women and some distinguished men. The level of speaking at the business meetings was good, with what one is always glad to see, quite a few younger women among them. The Council did its work with celerity and dispatch, getting through all its resolutions with no closing and with a feeling of ample time under the able and distinctly charming chairmanship of Mrs. George Morgan. Mrs. Morgan never found herself too busy to be pleasant even under conflicting claims; she struck the wise, broad note of tolerance and unity in her Presidential address.

The public meetings were varied in character and had nothing of monotony in any of them. Quite lively interest outside of Council delegates was manifested in them, the debate on Endowment between Miss Eleanor Rathbone and Miss Helen Fraser drawing a very large audience and rousing very marked interest, reflected in a very wide Press. Here, as on some other issues presented, the Council expressed no view.

Practical idealism in penal reform and education was presented very brilliantly by distinguished speakers, including on penal reform Mrs. Rackham and Mlle. Bertillon, the appeal of Dr. Hamblin Smith for psychological treatment of offenders striking the most advanced note. Questions and answers and discussion on this issue proved illuminating of wide divergencies of attitude on the part of the audience, and Lady Selborne, who is never afraid to speak her mind, contributed characteristically at still another public meeting to the discussion on the licensing of clubs. The Birmingham public appeared again to like its opportunity of seeing how the business of the Council is conducted by watching at a public meeting discussions on two resolutions, one opposing restrictions on married women's work, the other supporting temperance reform, and both carried.

Altogether "Practical Idealism" in the public meetings proved not only instructive but distinctly exciting and illuminating and not without its humours. Most of the Council's resolutions will have been noted by our readers, and detailed comment is unnecessary. But one thing emerged clearly—that there is an ever-growing demand here in this great representative Council for greater and greater equality.

They asked for it for Peereses, for women in the Ministry, for more of it in the Civil Service, for the repeal of solicitation laws directed against women alone, and the establishment of an equal law. On the question of protective legislation the Council had a resolution before it remarkable neither for logic nor for clarity; its first clause laying down the principle of basing protective legislation not upon sex but on the nature of the occupation, and its second tacitly accepting what measure of protection there may be in the Factory projected Act, a kind of blank cheque endorsement that is unwise.

An amendment moved by N.U.S.E.C. representatives was lost but got a very substantial vote, significant of the spread of the attitude embodied in the first clause. The Council showed its practical spirit by urging Electrical development on the Government, so it ranged, in its application of its keynote, from the things of the spirit to the things of the kitchen, showing itself to be on the whole not only desirous of more ideal ways, but possessing sound sense on how to get nearer them, and its presentation to Miss Green showed its appreciation of devoted service. Altogether a profitable Council.



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEWS.

## NEED FOR WOMEN COUNCILLORS.

In our article of 19th September we attempted to deal with the work of Borough Councils, and the duty and privilege of those who are responsible for their election. To-day we call attention to the need for women on these authorities. It seems hardly necessary to labour this point when we remember that Borough Councils are concerned with matters which closely affect the physical and moral well-being of the whole community and with work which from time immemorial has been the special duty of women, viz., the care of the young, the home, the sick, the aged and destitute, health, housing, and sanitation, pure water, unadulterated food, and clean milk, facilities for wholesome recreation, maternity and child welfare, to mention a few out of many which come within the province of local authorities. These are matters which cannot be satisfactorily dealt with by bodies composed solely and exclusively of men, however willing and efficient they may be.

The co-operation of intelligent and sympathetic women who have practical experience of the needs of the home and of little children, of buying and spending, combined with some knowledge of the life of the people amongst whom they dwell, is also needed if local government is to be well and successfully carried on. Common sense and good government alike demand that women shall find place on all public bodies which deal with questions of this kind.

This being admitted, and inasmuch as the final decision as to who shall serve rests with the electorate, it is of supreme importance that women voters should take a keen and intelligent interest in local government elections, and it is equally important that women's organizations should make it their business not only to educate their members to a sense of their civic responsibilities but should also supply them with reliable information regarding the candidates standing for election, their qualifications and their personal character. Also, it would seem to be part of their business to find women who are suitable for the work, and willing to come forward as candidates, and having found them, to work with heart and soul for their return.

Our remarks apply to all local government authorities, both in town and country, but in view of the approaching triennial elections for Metropolitan Borough Councils, we are at the moment mainly concerned with the need for increasing the number of women on these Councils.

There are twenty-eight Metropolitan Borough Councils, on which, according to our latest returns there are serving 128 women, viz., 122 elected Councillors and six Aldermen. We note with pleasure that no Council is without one woman member. At the same time it is obvious that this number is out of proportion to the total number of members, and certainly quite inadequate when we take into consideration the nature and amount of work demanding attention. It is good to know that many of the present women Councillors will offer themselves for re-election, and we hope that others will come forward as candidates and go to the poll in November.

The qualifications for candidates for Metropolitan Borough Councils are identical with those for other local authorities. Anyone who is over 21 years of age, married or single, who is a local government elector, or owner of property within the electoral area, or who has resided in the same area for twelve months prior to the date of the election, is eligible to come forward as a candidate. Women's organizations would do well to be provided with suitable women candidates. In selecting a candidate it is advisable, if possible, to select a woman who has gained some little experience of public works, for instance, as a School Manager, or a member of a Care Committee.

Fluent speaking is an asset for a candidate, provided it is coupled with real knowledge, but this qualification is not so essential for a Councillor. As a matter of fact a too talkative member of a Board or Committee, whether man or woman, is often a hindrance to the work and always a source of annoyance to other members. A few words to the point spoken at the right moment are more effective and carry more weight as a rule in Committee than a long speech.

If a candidate is to be successful, careful preparation and hard work are essential. A carefully trained band of workers is a source of strength to a candidate and may make all the difference to the result of the contest. It is well to remember that intelligent canvassing is often essential. Canvassers should know something of the work of the Council, the Acts which it is

called upon to administer, and be able to give reasons why the presence and co-operation of women are needed.

As the first of November falls this year on Sunday, the polling day, we presume, will be 2nd November. The day rapidly approaches. There are, however, still four weeks before the elections, and during this interval women's organizations should do their utmost to dispense the apathy which prevails, and to stimulate women voters in their respective districts to use the power they possess to send to these Councils women and men of high personal character and ideals, who are prepared to serve the State with common sense and disinterested enthusiasm.

BERTHA MASON.

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HUBBACK.  
Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.  
Telephone: Victoria 6188.

## BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

The chief work before our Societies during the coming month will be work in connexion with the Borough Council Elections (see articles by Miss Bertha Mason on another page, and also in the WOMAN'S LEADER of 18th September). We shall be glad to hear as soon as possible which of our Societies are putting forward or supporting women candidates, and we hope that all Societies will put questions from our Questionnaire to their candidates. In places where we have no Society we hope that individuals will write direct to the candidates or see that the questions are put by other organizations or at meetings. Copies of the Questionnaire may be had free on application at the office, 15 Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

## QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS.

1. Will you support the application of the principle of the Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act, 1919, so that a woman shall not be disqualified on account of her sex from any post or office under the Council?
2. Will you oppose the compulsory retirement on marriage of women employees of the Council?
3. Will you support equal pay for equal work and equal opportunities of training, entry and promotion for all men and women employed by the Council? (Equal Pay for Equal Work means that men and women should be paid at the same rate whether this is to be computed by time or by piece in the same occupation or grade.)
4. Will you in any scheme for the training or relief of the unemployed include provision for women as well as for men, and will you pay special regard to the claims of those, whether men or women, who have dependents?
5. Will you urge your Watch Committee, or your Standing Joint Committee for County Police to carry out the recommendations of the Report of the Departmental Committee on the Employment of Women Police, 1924, and appoint Women Police in your area?
6. Are you in favour of providing equal facilities for girls and boys in education, including technical and industrial education?
7. Will you endeavour to secure that appointment of an adequate representation of women on all Committees and Sub-Committees of your Council, either as elected or as co-opted members?

\* These do not apply to London Boroughs.

## SPEAKERS.

We are receiving so many requests for speakers that it is necessary to enlarge our speakers' list. We should be most grateful if those willing to spare time for this important work would give the following particulars:—

- (a) Subjects on which they are prepared to speak.
- (b) Times and areas convenient.
- (c) Whether expenses only are required.

The Women's International League is also anxious to know if any of our members would speak for them on International affairs.

## SPEAKERS' CLASSES.

It is proposed to hold speakers' classes in London for those wishing to learn public speaking if a sufficient number of names are sent in. There will be a small fee.

## SPEAKERS' MEETINGS.

Meetings for speakers will be held monthly at the office in order that speakers should be kept in touch with the work of the Union both in Parliament and elsewhere. The first meeting was held on Tuesday, 29th September, at which the Parliamentary Secretary spoke on the Insurance Acts and the coming Session. At the next meeting, date to be announced later, Miss Rathbone will speak on "Family Allowances."

## A BRITISH DEPUTATION IN BULGARIA.

Women's International League, 55 Gower Street, W.C. 1.

Dr. Marion Phillips, Lady Clare Annesley (who is a member of the W.I.L. Executive Committee), and Miss Ellen Wilkinson had a most curious reception when they visited Bulgaria at the end of September as a deputation from the Committee of the Bulgarian Widows' and Orphans' Relief Fund. Their object, as reported by Miss Wilkinson in *The Manchester Guardian*, was "to take to Bulgaria a sum of money raised by private and public subscription, to ascertain the need among widows and children as a result of the Cathedral outrage, and to make arrangements for further distribution." The Minister for Foreign Affairs at first refused to allow them to form a Committee of Bulgarian and English women on the ground that to grant relief to the sufferers would encourage those who wanted to change the Government. Police agents dogged their footsteps everywhere, and an order to leave the country in three hours' time, said to be the unauthorized act of a subordinate, was only withdrawn as a result of official representations by the British Minister to the Minister for War. It is good to learn that Bulgarians as a whole do not share the Government's strange views. Many prominent members of all parties in Bulgaria—whom the deputation managed to see despite the attentions of the secret police—considered that, in spite of the Government's ban, widows and children ought not to be allowed to suffer for the political views of their husbands or parents.

The distress has been terrible. The records of the Agrarian party show that 20,000 members have been killed or "disappeared." All employees with Agrarian or Communist sympathies have been dismissed by Bulgarian firms by order of the Government, and as a result of pressure some foreign firms have taken the same course. Charitable funds have been so controlled as to prohibit helping these sufferers: indeed, the homes of those seen by the deputation were subsequently visited by the police to see if relief had been given. But in the face of all these difficulties the deputation succeeded in obtaining permission to send clothing to a pastor for distribution, and also to ask the Red Cross to form a relief committee, including representatives of the fund. Thus, thanks to the efforts of these three Englishwomen, help will be given where up to now it has been impossible.

## INTERNATIONAL SUFFRAGISTS.

It is not too soon to be thinking of the meeting of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, which will take place in Paris in May next year. Paris is easy to reach, and we hope that great Britain will not only send its full contingent of delegates, but a large party of visitors to this great gathering. The fact that for the first time the Alliance has a British President—our own Mrs. Corbett Ashby—constitutes a special claim for a strong British contingent. We hope shortly to publish an article from her pen on the proposals for the Congress. But while we as British women welcome the "new" President, we hope that Mrs. Chapman Catt will not fail to be present in her capacity as Honorary President, for an I.W.S.A. Conference without her presence would not seem quite right.

## MISS GRACE MEDLAND TAYLOR.

The death of Miss Grace Taylor, after a short illness resulting from a mosquito bite, cuts short in a mysterious way a life full of service to the community. At the age of 27, when she could be spared from a home where she was the eldest of a large family, she carried out her ambition to train for hospital nursing and became Sister of the Central Hospital, Manchester, and during the war Matron of the Scottish Women's Hospital for Serbian Refugees at Ajaccio, Corsica. During the great days of the suffrage struggle, Miss Taylor threw herself into the work of the Manchester Society and became one of its officers. In recent years she devoted herself to different forms of public and social work, and it was hoped by some of her friends that she might be willing to stand for the Manchester City Council. Tributes to her memory, which appear in the *Manchester Guardian*, speak not only of the remarkable amount and quality of her work, but of her winning personality and rare goodness of character.

## BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.

The British Commonwealth League is fortunate in having secured as principal guest for a dinner on 20th October, Mrs. Mackinnon, the Australian Substitute Delegate to the League of Nations. The dinner will probably be at the Forum Club, through the kindness of the League of Nations section of that Club, but time and place will be definitely notified next week. Mrs. Mackinnon has also very kindly promised to take a few meetings, one or two are already arranged, but applications could be entertained from local London groups between 20th and 22nd October, or provincial between 13th and 17th or 18th. All requests should be sent at once to Miss Collisson, Organizer British Commonwealth League, 17 Buckingham Street, Adelphi.

## NEW TRADE SCHOOLS FOR GIRLS.

This week the day and evening classes organized in connexion with the L.C.C. re-opened. They include some attractive new trade courses for girls, in photography, manicure, hairdressing, and on textiles for salesmen and saleswomen. We read that last year 26,000 women of all ages attended women's institutes in London; in one instance three generations—grandmother, mother, and daughter—enrolled as scholars.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## WOMEN AND LIBERAL JUDAISM.

MADAM.—I think the following would be of interest to your readers: An impressive and beautiful service was held on Sunday, 13th September, to dedicate the new Liberal Jewish Synagogue, St. John's Wood Road. The consecration was worthy of the austere beauty and dignity of this synagogue. Under the leadership of the Rev. I. Mattuck, the "equality of the sexes" has always been a dominant note in Liberal Jewish services, and this was exemplified at the Dedication Service last Sunday, when the Hon. Lily Montagu, in common with five men, carried the Scroll of the Law and placed it in the new Ark ready for its reception. This is a new note in Jewish communal life, and is for that reason interesting to Feminists.

The Scroll of the Law contains the Five Books of Moses, and in taking it from the Ark the reader utters the following impressive sentence: "The Law is the symbol of the revelations of truth and righteousness which God gave to our fathers, that they might be His witnesses before all peoples. O house of Israel, come and let us walk in the light of the Lord. And may the whole earth be full of the knowledge of God."

The Hon. Lily Montagu was the founder of the Liberal Jewish Union twenty-three years ago, and has constantly preached in the first synagogue founded by this organisation at Hill Street, Dorset Square, where the overflow service was held on the Day of Atonement, Monday, 28th, at which Miss Montagu preached.

CONSTANT READER.

## BIRTH CONTROL AND FAMILY ENDOWMENT.

MADAM.—Although only a working-class mother, I do feel I should like to write a letter, thanking you for taking up the cudgels on behalf of the working-class mother.

The married, not the unmarried, mother of several children is the great tragic figure of this present civilization. The Birkenhead tragedy of a few weeks ago was the sign and symbol of a daily tragedy and a call to all thinking men and women to take up the standard on behalf of their poorer sisters. There are tens of thousands in this country whose lives are one long struggle of despair. Maternity centres, child welfare centres, and such like are insults and tantalising utilities to women who have to share out one pint of milk every day to three or four little ones. There are mothers in our village who have one vest and one pair of combinations to sleep in and live in. Birth Control is needed and will thrive unless something is done. I can't conceive myself of any person, with any knowledge whatever of the married working-class mother, taking the "No" in a debate on the Endowment of Motherhood, and I'm not a narrow-minded person. This reform is the greatest since the conceding of the vote.

I wish you God-speed in the great work you have undertaken. Thousands of inarticulate souls are behind you. Go forward in God's name and on behalf of the homes of thousands of women and children, made unhappy by the great lack of food, clothing, and of the many little joys of child life.

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**COMING EVENTS.**

**BRITISH COMMONWEALTH LEAGUE.**  
*OCT. 6-8.* Miss Collisson's Lecture Tour in Chester, Birkenhead, and Wallasey.  
**GUILDHOUSE WOMEN CITIZENS' SOCIETY.**  
*OCT. 5.* 3 p.m. The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. Madame André Rieder on "Pioneers of Women's Freedom in Modern Turkey."  
**LEAGUE OF THE CHURCH MILITANT.**  
*OCT. 7-9.* Church Congress Campaign at Eastbourne.  
*OCT. 7.* 5.15 p.m. Public Meeting at the Pier Music Pavilion on "Christianity, Psychology, and Some Problems of To-day." Speaker: Miss Maude Royden. Chair: The Rev. J. G. Simpson, D.D.  
**NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.**  
**York W.C.A.** *OCT. 5.* 7.30 p.m. Mrs. F. W. Hubback on "Recent Legislation."  
**Cardiff W.C.A.** *OCT. 5.* Civic Reception by the Lord Mayor of Cardiff (Alderman W. H. Pethybridge). Guest of Honour: Dame Millicent Fawcett.  
**Durham S.E.C.** *OCT. 5.* 3 p.m. Mrs. Hubback on "Recent Legislation concerning Women and Children."  
**Edinburgh W.C.A.** *OCT. 6.* At 13 Greenhill Terrace (by kind invitation of Lady Ramsay). Mrs. F. W. Hubback on "The Future Parliamentary Session and Legislation Affecting Women." Chairman: The Lady Balfour of Burleigh.

*OCT. 8.* 8 p.m. Public Meeting, Gartshore Hall, 116 George Street. Mr. M. A. Reynard, Inspector and Clerk of the Glasgow Parish Council, on "Some Present-Day Aspects of the Poor Law." Chairman: Miss Margaret H. Kidd, advocate.  
**Clackmannanshire S.E.C.** *OCT. 6.* 7.30 p.m. Mrs. F. W. Hubback on "Recent Legislation."  
**Waterloo and Seaforth W.C.A.** *OCT. 6.* 4 p.m. Miss Rathbone on "Family Allowances."  
**Glasgow S.E.C. and W.C.A.** *OCT. 7.* Mrs. F. W. Hubback on "How can Citizens get what they want?" (Afternoon) and "The Widows', Orphans', and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act" (Evening).  
**Chingford W.C.A.** *OCT. 12.* 3 p.m. Miss Monica Whately on "The Right of Married Women to Work."  
**Saffron Walden W.C.A.** *OCT. 13.* 7.30 p.m. Miss Rathbone on "Family Allowances."  
**Fulham S.E.C.** *OCT. 14.* 8 p.m. Miss Beaumont on "The Importance of Borough Council Elections."  
**SIX POINT GROUP.**  
*OCT. 5.* 5 p.m. 92 Victoria Street, S.W. Dame Adelaide Anderson on "Women Workers in China." Chair: Viscountess Rhondda.

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**LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE,** 35 Marsham Street, Westminster. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Information Bureau. Interviews, 10 to 1, except Saturdays. Members' Centre open daily. Restaurant open to 7.30. (Not Saturdays.)

**FELLOWSHIP SERVICES,** Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 4th October: 3.30, Music; Lecture: Col. W. E. Longfield, R.E., on "The Sudan in the Twentieth Century"; 6.30, Maude Royden: "On Taking Christ Seriously."

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