THE

WOMAN'S LEADER

AND

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NOTES AND NEWS

A Distinguished Visitor.

One of the pleasures of August in London is the opportunity it offers of meeting visitors from other countries. Mrs. Ralph Smith, M.P., from Vancouver, was elected member of the Provincial Legislature of British Columbia in January, 1918. Mrs. Smith was a leading Suffragist and unlike many British women candidates for Parliament, stood for a definitely woman's programme, which included many of the reforms for which this paper stands. Mrs. Smith took a very active part in securing the passing into law of the measures dealing with the Equal Guardianship of Children, and was responsible for a Mother's Pensions Bill and a Minimum Wages Bill. We hope to introduce Mrs. Smith to many of our readers, as she has promised us an article which will appear in the near future. We are glad to hear that she will be in this country until the middle of October and that she is willing to speak at meetings on her own experiences as woman M.P., as well as the subject she has specially come to promote—Schemes of Immigration on behalf of the Dominion Government.

An Attractive Syllabus on Housing.

We have received a list of lectures issued by the Garden Cities and Town Planning Association, 3 Gray's Inn Place, Gray's Inn, W.C. 1, which is full of suggestions to study circles, social workers, women citizens, or organizers of conferences. The Association has a panel of experienced lecturers, and single lectures or short courses are offered. The terms depend upon "the resources of the organization asking for them." Out-of-pocket expenses have to be paid, and if possible a nominal fee. The first of the list of twenty-four lectures arrests our attention, "The Present Housing Situation and the New Housing Act, 1923," and we venture to hope that many women's organizations will take the opportunity of educating their members next winter on a subject which affects the welfare of the community so closely.

"Where Shall She Live?"

The National Council of Women have just issued a publication which we heartily commend to the attention and consideration It is a list of Hostels and other accommodation in London and the Provinces for women in professions and in industry, and has been compiled by the Lodging House Sub-Committee of the Public Services Sectional Committee of the National Council of Women. The list includes some hundreds of addresses and gives information as to the class of girl and woman accommodated, and the terms, and in many cases supplementary information of value, and will undoubtedly be of the very greatest service to girls and women in our professions and industries who have not homes to live in. Mrs. Mary Higgs, in a brief foreword, relates the history of the first list published in 1914 as the result of the publication of Where Shall She Live? written by E. E. Hayward and herself, which revealed the quite inadequate accommodation then existing. The Public Service Committee of the N.C.W. may congratulate themselves, in undertaking the publication of this revised issue, on having done distinct service to the working woman, and to the many societies that run the Hostels.

Smoke Abatement.

It is difficult to understand why people are not more interested in this reform, which should mean so much to inhabitants of a country which can ill afford to spare any of its limited amount of sunshine. A Bill applying to England and Wales passed its Second Reading in the House of Lords at the end of July almost unnoticed. In a letter to *The Times* that week, the Chairman of the Smoke Abatement League pointed out that this is a limited and retrograde Bill drafted in the interests of the manufacturers, and expresses the hope that it will be shelved or withdrawn altogether. He pleads for regulation forbidding manufacturing

smoke giving the opportunity of exemption to trades which should have the chance of a further Government inquiry.

Resignation of Miss Burstall.

A correspondent writes: It is difficult to estimate the loss that will be sustained in the educational world when Miss Burstall resigns her post as Headmistress in the "metropolis of the north. For many years she has been a pioneer of educational thought and experiment, possessed by a "divine discontent" which is not satisfied to rest on what has been already achieved in girls' education, but reaches out steadily to an ever-widening vision of what may vet be achieved. She has recognized the claims of the individual, and has realized that "mass-teaching" does not allow the development of individual possibilities, especially of those talents which lie in the direction of art in all its forms. Her clear and logical mind in partnership with an enthusiastic temperament carried all before them, and when Miss Burstall had said her say at one of the many meetings for educational discussion nothing seemed to be left for other speakers. She has played her part in University development in conferences with the Board of Education, and although she is resigning her present post we may be sure that her wisdom and experience will still be at the service of all who care for education.

Ine Suffragi

There are many articles likely to inspire good resolutions among those on holiday in the admirable August issue of this paper. We particularly commend Dr. Anna Wicksell's article on Women and Political Parties for the consideration of members of women's organizations. In view of the publicity aroused by the recent I.W.S.A. Congress in Rome, Dr. Troise Romelia's account of the Electoral Reform Act of 21st July of this year

is of especial interest. The women of Italy have now definitely secured the "Administrative vote" or as we would say, the Local Government Franchise on certain conditions. They must have attained the age of 25, and in addition have one of the following qualifications: A war decoration; a medal for valour in the sanitary or education service; high educational qualifications; be mothers of soldiers killed in the war; be legal guardians of their children and exercise "patria potesta"; and lastly, "literates" who pay communal taxes of 40 lire. Only women who demand the vote will be placed on the register, so there will be plenty of work for women's organizations to do apart from further work for the Parliamentary vote.

Our Next Issue.

Miss Winifred Spielman will contribute an article on Psychological Experiments in Vocational Guidance; Miss Evelyn Deakin will deal with the Education of the Party Woman from a Conservative (in the party sense) point of view; lists of books drawn up by children will appear under "Out-of-the-way Books for Holiday Reading." Mrs. Stocks' articles on Population will be continued. The Law at Work, the Domestic Economies section, and our weekly Vacation Reflections will apear as usual. The first of the short series on "Modern Aspects of Social Work," crowded out this week, will also appear.

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.

VACATION REFLECTIONS.

By OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT.

These notes are written very far from the music of Big Ben. Newspapers arrive late in the day, and from sunrise to sunset no breath of political discussion disturbs the serenity of a sunbaked August. Only when the tide is out on a particularly steep lee shore does there come a sharp reminder to the writer of events which are keeping the Prime Minister and his colleagues in the purlieus of Whitehall. For then, inch by inch, the receding sea lays bare a ragged, rusty, and gigantic iron tooth, the pinnacle of a tangle of twisted and tortured steel plates embedded firmly and immovably in the shifting shingle. At low tide the grim structure stands out, black and threatening. At high tide nothing can be seen of it except a swirling disturbance on an otherwise calm sea. But at no tide can the coasting steamer which habitually runs its nose upon that beach to pick up passengers pursue its wonted course—a matter of some inconvenience to inhabitants of the district.

This useless obstruction was only three months ago a German trading vessel, which, according to local report, refused the services of a pilot and drifted to leeward, running ashore on the spot now uglified by her remains, a sad monument to human obstinacy inauspiciously combined with inclement weather.

But to return, in thought, to the world of Westminster: Mr. Baldwin's holiday task is not an easy one; for he is as a man ground painfully between an upper and a nether millstone. The pro-French element in his Cabinet, and the First Lord of the Admiralty is suspected of being its life and soul, gives trouble enough. Now, however, it transpires that throughout the country there is a disturbing flutter in Unionist dovecotes concerning the supposed tenderness of the Government for German interests. Clearly whatever words of wisdom Mr. Baldwin may let fall in public concerning the economic fatuity of the Ruhr adventure will have to be accompanied by a monotonous chorus of insistence on Germany's liability and potential capacity to pay. And recent by-elections have shown that it is this aspect of his policy which receives most advertisement at the hands of local Unionist candidates.

But perhaps the remoteness of this distant shore from the maelström of political life has its uses. One can trace more clearly the ominous drift of events, whose current this latest exchange of Notes has left so strangely unaffected. And the fundamental fact which stares us in the face, every time we step back from the tangle of contemporary happenings, is the fact

that France has, in the long run, nothing much to fear from the collapse of Germany, and we have. Never were the material interests of two great contemporary nations more fundamentally divergent. What common ground for economic policy can there be between this country with its highly specialized commercial and industrial population, whose destinies are so precariously balanced on a ricketty scaffolding of international relations—and France with its solid backbone of peasantry and its comparative self-sufficiency in the matter of essential foodstuffs? One can even imagine that a violent break in the external purchasing power of the franc would affect her internal life less than a fractional depreciation of the pound sterling would affect the everyday lives of our own people. The industrial revolution which transformed the foundations of our own social and political and economic life with such bewildering thoroughness seems to have touched her so lightly and left so little mark.

Or, to take another aspect of the situation, what common ground for political policy can there be between this island country with its tradition of "splendid isolation" varied by balance redressing incursions into continental quarrels-and France with her long land frontier and her consistent centuryold blood-feud with the people on the other side of it. There is no doubt (for it is possible to visualize the French difficulty while remaining essentially pro-British) that our late Allies have got themselves into an almost inextricable political mess, and that by a policy pursued with our acquiesence and half-hearted encouragement since the outbreak of "peace," they appear to have left themselves no alternative to the complete break-up and break-down of Germany. In 1918 Germany was a chastened and pacific country. To-day, with the rankling and unforgettable memory of four years' "peace," she is a standing political menace to France, and through France to Europe. She is as dangerous as a wounded wasp at a picnic. There is much to be said, when one deals in French "Real-politik," for smashing her up altogether and damning the economic consequences. And to that end M. Poincaré grimly marches, while our Government writes Notes or firmly but courteously answers them.

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

"THE - PRIVATE - MEMBER'S - BILL - FRAME - OF - MIND."

A leading article in our contemporary, *Time and Tide*, referring to our Leader of 3rd August, leads to some interesting reflections. It alludes to the "Private-Member's-Bill-Frame-of-Mind that is too common among women's societies." It defines this as the frame of mind of the person who is still unaware that women have achieved the vote and says that "such a person goes along meekly asking for crumbs instead of boldly demanding an honest loaf." It is not exactly relevant to our argument, but in a paper which stands for equality in the franchise we cannot refrain from reminding the writer that women can hardly be said to have achieved the vote until the five or six million voteless women, including all under the age of 30, married or unmarried, and large numbers over that age who are fighting the battle of life without the weapon of the vote, are unenfranchised. When our young women and our working women have votes we shall be in a stronger position to reject the crumbs and to demand the honest loaf of reform

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But which are the women's societies which "go along meekly asking for crumbs"? The context suggests that the writer has in his mind societies which initiate or promote legislation dealing with reforms which it cannot induce the Government to take over.

We don't like the changes and chances of Private Member's Bills, and as we argued two weeks ago, regard them mainly as a medium of valuable propaganda, or a "jumping-off ground in a campaign for a Government measure." But what are the alternatives?—to reiterate parrot wise "We want a Government measure"; we want a Government measure," or to draft a well-constructed Bill, induce a member to ballot for it, and in this way bring it before the country in corporate form? We turn for the answer to current politics. Of the three measures for which the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship is responsible, the Matrimonial Causes Act has already passed into

law, the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Bill, which removes a serious blot in the administration of Separation and Maintenance Orders, has passed all its stages in the House of Commons, and will become law in all probability before the end of the year, and the third, the Guardianship of Infants Bill, though still under examination in a Joint Committee, has at least forced a far greater measure of public attention than could have been attained by a policy of mere declamation. It is true as another leading article in Time and Tide points out that the Bastardy Act promoted by the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child is inadequate, but it will be supplemented by the Legitimacy Bill promoted by the same organization, which has been promised time for its later stages in the Autumn. It is equally true that the Intoxicating Liquor (Sale to Persons under Eighteen) Act, introduced by Lady Astor, was whittled down before reaching the Statute Book, but does anyone suggest that those responsible for the above-mentioned substantial slices of reform should have rejected them as "crumbs"

Nevertheless we thank our contemporary for the expression "Private-Member's-Bill-Frame-of-Mind." The private Member who introduces a Bill is no dummy Member. He has ideas, originality, courage, perseverence, and energy. He is not satisfied to leave all the work to those on the Front Benches. He must do something for the reform he has at heart, and if the Government won't act he will. Women's societies need not be ashamed of possessing such qualities. They are rapidly gaining experience, and the record of their recent work in Parliament shows that they are beginning to know when they must stand out for the whole loaf and when they may accept a solid slice. Above all every women's society worth its salt knows that now that women have votes it must avoid woolly and ill-defined schemes of reform and state what it wants in the precise and unmistakable terms of a Parliamentary Bill.

THE PROBLEM OF POPULATION.1

III. MALTHUSIANISM.

Few prophets can boast of a larger or more active following of disciples than the Rev. Thomas Malthus, who died in 1834° at the age of 68. But on the other hand, few prophets can count among their disciples a larger number of persons wholly unacquainted either with the letter of their work or with the spirit of their teaching. A brief survey of this teaching will show that the true Malthusians of to-day are not those who habitually associate themselves with the name of that great writer.

Now Malthus lived at a time when the influence of Rousseau was very strong, and was expressing itself through English political thought in a number of devious ways. One of these was a tendency among Socialist writers to ascribe all the evils of society to the existence of restrictive and corrupting human institutions. If only mankind could revert to something resembling a state of Nature it was argued, notably by that indefatigable Utopian, William Godwin, freed from the complications of private property, monogamous marriage, and individual family responsibility, all would be well. The communal provision of necessities, communally produced by a few hours' labour per head per day, would remove from all the fear of poverty with all its unwholesome incentive to personal acquisition; and being happy, mankind would achieve an effortless and universal goodness. Human society would, in fact, become perfect.

To Malthus, however, this idealism of his reforming contemporaries appeared as the vapour of a dream. Human society never could in his view become perfect by the method of perfect freedom, because of what he called "the Principle of Population." It is this principle which he outlines, quite briefly and concisely, in the first two chapters of his great two-volume Essay on Population. Population, he says, if left unchecked, has a constant tendency to increase beyond the subsistence provided for it. It is, in fact, always pressing upon the means of subsistance, increasing where subsistence increases, and limited always by the extent of such increase. Certain checks, constantly and automatically operating, hold it within bounds; and these checks, which may vary from age to age or from country to country, "are all resolvable into moral restraint, vice, and misery." In illustration of his "Principle of Population,"

Malthus surveys the whole earth's surface, from the South Sea Islands to the frozen North (it is this survey which swells his "essay" into a couple of volumes), and everywhere he finds human fecundity standing at bay before one or other of these checks. Either the checks are "positive," in which case the society in question multiplies freely and its numbers are adjusted to the available subsistence through an uncomfortable process of killing off, by famine, war, infanticide, or abortion. Sterility resulting from vice may, and has on occasions, played its demoralizing part. Or else the checks are "preventive," in which case as a result of restrictive institutions playing upon and stimulating individual prudence, more persons remain celebate, marriages take place at a later age, and fewer children are born. And this, be it noted, is what Malthus means when he talks of "moral restraint."

It now becomes clear why Malthus regarded the existence of his "Principle of Population" as constituting an insuperable barrier to the realization of a perfect human society existing in a state of nature. Humanity is on the horns of a dilemma. Either it must submit to the operation of "positive" checks, in which case its state will be far from perfect; war, famine, disease, infanticide, and vice being no part of the Utopian programme. Or else it must substitute for these evils the preventive check of "moral restraint," which requires as a stimulus to its operation a restrictive individualist régime of private property rights, legal marriage, and rigid enforcement of parental responsibility for the upbringing of children—institutions which were, again, no part of the Utopian programme.

Thus we find Malthus, who vastly preferred the "preventive" to the "positive" check, throwing all his weight on the side of economic individualism. All those institutions which made for personal responsibility and prudence found in him a champion. The fundamental condition for the better operation of the "preventive check" was, in his opinion, the complete economic

The subject will be treated in a series of four articles: 1. The Optimum. 2. The International Complication. 3. Malthusianism. 4. The Rate of Increase. Suggestions will be made as to books, and questions or personal correspondence addressed to the Woman's Leader Office will be welcomed by the writer.

responsibility of the individual parents for any children whom they might bring into the world. Fear of poverty was the most important deterrent against improvident or unduly early marriage. Consequently, the old Poor Law machinery of his time with its indiscriminate outdoor relief, its family allowances, and its doles in aid of wages, was anathema to him. He never ceased to rail against it to the year of his death—the very year in which a new Poor Law system came into being, embodying in its rigid insistence upon the deterrent principle a vital aspect of the Malthusian creed.

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But in spite of his insistence on the possibility of substituting the preventive for the positive check, in spite of his belief in the efficacy of human institutions and social environment as stimuli to human foresight, Malthus was regarded by many of his contemporaries as a profound and gloomy pessimist. His population theory seemed to many to be the most dismal aspect of an otherwise "dismal science." People came to visualize the growth of population as an insatiable, oncoming, hungry force, held at bay through the ages by the ugly trinity of war, famine, and disease or (as Malthus hoped) by something almost as distasteful, the iron exercise of the human will in a great self-denying but rather joy-killing and soul-destroying ordinance of "moral restraint." Unless the human will could be kept constantly astrain within the rigid framework of its scientifically adjusted individualist institutions, any increase in the means of subsistence (or as applied to the working classes, any increase in wages) must simply result in population pushing upward like a spring when the weight which presses it down is lightened, with the unedifying result that a larger number of people are enabled to live at the old narrow

Such, briefly, is the essential teaching of Malthus. Later generations have dwelt upon that aspect of it which deprecates an increase of numbers, and neglected that aspect of it which outlines a social policy of prevention. Thus the title Malthusian is to-day often assumed by those who advocate a restriction of numbers by methods which Malthus himself would probably have classed under the heading of "vice. This inaccurate and thoughtless choice of words is strongly to be deprecated as it is conducive to a misunderstanding alike of Malthus' teachings and of the standpoint of those who thus take his name in vain. Indeed, it will be seen from the above survey of Malthusianism that the true Malthusians of to-day are to be found rather in the ranks of the Charity Organization Society and the Primrose League than among those who are organized for the advocacy of contraceptive birth-control methods which have been popularized since Malthus' time.

Note.—The subject of Malthusianism can nowhere be so well studied as in the works of Malthus. A complete statement of his views is to be found in any edition of his famous Essay on Population, with the exception of the first, which is incomplete. The seventh edition has been reprinted in two volumes in the "Everyman Library," price 2s. each; and readers who have the nerve to skip freely will find it by no means dry reading.

LEGAL AID FOR POOR PERSONS.

The appointment by the Lord Chancellor of another Committee to inquire into the working of the Poor Persons Rules has renewed public interest in the methods which exist for giving legal aid to persons too poor to pay for it. The Committee s a strong Committee and consists only of lawyers. The terms of their reference limit them to considering the steps which should be taken whether by way of amendment of the existing Poor Persons Rules or by substitution of a different system with a view to assisting poor persons to pursue their civil remedies in the High Court or to defend actions brought against them.

The Committee is not formed to deal with the far wider problems, viz. the advisability or the methods of giving legal aid to the poor to keep them out of the Courts. It is only formed to devise methods to help them when it is necessary for them to seek the help of the Court either to enforce the rights which they are advised they possess or to defend them against the claims of other persons when they are advised such claims cannot be justified. Furthermore, the Committee is only concerned with civil actions to be brought by the poor or brought against the poor in the High Court of Justice. It is not concerned with actions brought in the County Court or Police Court, or with defence in criminal actions.

The present system, which first came into force in 1914 and was amended in certain important particulars in 1920, is most confusing to the lay mind, and difficult to explain briefly. All social workers should know something about it if only of its

existence. A poor person has first of all to apply to be admitted as a Poor Person. To do this he has to prove to the Judge that he does not possess £50 or £50 worth of goods, furniture, property, savings, or investments, excluding wearing apparel and tools of trade and the subject matter of the action. His average earnings must be less than £2 per week, or such larger sum not exceeding £4 a week as a Judge in special circumstances may direct. In the first instance he makes the application to the Prescribed Officer (Poor Persons), Royal Courts of Justice, London, W.C. 2. In matrimonial cases he must, after examination of his application by the Prescribed Officer, send £5. His case is then referred for investigation to a solicitor known as the Reporting Solicitor. This solicitor has to satisfy himself that there is a good cause of action or defence, and also as to the applicant's means. He then reports to the Prescribed Officer, and this report is placed before the Judge, who, if satisfied, will make an Order that the applicant has leave to sue as a Poor Person. The applicant is then referred to another solicitor who conducts the action, known as the Conducting Solicitor. A barrister is assigned for the particular case, and if the action is carried through in London on behalf of an applicant

living in the provinces whose Conducting Solicitor is also in the provinces, a solicitor in London is also appointed. The case then proceeds in the ordinary way, except that the applicant need not pay any Court fees nor need he pay any fees to his solicitor or barrister. A solicitor taking any payment from an applicant for fees, out-of pocket expenses, or office expenses, is guilty of Contempt of Court. Both the Reporting Solicitor and the Conducting Solicitor may receive certain out-of-pocket expenses, but these, after being very carefully scrutinized by the Prescribed Officer, are only paid through the Court. Where the applicant has deposited £5, the amount of out-of-pocket expenses is deducted, and the balance is repaid to the applicant. The barrister receives no fees. If the applicant loses the action he cannot be made to pay the costs of the successful party. If the applicant is successful his opponent is not liable for costs. except the out-of-pocket expenses certified by the Prescribed Officer as above, unless the Judge certifies that such opponent has acted unreasonably in prosecuting or defending or opposing the proceedings.

As previously stated, these Rules only apply to civil actions (not criminal prosecutions) brought or defended in the High Court of Justice. They have mainly been made use of in matrimonial actions. Other actions in which the Rules have been made use of are few and far between.

As matrimonial actions cannot be tried in the County Court, and it is only at certain Assize towns that undefended cases of this kind can be tried, a great burden is thrown upon the London solicitors, who act both as Reporting Solicitors, Conducting Solicitors, and Agents for Conducting Solicitors in the provinces. Though the number of solicitors in the provinces who have consented to help in this voluntary work are sufficient to carry on the work if equally distributed throughout the country, further assistance is greatly needed in certain districts; and in London solicitors willing to undertake the work under the present system fall so far short of the number required owing to the increased burden thrown upon them as mentioned above, that the work will come to a standstill in the near future unless something is done. Hence the appointment of the Committee, which has to consider what changes can be made to ensure an adequate number of solicitors being found willing and able to carry on the work.

Various suggestions have been made, the most important

(1) That the trial of all matrimonial actions, whether defended or undefended should be dealt with at all Assize

(2) That the County Courts should be permitted to try all poor persons' undefended matrimonial actions.

(3) That the State should provide a fund out of which any expenses incurred over and above the deposited sum of £5 might be provided.

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There are some who advocate a comprehensive scheme embracing the whole field of legal aid. Some of your readers will know that there are in many towns voluntary bodies or Poor Man's Lawyers, who arrange for legal advice to be given in the poorer districts of the town to those who are too poor to pay for it. These voluntary bodies should be, and often are, close touch with the Guilds of Help or the Personal Service Societies. They should exist in all towns, and then it can never be said that a poor person is not able to obtain legal advice, and where necessary have his claim enforced in the Courts. Of applicants who attend to obtain legal advice from these voluntary bodies only a very small percentage need to take action in the Courts. If something could be done to enable hese voluntary bodies to become part and parcel of the scheme or helping Poor Persons to prosecute their actions in the Courts, whether Police Courts, County Courts, or High Court, a great dvance would be made in obtaining full justice for the poor.

It must not be thought from what has been said above that he only help the Poor Persons obtain is through voluntary bodies or Poor Man's Lawyers. Practically every solicitor assists poor people in the course of his everyday practice without hope of reward. But the fact remains that a large number of the poor are afraid to obtain the full measure of ustice to which they are entitled because they do not know solicitor who is willing to help them and are too frightened rough fear of the probable expense to enter a strange solicitor's ffice. Great care should be taken that only those who are oo poor to pay should be helped. The work must have the upport of the legal profession, and if it is shown that persons who are well able to pay for legal advice are taking advantage the assistance intended only for the poor, the profession yould clearly be entitled to withhold its support.

H. D. DARBISHIRE.

Readers interested in the provision of legal aid for "poor ersons" are invited to communicate with the Office of the WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.

CHRISTABEL PANKHURST.

Not infrequently, among veterans of the Suffrage movement meeting and recalling old campaigning days, is the question asked, but seldom answered: What has happened to the Pankhursts? We know what has happened to Sylvia, for ntermittent Press records of her pacific, and later of her Comunistic activities, have been continuous from the middle years the war down to the present day. But on the activities of he mother and daughter, who, as the two leading members of tripartite dictatorship, led the Militant Suffrage movement rough its seven years' battle with Mr. Asquith's Government, veil seems to have descended. We know, of course, that the militant habit of mind carried them by an easy stage of mental easoning from the militancy of their political campaign to the militancy of an embittered patriotism. We know that their dramatic political truce with Mr. Lloyd George in the summer of 1914 diverted their energies to the business of pro-Government propaganda in the industrial districts, and brought them into harp conflict with the forces of organized labour. And we know or rather, reading between the lines of contemporary Press eports, we suspect—that their headlong championship of the erbian cause during the Balkan débâcle of 1915 proved more of an embarrassment than a help to the Government into whose service they had unofficially entered. But after that their figures became more shadowy, their public appearances rarer. Even the burst of Suffrage activity which led up to the victory of March, 1918, failed to draw them out of their obscurity, and in the triumph which they had done so much to achieve they had no personal share.

Now, at last, after half a dozen years of almost complete obscurity, the veil has been partially lifted, and Christabel Pankhurst re-emerges as the author of a book on Scriptural prophecy and an inspired herald of the second coming of Our Lord.

It is not an interesting book in itself, and it is without originality of conception or treatment. Its phraseology is crude; it is full of repetition. Briefly, its thesis is that the signs of our times, being interpreted in the light of Bible prophecy point to the end of a clearly defined "Age" in human history, and to the second appearance of Christ to establish in person His kingdom on earth and to initiate the Millenial Age of "righteousness, peace, and happiness." And this second coming is to be something more than the triumphant working out in human affairs of an inspiration reflected through countless human souls—it is a catastrophic thing, external to humanity and symbolical of humanity's failure to use those divine sparks which have been entrusted to it—an affair of earth-shaking suddenness, of trumpets

It is not, we repeat, an interesting book in itself. The interesting thing is that Christabel Pankhurst has written it. And we find ourselves on the verge of wondering whether the author is really serious or, less cynical suspicion, whether this conversion to a new gospel is indicative of a lamentable mental unbalance. But, on second thoughts, one sees the consistency of it. The new gospel, like the old, reflects the philosophy of the short cut. The same policy which rejected a slow and painful working out of women's political destiny through a reasonable appeal designed to evoke response from all that is reasonable in the mental make-up of our generation—now rejects the slow and painful working-out of the world's destiny through a spiritual appeal which evokes response from all that is spiritual in the human heart. It is always tempting to play with the idea of a catastrophic, "smash-up," or with the intervention of some compelling external power as a means of achieving the millenium. And Christabel's "Second Coming" is as consistent with the old militant policy as is the revolutionary Communism patronized

Yet, when all is said by way of carping criticism, when we have shaken our heads and shrugged our shoulders at vagaries of the Pankhursts, wondering whether they have completely lost their mental balance or whether they ever had any, certain memories remain. Most vivid among them is the memory of Christabel herself looking out over a sea of twenty thousand heads, blackening the wide expanses of Hyde Park—eyes shining and hair flying—one hand stretched out in the familiar arm sweep, the other holding tight to the edge of a lorry, literally rocking with the efforts of half the crowd to overturn it and the other half to keep it straight. How nimbly she handled them, with her imperturbable good humour and her flash of repartee, varying the thrusts of those steely suffrage arguments that we all knew so well inside out and upside down.

Not infrequently, when the reminiscences of suffrage veterans lead them to speculate upon the post-war fate of the Pankhursts, yet another question crops up: How far did these ladies really help the movement? It is a question which will never be satisfactorily nor coolly answered in this generation, for personal feeling still runs too strong. Probably it will never be satisfactorily answered in the next; for too many strictly constitutional suffragists will die with the secret of how much enthusiasm they generated at the feet of the Pankhursts and expended under the banner of the N.U.W.S.S.

M. D. S.

SOME "OUT-OF-THE-WAY" BOOKS FOR HOLIDAY READING.

A LIST FROM MRS. FAWCETT.

- 1. THE MONASTERIES OF THE LEVANT. By the Hon. R. Curzon.
- 2. EOTHEN. By Kinglake.
- 3. TANCRED. By Disraeli.
- 4. LAVENGRO. By George Borrow.
- 5. PIONEER WORK IN OPENING THE MEDICAL PROFESSION TO Women. By Dr. Elizabeth Blacknall.
- 6. FAR AWAY AND LONG AGO. By W. H. Hudson.
- 7. From Shakespeare to Hardy: an Anthology (Methuen).
- 8. An Anthology of Modern Verse (Methuen).

Further lists have been unavoidably held over owing to lack of space, but will be published next week together with those drawn up by children.

¹ The Lord Cometh! The World Crisis Explained. By Christabel Pankhurst, LL.B. Morgan & Scott, Ltd., 3s. 6d. net.

HOW TO ORGANIZE A WEEK-END SCHOOL.

The Summer School movement had just begun to gain ground in the years preceding the war, and among others the Women's Suffrage Societies recognized its value, and organized Schools at St. Andrews and elsewhere. These Schools afforded opportunities for mutual refreshment and encouragement, spiritual, mental, and physical, to those who took part in them, bringing together workers from various parts of the country for the exchange of ideas and experience, and enabling them to study the latest phases of the problems with which they were dealing Since the war these Schools have become even more popular and frequent, the changing conditions under which we live and the rate of progress so much accelerated since the partial enfranchisement of women in Britain making it more necessary than ever to have intervals in which work may be reviewed and new ground prepared for next steps.

The Week-end School has now become an institution for those who are unable to leave their daily work for longer periods, or whose yearly holiday has to be spent with their families or in entire rest from all activity. Such people can more easily arrange for a week-end, returning to work early on Monday morning than for longer periods, and it must be remembered that progressive women, generally, who can best appreciate the need for the reforms for which our Societies are working, are those who are engaged themselves in serious work in the battle of life.

For this reason, Week-end Schools should not be arranged in the holiday months, though the possibility of securing a Hostel or School during the vacation is very tempting.

An attractive and beautiful place, with a good garden, not too far from a town with good railway facilities, should be secured, in order that the members of the School may be able to return to their occupations as early as possible on Monday. ich conditions are often obtained by making arrangements with an hotel or hydro just at the close of the season. These are often quite willing to take a party of 30 or 40 people at reduced charges, often agreeing to remain open for an extra week-end for the purpose. Such an arrangement is ideal, there are usually few other visitors, the residents, having got rid of their summer guests, are free to take an interest in the School and attend some of its meetings. The School should be timed to assemble in time for lunch on Friday. It is not advisable to try to crowd too much into the time; eight meetings, two on Friday afternoon, one in the evening, two on Saturday morning, one in the evening, and two on Sunday, make a good week-end's work.

With regard to curriculum, this should be arranged as far as possible on some definite line, the more difficult and abstruse subjects being taken on the Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Friday and Saturday evenings may be given to something more in the form of propaganda, or to Debate which will attract the attendance of residents. On Saturday afternoon expeditions may be arranged to some beautiful or historic place in the neighbourhood, or invitations accepted for all or part of the School, which will give members an opportunity for that individual intercourse which forms one of the greatest benefits of these gatherings. In the personal exchange of difficulties, views and experience between people all working for a common object in different surroundings, much help and encouragement are gained by those who are reluctant to take part in open discussion. One or two sessions may be arranged for Sunday, but Church hours should be carefully avoided, and the subjects chosen should be such as will not be felt unsuitable by members of various religious

In preparing for the School, speakers should be asked to deal with their subjects rather from the point of view of opening a discussion than of giving a lecture, and if possible a second speaker should be asked to follow on, and all who have any views on the subject in hand be encouraged to contribute them, in order that discussion may become general. The first speech in each session should not exceed half an hour, and quite threequarters of an hour should be allowed for discussion, with a few minutes for summing-up. A quarter of an hour at least should be insisted on between each session, and the room thoroughly aired.

It is well to give at least two months' preliminary notice of the School, with a few points of interest, but it will be found impossible to complete a time-table till a week or two beforehand, owing to the changes in the railway service and the

necessity for suiting the convenience of speakers. A visit to the place chosen, and calls on the principal inhabitants, and, if possible, paragraphs in the local papers, will do much to secure the attendance of residents, at any rate at the evening

Fees charged for the School will vary according to those charged by the place where it is held, but a sufficient margin must be allowed to pay travelling expenses of, and hospitality for, speakers who are not members of the School. £2 2s. to £2 10s. inclusive of board-residence and lectures will generally

CONCERNING COOKERY BOOKS.

(Continued from page 214.)

Monsieur Boulestin says, in Simple French Cooking for English Homes, hotel food does not represent French cooking, which may, however, be found in some wayside inn during the summer months in Touraine or Brittany, or in Périgord, where truffles The cooking he describes is that of the French bourgeois family, whose favourite proverb is "on ne mange bien que chez soi," and its great merits and excellence, simplicity, and cheapness. Every scrap is used up; some of the best dishes are made of remnants. There is no waste in the French kitchen. He thinks the reason why many English people consider cooking drudgery is because they have no imagination, and because cooks are not encouraged to try experiments with new dishes. He says truly, "it must be extraordinarily dull to send up boiled potatoes and boiled cabbage meal after meal.'

"Take an interest," he urges, "not only in the eating, but in the cooking of your food. You should know as well as your cook if and why this dish is excellent, and what is wrong with that one.'

'How," he continues, "can you expect a servant to be interested in her work and proud of the results if you yourself are indifferent to them?

His little book is not a complete guide to cookery, but it is worth possessing because it is full of simple practical recipes because, also, it contains recipes of quite remarkable local dishes handed down from generation to generation, which have not yet found their way even into French cookery books.

PARIS À LA CARTE.

This same good French cooking may likewise be found in some of the smaller Paris restaurants, if you know where to find them, and you may know if you read Paris à la Carte, where the French man dines and how, by Sommerville Story (London: A. M. Philpot, Ltd., 1922). This book is likewise a guide to the wellknown and more famous restaurants, whose charm lies not only in the choice food they supply, but in the characteristics, habits, and peculiarities of the people who have frequented them, the famous habitués of the past, and the little tags of history connected with them.

MRS. PEEL'S LATEST.

Last, but not least, we have Mrs. Peel's My Own Cookery Book, which, she tells us, is exactly what its title implies, the book in which she has noted domestic experiences of 25 years.

This book (London: Constable, 1923) contains an excellent chapter on "Catering Notes, and some hints on General Management," but I cannot find any mention of Pressure-Cooking or Oven Thermometers. This, of course, may be my fault-like Mr. Joseph Conrad, I find it impossible to read through a cookery book consisting of hints and recipes. Mrs. Elizabeth Robins Pennell's Feasts of Antolycus were quite different, and although containing practical directions of sound quality deserved to rank with the literature of food.

Mrs. Peel's book is one that can be placed in the hands of a cook whose one idea is cooking and serving food in the best and newest

By the bye, I don't consider it at all a compliment to a cookery book to say it is a good bedside book. It seems to me the praise might be slightly ambiguous.

Mrs. Peel's books have a place on my shelves because her recipes are good and can be worked out by someone who does not want to be bothered with subtleties. I lend them out for this purpose, not for folks to fall asleep over! They are excellent presents for young wives who airily say, "We'll have that" and depart to take their share in the game of politics.

Am I wrong in thinking these gifted beings are so made that pressure cooking, thermometers, and articles of their ilk, would bore them as stiff as they would annoy and upset an ordinary maid? And this in spite of their undoubted value.

MARY EVELYN

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

AUGUST 17, 1923.

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

OUR EXCHEQUER.

We acknowledge very gratefully the following gifts from generous friends and societies, among whom we cannot resist selecting Mrs. Ostler (of Birmingham) for special mention in view of her past record in the service of the N.U. Some societies have a pleasing habit of sending us a guinea or two when they have anything to spare. We wish, however, to remind those who have larger sums at their disposal that our need justifies these. Our plans for the Autumn, which we will outline next week, largely depend on the receipts of the next two or three nonths, as we dare not dig deeper into our now scanty reserve. Please send us a cheque for the largest amount you can spare. A few cheques for £100 would set the ball rolling and our anxieties would soon be relieved.

Already acknowledg	ed		Carlotte.		224	16	0	
Stafford W.C.A.	A TOTAL		1. 250		1	1	0	
Miss S. M. Robinson						5	0	
Miss Spielman (new	subsc	riber)				10		
Mrs. Osler .						0	0	
Barnsley S.E.C.					3	3	0	
Croydon (North War	rd W.	C.A.)				16		
Miss Mitchell			. 10		2	0	0	
Miss A. Dumbleton						15	0	
Mrs. Robie Uniacke					5	0		
Gloucester S.E.C.			. 12		1	- 0		
Mrs. James Ward		· 11 15 1				0		
Miss E. McCroben (n				101	1	1	0	
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Mrs. Overton .	*					0	0	
Miss Charlotte Spice	r		. 5		1		0	
Dr. Hilda Clark					2		0	
Mrs. Bigland (new st	bscri	ber)				5	0	
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Mrs. J. d'Ammann						10		
Lady Scott Moncrief	f				10			
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Mrs. Hersch					1	1	0	
Miss Clark (new subs	scribe	r)				10	6	
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					£310	7	9	

N.U.S.E.C. SUMMER SCHOOL.—September 21st to 28th.

A visit to Portingscale has increased our expectation of a seful and delightful week there in September. Members of the xecutive who hope to be present beside the officers include ss Courtney, Miss Helen Fraser, Miss Beaumont, Mrs. Stocks, ad Mrs. Layton. A Public Meeting at Keswick will be arranged which we hope to secure the presence of Mrs. Smith, M.P., of ritish Columbia. We understand that some desirous of tending the school have been quite unnecessarily deterred by e fact that it was announced as specially intended for officers nd speakers. We hear that lodgings are still available, and yone interested in the subjects under discussion will be heartily elcome. We specially invite visitors from other countries "Who's Who" of Students is at present in course of preparation. The charges for board and lodgings are £3 3s. to 3 10s., with a school fee of £1 10s.

AUTUMN SUMMER SCHOOL. Dumblane, October 5th to 8th.

Readers of the article by Miss Bury in this issue on How to Organize a Week-end School will hear with interest of the school rganized by the Edinburgh Society for Equal Citizenship to e held at Dumblane in October. Mrs. Corbett Ashby will be e principal speaker, and her presence alone ensures the success of the school. Dumblane is a place of great historic interest, and has one of the oldest cathedrals in Scotland. It is within easy reach of Stirling, Loch Katrine, and the Trossacks. Further particulars may be had from Miss Bury, 40 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh.

CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

Madam,—Being abroad I am late in assuring your inquirer of 29th June that my account of a Christmas visit to a Common Lodging House was true in substance and in detail. I have never published anything on social work that is not fact, though I occasionally write fiction as fiction.

The Lodging House in question (and after leaving it that night I went on to another whose conditions were precisely the same, and from which I also escaped with difficulty) belonged to a category happily rare but still existing, in which the Lodging House is attached to a Public House and is run by the Licensee. It is unregistered, and receives very little attention from the City Council, who is responsible for the Common Lodging as a rule. The evils of this system are obvious.

Of these particular Lodging Houses, which are situated one inside and the other immediately outside a small cathedral town, I may relate that, thanks to the splendid efforts of the W.C.A. and the N.C.W., cleansing, reconstruction, the separating of single men and women, and the placing of the whole concern under the supervision of the City authorities, took place within a few months after I had handed in my report, a piece of work on the part of these associations which gave me intense relief. I hope when I return to find out in what remaining towns this type of Lodging House still exists.

hope when I return to find out in what remaining towns this type of Lodging House still exists.

But the evil of the mixing up of single men and women in the dormitories does not end with this type. I have come across it several times in the small country towns, where it is either permitted or winked at by the Urban Council Inspector; and in houses licensed for "married" couples I have encountered dangers which I have not cared to make public, but of which I have sent in private reports. A few years ago, though I knew much of slum life, I would not have believed that such things happened; and it is a dire need that respectable citizens of all classes should have more knowledge of the life in our cities' "Underworld." I am ceaselessly grateful to the Woman's Leader and Public Opinion for having published my information (the Church papers with a few exceptions have been strangely reluctant!), and to the various associations which have encouraged me to investigate and to co-operate in their own efforts. I know well what a difficult matter any social reform is in these days of financial stress, and can understand when certain suggestions I have made are opposed on that score. There is however, one kind of opposition which I fail to understand! When I plead that undeveloped and foolish girls should be prevented by bye-law from coming into direct contact with this particularly evil phase of our Underworld (which, indeed, is only governed by bye-law because of its unmoral tendencies) I am told by one of the most important Associations dealing with Social and Rescue work that it would be interfering with a girl's liberty of conscience and that the Spiritual appeal is all that is necessary! with Social and Rescue work that it would be interfering with a girl's liberty of conscience and that the Spiritual appeal is all that is necessary! Educated women seem to be strangely reluctant to apply this principle to their own adolescent daughters, and personally I believe that it is a very dangerous thing in this life to tempt Providence by failing to add a sound admixture of common sense to all "spiritual" effort! I am truly appreciative of your correspondent's kind remarks at the end of her letter, but am most conscious that any reform which has so far been effected has been the result of the arduous efforts of local branches of certain Associations and not to my own.

M. FRIDA HARTLEY.

THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE AND EDUCATION.

THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE AND EDUCATION. Some time ago, Miss Eileen Power (Girton) compiled for the Women's International League, a Bibliography for School Teachers of History. This revealed a gap which the League sought to fill by initiating a series of Histories of the Peoples, which Messrs, Methuen undertook to produce. The design was to treat mainly of popular movements, and thus to explain historically the existence of present-day social phenomena. The History of the French People, by Guy de la Batut and Georges Friedmann, with an introduction by Henri Barbusse, has just been published. It is a very useful book of reference for students of French History. The earlier centuries are dealt with in summary, and the social aspects of the period, from the 18th century to the eve of the war, occupy the main portion of the book. It is most necessary under present circumstances to approach the French questions with the understanding that comes of knowledge. This necessity makes a work dealing with the development of the people rather than with the rise and fall of long-dead dynasties, hold special interest to-day. hold special interest to-day.

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AUG. Polebrady, Czecho-Slovakia, Summer School. Subject: "Social Peace."

N.U.S.E.C.

SEPT. 21-28. Portinscale, near Keswick, Summer School.

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