

# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

## AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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### NOTES AND NEWS.

#### The Budget and Widows' Pensions.

Following hard on the disappointment caused last week by the Government's proposals with regard to the Guardianship of Infants Bill, we this week find ourselves faced with every indication that another Government pledge is not going to be kept this year. In answer to questions put to him on 10th April by Major Hore-Belisha, Mr. Hobhouse, Mr. D. G. Somerville, and Mr. Masterman, as to whether provision for pensions for widowed mothers was to be made in the Budget, etc., Mr. Snowden merely referred members to the statement he made in the debate on this subject on 20th February, which was as follows: "The question will be considered in all its aspects, and I hope, indeed, I am confident, that as a result of their inquiries the Government will be able, in due time and with no unnecessary or undue delay, to have before them the outlines of a practical scheme, and I shall be much disappointed, indeed, even if the tenure in office of this Government is not very long, if we are not able to add to the record of our legislative achievements a measure which will do justice to these very deserving people, whose claims ought to have been long ago met." And then he proceeded to state that it is impossible in one short Parliamentary Session to deal with all the subjects that are included in the programme of any party. Speaking during the week-end, Mr. G. H. Warne (Labour Member for Wansbeck), in his forecast of the Budget, said that he believed that the tax on tea and sugar would be reduced and the entertainments tax abolished, the means limit under the Old Age Pensions Act removed, but that widowed mothers' pensions could not be given on this occasion. We would like to suggest to Mr. Warne that this view of a "Woman's Budget," with its implication that women care only for tax reductions, is an insult to the women citizens of the country. We wonder whether there is one woman who would not rather see widows' pensions established than the entertainments tax abolished. Our opinion of the Government, if Mr. Warne's prophecies are correct, can only be expressed in unparliamentary language. It would be nothing short of a betrayal. We would suggest to the Chancellor of the Exchequer that he should once again consider very seriously in the interests not only of the widows themselves, but also of the honour of the Labour Party, whether this most pressing of reforms should not be provided for in the coming budget.

#### Guardianship of Infants Bill.

Negotiations are proceeding between the Government and the promoters of the Bill. So far, however, the offers put forward by the Government do not commend themselves to the promoters, as they are not sufficiently wide. The Home Office Advisory Committee of the Labour Party has, we are glad to note, passed

a resolution urging the Government to drop its own Bill, and instead to give facilities for Mrs. Wintringham's. On 15th inst. Mr. Robert Murray (Lab., Renfrew) presented the Guardianship of Children (Scotland) Bill, which is exactly similar to Mrs. Wintringham's Bill adapted to Scottish Law.

#### Birth Control and the Labour Party.

A group of women members of the Labour Party have taken the initiative in once more raising the question of the attitude of the Ministry of Health towards Birth Control. Our readers will remember that last summer the matter was discussed in our columns in connection with the action of certain Local Health Authorities, when it transpired that the Ministry was definitely antipathetic to the spread of Birth Control information, and was actually prepared to withhold grants from Welfare Centres and similar bodies which made it part of their duties to supply such information. It is against this position that a number of women, prominent in the Labour Party, are now moving. At the end of this month a petition signed by men and women of all parties (forms for which can be obtained from Mrs. Bertrand Russell, 31 Sydney Street, London, S.W. 3) will be presented to the Minister of Health. It will request (a) that the Ministry of Health should permit Public Health Authorities to provide, for those who desire it, information on the subject of Birth Control; (b) that in cases where local authorities desire to give such information, the Ministry of Health should not, on that account, withhold the usual grants.

#### Appointment of Home Office Committee on Women Police.

As was announced to the deputation which waited on the Home Secretary some weeks ago, and announced in our columns, a committee has been appointed to review experience now available with regard to employment of women police in England and Wales, and to make recommendations as to their future organization and duties. The Members of the Committee are: The Right Hon. W. C. Bridgeman, M.P. (Chairman), Mrs. Eleanor Barton, Sir Leonard Dunning, Sir William Gentle, Alderman R. H. Millican, J.P., and Dame Helen Gwynne Vaughan, D.B.E. The Secretary is Mr. C. F. Portes, of the Home Office. We foresee valuable results rising from this inquiry. We are satisfied that the evidence which will be brought as to the usefulness of those women police already at work will have a considerable effect in persuading those local authorities who have hitherto been nervous to make the experiment. The choice of the two women members of the Committee is admirable. Dame Helen, as Head Administrator first of the W.R.E.N.s, afterwards of the Q.M.W.A.A.C., has unrivalled experience with regard to the organizing of women for the performance of public duties, while Mrs. Eleanor Barton, Assistant Secretary of the Women's Co-operative Guild, knows intimately the duties and qualities demanded from the women police from the point of view of the public.

#### Traffic in Women and Children.

Last week the League Advisory Committee on the Traffic in Women and Children held its third annual session in Geneva. Our readers will remember that Dame Rachel Crowdy acts as secretary to this Committee; and last week a new President was elected, Dr. Hein, of Denmark, which meant that the session was conducted by women. Incidentally, Dr. Hein is the first woman to be appointed to the office of President of any League Advisory Committee. The main business of this particular session was the drafting of emigration and immigration regulations in connection with the traffic in women and children for submission to the Rome Conference on Emigration, which meets next month. Some progress was reported, too, in connection with the ratifications of the Convention of 1921. Unfortunately

it was shown that France still maintains her negative attitude with regard to it, and, indeed, discussion showed a general tendency on the part of the French representative to press for the restriction of the League's activities in connection with this abominable traffic. A notable contrast was provided by the attitude of the representatives of Poland and Japan. Finally, a decision was taken which will gratify, though not completely satisfy, the opponents of State regulated vice: the Committee decided to publish in full the text of the various Government's replies on the connection between licensed houses and the traffic in women and children.

#### "Dual Control."

An instructive debate on the vexed question of married women teachers took place on 5th April in the Norfolk County Council. An amendment was moved to delete that clause of the Education Committee's report which required women teachers to resign on marriage, its proposer and seconder very properly pointing out that such a requirement constituted an unwarrantable interference and an affront to women. The mover added the question: why, if such a regulation were justified, should married men not be similarly treated? It is a question which we ourselves have often asked. When a man teacher is dismissed because he is found to have married a woman of property, or inherited an unearned income, we shall be able to regard more charitably the time-honoured argument that employment, being a form of public benefaction, must in common fairness be conferred upon those who need it most. The most striking contribution to the debate, was, however, made by the gentleman who supported the education committee's recommendation. "A married woman," he said, "entered into the service of her husband, and promised to obey him. He did not believe in dual control." We quote this fatuous and otherwise worthless utterance, to illustrate the fact that there are still persons who take the "obey clause" of the Marriage Service seriously—the most popular argument of those who support its retention being that nobody does. As for the gentleman who gave utterance to it—we would rather be his widow than his wife. Serious comment is unnecessary.

#### The Rural Industries Intelligence Bureau.

Too little is known of the work of this piece of departmental machinery, and we are glad to be able to announce an article by Mrs. Vaughan Nash on its work in a forthcoming issue. We have recently received a series of its admirable publications. Town dwellers are too apt to ignore the problems of rural life, and the Rural Industries Intelligence Bureau, working in close co-operation with the National Federation of Women's Institutes, is one of the most hopeful of modern schemes of constructive social welfare. In addition to the issue of publications on appropriate subjects, the Bureau runs a Library, a workshop for experiments, and a trading agency. It also collects samples of good workmanship, and if desired sends a visiting representative to give advice on the spot. The Committee of the Bureau is of a very representative character, and includes the following women: Miss Margaret Bondfield, M.P., Miss J. D. Bruce, The Lady Denman, C.B.E., Miss Grace Hadow, Miss Muirhead Patterson, C.B.E., and Miss Rose Squire, O.B.E.

#### The Imperial Champion Baby.

A popular feature of the National Baby Week Council's activities in connexion with the British Empire Exhibition is its attempt to identify the Empire's finest baby. A competition will be held, involving careful and expert judging, as a result of which the champion baby will receive a prize of £200. Competing babies will be divided into three age groups, the highest running up to 5 years, from which a short list will be selected. From these 18 will be selected for prizes of £20 each. The champion of each group will then have his or her prize-money made up to £100, the champion from the three groups taken together receiving £200. Competing babies will be relieved to hear that these large sums of money will not be handed over directly and *in toto* to the parents. In the case of the £100 and £200 prize-winners half the sum will be paid in the form of some approved investment made in the name of the competitor. Entrance for the competition is to be made in the first place by means of photograph, but selection committees in the Dominions will co-operate with the selection committee in London in judging the competitors. The Secretary, National Baby Week Council, 117 Piccadilly, London, W. 1, will be glad to give information to intending competitors and others. We may add that we are seriously contemplating entering our

youngest daughter for Class C, with the suggestion that half her prize-money be invested in Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., ordinary stock.

#### "Copec."

In another column we give an impression of the remarkable conference of the representatives of the Churches on Christian Politics, Economics, and Citizenship, popularly called "Copec," which ended last Saturday. It was inevitable that a conference on such a scale and covering such a vast scope should invite criticism, but nevertheless it was a remarkable achievement, and it must not be forgotten that Birmingham was a beginning, not an end. Our readers will watch the progress of this characteristic twentieth century revival movement with sympathy and interest.

#### The Duchess of Atholl and her Constituents.

On Saturday night the Duchess of Atholl was chief guest of the London Press Club, and spoke to them concerning the difficulties of being a woman M.P. She alluded, in the course of her remarks, to the "dual responsibility"—the two sets of questions and the two sets of constituents—with which the woman M.P. of to-day is faced. "The women of the country," she said, "have a charming habit of thinking that it is they who have sent you there, and that you are only responsible to them." The Duchess is perfectly right. This "dual responsibility" of which she speaks is a very burdensome reality to women in Parliament, and will remain so as long as there are only a very few of them. We have no doubt that the first lonely Labour Members who represented newly enfranchised working-class constituents were conscious of the same far-flung responsibilities. Certainly those who have followed Lady Astor's political career since her election to Parliament in 1919 are only too well aware of the immense volume of work and pressure of demands which confront the pioneer representatives of a hitherto politically inarticulate section of the community. But Lady Astor's case is instructive, and we venture to think that when that "dual responsibility" is readily shouldered and strenuously borne it generates a valuable by-product—a volume of confidence, affection, and moral support, transcending political parties and county boundaries, which is or may be of value to its possessor. However, it is for Lady Astor and not for us to say whether or no the bearer of such a double burden "has his reward."

#### Questions in Parliament.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT (1918) AMENDMENT BILL.—Mrs. Wintringham asked the Prime Minister whether, in view of the support given by all quarters of the House of Commons to the principle of equal franchise, the Government would either introduce a Measure or Bill of their own or expedite the passage of the Representation of the People Act (1918) Amendment Bill in its Committee and later stages. The Prime Minister replied that the Government were in entire sympathy with the principle of equal franchise, but in view of the pressure upon Parliamentary time they could not undertake to introduce legislation at this stage. As regarded the Private Members' Bill to which Mrs. Wintringham referred, he could not add to the statements made by Mr. Clynes at the Second Reading.

WOMEN MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS (CRIMINAL CLASSES).—In reply to a question from the Duchess of Atholl with regard to women medical practitioners acting as medical examiners in criminal cases in Edinburgh and Glasgow, Mr. Adamson stated that three women medical practitioners had been so employed in Glasgow, but that with regard to Edinburgh the services of women medical practitioners had been utilized from time to time in *post mortem* inquiries but not in cases of the kind specially mentioned in Lord Advocate Morrison's circular of October, 1920. Mr. Adamson pointed out, however, that, in general, in cases of assault or of offences against the Criminal Law Amendment Acts, it is necessary to have an immediate medical examination, which in practice has to be carried out on the instructions of the police by a police casualty surgeon. A further examination after the case is reported to the Procurator-Fiscal is rarely necessary.

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.

## EASTER, 1924.

This paper will reach the majority of its readers at a time when the Churches of the Western World are commemorating the suffering, death, and apparent failure, of a Man who cherished an unbounded faith in the perfectibility of human nature. A little later these same Churches will hang out their banner and assemble their best resources of colour, tune, and poetry, to celebrate the rebirth of his crushed hope and the renewal of their faith in the coming of His Kingdom. But as we write, in these more than usually ominous years of unstable political and industrial peace, it is not easy to say which of these two celebrations most nearly expresses humanity's present mood, or which of them most accurately symbolizes the direction of its immediate future.

We are reminded of a murky November day in the year of Grace 1922. We were returning by train, and not in the best of spirits, be it confessed, from the unsuccessful election campaign of one of our most sorely needed women Parliamentary candidates. A lady of immemorable and indistinguishable appearance invaded our lonely compartment, opening, after some moments of distrustful observation, a desultory conversation upon the affairs of the preceding day. It was, she thought, in many ways an unfortunate General Election. Chiefly to be regretted was the accretion of power to the parties of the Left. There was, she thought, about these contemporary Radicals, too much airy League of Nations talk, too little comprehension of the solid and immediate need for national defence. The League might be, she was willing to admit, a fine ideal and as such we must surely owe it allegiance. But was it anything more, could it be anything more, in a world peopled by men who after all were essentially acquisitive and fighting animals? In her opinion, therefore, it were better to face facts, and, seeing the world as it is and always will be, "keep our powder dry." But our acquaintance of an hour had regrets other than the current neglect of these practical political necessities. What, she asked, was coming over the Christian faith of our present age? In her young days children were taught that there was a God towards whom mankind had certain divinely prescribed duties. What of such teaching now? The irreligion of our schools was lamentable—only to be equalled by that irreligion of contemporary social life which was its inevitable sequel.

Such, briefly telescoped, were her arguments. And in fortunate intervals of silence we fell to wondering where, and to

## A DANGEROUS OCCUPATION.

In our issue of 28th September, 1923, we commented in a leading article on one peculiarly striking and sinister aspect of Sir George Newman's annual report as Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health: the persistently high rate of maternal mortality. In contrast with a declining infant mortality rate and a steady general improvement in the health of the people, we were told "the closely related mortality among women in childbirth still remains high, and has shown little or no improvement since 1894." Further on we were told that "many of these deaths are preventable, and given adequate and skilled professional care a large proportion of them should not occur." Part of the responsibility, it was pointed out, rests upon the mother herself, "with her instinctive desire to escape notice during pregnancy, her trust in family traditions and practices, and her frequent reliance upon ignorant advisers," part upon "financial considerations which have prevented the maturing of schemes for ante-natal work." For our comfort it was added that the matter was receiving official attention, that "the competence of the doctor in regard to obstetrics had recently been the subject of a considered review by the General Medical Council," that "steps had been taken to improve the education provided at the medical schools in this regard," that "Dr. Janet Campbell had been engaged in a survey of midwifery teaching," and that "the number of ante-natal centres was being steadily increased." So far, so good. At the end of last month Sir George Newman presented to the Minister of Health the third of Dr. Janet Campbell's reports, as foreshadowed above, on the subject of "Maternal Mortality."<sup>1</sup> Her first two deal respectively with the obstetrical education of the medical student and the training of the midwife. The third concerns the general question of an excessive maternal mortality and the means for its reduction.

Baldly stated, the facts are as follows: Out of not less than 700,000 mothers giving birth to children per annum, about

what manner of religious faith they led. With what mental reservations, for instance, given such a political background, would one render that completely satisfactory prayer which finds a place in the liturgy of whatever Church our travelling companion might adhere to? "Our Father, which art in Heaven (a long way off, outside our grasp and beyond our ken), hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come (only, of course, it never will, man being essentially and incurably an acquisitive fighting animal); Thy Will be done on earth (it would be splendid if it were, only we know it never can be) as it is in Heaven . . ." on some such lines it would proceed. And since we are told in the published writings of a former editor of this paper, and indeed on even higher authority, that it is of little use for a man to pray for what he firmly believes to be impossible of realization, we seem to have in this particular combination of politics and theology all the conditions of complete spiritual sterility.

But to return to our Easter meditations. Supposing our nameless acquaintance is right in her diagnosis of humanity's essential nature and inevitable destiny—or to take a more coherent and consistent champion of the same view, supposing Lord Birkenhead is right? Then let us, if we must commemorate something, commemorate Good Friday and stop at that. Let us make of it the sad festival of the hope that failed, because humanity was after all imperfectible—or as some people are fond of saying, because human nature is human nature, and always will be. But, supposing on the other hand they are wrong? Supposing there is, after all, a faint shadow of hope that the apparent failure of Good Friday was not as final or complete as it must have seemed to those who witnessed it, and that the Man who appeared to fail knew better than to require His generation to pray for the impossible? Then let us go further and celebrate Easter Sunday as the festival of the hope that persisted, because in spite of much self-depreciation and very little justification by experience, the bulk of human nature has an incurable belief in its own power to attain perfection and realize the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth. Which means, being translated from the phraseology of the pulpit into the phraseology of a sober and secular weekly: let us give renewed attention to the adjustment of international and industrial problems on lines which involve at least a partial assumption of mankind's responsiveness to motives other than greed of the "glittering prize," or fear of the "sharp sword."

3,000 per annum die in the performance of their maternal function—"a serious and largely an avoidable loss of life." But this figure of 3,000 by no means indicates the whole loss, for "a vastly greater number than 3,000 of these mothers are permanently injured or invalidated in this physiological process of childbirth." This figure, as was remarked in connexion with the original survey aforementioned, stands in no relation to the death rate from other causes. "In fact, the child-bearing mother is not sharing equally with the rest of the population in the improved public health." And in this respect England and Wales compare unfavourably with Germany, Norway, Italy, Sweden, and Holland. As regards causes, much light is thrown on the matter by the comparative statistics of different areas. It is in the most completely rural areas, as well as in the most highly industrialized, that the excessive rates of maternal mortality are found. This points to the operation of two preventable causes: the first connected with lack of facilities for prompt expert attendance, the second with dirt, smoke, poverty, and over-crowding.

The industrial employment of women has apparently little or nothing to do with the matter. Concerning their abnormal war activities, Dr. Campbell writes: "Women appeared to stand the physical test well, and the various observations made in connexion with maternity suggested that employment in itself was not harmful and might be beneficial." In fact, she opines that "ill-paid home work" is more likely to injure health through fatigue or physical strain than employment in a well-organized factory." And always "it is the women who work because they must, and cannot always choose their occupations, who are most liable to suffer."

Meanwhile, there is little doubt concerning the primary and immediately operative cause of the evil with which this absorbing yet tragic report deals. It turns upon "the adequacy or otherwise of the professional attendance during pregnancy and at the time of birth." A careful midwife and a skilful doctor rarely lose a patient, given a reasonable chance for the exercise of their competency." The italics are not ours.

(To be continued.)

<sup>1</sup> Reports on Public Health and Medical Subjects, No. 25, "Maternal Mortality," by Janet M. Campbell, M.D., M.S.: H.M. Stationery Office, 1s. net.

WHAT I REMEMBER.<sup>1</sup> XXXII.

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

## THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR, 1899-1902 (contd.).

We left Cape Town in a special train supplied by the Cape Government. Each of us had what was apparently a second class compartment fitted with sleeping accommodation. There was a large saloon for our meals, with a travelling kitchen attached; and we also had a Portuguese cook named Gomez, and the services of a young Tommy named Collins, lent to us by General Knox, Lady Knox's husband. We looked all round the arrangements made for our comfort and security with interest, curiosity, and gratitude, for these railway carriages were to be our home for about five months. A kind old gentleman, a Scot, the manager of the C.G. Railway, came to see that all his directions for our welfare had been observed, and to bid us farewell. We thanked him for having looked after us with so much forethought, but he remarked rather dourly that we should be glad enough to see the last of our railway home. As he knew there were to be six of us, he placed six copies of the latest "Railway Guide," quite useless though they were, on the table of the saloon. I smiled when I saw them, and said to him that I perceived that he thought we should very soon not be on speaking terms with each other. I assured him he was mistaken, and that we should get on very well. And so we did. Having plenty of work and a rational distribution of it amongst the members of our party, was very soothing; so was the possession by each of us of a small spot where we could be alone. I never quarrelled with any of my companions. Of course, I did not like them all equally, but I think we were all equally eager to fulfil the work we had undertaken. Our last action together when our work was over was to attend the marriage of our youngest member; we used to call her our baby—the Hon. Ella Scarlett, M.D., to Lieut. Syngé, whose acquaintance she had made before she joined us, when working at the camp at Norval's Pont. I knew something of Mr. Syngé's family, his father having been a well-known clergyman in Ipswich, and at the wedding it was I who gave the bride away.

But now I must try to describe our work. Our full reports were, of course, sent home to the Government, and were published in a Blue Book, Cd. 893, in 1902. My own personal copy I interleaved with numerous photographs taken by my colleagues or myself or acquired by us from other amateurs.

The inhabitants of the camp were rationed free of cost to themselves with ample supplies of meal, meat, coffee, sugar, salt and condensed milk, proportioned in quantity to the number of the family. In Natal potatoes and sometimes fresh vegetables were added, and later, on our recommendation, a supply of rice was given in all the camps. I give a copy of a Transvaal ration ticket for one week: the total number in the family was five, three adults and two children, one under five. They received every week: 3½ lb. of flour, 3½ lb. of sugar, 1½ lb. of coffee, 1 lb. of salt, 4 lb. of rice, 13 lb. of meat, 1 bar of soap, 1 bottle of milk for the baby. If the meat were lean ½ oz. of dripping or fat bacon was substituted for an equal weight of meat daily. Besides these necessities of life, the administration of the camps supplied clothing, including boots, full medical attendance and nursing, also education and religious services, conducted by the various ministers, in their own language. It was not an easy matter to get really competent and kindly men to act as Superintendents of the camps. We found one or two really grossly incompetent men in charge and recommended their removal, but we did not come across one single instance of cruelty or even of harshness. Able-bodied and active men had naturally joined the army and were fighting, while men who were not able-bodied had gone to Europe or down to the Coast towns. The occupants of the camps were in many cases extremely "slim," to use the Boer word, meaning "artful." They would apply to the Superintendent for clothing, dresses, stockings, etc., and he would go on supplying these until his suspicions had been aroused, when a search party would visit the tent of the delinquent to find, perhaps, half a dozen dress lengths, besides piles of various kinds of under-clothing. Trickery of this kind was kept in check in the best organized camps by means of a "Camp Committee" consisting of the leading Boer men and women in the place. The old-fashioned Boer gentleman or lady had very courtly, gracious manners, and always addressed us as friends who were desirous of helping them. From one of these "Camp Committees" a complaint reached us that the ration of fuel allowed per head

<sup>1</sup> This article is one of a series which will extend over several weeks.

was inadequate. We immediately arranged to meet the Committee and go into the whole question with them. We pointed out that although the daily supply of fuel per head was very small, it was exactly the same as that served out to our soldiers in the field, and that they managed to make it enough by clubbing together and having a mess, say, for a dozen or more. The leader of the Committee replied: "Honoured ladies, what you say is very true, but we Boer people could not do it; we should all have to be born again and a new love would have to be created among us; each one of us must boil his own pot." And then a Boer lady put in her word, and said: "Yes, and if I put a fat piece in I like to take a fat piece out." Plenty of medical comforts, they said, including candles, had been issued during the epidemic. We told them that the doctor had informed us of an enteric case brought into the hospital only the day before, in the twentieth day of the disease. They were much concerned, and felt this touched their efficiency as a committee charged with looking after the health of the camp. They admitted that there was a great tendency to conceal sickness, and also admitted the prevalence of imposture as regards the supply of clothing. We told them that at home in London cases of imposture were very frequent when relief was being distributed, and possibly they had found the same. They replied: "By hundreds." The chief need at that moment, they told us, was for boots. There were twelve shoemakers in the camp who could make fifty pairs a week if they could get the leather. We promised to speak about this. In conclusion, the leader of the committee said to us: "Ladies, we wish to speak with thankfulness of the kindness and goodness of our Superintendent from the beginning of the camp and all along. Everything he could do for us he has done." This good man, Captain Gostling, died not very long after our visit, of septic pneumonia, caught from the children in the hospital. His funeral was attended by a great concourse of the camp people, who said of him: "He has been a father to us." In another camp not far removed we found also an efficient Camp Committee, in this case consisting of thirty ladies. On our arrival they asked to see us, and, of course, we gladly agreed. The meeting was interesting, for they were all willing to talk for the most part reasonably and to the point. Towards the end, however, they became at variance with one another, especially on the subject of the Dutch matron, whom some of them distrusted. Several of them said: "We want the English to distribute things," and the same thing was repeated to us by some of the principal men in the camp, who said: "We would rather have an Englishman at the head of all the departments in the camp." There was one woman who had been present, but rather silent, at our meeting with the Camp Committee; when the others had departed she remained behind and said: "I am English; my husband has never fought for the Boers. I only wish to say how thankful I should be to know that my two sisters, who are loyal refugees in the camp at Durban, are being as well treated as we are here."

A MISSIONARY KNIGHT ERRANT.<sup>2</sup>

The romantic story of Lilian Starr has a special interest for feminists, because it shows the kind of opportunities that are now open to women; though it is perhaps true that women of her type, which is also the Florence Nightingale and Elsie Inglis type, have made their opportunities in every age. She was, in a sense, born a missionary, for her father was that Thomas Russell Wade who worked in the first Christian mission at Peshawar in 1863, and whose fearlessness was a kind of proverb among friends and foes alike. Courage of every kind is needed to try and convert Pathans, for they are typical wild mountaineers, whose native ferocity is deepened and inflamed by the fanaticism of Islam. Converts are not easy to make, and if you do make one you are apt to incur deadly vengeance from his relations. Blood feud is the reigning social law, and in obeying it every kind of treachery and cruelty is practised and upheld. How Dr. Wade established his mission and escaped with his life from the knives that seem to have awaited him at every turn is not plain; but he did so, and went to Amritsar, where he married another missionary, and where his daughter spent her childish years. She came home to England when she was ten, and was educated mostly at Oakhill House School, Hampstead, but she returned to India when she was eighteen. The missionary spirit was probably

<sup>2</sup> *Tales of Tirah and Lesser Tibet*, by Lilian A. Starr. Hodder and Stoughton, 6s. net.

already stirring within her, but she soon realized that she could not take up her life work without proper training, and that this could best be obtained at home. At the Norwich and Norfolk Hospital she learnt nursing; at Birmingham, and afterwards in London, she learnt something of medicine; at Kennaway Hall she studied the Bible. With this equipment and the spirit of her father she returned in 1913 to the very hospital that he had entered fifty years before. There she nursed the bodies of Pathans, many of them victims of feud and murder and tribal war, and tried to instil into their minds some knowledge of a better law. Doing the same work and in the same spirit was a young doctor, Harold Vernon Starr, who, in 1914, was given sole charge of the hospital. He and Miss Wade had recognized each other as kindred spirits from the beginning, and in 1915 they married. For a brief time, only about seventeen months, they carried on the work together, then the fate they had so boldly confronted came upon them. A Pathan boy, who had been a patient in the hospital, had announced to his Moslem father that he wished to inquire into the Christian faith. The father had dealt with him in the way that a renegade from the Prophet deserved; but the boy's death alone was not sufficient, those who had made it necessary had to be punished. In the darkness of a March night, in 1917, Doctor Starr was awakened by the flashing of lanterns at his bedroom window; he hurried out to see who required his help. His wife, waiting, heard a cry, she too hurried to the door; as she did so he staggered back, stabbed and bleeding, and two hours afterwards he died.

This ended the first stage of Mrs. Starr's mission. Six months later she left India and nursed at the Indian Military Hospital near Cairo for the rest of the war. After the Armistice she went and lived quietly with her mother at Eastbourne, where she gave some brilliant lectures on nursing. Not for long, however. Through these years of sorrow it had gradually dawned on her that her devastating loss was in fact her great opportunity. She had preached the law of Christ to the Pathans, now she could demonstrate it. Against the doctrine of force as the chief glory of man, and revenge as his chief duty, she herself and her husband, and all who worked with them had set up the Gospel of forgiveness. Now was the time to show by her own actions that this Gospel was not so impossible as it has often appeared even to Christians. The call was plain, she decided to devote her life to the help and comfort of the people who had murdered her husband. In the autumn of 1920 she returned to the hospital at Peshawar.

She was working there very busily one morning in April, 1923, when a message came from the Chief Commissioner, Sir John Maffey, asking her to go at once to Government House. It was not very convenient to leave, the hospital was crowded to overflowing, the out-patients' department was like a bear garden, doctors and nurses had their hands more than full; still, such a summons could not be disregarded, and when she got to Government House it was plain that it had not been sent without reason. Four days earlier, in the early morning of 14th April, Afridi brigands had entered the bungalow of Colonel Ellis, a British officer stationed at Kohat, the next frontier station, had murdered his wife, and carried off his daughter, Miss Mollie Ellis, as a victim or a hostage. Nobody knew where she was, and many shuddering thoughts about what might have befallen her had passed through the minds of the English in Peshawar. In such a crisis, as Sir John Maffey remarks in his foreword to the narrative before us, "all the king's horses and all the king's men" were of no use; to send an Army Corps after Miss Ellis would only be to ensure her death. Any British man who ventured across the frontier in pursuit of her would probably be shot at sight. The Chief Commissioner had the brilliant idea of sending a woman. He explained this to Mrs. Starr, told her that there were only the vaguest rumours as to Miss Ellis's whereabouts, that she would have to follow a guess track through the border country where no rule is acknowledged and each tribe is a law to itself, and asked her whether she was willing to try. Of course she was; and from the very moment of undertaking the adventure, she was convinced that it would succeed. Strengthened by this, Sir John stuck to his plan even when it appeared that at the Border fort, to which he accompanied her, every official, British and Indian, thought it madness. In Nelsonian fashion he hurried her off before any higher authority could intervene. In doing so he was as courageous as she was in going, and he must have endured a very bad moment when he saw her with her little party, commanded by the Rissaldar, Moghal Baz Khan, disappear out of British territory over the summit of the stony pass. The wonderful story of her ride through the independent lands, of her strange nights among women who had never before seen a white face, of the councils

of tribesmen held before her to decide what should be done with her, of the remark made in her hearing that it was no wonder the white folk ruled India "since their women were their men." All this is too interesting not to be read in full, and cannot be compressed within the space of this article. Reading it, it almost seems as if Mrs. Starr had known that Miss Ellis was near the hill village of Khanki Bazar, and had had nothing to do but to ride there direct; but as a matter of fact it was all rumour, guess-work, and inspiration. "Something told her" that she must hurry, that there was no time to be lost; and this was indeed the case, for it turned out that Miss Ellis's captors had been on the point of hurrying her away to some yet more inaccessible spot—to a hopeless captivity in which she would almost certainly have died. As it was the Mullah (or Moslem priest) of Khanki Bazar sent a letter to the friendly Mullah who accompanied Mrs. Starr, saying, "Absolutely lady doctor and her company prohibited," and that if she came there would occur "very long fighting." Nevertheless, it was in the house of this Mullah that Mrs. Starr met Miss Ellis at last, and found her lying on a bed, worn out with terrible forced marches, but otherwise unhurt. In true British fashion they sat down and had tea. But difficulties were not over yet. One feels that only the intense calmness and unprovocative firmness of Mrs. Starr, combined with the really magnificent zeal of her native helpers, could have triumphed over the determination of the brigands to keep their hostage, and the indecision of the Khanki Bazar Mullah. Characteristically, Mrs. Starr employed the waiting-time in doctoring the inhabitants of the village, and even the Mullah himself. This last could not see her, but sent messages by his servant to say that her medicines had done him good, and that he would be glad if he might have "yet more pills to eat before daylight."

A glorious day came when Sir John met Mrs. Starr once more upon the border, and this time with Miss Ellis. A few hours later Mrs. Starr had the pleasure of restoring the rescued girl to her father. The adventure was at an end.

It is not possible to close this article without referring to the passionate plea Mrs. Starr makes for support to Missions from the feminist point of view. She dwells on the degraded position of Moslem women, and urges that only Christianity can so leaven society as to make possible a right relation between the sexes. It is true to British women, she says, to show Eastern women what true freedom means, and to give them the conditions of it. It certainly seems that Mrs. Starr's own life should furnish a strong argument for "Christ and Freedom" both to the East and to the West. I. B. O'MALLEY.

## SOME IMPRESSIONS OF COPEC.

Inspiring is a word that has often been applied to Conferences, but surely never with more truth than to Copec.

Too often have the churches lagged behind other bodies in their struggle to obtain more humane conditions for our wage-earners, and better international relations. Now, however, they have brought all their best thought to bear on the effort to find a solution of these difficulties, and are not shirking the issue. It was obvious that, besides the sympathy and earnestness of purpose so evident on all sides, very hard thinking and a study of economics has been necessary for the preparation of all the reports, and still more will be required before that most urgent problem of all, viz. unemployment, can be solved.

Nevertheless, one felt that the recommendations of Copec could be applied at once to some of those problems if only a sufficient body of public opinion, ready to make the necessary sacrifices, were behind them.

In this category are education and housing, and also the treatment of crime, if the majority of our people could be made to realize how infinitely higher is the standard of Christian ethics than that enforced by our present law.

Unfortunately, the vital problem of unemployment, although recognized as one of the most urgent, is not in this category. Bishop Gore, in his masterly summing up of the discussion on "Property and Industry," laid stress on the fact that whatever remedies were suggested, private philanthropy must not be one.

With regard to international relations one felt that if only the churches would insist on a whole-hearted support of the League of Nations they would be carrying out the spirit of the Report.

Incidentally, it was urged that all laws which placed a special burden on women should be repealed, and also that until women were invited to make a larger contribution to the work of the churches, that work would be incomplete.

The scope of the Conference was so wide that it is impossible in the space of a short article to do more than touch on a few points.

## NOTES FROM IRELAND.

## A GREAT MISTAKE.

A story told by a former President of the Irish Local Government Board in his account of the inquiry of the Royal Commission for Poor Law Reform into Irish conditions, is worth quoting. A worthy Poor Law Guardian from the South had come over to give evidence on the position of illegitimate children. Finding to his discomfiture that ladies were present, and sharing the national horror at discussing these subjects in mixed company, he took refuge in the oracular remark: "Them illegitimate children, ladies and gentlemen, to tell the truth, them's a great mistake." With this dictum, probably many of the mistaken children themselves would agree, were they able to express an opinion. The authors of the Carnegie Report on Health of Mothers and Children speak of them as often physically handicapped before birth by the mental suffering of the mother, and subsequently by the want of proper care. The mother, in the majority of cases a girl under twenty-one, unable to obtain any help from the father of her child, was generally obliged to put it out to nurse and go to work herself. So the helpless victims of a great social injustice either escaped to that Kingdom ever open to the little children, or took their unwitting revenge on society, becoming a burden on the Poor Law, the National Insurance, or voluntary charity. The mother herself, forced to part from the child, was often tempted by sheer want to adopt that one trade in which unemployment seems to be unknown. The partner in the original mistake went scot free.

## SOME HISTORY—AND A MORAL.

Even in the Dark Ages before enfranchisement, efforts were made to remedy this evil. A Bill to render the British system of Affiliation Orders applicable to Ireland was drafted in 1911, but no Irish M.P. would become responsible for it in the House of Commons. The war, and the changes following the Government of Ireland Act, rendered it necessary to postpone action on the matter, but by April, 1923, with the Criminal Law Amendment Act safe on the Statute Book, the Belfast Women's Advisory Council took up the question as far as Northern Ireland was concerned with energy. The representative deputation organized after the uncertain reply given by the Ministry of Home Affairs to the first application was in the end not required: the questions in the Northern Parliament and the intimation that such a deputation was in readiness were effectual. The pledge was fulfilled, and the Bill is now in the Committee stage in the House. It is on sound lines, fixing a maximum payment of twenty shillings a week, with allowance for expenses of maternity, and appointing a collecting officer.

Thus the Council organized and mobilized public opinion in Northern Ireland, and, to the vague statement of April, 1923, succeeds the Bill of March, 1924. The moral is clear. There must be an organization to supply initiative and driving force, indispensable preliminaries to reform. Also there must be knowledge, for driving force applied in ignorance of possibilities of improvement would be more dangerous even than that "thin end of the wedge" on which many an anti-suffrage speaker in ancient days held forth with such terrifying effect. Knowledge of what is amiss, what improvement is possible, and the driving force and organizing power to focus effort on these needed and possible reforms—these are the functions for which organization is necessary.

## THE NEED FOR A THICK END.

But the "thin end" alone can effect little. Much commendation was lavished on women during the Great War, and much has been said since 1918 from election platforms in praise of women voters. But reform, like peace in the Isle of Inisfree, still "comes dropping slow". Recently in Dail Eireann comments were made on a circular letter sent round the T.D.s (Anglice M.P.s) by a woman's organization, as representing only "a few advanced women." A deputation to a Departmental Committee in Northern Ireland from a similar body was told it did not represent the general opinion of women voters. Whether officials really hold this view is another matter, but the excuse is convenient. The only way to meet it is, to quote a local organizer, "to get the women to get at their own M.P.s themselves." For this reason the work of such an organization as the Belfast Advisory Council is perhaps less difficult than that of bodies operating in larger areas. In the little unit of six counties M.P.s or Ministers can hardly escape personal contact with their constituents, and this gives the opportunity for the rank and file. "I seen Mr. —," remarked a working woman to me, "and I just told him what he was to do over that Bill." It will not be easy for Mr. — to avoid meeting that good constituent of his, and if instructions are not carried out "we'll learn him."

DORA MELLONE.

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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## OFFICERS' CONFERENCE, 28th March, 1924.

A conference of officers and members of Affiliated Societies of the N.U.S.E.C. was held on Friday, 28th March, in the Drawing Room, Y.M.C.A. Central Building, Tottenham Court Road, on the occasion of the Annual Council Meeting. Miss Macadam took the chair, and invited officers of Societies to give accounts of their work and the local conditions under which they suffered or rejoiced. The spokesman of Societies furthest from Headquarters had priority, and interesting accounts were received of the amalgamation of S.E.C. and W.C.A. in Glasgow, and the Autumn Week-End School, held at Dunblane. From Newport (Mon.) came an account of difficulties perseveringly met; from Liverpool and Birkenhead and other industrial towns we heard how closely linked were problems of Equal Citizenship with social and industrial problems, and especially with the overcrowded Housing of the people.

Other interesting accounts were given of work in districts whose conditions differed widely, but it was generally felt that this comparison of experiences was most helpful. The time of the Conference was strictly limited by the exigencies of other Council functions, but many members evidently felt that this had not been by any means the least profitable hour of the Annual Council.

## PARLIAMENTARY.

Reference is made in another part of the paper to the two outstanding disappointments of the last fortnight, namely (1) the Government's proposals with regard to the Guardianship of Infants, (2) the apparently probable lack of provision for Widows' Pensions in the Budget. With regard to the Guardianship of Infants, we understand that most of our Societies have already taken action. With regard to Widows' Pensions, it is indeed a forlorn hope that much can be done at the eleventh hour, and we are well aware that the Societies have done all that they can to bring pressure to bear on the Government in this matter. At the same time no harm, and some good, might be done by once again approaching the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Prime Minister, expressing the indignation which will be felt if Widows' Pensions are not included.

## BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.

Conferences organized by the N.U.S.E.C. on "Some Women's Reforms before Parliament" will be held at Wembley during the months of June and October. Dates and full particulars will be announced in our next issue.

The N.U.S.E.C. has undertaken to be responsible for voluntary workers at the Pavilion on Wednesdays, commencing on 23rd April. The shifts are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. It is hoped that it may be possible for members of our Societies and others interested to assist. Offers of help during the first week should be sent to Miss Auld, "Braemar," Upper Norwood, S.E. 19. Telephone: Sydenham 2134.

## EASTER HOLIDAYS, HEADQUARTERS OFFICE.

The Headquarters Office will be closed for the Easter holidays from Friday, 18th April, until Tuesday, 22nd April, inclusive.

## REPORT.

## CONFERENCE OF WOMEN ENGINEERS.

As we stated in our last issue, the second International Conference for Women Engineers was recently held at Manchester. Papers on various engineering subjects were contributed by Miss V. Holmes (England), Mrs. McBerty (U.S.A.), and Mlle. Massart (Belgium), so that the proceedings were very definitely international in character. Various well-known Manchester engineers were also present, who congratulated the women on their knowledge of the questions considered. These congratulations were not mere polite compliments. This conference has certainly established the fact that women are definitely accepted in the engineering world, and that their point of view is listened to with respect by male engineers. We learn from the annual report that women have read papers at a number of engineering institutions, including the Institute of Marine Engineers, the Institution of Automobile Engineers, and the Illuminating Engineering Society, an interesting sign of the times. From the financial point of view the women engineers are having a difficult time. Lady Parsons, in her presidential address, said that the various

enterprises they had started were "keeping their heads above the waves and hoping for better times." This strikes us as no mean achievement, considering the extraordinarily difficult times through which the whole engineering industry is passing, and the added difficulties which any new enterprise must face. In an interesting passage in her address Lady Parsons deplored the lack of training in exact sciences which marks the education of girls to-day, and showed the connection of this with the slow progress of labour-saving devices in household work. We would be inclined to think that experience is slowly educating the middle-class woman in this respect, but it is certainly true that the elementary schools are producing a generation of working women and domestic servants who have a rooted antipathy to any mechanical contrivance in the home. At the same time, as far as the former are concerned, it is questionable how far the will to make use of labour-saving appliances would carry them, as they probably have not the means, since such things cost money. But even apart from this, we doubt whether a more scientific education by itself would meet the case; it is unquestionable that much of the unnecessary household drudgery is due to bad house planning and architecture, and our male architects, we presume, have had just that training in exact sciences, the lack of which amongst girls Lady Parsons deploras. The fact is that nowhere is the dislike of breaking with traditions so deeply rooted as in the affairs of everyday life. What is so lamentably lacking is the mental energy and wider outlook, which alone can give the love of trying new things, and these depend as much on a stimulating general education as on a training in exact sciences. Nevertheless, everyone will agree with Lady Parsons that here is a great field for women engineers, and also of course for women architects, and from what we hear of mechanical labour-saving devices in America, the supply here lags nearly as far behind as the demand.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## HOUSING FINANCE.

DEAR MADAM,—Before dealing with the points you raised in issue 28th March, may I say, with reference to the letter from a Glasgow correspondent, that I am not in favour of the confiscation of anyone's capital, and therefore should probably not be in complete accord with Mr. Wheatley. It seems to me that Socialist economics are, if anything, rather worse than orthodox economics, and the stirring up of class hatred on either side seems to me deplorable, though perhaps not unnatural all things considered. As an individualist, to my mind the nationalization of industry would result in sheer bureaucracy. But there are some monopolies which ought not to remain in private hands, and the most important monopoly of all is the power to create credit. That power rests solely in the hands of bankers. By means of it the great banking trusts are the arbiters of the fate of nations, and they have the power thereby to expand or to strangle trade at their will. That, on the whole, they have in the past used their power with discretion, I am not for the moment concerned to deny, but Mr. Baldwin has recently pointed out that while our national trade has just passed through several appallingly bad years, yet banks have been doing very well. I should like women to read their text books on economics with a certain healthy scepticism, and instead of bowing down before orthodox economic theory to study the actual effects which follow from the power of banks to create credit by mere book-keeping, and to charge interest on that which they themselves create and which they will never be called upon to pay out in legal tender except as to a possible maximum demand of, say, 15 per cent of the credit issued.

In your reply to me you wrote as if it were unusual for banks to create credit, whereas banks are creating credit all the time. I used to think that when banks made loans they lent real money supplied by their depositors, or, in other words, that bank deposits created loaning power. But not at all; even the accepted economists (Withers, Hawtrey, etc.) tell us quite calmly that "every bank loan creates a deposit." There is nothing wrong in that, of course, but I imagine that most people do not realize that fact. To quote your comment:—

"When banks 'create credits' the result, other things being equal, is likely to be as inflationary as when the Government 'creates credits.' Both represent an addition to purchasing power unaccompanied by an immediate proportionate addition to purchasable goods and services. Their tendency will be to bring about a rise in prices, and where this happens inflation may be said to have taken place. But when a housing scheme is financed by a genuine loan, the increased purchasing power in the hands of those who spend the money borrowed is exactly offset by the diminished purchasing power of those who lend it. No addition is therefore made to the effective currency of the country, and no inflation results." This is interesting, as, seeing that banks are always making loans, and thereby creating deposits, bank loans are evidently in your estimation pure inflation and not "genuine loans," and, as you say above, they tend to raise prices. I rather agree. As banks are continually loaning credits for production, while not increasing purchasing power to the same extent, perhaps we have here stumbled upon at least part of the explanation why trade is bad and employment no longer epidemic but endemic (as Mr. Baldwin says he fears it has become) and of greater volume.

Our people cannot buy what they can produce, and must therefore seek feverishly for foreign markets in which to sell their products while so many of those at home go hungry, ill-clad, and without houses. Yet if they could buy according to their need all the unemployed would quickly be absorbed in making or handling the goods required. But that means money, and we have no money. Well, where does money, or, rather, that which passes as money, come from? A study of almost any of the orthodox economists will answer that question. That which passes as money is created by the banks and is expanded and contracted, not in the interests of the nation (though it may sometimes happen that those interests coincide), but in the interests of the great banks.

It was not mere sentiment that led the mediaeval Church (following the Bible and also Aristotle) to condemn usury, which it defined as *claiming a fixed rate of interest, whatever the result of the venture and without sharing in the risk of loss*. But we are so submerged now in the mud of modern economic theory and so tied up in the almost unintelligible jargon of the

money market that we cannot tell right from wrong, and accept with reverence all the doctrines of the "money changers."

Real trade declines while speculation, which is totally unproductive, increases, and nations are loaded down not only with real debt for real goods, but with millions of pounds of interest for credits which were created by a stroke of the pen. No one has contradicted the statement made by a correspondent in *The Times* that although we have paid America (i.e. Pierpont Morgan & Co.) 25 million pounds in interest on the debt, we now owe 73 million more than we did before we began to pay. Fluctuation of the exchange, probably. Yes, but exchanges do not move by act of God, nor only by the results of genuine supply and demand. High finance can beat down a country's exchange if it will, and if it will who can say it nay? I should like to see a truce between employers and employed. Real trade is all to the good, and its profits are rarely excessive. Let us examine the foundations of bank credit, and the relation of our monetary system to all our material ills to-day. Let us use our national community credit to produce houses now as we used it to save the banks in August, 1914. It was not their credit then which saved them from ruin. It was our national credit.

ALISON NEILANS.

[We suggest that women might also read their text books on banking with a "certain healthy scepticism," even those chapters of Mr. Hartley Withers' *Meaning of Money*, which deal with bankers' loans. We stick to our statement that when banks "create credits" the result is likely to be as inflationary as when the Government "creates credits." But quite a considerable part, if not the major part, of a banker's business consists not in lending money which he hasn't got, but in lending money which has been entrusted to him by his depositors—"genuine loans," in fact. And without expressing an opinion for or against the nationalization of banking, we should like to remind our correspondent of two facts: First, it is to the interest of a bank which makes a loan that solid and remunerative enterprise should result from that loan, for such is its best security. Second, the recent history of Europe has shown that the financial interests of nations, in so far as these are affected by currency movements, have more to fear from the political exigencies of Governments than from the economic self-interest of banks. But all this is by the way. What we want to impress upon Miss Neilans is our belief that any credit operation (whether engineered by governments or banks, or both acting in co-operation) in so far as it involves inflation, may have a stimulating effect on trade and employment, but will have in a more or less degree upsetting effects on the continuity of business and the economic relations of individuals. The game may be worth the candle—that is a matter of dispute. But let us not forget the existence of the candle nor its possibilities as a source of general conflagration. Inflation is a dangerous intoxicant. Nobody will deny that it may whip up the flagging energies of the body politic. But it is apt to become a bad habit.

As to the mediaeval Church—of course, it was not sentiment which led it to condemn usury. A mediaeval loan to tide over an individual's financial necessity in the days when industrial capital had no existence apart from its user was a very different thing from a modern investment in fixed interest-bearing securities.

One word more. If Miss Neilans thinks that the public can get money for nothing by the simple method of "creating" it she is grievously mistaken. Inflation is in effect the clumsiest form of indirect taxation, levied (through the operation of increased prices) mainly upon the salaried classes, the pensioners, the small investors, and, to a lesser extent upon the wage-earners. If we want money for houses let us borrow it honestly and pay interest on our loans, or raise it by the undisguised taxation of individuals with due reference to their ability to pay.

This correspondence must now cease.—Ed.]

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## COMING EVENTS.

## INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.

MAY 2, 6 and 8. 3 p.m. Conference Hall 1, at British Empire Exhibition, Wembley. Public Meeting on "The Prevention of the Causes of the War." Chair: The Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair.

## INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CLUB, 55 GOWER STREET, W.C.1.

APRIL 24. 8 p.m. Informal Discussion.

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

CROYDON (North Ward) W.C.A. APRIL 25. 3 p.m. Wesleyan Church Room, Pollards Hill North. Miss Beaumont on "Equal Franchise."  
EDINBURGH W.C.A. MAY 14. 8 p.m. Royal Society of Arts Hall, 117 George Street. Discussion, "Scottish Hospitals: Should they be Voluntary, or State-Aided and Rate-Aided?" Speakers: Sir George Beatson, M.D., K.C.B., and Mr. John S. Fraser, M.B., F.R.C.S.E.  
HORSHAM W.C.A. APRIL 29. 3 p.m. Miss Beaumont on "The Programme of the N.U.S.E.C."  
LEEDS S.E.C. MAY 5. 5.30 p.m. 18 Park Row. Annual Meeting.

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## FOR SALE AND WANTED.

IRISH LINEN SERVIETTES, good reliable quality, which we can recommend in assorted designs, size 22 inches, 12s. 6d. per dozen. Also special odd lot of tossed and soiled serviettes for everyday use. Assorted sizes and designs, 7s. 6d. per dozen.—Write for Bargain List—TO-DAY.—HUTTON'S, 41 Main Street, Larne, Ireland.

SECOND-HAND CLOTHING wanted to buy for cash; costumes, skirts, boots, underclothes, curtains, lounge suits, trousers, and children's clothing of every description; parcels sent will be valued and cash sent by return.—Mrs. Russell, 100 Raby Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. (Stamped addressed envelope for reply.)

## HOUSES FOR SALE.

BUNGALOWS, summer or permanent, 3-5 rooms; one ready, £300. View, water, bath, conveniences; freehold land; sandy, healthy; golf; buses. London, 80 miles.—Drake, Ufford, Woodbridge.

## DRESS.

THE HAT DOCTOR, removed to 52 James Street, Oxford Street, W. 1, cleans, reblocks and copies hats at lowest possible price. Renovates furs. Covers satin or canvas shoes or thin kid with brocade or velvet. Materials and post, 13s. 6d.; toe-caps, 8s. 6d.; your own materials, work and post, 8s. 6d., in three days.

MILLINER, experienced, will make up ladies' own materials; copy or renovate; other kinds of needlework also.—M. W., 61 Cumberlan Street, S.W. 1.

MISS MALCOLM'S DRESS ASSOCIATION, 239 Fulham Road, London, S.W. 3. Bargain Gowns, Evening and Afternoon, at 21s.

"FROCKLETS." Mrs. Elborough, c/o Madame Sara, 163 Ebury Street (5 min. Victoria Station). Tel., Ken. 9347. Children's Dresses of original and practical design, Coats, Caps, etc., etc. Snocks a speciality. Fancy Dresses. Open daily (Saturdays excepted) 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

## POST VACANT.

WANTED, temporary POLICE PATROL, in May, for some months. Some experience of social work essential. Age 27-40.—Apply, Director, Women Police Patrols, 5 Cases Street, Liverpool.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 16 Marsham Street, Westminster, S.W. 1. Secretary, Miss Philippa Strachey. Interviewing hours, 10-1 (except Saturdays), or by appointment. Office closed April 16th to 28th. Members Centre to open in May.

THE PIONEER CLUB has reopened at 12 Cavendish Place. Town Members £55s.; Country and Professional Members £4 4s. Entrance fee in aliyance (pro. tem.).

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 20th April, 3.30. Music Reading, Maude Royden. 6.30, Maude Royden: "The Miracles of Christ."

LONELY? Then send stamped addressed envelope to Secretary, U.C.C., 16L, Cambridge Street, S.W. 1.

JOIN INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CLUB, 55 Gower Street, W.C. 1. Subscription, 7s. 6d. per annum. Luncheons, and Teas in the Cafeteria. Thursday Club Suppers 7 p.m., and Discussion Meetings 8 p.m. 24th April: Informal discussion.

## HOUSE ASSISTANTS' CENTRE

510 King's Road, Chelsea, S.W. 10.  
Tel.: Kensington 5213.

On and after December 14th, 1923, the Employment Registers of the Centre will be closed and work will be concentrated on its second and third objects:

"(2) To encourage training and interest in Domestic occupations."  
"(3) To do everything possible to raise the status of Domestic Service, as Florence Nightingale did that of Sick-Nursing."

As this will entail much outside work the office will only be open for interviews once a week—on Fridays from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., except by special appointment.

ANN POPE, HON. SECRETARY.  
(Member of the American Home Economics Association.)

HOME-MADE CAKES, made with butter and eggs (no substitutes), can be obtained from Nan's Kitchen, 15 Farnival Street, Holborn, London, W.C. Layer cakes, eclairs, meringues, etc. Regular orders undertaken. A room for tea and light luncheons. Recommended by Ann Pope.

THE SHIELD CO-OPERATIVE RESTAURANT, 1 Marsham Street, Westminster, S.W. 1, has an excellent French cook. After 3 o'clock there are two rooms on the 1st floor which can be engaged for private tea parties. Tea and lunch served daily in the restaurant. Smoking-room.

THE WOMAN'S LEADER can be supplied direct from this Office for **1½d.** including postage. Send 6/6 to the Manager, WOMAN'S LEADER, 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1, and the paper will be sent to you at any address for a whole year. Persuade your friends to do the same.

Please send THE WOMAN'S LEADER to me for twelve months. I enclose 6/6.

Name .....

Address .....

PREPAID CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS 1d. a WORD, 6d. EXTRA FOR BOX NUMBER.