

THE WOMAN'S LEADER

AND
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NOTES AND NEWS

The Municipal Franchise in Calcutta.

The Calcutta Corporation has granted the municipal franchise to women who possess the qualifications necessary for men voters. The majority in favour was overwhelming, the figures being 21 to 4.

The Education of Girls.

The municipality of Erode, in the Madras Presidency, has included girls on equal terms with boys in its scheme for compulsory primary education. The committee was unanimous in this decision and additional taxes of 1 per cent. on the property tax and 25 per cent. on the professional tax have been raised for this purpose.

V.D. Congress in Brussels.

The Queen of the Belgians was present at the opening of the congress at Brussels, organized by the National Belgian League for combating venereal disease last Sunday. The congress is an important one, and papers are being read by a number of medical authorities of both sexes, and others who have taken a leading part in the campaign against venereal disease in all countries. The presence of the Queen at the opening ceremony is a sign of the times, and will focus public attention on the importance of these matters.

The Continuation Schools.

Eleven voluntary day schools have been saved in London from the wreckage of the plans for the thirty-six compulsory day schools which were so eagerly discussed a couple of years ago. The voluntary day schools are primarily vocational. Their aim is to help young people not only to pursue their general education, but also to qualify for commercial, industrial, and domestic careers. They will offer opportunities for obtaining, during the day, free instruction in subjects closely related to the requirements of various types of employment, and should materially assist them in qualifying for appointments in offices and workshops. The students may attend each week for any time, as long as they put in a six-hours' minimum and do not exceed fifteen hours. The schools open at 9 a.m. and are open till 5 p.m. In special cases arrangements can be made for earlier or later classes. The schools will co-operate with the employment exchanges and every effort will be made to find work for those needing it. There is room in the schools for 18,000 pupils. There is no charge either to employers who take advantage of the schools for their young workers during times of slack employment, or to the students themselves. The main classes

are for English, French, commercial arithmetic, workshop calculations, science, technical drawing, woodwork, metalwork, homecraft, and physical training; shorthand, typewriting, and bookkeeping may also be taken.

Married Women Teachers.

There has been a long struggle in Manchester over the dismissal of married women teachers, and Alderman Walker, Miss Caroline Herford and others put up a good fight, but were finally defeated. Miss Annie Lee said they were putting an embargo on teaching, and were making it a celibate profession at a time when other professions were opening their doors to women. It was an undue interference with the liberty of the subject to say: "If you enter this profession you shall not marry. If you do marry you must get out."

Telephone Girls.

The Union of Post Office Workers appointed a committee to investigate the conditions in the Manchester Telephone Exchange, and instead of upholding the original proposal of the Post Office authorities to cut down the staff by 72, they recommended that it should be increased. The reasons they give are:—(1) That the staff is not sufficient to meet traffic requirements since supervisors on account of pressure have to perform work proper to the rank and file. (2) That the existing staff is not sufficient to prevent excessive delay in the local and trunk exchanges. (3) That the staff is not sufficient to meet in a regular manner the exigencies of meal reliefs. (4) That the staff is not sufficient to secure that girls shall be released from duty at the scheduled hour. (5) That the time figures taken under actual working conditions differ materially from those upon which the departmental standard load (200 unit calls an hour) is based. (6) That medical men are unanimous that under any conditions the work of a telephonist is of a nerve-racking character. (7) That on account of the nature of the work and high pressure healthy girls are reduced to a state of nervous exhaustion, resulting in fainting and hysteria. (8) That medical authorities affirm that the working day of the telephonists should be a short one, whereas a high proportion of the duties are of ten hours' duration. The committee recommends that a commission composed of doctors (particularly nerve specialists) and of Post Office and Union representatives should be appointed immediately to inquire into the working conditions of telephonists in all exchanges.

Mary Macarthur Scholarship.

One of the members of the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen, and Clerks, Miss V. E. Chinn, has been successful in obtaining the first Labour Scholarship in connection with the Mary Macarthur Memorial. It is very appropriate that a member of the Shop Assistants' Union should obtain this privilege in view of the late Mary Macarthur's connection with the Union. It was through this organization that she first came into touch with organized labour, and her earliest Trade Union work was amongst Shop and Warehouse Workers. The Scholarship covers a two years' course at the London School of Economics, and may possibly include a short period to be spent abroad studying in some other country.

Emily Rigby Scholarships.

The late Miss Emily Rigby, well known for her work for the suffrage, has left £1,000 to the Principal and Fellows of Newnham College, Cambridge, for an "Emily Rigby" scholarship for pupils of that College, being daughters of Congregational ministers whose means are not sufficient to defray the cost of their college career, this scholarship being subject to such conditions as the Principal and Fellows for the time being may determine; and £1,000 to

Milton Mount College, Crawley, Sussex, for a similar scholarship for a pupil of that school tenable at one of the women's colleges at Oxford or Cambridge, but preferably at Newnham College Cambridge.

Women as Builders.

Business agents of the building trades industry were exercised the other day on learning that a number of girls in Toronto were laying hardwood floors. They have been given another shock by the later discovery that a woman is actually working at bricklaying within a mile of the city limits. Apprehension will not be allayed by the report that she is highly proficient. On one occasion she was observed laying bricks on an inside wall, and on another was seen to be tacking on lathes. There is a shortage of labour in the building trades in Canada and the United States, partly owing to the cessation of the influx of British building mechanics since the war, and partly to the disinclination of young men to learn a trade which is seasonal in its nature and subject to periods of unemployment. If this state of affairs becomes chronic, the unions need not be surprised if many enterprising women decide to enter a field of employment hitherto monopolized by the men.

NATIONAL FEDERATION.**OFFICIAL NOTICE TO MEMBERS.**

We have just received word that the *Woman's Leader* is going to be reduced from 3d. to 1d., and the *Shop Assistant* from 2d. to 1d. Acting in conjunction with the London Wholesalers' Federation and the Provincial Wholesale Newsagents' Association, the National Federation membership is instructed not to handle either of these two papers at these pre-war selling rates. Every member will realise the importance of making a definite stand, whatever the circulation of the paper may be, and therefore the above instruction should be loyally obeyed everywhere.

Should the publishers of these journals agree to withdraw their notice to reduce the selling price, then a further official instruction will be issued next week.

ALEXANDER MACLAREN,
General Secretary, National Federation of Retail Newsagents.

OURSELVES.

Above we print a notice which has appeared in this week's issue of *The Newsagents' and Booksellers' Review*, which will be of especial interest to our readers in view of their enthusiastic support of our determined fight.

Readers will be interested to hear the progress of our struggle for freedom of action for weekly newspapers.

We are pleased to be able to report that our circulation looks as if it was going to go up rather than down, owing to the change. A great many readers have become direct subscribers, and a great many have sent us lists of friends to approach (please go on doing this, kind readers), and quite a number of the newsagents are arranging to procure the paper direct from us for their own old customers.

We fear, however, that the change-over is causing inconvenience and trouble to many of our old friends, and we can only regret it profoundly and repeat that it really isn't our fault.

It is most encouraging to find that so many of our readers like us enough to take the trouble to write to us and to send us 10s. The response to the suggestion that an annual subscription (6s. 6d.) might come in the form of a 10s. note, and that we might keep the extra 3s. 6d. to help us through our struggle, has been most welcome (please go on doing this, kind readers).

We have also received several very generous donations, notably one of £25, with a promise of a second £25 at the end of the year. We hope to publish the list of our supporters shortly; and meantime we send them publicly our very real thanks. If they knew how eagerly we watch the posts, and how rapturously we greet every letter, and how we cry out in welcome of every cheque and postal order, they would be assured that their gifts come at the right moment.

Often before we have been pulled out of tight corners by the generosity of our friends. This time they are going to put us on our feet to help us to establish the principle that the public can get its news cheap. Moreover, they are proving once more the broad democratic basis upon which our movement, and the paper which is its mouthpiece, really stands. We do not say that we should not like a cheque for £5,000; but we do say that it is a healthier thing to have support coming in from all over the country in small sums and spontaneous new subscriptions.

STAND BY YOUR PAPER NOW!

We are in difficulties because we mean to stick to it that we have the right to reduce our own price; but our difficulties will melt away with your support.

Please notice that in future all orders for the paper, whether for individual subscribers (6s. 6d. a year including postage) or for parcels for societies (1s. for 12 copies, postage extra), or for any trade distributors, should be addressed to the Manager, WOMAN'S LEADER, 62 Oxford Street, London, W. 1.

THE WORK OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. VIII.

By CAPTAIN WEDGWOOD BENN, M.P.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' OPPORTUNITIES.

The candidate who has secured election passes rapidly from a hot to a cold fit. He leaves his cheering constituents "the hero of the hour." He arrives at the House of Commons to find 706 other "heroes of the hour," and to feel like a new boy at school. And the rules of the school perplex him. His wisest course is to attend the lessons regularly. To the observer in the Gallery, the proceedings of the House of Commons often seem dull, but a shrewd representative knows that except for brief intervals for the necessary meals he should be glued to his seat.

But supposing the Private Member in constant attendance. What opportunities has he of making a useful contribution to the work of the assembly? It is said that in the House of Commons there is some expert on every topic, and that any inaccurate statement will always meet with authoritative contradiction. Some men limit themselves to debates on subjects in which they have such expert knowledge. There is much to be said for this course, but it leaves them technicians and not politicians. Politics is the art of government, a broad and general art, which transcends a specialist's knowledge. The effective member may wisely devote a great deal of time and attention to the promotion of measures in which he is specially interested, but he will also attempt to generalize. His opportunities as a promoter of a special bill I have already referred to. If he is lucky in the ballot he may be the chosen instrument of fortune to pilot through the House some much-needed reform. I think the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill was carried through by a Private Member; certainly the Criminal Law Amendment Bill was originally in private hands. The latter illustrates difficulties to be faced. It excited the heated opposition of a few, and until it was "starred," that is to say, until the Government gave it the support of the Minister concerned and the necessary time for debate, the scanty but determined opposition was able to block its progress. But generalization is the true watchword,

and there are many opportunities in which, though not proposing legislation, the Private Member may make his influence felt. In the big debates on first-rate issues his chance is small. It is true that he may speak if he "catches the eye" of the Chair, but on first-rate occasions this catching process is not quite as casual as it seems. The Speaker has to have regard to the general character of the debate. He will desire first of all to equalize as far as possible the time allotted to the two sides of the question. Further, there are acknowledged champions who have a first right to be heard. And lastly, it will naturally be the desire of the speaker so to arrange the debate as to match as far as possible the quality of the adversaries whom he calls, particularly at the beginning and the end of the day. All these considerations much restrict the opportunity of the Private Member. On the other hand, in Committee of Supply he is sure of a hearing, though not of an audience. Moreover, on such occasions as the Second and Third Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill or the Motion for the Adjournment he has a general opportunity, where the fear of getting out of order is reduced to a minimum. Such an opportunity occurs nearly every night at 11 o'clock when the motion is put "That the House do now adjourn," which motion may be debated for half-an-hour. A persistent Private Member can raise any topic on this question, though he may have to speak to a retreating congregation. There is one enemy, however, and a formidable one, that he always has to fear. That is the "count." If at any time it appears that 40 Members are not in the House and the attention of the Chair is drawn to the fact, the Speaker leaves the Chair. Unless, therefore, the Private Member can secure 40 friends he may be the victim of this ogre.

His most useful work, however, will consist in watchfulness. He should use to the full his right of question and supplementary. He should listen carefully to every motion put from the chair. He has endless opportunities of objection—a negative power, but one not to be despised.

THE LEAGUE AND THE NEAR EAST.

Many people are asking why it is that the settlement of the Turko-Greek dispute is being carried forward outside the League of Nations, and why it is that the Great Powers prefer to do their talking in the Assembly and their acting under different auspices.

Many people think that the refusal to refer this dispute to the League (under Article 17) is a proof that the whole thing is nothing but humbug, and that it is useless any longer to hope that the League will be an instrument for peace and lasting settlements.

This view is easy to maintain in superficial argument; but, like other hasty, sweeping generalizations, it is not the whole truth. The Executive Committee of the League of Nations has put forward a careful, reasoned statement giving their view of the right attitude to be taken towards this question. We commend it to our readers for their thoughtful consideration.

"The Executive Committee of the League of Nations Union, recognizing that the Governments concerned at the Paris Peace Conference with the establishment of the League of Nations, understood, when they signed the Covenant as part of the Treaty of Versailles, that Article 17 (which provides for the League's intervention in disputes between States which are members of the League and States which are not members of the League) should not apply to the outstanding disputes between the Allied and Associated Powers on the one hand, and on the other the Powers—Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Turkey—with which they were then still at war; and further recognizing with regret that the League of Nations was necessarily deterred by this understanding from intervening in the war between Turkey and the Allied and Associated Powers; realizing, however, that the conditions have changed considerably since the Peace Conference met in Paris, and, in particular, that the experience, influence, and prestige of the League have greatly increased during the past three years; now welcomes the decision which the Third

Assembly of the League has just made at the instance of Dr. Nansen and expressed in the following terms:—

"The Assembly, earnestly desirous of securing the restoration of peace in the Near East, and of supporting all efforts which are made for that purpose, notes with satisfaction that it is proposed to summon a special Conference to deal with the situation; and trusts that *The Council*, without interfering with any negotiations now pending, will take such steps as it may deem desirable and justifiable with a view to giving effect to the unanimous desire of the Assembly for the prompt re-establishment of peace."

The Committee considers that the League should be concerned in the settlement of these disputes, because—

1. A settlement reached with the League's disinterested assistance and approval would have greater moral authority throughout the world.

2. The League's participation in the settlement would ensure full consideration of the interests of States which are vitally concerned, but which are not to receive an invitation to the proposed Eight-Power Conference—as, for example, Bulgaria.

3. The League's administration in the region of the Straits or elsewhere will be greatly handicapped unless founded upon a treaty all of which the League regards as well designed to serve the best interests of the whole world.

The Committee, however, recognizes that an attempt to interfere with any negotiations now pending might impair the prospects of an early settlement, and that, therefore, the League's intervention should not take place unless or until these negotiations fail or are abandoned because of some change in the situation, or unless its assistance is invited by the participating Powers. But in any of these events, the League's intervention should immediately take place. And if the proposed Conference meets, it should secure the League's advice and assistance."

THE LICENSING LAWS.*

By G. T. WHITELEY.

In order to understand properly the law as it is at present, it is necessary to be familiar with the old Statutes and to trace how the power given to Magistrates was gradually increased from time to time, and how, at a later period, this power was in many important respects taken away from them.

It will not be necessary to go further back than the year 1828, when a consolidating Act was passed embodying the Law as it was up to that date. There was only one licence in existence then for the sale by retail of intoxicating liquors, viz. that of the Inn, Alehouse, or Victualling House. Applicants for this licence had to enter into recognizances or find sureties, and were bound by certain conditions which were expressed on the face of the licence, a breach of which made them liable to certain penalties. This licence was granted by the Magistrates and permitted the sale of Spirits, Beer, and Wine, both on and off the premises.

About this time there was much abuse in the conduct of many of these licensed houses; although licensed as Inns or Alehouses, they became merely dram shops for the sale of Spirits only, with a result that the Beerhouse Acts were passed between 1830 and 1840, by which power was given to any householder to open a house for the sale of Beer either on or off the premises, no Justices' licence being required. But the applicant had to be a householder duly assessed to the Poor Rate, and a certificate had to be produced of good character, signed by six rated inhabitants, to the Excise Authorities.

By an Act in 1869 these licences could only be obtained through a Justices' certificate in the same manner and on the same terms as an Inn Keeper's licence. They could only be refused on four grounds, which were shortly: (1) Character of applicant; (2) the house being of a disorderly character; (3) the applicant having previously forfeited a licence or adjudged disqualified for misconduct; (4) the applicant or the house not qualified.

These four grounds still exist at the present day in regard to Beerhouses which were licensed before 1869, and are known as "privileged" beerhouses. Thus a large number of beerhouses suddenly sprang up all over the country, there being no restriction whatever, provided the holder of the licence was a man duly qualified and of good character.

In 1872 a new Licensing Act was passed which provided for more uniformity in regard to granting licences. It gave power to the Justices to remove licences from one part of a division to another, and for the keeping of a Register of Licences.

Numerous regulations for the proper conduct of licensed houses were introduced and if broken made the licensee liable to certain penalties, and there was a uniform scheme for the hours of closing.

In 1896 a Royal Commission was appointed to consider the Licensing Laws, with a view to amending them, but it was not until 1902 that any new legislation was introduced. By that Act power was given to arrest a man who was drunk and incapable, or in charge of a child, and for obtaining a separation order by husband or wife in the event of one or the other being an habitual drunkard.

The Justices were given further powers in regard to the grant or renewal of retail Off Licences, with the exception of those persons who held Wine or Spirit Off Licences on the 25th June, 1902, when the licences can only be refused on the old four grounds mentioned above.

Certain further powers were also given under this Act to the Justices for controlling the structure of licensed premises. All new Off Licences had to be confirmed by Quarter Sessions, and a Register of Clubs was introduced.

The Justices having full power to refuse the grant or renewal of an On-Licence, with the exception only of the privileged Beerhouse, many Benches throughout the country began to take away licences where they considered there were too many in any particular district for the needs and requirements of the neighbourhood. This action produced much hardship to the owners and tenants of these houses, which were taken away without payment of any compensation, with the result that in 1904 an Act was passed by which the renewal of all On licences (except Wine On) which existed on the 15th August, 1904, could only be refused without compensation on one or more of the following grounds: (1) Premises ill conducted; (2) premises structurally deficient; (3) premises structurally unsuitable; (4) character

of applicant; (5) that the renewal would be void; (6) applicant not a fit and proper person.

If the On licence was a "privileged" beerhouse, then only on the four grounds before mentioned.

If the Justices refuse a licence on any other ground the consideration of the renewal of the licence has to be referred to Quarter Sessions and if that Court is of opinion that the licence is not required it can only be taken away by them on payment of compensation.

A fund was introduced called the Compensation Fund, by which every holder of an On licence (except Wine on licence) has annually to contribute a sum towards this fund according to the annual value of his premises. In London alone over 1,000 licensed houses have already been extinguished under this Act.

In the case of the grant of a new On licence payments were to be made to secure to the public any monopoly value represented by the difference between the value of the premises when licensed and the value of the premises without a licence, and power was given to the Justices to grant a licence for a term not exceeding seven years. At the end of that period a further application had to be made as if for a new licence.

An Act was passed in 1910 consolidating the law and embodying only a small number of unimportant amendments.

The war caused many experiments to be made in regard to the management of public-houses, and restrictions in the sale of intoxicating liquor; what was at first considered as an infringement of the liberty of the people proved in the end a blessing in disguise, for there are few, if any, of those who at present hold licences who would be willing to revert to the pre-war hours of opening. With this knowledge the Government introduced an Act in 1921 restricting the hours for the sale of intoxicating liquor, giving the Justices the power, within limits, to determine the same. This is a great innovation, as previous to this there were no stated hours for the sale of intoxicating liquor but only hours when the premises must be closed—in future licensed premises can remain open at all hours provided they do not sell intoxicating liquor except during the "permitted hours."

This Act also brought Clubs for the first time, except for registration, within the purview of the Justices. Clubs are now restricted as to hours for the sale of intoxicating liquor as are licensed premises.

The power over Clubs by the Justices is very limited; they can only be struck off the Register when certain offences are proved to have been *habitually* committed. No power is given to the Police to visit Clubs as they do licensed premises, except on the application for a search warrant on reasonable grounds being put forward that an offence has been committed which would give the Justices power to strike the Club off the Register.

In conclusion, there are many schemes afloat for the reform of the public-house. An experiment was made by the Government during the war in Carlisle and its neighbourhood owing to the grave conditions prevailing on account of the number of munition workers in the city. Among the experiments made were: (1) A better provision of food and non-intoxicants; (2) improvement of structure and arrangements of public-houses; (3) limitation of sale of intoxicants to young persons.

It is on these lines rather than on some drastic action such as Prohibition, Local Veto, or State Purchase, that in my opinion real reform lies, but most important of all, Clubs must be brought more than they are at present within the jurisdiction of the Justices.

CHORLEY WOOD COLLEGE.

For the Higher Education of Girls with little or no Sight.

Notes by the Principal, Miss PHYLLIS MONK, M.A.

This College, now in its second year, is the first of its kind. At Worcester boys without sight have for many years past been qualifying for the Professions and enjoying the privileges of the Public Schools, and now the gift of "The Cedars" by Mr. J. H. Batty to the National Institute for the Blind has made it possible to open a sister school, that is, one where a liberal education and all that goes with a full school life precedes the training for professions or other careers to which it leads the way.

Because the College is the only one of its kind the fees are very moderate—£35 a term—in the hope of being within reach of the majority of those who can value higher education for their daughters.

Pupils are received from about 7 years of age—even younger when advisable—up to women of University standing working towards Degrees.

To the ordinary individual "blind" means utter darkness; as used officially at such a special school as this girls are "blind" from the point of view of education if their vision does not allow reading and writing ordinary script; and so, at the College, there are those who have a useful amount of sight for ordinary purposes, and either have to save it from strain or find it inadequate for reading print, as well as those who, through illness, have lost the use of their eyes, and those who have never seen at all.

The pupils have the benefit of regular visits from a London eye specialist, the services of a local doctor, and of a trained hospital nurse as matron, thus ensuring that every possibility of improvement is followed up.

The girls come from all parts of the British Isles, and names are on the books for entry from countries as far away as Sweden and India.

Holidays are as in other boarding schools, and during these, parents have observed that their daughters are increasingly able and eager to take a normal place in the world outside their school.

The house is exceptionally beautiful, being of the type of the French chateau with large, airy, light rooms which could not be more appreciated than by those who need much light to aid their small measure of sight, and where the space allows even the totally blind such freedom of movement as to impress visitors with wonder. It is well named "The Cedars," for groups of these grand old trees, famous for their beauty as well as their age, give a unique character to the grounds. An open air bathing pool makes swimming possible in the summer, and for free running there is a splendid stretch of lawn bare of trees or other obstacles. The house was remodelled to comply with the Regulations of the Board of Education, and is a joy to live in, not only for its beauty but for its convenience.

This work of remodelling was carried on while the difficulties due to the war were at their height, and so, with five pupils waiting to come, and "The Cedars" in possession of workmen, the first term was held under the hospitable roof of Jordan's Hostel, about 6 miles away. Here the first five pupils, feeling like pioneers in a big adventure, enjoyed the friendliness of their picturesque surroundings, with which they looked well in keeping in their school uniform of brown "homespun" and tussore, brightened with orange. Since then the four terms have brought four times the number of pupils with the promise of increase that makes the accommodation for forty-five seem no distant dream.

The staff of the College is as highly qualified, and the curriculum as liberal as in any good public school—languages, mathematics, science, gymnastics and dancing, handwork, including clay-modelling and needlework, and, of course, music—taking their place, as well as the ordinary English subjects.

That education for the Blind is able to be so nearly on a level with that in other schools, is due largely to the use of Braille, the method of reading and writing chiefly employed, and the ever-increasing library of braille books, especially accessible to

students. Through typewriting the sightless have access to friends who cannot read braille. Special boards and type bring all arithmetic and algebra within reach, spur-wheels, braille compasses, and rulers are used for geometry and trigonometry; relief globes and maps and many other devices help to make full mental development on normal lines practicable, though admittedly "sighted" methods have precedence both in degree of accuracy and speed.

As regards recreation; here, too, the girls without sight fill their time as successfully as their sisters. In the lazy after-dinner time voluntary handwork is popular to the accompaniment of reading aloud; impromptu concerts, dances, charades, and debates compete for time; a school magazine has been issued for which contributions both descriptive and imaginative, in prose and poetry, were numerous; and there are card games as well as chess and draughts—thanks to modification in the "tools" available—for wet days and free evenings.

Neither is the College without games worthy of the name of sport. As hockey, cricket, and net-ball would be farcical and unsatisfying, a composite game has been evolved, called "Sport X"—a game full of possibilities, and calling forth much enthusiasm and energy. For the summer a less exhausting new game, at present known as "Quickit," is on trial, and that a team of pupils played and won a match against a fully-sighted staff may suggest that the game has come to stay.

Outdoor exercise is also provided by walks, gardening, and poultry-keeping, in all of which the same spirit of courage in attack and of happy self-confidence predominates.

The training in independence begins at the calling-bell and goes on till the good-night rounds are paid. In bathing and dressing, the making of their beds, good management at meals, the care of their class-rooms, and the arrangement of flowers at table, in all these and many other ways the pupils respond with the same ready optimism that makes unnecessary the artificial estimate of prizes, marks, and formal punishments.

The word "blind" is not in the school vocabulary. The thought of blindness is more out of mind than where contrasts are inevitable. "Sighted" schools and people are mentioned, when needs be, as if they were merely other varieties of the normal. All "see" by whatever processes their faculties allow.

The College is, in short, the happiest of training grounds, where the individual expresses herself with delightful spontaneity, where the staff expect much and get still more response, and where the common obstacles to be overcome help in giving the school something of the conscious pride and public spirit that a larger community has by tradition.

It is obvious that many causes, such as the staffing necessary for the individual training and teaching of pupils so varied in age and previous development, and the expensive apparatus required, contribute to make it impossible for the fees to cover the cost. The deficit is at present borne by the National Institute for the Blind. It is hoped that the friends of education will help to make the College better known in quarters whence help in the form of scholarships, contributions towards the special equipment or better still, towards a general endowment, may be forthcoming.

NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

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

Telephone: Museum 6910.

EQUAL FRANCHISE DEMONSTRATION, CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER, Wednesday, 8th November, at 8 p.m.

Speakers.—Mrs. Wintringham, M.P., Miss Margaret Bondfield, J.P., Lady Bonham Carter, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, J.P., Miss Daisy Richardson, Miss Maude Royden.

Tickets may now be had for the Equal Franchise Demonstration at the Central Hall, Westminster, on 8th November. Owing to accommodation required for Societies, the number of 5s. and 2s. 6d. reserved seats is limited and early application is desirable. The prices are as follows: Tickets, numbered and reserved, 5s., 2s. 6d., 1s. For parties of six or over, 4s., 2s., and 9d. A portion of the area of the hall will be reserved for affiliated societies of the N.U.S.E.C. and other Societies co-operating in the meeting, and further reductions will be made: Societies sending ten or more representatives, tickets 1s. each; Societies sending five or more representatives, tickets 2s. each. A plan of the Hall can be seen at Headquarters, and seats either for individuals or parties may be selected.

This meeting is attracting a great deal of attention; we hear that one of our smaller societies is sending a contingent of twenty members, and we hope that others will not lag behind. This meeting should make a special appeal to every woman who worked for Women's Suffrage before the war, and who realizes that her objective—the vote on the same terms for women as for men—has not yet been attained, and we hope it will show something of the determination and enthusiasm of past days.

We ask the help of our readers in making this occasion a great success,

and particularly in arousing the interest of young women under 30 who, it is said, wrongly we think, are completely indifferent on the subject.

AUTUMN LECTURES.

Mr. J. D. Beresford's lecture which he is giving at 50 Porchester Terrace, W. 2, on 19th October, at 4.30 p.m., will not only be of great interest in itself, but the opportunity of meeting friends and members of the National Union at tea beforehand should be useful at the beginning of the winter's work. We hope that Mrs. Dale, Substitute Delegate for West Australia at the recent Assembly of the League of Nations, and who has just returned from Geneva, will be present, and other visitors now in London.

NEWPORT BY-ELECTION.

The Newport W.C.A. is actively engaged in work in connection with this very important and specially interesting by-election. A large hall has been taken, and a mass meeting of women citizens is to be addressed by the three candidates on Friday, 13th October, with Professor Barbara Foxley in the chair. The N.U.S.E.C. questions have already been sent to the candidates, and a copy of them has also been sent to the local Press.

DURHAM WEEK-END CONFERENCE.

It is difficult to understand why the causes for which we stand seem to make no appeal in the north-east corner of England. The Durham S.E.C., one of our most active and successful societies, has organized a week-end conference, 3rd-5th November, when it is hoped to discuss plans for more

* A lecture given at the N.U.S.E.C. Summer School.

active work in this area. A Town Hall meeting and a reception at St. Hilda's College will be held, and it is also hoped to organize an open-air meeting on the League of Nations, and an interesting programme has been arranged. The speakers are Miss Eleanor Rathbone, C.C., J.P., Miss Tooke, J.P., Mrs. Heawood, Mrs. Cruikshank, and Miss Macadam, and the subjects will include Citizenship for Women, Legislation and proposed Legislation for Women, the Work of Women Guardians, the Work of Women Magistrates, Women and the League of Nations, etc.

The Conference will be open to representatives of women's societies and to all men and women interested in the position of women in politics, Local Government, and industry, and the Society earnestly requests that they will attend the conference and secure the support of their friends and of any women's society with which they may be connected. Hospitality for the week-end can be arranged for a limited number of representatives if early application is made to the Honorary Secretary at 28 Church Street, Durham.

Further particulars will be announced later in the Press, and sent with tickets of admission to all who intimate their intention of being present not later than Saturday, the 21st instant.

EDINBURGH S.E.C. WEEK-END SCHOOL.

We have not yet had time to receive a full report of the Week-end School at Elie, but we hear that the School was a great success in every respect. It was attended by about forty resident students, in addition to which both old and new friends came in from the neighbourhood. The Glasgow S.E.C. was well represented, and representatives were also present from Haddington S.E.C. and from Dundee W.C.A. The weather was very fine, but in spite of this all the lectures were well attended. A fuller report of the School will be given next week.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FAMILY ENDOWMENT.

MADAM.—May I confess that I share your correspondent's perplexity regarding the arguments put forward by Miss Fraser and Mrs. Chew in opposition to Family Endowment? These ladies assume that any system which brings family income into reasonable relation with family needs is likely to intensify the burden of unwilling motherhood, and imprison the mother more rigidly than ever within the four walls of her home. But neither writer attempts by any chain of argument to explain why these regrettable consequences are likely to ensue. Meanwhile any appeal to fact leads us to opposite conclusions. To begin with Miss Fraser's boggy of reluctant motherhood: surely every student of social science knows that the burden of childbearing tends to vary inversely with the economic prosperity of the family? Nor under existing conditions is it possible to associate the kind of "sex-slavery" to which Miss Fraser refers, with the existence of married women's property throughout large sections of the middle and upper classes. The fact is, as Miss Fraser herself admits, that "sex-slavery" does exist to a lamentable extent under present conditions. It exists most markedly among the poorest and most ignorant sections of the community. Its immediate causes are largely non-economic, and are associated with the superstition and lack of self-control which follows from continuous degradation of material standards. Its more remote causes are largely economic, and are associated with the inadequacy of a wage system which renders such continuous degradation of standard inevitable.

As regards Mrs. Chew's suggestion that a measure of Family Endowment is likely to strengthen the shackles of the home—here, at least, we have a refreshing variation on the old argument that it is calculated to promote a domestic break-up. But why does she suggest that we "propose to limit the sphere of women's work?" So far as I am aware, no advocate of Family Endowment has ever proposed any scheme involving the exclusion of any woman from any occupation. On the contrary, advocates of such schemes propose to add the occupation of motherhood to the number of occupations in which women can achieve economic independence under decent and dignified conditions of work. After all, it is an occupation which numbers of women enjoy—and can do well, given the necessary material resources. Why should not its performance develop "facilities of self-dependence" and "capacities for service" in the same degree as, let us say, cotton spinning or typing?

But the most incomprehensible objection of all is Mrs. Chew's suggestion that in the event of Family Endowment taking the form of State payments, the mother is exchanging the tyranny of one man for the tyranny of many. This comes most strangely from the pen of a suffragist, who, presumably, regards the vote as an instrument of democratic control, whereby the will of women may be reflected in the general will. But, whatever may be our conception of the State, the advocate of National Family Endowment is surely demanding of the mother no greater degree of economic dependence than is demanded of Admiral Beatty or Field Marshal Haig—both of whom receive from the State financial recognition of services which, though not directly connected with the production of material wealth, are nevertheless regarded as possessing social value.

With Mrs. Fawcett's letter in your issue of September 22, we come to the first serious argument against Family Endowment—its effect on the wage-earner's individual economic incentive, as illustrated by the effect of the pre-1834 Poor Law allowances. This matter deserves more serious attention than it is possible to devote to it in a letter. But may I suggest one important difference between the old Poor Law system and any Family Endowment scheme that has yet been put forward in this country. The qualification for the old Poor Law allowance was unemployment or low wages. Where one or other of these conditions was not present the allowance was not given. Thus, the system put a direct premium on unemployment and low wages, which would not necessarily operate under a scheme where allowances were given irrespective of existing income.

One word more. All your correspondents evade the question of whether the industry of this country is capable of bearing a universal minimum wage sufficient to meet the needs of large families where large families exist. Miss Fraser suggests that nobody knows what industry may be capable

of bearing "when normal times are restored," provided we add to our capital and develop our skill. But "normal times" are not yet restored; nor does our pre-war experience of "normal times" suggest that when they are, we shall be much nearer to an adequate universal family wage than we were in 1914. Once more, therefore, I appeal to opponents of Family Endowment to come down to earth and deal with the facts of the situation as they exist here and now—bearing in mind the industrial stagnation and the progressive degradation of working-class standards, with all their hideous social implications, as we know them in this year of Grace, 1922.

M. D. STOCKS.

THE ROTHERHITHE CHILD.

MADAM.—For some time I have been considering the idea of sending an appeal to the readers of the WOMAN'S LEADER for help with the Care Committee work for the school children of Albion Street, Rotherhithe. The work of the Committee of the Albion Street School is sadly in need of workers, and if only one could get a list of helpers willing to give from 2.30 to 6 p.m. once a month much worry would be saved and results might be very gratifying.

May I beg anyone who could give this small amount of time to write to the Hon. Sec., C.C.C., Albion Street School, Rotherhithe, S.E. 16?

CAROLINE POUCHER.

TRADES UNION CONGRESS GENERAL COUNCIL CHAIRMANSHIP.

MADAM.—Will you permit me to correct a very misleading statement which appeared in your issue dated 29th September concerning the Chairmanship of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress? Your description of a close fight in which I was defeated is an imaginative picture which has no foundation in fact. Mr. J. B. Williams was not opposed; he was the only nominee for the chairmanship and he was unanimously elected to that position.

I regret to note that some papers have endeavoured to suggest that sex bias swayed the Council's decision. That is equally erroneous and misleading. My colleague has the longest record of service and is one of the most energetic and able members of the Council. I am heartily glad that the honour of the Chairmanship is his for this year.

MARGARET G. BONDFIELD.

INSULTING WOMEN.

MADAM.—I wish to call your attention to a remark made by Mr. Mead, the magistrate sitting at Marlboro' Street Police Court, in respect of a case of insulting women by Samuel Neal, 47, senior overseer of Epsom Post Office.

Mr. Mead said: "People are inclined to make too much of this class of offence; it is not a serious, immoral offence, but a little impudence and indiscretion."

It is much to be regretted that a magistrate should give utterance to such an opinion. The law is down hard enough on women who molest men; why not vice versa? I note in my social work that in cases of this kind the offender always pleads "in drink"—that is, when he owns to being guilty—but when charged with being drunk in other cases repudiates it.

ELLA E. RIDDLE.

PLYMOUTH AND LADY ASTOR.

We are pleased to give publicity to the following letter, written by Lady Selborne, late President of the National Council of Women, in reply to a request from Dr. Bayley, the Conservative candidate, who is opposing Viscountess Astor, that she would speak for him at Plymouth:—

DEAR SIR,—I certainly could not speak for you at Plymouth, as if I had a vote in that borough I should certainly give it for Lady Astor. It is true that I disagree with her about the amount of control which should be applied to the Liquor Trade, but she has done such yeoman service in matters in which I and many other women take the deepest interest, that I should be very sorry to see her out of Parliament.

She is willing to take any amount of trouble where women's interests are concerned, and we want a few people who will do that in the House of Commons.

I wish she set a greater value on liberty, but one must make allowances for one who grew up under a Republican form of Government. And she has a most admirable courage in saying what she really thinks, without trying to catch every breeze of popular favour, which might well be imitated by more eminent politicians.

I am, yours truly,
(Signed) MAUD SELBORNE.

THE FAMILY ENDOWMENT COUNCIL.

The Family Endowment Council, which includes members of all and of no political parties, is offering to send speakers (no fee, but expenses to be paid) on any aspect of Family Endowment, a subject in which considerable interest has recently been shown.

Family Endowment represents a method of making provision for children alternative to the present one by which they are supported by the earnings of the head of the family. It constitutes a redistribution of national resources between those with dependent children and those without.

The present system, by which no differentiation is made in the earnings of those with or without dependants, leads inevitably to periods of great stress and real poverty in the case of the great majority of families with small children. This is reflected in the low standard of child nurture still prevalent in this country.

Various schemes are now being put forward for making independent provision for children. Those organizations who wish to know more of these schemes should apply for a speaker, or for literature, to the Secretary, Family Endowment Council, 50 Romney Street, London, S.W.1.

Mr. J. D. BERESFORD will give a Lecture on "RELATIVES."

in aid of the funds of the N.U.S.E.C., on 19th Oct., at 4.30, at 50 Porchester Terrace, W. 2. Tickets 3/6, obtainable at N.U.S.E.C., 62 Oxford St., W. 1, or at the door.

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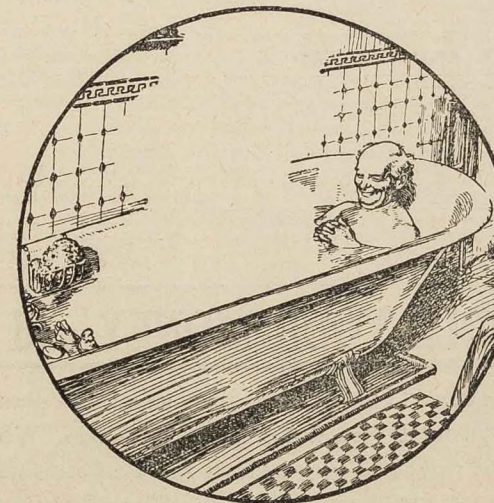
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COMING EVENTS.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

OCT. 15. Glasgow. St. Mary's P.S.A., Govan Cross. 3.30 p.m. Speaker: Rear-Admiral S. R. Drury Lowe, C.M.G.
OCT. 16. North Shields. Wesleyan Hall. Speaker: Capt. P. G. Thompson.

GUILDHOUSE WOMEN CITIZENS' SOCIETY.

OCT. 16. 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Rosamond Smith, L.C.C., on "How we are Governed, Nationally and Locally." Chair: Miss Helen Ward. Music. Tea. Admission free. (Entrance: Berwick Street, Victoria, S.W. 1.)

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE.

OCT. 25. Minerva Caff, 144 High Holborn, W.C. 1. 3 p.m. "Should there be a Woman's Political Party?" Speaker: Miss Jessie March.

WOMEN'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT SOCIETY.

OCT. 19. Caxton Hall, Westminster. 8 p.m. Public Meeting to promote the return of suitable Women to the London Borough Councils.

EDINBURGH W.C.A.

CENTRAL DIVISION BRANCH. Oct. 19. St. Margaret's Church Hall, Prospect Place. 3 p.m. "Education." Speaker: Miss S. L. Mauro.
SOUTH DIVISION BRANCH. Oct. 20. Christ Church Hall, Morningside. 2.45 p.m. "What do we get for our Rates?" Speaker: Lady Leslie Mackenzie.
OCT. 16. Second of a course of weekly lectures on "The Principles and Duties of Citizenship." 8 p.m. At Edinburgh University.
STUDY CIRCLE "Education." Oct. 16. Second Lecture. 21. Castle Street. 5 p.m. "The Young Child; The Psychology of the Child."

NATIONAL MILK CONFERENCE.

OCT. 16, 17, 18. Council Chamber of the Guildhall, E.C. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2.30-5.30 p.m. President: The Rt. Hon. Viscount Astor.

BARNESLEY S.E.C.

OCT. 18. "Bills Before Parliament Affecting Women and Children." Speaker: Miss Macadam. Chairman: Ald. Lt.-Col. Roley, J.P., M.A.

WOMEN VOTERS' LEAGUE FOR LICENSING REFORM.

OCT. 16. Edgbaston Women's Co-operative Guild. 7.45 p.m. "Women and Licensing Reform." Speaker: Mrs. Boyd Dawson.

OCT. 17. Stourbridge Co-operative Guild. 7 p.m. "The Carlisle Experiment." Speaker: Mrs. Boyd Dawson.

OCT. 18. Grantham Co-operative Guild. 7 p.m. "Women and Licensing Reform." Speaker: Mrs. Boyd Dawson.

OCT. 19. Lincoln Women's Co-operative Guild. 7 p.m. "Women and Licensing Reform." Speaker: Mrs. Boyd Dawson.

OCT. 19. Cowes Co-operative Guild. 8 p.m. Lantern Lecture on Carlisle Experiment. Speaker: Miss M. Cotterell, O.B.E.

N.U.S.E.C.

OCT. 16. Bolton W.C.A. "Equal Franchise." Speaker: Miss Macadam.

OCT. 17. Farnworth W.C.A. "Equal Franchise." Speaker: Miss Macadam.

OCT. 17. Richmond E.C. Committee. "The Need for Women in Parliament." Speaker: Miss Lena Ashwell. Chair: Miss K. D. Courtney.

OCT. 19. Wakefield W.C.A. "Bills Before Parliament Affecting Women and Children." Speaker: Miss Macadam.

OCT. 19. N.U.S.E.C. Funds. "Relatives." J. D. Beresford, Esq.

OCT. 20. Chester W.C.A. "The State and the Woman." Speaker: Major Hills, M.P.

MEDICAL, Etc.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

THE FELLOWSHIP SERVICES, Eccleston Guild House, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1; Sunday, 15th October. 3.15. Music, Poetry, Lecture, Dr. Percy Dearmer, 6.30. Maude Royden.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETY, 55 Berners Street, London, W. 1. Telephone, Museum 4181. Minimum subscription, 1s.; Organ: "Catholic Citizen," 2d. monthly.

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LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE, 58 Victoria Street, S.W. 1.—Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Woman's Service Bureau advises about Women's Work and Training, by letter or interview.

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